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John@tcadvertiser.com

By John Schneider

mulling options after fire

“We’re devastated”: Couple mulling options after fire

By John Schneider

TUSCOLA COUNTY
Dollar General bathroom cam: How many victims?

By Tom Gilchrist | News Editor
djilchrist@tcadvertiser.com

CARO — A married couple

AKRON TWP. — A married couple

A fire damaged the home of Wayne and Marcia Othersen on Thursday morning in Tuscola County’s Akron Township. Wayne and Marcia Othersen were unharmed Thursday morning after a fire ravaged their Akron Township home. Wayne Othersen and wife Marcia were asleep Thursday morning, when Marcia smelled smoke. She woke her husband and called 911. Crews from multiple fire departments responded to the call, which came in at about 7:18 a.m. The Akron Fire Department is handling the investigation. It was joined at the scene – on North Unionville Road just south of Cass City Road – by firefighters from Unionville, Sebewaing, Caro, Fajngrove and Gagetown. Rescue firefighters went to the Akron Fire Department to provide help should any additional calls have come in during the fire. The fire, combined with damage from

See “WE’RE” | A4

See Dollar | A4

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See “WE’RE” | A4

See Dollar | A4

The unisex restroom inside the Caro Dollar General store was off limits to visitors Thursday, after Dollar General’s management discovered a camera there.

By Mark Rains | Reporter

CARO — First all Tuscola County offices were open Monday for business, even while all county courts were going to be closed. And then it all changed. Now all county offices will be closed Monday in observance of Juneteenth – which commemorates the June 19, 1865, declaration by Gen. Gordon Granger of the Union Army proclaiming freedom for enslaved people in Texas, which was the last Confederate state with institutional slavery.

The county board of commissioners voted 3-2 Monday – District 2 Commissioner Thomas Bardwell and District 3 Commissioner Kim Vaughan voted against – to not close county offices for the holiday on June 19 and 20 and to not extend the holiday to two days. Commissioner Doug Durrussel and District 5 Commissioner Dan Grimshaw voted to open both days as county offices, but they could not extend the holiday. After that passed, Young proposed the commissioners allow workers to have Juneteenth off, but on a one-time, not-precedent-setting basis.

“For all of our objections to the state telling us what to do,” Grimshaw said, “we certainly are rolling over and placing on this one.”

“They didn’t really tell us what to do,” Bardwell said, “they told the courts what to do. And that is the Supreme Court.”

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“They didn’t really tell us what to do,” Bardwell said, “they told the courts what to do. And that is the Supreme Court.”

See Commissioners | A5

POLICE: Man had cocaine in blood when he caused serious crash

Crouch, 29, of Caa City was the manager of the store at 755 N. State St. on April 29 when a Genesee County woman reported noticing a hole in the ceiling and discovering a camera there.

“Basically, I’m trying to get as many people as possible to come forward; if it’s a large enough number – and I mean a large number – then it could potentially turn into a class (action), but I suspect that most people who have gone to that Dollar General have not used that restroom,” said Freifeld, of Ven Johnson Law, which represents the woman.

The woman – who has not been identified – says she had a lab draw on Thursday afternoon. Police allege Cody D. Crouch of Cass City, who was the manager of the store at 755 N. State St. on April 29 when a Genesee County woman reported noticing a hole in the ceiling and discovering a camera there.

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TUSCOLA COUNTY

Almer Twp. looks for help with plans for new hall

By MARK HANES
hanes@tcadvertiser.com

ALMER TWP. – Almer Township is in the final stages of building a new hall at a cost of about $1.5 million.

At Tuesday’s board meeting, Supervisor Kim Mantey appointed a steering committee of board members Art Groff, Chad Willcox and treasurer Patricia Wilkosky to run a building fund for the new township hall.

Mantey said some township residents may be added to the committee’s roster in the future.

The plan is to consider whether to build a new township hall and, if so, where and how. And, Mantey said the general plan is to do as Denmark Township just did – to build a new hall on land adjacent to the existing hall and, eventually, to tear down the old building.

We do have space if we choose to build at Darbee Park (north of the hall on Cameron Road), “but I think a lot of the board is thinking that we have the infrastructure right there where the old hall is now and in a lot of ways it might make sense to recycle that site.”

Building next to the current hall also would leave the township with an existing parking lot, though Mantey said the township could create more or better parking in the future.

This site gives us access to both M-81 and Cameron Road,” he said.

On Thursday, the township asked the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners for $600,000 from the $10.1 million the county received in ARPA funds to help pay for a new township hall.

The committee is looking at several such requests coming from the county, villages and townships in the county. The commissioners had until June 17 to decide which, if any, of the proposals it will fund.

“We know our hall is going to cost us,” Mantey said. “We know pretty well what is going to cost based on square footage. We have consulted with supervisors who recently have built halls, knowing they didn’t have to pay the costs we will have to pay.

What the township does, and where, remains undecided.

“That’s one of the things I’m going to leave to the steering committee to wrestle,” said Mantey.

The board also:

• Drafted with an issue concerning its Luther Road dump facility. That site will continue to accept brush and yard waste from township residents, as well as clean concrete from anyone. The township also will sell a limited-time permit to those from outside the township to use that facility.

When there is enough brush, the township has a controlled burn at the site.

“It would be nice to chip all of it and recycle it,” Mantey said. “That’s why we want to pay a per-acre expense.”

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Police: Bay City man had cocaine in blood when he caused serious crash

By John Schneider
john@tcadvertiser.com

CARO — A Bay City man was charged in Tuscola County District Court this week in connection with a late-night crash that occurred last summer.

Kevin J. Tolfree, 43, faces a felony charge of driving while intoxicated causing serious injury and a misdemeanor count of operating while intoxicated.

The crash occurred just before midnight on July 31. An investigation by the Tuscola County Sheriff’s Office discovered Tolfree was driving north on Bradleyville Road in Gilford Township. He failed to yield at the stop sign at the Fairground Road intersection and struck a vehicle driven west by a 46-year-old Cadillac woman.

Both vehicles, along with the stop sign on the other side of Bradleyville Road, ended up in a field northwest of the intersection. Both drivers, as well as the woman’s 9-year-old daughter, suffered injuries.

According to the police report, a bag of a powdery white substance – which a test showed to be cocaine – was found in Tolfree’s vehicle. A blood sample showed he had cocaine in his system at the time of the crash.

The Cadillac woman told police she had been at a wedding that evening and was heading back to northern Michigan. She and her daughter were transported to Covenant HealthCare hospital in Saginaw. While the daughter suffered scratches and bruises, her mother suffered multiple fractured vertebrae in the crash.

Tolfree was transported by ambulance to St. Mary’s hospital in Saginaw for treatment of a head injury and multiple broken ribs.

Tolfree was arraigned Tuesday and given a $1,000 bond, which he posted. He is scheduled for a preliminary exam in district court at 9 a.m. June 29.

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Village looks to honor late resident

By Mark Haney | reporter
haney@tcadvertiser.com

MILLINGTON — The village of Millington wants to honor Joan “Jody” Christine Dean, the only question is how.

The village council has been discussing possible ways of naming a park in the downtown area to honor Dean, who died April 10 at the age of 75. Dean had volunteered with Boy Scouts, was part of the Forest Hills Trail committee’s Middle School’s Girls in Science, Millington Junior Women’s Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the village council and many other village groups and activities.

The village council continued discussions about how best to honor Dean at Monday’s session – the talks began at May’s meeting – but it has yet to come to a conclusion. Clerk Kaylene Long said the council wants to consult an engineer on one or more of the options being considered.

