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Volume XXXIII No. 2

Sunday, January 8, 2017

Published Weekly



Winter Scenes from the Country--

A drive through the country during the winter offers a variety of interesting scenes. Here are three that were noticed last week. Above is a section of the Red Cedar River with the ice beginning to form at the water's edge. Also seen was this stretch of Hogback Road, lined on either side

with the black and gnarled outlines of trees against the old sky. Still another view can be seen on Allen Road--small pile of rocks located next to a lone tree, a scrawny pine having emerged from the grassy cover and the stubble of a corn field in the background.



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WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMITED QUANTITIES AND CORRECT PRINTING ERRORS. SOME ITEMS NOT ALWAYS AS PICTURED.

Upcoming Programs at the Fowlerville District Library

All Programs are intended for Fowlerville School District residents only unless otherwise stated.

Registration usually opens 2 weeks prior to the event. Follow us on Facebook & www.fowlervillelibrary.org. Phone: 517-223-9089

Keep an eye out for our Winter Newsletter in your mailbox! We have an entire season of fun and educational programs for all ages planned! Stop by and check them out!

Reading to Fred the Therapy Dog Returns- January 9th: Most Mondays at 4pm

Fred is a mature Golden Retriever certified therapy dog. Fred's 'mom', Shelly, has been volunteering her dogs' services at the library for many years. Reading to Fred improves literacy skills, builds fluency, and raises reading confidence regardless of ability. *Drop-in event.

Mixed Martial Arts Demonstration- Thursday, January 12th at 7pm

Hosted by Real World MMA

Adults. Join us for a thrilling night of martial arts! Enjoy a demonstration by Real World MMA, and learn about the history and development of mixed martial arts and self-defense techniques. Light refreshments will be served. *Register in person to attend. Registration begins December 29th and includes a refundable \$5 cash deposit.

Teen Martial Arts Night- Friday, January 13th at 5-8pm

Hosted by Real World MMA

Teens 6th-12th grades. If you've ever wanted to learn more about martial arts, here's your chance! Come to the library to learn about real world mixed martial arts in an interactive demonstration by martial arts master John Noonan. Come ready to see some awesome martial arts action, learn about self-defense, and have loads of fun! Dinner and a beverage will be served. *Registration is required and includes a 2016-2017 signed program permission form. Registration begins December 30th. Register by January 11th to attend.

Back to the Future: Family Science and Reading Workshops

Workshop 1: For the Birds Wednesday, January 18th @ 5:30-6:30pm

Presented at the library by the University of Michigan

Museum of Natural History

Preschool-Adults. In this workshop your family will explore the museum's Ornithology Collection. Try your hand at gathering data from actual museum specimens and learn about other ways that the birds in the collection are used to protect other birds while advancing scientific theories. *Participation is limited. Register in person to attend. Registration begins January 4th.

Beyond the Book: Just Like Heaven/If Only It Were True- Thursday, January 19th at 7pm

Adults. Featuring books and their film adaptation. Movie will begin at 6:30pm followed by discussion. Movie-style refreshments will be served. *Register in person to participate. Registration begins December 29th. Books will be given while supplies last.

Winter Crafting Series: Wine Bottle Snowmen-Thursday, January 26th at 7pm

Adults. Join Cindy and Audrey as they lead you to create seasonal inspired crafts. This month's craft: Wine Bottle Snowmen. Transform wine bottles into adorable snowmen. *Register in person to attend. Registration begins January 12th and includes a refundable \$5 cash deposit.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the library will not be able to offer computer classes this winter. However, we continue to offer one-on-one technology consultations by appointment with our technology liasons, Audrey and Beth.

Women's Bible Study resumes at Family Impact Wellness Center on Jan. 23

A new Beth Moore Bible study will be offered on Monday evenings beginning January 23, 2017, at the Family Impact Wellness Center (9430 W. Grand River just west of Fowlerville). It is a combination video teaching/discussion format and is entitled Entrusted: A Study of II Timothy.

In this 6-session class, Beth will encourage us to guard what God has entrusted to us and to pour into future generations just as Paul once mentored Timothy. As is stated, "In this journey of joy and hardship, we need each other to stay the course and live a life of faithfulness." A listening guide/ workbook for both notetaking and homework accompanies the course. These books are \$14 each, and scholarships are available. For more information or to register, please call Barb at 517-223-4428.



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Thank you to all who have supported us in the past and who will continue to do so in the future. We wouldn't be who we are if it wasn't for you.

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County Humane Society offers low-cost vaccinations & micro-chipping

The Humane Society of Livingston County located at 2464 Dorr Road in Howell is offering low cost vaccinations and micro-chipping. No appointment necessary. Clinic dates are January 8, 15 and 22 from 11am - 5pm. Cats must be in carriers. Dogs must be on leashes. For more information visit <http://humane-livingston.org/clinic-services> or call 517-552-8050.

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- Consultation
- Examination

Smith Elementary School News

IMPORTANT DATES:
January 9-23 – NWEA testing
January 11 – PTC Meeting -6:00 pm
January 12 – Family Math Night 5:30-7:00pm
January 16 – No School K-12
January 27 – ½ Day of School K-12: dismissal at 12:00 (Noon) For Elementary
February 8 – Student Count Day
February 8 – PTC Meeting – 6:00 pm
February 20 – Presidents Day Recess – No School K-12
March 16 – K-12th ½ Day of School – Conferences 1:00 – 4:00

* * *

Winter Outer Wear Reminder – Just a reminder to families that Smith students cannot leave the blacktop (paved) areas of the playground if they are not wearing the appropriate winter outerwear. As the falling temperatures and snowfall remind us that winter is officially here, it is important that your children arrive at school prepared, with mittens, hats, scarves, coats, snow pants and boots. Our students go outside for recess if the real feel temp reaches 10 degrees or higher.

* * *

Food Drive Results- Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to donate over 2,000 pounds of goods to the Family Impact Center!

* * *

The Pizza Box Fundraiser- Special thanks for the donation from The Pizza Box matched by K W Corporation! Families, don't forget to support H. T. Smith Elementary at The Pizza Box on Grand River. Anytime you dine in or pick up food to go turn in a monthly ticket to credit our school. The forms were sent home at the beginning of the year and are available in the school office. Thanks for your support!

* * *

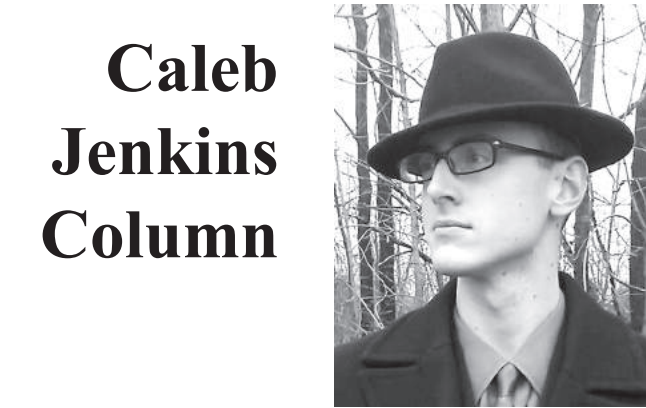
Smith Elementary Collects VG's Receipts Again! VG's receipt collection is back and we are so excited! **Any receipts dated August 1, 2016 and after are eligible.** If you shop at a SpartanNash retail store (VG's, DW Fresh Market, Family Fare, Forest Hills Foods and Valuland) please keep the entire original receipt and turn it in to the Smith Elementary Office, or send to school with your child and they can give them to their teacher or deliver them to the office. Please encourage family and friends to save their receipts also, to help us out. When we collect \$150,000 in eligible sales, we will receive a check for \$1000 from SpartanNash. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND PARTICIPATION!**

* * *

Smith Elementary Collects BoxTops for Education – Please remember to clip BoxTops and send them to school with your child in a ziplock bag or envelope with your child's name and teacher name written on the outside. Each classroom keeps track of how many are turned in for different contests that are held throughout the school year by our PTC. Please encourage friends and family to save their BoxTops as well to help out our school.

* * *

Save Campbells Soup Labels and Tyson Labels – Please send your Campbells Soup labels and Tyson labels to school. Teachers can redeem them for supplies for their classrooms. Thank You!



Influence Through Humility

I ended last week's article by saying that I believed that 2017 would be a year of opportunity, but it is going to be up to you whether or not you decide to use that opportunity. We live in a beautiful country where a single person can make a big difference, but that privilege comes with a price. It is up to each individual to accept the responsibility and act in a manner that is proper and beneficial.

A successful and happy future is not set in stone. It must be sought after and fought for. I've said this many times, but I love Benjamin Franklin's response when asked what kind of government the United States would have: "A republic, if you can keep it." We are not guaranteed that our republic will survive if we are not willing to stand up to sustain it.

I write this article as a sort of pep talk, if you will. I want to encourage you to step out and do what is right even if you do not feel like you can make a difference. I think that people often hesitate to get involved in their communities or in the future of their country because they believe that their contributions would not actually change anything. That is not true in the slightest.

I have recently been reading through *National Geographic's* "The Most Influential Figures of Ancient History." While going through this diverse assortment of individuals, something jumped out at me. Not all of these important people from history were big-name political or military leaders. In fact, many of them went fairly unnoticed during their lives. In some cases, their impact on the world was not discovered until hundreds of years after they had died.

As we traverse the path of life, we are rarely given the chance to see how our actions have impacted others. This once again reminds me of one of my favorite movies that I have talked about before: *It's a Wonderful Life*. As I'm sure all of you are aware, George Bailey, the starring character, is allowed to see how different the world would be if he had never been born. He had never realized just how much of a positive influence he had been for so many people.

It is often the same for us. You may have to do the hard thing without receiving any recognition for it. However, take courage knowing that you are doing what is right and that you are having a positive effect even if you can't see it right away. Don't let the lack of praise stop you.

However, with all of the problems facing our world, it can sometimes seem overwhelming. You may think that there is no point in trying to make a difference and that it won't really change anything. Without having the benefit of seeing your impact, it's easy to get swallowed up in hopelessness, but we must believe that the future can be bright. It is never a losing battle when we are doing the right thing. You must have hope. Then, you must have the willpower to actually do something to make that hope a reality.

