GENESEE COUNTY

**Former Vassar police officer arrested in sex crime sting**

By Jonn Schwambner | jeschwambn@tcadvertiser.com

**FLINT** — Todd Barraco, a former Vassar police officer and former Vassar Community Schools assistant principal, is one of 13 suspects arrested in conjunction with the Genesee County G.H.O.S.T Community Schools assistant principal, is one of 13 suspects arrested in conjunction with the Genesee County G.H.O.S.T team’s latest investigation.

In a video posted on the Genesee County Sheriff’s Office Facebook page, Sheriff Christopher Swanson said Barraco’s release ages of either defendant.

Bilkovsky and Colden were charged with the same five crimes: first-degree murder, being a felon in possession of a firearm, two counts of using a firearm in the commission of a felony, and tampering with evidence in a criminal case carrying a maximum penalty of more than 10 years in prison.

Both men are being held without bond at the Genesee County jail.

Loomis, a former Millington High School student, was found deceased outside the home. He was living at the home and had been fatally shot, according to police.

SEE VASSAR | A4

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**TUSCOLA COUNTY**

**Fairgrove seeks police info from Akron**

By Mark Haney | Reporter haney@readvoucher.com

**FAIRGROVE** — The village of Fairgrove wants to talk about police.

The village council decided March 8 to seek more information about the police coverage it gets from the village of Akron and what it might get from the Tuscola County Sheriff’s Office and the Michigan State Police.

Before signing a new contract with Akron for police protection, the council discussed the pros and cons of its current coverage and decided more information is needed. The council is sending Akron a Freedom of Information Act request for information on the auxiliary officer currently working for Akron, the latest evaluation of police chief Brian Simerson and the loss of part-time officers in Akron.

The council also is reviewing two years’ worth of minutes from meetings.

SEE FAIRGROVE | A3

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**INDIANFIELDS TWP.** — The Indianfields Township board approved plans on Monday for a new miniature golf course that being constructed behind Club 24 Sports Bar and Grill, 1354 Mertz Road.

A conditional land use permit was applied for by Club 24, and the Indianfields Township Planning Commission approved it along with the construction of additional parking area. On Monday, the board voted to accept the planning commission’s recommendation to approve the permit.

The 18-hole course is set to open this spring.

At the onset of Monday’s meeting, Caro Mayor Joe Greene provided the board information regarding the potential of hiring a traffic controller.

SEE 18-HOLE | A4

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**ST. HELEN**

**Two St. Helen men have been charged in Millington-area slaying**

By Todd Barraco, a former Millington High School student, was found deceased outside a home located just south of Willard Road in Genesee County. Both men are being held without bond at the Genesee County jail.

Loomis, a former Millington High School student, was found deceased outside the home. He was living at the home and had been fatally shot, according to police.

SEE ST. HELEN | A4

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**TUSCOLA COUNTY**

**18-hole mini golf course opening in spring**

By Jonn Schwambner | jeschwambn@tcadvertiser.com

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SEE 18-HOLE | A4

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Letters that exceed 200 words are less likely to be published depending on the content. Letters may not be published depending on the content.

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Letters to the Editor

Way back when...

MARCH 23, 1917

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Tuscola counties.
CARO – Local officials met a second time – on Feb. 25 – to discuss a plan that seeks to cover the ambulance service stationed in the middle of Tuscola County at all times.

There is no official Mobile Medical Response ambulance coverage between Tuscola and surrounding townships between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Although there is usually an MMR rig in the area, the priority of the ambulance service is the county township it has partnerships with. Officials with the city of Caro and Almer, Ellington, Indianfields and Wells townships learned in October that there was not an official agreement with MMR to provide services for 24 hours each day. Since then, municipality officials and local first responder units have been working on the potential of signing a financial agreement with MMR.

MMR usually has three 24/7 ambulances in the county to cover the townships. MMR relies on insurance reimbursements as ambulance calls lessen, so does the revenue. No action was taken at an October meeting to address the issue. That meeting was attended by: Caro City Manager Matthew Lane, Almer Township Supervisor Clayette Zechmeister, Caro Fire Chief Randall Heckroth, Caro Police Chief Brian Newcomb, Caro Free Chief Randell Heckroth, county controller/administrator Clayton Spiers, District 2 county Commissioner Thomas Bailey, Caro-Fairgrove police dispatcher Dennis Thomas and Wells Township police dispatcher Dennis Thomas were among the attendees.

A report will be forwarded to the Sanilac County Prosecutor's Office following an investigation. The concern, according to Lane and the village of Kingston and Arbela Township, is making sure there is an ambulance to respond to an emergency in the Caro area, even when the ambulance service transports the injured patient to their hospital of choice in the area. According to the press release, the driver of the Jeep showed signs of intoxication. The driver of the Jeep was taken to a local hospital for treatment of injuries.

The ambulance service transported the injured patient to their hospital of choice in the area.

No action was taken Feb. 25, but Lane said local first responders and government officials will receive the information he provided and discuss the issue again in the near future.

According to a press release from the Sanilac County Sheriff’s Office, the crash occurred about 6:10 a.m.

