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Published Weekly



These four junior high teachers are starting their first year at Fowlerville Community Schools. They are among the 149 classroom instructors who will be greeting students when school resumes this Monday, August 27. From left are Rich O'Connell, an eighth-grade English and Language Arts instructor and is making his debut as a teacher; Kayla Nguyen, a sixth-grade instructor who will also be launching her teaching career; Erin Self, a sixth-grader teacher who is starting her fourth year and taught last year at Alma; and Jackie Dehring, the art teacher who is starting her 11<sup>th</sup> year and was previously at a district in Texas.

## Fowlerville begins school year this Monday with goal of improving literacy

By Steve Horton

Fowlerville Community Schools begin a new year this Monday with the start of classroom instruction.

Operationally, the district finds itself in a good position as it launches the 2018-19 school year.

"Our budget is a little over \$27 million," noted Wayne Roedel, the superintendent of schools. "We just finished the 2017-18 audit and it added \$38,000 to our fund balance. This brings the total to \$2.4 million which is nine percent of our expenditures.

"Earlier this year we approved a three-year contract with the teachers and have just settled two-year agreements with all of the other staff bargaining units," he added.

Roedel noted that student enrollment is anticipated at 2,810, but he's hopeful the actual turn-out will be slightly higher. "We

budgeted a loss of 40 students in order to be conservative in our revenue projections," he explained, "but we've seen an uptick in enrollment in some of the grades and with the new home building that's going on, we hope the actual loss is less than that."

Those students will be greeted by around 350 employees, including 149 teachers. The rest of the staff includes administrators, administration assistants, bus drivers, cooks, custodians, Little Glad workers, para pros, and crossing guards.

"The 350 number is the same as last school year," Roedel pointed out. "Not much has changed in our staffing."

With finances stable and employee contracts settled for the next couple years, Roedel said that he and the rest of the staff can put even more focus on the instructional side.

"That's the way it's supposed to be," he added.

Asked about upcoming plans regarding classroom instruction, the superintendent replied that "literacy will be the number one goal for our district and in each of our buildings," adding

*continued on page 19*







# Fowlerville Library

By Beth Lowe

Most people enjoyed Shark Week on July 22<sup>nd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> this year. I celebrated my own Shark Week this past weekend. I went to see **MEG** at the movie theater. For those that don't already know, I have a more than healthy fear of sharks. However, there is nothing better on a hot summer day than going into a dark cool theater, knowing that a shark is going to come out of nowhere on the screen. I love the feeling of a good 'jump' scare!

What does this have to do with the library you ask? Did you know that the movies **Jaws** and **MEG** are based on books? **Jaws** by Peter Benchley was highlighted as a Livingston Reads book selection in 2017. For those that don't already know it's a classic tale of shark vs. man written in the 1970s. We have it available in both book and DVD format here at the library on the Adult Fiction shelves and in the Adult DVDs.

**MEG** also has literary ties... I first met **Meg** by Steve Alten, in 2015 when the book first came out. It was terrifying... Jaws on steroids! Amazon states, "Carcharodon megalodon apex predator of all time, the most fearsome creature that ever lived a 70-foot, 60,000-pound Great White Shark. Hundreds of 7-inch serrated teeth filled jaws that could swallow an elephant whole. It could sense its prey miles away, inhaling its scent as it registered the beat of its fluttering heart, and if you ever came close enough to see the monster...it was already too late." What do you read when you're afraid of sharks? This book of course! We do not have the first book in this series, but you can order it from another Michigan library through [www.mel.org](http://www.mel.org) and get it delivered to our library for you.

The library has the latest book in the Meg series published just last year; **Meg: Night Stalkers**. It has the thrills and chills that you'd expect from this series times two! "Bela and Lizzy, the dominant Megalodon shark siblings from Angel's brood, have escaped the Tanaka Institute to roam the Salish Sea in British Columbia. While Jonas Taylor and his friend Mac attempt to either recapture or kill the "sisters," Jonas's son, David, embarks on his own adventure, motivated by revenge." – Amazon. This title can be found on the Staff Picks Display. Guess who's pick it is!

Another of my favorite titles that are available to order through [www.mel.org](http://www.mel.org) is **Natural Selection** by Dave Freedman published in 2006. In this watery spine chiller, "when marine scientists begin to see huge chunks bitten out of enormous dolphins, and they can't identify the tooth marks as those of any sea creature that they know of, they become concerned and intrigued. The group of scientists begins to track the mysterious beasts up the California coast, coming closer and closer to what seems to be a group of prehistoric manta rays that has evolved into a massive predatory machine."—

Amazon.

This spring, I went snorkeling in the ocean for the first time. We swam ½ meter out from shore, out of the bay, into the open ocean to see a shipwreck, and then swam back to shore. That is a lot of time in the ocean for someone afraid of sharks! I wouldn't trade this experience for the world; I am just glad that the **MEG** movie wasn't released until this month!

"Courage is the resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not the absence of fear."—Mark Twain

## Grief Share Program expanding with special session on Sept. 9

Grief Share, which is sponsored by Family Impact Centers and is held at the Family Impact Center Wellness Center on 9430 W. Grand River just west of Fowlerville, is excited to inform you of its new fall program.

We will kick off the season with a new and highly informative stand-alone session entitled 'Loss of a Spouse,' which will be held on Sunday, September 9, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The following Sunday will begin the Grief Share 13-week faith-based seminar/support group, which is for anyone grieving the death of someone close and will be held at the same time and place. These classes will continue through Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, with one break on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> for another stand-alone offering, 'Surviving the Holidays.'

For help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, please consider signing up for the first presentation. To do so, please call Barb at 517-223-4428 prior to September 9. In addition, whether you've lost a spouse, family member, or friend, we encourage you to register for the very successful 13-week Grief Share group by calling the above number. Please do not hesitate to inquire if you have any questions.

## Free Back-to-School supplies offered at VFW Post on Sunday, August 26

Free Back-to-School supplies for students K-thru-8<sup>th</sup> grade will be offered at VFW Post 6464 this Sunday, August 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. There is a limited amount of supplies.

The event is being put on by the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary. The Post is located at 215 Veterans Drive, Fowlerville.

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# Pastor Tom Tarpley

## Listening to God

*“My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands. Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord, and you will gain knowledge of God. For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He grants a treasure of*

*common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity.” (Proverbs 2:1-7).*

Making an important decision without first seeking the counsel of the Holy Spirit can be likened to playing Russian Roulette with only one empty chamber in the gun. Your odds of making the right decision have been seriously disadvantaged.

A large number of people go through their entire lives making decisions that allow them to satisfy their desires and passions without seeking the wisdom of God. They don’t give any thought to the fact that there may be consequences to pay for their actions in the future.

“Listen to what I say and treasure my commands (ver.1).” God pleads with us to pay attention to what He commands us to do. There are great benefits for listening to God and choosing to follow the path He has designed for us. But many have become so accustomed to seeking after pleasure and satisfying the whims of the flesh, until the only time they really seek God or even think about Him is in crisis situations. For instance, when we make decisions that get us into trouble because we failed to seek God’s counsel before acting, we cry out to God for help and to bail us out of our predicament.

It is time for us to start listening to God. It is time to stop chasing after the rainbow to find the pot of gold, and start realizing that we have the greatest treasure we could ever hope to gain already inside of us. We have the Holy Spirit of our Lord and Savior Jesus.

The Israelites were God’s chosen people. God blessed them and made them victorious over much greater enemies. He gave them everything a nation would need or want. In spite of the blessings and love God showed to the Israelites, they became complacent in their relationship with God and stopped listening to Him. They turned their attention to other gods and began sinning against the one true God. God sent them prophets. He performed miracles; and as a final act of love, He sent His one and only Son, to be a living example for them.

But the Israelites refused to listen and turn back to God. They murdered the prophets, and crucified Jesus on a cross. Their ears were closed and the only thing they could hear was their own selfish desires and the voice of Satan which lured them into destruction.

We must not repeat the mistakes the Israelites made. There is no reason for us to travel down the same path as they did because we already know where it leads.

Today’s passage of scripture tells us how we can avoid the pitfalls of those who have gone before us. We must cry out to God and ask Him for the wisdom and knowledge that only He can give. Wisdom only comes from God. We have to stop relying on our feelings or what we think is the right thing to do and get deep into the Word so we will know without a doubt what God is saying to us.