That wasn’t the only park-related issue to come up before the village council. The council learned improvements are being planned for Arthur Latham Park, which the village and Millington Township share, including a renovated dog park, expanding the parking near the soccer fields and fixing a drainage tile issue.

The council also was informed the Lions Club has taken over the care and upkeep of Rotary Park. Long said there are no plans at this time to rename the park, but the Lions Club does plan to install a plaque in the park to indicate when it took over sponsorship of the park.

The council also:

— Learned work on the water tower will start some time after July 4.
— Heard from the Millington-Arabela District Library director Sarah Rick about plans to seek an increase in its millage, from 1 mill to 1.3 mills, in the Aug. 2 election.
— Appointed Martha Swartz to the Downtown Development Authority. She joins Pat Woods, Lori Holtsberry, Gailan Stewart and Bill Woods.
— Set the schedule of fees for civil infractions to add those concerning food trucks and medical marijuana growers.
— Received the audit from Bethshire and Co. of Saginaw. The village received good marks for its financial reports.

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Sheriff’s office: Juveniles set fire that damaged school property

By John Schneider
john@tcadvertiser.com

REESE — A pair of Reese-area youths admitted to setting a portable toilet on fire near the Reese High School outdoor athletic complex.

The incident occurred Sunday evening. Members of the Reese Fire Department responded to the fire at about 6:45 p.m. The blaze destroyed the plastic portable toilet and spread to a nearby storage barn near the school track. The barn suffered minimal damage as firefighters quickly extinguished the fire.

According to a Tuscola County Sheriff’s Office report, witnesses told a firefighter they saw two young males running away from the area after the fire had started, prompting a search.

Sheriff’s office Sergeant Ryan Robinson arrived at the scene, and after questioning witnesses, eventually discovered the identity of the two boys, ages 13 and 12, respectively.
FROM A1

“We’re devastated,” said Marcia Othersen. “We can’t believe it.”

Arkon firefighters, who spoke with The Advertiser Thursday afternoon, said the investigation is ongoing but that the fire was likely electrical.

“We’re assuming it was high voltage from Detroit Edison (DTE),” Wayne Othersen said, adding that the fire began in the northwest corner of the house.

Strong thunderstorms blasted through Tuscola County early Thursday morning, causing power outages in areas from Cass City, to Akron to Reese. Wayne Othersen said he figured the storms were connected to the fire.

Wayne Othersen said he and his wife will weigh the options on deciding what to do next, with rebuilding on the site a possibility. The backyard contains well-kept flowerbeds and plant life, along with an inground swimming pool complete with slide and diving board.

A camping trailer that was in the driveway was unharmed, but Othersens won’t be able to utilize it on their property since the power has been shut off because of the fire. For the time being, the couple will stay at a hotel.

The couple’s home was built in 2006 and is estimated to be worth $200,000. They have no insurance and said they will weigh the options on deciding what to do next, with rebuilding on the site a possibility.

Restaurants & Bars

The Advertiser on Wednesday afternoon.

The lawsuit filed on behalf of the Genesee County woman against Crouch and Dolgencorp L.L.C. — named in the lawsuit in the owner and/or manager of the store — claims Dolgencorp L.L.C. was negligent in its hiring, retention, training and supervision of employees.

The lawsuit charges Crouch knew “Crouch’s history of sexually deviant behavior in the past” when he hired him. Court documents don’t detail such alleged behavior.

The company failed to do a proper background check on Crouch before hiring him, according to the lawsuit. Freifeld said Crouch damaged Crouch’s cellphone, but the lawyer said investigators hope to retrieve information and images from it nonetheless.

“Just to be absolutely clear, we’re not trying to restart the phone,” Freifeld told The Advertiser on Wednesday afternoon.

“They’ve also searched his home. I’m in the process of trying to get what police have, but they’re trying to restore the phone and they do a search of his house.”

Freifeld asks anyone who was a Caro Dollar General employee, customer or vendor who used the store’s restroom to contact him by calling 810-695-6100.

The Advertiser

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From April 2021 to April 2022 to contact vendor who used the store’s restroom.

Dollar General bathroom cam: How many victims?

Dollar General employee, customer or vendor.

Court documents don’t detail such alleged behavior.

The woman reported the problem to the store manager — Crouch — before calling police, who reported finding a destroyed video recording device on the store’s property.

Freifeld alleged Crouch was using Crouch’s cellphone to record video images of activity in the restroom, but began attempting to destroy the cellphone with a hammer and water, mused the house uninhabitable.

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TUSCOLA COUNTY

Commissions approve Juneteenth closing of offices

FROM A1

Court, which is unbelievably in my thinking," Vaughan agreed with DuRussel when he said the courts were doing what the Legislature did not do by declaring Juneteenth a holiday. "I’m not liking it," he said, "but I still feel we have a duty to this county. I’m not liking the way it came down.

"For the employees who work for Tuscola County I think we need to understand. That is my position on it."

"I agree with unicity for the county too," Grimshaw said, "but I want it for the county as a whole, not just for county employees."

DuRussel said the commissioners are changing contracts with the county’s unions without negotiations. Attorney Eric Morris of the Saginaw law firm Braun Kendrick, who is the commissioners’ legal counsel, said it will be a decision agreed upon by all parties and that he will present it to the unions. It is not going to be a unilateral decision by the county.

"One thing for sure," DuRussel said, "they are always going to have it. It is never going to change. This is not a one-time thing. This is going to be put in every contract and pushed on us again next year."

"I think that is probably somewhat correct," Bardwell said, but he said it likely will be part of future contract negotiations.

Grimshaw asked if any of the unions raised Juneteenth as a holiday in the most recent negotiations with the county. Morris said it was raised, but it was added to any of the contracts.

"This wasn’t proposed by some of the unions," Morris said.

They raised it and we turned it down and they signed a contract without it," Grimshaw said, "we stick with the contract as written."

Chief Jodi Fetting said this would put her office in a unique position. Much of her work is with the courts, which would benefit from the day. It is a cost to the county so it would remain open. So would the courthouse, though much of it would be empty. That would mean keeping security officers on site to make sure people didn’t come in and start a riot and fire around.

"I think by leaving the county open when the courts are closed, it leads to some confusion," she said. "It does not give consistency within the county or with the state."

Court staff and the county’s Department of Health and Human Services, which also goes to other federal holidays, make up a large number of the county’s staff and offices.

"So we’ll have half the county working and the other half of the county isn’t working," Young said. "It should be all or nothing. All of us should be working or none of us should be working."

"So don’t we just let the court tell us what holidays we have to observe," Grimshaw said.

"This is more in tune with the woke movements that are nationwide and with the politics of right now," Human Resources Director Pauline Lutz said the court holiday is one of the issues with other managers in the county whose employees don’t understand why they don’t get the day off too. "It causes employees to feel not valued," she said.

"I don’t agree with the holiday at all," Vaughan said. "I don’t think it is something that even should have been brought up." But he did admit the court making it a holiday for its employees forces the commissioners to deal with it. "I guess you have to look past that and find out what is best for Tuscola County," he said. "Do we give employees the day off? Would that cause, problems or disincentive?"

"If the state says it is on the third Saturday," DuRussel said, "then that is all we go by. Who are we going to introduce a new holiday that the state doesn’t even recognize?"

Bardwell asked Morris if this is likely to resurface in future contract negotiations, especially now that the court has made it a holiday. Morris said doing it on a year-by-year basis would be one way of handling the question, "especially given the short amount of time the Supreme Court gave us to deal with this."

"This is one of those decisions that no matter what decision you make 51 percent of the people will think you made the wrong one," Bardwell said.

Doing it on a one-time basis, Morris said, "would just be a Band-Aid. But maybe that’s just what this county needs. I’m not sure. The other options would be somewhat more permanent."