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Saturdays January 28 – March 18

Classes Offered	Ages	Times
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Beg Ballet/Tap Combo	5-8yr olds	9:30 – 10:10 am
Beg Jazz/Hip Hop Combo	6-9yr olds	10:15 – 11:10 am
Beg Contemporary	8 and up	11:15 – 11:55 am

www.mariasschoolofdance.com msd@mariasschoolofdance.com

Kreeger Elementary School News

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 9-23: NWEA TESTING

Please make sure your child has a good night’s rest and a healthy breakfast.

January 9-11 & 12: VISION SCREENING FOR 3rd and 5th grade students. Also screened are last-year follow-ups and parent/teacher requests.

Please call the school and provide your child’s name and teacher if:

- *You **do not** want your child screened.
 - *You have a concern for your child and your child is not in the above grades.
 - *(Technicians will accept parent/teacher requests on the first day of screening.)
- Please call the Health Department at (517) 546 -9850 if:
- *You have questions regarding Vision Screening.

January 16: NO School K-12

Art Club: 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Art Club *continues until January 20, 2017.*

January 27:½ day of School K-12 Dismissal at 12:00 noon

February 8: Student Count Day

February 20: Presidents Day Recess-NO School

Big Brothers & Big Sisters: Every Thursday 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m., BBBS *continues until February 23, 2017.*

March 10: End of 2nd Trimester for K-5th

March 16: Thursday, K-12 ½ day-Dismissal 12:00 noon
Conferences 1:00-4:00 p.m. & 5:00-7:30 p.m.

March 27-31: SPRING RECESS
* * *

Child Study Team: Each school building in the Fowlerville Community School District has a Child Study Team/Response to Intervention process in place, which is a vehicle for staff members to review student performance, concerns, and collaboratively develop interventions. If you have concerns about your child’s development and are interested in more information on special services, contact his/her building Principal.

Fowlerville Girls Varsity Basketball Team wins a cliffhanger against Mason

Fowlerville’s Jackie Jarvis scored a basket with less than a minute to play to clinch the win for the varsity girls basketball team. The Glads won the cliffhanger, 45-43, in a home game against Mason.

The Bulldogs held a slight 11-9 lead after the opening stanza, but Fowlerville outscored them 11-8 in the second period to go into the locker room at halftime with a 20-19 advantage.

Early in the second half it appeared the local cagers would coast to a win when they came out and put in 15 points to Mason’s 6, giving them a 35-25 lead at the end of the third quarter. However, the Bulldogs rallied to close the gap, scoring 18 points and holding Fowlerville to 10. But it was the final two points, made by Jarvis, that proved to be the difference.

The sophomore led her team with 14 points and a steal. Ollie Updike had 12 points, 3 rebounds, and 2 assists. Elie Smith was also in double figures with 11 points, along with 4 rebounds, an assist, and a steal. Also aiding the cause were Meghan Douglass with 6 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, and a steal, and Averie Latson with 2 points, 2 rebounds, and a block.

Mason was led by Audrey Wassner with 14 points, and Autumn Kissman with 11 points.

A key factor in the game was at the free-throw line. Fowlerville made 7 o 8, while Mason was 1 of 7.

Fowlerville improved its record to 6-2 overall. The team hosted Ionia in a league game this past Friday. They will play at Williamston in another conference match-up this coming Friday, Jan. 13.

Fowlerville High School News

OFFICE HOURS

Administration Office 7:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Counseling Office 6:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Jan 11, 12, 18 & 19 Freshman Cocoa & Cram
Jan 26 & 27 ½ day Exams
Jan 27 End of semester 1
* * *

Dear Freshmen Parents, your freshman student is invited to attend our third annual Cocoa & Cram event at Fowler-ville High School January 11, 12, 18 & 19 from 2:30pm – 5:00pm, FHS Lower B Hall

*Freshmen will receive their study guides ahead of time and work with their teachers and National Honor Society stu-dents on answering the study guide questions while indulg-ing in snacks and sipping hot cocoa.

*Math, Science, English, and Social Studies courses will all have teacher representation!

*Freshmen must pick up a permission slip at lunch and re-turn the completed form to the counseling office by Friday, Jan 6.

*Best of all, this event is FREE!! We encourage every fresh-man to attend!

* * *

FHS Students Leading Students “Tech Talk” Seminar- Fowlerville High School Students Leading Students is offer-ing a great opportunity for area teens to develop, enhance, and refine their technical skills in videography, photography, and graphic design. This project is being offered through a partnership with Best Buy and Michigan SLS. Students are invited to attend a Tech Talk Seminar at FHS on Thursday, February 9 between 5-8pm, in the FHS media center/com-puter lab. You must REGISTER for this event. (Dinner is provided!)

After attending this exciting seminar, students are encour-aged to submit a project, using their new skills, that conveys the SLS message on any of these three main teen health is-sues: physical health and safety, relationship skills, and men-tal health. Project ideas must be submitted within two weeks of training and completed projects are due by April 24, 2017. No offensive language or gestures, no blood, no violence or cruelty, and no demeaning of religion, race or national origin is allowed in submitted projects. Michigan SLS is offering a \$1000 prize at the Tech Expo in May 2017. Prized money is awarded in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places and an overall category. Space is limited. Registration is required. See Mrs. Pushies at FHS for a registration form. Interested area high school students (not enrolled at FHS) are also welcome to regis-ter between January 20-31. Registration closes January 31, 2017.

* * *

Seniors can still purchase a class T-shirt at \$12. Due to an overwhelming request we will also be offering hoodies at \$30 each. See Mrs. Connor for an order form or order online <http://tinyurl.com/FHSShirt17>

* * *

Parents of SENIORS... its not too late to participate in our Class of 2017 Alternative Fundraiser. Any donation makes a difference. \$20, \$50, 75, \$100. In order to provide a safe spot for our seniors on Graduation Day - please consider donating to help fund the LOCK-IN. Many thanks to all of the parents who have graciously donated already! You can also donate online. <http://tinyurl.com/FCS2017>

* * *

2017 Senior important dates are available on the Fowler-ville High School page, under quick links 2017 Senior Info

* * *

Ordering Transcripts (Michigan eTranscripts) please vis-it the Fowlerville High School website for more information.

* * *

Target – Take Charge of Education–Through Take Charge of Education, families, teachers and members of the commu-nity have an easy way to raise money for our school. When you sign up and designate Fowlerville High School, Target donates up to 1% of every purchase you make with your RED card (Target® Visa® Credit Card, Target Credit Card or Target check Card) to our school. If you shop at Target stores and use their cards, please consider designating Fowl-erville High School to receive the Target 1% donation!

* * *

Parents having trouble using Zangle to view grades, e-mail questions to connect@fowlervilleschools.org

* * *

School Mission: Focus on every student, every day. School Vision: Empower students to be productive citizens in a global society

* * *

FHS announcements: <https://goo.gl/VxuWJC>

FHS Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FHSGlads>

FHS YouTube channel: <https://goo.gl/iaJC3H>

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Sunday 8 am to 9 pm



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DONATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR

**The 6th Annual
Maison Z. Wilkinson
Memorial Scholarship
Fundraiser**



Drop-off dates & times:

**Nelson’s Mini Storage
9225 W. Grand River
Fowlerville, MI 48836**

January 14, Saturday, 10-12

January 18, Wednesday, 2:30-4

January 28, Saturday, 10-12

February 4, Saturday, 10-12

February 12, Sunday, 9-10:30

February 22, Wednesday, 2:30-4

February 25, Saturday, 10-12

March 1, Wednesday, 2:30-4

March 11, Saturday, 10-12

March 12, Sunday, 10-12

*Set up for sale will be Friday, March 17 starting at 2pm. At that point we can still take in items. If these dates and times do not work for you, please contact us and we can work out a time to meet. Maylene Turnbo 517-304-3976 or Amy Jarvis 517-223-6225.

*If you are a business and would like to donate for the raffle or anyone wanting to donate to the bake sale please contact us.

**GARAGE SALE & FUNDRAISER DAY
Saturday, March 18th • 9:00am - 3:00pm
Fowlerville Junior High School Gym***

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Huge Garage Sale! • 50/50 Raffle!
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Join us for a day of fun and bargain hunting, while supporting a worthy cause. The Maison Z. Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship Fund supports local students graduating from our own Fowlerville High School every year. Monetary Donations are also welcome. Sponsored by the Friends of Rachel group.

* FJHS is located at 7677 Sharpe Rd., within the Fowlerville Community Schools complex, between Kreeger Elementary and Fowlerville High School.

IOSCO TOWNSHIP WINTER PROPERTY TAX BILLS

Winter 2016 property tax bills may be paid at First National Bank (Fowlerville Branch only). The address is 760 S. Grand Ave., Fowlerville. Collection will take place from 12/1/2016 through 2/14/2017. Please bring your 2016 winter bill with your payment.

For Treasurer’s collection hours at the hall, call (517) 223-9545 for a message or check our website, ioscotwp.com. Payments may be mailed to the address on your tax bill, a drop box is also available at the township hall, or on-line.

Amanda Bonnville,
Iosco Treasurer,
517-223-1250
(12-11 & 1-9-17 FNV)

Fowlerville Boys JV Basketball Team loses to Mason last week, 56-22

The Fowlerville Boys JV Basketball Team lost to Mason last Tuesday night by a 56-22 score. Josh DuFore led the Glads with 12 points and Payton Johnson chipped in with 3 points. Nick Reason and Caden Flanery each added 6 rebounds. The team is now 1-4 overall and 0-2 in the CAAC White Division.

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Ask the Michigan State Trooper

Troopers receive dispatches all the time for rear-end collisions or someone attempting to pass and losing control. Subsequently, this ends up with them in the ditch or worse. On one occasion, I pulled three vehicles out of a curve because they had all just slid off the road due to ice. I pulled up and there in a line were three vehicles, like someone had intentionally parked them there. Often, those same drivers are issued a citation for violation of the basic speed law. The most common response when this citation is issued is “Trooper, I was going the speed limit, I wasn’t speeding.”

This week’s question is from Rachel in Fowlerville. She asks, “Sgt. Sura, what does violating the basic speed law mean?” That is a great question Rachel. MCL 257.627 covers safe driving speed and section (1) states: “A person operating a vehicle on a highway shall operate that vehicle at a careful and prudent speed, not greater than nor less than is reasonable and proper, having due regard to the traffic, surface and width of the highway and of any other condition then existing. A person shall not operate a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than that which will permit a stop within assured, clear distance ahead.