The driver of the Jeep was taken to a local hospital for treatment of injuries.

The ambulance service transported the injured patient to their hospital of choice in the area.

MMR officials have said that it will still respond to an emergency in the Caro area, but if an ambulance service keeps a unit in Caro 24 hours a day, MMR may have to raise rates for its services.

There are five ambulance services in Tuscola County, with MMR contracted to cover the townships of Gillard, Fairgrove, Denmark, Jamiata, Tuscola, Vassar, Millington, Elkland, Novesta and Elwood. The coverage area includes the towns of Fairgrove, Akron, Vassar, Rezee, Millington, Caro, City and Gagetown.

Sanilac’s Worth Township, is making sure there is an ambulance to respond to an emergency in the Caro area, even when the ambulance service transports the injured patient to their hospital of choice in the area.

Based on costs of the other county MMR rigs, Lane estimated the city and four townships would need to pay MMR about $260,000 in 2025, $265,000 in 2024 and $275,000 in 2025 to guarantee an MMR rig in the area at all times. There are five ambulance services in Tuscola County, with MMR contracted to cover the townships of Gillard, Fairgrove, Denmark, Jamiata, Tuscola, Vassar, Millington, Elkland, Novesta and Elwood. The coverage area includes the towns of Fairgrove, Akron, Vassar, Rezee, Millington, Caro, City and Gagetown.

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Jeep strikes ambulance, charges pending

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Jeep strikes ambulance, charges pending
Michigan State Police post at Flint said “I don’t know that that’s true.”

Miller declined to comment when asked the motive for the slaying.

The Adventurer couldn’t reach Colden by phone following the killing, but the address of the property couldn’t be determined. The plaintiff in the case was Christian D. Earls.

Less than two weeks prior to that, however — on Feb. 1 — Loomis notified her Facebook page on Friday to wish “Happy Valentine’s Day” to all the wonderful moms and dads out there.

The day before the homicide, on the morning of Feb. 14, Jesse Loomis took to Facebook with this “Happy Valentine’s Day” to all the wonderful moms and dads out there.

As of Friday, donors had given $10,005 to Colden had forfeited his rights to the property couldn’t be immediately determined. The plaintiff in the case was Christian D. Earls.

The documents specify the Merrill district considered not renewing or terminating Barraco’s contract for several reasons, including alleged unethical behavior, poor sportsmanship and being “is poor example/ model for student athletes.”

The board approved placing a two-year moratorium on the August election ballot — a property tax for the township’s fire and road funds.

The board approved placing two millage renewal proposals on the August

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TUSCOLA COUNTY

Mayville looks to appeal show days limit

By Mark Haney | Reporter
haney@tcadvertiser.com

MAYVILLE — As of now, Mayville Community Schools owes the state the day. The school district has had seven snow days this winter. The state Department of Education allows schools six free days for such weather issues, so that means Mayville has to make up one day before the school year can end. “We get six days,” Superintendent Barry Markward said in a text message, “however, we can request up to three more days for consideration before May 31.” Mayville’s not alone, either. Several other school districts around the state are in the same or worse shape as far as snow days recorded this year. And several local schools, including Caro and Cass City, lost several days to threats after the Nov. 30 shooting at Oxford High School that left three students dead and four people injured. Those days pushed some of those school districts well over the limit of days allowed off.

The school board learned Wednesday about the seven-day loss and the plans being made for a summer school again this year. The latter will allow students to make up for any learning lost during this school year.

The board also:

■ Decided to purchase a new Holland WIM35 track loader from Coultier Equipment for $25,000. Markward said the district had been leasing the track but decided to purchase it.

■ Approved extensions for elementary school principal Kimberly Morden, associate principal Kevin Czepczar, business manager Leanna Hartman, food services director Jennifer Edgerton, administrative and financial assistant Tracie Hills and athletic director Mike Campbell. The contracts now are good through 2024. The pay and benefits for the six weren’t changed.

■ Set the budget hearing for 6 p.m. June 14. The board’s regular meeting that month will follow. The board’s May 4 session also will start at 6 p.m. with the board scholar awards, with the monthly meeting to follow.

■ Approved the retirement of bus driver Linda Smith.

■ Honored Elaine Russell, Dillon Fisher, Elizabeth Eyep, James Morden, Amanda Evers and Glen Lilly as the students of the month.

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Wells Township still waiting for road repairs

By Mark Haney | Reporter
haney@tcadvertiser.com

WELLS TWP. — Two years ago, Wells Township spent about $130,000 to pave a mile of Frankford Road.

Within months, however, that mile developed issues. That brought Supervisor Karen Vanney to a Tuscola County Road Commission meeting in early 2021 seeking some help. There are cracks of a half-inch or larger, going in all directions, she told the road commissioners.

The road commission’s acting engineer, Brent Dunkert, said at the time, that some cracking is expected in asphalt even though it is flexible. But it should take at least a year before the cracks develop. So the road commission was going to ask the paving firms to fix the problem.

Wells Township still is waiting.