DuRussel said people he talked to over the weekend "consider this to be just another government perk the private sector doesn’t get."

"WalMart won’t be closed that day," Grimshaw said.

"It is time for us to stand up and say ‘no’ to the government," he added. "We’re not going to let the state tell us how to run the county."

"Instead of rolling over, let’s stand up and say ‘no’ to the government," Bardwell said those philosophical arguments are fine, but they don’t solve the problem.

"If you do this once," DuRussel said, “it is going to be brought up every year until the county makes it an annual thing."

"And if we don’t do it," Morris said, “it is going to be brought up every year as well.”

COURT

LANSING — Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director Gary McDowell has announced the recipients of the 2022 competitive grants to county fairs to make building and other capital improvements on their fairground facilities. Additionally, MDARD also awarded grants to associations or other organized events hosting fairs/rexpositions showing livestock and commodities.

The submitted grants are awarded through a competitive process and reviewed by a joint evaluation committee. The capital improvement program provides additional funds for county fair officials to help make needed improvements to their fairground facilities, including but not limited to structural improvements or other renovations to buildings. There was $1,455,000 in funding allocated for the 2022 grant cycle with 28 recipients receiving funding.

The shows and exhibitions grants provide financial support for awards in the form of premiums or promotional activities of the livestock and commodity exhibitions, fairs and festivals. Livestock exhibitions must meet the required number of exhibiting.

Eligible applicants for the capital improvement grant program include fairs incorporated under Act 80 of 1855 or county owned and operated fairs operating under Act 11 of 1959 that have not received a grant in the 2021 grant cycle. Also, they have submitted all required annual reports for the prior three years.

The recipients of the 2022 recipient for the Capital Improvement grants are listed:

- Buy County Fair & Youth Exposition, Tuscola, Sanilac fairs receive grants for roof work

Equine Facilities Revitalization, $1,000  
- Berlin Fair, Parking and ADA Access Improvements, $63,666  
- Calhoun County Agricultural Society, Lockwood- Avery Granary, $60,000  
- Cass County Fair Association, Fire Suppression System for Exhibit, $100,000

SEE TUSCOLA | A6

Tuscola, Sanilac fairs
receive grants for roof work
Tuscola County Fair awarded grant for roof improvements

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Tuscola County Fair awarded grant for roof improvements

FROM

- Chippewa County Fair, Electrical Improvements, $50,000
- Chippewa County Fair, Electrical Upgrades, $62,000
- Dickinson County Fair, Bathroom Remodel, $25,913
- Eaton County Agricultural Society, Expand and Improve Grandstand Area, $62,000
- Emmet-Chippewa County Fair, Fiber Optic Cable Install, $16,000
- Fowlerville Family Fair, Horse Barn Improvements, $71,829
- Grant County Fair for Youth, Roofing Project, $45,000
- Isabella County Youth & Farm Society, Horse Barn Restoration, $41,000
- Kent County Youth Fair, Livestock Barn, and Security Fencing, $100,000
- Lake Odessa Fair, Grandstand Modernization & Accessibility, $160,000
- Marquette County Fair, Youth Building Upgrade, $11,500
- Mecosta County Free Fair, Grandstand and Office Building Improvement, $50,000
- Newaygo County Agricultural Assoc., NCAFA Office Roof Replacement, $32,666
- Northern District Fair, Grandstand Infrastructure Upgrade, $22,666
- Saginaw County Fair, Cement Floor, $12,300
- Sanilac County Fairgrounds, Roofs Replacement, $82,286
- Shiawassee County Fair, Roof Replacement, $50,065
- Simon’s GROCERY EXPRESS STOP

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GENERAL MEAT SALE

Family Pack NEW YORK STRIP STEAKS
$7.29 lb.

Family Pack WHOLE BEEF TENDERLOIN
$9.99 lb.

Family Pack BONELESS PORK CHOPS
$2.39 lb.

Family Pack BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST
$4.29 lb.

BABY BACK RIBS
$4.50 lb.

SMITHFIELD SEASONED PORK LOINS
$7.99 ea.

SMITHFIELD BONELESS RIBEYE STEAKS
$8.99 lb.

BONELESS PORK LOINS
$2.49 lb.

TOP SHOULDER STEAKS
$4.99 lb.

GROUND CHUCK
$3.99 lb.

GROUND BEEF FAMILY PACK
$2.49 lb.

GROUND BEEF FAMILY PACK
$3.99 lb.

GROUND BEEF FAMILY PACK
$2.49 lb.

GROUND BEEF FAMILY PACK
$3.99 lb.

BOER GOAT CHOPS
$2.49 lb.

CHEESE SINGLES
2/$

DAIRY

COLE SLAW
$2.49 lb.

HARD SALAMI
$4.49 lb.

CHEESE SINGLES
2/$

KRAFT CHUNKS & SHREDS
2/$

KRAFT CHUNKS & SHREDS
2/$

FRESH STRAWBERRIES
2/$

VIDALIA SWEET ONIONS
2/$

DELI

COLE SLAW
$2.49 lb.

HARD SALAMI
$4.49 lb.

KRAFT CHUNKS & SHREDS
2/$

CHEESE SINGLES
2/$

FRESH STRAWBERRIES
2/$

LARGE SOUTHERN PEACHES
$1.99 lb.

GENERAL GROCERY SALE
CARO — The cost of a barrel of oil is over $120, nearly double last August’s price, as increased oil demand outpaces the tight global supply. Meanwhile, domestic gasoline demand remains robust as the summer driving season ramps up. As a result, the national average for a gallon of gas surged and is 15 cents more than a week ago, 58 cents more than a month ago, and $1.94 more than a year ago. Today’s national average is $5.01—an all-time high never seen since AAA began collecting pricing data in 2000.

“Based on the demand we’re seeing, it seems high prices have not really deterred drivers,” said Andrew Gross, AAA spokesperson. “If prices stay at or above $5, we may see people start to change their daily driving habits or lifestyle, but it hasn’t happened yet.”

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), total domestic gasoline stocks decreased by 800,000 bbl to 218.2 million bbl last week. Meanwhile, gasoline demand grew from 8.98 million b/d to 9.2 million b/d as drivers continue to fuel up for the summer driving season, typically a time when gas demand increases. This dynamic between decreased supply and increased demand is contributing to rising prices at the pump. Coupled with increasing crude oil prices, this means that the price of gas will likely remain elevated for the near future.

But on the bright side, consumers will once again enjoy a tasty AAA gas price-related treat courtesy of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. Running every Wednesday through Labor Day, Krispy Kreme will lower the price of a dozen Original Glazed doughnuts to the national average that AAA reports each Monday. A dozen glazed doughnuts typically cost around $12. This Wednesday’s dozen should cost $5.01, not including sales tax, and is available only in store, drive-thru, or online pickup.

**Oil Market Dynamics**

At the close of Friday’s formal trading session, WTI decreased by 84 cents to settle at $120.67. Although prices ended lower on Friday due to the rising value of the dollar, crude prices increased earlier last week in response to global supply concerns amid expected demand increases, particularly in China. Led by emerging from lockdowns, not reduced crude demand. Crude prices have increased despite EIA reporting that total domestic stocks increased by 2.1 million bbl to 416.8 million bbl last week. However, the current storage level is still approximately 12 percent lower than a year ago, contributing to rising crude prices. Crude prices could rise further this week if EIA’s next report shows an inventory decline.

**Quick Stats**

The nation’s top 10 largest weekly increases: West Virginia (+28 cents), Montana (+27 cents), Colorado (+25 cents), Kansas (+23 cents), Virginia (+23 cents), Missouri (+22 cents), North Dakota (+22 cents), Indiana (+22 cents), Ohio (+22 cents) and New Mexico (+21 cents).