Got it? Good - pretty simple right? Let’s put that into a little clearer English. What the law is stating is just because you can go 70 miles per hour, or 55 or whatever the speed limit is, doesn’t mean you should. Weather conditions change how we drive. It is the responsibility of the driver to make sure they can control their vehicle no matter the speed limit. Therefore, if it is snowing, raining, icy--the driver has to operate their vehicle according to those conditions and make sure they can stop or prevent their vehicle from losing control.

That means in even simpler English, slow down when driving in bad weather. I can speak for all law enforcement everywhere--we want you to get to your final destination safely.

If you have any questions or comments, please email them to askatrooper12@gmail.com, or mail them to Ask a Trooper, Michigan State Police – Brighton Post, 4337 Buno Road, Brighton, MI 48116.



Michigan Senate Report

By Joe Hune, 22nd District

Protecting Our Natural Resources

In 2016, my colleagues and I made it a priority to protect our precious natural resources here in Michigan. We all enjoy the plentiful natural resources in our state, and for many, they provide great memories and form our way of life.

Through our efforts to protect our natural resources, parents now have even more opportunities to share Pure Michigan with their children. Legislation was signed into law that guarantees free access to state boat access sites and certain state parks during free fishing weekends. In addition, new legislation that requires the Department of Natural Resources to develop an app for smartphones so that hunters and fishermen can display their licenses easily from their phones also became law.

And for the star gazers out there, we all know how beautiful the Michigan night sky is. That’s why I supported legislation that expanded dark sky preserves for more late night star gazing in our great outdoors.

Also, I supported legislation that addresses the issue of chronic wasting disease in an effort to prevent and contain the spread of the disease in Michigan’s deer population. By extending the authority of the Natural Resource Commission, we will now be able to better deal with this disease.

As we begin 2017, I will continue to do what I can in the Senate to further protect our natural resources. We live in a beautiful state that deserves our best efforts to protect its natural beauty for generations to come. It’s an honor to defend Michigan’s great natural resources, and I hope that we all can enjoy what our great state has to offer.

As always, if you have any questions or need information, please contact my office toll-free at 855-JOE-HUNE or email my office at SenJHune@senate.michigan.gov and my staff will be happy to assist you. My website, www.SenatorJoeHune.com, is also a good resource for information.

Dick Scott
MOTOR MALL

Fowlerville High School's
"ATHLETES" OF THE WEEK

Jud Scott

Varsity Boys Wrestling

Cody Persons and Jacob Dixon - Senior wrestlers that have started off the year showing their leadership in the wrestling room. Cody and Jacob have been 4 year starters that have worked very hard from November to February to get where they are at. They both have the opportunity and the talent to break through to the state meet this year.

Cody and Jacob have both beaten competitors that have made it there in the past, from other districts, but our District is very unforgiving to get through. This is their final year and they both know it. They are doing the little extras every past wrestler knows about to make this year their best. Our opportunities to see them wrestle on our home mat is coming to an end fast. Our last home dual is this Wednesday, January 11. Our team tournament is January 21 and Team Districts are Feb 8. Congratulations on a great start to your final season.

JUD'S FOOTBALL FORECAST

COLLEGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - MONDAY, JAN. 9

Alabama 34 Vs. Clemson 27

SEASON: W - 187 L - 95

Every week through the season two Fowlerville H.S. athletes will be saluted for their efforts. Athletes will be selected by the coaching staff and Athletic Dept. for that "Winning Deal" on a new or used car or truck, see Dick Scott Motor Mall.

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Pastor Tom Tarpley

A Goal Worth Achieving

When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart. (Jer. 29:13)

When we make a decision to seek after God with our whole heart, the devil gets busy. He pulls out everything in his arsenal of deceptive tactics to try and distract us and keep us from reaching our goal. Why? Because he knows that if he can side track us into taking our eyes off the prize (Jesus), he wins and we lose.

Last week, I said I was going to try to live my life as close to the example that Jesus taught as I possibly could. Since then, the enemy has been busy. Whenever I try to spend time in scripture reading and meditation on the Word, I can't stay focused more than a few minutes before my mind begins to wander and drift off onto other things which have absolutely nothing to do with seeking after God.

The morning I sat down to write this article, I woke up around 6:00 a.m. with plenty of ideas as to what I wanted to write. By the time, I got to my computer I could not think of anything that I was so excited about just a few moments before. Then I remembered the words in James 4:7: "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." I stopped trying to remember, paused, and prayed the following prayer.

"Lord God, you know the devil does not want me to get this message out because he is afraid someone will read it and give their hearts to you. So please Lord, put a wall of protection around my heart, my thoughts and my entire body to protect me from the onslaughts of the enemy. Please dear God, fill my mind with the thoughts and words you want me to write. Keep my mind focused on Jesus and the cross, and fill my heart with so much love for you, that there will be no room for the devil to enter." Amen.

There are several places in the bible that tells us in order to find God we must seek him with our whole heart.

One major problem with our world today is that too many of us feel that seeking after God is something we can do in our spare time. We believe that we can serve him and still pursue the desires of our fleshly nature.

We have allowed the lust of the eye, flesh, and the pride of life to take priority over seeking after a personal relationship with our creator and following the teachings of his Son.

Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Basically, this verse teaches that the fear of God is foundational

to true wisdom; all other types of learning are worthless unless built upon knowledge of the Lord himself. Many other passages talk about the fear of the Lord (e.g., Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 14:27; 15:33).

Unfortunately, I don't believe people fear the Lord or the consequences of his wrath for those who choose not to accept his Son or his teachings.

In order to develop the fear of the Lord, we must recognize God for who He is. We must glimpse with our spirits the power, might, beauty, and brilliance of the Lord God Almighty (Revelation 11:17; Hosea 12:5; Isaiah 6:1-5). Those who fear the Lord have a continual awareness of Him, a deep reverence for Him, and sincere commitment to obey Him.

Knowledge can come from man but wisdom can only come from God. There are millions of people who have a great deal of knowledge but no wisdom as to how to use it.

The scriptures tell us in James 3:13-18 that: "If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness is not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness."

God says, if we truly want to find him and live with him in the kind of relationship that Adam and Eve had with him before the fall, then we must seek after him with our WHOLE HEART (Jer. 29:13).

Whatever you are seeking to obtain in this life will only disappoint you if it is not grounded in the foundation that Jesus laid out almost 2000 years ago.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven..." That's the bottom line and the only goal worth achieving. Everything else is meaningless. Amen.

To be continued next week.

Livingston Acoustic Music Society to gather on Jan. 21 at Fowlerville church

The Livingston Acoustic Music Society (LAMS) Jam Sessions are open to interested musicians, singers and listeners. We include many different instruments, styles of music and levels from beginners to accomplished.

Location: Fowlerville Church of the Nazarene; 8040 Country Corner Dr.; Fowlerville, MI: In the strip mall just south of the I-96 (over pass) bridge on Fowlerville Rd.

We are a fun, no obligation, family friendly, music-sharing, relaxed, informal group. Open to the public. Our next LAMS Jam Session is: Saturday, Jan. 21, starting at 7 p.m.

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Performs grounds maintenance, picking up garbage, compost bags, digging of graves, mowing grass, weed whipping, snow plowing and snow removal.

Requirements:

Through knowledge of safety procedures and precautions involved in equipment operation. Ability to establish effective working relationships and use good sound judgment, initiative and resourcefulness when dealing with other employees and the public. Ability to effectively communicate, understand instructions and follow directions. The ideal candidate must possess a positive and caring attitude.

Must be able to pass a physical, drug test and background check.

Must be able to lift 40 lbs. up over head.

Hours are 31 hours per week as follows:
7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.
Starting Rate of Pay: \$13.50 per hour.
Rate of pay may increase to \$15.00 per hour upon successful completion of 90 day probation period, job performance and experience.

Applications may be picked up between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Village of Fowlerville, 213 South Grand Avenue, Fowlerville, Michigan 48836 or on the web site: www.fowlerville.org
Please submit application form and resume (optional) by January 13, 2017 to:

Kathryn Arledge, CMMC
Village of Fowlerville Clerk/Manager
213 South Grand Avenue
Fowlerville, Michigan 48836

The Village of Fowlerville is a government unit located in Livingston County, Michigan and is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

(1-1-17 & 1-8-17 FNV)



Eric West served 20 years as Conway Township trustee; 4 years as a constable

By Steve Horton

Eric West began his public service in Conway Township by running for one of the two constable positions in the 1992 election.

“Chet Dietrich, who was the township clerk, talked me into filing for the office,” West noted. “At that time the township had two constables, and we served papers and delivered meeting packets to board members. It was not much of a job. Eventually, the board went to one constable and then a year ago voted to eliminate the position after this past November’s election. The office no longer served much of a purpose.”

After four years in that role, Dietrich approached West about running for a trustee seat on the township board. “Harry Kreeger was leaving after serving in that position for many years, and Chet asked if I would run for the spot. No one else was interested, and I ran unopposed.”

There are two trustee seats on the Conway Township Board, along with the offices of supervisor, clerk, and treasurer. All of them are for four-year terms.

West was re-elected the next four elections and only once faced an opponent on the ballot. This time around, after he filed his petition, he learned that four other candidates would be running in the Republican primary for the two trustee seats.

As it turned out, the other incumbent, Larry Parsons, finished second, while Rick Kreeger (Harry’s son) was the top vote-getter.

West listed three things “I’m most proud of during my time in office.”

“One is building the new township hall,” he said. “The previous board had begun putting money aside for this purpose,” he noted. “They could see the future, with so many new people moving here. We bought two extra acres from the Sherwood family, tore down the old hall, and put up the new one. And we didn’t have to borrow a dime.”

The new hall includes a main office and two side offices, a large room that accommodates meetings, elections, and can be rented to the public for gatherings, a kitchen, and a storage room. In addition, there’s a large paved parking lot.

“We also installed a generator, so the hall is a designated emergency shelter,” he pointed out.

The annual Clean-up Day, held the third Saturday in May, is the second thing on his list. “People were dumping tires, appliances, and furniture on the sides of the road,” he noted. “We had to go around to pick up all of this discarded junk. When the word got around about the Clean-up Day and that people could bring their large items to the hall for disposal, it’s helped to clean up the road sides.”

The third thing he takes pride in is the formation of the Fowlerville Area Fire Authority. West was the township representative on the fire board which oversees the operation of the department. That board also includes representatives from Handy and Iosco Townships and the Village of Fowlerville.