New Tuscola County Road Commission superintendent Jason Root told the township board of Thursday’s meeting that Pyramid Paving is paving its Frankford Road by doing crack sealing at no cost. That means the board will agree to pay the road commission $75,219.84 for 2021-22 work, withholding the $41,355.96 still owed for Frankford Road until the road is fixed the problem.

That led the board to agree to pay the township board at Thursday’s meeting that the cemetery ordinance.

The board also:

■ Voided a January permit for 320-tarp service at a residence.

■ Approved re-patching a possible fire/ambulance memorial on the August ballot.

■ Approved a one-year contract at roughly $75 a month with MPJ Wiresless, through Majestic in Caro, to install internet service, as long as an evaluation of the township hall shows it would have reliable service.

■ Will host a tire collection from 9 a.m. to noon May 21 at the Tuscola County Road Commission property on East Dayton Road.

■ Paid the $6,918 2022-23 township insurance coverage premium, raising the replacement cost coverage for the pole barn from $25,000 to $35,000.

■ Will trade in the mower deck for $2,500 and will purchase a new mower deck for $8,193.30, which includes a $250 setup fee.

■ Adjusted the budget to increase the garbage expense account to $144,990.19, decrease the contingency fund to $28,216.41, increase the hill snow plowing expense to $2,603.04 and increase the cemetery snow plowing expense to $1,680.55.

■ Will ask the road commission for a hoodie driven way for 4093 Rosaman Road.

■ Accepted the fire bill $600 payment from Chuck Roberts.

■ Added clerk Ronnie Heinegger, deputy clerk David Preston, treasurer Stephanie Brunce and deputy treasurer Pat Gettel as authorized signatories to the township’s Tri-County Bank and Team One Credit Union accounts.

■ Will have the road commission spray the township roadways at no cost to the township.

■ Adopted the private road and drive ordinance, the land division ordinance and the cemetery ordinance.

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Gruehns, Hellebuyck, Finley honored at O-G

OWENDALK — Owosso-Gagetown School has given special recognition to Haden Gruehn as its “Senior Student of the Month.”

Gruehn, son of Nathan and Kamryn Gruehn of Sebewaing, was one of the school’s “Students of the Month” for March. The school, this month, focused on honoring students for being a “critical, creative thinker.”

Such a student “identifies problems, collects information, and organizes, compares and contrasts data,” according to a press release from the school. The students also “forms opinions, develops strategies to solve problems, and evaluates their conclusions.”

Gruehn (pronounced “Green”) plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University and major in history. He participated in the varsity basketball program during his freshman and sophomore years, and was a class representative on the high school Snowball court.

As a junior, Gruehn attended the marketing program at the Huron Area Tech Center, and the Agri-Science program at the Tuscola Technology Center.

Three other students were named “Students of the Month” for March; sophomore Karsyn Gruehn, daughter of Nathan and Kamryn Gruehn, at the high school level; eighth-grader Aubrey Hellebuyck, daughter of Anthony and Ashley Hellebuyck, at the junior high level; and kindergartner Silas Finley, son of Keri Dishman, at the elementary level.

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CARO — After cresting above $123 per barrel shortly after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the price of crude oil has been grinding higher. It all depends on the direction of oil prices.

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), total domestic gasoline stocks decreased by 1.4 million bll (barrel) last week. Meanwhile, gasoline demand rose slightly from 8.74 million bll to 8.96 million bll. The increase in gas demand and a reduction in total supply contribute to rising pump prices. But, increasing oil prices play the lead role in pushing gas prices higher. Consumers can expect the current trend at the pump to continue as long as crude prices climb.

Today’s national average for a gallon of gas is $4.32, which is 26 cents more than a week ago, 84 cents more than a month ago, and $1.47 more than a year ago.

QUICK STATS

The nation’s top 10 largest weekly price increases:
- Utah ($1.51 cents), Arizona ($4.81 cents), California ($4.70 cents), Idaho ($4.10 cents), Massachusetts ($4.06 cents), Nevada ($4.09 cents), Oregon ($4.43 cents), Washington ($4.41 cents), and Alabama ($4.32 cents).

The nation’s top 10 most expensive markets:
- California ($8.54), Nevada ($4.95), Hawaii ($4.95), Connecticut ($4.89), Arizona ($4.81), Illinois ($4.56), Washington, D.C. ($4.56), and Massachusetts ($4.54).

At the close of Friday’s formal trading session, WTI increased by $3.31 to settle at $109.33. Crude prices surged then eased last week in response to President Biden announcing a ban of Russian energy imports, including crude oil. Crude prices have eased as the market continues to find replacement barrels of oil and further supply growth for the light market becomes apparent. However, the market remains volatile and additional disruptions or escalation of the current crisis in Ukraine could cause prices to surge again this week. Additionally, EIA reported that total domestic crude stocks decreased by 1.8 million bll last week to 411.6 million bll. The current stock level is approximately 17% lower than at the end of February 2021, contributing to pressure on domestic crude prices.
Thoughts on the Sunshine Protection Act? Experts dish on permanent DST

By Mark Puleo | AccuWeather

Are you tired of adjusting your clocks every six months to “spring forward” or “fall back”? Well, a recently passed bill could be putting an end to that nuisance.