The nation’s top 10 most expensive markets: California ($6.43), Nevada ($6.13), Alaska ($5.56), Illinois ($5.56), Washington ($5.54), Oregon ($5.53), Hawaii ($5.51), Arizona ($5.31), Washington, D.C. ($5.26) and Indiana ($5.05).

Most expensive gas price averages: Metro Detroit ($5.36), Ann Arbor ($5.27), Flint ($5.16).

Least expensive gas price averages: Traverse City ($4.08), Saginaw-Midland-Bay City ($5.17).

**AAA: Michigan gas prices continue upward trend as state average is up 18 cents**

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“WE DON’T BUILD HOPES, WE BUILD DREAMS”
Epic alignment of 5 planets, moon to peak after solstice

BY BRIAN LABAR
AcuWeather meteorologist and staff writer

A rare planetary alignment that won’t occur again for nearly two decades has taken shape in the night sky, and while it will remain visible through the end of June, viewing the spectacle may be tricky and could require losing some sleep.

Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn have lined up in the early morning sky; a planetary procession that can be seen above the eastern horizon every morning through the end of June. The long-lasting event will give early risers plenty of opportunities to enjoy the sights of the planetary quintet.

The last time all of these planets were visible in the night sky at the same time was in 2004, the same year that Facebook was created and three years before the first iPhone was released, according to Sky & Telescope magazine.

A telescope is not required to see this month’s unique grouping of planets, but it could still be difficult to spot all five, even if the weather is perfect.

The parade of planets will be best seen in the alignment, photographers may find it will remain very low on the horizon, to its close proximity to the sun. The tiny planet will not appear in this order again from the perspective of the Earth until August of 2040, although the quartet with spread farther and farther apart as the month progresses.

Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn will not appear in this order again from the perspective of the Earth until August of 2040, although it will not be nearly as good as a show. The five planets will be bunched closer together in 2040, but it will be even more difficult to spot Mercury compared to this year’s alignment since it will be closer to the sun.

Mercury is the most elusive of the planets that can be seen with the naked eye due to its close proximity to the sun. The tiny planet will remain very low on the horizon, so seeing it requires an unimpeded view of the eastern horizon as trees, buildings and mountains all could potentially get in the way.

Venus will be a bright guide to spotting Mercury, glowing brighter and appearing just above and to the right of the closest planet to the sun. Mars, Jupiter and Saturn will be much easier to find as they will be higher in the sky.

Although the five planets will appear in a straight line across the sky, this is just what they look like from the perspective of the Earth. In reality, the planets are spread far apart across the solar system.

The five planets will be visible throughout the entire second half of June, but the best morning to look up will be three days after the summer solstice, which occurs at 5:13 a.m. EDT on Tuesday, June 21.

The crescent moon will fall in line perfectly with the planets before daybreak on Friday, June 24, glowing directly below Mercury, Venus, Mars and further to the right of the moon in the alignment, photographers may find June 24 to be the best morning to capture images of the celestial objects.

Some photographers have already captured images of the alignment ahead of the moon’s early-morning arrival in late June.

As June comes to a close and the calendar flips to July, the planets will begin to space out with Mercury leaving the morning sky altogether.

Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn will continue to be prominent pre-dawn planets throughout July, although the quartet with spread farther and farther apart as the month progresses.

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Danny “Dan” Dee Surgent was born in Vassar, MI on March 9, 1944 to the late L.D. and Esther (Fiddly) Surgent. He passed away, surrounded by his family, on Wednesday June 15, 2022 at Covenant Healthcare in Saginaw, MI.

Dan was led to the Lord and became a Christian in 1966. Shortly afterwards he attended Baptist Bible School in Grand Rapids, MI. Then transferred to Faith Bible College and Seminary in Iowa where he graduated as an ordained minister. He returned to live in Vassar where Dan worked for Tuscola County Sheriff’s department and then went on to become a corrections officer for the State of Michigan. After retiring from the State of Michigan he then served the Vassar Community as mayor and worked on the Vassar Historical Society and Museum. He drove school bus for Vassar and other area schools.

Dan loved his family and cherished his friends very much. He loved to go camping, golfing, traveling, family outings, and his bus trips. He enjoyed studying genealogy and politics. He is a member of the First Baptist Church in Vassar, MI.

Left to cherish his memory are his children, Bobbi (Tom) Sawyer, Danny D. Surgent Jr., Jackie Miller and Jaime (Debbie) Surgent; nine grandchildren; Nicole Sawyer, Gabrielle (Eric) Schien, Taylor Sawyer, Richard Miller Jr., Courtney (Josh) Stroot, Josh Lakay, Matthew Monroe, Jessica James, Shelby Surgent; three great grandchildren; Wyatt Sawyer, Aubrey Luhart, and River Stroot; a sister; Judy Crandic and his former wife Judy Surgent and his church family. Dan was preceded in death by his parents, Jackie Miller and Jaime (Debbie) Surgent; nine grandchildren; Nicole Sawyer, Gabrielle (Eric) Schien, Taylor Sawyer, Richard Miller Jr., Courtney (Josh) Stroot, Josh Lakay, Matthew Monroe, Jessica James, Shelby Surgent; three great grandchildren; Wyatt Sawyer, Aubrey Luhart, and River Stroot; a sister; Judy Crandic and his former wife Judy Surgent and his church family. Dan was preceded in death by his parents, Jackie Miller and Jaime (Debbie) Surgent; nine grandchildren; Nicole Sawyer, Gabrielle (Eric) Schien, Taylor Sawyer, Richard Miller Jr., Courtney (Josh) Stroot, Josh Lakay, Matthew Monroe, Jessica James, Shelby Surgent; three great grandchildren; Wyatt Sawyer, Aubrey Luhart, and River Stroot; a sister; Judy Crandic and his former wife Judy Surgent and his church family. Dan was preceded in death by his parents, Jackie Miller and Jaime (Debbie) Surgent; nine grandchildren; Nicole Sawyer, Gabrielle (Eric) Schien, Taylor Sawyer, Richard Miller Jr., Courtney (Josh) Stroot, Josh Lakay, Matthew Monroe, Jessica James, Shelby Surgent; three great grandchildren; Wyatt Sawyer, Aubrey Luhart, and River Stroot; a sister; Judy Crandic and his former wife Judy Surgent and his church family. Dan was preceded in death by his parents, Jackie Miller and Jaime (Debbie) Surgent; nine grandchildren; Nicole Sawyer, Gabrielle (Eric) Schien, Taylor Sawyer, Richard Miller Jr., Courtney (Josh) Stroot, Josh Lakay, Matthew Monroe, Jessica James, Shelby Surgent; three great grandchildren; Wyatt Sawyer, Aubrey Luhart, and River Stroot; a sister; Judy Crandic and his former wife Judy Surgent and his church family.

Funeral service will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Vassar, MI. Pastor Tony Barber will officiate. Private burial will be at Riverside Cemetery. Visiting hours will be Monday June 20, 2022 from 2:00-8:00 p.m. at Turner.

Memorials may be made to the wishes of the family.
**Cardinals fly on Millington and ‘Butter’ slip past Muskets into state finals**

By Scott Brolan | Sports Editor

MADISON, Ala. — Ashley Ziel greased the skids, and Leah “Butter” Coleman sprung the trap on the Algonac Muskrats.

Millington trailed 3-1 in the bottom of the seventh and final inning of the Division III state semifinal game when Ziel stroked a long single to drive in two runs and tie the game.

Then Coleman cracked a shot to the wall in right-center field, scoring Ziel with the game-winner inside Michigan State University’s Secchia Stadium and verifying, once again, the relentlessness of the Millington batting attack.