“By creating the Authority and being able to levy a millage for operations, the department has been able to get the best equipment and training possible,” he said. “The department has really dedicated officers and personnel. Many of them work fulltime jobs along with volunteering for the fire department.”

During West’s first years on the board, a lot of residential growth took place in the township. “A lot of property splits came before the board,” he said. “We also had a couple of residential developments.”

Improving along with maintaining the roads (most of them gravel) has always been a main priority of the Conway Board over the years. West noted that, thanks in part to the special millage approved by township voters that added extra revenue, progress has been made and is being made in this area.

“We’ve put a lot of money into road improvements,” he said. “I think, for the most part, they’re in decent shape. We

had a few horrendous sections where residents and the school buses couldn’t go down during the spring due to mud. Every year the supervisor drives around with an official from the Livingston County Road Commission and sees what needs to be done. Depending on the road, the county will help pay for part of the resurfacing.”

Just recently, stretches of North Fowlerville Road and Chase Lake Road underwent major improvements, including new asphalt.

West recalled that board saw lots of attendance at its meetings when residents (mistakenly, he pointed out) thought a mobile home park was being approved. “What happened is that the state requires a municipality designate an area for this type of residential housing,” he explained. “If you don’t, then a developer can come in and legally put it wherever they choose. When the planning commission did that, a number of people thought we were putting in a park.”

More recently, the possibility that fracking would take place in the township brought a lot of residents to the meetings. “We tried to deal with this issue as best we could, but neither the township nor county have any control over where this type of oil drilling is allowed. It’s regulated by the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality.”

West said that, at present, the board is looking at how to bring high-speed internet to residents. “It’s a Catch 22,” he said. “Companies don’t want to expand their infrastructure to rural areas like our township because there’s not enough to pay for this investment. Yet, we have people who want to move to a country setting, or already live here, who want and need this service.”

While hot-button issues, like possible mobile home parks and fracking, have brought crowds to the township meetings and close scrutiny to board officials, West said most meetings over the years were routine affairs, with hardly anyone in attendance. “We paid the bills and made sure the township’s business was running smoothly. Each of the officers—the supervisor, clerk and treasurer—have their proscribed duties. The trustee’s job is to help oversee the overall operations.

West said that he enjoyed his time as a township board member. “I found it interesting and liked being able to help the township,” he elaborated. “As I said, I feel a few things were accomplished, and it’s nice to see people want to serve on the board and be more involved.”

* * *

ERIC, WHO WAS BORN IN 1945, GREW UP ON THE WEST SIDE OF DETROIT.

“I was an only child,” he said. “My father, Norman, was the chief of plant protection for Chrysler Corporation, and my mother, Thelma, was a homemaker.”

He worked as a service station attendant while in school, then, after graduating from Cooley High in 1963, spent three years as a high-low driver at a Chrysler plant at Ford Road and Wyoming Road.

“I applied for a position with the Detroit Fire Department, was hired, and was a fire engine operator for the next 25-1/2 years.”

He and wife, Marsha, were married in 1981 and Eric subsequently moved to the Fowlerville area. He had only been retired from the fire department for a short period when he was approached to run for the constable position.

From 1993-97, he helped Marsh with her business Forgotten Arts, located in Downtown Fowlerville. When the store closed, he went to work as a truck driver for Specialty Contract Carriers and remained there until 2010. Since then he’s been a part-time driver for Dick Scott Motor Mall.

He has two daughters—Shannon, works for the University of Michigan, and Laura, who is a registered nurse. There are also three grandchildren.

George W. Lee Civil War Round Table to meet on Jan. 10 in Howell

A meeting of the George W. Lee Civil War Round Table will be held on January 10 at 7 PM.

The group has a new meeting location: the Livingston County EMS Headquarters Building (aka John E. LaBelle Public Safety Complex), 1911 N. Tooley Rd, Howell. This building is located on the east side of Livingston County Airport. Tooley Road is accessed off of M-59, about a quarter mile east of the intersection of M-59 & Grand River Ave. Park in the main parking lot, and enter through the front main doors, then go to the 2nd floor..

The Roundtable Officers for the 2016-2017 year are as follows: President: Chuck Horn, Vice-President: Dick Krueger, Treasurer: Gary Reutter, Secretary: Judith Coebly. The non-officer positions remain Newsletter Editor: Dan Delmerico (delmericod@netpenny.net), Preservation: Barb Krueger, Publicity Chair: Judy McIntosh; Refreshments: Dick & Barb Krueger.

The subject of this month’s meeting will be the Annual Show ‘N Tell. Members are encouraged to bring in Civil War-related items that they have discovered over the past year or so and talk about them. As in years past, please be able to say a few words about the item, and maybe pass it around.



Student of the Week – Maura Drinkert

By Madison Piesko

Congratulations to this week's Student of the Week, freshman Maura Drinkert. Maura's parents are Ron Drinkert, Amy Otten and step-dad Gerrit Otten. One of her favorite memories with her family is watching movies, going to the beach, and going on vacations with her family.

Maura's schedule consists of Algebra 1, Choir, American History, Earth Science, Honor's Sophomore Lit and Comp, Wind Ensemble and ending the day with Band. Her favorite class is Wind Ensemble and Choir because she loves music and when she graduates, she would like to be involved in music somehow. Maura also enjoys these classes because

she has the best band/choir director which is Mr. Vlieg, who is also her favorite teacher. She describes him as "a bright and energetic person that looks for different areas in what he teaches to bring out the best in their music program."

Not only does Maura excel in the classroom, she continues to do a variety of things out of school which includes helping her friend's little sister with math and writing. Maura spends time at Maria's School of Dance doing tap, plays the bass for the High School Jazz Band, and plays the keyboard for the high school worship team at the United Brethren Church.

Some of her favorites include: movie, *Ferris Buehler's Day Off*; band, R5 and Skillet; TV show, *Austin and Ally*; and book, *To Kill and Mockingbird*. Maura's favorite thing about FHS is the variety of options and opportunities that people can take. She also likes the teachers and how they're devoted to their students.

Maura was nominated by many of her teachers. Mr. Vlieg commented, "Maura is one of the most talented students in our music programs. As a member of the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Choir, she is the epitome of a diverse musician. She lives and breathes music and it comes out in her work every day!"

Mrs. Conner stated, "Maura is a hard working student that goes above and beyond in the class every day. She is a role model for students who keeps high grades along with choir, band, and other outside activities."

One thing that motivates Maura is God and also her family, friends and music. She hopes to travel to Paris, France, not just because she's a girl; however, it is where art is constantly inspired by love and beauty. After high school, Maura isn't exactly sure where she wants to go to college but she knows it will have something to do with music. She has ambition to be a professional performer and teacher, as long as she can keep playing and creating music.

The advice she would give to underclassmen is "to hold onto the things that make them really happy and never give up on it." She also advises, "An important thing we need to remember is to be who you want to be, not who the world wants you to be."

When asked how she felt about being nominated for being Student of the Week, she said, "It makes me really happy because I am trying to work really hard this freshman year and it means a lot that people can recognize that!"

Congrats on being nominated and good luck with your freshman year Maura!

Consumers Energy urges residents to keep meters, furnace intakes clear

With continued freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall expected across Michigan, Consumers Energy is urging residents to keep safety top of mind and make sure gas and electric meters and gas furnace fresh air intakes pipes are free from snow and ice.

"At Consumers Energy, our wish is that Michigan residents enjoy the holidays and stay safe all winter long. Taking the simple yet important safety step of keeping meters free of ice and snow can help ensure that safety remains a top priority for all," said Charles Crews, Consumers Energy's vice president of gas operations.

Crews offered these four important safety tips:

--Remove snow and ice from around natural gas and electric meters. If snow and ice is allowed to build up, it can become compacted and freeze around the meter, causing damage that can interfere with its proper operation, and can also affect appliances served by that meter.

--Snow should always be removed by hand, never with a shovel, metal/wood tools or power snow removal equipment.

--Residents living in mobile/manufactured homes should safely clear away snow from rooftop chimneys, fresh air intakes and furnace exhaust pipes. The furnace can then be re-cycled and should operate properly.

Residents with high-efficiency furnaces should make sure the intake pipes (typically two white plastic pipes coming out from the side of the home) are free from drifting snow to prevent possible obstructions that could interfere with safe operation.

Safely removing snow and ice around meters, intake valves and chimneys can also help prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Carbon monoxide is called the "silent killer" because it is a colorless, odorless and tasteless toxic gas that can be produced when appliances are not operating or venting properly.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning often mimic the flu and include headaches, nausea, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath and stinging or burning of the eyes. If any of these symptoms are experienced, leave the area immediately and call 911 or your local fire department for immediate help.

"Installing an audible carbon monoxide alarm can literally be a lifesaver because it is the only way to be warned if this dangerous gas is ever produced. During the winter months when doors and windows are closed and furnaces are operating more carbon monoxide problems tend to occur," Crews said.

"Fowlerville News & Views" Neighborhood Classifieds

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Car crashes into Fowlerville Family Farms Restaurant; ends up in dining area

A SUV car crashed into the Fowlerville Family Farms Restaurant last Tuesday evening, ending up in the dining area. While the accident caused considerable damage and left a large hole in the southwest corner of the building, the restaurant personnel boarded up the hole, cleaned up the debris, and were open for business the next day.

The restaurant is located on South Grand Avenue at the I-96 freeway interchange.

Fowlerville Police Chief John Tyler said that approximately 20 people were in the restaurant at the time, but no was injured. The driver of the SUV, a 74-year-old Muskegon Heights woman, and her passenger were also uninjured. The incident occurred at around 7:30 p.m.

Tyler said that it appears the accident was the result of the woman having a diabetic episode and also being unfamiliar with the vehicle. The woman, who is a diabetic, told officers that she was driving her son's Jeep Laredo to her home in west Michigan when she pulled off the freeway at Fowlerville after having symptoms of low blood sugar.

After her daughter purchased some candy for her, the woman began to pull out when she mistook the accelerator for the brake pedal and panicked. Chief Tyler says before she knew what happened; she had crashed through the wall into the restaurant.

Tyler said that, due to the circumstance causing the accident, no charges against the driver are anticipated. He added that it "is a miracle" none of the diners or staff was hurt, pointing out that a man had just finished his meal and left the booth that was located in that corner of the restaurant.