United States Senators approved the Sunshine Protection Act on Tuesday, which would make daylight saving time permanent year-round starting in 2023. The bill will next be passed along to the House of Representatives before being sent to the desk of President Joe Biden for a signature.

Should Congress and the President both approve, Americans can prepare to see daylight saving time (DST) in the spring and fall forever. The bill has gained steam in recent years, as dozens of states have introduced legislation to do away with either daylight saving or standard time.

Think of abolishing the clock changes has gained steam in recent years, as dozens of states have introduced legislation to do away with either daylight saving or standard time. The idea has also been widely popular among the general public, as a 2019 poll cited by Rep. Frank Pallone showed over 79% of Americans preferred to no longer deal with the time changes, Reuters reported.

“There is no good reason that twice a year we’re springing forward, falling back.” New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, a proponent of permanent DST, said in a Tuesday Tik Tok. “We need to this to spring forward and stay there.” I’ve been asking this question all my life, “Why do we do this?” No one has a good response.”

Senator Booker and offer such a response.

There are many factors to weigh, beyond the simple annoyance of moving the hour hand twice a year. Impacts on safety, sleep, and the economy all need to be taken into consideration.

And on the flip side, Erik Herzog, former president of the Society for Research on Biological Rhythms (SRBR), has argued that standard time is actually the safer clock setting to stick with.

“Heart attacks and traffic fatalities increase in the days following the change to daylight saving time (DST) in the spring,” he told The Washington University in St. Louis. Herzog went on to argue that while the late summer sunsets may be nice for our playtime, the early morning sunrises that come with standard time are crucial for our biological clocks.

“Astronauts, who work around the clock, which controls your daily rhythms in things like sleep and wake, eating and fasting, interpret light in the morning as ‘sunrise,’ and advances your wake up time,” he explained. “Evening light tells your biological clock to wake up later the next day. These changes go against our daily rhythms in things like sleep and wake.”

However, health experts, politicians and the public alike can all agree on one thing: Sleep disruptions from clock changes are both dangerous and frustrating.

Dr. Ana Shelpkar, a clinical associate professor of medicine at the University of Michigan and director of the school’s Sleep Medicine Fellowship program, told AccuWeather that “even a one-hour time shift can make it more difficult to wake up and fall back asleep on a set schedule.”

“The sleep disruption that results from changing the clocks twice a year can affect the amount of sleep we get and our ability to maintain a consistent sleep-wake schedule,” she said. “Sleep disruption and poor sleep quality can worsen symptoms of many mental health conditions. For those who receive mental health treatments, sleep disruption can make those treatments less effective.”

WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME WE TRIED THIS?

The debates on whether to keep or get rid of the clock changes and the arguments over daylight saving time or standard time aren’t new ones.

In 1973, Congress also voted to stick to permanent daylight saving time, a measure that the country had also previously enacted during World War II. But the 1973 bill, which would have kept the U.S. on daylight saving time for two years, became quickly unpopular. Under permanent daylight saving time, the lack of early sunrises will most directly impact areas in the western and southern areas of time zones. While that’s fine for states in New England, which will rise before 7 a.m. for over 200 days of the year, it could spell safety troubles in areas like southwestern Texas and Florida. There, the sun will rise after 7 a.m. much of the year, and in particular when children are in school, creating dangerous conditions for early morning drivers.

In early 1974, just weeks after the move to permanent daylight saving time, traffic accidents impacting schoolchildren abounded.

In January, a 6-year-old girl was struck by a car while walking to school in Alexandria, Virginia, breaking her leg. Then, weeks later, eight Florida children were killed in traffic accidents. In February, two other kids in Virginia were injured in accidents. Schools in the Washington area scrambled to alter schedules and delay them start times until the sun rose for safer school trips.

By the end of the month, Senators were filled with regret.

“Then, to recognize that we may have made a mistake,” Iowa State Sen. Chuck Grassley said during a speech in Congress January 27, 1974, according to The Washingtonian.

Are you tired of adjusting your clocks every six months to “spring forward” or “fall back”? Well, a recently passed bill could be putting an end to that nuisance. United States Senators approved the Sunshine Protection Act on Tuesday, which would make daylight saving time permanent year-round starting in 2023. The bill will next be passed along to the House of Representatives before being sent to the desk of President Joe Biden for a signature.