“I just knew what I could do for my team,” Coleman said after the walk-off hit. “I knew that I was here for a reason, we were here for a reason.”

**Patriots rally late USA returns to East Lansing with title hopes after defeating Pioneers**

By Scott Brolan | Sports Editor

MARYSVILLE — The Unionville-Sebewaing Area softball team is returning to its home away from home.

The Patriots earned the right to play in another state semifinal by defeating Riverview Gabriel Richard 7-2 Tuesday in a Division 4 quarterfinal game at Marysville High School.

USA rallied back from a 2-1 deficit to secure its 14th appearance in the state semifinals in the last 17 years.

Top-ranked USA returned to action Friday in a Division 4 semifinal game against unranked Pickford at Secchia Stadium, the home of the Michigan State University softball team and traditional home of the Michigan High School Athletic Association softball semifinals and finals. The score of the game went final after this edition went to press.

**Former Cass City ace earns first Double-A win, is ‘super confident’**

By Scott Brolan | Sports Editor

Erla pitches for the Rocket City Trash Pandas, a Double-A minor league affiliate of Major League Baseball’s Los Angeles Angels. The host Pandas defeated the Montgomery Biscuits, minor league affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays, 9-0 in six innings.

Erla’s last win came on Aug. 30, as a member of the ACL Angels, a rookie-level affiliate in the Arizona Complex League after being drafted by the Angels in the 17th round of the 2021 Major League Baseball Draft.

Wednesday’s victory came eight days after Erla returned from the injured list due to shoulder soreness, which has kept him out of action with the Trash Pandas since April 19.

Erla’s first action back from injury came on June 9 in a 7-0 win against the Mississippi Braves, minor league affiliate of the Atlanta Braves, in the first game of a doubleheader. He threw 3 2/3 innings, allowing no earned runs on two hits with two strikeouts.

“Staying healthy is the most important thing,” he said. “It’s like a dynamic duo,” Erla said. “It’s super easy, maybe not super easy, but easier to pitch when the offense puts up nine runs and playing good defense. I know with Braden coming in behind me in the game, he’ll take care of business.”

With one week left in the first half of the season, Erla and the Trash Pandas are at the top of the Southern League standings with a 36-17 record.

“I think we’re super confident right now,” he said. “We’re winning games and having fun.”

Erla, 24, graduated from Cass City School in 2016. He did not pitch his senior year due to injury, but went on to MSU where he became a staff ace.

**Saturday, June 18, 2022**

**Player of the Week**

**PAIGE HERRON**

CARO | TRACK & FIELD

Member of the 3,200-meter relay team that set new school record in 8:58.3 and earned eighth-place at June 19-20 championship.

**TYLER IZYDOREK**

MARLETTE | TRACK & FIELD

Earned all-state honors in the 400-meter hurdles and field relay.

**Player of the Week**

**RACHAEL WALCH**

CARO | TRACK & FIELD

Member of the 3,200-meter relay team that set new school record in 8:58.3 and earned eighth-place at June 19-20 championship.

**SHELBY INGHAM**

CASS CITY | SOFTBALL

Hit two two-run home runs in semifinal win over Caseville-Sterling.

**Player of the Week**

**SHAYLENE MYERS**

DEWITT | CROSS COUNTRY

Eighth at June 17 and 24 District Meet.

**Player of the Week**

**MAISEY MILLER**

RIVIERA BEACH | SOFTBALL

Recorded 15 strikeouts in the championship game.

**Player of the Week**

**BRENT OSBORNE**

RIVIERA BEACH | SOFTBALL

10 strikeouts in championship game.

**Player of the Week**

**JENNIFER VANDIVER**

MUSKETEERS | SOFTBALL

11 strikeouts in championship game.
USA returns to East Lansing with title hopes after defeating Pioneers

“Laci fought today,” Gainforth said. “Her stuff wasn’t always great, and some of her pitches, she wasn’t executing on. But winners find ways to win. That’s a senior and that’s what you want out of your senior pitcher.”

Betson led the offense with two hits, two RBIs and one run scored while Green and Harris had one RBI apiece.

“Champions find a way to win. Champions do what it takes, and we put ourselves in a position to do something special,” Gainforth said. “We take it one game at a time, but anytime you can get to make it to the state final, you want to make it to the state final!”

Gainforth said the Patriots will lean on different players every game. “I just said to the girls that they’ve got to find a way to finish this game,” he said. “You have to find a way to win this game. Don’t Waste around for someone else to do it, take it upon yourself and find a way.”

Andrews.

The Division 4 championship game is set for today at 3 p.m. at Secchia Stadium.

The Cardinals added another run in the fourth when Trinity Fessler scored from third following a Richmond throwing error. The two runs were all Millington needed as Ashley Ziel tossed seven innings and allowed no earned runs, four hits and one walk while striking out 10.

Ziel, Shepherd, Feaster and Felson Wilson each recorded one hit for the Cardinals. Feaster, Ziel and Coleman were members of the 2019 state-championship squad as freshmen. Feaster started in the outfield but did not appear at the plate while Ziel and Coleman were used as courtesy runners in the title game.

Ziel scored the memorable tying run in a 3-2 regional semifinal win over Chesaning during the Cardinals’ championship run, racing home from first on a walk after hitting a bunt that led to the infield error. Ziel, who tagged up at first when the fly ball was caught, was declared safe at second when the ball rolled into right field and Ziel then took third and scamped home.

 Cardinals fly on to finals
Millington and ‘Butter’ slip past Muskrats into state finals today at 3 p.m.

Photo by John Cook | The Advertiser

University-Sebewaing sophomores Rylie Betson (right) and Gabby Crumm (left) hug after winning Tuesday’s quarterfinal game against Riverview Gabriel Richard. The Patriots were victorious 7-2 halted by a seven-run sixth inning.

Player of the Week
MILLINGTON | SOFTBALL

XAVEN SMITH
MILLINGTON | BASEBALL

KELCEE VANDUURSAN
CARO | TRACK & FIELD

Player of the Week
VASSAR | TRACK & FIELD

KENDAL ROBERTS
STOCKWELL PREP ACADEMY

Player of the Week
MC GOLDSUPERMARKET

CARO | TRACK & FIELD

Player of the Week
MC GOLDSUPERMARKET

KELCEE VANDUURSAN
CARO | TRACK & FIELD

Player of the Week
NO. 2 OTTAWA LAKE WHITELFORD competed against Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart but left the park after the opposing team’s Crawford caught the ball in center.

The Division 4 championship game is set for today at 3:50 p.m. at Secchia Stadium.

Millington senior catcher Trinity Fessler celebrates at home plate after scoring the second run for the Cardinals in the fourth inning of Tuesday’s quarterfinal win over Richmond. The Cardinals added two runs in the fifth to pull away and advance to semifinals at Michigan State University against Pickford on Friday.

FROM BL

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Photo by John Cook | The Advertiser

University-Sebewaing sophomores Rylie Betson (right) and Gabby Crumm (left) hug after winning Tuesday’s quarterfinal game against Riverview Gabriel Richard. The Patriots were victorious 7-2 halted by a seven-run sixth inning.
1. HISTORY: In what year did the Boston Tea Party take place?

   1773, when colonists dumped a shipment of tea into the Boston Harbor to protest taxes.

2. MOVIES: Which 1990s animated movie has a character named Lumiere?

   "Beauty and the Beast"

3. MUSIC: Who wrote the song "Make You Feel My Love," performed by Adele?

   Bob Dylan

4. LANGUAGE: What is a zoonotic disease?

   A disease that can pass from one species to another, especially animals to humans.

5. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom was set at Greendale Community College?