Michigan State Police partner with Toys for Tots & Salvation Army

The Michigan State Police (MSP) partnered with both Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army over the past holiday season in an effort to provide for families within our community.

"The Michigan State Police is thankful and honored to be able to work closely with both organizations to provide impactful community programs that benefit our citizens in Livingston and Washtenaw Counties" said F/Lt. Joel Allen, MSP Brighton Post Commander.

Participating MSP troopers were able to collect a great number of toys and non-perishable food items for Salvation Army at the annual Stuff the Blue Goose event in Washtenaw. Again this year, citizens showed their generosity and care for others in the community by dropping off toys at our Post for Toys for Tots. Two patrol SUV vehicles and a trailer were utilized to deliver the toys which filled the Post lobby for Toys for Tots.

The MSP Brighton Post looks forward to continuing the partnership with both organizations as the years continue. We thank everyone who donated to the continued effort to serve Michigan residents, and help community members build stronger relationships with police."

Breathers' Club meeting to be held on Jan. 10 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital

The Breathers' Club is a community service support group for patients affected by heart and breathing (cardio-pulmonary) diseases and their caregivers, family and friends. Everyone interested in learning how to live a better, fuller life or how to care for those with these conditions is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at noon (12:00p.m.) in the Community Room at St Joseph Livingston Hospital in Howell. An informational speaker and pertinent topic are featured each month.

Our next Breathers Club is scheduled for Tuesday, Noon: Jan. 10. Our Pulmonary Rehabilitation Therapist is available to assist and answer questions. For recorded meeting information call: (517) 545-6020.

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Michigan House Report

By Dr. Hank Vaupel,
47th District

After careful consideration, I voted “no” on Senate Bills 619-624, legislation which intended to give public libraries the ability to independently determine whether or not certain millages become subject to capture by tax increment financing authorities.

The proposed reforms only address libraries and not the greater Tax Increment Financing (TIF) issue. I feel that the scope of TIF legislation should be broader than just library opt-out and provide transparency so that voters know where

St. Agnes Catholic Church to host Chili Dinner & Euchre Tournament

Winter is here and it’s time for an evening of the best chili in town. Join the Knights of Columbus #8605 at St. Agnes Catholic Church this Saturday, Jan. 14, for an all-you-can-eat Chili Dinner followed by an evening of Euchre. You might even meet a celebrity guest or two. Feast on the best saucy, spicy and blazing hot chili recipes around and help decide who wins the cook-off. For those looking for more variety, there will be nachos, hotdogs and dessert. Dinner will be served from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 years of age.

Registration for Euchre begins at 6 p.m. and card play starts at 7 o’clock. Teams of two will play 5 games of euchre with the top four teams competing for prizes in double elimination. Cash bar will be available and snacks will be provided. Cost to enter is \$10/person.

Proceeds raised will support council projects and to help area residents with winter heating bills through LOVE, Inc. St. Agnes Church is located at 855 E. Grand River, Fowlerville.

Contestants can enter their best chili recipe for the cook-off by calling Nelson Cypher at 517-294-6366 or Todd Conti at 517-819-7330 before Saturday January 14th. Cost to enter is \$10.

all mileage money goes.

Many of these authorities have bonded to pay for the improvement projects in their local communities, and those bonds may be based on the capture of tax revenue from a library millage. If the reforms are enacted, some of the authorities may not be able to repay the previously issued bonds due to the lost tax revenue, which would put the projects in jeopardy and negatively impact the communities benefiting from these projects. In some cases, libraries already have the ability to opt out of these tax captures. It is more accurate to say these bills require libraries to opt-in to the tax capture mechanism.

Although I voted “no” on these bills, Senate Bills 619-624 passed both the House and Senate and will now go before Governor Snyder for his signature.

January is National Radon Action Month. This is an opportune time for Livingston County residents to test for radon in their homes as radon is a health risk facing millions of Americans. The EPA estimates that approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year are radon-related. Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

Since many families are spending more time indoors during the winter months, this is a good time to test for the radioactive, invisible and odorless gas. Radon enters buildings through openings in the foundation floor or walls (sump openings, crawlspaces, floor/wall joints, cracks, etc.). Radon can become trapped in buildings and lead to elevated and harmful radon levels.

One in eight Michigan homes is likely to have an elevated radon level.

The Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) is offering free short-term radon test kits January 1st through January 31st. Test kits are available at the Environmental Health Division office, located at 2300 East Grand River Avenue, Howell, MI. Radon test kits are also available for purchase at local hardware

stores, home improvement centers, some supermarkets, or directly from a laboratory.

For more radon information, contact LCHD at (517) 546-9858, or the State of Michigan Radon Program at 1-800-RADON-GAS. Radon information can also be accessed via the web at www.lchd.org or www.michigan.gov/deqradon.

Happy New Year to you and yours! As we return from the holidays we are welcomed into a new legislative term. This term I have several legislative priorities that I hope to achieve, including the repeal of age limits for Michigan judges, the establishment of spina bifida legislation, providing for do not resuscitate (DNR) designations on state IDs and allowing parents who are on active military duty to transfer parenting time to another family member.

If you have any ideas, comments or questions for my office, please do not hesitate to call us at 517-373-8835 or send an email to HankVaupel@house.mi.gov. We are happy to hear from you!

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By Sam Potter

IF YOU suffer from low back pain and sciatica, you are one of over 100 million

adults in the US with this often crippling spinal condition.

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the low back, sometimes with additional pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all symptoms of a pinched nerves often called “sciatica”.

In severe cases, it can lead to muscle wasting, numbness and constant tingling down to the tip of the toes. Left untreated, the intense pain can rapidly wear you down and drain the joy out of life.

That is, until now...

Recent advances in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain have led to the development and huge success of Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care.

The excellent results of this treatment have been published in major medical journals. With success rates as high as 90% some back surgeons recommending their patients try this treatment first before having back surgery.

In Williamston, you can try Non-Surgical Re-constructive Spinal Care at the Pushies Chiropractic Clinic – the office of low back pain and sciatica relief expert Dr. Ann Pushies.

Dr. Pushies has helped over 1,523 patients find relief from their

2017 could be your last year with back pain and sciatica

agonising back pain and sciatica.

According to Dr. Pushies, “We use an important combination of technology for precisely diagnosing the cause of your low back pain and sciatica; and a complete program for reconstructing the damaged area causing the pain; this means superior long-term results for most people.”

Because the treatment is non-surgical, safe and easy, most patients report an almost immediate relief from their pain.

Your invitation for a comprehensive consultation and examination to pinpoint the cause of your low back pain and sciatica...

Dr. Pushies is making a special effort to help readers find relief from their persistent back and sciatic pain.

All you have to do to receive a thorough diagnostic examination with the most advanced technology in the world and a comprehensive easy to understand report on your state of health is call 517-655-8818.

Mention this article (CODE: LOW 0333) and Dr. Pushies will happily reduce her usual consultation fee of \$195 to just \$47.

But hurry, due to obvious reasons – this is a time limited offer – with only 100 reader consultations available at this exclusively discounted rate.

My advice, don't suffer a moment longer...

Find out if Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care can help you, book a consultation with Dr. Pushies and her team now by calling 517-655-8818, they are waiting to take your call today.

They actually treat the cause of your health problem, not just your symptoms.

That’s why hundreds of grateful patients tell them “You gave me back my life!”

Over the years, they’ve treated thousands of patients with back problems and sciatica. The vast majority of them have enjoyed superior, lasting relief. In fact, many who’ve suffered and have tried other remedies have told them they gave them back their lives!

Call them now and get a full and thorough examination to pinpoint the cause of your problem for just \$47, the normal cost of such an exam is \$195 so you will save \$148!

Don’t suffer from the pain and immobility any longer. Discover the natural treatment that can eliminate the cause of your problem and give you the safe, lasting relief you deserve.

Call them now at 517-655-8818 and cut out or tear off this valuable article now and take it to your appointment. You’ll be entitled to a comprehensive examination to diagnose the cause of your problem – and you’ll be on your way to safe, lasting relief! Don’t delay your important diagnosis and treatment another moment!

You can even call on the weekend and leave a message on their answer machine to secure your spot as they promise to return all calls; and during the week they are very busy, so if they don’t pick up straight away do leave a message.



Sciatica Relief Chiropractor Dr. Ann Pushies D.C., says: "In 19 years of practice, I've never seen a treatment as effective as Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care for patients with sciatica or lower back pain."

For obvious reasons they can’t help everyone at this reduced price, so please call soon to secure your special opportunity.

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LESA announces new Executive Director of Administrative Services

The Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA) is pleased to announce Teresa A. Zigman, C.P.A., C.F.O. has joined the Agency as Executive Director of Administrative Services.

As Executive Director of Administrative Services, Mrs. Zigman’s responsibilities will include directing and managing the Agency’s Human Resources, Finance and Operations functions, as well as leading the county’s Technology Consortium.

“We have been very patient and diligent in our efforts to find just the right person to lead our Administrative Services team at the Agency and I am confident that Teresa is the perfect person,” said R. Michael Hubert, superintendent of LESA. “She is one of the best school administrative leaders in the state and the Agency is very fortunate to have her join our team. Teresa has demonstrated great character throughout



Teresa A. Zigman

her career and the staff at the Agency, as well as the schools we serve, will benefit from her wisdom and expertise in school administrative functions.”

Zigman comes to the Livingston ESA with more than 23 years of experience in school finance and operations administration, having served, most recently, as the Executive Director of Business Operations for Chelsea School District; her professional affiliations include Washtenaw/Livingston School Business Officials, Michigan School Business Officials, Association of School Business Officials International and the Michigan Pupil Accounting & Attendance Association.

“I am excited to be a part of a great team at Livingston ESA and look forward to supporting the vision and goals of the organization along with the five local districts in Livingston County,” said Zigman.

Zigman holds a B.S.A. in Professional Accounting from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, a B.S.A. in Management Information Systems from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership from Wayne State University.

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Former Detroit Tiger pitcher to speak at Cleary Baseball Program dinner

The Cleary University Baseball Program announced that its First Pitch Dinner to launch the 2017 season is being held on Friday, Feb. 17, beginning at 6 p.m. As part of the evening, attendees will have the opportunity to listen and possibly meet-and-greet former Detroit Tiger pitcher Dan Petry. He was a member of the World Champion 1984 squad.

Petry pitched 13 seasons in the major league, with ten of them spent as a Tiger. All told, he won 125 games in his career and was an All-Star in 1985.