Thoughts on the Sunshine Protection Act? Experts dish on permanent DST
move, and two consecutive free throws by capped off by a Laird layup after a spin 6-2 in the final 1 minute and 45 seconds, for a basket. McLaughlin, who dished to Emma Kerkau by Faith Breinager and a steal by Mia remaining in the game after a 3-pointer a 25-24 lead with less than two minutes Ludington missed all seven 3-pointers. the 3-point arc during the game, while Eagles made 1 of 10 shots from beyond the 3-point line during the game. The 3-pointer came by. A possession game, free throws – unsuccessfully – matters. The Orioles also arrived with a flock of fans and a couple seniors with big wingspans – Points were hard to come by. Frankie outscored Ludington 1-0 in the third quarter to take 15-14 lead into the final stanza. The Eagles made 10 of 10 shots from beyond the 3-point arc during the game, while Ludington missed all seven 3-pointers. Yet the Eagles found themselves with a 25-24 lead with less than two minutes remaining in the game after a 3-pointer by Faith Breinager and a steal by Mia McLaughlin, who dished to Emma Kerkau for a basket. Ludington would outscore the Eagles 6-2 in the final 1 minute and 45 seconds, capped off by a Laird layup after a spin move, and two consecutive free throws by senior RyAnn Rohrer, who led all scorers with 12 points. "I was just really happy with how hard the girls played tonight," said Ludington coach Warren Stowe. "They came out and they emptied their cup, and it was just awesome." Stowe’s Orioles (20-5), champion of the Lakes 8 Conference, made four of six free throws. Frankenmuth made eight of 15. The Red Raiders fell to the Buccaneers 72-30, ending its season, though not without continue making history. But Marlette fell to the Buccaneers 72-30, ending its season, though not without a fight. “The biggest thing was to compete for 32 minutes, and I thought we did that, but it was tough,” Marlette coach Chris Storm said. “Kingston, I get that because we are close by, but to come down here, we traveled well, they were behind our group and supporting them. That says a lot of why our young men are the way they are. There’s just a lot of community support.” The Bucs jumped out to a 7-0 advantage leading to a Red Raiders’ timeout. Marlette scored its first bucket out of the timeout on a Grant Roberson basket with the assist by Collin Miller. Beecher defeated the Eagles 47-46 win over Bad Axe, and Beecher defeated Hemlock 76-47, setting up Wednesday’s matchup. The Marlette student section and fans entered the gym a half hour before gametime, much like they have throughout the postseason play, preparing the squad for the biggest game of their season. “Our student section and our community have been incredible these last two weeks,” Storm said. “Kingston, I get that because we are close by, but to come down here, we traveled well, we were behind our group and supporting them. That says a lot of why our young men are the way they are. There’s just a lot of community support.” The Advertiser
Slam! Top-ranked Beecher bounces Marlette

“Zoey Persails wasn’t here tonight, and she’s a first-team all-conference player,” Stowe said. “She was a 2004 Ludington High graduate, credited the turnaround by the team’s fans Tuesday.

“Ludington’s a huge basketball community,” Stowe said. “Basketball is a part of it. It’s really awesome to have that support from the fans and the parents, and the friends.”

“The reality is that tonight we didn’t have Zoey (Bryce),” said Jacobs, whose squad finished the season with a 22-3 record and the team’s first regional title in 20 years.

“We had to give them a lot of credit,” Storm said. “They are class acts and play the right way. They get it for the rest of their lives.”

“I told our kids that if they saw good things, they needed to shout it. I thought if we could have knocked down a few shots we could have at least fought a little longer, but Beecher is just good,” Storm said. “They are explosive off the dribble, they shoot it well, they rebound well. We needed to try a few more shots early on, because once you start into that transition game with them, it’s hard to slow them down.”

“Zoey Persails wasn’t here tonight, and she’s a first-team all-conference player,” Stowe said. “Basketball is a large part of it. It’s really awesome to have that support from the fans and the parents, and the friends.”

“I told them in the locker room after the game that it’s always been a joy to come to practice and coach them. They worked hard all season long. I think outside of tonight’s game and one other game this year, we kept it to one possession.”

Due to Beecher’s large lead, the two squads played with a running clock in the second half, but Marlette was not ready to just give up on its season. The Red Raiders and Bucs went basket-for-basket for a stretch leading to a 61-21 lead for the Bucs entering the final quarter.

“We talked about it, we just compete well, we try to execute our game plan, we’re unselfish but from them and I think we did that,” Storm said. “I had words with coach (Marquette) Gray after the game and he had a lot of nice things to say about us, as I did for them.

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Grant Robertson led the Red Raiders with 16 points while Quintin Sartin chipped in with four.

Twelve seniors depart the Marlette basketball program including Robertson, Travis Fuller, Bryce Major, Payton Brooks, Ethan Marshall, Jason Mandrels-Ernstbach, Tristan Crichton, Brayden Campbell, Luke Schlueter, Myles Parker, Collin Miller and Jeirmon Miller.

“These seniors have meant a lot to this school,” Storm said. “They’ve done a lot throughout their career from football to basketball and obviously baseball last year. It’s a good group of kids who like each other and stick together.”

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AKRON TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT PUBLIC HEARING

The Akron Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to hear the special use permit application request of Consumers Energy for the improvement and expansion of the Akron City Gate located at W. Akron Road, 1400 feet west of Sheridan Road. The Akron City Gate is an existing Natural Gas Regulation Facility (an Essential Service) that is owned and operated by Consumers Energy for the improvement and expansion of the facility on Consumers Energy’s property. The request involves the expansion of Consumers Energy’s property (Parcel # 001-035-000-2600-00). The Public Hearing will be held at Akron Township Hall in c/o Christina Martens or emailed to zoning@akrontwp.com. Written comments will be received until April 4th by mailing to the Akron Township Hall in c/o Christina Martens or emailed to zoning@akrontwp.com.