When we fail to seek God’s counsel, we set ourselves up for failure. Because as it says in Isaiah 64:6 (NLT)

*“We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.”*

It tells us in Romans 3:23 (NLT) *“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”*

None of us can claim perfection. We all have sin in our lives and if we don’t keep in close communication with God, we will find ourselves yielding to the desires of that sin and the temptations that cause us to drift away from God. Drifting will not happen if we remain steadfast in the Word. Drifting will not happen if we stay focused on God and keep our minds renewed by the power of God’s word. Drifting will not happen when we are actively and seriously seeking to find the wisdom that God offers to give us if we honestly and earnestly seek to find it.

During the course of a day we listen to the radio, the computer, our cell phones, television, and the people we talk to as we go about our daily routines. There are many other sounds that we hear throughout the day— birds, animals, the wind if it blows, rain if it falls, even some insects and a countless number of other sounds that reach our ears.

It is easy to understand how it is hard to hear God above all the other sounds that bombard us every day. I call it noise pollution. Noise pollution is dangerous if we allow it to override the voice of God. The things we hear all day long such as negative conversation, rages of anger, derogatory remarks about God, vulgar language on the media, political arguments, fake news, preachers who preach prosperity rather than the gospel, the tiny voice of Satan whispering in your ear constantly telling you what you want to hear can cause us to become so caught up in what is going on around us until we become disoriented and lose our focus.

Take some time this week to reflect on Proverbs 2:1-7. There is much wisdom in these seven short verses. Wisdom that can help you make better choices and keep you from drifting away from God. Everything we worry about is caused because we failed to seek God before acting. *“Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Matt 7:7).*

As a nation God has been very patient with us. He has allowed us to continue prospering even though we have drifted away from Him. How much longer do you think He will wait for us to turn back?

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# Caleb Jenkins Column



## Individual Inspiration

As I’m sure you all know, last weekend was the Howell Melon Fest, and I had the opportunity to volunteer Friday night for the Melon Run 5K/10K. My job was essentially to be the fluorescent-clad cheerleader. I stood at one of the turns to help ‘direct traffic,’ but since the combination of giant roadblocks and bright cones made it pretty clear where they were supposed to go, my main function was to cheer them all on.

When the race first started with tons of people all charging past, there was little more I could do than clap and shout what were hopefully encouraging words, but by the time the 10K runners came by me again nearly one-at-a-time at the end of their circuit, I had the chance to change things up a bit.

I started meeting runners as they hit the stretch heading to my position, and I would jog alongside them for the quarter mile or so through my ‘jurisdiction.’ I would then dash back and ask the next runner if I could pace them for a bit. Rinse and repeat.

When I run, I much prefer running with someone, and especially after a long, lonely 10K, it can be really nice to just have someone to run with and provide some company for a little bit. Having someone asking about your motivation or your plans after the run can provide the little boost you need to finish. As I approached each runner and asked if I could run with them, each one readily and happily agreed, and most of them told me how thankful they were that I did so.

I don’t say any of this as some sort of pat-on-the-back for myself. To the contrary, the only reason I share the story is that I was struck after the fact by just how great I felt. I was trying to be an encouragement to the runners, but seeing them encouraged gave me a huge boost of motivation and satisfaction. It was a very small thing, but it was some way for me to be a blessing. Every day, there are opportunities for us to be an inspiration and encouragement if we are willing to look for them.

It doesn’t have to be something big. I think we often miss out because we are too busy looking for ‘our big moment’ while ignoring the small but still important chances to be a blessing.

Regardless of our individual abilities or resources, there are ways for each of us to be an encouragement to our friends, neighbors, and even strangers we come across. It’s a way to improve the lives of those around you, and it’ll ultimately improve your own life as well. Being a servant to others and giving of yourself will give you a special feeling and the desire to do more. As crazy as it seems on the surface, making personal sacrifices for the benefit of others is far more rewarding than personal satisfaction.

## Grand Equestrians 4-H Program to hold Ride-A-Thon fundraiser on Sept. 22

The RIDE-A-THON is on Saturday, Sept. 22 between 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The RIDE-A-THON is a fundraiser for the Grand Equestrians 4-H Program. Entrants pay a \$25 entry fee and we encourage them to get pledges from people. There are prizes and lunch is provided.

The RIDE-A-THON takes place at the Brighton State Recreation Area at the horse staging area, located at 6360 Chilson Road, Howell. Campsites are also available.

RIDERS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN HORSES.

Please call the MSU Extension office for additional information at 517-546-3950 or email [wpinc@comcast.net](mailto:wpinc@comcast.net) Entry forms are available from the MSU Extension office: MSU Extension-Livingston County, Grand Equestrians, 2300 E. Grand River, Suite 111, Howell 48843.

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# THE CONVERSATION

## Why it matters that teens are reading less

By Jean Twenge  
Professor of Psychology, San Diego State University

Most of us spend much more time with digital media than we did a decade ago. But today's teens have come of age with smartphones in their pockets. Compared to teens a couple of decades ago, the way they interact with traditional media like books and movies is fundamentally different.

My co-authors and I analyzed nationally representative surveys of over one million U.S. teens collected since 1976 and discovered an almost seismic shift in how teens are spending their free time.

Increasingly, books seem to be gathering dust.

**IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SCREENS**

By 2016, the average 12th grader said they spent a staggering six hours a day texting, on social media, and online during their free time. And that's just three activities; if other digital media activities were included, that estimate would surely rise.

Teens didn't always spend that much time with digital media. Online time has doubled since 2006, and social media use moved from a periodic activity to a daily one. By 2016, nearly nine out of 10 12th-grade girls said they visited social media sites every day.

Meanwhile, time spent playing video games rose from under an hour a day to an hour and a half on average. One out of 10 8th graders in 2016 spent 40 hours a week or more gaming – the time commitment of a full-time job.

With only so much time in the day, doesn't something have to give?

Maybe not. Many scholars have insisted that time online does not displace time spent engaging with traditional media. Some people are just more interested in media and entertainment, they point out, so more of one type of media doesn't necessarily mean less of the other.

However, that doesn't tell us much about what happens across a whole cohort of people when time spent on digital media grows and grows. This is what large surveys conducted over the course of many years can tell us.

**MOVIES AND BOOKS GO BY THE WAYSIDE**

While 70 percent of 8th and 10th graders once went to the movies once a month or more, now only about half do. Going to the movies was equally popular from the late 1970s to the mid-2000s, suggesting that Blockbuster video and VCRs didn't kill going to the movies.

But after 2007 – when Netflix introduced its video streaming service – movie going began to lose its appeal. More and more, watching a movie became a solitary experience. This fits a larger pattern: In another analysis, we found that today's teens go out with their friends considerably less than previous generations did.

But the trends in moviegoing pale in comparison to the largest change we found: An enormous decline in reading. In 1980, 60 percent of 12th graders said they read a book, newspaper or magazine every day that wasn't assigned for school.

By 2016, only 16 percent did – a huge drop, even though the book, newspaper or magazine could be one read on a digital device (the survey question doesn't specify format).

The number of 12th graders who said they had not read any books for pleasure in the last year nearly tripled, landing

at one out of three by 2016. For iGen – the generation born since 1995 who has spent their entire adolescence with smartphones – books, newspapers and magazines have less and less of a presence in their daily lives.

Of course, teens are still reading. But they're reading short texts and Instagram captions, not long-form articles that explore deep themes and require critical thinking and reflection. Perhaps as a result, SAT reading scores in 2016 were the lowest they have ever been since record keeping began in 1972.

It doesn't bode well for their transition to college, either. Imagine going from reading two-sentence captions to trying to read even five pages of an 800-page college textbook at one sitting. Reading and comprehending longer books and chapters takes practice, and teens aren't getting that practice.

There was a study from the Pew Research Center a few years ago finding that young people actually read more books than older people. But that included books for school and didn't control for age. When we look at pleasure reading across time, iGen is reading markedly less than previous generations.

**THE WAY FORWARD**

So should we wrest smartphones from iGen's hands and replace them with paper books?

Probably not: smartphones are teens' main form of social communication.

However, that doesn't mean they need to be on them constantly. Data connecting excessive digital media time to mental health issues suggests a limit of two hours a day of free time spent with screens, a restriction that will also allow time for other activities – like going to the movies with friends or reading.