   "Community"

6. ANATOMY: What blood type does a universal donor have?

   O negative

7. GEOGRAPHY: Bantry Bay is an inlet in which European country?

   Ireland

8. FOOD & DRINK: What are sweetbreads?

   Organ meat from the pancreas and thymus gland

9. LITERATURE: What kind of bird is titled in a John Keats’ poem?

   "Ode to a Nightingale"

10. SCIENCE: What does an auxanometer measure?

    Plants’ rate of growth

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:**

- Moderate
- **Challenging**

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each number appears in each row, column, and each 3-by-3 square combinations of all of the numbers from one to nine.

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**SCRAMBLERS**

by Dave T. Phipps

**Today's Word:**

"The _______ has been acting up again!"

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**Lord & Taylor Crossword**

by Mike Milandre

---

**KING CROSSWORD**

---

**Just Like Cats & Dogs**

by Dave T. Phipps

---

**Laff-a-Day**

by Jeff Pickering

---

**Amber Waves**

by Dave T. Phipps

---

**The Spats**

by Jeff Pickering

---

**The Sparrows**

by Jeff Pickering

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**Four Reasons to Start Your Day with Comics**

- They make you laugh.
- They can be educational.
- They provide a break from the news.
- They are easy to read.

---

**The Week’s News**

- "The _______ has been acting up again!"

---

**CryptoQuip**

by Dave T. Phipps

---

**8 Trivia Test**

by Tim Ragainage

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**R.F.D.**

by Mike Milandre

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**Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas**

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**Saturday, June 18, 2022, The Advertiser — B3**

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**Posting Date June 13, 2022**

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COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMUNITY meals open every Tuesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at VFW Post 3644, Caro. Volunteers plus some frozen meals. Limit one visit per month. For more information, call 989-790-7533.

FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH – last Saturday of the month. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in fellowship hall at First United Methodist Church, Marlette. Menu in advance and donations greatly appreciated. Everyone welcome. 989-823-3390.

FOOD PANTRY hosted by Spring of Life Community Church in Mayville the third Saturday of each month. Free groceries will be available to all who attend. A free dinner will also be available. For more information, call 989-843-0194.

FOOD PanTRY is open every Tuesday until 3 p.m. on 3 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at St. Christopher Parish, 910 W. Frank St., Caro. These perishables store well plus some frozen foods. Limit one visit per month. For more information, call 989-673-4121.

Tuscola County residents. ID is required. Tuscola Today/Community

FREE SOUTHERN CARE HOSPICE – check out the new features that they have! Open for drives. Information includes digital e-books and audiobooks, RBdigital (digital e-magazines), Kingston Enterprise newspaper available online from 1941 to 15, 1968. 989-673-4121.

“SAVE A LIFE” Learn free by-stander/ community CPR, Monday, Thursdays and Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Brentwood in Caro. The program is Caro’s Emergency Club Foundation’s Community Service event. The Brentwood in Caro will provide refreshments and free guest admission. Cost will be charged a minimum of $5 per first year, $3 per year thereafter. Additional Life Support Classes and CPR will be available.

HELP WANTED: Food Pantry Volunteers

FREEDOM AA MEETINGS – held once a month 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Bulding. These meetings provide a chance to talk to others who have a desire to talk about their lives with others while serving and bringing volunteers together to learn about available benefits. Refreshments are provided. For more information, call 989-873-5458.

VFW POST MONTHLY MEETING – Third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; VFW Post 3644, Cass County Fair Grounds, 10884, Mayville, second Monday, 2 p.m.; VFW Post 7646, Tuscola Valley, first Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at Village Hall in Akron. (TUSCOLA) sets meet the first Tuesday of each month at 110 W. Frank St., Caro.


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SOUTHNERCARE HOSPICE is seeking volunteers to provide care to patients and their families. Call us at 989-790-7533 to learn more about becoming a Hospice Volunteer.

TUSCOLA COUNTY RESIDENT: Information on becoming a Hospice Volunteer. Make a difference in the lives of Hospice patients and their families. Call us at 989-790-7533 to learn more about becoming a Hospice Volunteer.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED – Tuscola County Office of Veterans Affairs and the Tuscola County VFW volunteers drive the county veterans to their doctor appointments and to care at the VA Hospital in Jackson or VA Medical Centers. The county has two volunteer drivers. Each driver is responsible for getting his veterans to the appointments, but not enough drivers to get the job done. Even 1-2 days a month would be very helpful. Call Jessica VanOosten or Zemski at 989-673-4121 for more information.

We are looking for multiple volunteers who enjoy spending time with a patient and can transport them to appointments, activities, or simply provide companionship. We are looking for volunteers who can spend a few hours each week with a patient.

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WANTED: Care Team Volunteers! If you enjoy being in the company of others, a great opportunity awaits you! Contact Us! 866-427-6668

1 Locations to Serve you

2 Locations to Serve you 6450 Main St, Suite 1, Cass City 989-445-4034 3500 Mertz Rd., Caro 989-672-9900 rosegoldrealtyllc.com

AIRON-FAIRGROVE SCHOOLS NOTICE OF PROPOSED 2022-2023 BUDGET

The Board of Education of the Airon-Fairgrove School District will conduct a public hearing to consider the proposed budget of the district for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, on May 30, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Airon-Fairgrove School District Administration Building. The Board of Education will consider the budget during the regular meeting of the Board of Education on June 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Airon-Fairgrove School District Administration Building.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of the hearing. This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Contact Us! 866-427-6668

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AIRON-FAIRGROVE SCHOOLS NOTICE OF PROPOSED 2022-2023 BUDGET

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE AIRON-FAIRGROVE SCHOOLS DISTRICT, together with the Finance Committee, has prepared a proposed 2022-2023 fiscal year budget for the school district. The Board of Education will consider the budget during the regular meeting of the Board of Education on June 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Airon-Fairgrove School District Administration Building.

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The doors to the Tigers’ clubhouse were closed for about a half-hour after Wednesday’s 13-0 loss to the White Sox. As fun as it might have been for baseball fans to watch three position players pitch the final three innings, it was anything but fun in the clubhouse afterward.

“It’s obviously frustrating, playing the way that we’ve been playing,” catcher Eric Haase said of the players-only meeting. “Nobody likes it. It’s very old and we’re ready to go.”

Addio shortstop Javier Báez: “We’ve been communicating, and we’re on the same plan. Everything has to click again. Hitting and pitching, it needs to match. We should take one lead and keep that lead. And just play together, have the same plan. We’ve had so many injuries, but there’s no excuses.”

Asked which players spoke up, Báez said, “Everybody.”

In a way, Wednesday’s loss was symbolic of the team. The Tigers have leaned on young arms to carry the team through its pitching injuries and offensive struggles for nearly two months. So it was arguably fitting that on a day when the young hurlers faltered, position players had to step in and pick up the slack.

Alex Faedo, currently the oldest member of the Tigers’ rotation at just 26, was the third Major League pitcher since 1893 to throw at least five innings and give up two runs or less in each of his first seven appearances. On Wednesday, he had the kind of dud that rookies suffer.

Coming off a bullpen game Tuesday, the timing couldn’t have been tougher. Alex Lange, a young reliever who had seen more high-leverage work lately,Pitched 5 1st, Lange threw 3 hits over three-plus innings and allowed seven runs on nine hits.

By game’s end, the Tigers were simply trying to save relievers for Thursday, when rookie Beau Brieske will make his 10th Major League start. So on came the position players for the final three innings – first Harold Castro, then Kody Clemens and then Tuck Barnhart. Castro and Clemens were already in the game; they went back to their previous positions after they were done pitching. The Tigers gave up two runs overall during that stretch, after four consecutive two-run innings.