The event will be held on campus at Cleary’s Johnson Center. It begins at 6 p.m. with a meet-and-greet for those that purchase the VIP ticket for the event, with the doors opening at 6:30 p.m. for the rest of the attendees. Petry will speak at 6:45 p.m., followed by a question and answer session.

Dinner is being served at 7:15 p.m., and afterwards an introduction and discussion about the 2017 Cleary baseball team will take place at 7:45 p.m.

Tickets are: \$60 VIP, \$50 general admission, and \$25 for a Cleary student ticket (excluding members of the 2017 Cleary University baseball team).

To RSVP for the event, send an email to Cleary baseball coach Karl Kling at kkling@cleary.edu with the number of attendees. Checks can be mailed to “Cleary Baseball” at Cleary University, 3750 Cleary Drive, Howell MI 48843.

All proceeds from the event go toward the Cleary University baseball program.

Livingston County Spartans Alumni Club to host ‘Dine to Donate’ on Jan. 15

You are cordially invited to support the Livingston County Spartans Alumni Club at a Dine to Donate on January 15, from noon to 10:00 pm at Tony Sacco’s coal oven pizza restaurant. The restaurant is located at 10051 East Highland Rd, Howell, in the Waldenwoods Hartland shopping center.

This event will raise funds for our Textbook Scholarship Fund. Please be sure to inform your server you are dining to support this cause since 20% of your food bill will be donated to our Fund.

The Club has designated funds to award fifteen \$1000 Textbook Scholarships to Livingston County high school seniors in 2017 who are residents of Livingston County and have been accepted to MSU for the 2017-18 academic year. In 2016, eleven \$1000 scholarships were awarded.

We appreciate your generous support in the past, and hope you will consider attending this event too. Consider watching MSU battle OSU on the court. The time of the game has yet to be determined. For questions, please contact Linda Purchase at 517-294-2358 / lpurch@comcast.net.

Livingston County Spartans Alumni Club offering textbook scholarships

The Michigan State University Spartans Alumni Club of Livingston County is pleased to announce it will award up to fifteen \$1000 Textbook Scholarships to graduating high school seniors who reside in Livingston County and have been accepted to MSU for the 2017-18 academic year. The Scholarship Application and instructions are available online at: www.scholarships@livingstoncountyspartans.org

The application must be fully completed and will be considered ineligible if there are omissions and the required documents are not emailed with the application by the deadline of March 1, 2017. For questions, please contact Lois Halsted at: scholarships@livingstoncountyspartans.org

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5 Generations of the Larson Family

This is a photo of five generations of the Larson Family of Fowlerville. Sitting is Mary Larson, great great grandmother holding Annabelle Jo Wineinger. Standing, from left, are Judy Fortson, great grandmother; Chris Fortson, grandfather and Jenifer Fortson, mother.



5 Generations of the Derr-Fortson Family

This is a photo of five generations of the Derr-Fortson Family of Fowlerville. Sitting is Jenifer Fortson, the mother, holding her daughter, Annabelle Jo Wineinger. Back row, from left, are Bob Fortson, great grandfather; Chris Fortson, grandfather; and Jim Derr, great grand uncle.

**Fowlerville Junior High
School News**

SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

Our first outing to Mt. Brighton is scheduled for January 11, 2017 (weather permitting). The club will meet for 7 weeks every Wednesday. For further information, please contact Mrs. DeLuca at 223-6250.

NEW YEAR'S POP TAB CHALLENGE

Student Council is sponsoring a Pop Tab Challenge. Students are to collect for the month of January pop can tabs. They will bring them into their 6th hour classroom or 6th grade brings them to their homeroom teacher.

They are donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Any questions contact, Ms. DeLuca 223-6250 or delucac@fowlervilleschools.org

CAMPBELL SOUP

The JH is collecting Campbell's Soup Labels again this year. Please send them in to Mrs. Adams. Every little bit helps and we appreciate you saving them for us!

VG'S RECEIPTS

VG's has gone back to rewards for receipts. Please turn in VG's receipts to the office. The money earned from them will be used for field trip scholarships.

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

Yearbooks are now on sale online at the school website or in person from Mrs. Spisz in room C-2. The cost of a basic yearbook is \$32. Please order early as we often sell out. We do have a limited number of previous year books for sale if you are looking for one let us know. We are also interested in having you submit pictures. You can download the Balfour Image share app and use our project number 723649 to upload photos for possible use in the book.

**Fowlerville Boys Varsity Basketball
Team falls to Mason last week, 64-54**

Fowlerville fell to Mason in an away game last Tuesday night by a 64-54 score in a non-league game. The Glads trailed the Bulldogs 34-25 at halftime and were down 45-36 after three quarters of play. Fowlerville had 18 points in the final stanza, while Mason put in 19 points.

Leading the Glads was Dan Judd with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Geoffrey Knaggs had 7 points and 9 rebounds, Nick Semke had 11 points and 5 rebounds, and Caden Collins had 8 points and 5 assists.

"The team played well but had trouble putting the ball in the basket, shooting 18 for 59 from the floor," noted coach Fred Hackett.

The Glads played Ionia at home this past Friday in a conference game. They are at St. John's this Tuesday and at Williamston on Friday, January 13.



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**Chili Cook-Off
All You Can Eat**



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at 5:30pm
Adults \$10.00
Children \$5.00**



**Registration
at 6:00pm**

- Cards at 7:00pm
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- Cash Prizes



**Knights of Columbus 8605
St. Agnes Catholic Church
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Todd Conte 517-819-7330**



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Webberville Report

Webberville Community School News

School is closed on Monday, January 16, 2107, to observe the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Additionally, the district has scheduled half days on Thursday, January 19, and Friday, January 20. Students are released at 11:15 AM on those days.

* * *

The Webberville Elementary Music Program is proud to announce that they have been selected to receive a grant for 30 ukuleles to use with their 5th grade music program! This grant was made possible through Michigan Youth Arts and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. The Webberville Elementary Music Program was also selected to receive a grant through Target to pay for the transportation for the orchestra field trip coming in the spring for the 4th and 5th graders. Way to shine bright Webberville Stars!

* * *

The Webberville Spartans Varsity Football Team is proud to announce that several members made All League and All Area Teams after an outstanding 2016 season. The varsity squad was 7-2 during the regular season, losing by only a two point decision in each loss. The Spartans were 7-3 overall upon losing in the playoffs to Deckerville. The players taking league and class D honors are:

First team All League: Zack McGowan, Senior, MLB/RB, Lance Chrisinske Senior, WR/DB, Jake Schneider Senior, QB/OLB, Kayson Lycos, Sophomore,OLB, Leo Fuller, Senior, DB, Hunter Fairfield, Senior, OL/DL, Michael Stidham, Senior, OL, Nolan Gorski, Sophomore, OL

Class D First Team All Area: Jake Schneider, QB, Lance Chrisinske, WR, Zack McGowan, LB, Kayson Lycos, LB, Leo Fuller, DB

Honorable Mention All Area: Michael Stidham, OL,
Hunter Fairfield, DL, Nolan Gorski, DL

Congratulations to all the Spartan athletes who made our community proud.

Williamston Theater offers world premiere of *A Painted Window*

Mid-Michigan's award winning professional theatre company, Williamston Theatre, located at 122 S. Putnam Street in downtown Williamston, starts 2017 with the World Premiere of *A Painted Window* by Christy Hall. Performances begin Thursday, January 26 and run through Sunday, February 26. Tickets go on sale Tuesday, January 10 at Noon.

A Painted Window begins with five Preview performances starting Thursday, January 26. During the first four Previews audience members will have the opportunity to take part in the process of creating a show by participating in a talkback session with the director and playwright following each performance. The Official Opening Night is Friday, February 3 at eight o'clock with the show scheduled to run through Sunday, February 26. Performances will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at eight o'clock and Sunday matinees at two o'clock with additional three o'clock matinees on Saturdays starting February 4. The Conversation Sunday for *A Painted Window* is Sunday, February 19.

Tickets are Pay-What-You-Can for the Preview on Thursday, January 26. Remaining Preview tickets are still \$15.00! We have raised ticket prices by \$2 for performances in our 2016-2017 Season. Starting Opening Night, Adult tickets prices are \$30.00 for Friday and Saturday evenings, \$27.00 for Saturday and Sunday matinees and \$25.00 for Thursday evenings.

Senior citizens (65 and older) and members of the Military receive a \$2 discount on all tickets. Student tickets (with a valid student ID) remain \$10 for all performances. Discounts are also available for groups of 10 or more (booked at least 1 week in advance through the Box Office).

Tickets can be purchased Tuesday - Friday from 12-6pm by calling (517) 655-SHOW (7469) or by visiting the Box Office and ordered on-line up until 1-1/2 hours prior to the performance by visiting our website www.williamstontheatre.org. Please be aware that payment is required at the time the reservation is made.



Senior Spotlight—Lane Swan

By Destiny Bird & Savana Stiffler

Whether it's in the greenhouse, the scrap yard, or the shop, Lane Swan, the son of Lori and Gordon Swan and brother of Michael Swan, always has huge smile on his face. Swan's jokes and stories easily affect the mood of others around him.

“Lane is one of my best friends. I remember when he first moved here and joined FFA we were out in the field picking potatoes,” said fellow FFA member and senior Zack O’Connor. To lighten the mood, “he just started throwing them at me and then we just started throwing potatoes at each other.”

When Swan moved to Webberville, he specifically wanted to participate in FFA.

Swan has, in turn, made a huge impact on the school and chapter. From helping his teachers to his dedication to FFA, he is recognized for his leadership and participation.

“Lane is a kind-hearted, generous person with great integrity,” said FFA Advisor Colleen Scott Keiser. “I can always count on Lane to do what he says he will do and to volunteer, even when others will not. He has made a great contribution to our chapter and leads by example.”

Swan said that Ms. Scott was one of the first teachers at this school that helped him in so many ways that he cannot explain, and that she has impacted his life in so many ways especially with FFA.

"I would not be where I am today without her help. She has helped me a lot and she pushes me to do things that I am scared of doing," said Swan. "I am very thankful for her and all the things she has helped with and taught me in the years that I have been here."

Swan thinks very highly of William Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler has helped him learn about agriculture. Swan plans on doing something involving agriculture with his future. Swan is beyond thankful that Mr. Wheeler has been a part of his high school career and that he wouldn't want anyone else to be in his place.