Of the trends we found, the pronounced decline in reading is likely to have the biggest negative impact. Reading books and longer articles is one of the best ways to learn how to think critically, understand complex issues and separate fact from fiction. It's crucial for being an informed voter, an involved citizen, a successful college student and a productive employee.

If print starts to die, a lot will go with it.

*This article was printed on [www.theconversation.com](http://www.theconversation.com)*

**Fowlerville Boys Soccer Team loses tough game to Dansville last week**

The Fowlerville Boys Soccer Team lost a tough game to Dansville last Wednesday by a score of 3-0. Although the Glads played hard, they could not take advantage of some offensive opportunities, while the Aggies capitalized. Andrew Coe stood out for Fowlerville on defense, as did Morgan Muck in net with 5 saves. The Glads traveled to Lansing Sexton this past Thursday (past the newspaper deadline).

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Nice location just ½ mile off pavement and close to town for this 3 bedroom and 2 bath ranch home. Features include full basement, 2 car attached garage, new steel roof and 1.2 county acre lot. \$164,900.



Nice 4 bedroom home in the Village within walking distance to schools & shopping. Many updates complete including roof, furnace, central air, electric panel, kitchen counter tops and some flooring. Beautiful original trim, private yard and 1<sup>st</sup> floor laundry. \$149,900.



REDUCED! Move in condition for this spacious farm home on 2.3 acres with natural gas and paved road. Plenty of room for the family with over 2,000sq.ft. of living space. Features 3 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, large family room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor laundry, central air and large open kitchen. Updates include new furnace, hot water heater and carpet. Plenty of storage in the 36x86 hay barn and 12x24 outbuilding. Shows Great. \$259,900.



Beautiful secluded setting on 10 country acres for this spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath Ranch home. Large living room, bright kitchen with appliances included, 1<sup>st</sup> floor laundry partially finished walkout basement with full bath. Attached 2 car garage plus 40x64 pole barn with 220 electric, and finished area with heat and concrete floor. Nice rear deck to relax and enjoy the summer evenings and wild life. \$299,900.



Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 ½ bath Colonial in the Village of Fowlerville with fenced yard and two car garage. Nice large kitchen with loads of cabinets and appliances, central air and full basement. Walking distance to schools and shopping. Move in condition! 194,900.



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## Fowlerville Junior High School News

### IMPORTANT DATES:

First Day of School-- Mon. August 27<sup>th</sup>  
Labor Day break- NO SCHOOL-- Fri. Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>-Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
School resumes-- Tues. Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>  
Fundraiser kickoff-- Wed. Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>  
Fundraiser Bonus Day-- Wed. Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>  
Fundraiser Ends-- Wed. Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>  
Homecoming-- Fri. Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>  
Picture Day-- Tues. Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>  
½ Day of School-PD for Teachers-- Fri. Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>  
Parent-Teacher Conferences-Full day of School-- Wed. Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> - 5-7:30 pm  
Parent-Teacher Conferences-1/2 day of School-- Thurs. Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> - 1-4pm and 5-7:30pm  
Fundraiser Pickup 1-4pm and 5-7:30 - Thurs. Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>  
End of 1<sup>st</sup> Marking Period for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade- Fri. Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>  
\* \* \*

### IMMUNIZATIONS

Any 7<sup>th</sup> graders or new students need to have their shots updated by the first day of school or waivers need to be obtained by contacting a health dept. for an appointment.  
\* \* \*

### SPORTS AT FJH FOR FALL

CROSS COUNTRY (6-7-8) & GIRLS' VB (7-8) are offered. PHYSICALS REQUIRED TO TRY OUT. First day will be Tues. August 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Volleyball will begin Tues. Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. Meet in the gym after school and make sure to have your Sports Physical turned in or bring it with you on the first day.  
At this time, we are still looking for a 7<sup>th</sup> grade Girls volleyball coach. Please contact Brian Osborn at 223-6061 if interested.  
\* \* \*

### CHILD FIND

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

## Fowlerville Varsity Volleyball Team competes in first double dual

The varsity volleyball team competed at East Lansing for their first double dual against Charlotte and Ionia this past Wednesday. The Lady Glads beat Charlotte 21-25, 25-11, 25-18, 25-18 and also beat Ionia 21-25, 25-14, 25-14, 25-21.  
For the night, Leah Ash led in kills with 26 and had 7 blocks. Livvie DuFore had 23 points, 6 aces, 6 blocks, and 19 digs. Dani Ryan had 128 assists, 12 points and 4 aces. Jackie Jarvis had 16 kills, 27 digs, and led in points with 28. Lauren Marquette added 17 kills and 14 points and Natalie Joupperi had 14 points and 17 digs.  
The Glads are 5-2-1 in their first week of play and have a home double dual this Monday.

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[www.mariasschoolofdance.com](http://www.mariasschoolofdance.com)

Now enrolling for Fall Classes.  
Online Fall class registration begins July 1st.  
Walk in registration: Saturdays July 21 - Aug 28.  
Tuesday, July 31 & Aug 14th.



## Michigan Senate Report

By Joe Hune,  
22<sup>nd</sup> District



**Human Trafficking: Slavery in 2018**  
In 1865, Republicans in Congress passed the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery in the United States. This ungodly institution was eliminated and a new era of equality among men began.  
Unfortunately, slavery still exists in the United States. It persists in the form of human trafficking. Men and women of all ages, even children, are forced into labor, prostitution or other forms of servitude, such as arranged marriages.  
Networks of criminals operate this vile industry all over our country — an industry said to include billions of dollars of illicit transactions mired in coercion, bondage and threats. Michigan is no exception; in fact, we are approximately the 10th worst state for trafficking.

Many trafficked people are poor or involved with drugs. The despicable people who prey on them use enticements like money, drugs, false friendships and protection to lure their victims into dependency and compliance. Once these victims have delved into the seedy world of illegal behaviors and violence, it's difficult to extract them.  
Most people outside of law enforcement don't encounter trafficking in their everyday lives, but people who work with the needy or who perform faith ministries should know the signs. Warning signs of trafficked individuals include the lack of freedom to come and go, no formal address, large informal debts, anxiety with or aversion to police, lack of possessions or identification, and others. Visit [www.michigan.gov/mdhhsor](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhsor) [www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org) to learn more.

Last year the Michigan Senate helped to create a Human Trafficking Advisory Board within the Department of Community Health to address this problem. Attorney General Bill Schuette has also made this issue a central target of his department. I'm thankful to my colleagues in government who are taking this issue seriously, and I'm thankful to the men and women of law enforcement, especially Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who work tirelessly to root out this evil and save people from modern-day slavery.  
As always, if you have any questions or need more information please contact my office toll-free at 855-JOE-HUNE or email my office at [SenJHune@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenJHune@senate.michigan.gov) and my staff will be happy to assist you. My website, [www.SenatorJoeHune.com](http://www.SenatorJoeHune.com), is also a good resource for information.

### Letter to the Editor

I recently had two young plumbers from Fowlerville to do some work in my home. John and Joe Mills (of J. Mills Plumbing), who are twins, were the most polite, clean, professional young men that I would recommend them to anyone in need of plumbing work. Also, not one filthy word was included in our conversation. Thank you!  
Irene & Mike Petrosky, Howell

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Winners of the event were (from left) Jeff White, Tommy Zink, Brian Osborn and Matt Eldred.

## Fowlerville Athletic Boosters Golf Outing makes successful return

The Fowlerville Athletic Boosters annual golf outing on Saturday, August 18, made a successful return. The fundraising tournament has not been held for the past few years.

A total of 72 golfers, along with dozens of volunteers, gathered at Hawk Meadows Golf Course for the event.

The Boosters would like to thank the sponsors of the



Matt Martin (far right), owner of Cedar River Car Wash, was a hole sponsor and team captain. He is shown here with his teammates (from left) Jim Martin, Steve Sellers, and Mark Martin.

tournament, as well as those who donated prizes, for their contribution to the athletes. These businesses, families, and individuals were: Cedar River Car Wash, Munsell Farms, Harmon Real Estate, J Rajala Construction, KW Corporation, BRay Electric, Fred Van Gilder, the Spencer Family,

Gormley and Johnson Law Offices, PLC, Katie Pikkerianan-State Farm, LJ Lukasik, State Representative Hank Vaupel, the Copeland Family, Chris and Abby Cameron, the Dillard Family, Mayhew's Tree Farm & Nursery, Grille in the Ville, and Brent Goulding from Prestwick Village Golf Club.