AKRON TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT PUBLIC HEARING

The Akron Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to review zoning text amendments to the Utility-Scale Solar Zoning by putting a cap on the amount of solar energy eligible for utility-scale solar projects. The request involves the expansion of Consumers Energy’s property (Parcel # 001-035-000-2600-00). The Public Hearing will be held at Akron Township Hall in c/o Christina Martens or emailed to zoning@akrontwp.com.

THE BIG GAME IS BACK!
TUSCOLA COUNTY 4-H HORSE LEADERS VS DETROIT LIONS LEGENDS!
DONT MISS OUT! AUTOGRAF, PICTURE SESSION & DINNER SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 7:00 CARO HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM STUDENT TICKET $10.00 • ADULT TICKET $20.00 WHOLE FAMILY TICKET $30.00 FOR GAME AND TICKET INFORMATION 800-205-7174 989-391-5083

The Advertiser

VILLAGE OF REESE
PAGE 3

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Village of Reese is requesting Bids for the construction of the Center Street Rehabilitation Project. Bids will be received at the Village of Reese Municipal Building, located at 2073 Gates Street, Reese, Michigan 48757, until 10:00 a.m. local time, Thursday, April 7, 2022. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes approximately 7000 square yards of HMA base crushing and shaping, 1950 tons of HMA paving, trenching, curb ramp openings, guardrail, signage, pavement markings, and miscellaneous items of work.

The Village of Reese reserves the right to accept any bid, reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities and to make the award in the manner deemed in the best interest of the Village of Reese.
The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be 4.35 mills. For an average ($358,400) taxable home, the increase would amount to an additional $15.52 in property taxes. The current city millage rate is 4.34 mills.

A copy of the city’s 2022 budget is available for public inspection by appointment or at the village office by calling 989-673-8009 within a reasonable time in advance of the meeting.

The meeting is open to all members of the public under Michigan’s Open Meetings Act. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services who are planning to attend the meeting should notify the Clerk, Suzy Rockwell, at 989.673.8009 within a reasonable time in advance of the meeting.

TUSCOLA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION - 1733 S. MERTZ ROAD, CARO, Ml 48723

Sealed bids will be received Thursday, March 31st, 2022, at the office of the Board of Review, located at 2791 East Caro Road.

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Youthful fun time was spent in the ‘rabbitat’ with Broecker, his hounds

Michigan Outdoors with Tom Lounsbury

When it comes to weather, March can be quite fickle. One day you think spring is coming early, and the next day winter is back—and with a vengeance. That is what was on my mind when March 12 was set for a rabbit hunt on my farm, involving youth hunters. Just like the month of March, cottontail rabbits can be quite fickle, too, according to the weather. One day they are out and about, and suddenly they have literally gone to ground, and can remain there from just before and during a wintry storm, even for a day or two.

Having a set date, especially in March, can be a boon or a bust, but then, that is hunting. You go with what you’ve got, and due to various schedules (including the fact I was in Florida during February), March 12 was literally written in stone. Bill Fischer, of Frankenmuth, is the outreach coordinator for Pheasants Forever (PF) in Michigan, and is in charge of developing hunting and shooting activities and programs for youths and women, a necessary factor in regard to the future. Having hunted pheasants on my farm, Fischer knew that I had portions of the ground devoted to what I call “rabbitat,” and he had observed plenty of cottontails roaming about. He wondered if I’d host a youth rabbit hunt.

Well, folks, that was no-brainer for me, because I fully support introducing the youth to various outdoor pastimes, and hosting a “youth only” rabbit hunt was certainly my cup of tea. In Michigan these days, small-game hunting takes a backseat to deer hunting, and introducing kids to deer hunting has therefore become the main priority—which, in my mind—is a sad state of affairs.

Small-game hunting offers an entirely different atmosphere which can include a beagles, but instead, brought just two seasoned older dogs to keep matters on a steady roll. Station 5 was located in the outer corner of an “elbow” in the cover, and within seconds of Broecker releasing his pair of beagles at the end of the rabbitat, there was a sudden shotgun release. The hunt was sponsored by the Saginaw Chapter of Pheasants Forever.

It turned out to be a pretty productive rabbit-hunting day, with all five kids doing pretty well. My rules were simple: Only the kids could have used hunting with his beagles for years, and he is one that three or four to listen to the “music” of his happy hounds singing on a hot track. He is out and about with his beagles at all times, and it is his hope that when he passes away, it will be with his boots on while “listening to the music.”

Prior to the youth rabbit hunt, I invited Broecker to my farm in order for him to review all that we know to expect, and to discuss our battle plan, so to speak. He showed up with a pair of his oldest beagles, and we went about touring my rabbitat, and the thing we both carried was our dependable walking sticks. This was a matter of simply listening to the music, while getting a feeling for how and where to start matters on the day of the hunt.