"I definitely would not be where I am today without Mr. Wheeler's help," said Swan.

In addition, he has made an impact in his history class with teacher Rachel Russel. Ms. Russel is very proud of all the things Swan has done to improve in history.

"I really enjoyed all the information Lane brought into class. Lane clearly has a passion for history, and he was always able to supplement lessons with more information he had obtained on his own. This was a sure way to help all of his classmates dig deeper into what we were learning," said Ms. Rassel.

He truly enjoys history and always contributes to the class by sharing facts that he had just learned or trying to learn facts so that he could share them with the class.

“She (Ms. Rassel) has helped me learn more about history and she made me love that class even more than I did. It made me study more, because she pushed me to work harder,” said Swan.

Swan's parents are very excited to see where Lane takes his future

“Lane is kind, funny, a hard worker, a good friend, a great son, amazing farmer, very giving, good learner, and stubborn,” said his mom Lori Swan. “I love seeing how Lane helps others, and really enjoys it. Be yourself, do your best in all you do, make mistakes so you can learn, never stop being a kind and giving person, always remember you are loved and have people to be there if you need help.”

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Round Straw	12	\$12.50 each
Wood	6	\$47.50-\$60.00
Dozen Eggs	60	\$1.50-\$2.00
Chickens	41	\$1.00-\$2.00
Roosters	14	\$1.00-\$4.00
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Ducks	2	\$2.00-\$3.50
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Steve Horton Column

Our State was a Leader in Public Education First Foray Resulted in the University of Michigan

The Ordinance of 1787 (known to posterity as the Northwest Ordinance) served as a blueprint for how this vast, new land area--won from the British as a result of the Revolutionary War--would be surveyed, sold to settlers, administered as territories, and then brought into the nation as states.

Ultimately five states would be carved out of the territory—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

The document, approved by Congress, had other intents as well, not least of which was an encouragement of education. The lead sentence of the provision dealing with this topic states: “Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.”

To that end, grants of land from the federal government were given to the new states to support the establishment of schools. More specifically, the state rather than the federal government was to receive the proceeds from the sale of section sixteen of each township.

In Michigan, the total grant of land (these “section sixteens”) amounted to over a million acres.

In his book *Michigan: A History of the Wolverine State* (published in 1965), Willis Frederick Dunbar said that the state’s early leaders embraced the concept.

“...In Michigan there was better stewardship of these (land) grants than in other states,” said Dunbar. “Elsewhere the funds derived from the lands often were squandered and dissipated, the tracts being sold at low prices to attract settlers. Michigan made mistakes in the management of its land grants for education, but far larger amounts were realized from them here, and they were applied more faithfully to the purpose for which they were intended.”

Perhaps that “better stewardship” occurred, in large part, because (noted Dunbar) Congress agreed to a request that “instead of turning over section sixteen in each township to the township for schools—as had been done in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois when these states were admitted to the Union—these sections would instead be granted to the state of Michigan, with the proceeds from the sales to be placed in a state school fund.”

These early leaders, beginning in the early 1800’s when Michigan was first established as a territory, were the torch bearers for the state becoming a guiding light in the field of public education during the nineteenth century.

Interesting, while Michigan would be noteworthy in how it established an education system for the primary and secondary levels, writing landmark language into the first constitution of 1835, the state was even more of a pioneer in higher education.

Michigan State Normal School (later to become Eastern Michigan University) was the first one in the West, while Michigan Agricultural College (later to become Michigan State University) was the first state agricultural college in the nation.

However, both of those “firsts” came later on. The college for training teachers, located in Ypsilanti, was established in 1849, and the agricultural college was founded in 1855. And in addition to being the initial agricultural college, Michigan State also became the nation’s first land-grant institution under the Morrill Act of 1862, serving as a model for future land-grant universities.

THE STATE’S FIRST FORAY INTO HIGER EDUCATION actually came much earlier and resulted in the eventual creation of the University of Michigan.

Success, as they say, has many fathers, but a four men have been credited with this honor. First was Father Gabriel Richard who was interested in education, along with his other duties as a priest and missionary.

He was already running several schools around Detroit, when he requested land for a college from the territorial government. One of those officials, Chief Justice Augustus Woodward “harbored a dream of classifying all human knowledge” and, historical accounts noted that he shared his ideas with his friend, Thomas Jefferson during visit to the latter’s Virginian home in 1814.

Three years afterwards, in 1817, Woodward drafted an act establishing a Catholepistemiad, or University of Michigania. The college was to include 13 different professorships (or didaxiim). These were based on the classifications he had outlined in a book he’d published the year before, *A System of*

Universal Science.

Woodward created new names for these fields of study, using a mix of Greek and Latin. Even so, they were in cover such familiar fields of study as Literature, Natural History, Chemistry, and Philosophy as well as Military Science, Economic Sciences, Intellectual Sciences, and Universal Science (which he called Catholepistemia).

The Act was signed into law by Woodward, Judge John Griffin, and acting governor William Woodbridge. Rev. John Monteith, who had arrived in Detroit the year before after graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary, was named president and given seven of the professorships, while Father Richard was granted six professorships and the vice presidency.

Historical accounts indicate that Woodbridge and Monteith were acquainted with Father Richard and supported his efforts in advancing public education in the territory. They, in turn, were backers of Woodward’s plan.

Under the provisions of the new act, the officers would not only run this fledgling university, but have control over the education in the entire territory “with the authority to establish colleges, academies, schools, libraries, museums, athenaeums, botanical gardens, laboratories and other useful literary and scientific institutions consonant to the laws of the United States and of Michigan, and provide for and appoint Directors, Visitors, Curators, Librarians, Instructors and Instructrixes among and throughout the various counties, cities, towns, townships, or other geographical divisions of Michigan.”

That was certainly a grand and overarching vision. In actuality, a building was erected a few months later and within a year a primary school and classical academy were in operation. But no university.

Eventually, Gov. Lewis Cass and two new judges—finding the name Catholepistemiad a bit pretentious—passed a new act in 1821 that changed the name to the University of Michigan. The new law also abolished the presidency and vice presidency and put control in the hands of a Board of Trustees that included 20 appointees and the governor. Both Rev. Monteith and Father Richard were among those named to the new board.

However, despite the new set-up, the primary school and classical academy, now operating in both Detroit and Grand Blanc, were the group’s only administrative responsibility. And by 1827, neither school was in operation.

Except for the legal entity that had been created and the name, the University had ceased to exist. But the idea remained.

With Michigan about to become a state and having already written a constitution, the university (with yet another new administrative format) was created in March of 1837. Two days later, having decided to accept an offer of property from a group of Ann Arbor businessmen, the legislature passed another act stipulating that the university be located in that city.

The first classes were held in 1841, with six freshmen and a sophomore being taught by two professors. The first commencement ceremony in 1845 saw eleven men receive their diplomas.

“By 1860,” wrote Dunbar in his history book, “the University of Michigan had become the most successful state (i.e. public) university in the nation.”

Capital Area Library Events

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All CADL branches are closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Jan. 16, 12:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

* * *

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Jan. 17, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

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Jan. 19, 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

* * *

WILLIAMSTON

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Jan. 9, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Pokémon Club (Ages 9-15)

Bring your cards to trade or go to battle, plus movies and snacks.

Jan. 11, 3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Bullet Journaling (Teens & Adults)

Start the New Year with a creative and customized way to organize your life.

Jan. 19, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Webberville United Methodist Church holding Chicken Dinner on Jan. 21

The Webberville United Methodist Church is having its monthly chicken dinner on Saturday, January 21 with oven fried chicken, coleslaw, mashed potatoes, vegetables and biscuits. The meal will include coffee, lemonade, and dessert. The dinner will be served 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$9 per adult, \$4 for children 12 and under, preschoolers eat free. This is an outreach service to the community and proceeds will fund church ministries. Webberville United Methodist Church is located on the corner of Holt Road and M-52.

Dansville Community Center holding Euchre Night Jan. 7 & 21

Do you like to play Euchre? The Dansville Community Center at 1317 Mason Street in Dansville will be having Euchre Night on Saturday, January 7 and 21 starting at 7pm. A donation of \$5 per person is asked to help pay for expenses for the night. Prizes for high score, low score, and most lone hands will be awarded. Beginners are welcome.

For more information contact 517-851-7853.

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Pathways Adult Education being offered by Baker College of Owosso

The Pathways Adult Education program provides a supportive learning environment for adults without a high school diploma and who desire a fresh start. Students are able to improve their literacy skills, earn high school credits towards a diploma and/or prepare to pass the GED test. Students are introduced to college and career readiness skills that prepare adult students for success in colleges, technical training programs, work and citizenship. This program has had increases in enrollment, graduation rates and test achievement every year.

The program is offered by Baker College of Owosso. Students are eligible to earn high school credit and certification in occupational training programs: Welding (MIG, TIG and Stick), Certified Nurse Aide, Microsoft Office and Phlebotomy, at no cost to the student. Students who demonstrate dependable attendance, cooperation, good work ethic and community service may be inducted in to the National Adult Education Honor Society in our spring award ceremony.

A United Way grant pays for the GED Ready practice tests. Students who earn a score of “Likely to Pass” are eligible for the GED-to-School voucher from the state of Michigan which pays for the GED test.

Classes meet every Monday through Thursday from 8 am until 2 pm. Students are able to enroll once a month and exit as they accomplish their goals. Pathways follows the Owosso Public School calendar with no classes during the summer.

If you have questions or are interested in earning your high school diploma or GED, please join us for a *Pathways Adult Education and GED Workshop* on one of these Mondays: January 30, March 27, April 24 or May 22. We meet in the Center for Technical Studies on the main campus of Baker College of Owosso, Room 1612, from 9:30-10:30 am. For further information, visit our Facebook page: *Pathways Adult Education at Baker College of Owosso* or call Megan Garvin at 989-729-3615.

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Lee Hamilton Column

Franklin Roosevelt once said, “Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely.” He was talking about why education matters in a representative democracy, but it’s a safe bet that had he known about fake internet news, he’d have said the same thing — except maybe with more pointed words.

Our representative democracy depends on ordinary people making sound judgments about politicians and policy. This is hard to do at the best of times. Issues are complex. Being able to sort out what matters and what's a diversion takes knowledge and judgment. Being a full citizen in a representative democracy depends on accurate information — and the ability to discern what's reliable and what's not.