## Don't Be Misled By False Medicare or Social Security Ads

By Vonda Vantil,

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Online and otherwise, there's a lot of information out there, and sometimes it's difficult to tell what sources are credible. With millions of people relying on Social Security, scammers target audiences who are looking for program and benefit information.

The law that addresses misleading Social Security and Medicare advertising prohibits people or non-government businesses from using words or emblems that mislead others. Their advertising can't lead people to believe that they represent, are somehow affiliated with, or endorsed or approved by Social Security or the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (Medicare).

People are often misled by advertisers who use the terms "Social Security" or "Medicare". Often, these companies offer Social Security services for a fee, even though the same services are available directly from Social Security free of charge. These services include getting:

--A corrected Social Security card showing a person's married name;

--A Social Security card to replace a lost card;

--A *Social Security Statement*; and

--A Social Security number for a child.

If you receive misleading information about Social Security, send the complete ad, including the envelope, to:

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Social Security Administration

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Baltimore, MD 21235

You can learn more about how we combat fraudulent advertisers by reading our publication *What You Need to Know About Misleading Advertising* at

[www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10005.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10005.pdf).


You can also report Social Security fraud to the Office of the Inspector General at [oig.ssa.gov/report](http://oig.ssa.gov/report).

*Vonda VanTil is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at [vonda.vantil@ssa.gov](mailto:vonda.vantil@ssa.gov)*


## Letter to the Editor


I would like to commend a former classmate for his well-written letter (in last week's issue of the Fowlerville News & Views) regarding Debbie Stabenow. This three-term senator exudes big government from every pore of her body. As an American, I respect the right to vote for the candidate of your choice; however, a vote against Debbie Stabenow is crucial. Thank you, Darrell Klein.

David L. Davis  
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### Fowlerville Rotary hosts district governor & assistant district governor

Fowlerville Rotary hosted Jane McManus, the 2018-19 District 6380 Governor, and Carrie Newstead, the Assistant District Governor, at its meeting last Wednesday. The two ladies met with the local Rotary officers prior the regular meeting where they learned about the club's various programs and projects.

McManus then spoke at the meeting to the club members, announcing that this year's Rotary International Theme is "Be the Inspiration... Together we can see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves."

A question McManus asked of club members was "What is your inspiration? What is your 'why' for being in Rotary?" She also announced special dates for the upcoming year.



From left are Jane McManus, the District Governor, presenting this year's Rotary International Theme Flag to club president Rich Ralston, with Carrie Newstead, the Assistant District Governor and a former member of the local club, looking on.

### Fowlerville bicyclist prepares for annual DALMAC Tour

Daniel Paternoster, DVM, of Fowlerville is preparing to ride in the 48th annual Dick Allen Lansing to Mackinaw (DALMAC) bicycle tour at the end of the month.

Founded in 1971 by former State Sen. Dick Allen, DALMAC offers riders a choice of routes beginning on Wednesday, Aug. 29, or Thursday, Aug. 30, which leave from East Lansing and end on Sunday, Sept. 2, in Mackinaw City. Newer options include a three-day route that departs from Gladwin Friday morning or a two-day route that leaves from Grayling Saturday morning.

Dr. Paternoster will be taking the four-day western route. This will be his third ride in the tour.

Over 1,100 riders are expected to participate in the 2018 tour, including 175 first-time DALMAC participants.

DALMAC seeks to develop an appreciation of bicycling as both recreation and transportation, to promote a bicycle-friendly environment in Michigan and to demonstrate how bicycles and other vehicles can safely share our state roads. It is a recreational tour open to all capable, interested bicyclists.

Proceeds from the tour have enabled The DALMAC Fund to grant over \$1.3 million to bicycling-related organizations and causes since 1985. Programs benefiting from these grants represent a variety of purposes, from trail projects to public safety to extending bicycling opportunities to those with disabilities.

DALMAC is hosted by the Lansing-based Tri-County Bicycle Association (TCBA), the largest local bicycling organization in Michigan, with approximately 1,000 members. The year-round efforts of TCBA volunteers make it possible to offer a high-quality tour at a reasonable price and to raise money in support of bicycling programs without asking riders to collect pledges.



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**Karen & Kathy Seeley attend 43rd Annual Twins Days Festival in Ohio**

The Seeley twins—Karen Grab and Kathy Byrnes—attended the 43rd Annual Twins Days Festival, held earlier this month in Twinsburg, Ohio. The ladies, who grew up in Fowlerville and graduated in 1969, made their eighth trip to this event. Karen lives in nearby Cohoctah, while Kathy resides in California.

“We love meeting new twins and adding to the list of twin friendships,” they said, adding that there were 1,960 sets of twins, along with a few triplets in attendance this year. The list included the oldest set of Siamese twins—Ronnie and Donnie.

During the festival there is a double take parade, twin research/study booths, a talent show, the naming of a King and Queen and many contests.

The ladies, along with taking part in some of these activities, dressed up as ‘Queen for a Day’ for the annual parade. This year’s theme was “Two Player Mode” where participants wore outfits that reflected their favorite video character or game they enjoyed playing. Among the costumes were Candyland, Queen of Hearts, Ms. Pacman, and Monopoly.

Kathy and Karen decided on a TV show they watched as they grew up in the 1960s.

They also attended a wedding where two sets of twins exchanged wedding vows. The couples’ wedding theme was “Twice Upon a Time.” Briana and Brittany Deane, 32 of Virginia, wed Jeremy and Josh Salyers, 34 of Hagerstown, MD, in a joint ceremony on Saturday. The couple met at the festival a year ago.

The Learning Channel taped the ceremony, conducted interviews and will air January 2019.

For more information about the organization visit their website <http://twinsdays.org/>

**Livingston County Genealogical Society to meet on Sept. 6 in Howell UM Church**

The Livingston County Genealogical Society will be meeting on Thursday Sept. 6, at 7p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Howell, 1230 Bower Street, Howell.

Topic: “They Did What? Finding Archived Articles About Your Ancestors”

Speaker: Katherine Wilson

For questions call: 810-227-7745. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. FREE OF CHARGE.



Karen (Seeley) Grab, left, and Kathy (Seeley) Byrnes, who grew up in Fowlerville, were dressed as ‘Queen for a Day’ for the annual parade.



Twins married twins when Briana and Brittany Deane of Virginia exchanged wedding vows with Jeremy and Josh Salyers of Maryland. From left, serving as attendants in the light blue suits were Caleb and Matthew Paddock, then Jeremy and Briana Salyers, Brittany and Josh Salyers, then Lucas and Logan Conley, who also served as attendants.



This is the 8th trip to the Twins Days Festival for the ladies.

**Plainfield United Methodist to serve Chicken & Biscuit Supper on Sept. 8**

A Chicken and Biscuit Supper will be served at the Plainfield United Methodist Church, 17845 M-36, north of Gregory on Saturday, Sept. 8, starting at 5 pm. Free will donation. Take outs available. All are welcome.



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**Howell High School Class of 1949 holds 69<sup>th</sup> get-together on August 11**  
The Howell High School Class of 1949 held their 69<sup>th</sup> alumni get-together on Saturday, August 11, at Cleary's Pub in Howell. Thirteen grads and seven guests attended. Next year will be the BIG ONE—70 YEARS!

The Class of 1948, from left, front row, Barbara (Pearce) Keesler, Nancy (Chubb) MacDonald, Marie (Horwood) Chubb, Margaret (Downs) MacDonald, Arlene (Bain) Hoover; back row, Harry Pierce, Cora (Rogers) Oesterle, Bill Conine, Elvera (Bamber) Shappirio, Alice (Salmon) Procter, Jim Liddy, Richard Peckens, and Bob Fritch.



The Class of 1949 with guests, from left, front row, Ginger Peckens, Wayne Chubb, Barbara (Pearce) Keesler, Nancy (Chubb) MacDonald, Marie (Horwood) Chubb, Kathy Liddy, Arlene (Bain) Hoover, Charlotte Pierce; middle row, Cora (Rogers) Oesterle, Elvera (Bamber) Shappirio, Margaret (Downs) MacDonald, Bob Fritch; back row, Harry Pierce, Bill Conine, Alice (Salmon) Procter, Jim Liddy, and Richard Peckens.