Wednesday’s loss finished off a three-game series sweep in which the Tigers were outscored by a 27-6 margin. They’ve gone 1-5 on their 10-game homestand, having been outscored, 44-10. They’ll open a four-game series against the Rangers on Thursday.

The results are pretty obvious,” said Tigers manager A.J. Hinch. “I mean, if you’re not frustrated by today, even embarrassed that the game got out of hand to the point where we had to do what we had to do – this is baseball at its highest level and we expect better. I mean, we’re trying. Guys aren’t caving in. I know they kind of went through our lineup, another shutdown. Gotta encourage them to have a night off and then get to a new team.”

Hinch cautioned against the idea of staff arguing that winning a news cycle doesn’t necessarily mean a better chance to win a game. He also said they’ve tried different ideas behind the scenes. But he also said everyone is accountable.

“I get it, we obviously are accountable to the performance: ‘This is unacceptable,’ Hinch said. “We’re all accountable. Besides this, we have not lived up to the standard that we expect. What the solution is, is something that we talk about all the time. As long as messaging is consistent with what we feel is right, that to us is where we’re at right now.

“We’re all accountable – the players, coaches, manager, front office, everybody – because it’s been below par.”

The solution needs to be just as thorough.”

“It just needs to click, pitching-wise and hitting-wise,” Báez said. “We can’t have 11 hits and one run, and the other team has six hits and four runs and they have two errors, and we don’t use that to our advantage. Everything has to click. I start hitting the ball, but then I start running the bases really bad. Things like that need to get better at the same time, and be better every day.”

Jason Beck has covered the Tigers for MLB.com since 2002. Read Rock’s Blog and follow him on Twitter @jbeckjason.
Bucklist-item list checked: roebuck hunting in the highlands of Scotland

Looking for that perfect home? Call us!

In 2019, I read an article by well-known outdoors writer Craig Boddington regarding roebuck hunting in Scotland. It explained that roebuck hunting has been on my bucket list. Roebucks are small deer weighing up to 30 pounds. In the morning at 3 a.m., and shortly after that, we were driving around in a vehicle until a likely elk hunt in the Pigeon River forest, which was driving around in a vehicle until a likely elk hunt. We eventually worked within 50 yards of a decent roebuck that was bedded down in tall grass, and we weren't aware of us. I got braced on the shooting stocks and with a deer at the top.

Photo courtesy of Tom Lounsbury / The Advertiser

Sean Emmett is the head gamekeeper for a 27,000-acre estate in Scotland, and an excellent hunting guide. Tom Lounsbury would use Sean’s rifle to shoot a roebuck. Stenarlen are allowed for hunting in the United Kingdom, and not only suppress the sound, but the recoil as well.

Our location in Scotland is at the same latitude as Sitka, Alaska, and features the picturesque Highlands to the very southern border. The meals provided there were cooked to perfection.

We planned our trip to arrive in Edinburgh three days early to explore International Adventures also recommended, and I went online to review the information on the website. We discovered my son Josh had bagged two dandy 6-point bucks first thing during the morning. He used gamekeeper Ross Duncan’s Tikka rifle in .243 Winchester. (The gamekeepers all use quality rifles and optics, and handicap their own ammunition) to drop his first buck at 20 yards, and the second buck at 100 yards. Josh was resting the rifle on the front rest while the first buck walked uphill to him, and suddenly appeared, and he was using another frontrest to make a tricky shot as the second buck was passing through a small hole in the brush. In my opinion, Josh was impressed with how well the suppressed tamed both noise and recoil. Because he had his two bucks, Josh would accompany Michael Grosse and me to one of the northern areas, to hunt farmland roebucks, which had started chasing a doe, which headed our way, eating up the distance. Both the deer turned broadside, and were standing broadside, as if on cue. I commented that the range appeared to be about 275 yards, and Michael used his range finder to confirm 281 yards, and told me to place the green dot right on the spine to allow for bullet-drop, which I did.

I was well past 10 p.m. when a dark-hoarled deer entered a green barley field about 400 yards away, and both Michael and Josh, using their binoculars, confirmed it was a dandy buck with heavy mass. I wasn’t comfortable with a 400-yard, low-light-shot, but the buck suddenly started chasing a doe, which headed our way, eating up the distance. Both the deer turned broadside, and were standing broadside, as if on cue. I commented that the range appeared to be about 275 yards, and Michael used his range finder to confirm 281 yards, and told me to place the green dot right on the spine to allow for bullet-drop, which I did.

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DETROIT RIVER - Walleye fishing was tough on the river, but fish were caught in 40 feet of water when trolling with bottom bouncers. This was true for all locations where anglers were successful. Anglers did well near Zugg Island and the Rouge River and also near the end of Fighting Island on the U.S. side. Other anglers did well near the BASF plant in Wyndotte and Sugar Island near Grosse Isle. White bass fishing dropped off, but anglers were still catching some in the Tension Channel.

SAGINAW BAY - Walleye were caught at the Old River Channel, the Dumping Grounds and at Bay 3 northeast of the number one buoy. Walleye fishing was good on the east side of the bay. The drift from Sunset up to Sebewaing was producing some limits, while some anglers were fishing deeper with leadcore and downriggers with spoons.

HARBOR BEACH - Smallmouth bass were caught from the breakwall and boats inside the harbor by casting artificial lures. Lake trout and salmon were caught when focusing on the top 30 feet or so. Try golden yellow or any of these combos. Best, such as oranges, silver, bright greens, golden yellows or any of these combos.

Leaves were caught on dodgers and Spin-N-Glos for best results for lake trout. Lake trout were caught on dodgers and Spin-N-Glos as well with brightly colored spoons with lots of green on them.

PORT SANILAC - Steelhead were caught while trolling straight out in 80 to 100 feet of water while running baits in the top 40 feet. Pier anglers were catching a few rock bass and white bass on worms. A few smallmouth bass and rock bass were caught from the breakwall with minnows and casting small lures. Salmon and trout were caught in different depths from 30 to 80 feet of water. Boats trolls shallow were using planer boards with spoons and body baits while some were fishing deeper with leadcore and downriggers with spoons.

LEXINGTON - Shore and deck anglers caught smallmouth bass and rock bass using minnows and casting small lures.

PORT AUSTIN - Anglers were targeting smallmouth bass while fishing from boats, the breakwall and docks while casting artificial lures. Anglers casting spinners, crankbaits and tube caught some fish.

TAWAS - Walleye were caught near buoys #4 and #6 while trolling crawlers in 15 to 17 feet of water. Some chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon, lake trout and walleye were caught out past buoy #2 while trolling spoons and body baits in 50 to 70 feet. There were some smallmouth bass caught and released near shore along and out near Tawas Point while casting spinners and plastics. At Gateway Park on the Tawas River, fishing was slow. There were some smallmouth bass caught while casting spinners, body baits and crawlers.

ALPENA - Lake trout fishing was good, with limits reported. Anglers were mostly fishing 30 to 70 feet of water. Lake trout were throughout the water column. Anglers were running a couple of lines near the bottom with flasher and Spin-N-Glos and spoons in the water column. Anglers wanting to target Atlantic salmon should fish the top half of the water column, focusing on the top 30 feet or so. Try running smaller spoons in bright colors. Walleye fishing was slow in the bay.

THUNDER BAY RIVER - A few walleye were caught at night off the North Beach bridge while driftfishing lures. Walleye were also caught while trolling in the river with crawler harnesses. Anglers were also catching a mix of smallmouth bass, rock bass, bowfin and sunfish. Anglers were casting with body baits and using live bait.