To fold into that mix deliberately false news makes the citizen's task much more difficult — maybe even impossible. Yet astoundingly, that's where we find ourselves now. Millions of people see patently false stories about undocumented workers pouring across the border or Hillary Clinton being involved in the assassination of JFK — and some number of them believe it. Meanwhile, people across the globe — teenagers in the Balkans, disinformation specialists in Russia, entrepreneurs in the U.S. — all seem to be cashing in.

I'm well aware that some critics argue that "fake news" is nothing new. They cite such well-known fabricators as Jayson Blair at *The New York Times* and Janet Cooke at *The Washington Post*. Fair enough. But when Blair, Cooke and others like them were caught, they were fired and drummed out of journalism.

These days, purveyors of fake news get paid to mislead the public. This is new. These are fantasies masquerading as “news” — misleading, disingenuous and removed from

context. They're outright lies generated without regard for the commitment to accuracy that real journalism strives for. This is very, very dangerous. Outside of criminal activities like bribery, it's hard for me to imagine a greater disservice to our country.

Americans care about being informed. When I'm in front of an audience, invariably someone asks me to recommend the most reliable source of information I know — because there are a lot of choices out there. People know that they have political decisions to make, that their votes matter, and that they shouldn't make them in a vacuum. False news makes the basic responsibilities of citizenship much harder.

On the positive side, responsible media outlets are increasingly aware of the problem and are seeking ways to counteract it — as well as to call out politicians who blatantly traffic in misrepresentation. There is no question that in the coming years, real journalists' ability to identify bogus stories, rebut ignorant claims that go viral, and stymie efforts at misinformation will be a vital part of their responsibilities. Similarly, the platforms that have given an outlet to fake news — Facebook and other social media — are recognizing their obligation to fight it without compromising users' access to the real stuff.

Which, of course, is what makes what to do about false news so devilishly difficult. As a nation, we thrive on a multitude of voices and news sources. We don't want to discourage the sharing of information or opinions, nor do we want to restrict Americans' access to it.

When misinformation has spread in the past, we've always been able to depend on the truth catching up and eventually prevailing. Now, however, the circuits are being overloaded — not just by the proliferation of platforms and sources of information, but by people who are using the tools of democracy to undermine it. We must strive for an environment in which truth wins the day in the war over information.

I can't pretend to know how we will ultimately help Americans sort through what's truth and untruth, what's serious argument and what's propaganda, but I do know that this is one of the key battles of our time. Fake news is a threat to our system, a land mine that can cripple representative democracy by making a mockery of its most basic tenet: that the people will make the right decisions. This is a challenge we need to address head on and without delay — the future of our representative democracy is at stake.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

For information about our educational resources and programs, visit our website at www.centeroncongress.org.

A medical emergency on Roberts Road in Iosco Township was reported at 12:30 a.m., Friday, December 30th. The department responded to a medical emergency on South Street in the Village at 6:40 a.m.

Saturday, December 31st, at 2:07 a.m. personnel assisted EMS on Robb Road in Conway Township. A second medical emergency, on Van Riper Road in the Village, was reported at 8:43 p.m. and at 11:54 p.m. firefighters were called to a medical emergency on Meadow Lane in the Village.

At 1:50 a.m., Sunday, January 1st, the department was dispatched to assist the Howell Area Fire Department with a tanker at a structure fire on Stelzer Road in Cohoctah Township. Firefighters responded to a house fire on Sargent Road in Handy Township at 10:13 a.m. Mutual Aid assistance was received from the Leroy Township Fire Department at the scene while Howell provided coverage at our station. The department was called to a grass fire on Chase Lake Road in Conway Township at 12:23 p.m.

Firefighters were dispatched to a reported structure fire on Sherwood Road in Conway Township at 12:40 a.m., Monday, January 2nd. Ambulance attendants on scene prior to the arrival of the fire department cancelled the call. Personnel responded to assist EMS on Dutcher Road in Iosco Township at 3:06 a.m. At 7:46 a.m. the department was called to a reported structure fire on Sober Road in Conway Township. Units arriving on scene found a controlled open fire only and the call was cancelled. Firefighters responded to a house fire on Sherwood Road in Conway Township at 1:01 p.m. Assistance was received from Leroy Township and the Howell Area Fire Department. A tree blocking Grand River in Handy Township was reported at 7:12 p.m.

Tuesday, January 3rd, at 2:22 a.m. personnel assisted at a medical emergency on Coon Lake Road in Iosco Township. A medical emergency on Hazelnut Street in the Village was reported at 5:55 p.m. The department was dispatched to a motor vehicle accident with injuries when a vehicle crashed into a building on S. Grand Ave. in the Village at 6:46 p.m. Wednesday, January 4th, at 8:26 a.m. firefighters responded to a medical emergency on Woodlawn Drive in the Village.

Grief Share, which is sponsored by Family Impact Center and held at the Family Impact Center Wellness Center on 9430 W. Grand River just west of Fowlerville, will be starting back up on Sunday, February 5 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. This 13-week faith-based seminar/support group is for anyone who is grieving the loss of someone close. For more information or to register, please call Kathy at 517-223-3239 or contact the Family Impact Center at 517-223-4428.

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FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2017



Savvy Senior Column

By Jim Miller

How to Spot and Fix Medical Billing Mistakes

Dear Savvy Senior,

After a recent hospital stay, I have a stack of confusing medical bills at home I need to decipher. I've heard these bills frequently contain mistakes. How do I spot them to ensure I'm not paying more than I need to be?

Cautious Carol

Dear Carol,

Medical billing errors and overcharging is not uncommon. According to the American Medical Association, 7 percent of medical bills in 2013 had errors, and other groups estimate that figure to be much higher. Unfortunately, untangling those mistakes is almost always up to you. Here are some tips and tools that can help.

Check for Errors

To help you get a grip on your medical bills and check for errors, you need to familiarize yourself with what your insurance does and doesn't cover. Then you need to carefully review the explanation of benefits from your insurer, and the invoices you receive from your doctor, hospital and/or outpatient facility providers.

These invoices need to be itemized bills detailing the charges for every procedure, test, service and supply you received. If you didn't receive an itemized invoice, request it from your health care providers. And if the invoices contain any confusing billing codes or abbreviations that you don't understand, ask them for an explanation. You can also look up most medical billing codes online by going to any online search engine and typing in "CPT" followed by the code number.

Once you receive and decode the invoices, keep your eyes peeled for these mistakes:

--Typos: Incorrect billing codes, a misspelled name or a wrong policy number.

--Double billing: Being charged twice for the same services, drugs, or supplies.

--Canceled work: Charging for a test your doctor ordered, then canceled.

--Phantom services: Being charged for services, test or treatments that were never received.

--Up-coding: Inflated charges for medications and supplies.

--Incorrect length of stay: Most hospitals will charge for the admission day, but not for day of discharge. Be sure you're not paying for both.

--Incorrect room charges: Being charged for a private room, even if you stayed in a semi-private room.

--Inflated operating room fees: Being billed for more time than was actually used. Compare the charge with your anesthesiologist's records.

To make sure the charges on your bill are reasonably priced, your insurance provider may offer an online price transparency tool, or use the Healthcare Blue Book (healthcarebluebook.com) or Guroo (guroo.com). These are free resources that let you look up the going rate of many procedures, tests or services in your area.

Make Corrections

If you find errors or have questions about charges, contact your insurer and your health care provider's billing office. When you call, be sure you write down the date, time and name of the person you speak to and a summary of the conversation, in case you need to refer back to it at a later time.

If there's a billing code error or some other mistake that's easily correctable, ask your health care provider to resubmit a corrected claim to your insurance company.

Get Help

If you aren't able to resolve the dispute on your own, you may want to consider hiring a medical billing advocate to work on your behalf. To find someone, try sites like billadvocates.com or claims.org. Most advocates charge an hourly fee – somewhere between \$50 and \$200 per hour – for their services, or they may work on a contingency basis, earning a commission of 25 percent to 35 percent of the amount they save you.

If you're a Medicare beneficiary, another resource is your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). They provide free counseling and can help you understand your medical bills and Medicare coverage. To find a local SHIP counselor visit shiptacenter.org, or call 800-633-4227.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Designers wanted for Annual Runway Repurposed 'Fashion is Art' Event

The 9th Annual Runway Repurposed committee is searching for contestants to register for a unique, eco-friendly fashion design program hosted by the Livingston Arts Council. Runway Repurposed is a fundraiser for the Howell Opera House that combines the art of fashion design with the use of recycled clothing and materials.

Registration will be held at the Howell Opera House from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9 and Tuesday, January 10. The Howell Opera House is located at 123 W. Grand River, downtown Howell. All guidelines and event details will be available at that time.

All ages are welcome to register for the competition in one of the designer categories: Young Beginner, Beginner Student, Beginner Adult, Advanced, and Avant Garde. Registration fee: Student and Young Beginner, \$20; Adult Beginner, Advanced, and Avant Garde, \$35. Contestant designers choose clothing and materials at registration from a collection of hundreds of donated pieces to recreate a new, original garment to showcase on the runway **on February 12, 2017, at Crystal Gardens Banquet Center**. The finished garments are judged and prizes and trophies are awarded for each category.

For more information, contact the Howell Opera House, 517-540-0065, or visit <https://www.facebook.com/RunwayRepurposed>.

Livingston County Catholic Charities holding orientation for foster parents

Thinking of becoming a foster parent? Livingston County Catholic Charities (LCCC) is holding an orientation for persons interested in learning more about foster care.

Date: 3rd Monday of each month

Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Place: LCCC, 2020 E. Grand River #104, Howell

R.S.V.P.: Call Carrie today to reserve your spot – (517) 545-5944.

LCCC is seeking to increase the number of available foster homes in Livingston County to serve the growing number of children entering foster care. Currently there are not enough local homes to accommodate abused and/or neglected children to keep them close to their home of origin in order to maintain stability in their lives.

Do you have room in your heart and home for one more child? If so, please call to reserve your spot.

Caregiver Support Group meets third Wednesday of month in Howell

Caregiver Support Group, Dementia Specific, meets every 3rd Wednesday of each month. The meeting is from 4:30 to 6:30pm at Be Our Guest Adult Day Service at 2020 E. Grand River in Howell. Call 517-546-9910 for more information. Respite service is available; please pre-register if care is needed. This is a program of Livingston County Catholic Charities.

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