# Savvy Senior Column

By Jim Miller

## Retirement Planning Tips for Single Women

*Dear Savvy Senior,*  
What retirement planning tips can you recommend to single women? I'm 54 and divorced with a teenage daughter and very little saved for retirement.

*Financially Behind*

**Dear Behind,**  
It's an unfortunate reality, but most single women – whether they're divorced, widowed or never married – face much greater financial challenges in retirement than men. Why?

Because women earn less money – about 80 cents for every dollar that men make, on average, and they have shorter working careers than men due to raising children and/or caring for aging parents. And less money earned usually translates into less money saved and a lower Social Security benefit when you retire.

In addition, women live an average of five years longer than men, which requires their retirement income to stretch farther for living expenses and healthcare costs. And, according to some studies, women tend to be less knowledgeable and more intimidated about financial issues than men, which means they don't always handle their money as well as they should.

Because of these issues, it's very important that women educate themselves on financial matters and learn how to save more effectively. Listed below are some tips and resources that may help you.

**Start Saving**  
If your employer offers a retirement plan, such as a 401K, you should contribute enough to at least capitalize on a company match, if available. And if you can swing it, contribute even more. By law, you can save as much as \$18,500 in a 401(k) in 2018, or \$24,500 to those 50 and older, due to the catch-up rule.

If you don't have a workplace plan, consider opening a Traditional or Roth IRA. Both are powerful tax-advantaged retirement savings accounts that let you contribute up to \$5,500 annually, or \$6,500 when you're over 50. And if you're self-employed, consider a SEP-IRA, SIMPLE-IRA and/or a solo 401(k), all of which can help reduce your taxable income while putting money away for retirement.

Also, if you have a high-deductible health insurance policy, you should consider opening a health savings account (see [HSAsearch.com](http://HSAsearch.com)). This is an excellent tool that can be used to sock away funds pre-tax and use them before or after retirement to pay for medical expenses.

**Find Your Number**  
It's also important to get a handle on how much you need to save for a comfortable retirement. You can do this through a number of free online calculators like [ChooseToSave.org](http://ChooseToSave.org) or [FinancialMentor.com/calculator](http://FinancialMentor.com/calculator).

**Pay Off Debt**  
If you have debt, you need to get it under control. If you need some help with this, consider a nonprofit credit-counseling agency that provides free or low cost advice and solutions, and can help you set up a debt management plan. To locate an agency, use the National Foundation for Credit Counseling website at [NFCC.org](http://NFCC.org) or call 800-388-2227.

**Find Help**  
To help you educate yourself on financial matters like retirement planning, saving and investing, health care, annuities and more, a top resource is the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement at [WiserWomen.org](http://WiserWomen.org).

And to help you get up to speed on Social Security, visit [SSA.gov/people/women](http://SSA.gov/people/women). This web page, dedicated to women, provides helpful publications like "What Every Women Should Know," along with links to benefit calculators and your personal Social Security account to help you figure out your future earnings at different retirement ages.

You should also consider getting a financial assessment with a fee-only financial advisor. Costs for these services will vary from around \$150 to \$300 per hour, but this can be very beneficial to help you set-up a retirement plan you can follow. See [NAPFA.org](http://NAPFA.org) or [GarrettPlanningNetwork.com](http://GarrettPlanningNetwork.com) to locate an advisor in your area.

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



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# Lee Hamilton Column

## Expand, Don't Restrict, Voters' Access

There are times when I'm convinced the progress of this country can be measured through our ballot laws. Think about it. Over the course of our history, we've expanded the franchise from the sole preserve of white male property owners to most all citizens 18 and older — regardless of race, gender, or wealth.

Yet despite this steady march, we remain embroiled in debate over who gets to vote. Mostly this is carried on in the states, with Republicans often favoring limits on access to the polls, and Democrats usually hoping to expand access.

The chief argument for moves to restrict access focuses on ballot integrity: protecting against fraud. We know that fraud happens: a voter showing up at the polls pretending to be someone else, or non-citizens trying to vote. But this is rare. After looking over 1800 files collected by President Trump's now-defunct Voter Integrity Commission, Maine's secretary of state wrote, "the Commission documents made available to me...do not contain evidence of widespread voter fraud. Indeed...the sections on evidence of voter fraud are glaringly empty."

More pointedly, a few years ago Judge Richard Posner, a widely respected Republican appointee to a federal appeals court, raised eyebrows when he declared that he'd been wrong in 2007 when he'd voted to uphold an Indiana law strengthening voter ID requirements. That law, he wrote, is of a type "now widely regarded as a means of voter suppression rather than of fraud prevention."

Of course, you don't need voter ID laws to make it harder to vote. You can cut the hours when the polls are open. You can reduce the number of voting places. You can cut funding for efforts to encourage voting or help voters get to the polls. You can make voting itself difficult — by limiting the number of booths, for example, so that long lines form. You can excessively purge the voter rolls. Creative minds have come up with all kinds of devices to make it more difficult to vote.

I don't mean to dismiss the idea that we need to protect the integrity of the ballot and ensure that people who vote are entitled to do so. We do. But I believe representative democracy is strengthened by expanded voting through public marketing campaigns, registration drives and even automatic registration when you get a driver's license, through longer hours, early voting or voting by mail.

Voting is our most basic right as a citizen. It's how we make ourselves heard and felt. Our elected representatives respond to what voters consider the most important issues and how to decide them. Our whole political system depends on it, and erodes if voting turnout falls.

So the impact of voting is huge. The results that flow from voting in a representative democracy can determine the availability of guns, which health-care proposals move forward, the quality of governance you have, the economic policies that shape your life.

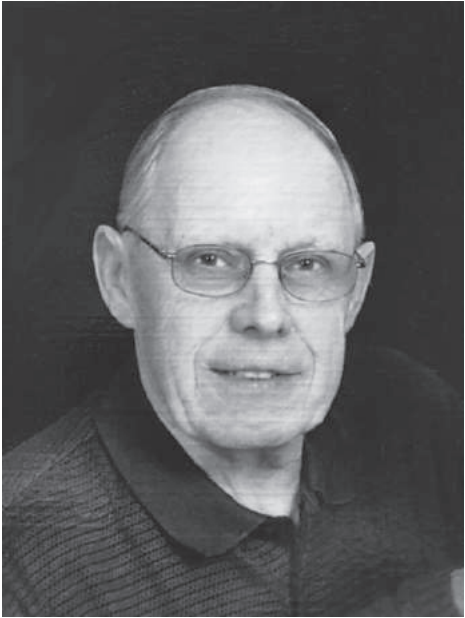
Ask yourself why it is that the federal government spends a lot more money on programs for older people than for young people. Is it because older people are simply more deserving of public spending? Of course not. The reason is that politicians know older people vote at far higher rates than younger people do. The laws reflect members of Congress' sensitivity to that simple fact.

As a politician, I kept track of the reasons people gave me for not voting. Often it was just plain apathy, inconvenience, or a sense of powerlessness. Transportation could be bad. Older people were intimidated by the hoopla that surrounds the voting place, what with politicians out there shaking hands and people carrying signs. As a result, I understood their reasons for not voting, and could work to correct their legitimate concerns and make our democracy stronger.

We need to do everything we can to lift voter turnout, not suppress it. The more people who vote, the more nearly our democracy will reflect the views of "the people," not just the people who had the wherewithal to have the right ID or a ride to the polling place. And the more the polls reflect the communities we live in, the healthier and more legitimate our democracy will be.

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

## —Area Deaths—



Larry Hummel

Larry Hummel (75) of Fowlerville passed away on August 20, 2018. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Wanda (Bessert) Hummel; his mother, Grace (Harvey) Hummel; daughter Michele (Don) Burt of Mason, MI; son Jeff (Dayna) Hummel of Haslett, MI; and 4 grandchildren, Jacob, Ethan, Clara, & Julia. He was predeceased by father, J.C. Hummel and sister, Linda Rogers.