Broecker was quite impressed with my “rabbitat,” which was laced with rabbit traffic (rabbit-trails in the snow). His pair of beagles started singing a beautiful duet right away, and kept on singing, with rabbits frequently running by us, soon followed by boisterous beagles. Yep, folks, there is a whole lot to just listening to beagle music on a brisk wintry day! We actually had to round up the beagles, which kept finding rabbits to chase, and had no intent in quitting. Broecker and I also knew how to go about matters for the hunt, no matter the weather. Hopefully, it would be ideal weather.

I was notified that five youth hunters would be coming, and on the morning of the hunt, I placed orange flags at five key positions for the shooters to stand at—and hold that spot during the entire hunt. The positions were chosen because they were funneling “pinch-points” in the rabbitat, and offered a safe zone of fire. My rules were simple: Only the kids were the “shooters,” and had to be accompanied by an adult (in this case it was the fathers). Only shotguns could be used because moving targets are hard to hit using 22 rifles. Also, 22 bullets are notorious for ricocheting when striking a hard surface which is the problem with others, as well as the dogs—and some might say “everything”.

I had been informed all of the kids had learned hunter safety and were in a school (dog-and-shoot) training league sponsored by the Frankenmuth Sportsman’s Club. Although all knew how to safely handle guns, none had ever hunted rabbits before. Ammunition and any necessary shooting accessories (such as ear and eye protection) were provided by the Saginaw County Chapter of Pheasants Forever.

We actually had the day at “rabbitat,” featuring a fresh two inches of snowfall, and the temperature was in the low teens, which all represented ideal rabbit-hunting weather, except for one thing—the wind. The plus-40-miles-per-hour breeze out of the northwest created a subzero wind-chill factor. However, all five stations were in heavy cover and offered some definite protection from the literally brutal wind. Everybody was also properly dressed for the weather, and wore plenty of “hunter orange.”

Broecker could have brought his entire pack of beagles, but instead, brought just two seasoned older dogs to keep matters on a steady roll. Station 5 was located in the outer corner of an “elbow” in the cover, and within seconds of Broecker releasing his pair of beagles at the end of the rabbitat, there was a sudden shotgun blast, and the first rabbit of the day was down for the count. Then Station 2 lit up, followed by Stations 3 and 4. Because of the cottontail nature of circling around with beagles in tow, Station 5—just at the end of the line—tore a whole to light up, but eventually got into the fast action and ongoing game!

I had informed the kids, prior to the hunt, to remain alert and ready after the chase scene passed by them, because matters would most likely be coming back. There would also be other rabbits not involved in the chase, heading for other parts, and yay, this would all happen in a pretty steady sequence.

This five boys enjoyed a great day last Saturday rabbit hunting in Tom Lounsberry’s “Rabbitat,” with the assistance of a pair of fine beagles owned by Paul Broecker of Silvertown. The hunt was sponsored by the Saginaw Chapter of Pheasants Forever.

Photo by Tom Lounsberry | The Advertiser

Brenan Wescoat, left was at Station 5 in the rabbitat, when he bagged this dandy cottontail, thanks to the help from Paul Broecker, right, and his beagle “Josey.”

Erik Kern, left was at Station 4 in the rabbitat when he bagged this plump cottontail, thanks to the help of Paul Broecker, right, and his faithful old beagle “Josey.”

Photo by Tom Lounsberry | The Advertiser

Contact us in Caro at 893-673-6128

Photo by Tom Lounsberry | The Advertiser

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For more than a century, GreenStone has been committed to providing a wide range of services to its members and the communities where they live and work. GreenStone is dedicated to providing high-quality, affordable financial services for farmers, ranchers, and agricultural professionals.

Contact us in Caro at 893-673-6128

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**Partnering for the future.**

For more than a century, GreenStone has been committed to supporting organizations, programs and initiatives dedicated to helping Michigan’s agricultural sector thrive and prosper. Contact us to learn how we can help you preserve land for future generations.
Anglers are reminded to report marked and tagged fish they may encounter while fishing. Fisheries managers are continuously monitoring fish populations using clipped and marked fish. Reports can be made by filling out our Eyes in the Field form.

All anglers 17 years of age and older are required to have a fishing license.

**SOUTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**SAGINAW BAY:** A few anglers were catching spring bagrill in 10 feet of water at the end of Pinconning Road. At Vanderlip Park, a few limits of yellow perch were caught in 10 feet of water. Fishing was slow with light activity on the east side of Saginaw Bay. A few yellow perch were caught in the Sebewaing area with mostly small fish caught. There were numerous open pockets of water from Sebewaing up to Wildfowl Bay.

**SAGINAW RIVER:** A few walleye were caught in downtown Saginaw and at the confluence of the rivers. In both cases finding a place out of the wind to more effectively visually jig was key to catching walleye. Anglers were using about a %-ounce jig head due to fast current. Anglers did best while using a black or blue minnow tail tied with a minnow. About two to three walleye were caught per angler, at best.