AU GRES - Catfish, bullheads and freshwater drum were caught in the Au Gres River while still fishing crawlers on the bottom. Walleye fishing was good, with some limits caught while trolling crawlers and crankbaits in 15 to 35 feet from the mouth of the Au Gres River and south toward the Saginaw bay. Some largemouth and smallmouth bass were caught and released near the Charity Islands and near the shoreline while casting spinners and plastics.

PREQUE ISLE - Anglers were having the best luck with Atlantic salmon in the top 30 feet of water with smaller spoons. Bright colors seemed to be the best, such as oranges, silver, bright greens, golden yellows or any of these combos.

Anglers reported that there was a lot of bass. Anglers should fish structured areas for best results for lake trout. Lake trout were caught on dodgers and Spin-N-Glos along with brightly colored spoons with lots of green on them.

ROGERS CITY - Lake trout fishing was decent, with limits reported. Anglers were still having some days where they had to work harder for them than others. Lake trout love gobies, and they were eating them heavily. Anglers should target areas that have rocky bottoms or areas of structure. Best depths were in 35 to 60 feet of water. The lake trout were all over the water column as well. Anglers using green, lime, blue or chartreuse spoons as well as cow bells with Spin-N-Glos or dodgers with Spin-N-Glos. Fish the top part of the water column with smaller spoons for Atlantic salmon.
You could say Lexi Squires brought “the little toad that could” to last year’s frog-jumping contest at the Millington Old-Fashioned Summer Festival.

Lexi, daughter of Liz Squires of Akron, won her heat in the 2-year-old age group, using a toad about one inch in length. While bigger frogs failed to jump, or leapt off in the wrong direction, Lexi’s ambitious amphibian jumped straight toward the finish line, crossing first to win Lexi $3 in the opening race of the contest.

The event, directed by Lori Osborn, occurred before dozens of onlookers outside the Millington Arbela District Library. The contest, like Millington’s festival, didn’t occur in 2020 after restrictions were imposed related to battling the spread of COVID-19.

A child received a bigger cash prize if he won whatever race he entered, though some divisions saw more than one race, with different competitiveness in each heat.

Connor Simon, 5, took first place in 2019, and his frog won its heat again last year, to the delight of Connor and his grandparents, Jim and Tammy Simmons of Millington Township.

Bryant Meier, 5, brought one of the larger frogs to last year’s contest after he caught it in a friend’s pond in northern Genesee County’s Forest Township.

Before the races, Bryant’s brother, 8-year-old Thompson Meier, held a transparent box containing Bryant’s frog. The audience, including 1-year-old Remington Babcock of Millington, admired the croaking competitor.

This year’s frog-jumping contest, a festival tradition, occurs at 11 a.m. Aug. 11.
By Tom Gilchrist | News Editor
gilchrist@tcadvertiser.com

MUNGER — Rod Pavlawk hopes Munger Potato Festival crowds will resemble last year’s turnout, and that a newly-hired company improves the carnival.

“Last year was one of our better years we ever had,” said Pavlawk, 54, chairman of the committee overseeing the festival at 48 E. Munger Road (M-138) in Munger.

“It was crazy. It was nuts. The entertainment tent was packed every night and we had to close the gates to the derby arena every night because it was full.”

The festival, from July 28-31, offers free admission to festival grounds and free parking.

It may help, too, that Millington’s Waylon Hanel appears at the festival entertainment tent as a guest of the Family Tradition Band on Friday, July 29 from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Entertainment tent admission costs $5 after 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 28 and Friday, July 29. Tent admission is $5 after 5 p.m. Saturday, July 30.

Tent admission is free from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, July 31 when the Kowalski Brothers perform polka music.

The Sinclairs, a rock ’n’ roll band playing hits from several decades, performs from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Saturday, July 30. Rebel Line is the opening act on July 30, taking the stage about 6 p.m.

Todd & Pete Unplugged takes the stage from 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 28, followed by Billy Gustafson and the Wild West Riders from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Rear-wheel-drive vehicles compete at 7 p.m. Thursday in a Figure 8 race, followed by a front-wheel-drive demolition derby at 8 p.m., with tickets priced at $12 for adults. Admission drops to $5 for kids younger than 12.

Friday’s 7 p.m. Figure 8 race is for front-wheel-drive vehicles, with a rear-wheel-drive demolition derby after that. Admission costs the same that night.

Saturday’s 7 p.m. races begin with a Power Wheels Figure 8 race, preceding a team demolition derby involving rear-wheel-drive/front-wheel-drive vehicles. The night concludes with a front-wheel-drive team derby, with four cars to a team.

Fans buying a pass to Thursday’s derby races receive free admission to the entertainment tent that night. Volunteers also hand out five 5-pound bags of potatoes each night after the races, and after Sunday’s 1 p.m. parade through downtown Munger.

For more information, visit mungerpotatofest.com.

The Bay City Civitan Club constructed and donated boards for the Munger Potato Festival cornhole tournament. The festival occurs from July 28-31 along M-138 in Munger.
The 2021 Michigan Sugar Queen and Court: from left, Attendant Keina Karst of Fowlingworth, Michigan Sugar Queen Ally Kemp of Unionville, and Attendant Raven Wieland of Pinconning.

Ten women vie for Michigan Sugar Queen crown

SEBEWAING — Dubbed by organizers as “The sweetest festival in Michigan,” the annual Michigan Sugar Festival is set for this weekend in the Huron County town of Sebewaing.

The streets will be rocking this weekend, especially at night when the sound of rock bands will fill the street. In its 57th year, the festival is sponsored by Michigan Sugar Co.

The festival started last weekend, with local music. The festival will continue with garage sales and the “Average Joe Fishing Contest.” It begins in earnest Thursday with additional garage sales. Food vendors will be in town Thursday through Saturday, and the carnival midway will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Classic rock band Peacemaker will perform Thursday night.

On Friday, featured events include children’s activities between 10 a.m. and noon and 1 and 3 p.m., a “Band, Party,” allowing festival-goers an opportunity to bring their dogs to hang out at Sebewaing Park’s southern edge. A children’s parade at the Downtown Village Park at 4:30 p.m. A climbing wall and laser tag from 4 to 9 p.m. at the village tennis courts; and the crowning of the Sugar Queen at 7 p.m.

Saturday kicks off at 8 a.m. with the Sugar Beet Feet 5K run. At 10:30 a.m., the annual Grand Parade will make its way through Sebewaing. From 1 p.m. community members are invited to swim in the Bay Shore Camp swimming pool. At 3 p.m., there will be a kids’ cornhole tournament for youth 17 and under.

Music will ring through the town all day. Michelle Kuhl will perform from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and polka band Kowalski Brothers is set to perform between 4 and 7 p.m. Saturday. Closing out the festivities, band RockStar will play from 8 p.m. until midnight.

Patrons who show up early Sunday can take advantage of a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Future Farmers of America. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. until noon. Midnight onwards should bring plenty of festival-goers as 2 a.m. is the start time for both a beach volleyball tournament and a kiddie pedal tractor pull.

The main stage will host performances by Justified Quartet (2 to 4 p.m.) and Empty Canvas (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.).

Food trucks will be parked in Sebewaing for the weekend including: Becher’s Fun Foods, Honeyville Concessions: Little Red Ice Cream Bann; Nikki’s Kitchen; Sebewaing Historical Society’s, “Taco in a Bag; Taste of Bay City, Thimb Lickin’ BBQ;” and USA Lion Club Brain.

HURON COUNTY

Music, carnival rides, treats on tap for Sugar Fest

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FACEBOOK PHOTO | THE ADVERTISER

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Contests afoot at the start of previous Michigan Sugar Festival in Sebewaing. The Sugar Beet Feet 5K Run takes place at 8 a.m. Saturday in Sebewaing.

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