He was a member of the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. He served in the Air Force from 1962-1966. He graduated from Ferris State University with a BS in Business Administration. He was a manager of policy audits for Auto Owners Insurance Company for 30 years. He served on the Handy Township Planning Commission for over 20 years. He volunteered at the Family Impact Center.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to the American Diabetes Association. Visitation was held on Wednesday, August 22, at Herrmann Funeral Home from 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. Funeral Service was on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church with Pastor Diane Greble officiating. Please leave the family a condolence at [pjherrmannfuneralhome.com](http://pjherrmannfuneralhome.com)

## Oak Grove United Methodist taking orders for beef pasties starting Sept. 4

The Oak Grove United Methodist Church is making their delicious beef pasties again this fall. Ordering begins on Tuesday, September 4. Place your orders by phone/text to 810-923-8546 or by email to [denanjust@gmail.com](mailto:denanjust@gmail.com). Order early as quantities are limited. Cost is \$4.50 per pasty. Pick up orders on Thursday, September 20 from noon to 7 p.m. at the church - 6686 Oak Grove Road, Howell (5 miles north of M-59)

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**VFW Auxiliary**  
**Wednesday, September 5th**  
**4 – 7 pm**

**T-Bone Steak Dinner**  
Cooked to order on the outside grill! Includes Baked Potato, Vegetable, Roll, Salad Bar, Drink & Dessert.

**\$12.00**

**VFW Hall Post 6464**  
**215 Veterans Drive, Fowlerville**

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- Arthritis
- Nerve Pain
- Shingles
- Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy
- Non-healing wounds
- Lymphedema
- Whiplash
- Bell's palsy
- Fractures
- Headache & migraines
- Herniated Disc
- Sciatica
- Skin problems
- Bursitis
- Jaw pain / TMJ

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# Webberville Report

## Webberville church sponsors Family Fun Fest Sunday, Sept. 9

Calvary Church of Webberville invites you to be part of the September Spectacular Family Festival on Sunday, September 9. The day begins at 10:30 AM with an inspirational worship service. This will be followed at 12:00 PM with a free pig roast and picnic. Afternoon activities will include a moonwalk, giant inflatable obstacle course, go-karts, Kids Karnival, bingo, cotton candy, ice cream and more. Everyone is invited and everything is FREE! You can come any time between 10:30 AM and 3:00 PM and join the fun.

A free drawing will be held for prizes from local businesses including: Dr. James Barone DDS, The Bearded Ladies Barbershop, Be My Guest Café, Best Maze Corn Maze, Carpet Master, Christians Greenhouse, Dollar General, Geyer Farm & Auction Service, K&J Service Center, LuLaRoe Clothing (LuAnn Dodson & Tera Pardee), Main Street Coney Island, MooHoo's Dairy Barn, Nada's Mobil, Not Your Grandma's Furniture, Precision Sharpening, Signs on the Spot, Village Drug Shop, Webberville Animal Clinic, Webberville Feed and Grain, Webberville Party Store and Z-Solutions.

Calvary is located north of Grand River and west of Main Street at 500 N. Howard Street in Webberville. For more details call the office at 521-4700 or check us out at [www.webbervillechurch.org](http://www.webbervillechurch.org).

## Capital Area Library Events

**WEBBERVILLE**

**Drop-in LEGO Club (Age 4 & up)**

Imaginative play helps develop skills used for reading.

Sept. 6, 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.



## Michigan House Report

By Dr. Hank Vaupel,  
47<sup>nd</sup> District

As many of you know, “The Wall That Heals” is a mobile, 80% scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. and is currently touring the country. It is an important way for veterans, family, and citizens to remember and honor those who gave their all in the Vietnam War and to all those who have sacrificed for their country. Along with the more than 58,000 names commemorated on the Wall, the exhibit includes an educational center, personal and historical artifacts, and information about those listed on the Wall.

“The Wall That Heals” is currently visiting Livingston County as its only stop in Michigan during its nationwide tour. It arrived on Tuesday with a full motorcycle escort from Cabela's in Dundee to the Spencer J. Hardy Airport in Howell where it was set up on Wednesday. I was honored to welcome volunteers and supporters of the Wall as it arrived and to participate in the wreath-laying ceremony on Thursday. Seeing the Wall and taking part in the ceremonies was very moving. If you have not already done so, then I encourage everyone to visit the Wall and honor those who have given their lives for our freedoms. Thank you to the many people involved whose hard work gave us this opportunity. The Wall will be on display through Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*

I have attended several meetings over the past week to provide updates and ideas on current issues facing the state. On Tuesday, I joined state Sen. Joe Hune and fellow state Rep. Lana Theis at the Hartland Township monthly board meeting to discuss property tax legislation currently being considered by the Legislature.

Sen. Hune, Rep. Theis, and I also participated in a roundtable hosted by Congressman Mike Bishop on the topic of opioid drugs being shipped directly to patients. The continuing epidemic of opioid abuse is not something we can take lying down. Thank you Congressman Bishop for organizing and leading this discussion.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to the Howell Area Parks & Recreation

## Williamston Area Senior Center

201 School Street - 517-655-5173  
AUGUST 2018 EVENTS

**Williamston Library** will conduct a special Senior Tour of the new Williamston Library on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 starting at 9:30 am.

**Enhance Fitness Class** on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Class fee is \$2.00 a session if paid all at one time or \$3.00 drop in fee for each class. Enhance Fitness is an evidence-based fitness class designed to improve endurance, flexibility, strength and balance. The class contains an aerobic portion, strength exercise using ankle weights, flexibility and balance exercises. Registration is required. To register call: The Williamston Community Programming Office at 517-655-7510 3939 Vanneter Rd. Williamston, MI. (The Enhance Fitness Class benefits not only your health but also the Senior Center)

**Reminder any Williamston Area Senior** can take advantage of using our computer lab any time the Center is open.

**On any August Wednesday** at the Senior Center join us for the following activities:

- EUCHRE – 9:30 am to 11:30 am.
- NEEDLE CRAFT GROUP meets after lunch between 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

**Mark your Calendar - Up Coming Events**

- Flu Shots at the Senior Center** on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 sponsored by Rite Aid.
- Free Computer Class for Seniors** on Saturday, September 8, 2018 at 11:00 am.
- Free Hearing Test** by Belltone, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 18 & 19, 2018.

Authority and all the volunteers and organizations involved in making this year's Howell Melon Festival another great success! The Melon Fest is a tribute to Howell's community spirit and a perfect way to show off the success of downtown. I look forward to continuing this great Livingston tradition!

\*\*\*

I wanted to take a moment to recognize a couple outstanding local residents. Guy Houseman is a 26-year employee at Consumers Energy's Howell service center. On July 3, he responded to a house fire on Coon Lake Road to shut off the natural gas. After arriving and securing the gas, Mr. Houseman remembered visiting the house previously and knew there was a dog inside. He notified the firefighters who were able to save the 12-year-old beagle without injury. Thank you for your selfless commitment to your community and neighbors!

\*\*\*

I would also like to congratulate Howell resident and Michigan's official Troubadour Neil Woodward on receiving the 2018 Michigan Heritage Award from the Michigan Traditional Arts Program of the MSU Museum. Mr. Woodward has dedicated over 30 years to researching, arranging, and sharing folk music, and he has traveled the state sharing his talents. This award is just the most recent of his many accolades, and we are proud of all he has accomplished!

\*\*\*

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



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New deer hunting regulations aimed at slowing chronic wasting disease spread

At last week’s meeting of the Michigan Natural Resource Commission in Lansing, the commission approved a series of deer hunting regulations aimed at slowing the spread of chronic wasting disease. The action came after months of commission members and Department of Natural Resources staff hearing from hunters, residents and others interested in the long-term health of the state’s deer population, and a thorough review of the best available science on chronic wasting disease.



A road improvement project will begin this week on West Grand River, west of Fowlerville.

Major highway improvement project set to begin on West Grand River

A major highway improvement project is set to begin this week on West Grand River, west of Fowlerville. The work will cover the stretch of highway between the Red Cedar River bridge on the west edge of the Village, westward to Nicholson Road.

Mike Craine, the manager of the Livingston County Road Commission, said that the overall project will include milling off the old asphalt, joint repair to the underlying concrete, drainage-improvement work, and installing new asphalt.

“There are some water problems that need to be fixed,” he noted. “Also, there’s concrete under the existing pavement that was installed in the 1930s and what we know about concrete in Michigan is that it gets hard and cracks. So, we’ll be fixing the joints in the concrete as well as those cracks. After that we’ll install four inches of new asphalt.”

The cost of the project will be around \$1.1 million with \$830,000 of the funds coming from the state and federal governments and the rest from the county road commission budget.

While the project falls under the jurisdiction of the Livingston County Road Commission, bids were handled by the Michigan Dept. of Transportation since federal funds are being used.