**SOUTHWEST LOWER PENINSULA**

Water levels and clarity were in pretty good shape for fishing. There was a fair amount of fishing activity at Weiser and quite a bit below us. Currently prey with good numbers of bank anglers and a fair number of boats from the dam down to the post office. The fish ladders on the St. Joseph River are open and the first fish came out of the Sycamore Springs fish ladder is working. Water levels and clarity were good for fishing. The recent cold snap slowed fish movement through the ladders. The cold snap did not follow the river so the river should pick up with the warmer weather this week.

**NORTHEAST LOWER PENINSULA**

**TAWAS:** There were a few perch caught in 20 feet of water off jigs tipped with minnows. A few lake trout and walleye were caught out near the artificial reef in 20 to 22 feet of water off spoons and jigs tipped with minnows. A few limits of yellow perch were caught out near the artificial reef in 10 feet of water. Anglers were using about a %-ounce jig head due to fast current. Anglers did best while using a black or blue minnow tail tied with a minnow. About two to three walleye were caught per angler, at best.

**LETHBRIDGE LAKE:** Pending ice conditions, yellow perch will start staging with warmer temperatures in traditional areas, especially around aquatic vegetation. Minnows and teasers with waxies work well under bobbies, and work slowly through deeper runs and holes.

**MULLETT LAKE:** Anglers were catching some nice trout, lake trout, and steelhead caught north of the breakwall. Anglers were using about a %-ounce jig head due to fast current. Anglers did best while using a black or blue minnow tail tied with a minnow. About two to three walleye were caught per angler, at best.

**LITTLE BAY DE NOC:** Anglers reported good walleye fishing with large fish caught and some potentially in the trophy size category. Areas out of the Ford River were productive. Most anglers were fishing shallower water where they were able to sight fish in depths of around 10 to 15 feet of water. However, some anglers were able to locate fish at the bottom of deeper drop offs. Other anglers fishing the head of the bay had varied success. Anglers were using assorted types of jigging raps or slipper minnows. Anglers reported an increase in bites on the set lines this week. Perch anglers reported scattered schools in front of Kipling and between first and center reef. Anglers had the most success with wigglers.

**LES CHENEAUX/MUNUSCONG BAY:** Anglers were catching perch in Musky Bay and a few yellow perch in Heads Bay while using minnows, wigglers and waxworms. They were also catching a few lake trout and lake trout in Wilderness Bay. Munuscong Bay anglers were catching a few walleye, but the bite was slow. The same went for the perch bite at the Conley Point ramp.
Reese run ends, despite one more comeback

By Scott Bolsby | Sports Editor 
sports@tcadvertiser.com

BLOOMFIELD TWP. – A historic run for the Reese girls’ basketball team came to a close in a 55-48 Division 3 quarterfinal loss to Madison Heights Bishop Foley on Tuesday. The Rockets found themselves down 26-7 at halftime before a second-half rally cut the lead to two points in the fourth quarter.

“I was very pleased with the resiliency in this team and them battling back; that’s what they’ve been doing all playoffs,” Reese coach Josh Pickell said. “We were down in the hole against St. Charles and Sandusky in the regionals, and we battled back to get the wins. We got behind a little too much too early against Bishop Foley, but to be able to still make it a game was quite incredible.”

A point of emphasis heading into the game for Reese was the play of 6-foot forward Melanie Moore for Bishop Foley.

“We focused on everything all around against them,” Pickell said. “We did put an emphasis on their big (player) during our practices, but their actions that they ran, especially using the big in the ball screens is what got to us. She was able to score that way. The first half I felt like Bishop Foley couldn’t miss and we couldn’t buy a basket, so if we can’t put the ball in the basket in the first half of a game, we aren’t going to win many of them, anyway.”

The Rockets were looking to knock off their second consecutive top-10 squad in Division 3 after bouncing No. 4 Sandusky on March 10 in the regional final to win Reese’s first regional championship. The Ventures were ranked No. 7 in Division 3 entering Tuesday’s game, with one of their only losses coming to No. 1 Ypsilanti Arbor Prep, but despite the task in front of Reese, Pickell noted how the Rockets continued to play it cool.

“I really don’t think there was much intimidation at all,” he said. “I don’t think they cared who they were playing. They were just excited to be playing.”

Seniors Aydan Didak and Josie Johnson led the way in scoring with 15 and 11 points, respectively, while junior Abby Karst chipped in with 10.

File photo | The Advertiser

Reese senior Josie Johnson looks to drive around a defender during a Jan. 11 game against Bad Axe. Johnson scored 11 points in her final game for the Rockets in Tuesday’s quarterfinal loss to Bishop Foley.

ORPHAN OF THE WEEK

RUBY

Allow me to tell you a little bit about myself! I’m a healthy & loving black beauty that’s guessed to be around 2-3 years old, I’m fixed & front paw declawed and ready to join a family for the remainder of my 9 lives. I love attention and enjoy hanging out with you as your handy assistant. No task is too big or small! No dogs though... I don’t do dogs. Please call Jane at (810) 908-1888 for adoption details. “Like” Cass River Pet Friendz on Facebook and visit http://www.petfriendz.com

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