Craine said that Rieth-Riley Construction of Lansing is doing the work.

A similar project was done in 2015 on the stretch of West Grand River between Nicholson and Wallace Road (the county line), so this work will complete improvements on that entire stretch of highway.

Signs were put up on the highway indicating that road work would begin on Friday, August 24, but Craine said the actual start would probably be this Monday. The signs also cautioned that motorists using this part of the highway should expect delays.

“The highway will have one lane open with adequate flaggers onsite to keep traffic flowing as fast as possible,” Craine said, adding that “The work is expected to be done by Sept. 30.”

“We hope that by setting these specific CWD regulations we can limit the movement of this disease in Michigan,” said Vicki Pontz, NRC chairperson. “We appreciate all the comments we have received from across the state. Michigan hunters are very passionate about deer and deer hunting, and I look forward to working with them as we continue to confront this threat to wildlife and our valued hunting tradition.”

CWD is a fatal neurological (brain and nervous system) disease found in cervids – deer, elk and moose. The disease attacks the brains of infected animals and produces small lesions that result in death. There is no cure; once an animal is infected, it will die.

The disease first was discovered in Michigan in a free-ranging deer in May 2015. To date, more than 31,000 deer in Michigan have been tested for chronic wasting disease, and CWD has been confirmed in 60 free-ranging deer in six Michigan counties: Clinton, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kent and Montcalm.

The approved deer hunting regulations, which will be in effect for the 2018 deer seasons unless noted otherwise, include:

--Reduced the 4-point on-a-side antler requirement on the restricted tag of the combination license in the 16-county CWD Management Zone. Under the new regulation, a hunter in the CWD Management Zone can use the restricted tag of the combination license to harvest a buck with antlers as long as it has at least one 3-inch antler.

--Created a discounted antlerless license opportunity in the CWD Management Zone on private land; if purchased, the license will expire Nov. 4, 2018.

--Effective immediately, a statewide ban on the use of all natural cervid urine-based lures and attractants, except for lures that are approved by the Archery Trade Association.

--An immediate ban on baiting and feeding in the 16-county area identified as the CWD Management Zone. This area includes Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ottawa and Shiawassee counties.

--A ban on baiting and feeding in the Lower Peninsula, effective Jan. 31, 2019, with an exception to this ban for hunters with disabilities who meet specific requirements. The start date on this regulation is intended to allow bait producers and retailers time to adjust to the new rule.

--Effective immediately in the CWD Management Zone and four-county bovine tuberculosis area (in Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Oscoda counties), hunters with disabilities who meet specific requirements can now use 2 gallons of single-bite bait, such as shelled corn, during the Liberty and Independence hunts.

--Allowance of all legal firearms to be used in muzzleloader season in the CWD Management Zone.

--A purchase limit of 10 private-land antlerless licenses per hunter in the CWD Management Zone.

--Restrictions on deer carcass movement in the five-county CWD Core Area (Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm and Newaygo counties) and the CWD Management Zone.

--Antlerless options on deer licenses/combo licenses during firearms seasons in the five-county CWD Core Area.

--Expansion of early and late antlerless seasons in select counties.

--Changes to regulations regarding wildlife rehabilitators. In addition, the commission asked the DNR to move forward with:

--An experimental mandatory antler point restriction regulation in a five-county CWD Core Area, including Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm and Newaygo counties. The restriction would begin in 2019, provided a survey of hunters shows support for the requirement and specific department guidelines are met. This is intended as a tool to evaluate the effects of antler point restrictions on the spread and prevalence of CWD, along with deer population reduction.

--A hunter-submitted proposal for mandatory antler point restrictions in Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac, St. Clair and Lapeer counties. If hunter surveys support this regulation and specific department guidelines are met, it would be implemented in 2019.

These regulations come after much collaborative work to better understand the scope and pathways of CWD and best management actions. In October 2017, Michigan hosted a CWD symposium that brought together roughly 200 wildlife scientists and other experts from across the country.

Recommendations and public outreach

Shortly after the symposium, the DNR and the Natural Resources Commission announced the creation of a nine-member Chronic Wasting Disease Working Group. This group was charged with developing recommendations on



additional steps and actions to substantially mitigate CWD in Michigan, and in January presented initial recommendations centered around messaging, partnership funding, regional management, and the importance of continuing a solid science-based approach.

Throughout April and May of this year, the DNR hosted a series of public engagement meetings in Bay City, Cadillac, Detroit, DeWitt, Gaylord, Houghton, Iron Mountain, Kalamazoo, Marquette, Newberry and Rockford. These meetings provided many opportunities for the DNR to share the latest information and recommendations about CWD, while encouraging the public to offer their best ideas on how to slow the disease.

During this outreach period, more than 650 people attend public engagement meetings, and the DNR received comments and suggestions via 361 hard-copy surveys and 135 online surveys.

More information on regulations

Details on all regulations will be added next week to the online hunting digests on the DNR website, and DNR staff will be available at deer-check stations during the hunting seasons, too.

More information about these regulations also will be posted next week to the [michigan.gov/cwd](http://michigan.gov/cwd) website. For additional questions, contact the [DNR Wildlife Division](http://DNR Wildlife Division) at 517-284-9453.

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## Tom Breningstall Column

### Writing, Reading and Arithmetic

I'm not coming down on today's teachers or the school systems, they have to teach what the government mandates them to teach. I just want to know why it is that handwriting, also called cursive or penmanship, is not being taught in schools anymore. Handwriting helps define who we are and our individual personality, or it used to anyway. I don't know if all school systems stopped teaching handwriting or cursive, and I'm not going to assume I'm smarter than the government education system, but there seems to be much that is not being taught in schools anymore.

Our grandson graduated from high school a few years back and I handed him a graduation card that my wife had handwritten a note of congratulations inside. He looked at it and said, "I can't read cursive," and handed the card to our daughter to read to him. That was the first time I was aware that cursive was not in the schools' core curriculum. That was bothersome to me at the time and as time passed, I became more concerned of the ramifications of not teaching penmanship.

The inability of this generation and all generations to come not being able to read cursive means they will not be able to read the original handwritten Constitution of the United States or the names of the 38 people that signed the 7 articles and 26 amendments that are in the document. Another document is the Declaration of Independence and the 56 people that signed it. The most notable signature is that of John Hancock. Because of John's flare in signing his name, there is still a reference to signing your name as "putting your John Hancock on it."

The responses I get are something like this: everything is digital and printed so we don't need cursive anymore, or, the time it takes to teach cursive takes time away from teaching time. Isn't teaching handwriting part of teaching?

On a personal side, how about old family letters and notes from past generations and the history that can be found in old handwritten papers? I just do not understand the lapse in this education. I know everything is digital and most everyone has their face stuck to a screen of some kind. Are we going back to the time when people signed their name with an X? If every signature is in block letters, won't it be very easy to forge a signature? Handwriting improves hand-brain manual dexterity and agility, but when all you need is the ability to punch a keypad or swipe a screen with a finger, who needs handwriting?

I see a new career in the making, that being a handwriting, penmanship and cursive interpreter and translator. Maybe this should be a college course.

Everyday math is another subject that seems to be lacking in today's education. I will give you a sample of this and every older adult I talked to about this has their own story with the same type of experiences. This is only one of many I have had. I was at a fast food store the other day and the total bill was \$6.16. Not wanting a hand full of coins back, I gave the young man behind the counter a five dollar bill, a one dollar bill, a quarter and a penny for a total of \$6.26. He looked at the two coins in his hand as if bird droppings had just landed on his hand. I had to tell him he owed me a dime. He responded, "I'm not good at math." I see a time that is fast approaching when money is no

longer "King" and to pay in cash will require photo ID.

A person that can't read or write is illiterate (from the English dictionary "Uneducated, having or showing little or no knowledge of a particular subject"). In this case, reading and writing cursive that has been the accepted standard form of the written English language for centuries. It was removed from the education curriculum with a stroke of a pen.

If you have a child in school, teach them cursive at home. It's not that hard.

### Fowlerville Fire Department Report

Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, at 1:22 p.m., a medical emergency on Nicholson Road in Handy Township was reported. Personnel assisted EMS on Mason Road in Handy Township and at 3:13 p.m. responded to a medical call on Meadow Lane in the Village. Firefighters were called to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Grand River in Handy Township at 7:20 p.m. At 11:01 p.m. the department assisted the ambulance on Meadow Lane in the Village.

The department responded to a medical emergency on Grand River in Handy Township at 11:25 p.m., Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Firefighters were dispatched to medical emergencies on Grand River in Handy Township Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:35 a.m., 4:00 a.m., 4:51 a.m., and at 2:20 p.m.

Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, personnel assisted EMS on Grand River in Handy Township at 12:32 a.m. with a second medical emergency, also on Grand River at 1:20 a.m. Firefighters were called to a medical emergency on Brookdale Street in the Village at 5:07 p.m.

Firefighters investigated a report of heavy black smoke on Hogback Road in Handy Township at 6:47 p.m., Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

A vehicle fire on Mason Road in Handy Township was reported at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

The department was dispatched to an industrial structure on Grand River in Handy Township for a fire alarm activation at 9:48 a.m., Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. At 12:08 p.m. personnel assisted EMS on N. Grand Ave. in the Village.

### Fowlerville Varsity Volleyball Team launches new season at Linden tourney

Fowlerville's Varsity Volleyball team launched a new season on Saturday, August 18, by taking part in a tournament at Linden. They finished with a 3-2-1 record

#### Pool play

Bay City Central 25-16, 25-11 won

Notre Dame Prep 30-25, 13-25 lost

Lapeer 25-20, 25-18 won

Lake Fenton 25-19, 25-21 won

Linden 20-25, 25-16 tie

#### Semis of gold bracket

Hartland 18-25, 13-25 loss

Individual Stats: Grace Wallace- 46 digs, 29 points, 5 aces; Jackie Jarvis- 34 kills, 8 aces, 24 points, 28 digs; Livvie DuFore- 32 points, 15 aces, 36 kills, 31 digs; Lauren Marquette- 24 kills, 7aces, 11 points, 21 digs; Dani Ryan- 140 assists, 22 points, 6 aces; Leah Ash- 34 kills, 15 blocks, 16 points; Natalie Juopperi- 26 digs, 20 points, 8 aces.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

At its meeting on August 20, 2018 the Handy Township Board appropriated \$5,000 to the Fowlerville Senior Center, 203 N. Collins, Fowlerville, MI for the year 2018-2019 to help defray the Senior Center's operating costs and to assist the Center in providing services to senior citizens in Handy Township. The Center will provide a report to the Township at the end of the year indicating how the funds were spent.

Laura Eisele  
Handy Township Clerk  
(8-26-18 FNV)



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# Fowlerville begins school year this Monday, continued

that “Our time, energy, and resources will be focused on improving literacy achievement in our students.”

Roedel added that this is a shared goal with the LESA (the intermediate school district) and the district will be working with this agency on some collaborative efforts.

Improving literacy—meaning the ability to read and write in a proficient manner—is hardly a novel undertaking. Presumably, it has always been among the main missions of the district, particularly with the elementary students.

That renewed focus is driven, in part, by low test scores that indicate too many students are not reading at grade level—a weakness in skills occurring throughout in many schools, not just at Fowlerville—and by a legislative mandate that a student be able to read at grade level by the end of third grade or be held back, but an understanding that literacy is broader than just being able to read words on a printed page or computer screen.

A check on the definition of the term, while including the basic “ability to read and write,” offered this broader concept: “The modern term’s meaning has been expanded and evolved to include the ability to use language, numbers, images, computers, and other basic means to understand, communicate, gain useful knowledge, solve mathematical problems and use the dominant symbol systems of a culture. The concept of literacy is expanding in OECD countries to include skills to access knowledge through technology and ability to assess complex contexts.”

But the strategy outlined by Roedel is not to push this more complex idea of literacy, but to emphasize that the ability to read (and to comprehend what’s being read) is a fundamental skill—of importance not just to young students, but to the community at large.

“Most people think of teaching reading and improving proficiency as a K-5 undertaking,” he pointed out. “But we really need to start stressing the importance of literacy at the pre-school level. We also need to emphasize that reading ability is important to the entire community. So, we’ll be looking at ways to engage parents and the community in supporting literacy.”

Roedel noted that LESA will be donating a bus that the district can use to engage those in the community to help develop a Book Bus—a portable library that will go to areas where children do not have ready access to public libraries. The goal is to have the Book Bus ready for use next summer.

“We’ll also be talking about early childhood literacy to parents, grandparents, business owners, churches, the public library—everyone who has a stake in Fowlerville—on ways and means for promoting literacy,” he explained, adding that, “The school can figure out the best way to teach reading, but the question is ‘how is the community going to wrap its arms around this effort’.”

Roedel pointed out that literacy can begin prior to a child learning to read and at a very early age. “The intermediate district is going to be starting a ‘Talking is Teaching’ campaign,” he said. “One of the keys of meaningful development in young children is having meaningful conversations. So, we want to emphasize to parents and others that we need to make a continuous effort to explain things, like the shape of a billboard as we’re driving down the freeway or the information on packages when we’re grocery shopping. This helps the child better comprehend things when they do start to read and come across those concepts.”

Along with these efforts, the district will continue creating IRIPs (Individual Reading Improvement Plans) for students in grades K-5 not reading at grade level.

“We started this program last year,” he said. “What we do is create an individual plan for a student having difficulty reading at grade level. The plan includes ‘what the school will do’, ‘what the parents will do’, and ‘what the student will do’ to improve the skills. This was implemented at Smith and Kreeger.”

This year, taking the next step, the district has hired two Reading Recovery teachers to assist students on a one-on-one basis.

“Two members of the instructional staff, Tonya Dillingham and Emily LaPlante, will co-teach a kindergarten class, allowing each of them to spend a half-day in the Reading Recovery Program,” Roedel explained. “They will be working with first graders one-on-one for 30 minutes a day until the student is reading at grade level. By the end of the year, we hope to have put 24 students through the program and that they’ll be ready for the second grade.

“We’ve hired another kindergarten teacher to fill the vacancy created by the addition of this new program,” he said. “This is an expensive investment, but it is the most effective reading intervention we can do for a student.”

This strategy would hopefully avoid having any third graders being kept back as will soon be required by state law. “There are ways to opt out of this, including a decision by parents,” he explained. “But the point is not to have any third graders retained. The answer is not to retain them, but to get



The main goal this year at the Fowlerville Community Schools will be to emphasize the importance of literacy and to improve students’ literacy achievement. That emphasis, said School Superintendent Wayne Roedel, should begin even before a child begins school and should be of importance to the entire community. One of the places children do that, besides the classroom, is at a public library. Visiting the Fowlerville District Library last Thursday were these three members of the Pennala family. They are, from left, Jillian, age 7, who is starting second grade at Smith Elementary; Hannah, age 8, who will be a third grader at Kreeger Elementary; and Zach, age 4, who is a pre-schooler. They are the children of Bruce and Shannon Pennala.

them reading up to grade level. I’ve found that most students just need a little more time.”

While those remedial and intervention steps are in place or soon-to-be available, another strategy is to further enhance literacy in the day-to-day instruction in an across-the-board manner.

To that end, the district sent administrators from Smith and Kreeger Elementaries as well as the grade department chairs in those two schools to a recent conference at Eastern Michigan about the ‘Power of Collective Efficacy’.

An article on this teaching concept stated that “When a team of individuals share the belief that through their unified efforts they can overcome challenges and produce intended results, groups are more effective.”

The article noted that “...in schools, when educators believe in their combined ability to influence students outcomes, there are significantly higher levels of academic achievement.”

The authors of the article pointed out that ‘collective efficacy’, when embraced by administrators and teachers, can cause a change in attitude and approach, explaining

that “When efficacy is present in a culture, educators’ efforts are enhanced—especially when they are faced with difficult challenges. Since expectations for success are high, teachers and leaders approach their work with an intensified persistence and strong resolve.”

The authors noted that there are quantitative methods that can be used to measure the effectiveness of this approach.

Roedel, in outlining this concept, believes it is a “way to improve literacy,” adding that he is looking forward to getting the feedback and recommendations from the administrators and teachers who attended the conference.

While much of the classroom focus and effort is or will be aimed at younger students, Roedel said that the effort will involve older kids at the junior high and high school as well. “We asked each of the building principals to look at ways to put literacy in the forefront,” said Roedel.

The superintendent added that “I’m pretty fired up about this.”

“It’s not that we don’t have other goals,” he said. “But improving literacy is what I’m going to talk about and focus on during the course of the year.”

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