

Fowlerville NEWS & VIEWS

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Sunday, December 9, 2018

Published Weekly

Fowlerville celebrates Christmas in the Ville

Santa arriving in town and the holiday parade going through the downtown were two of the main events at the recent Christmas in the Ville celebration in Fowlerville. The event, held on Saturday, Dec. 1, drew many participants and several thousand on-lookers.

Rainy weather early in the afternoon and at the start of the parade dampened conditions, but not the holiday spirits. The overcast skies, however, did keep the Hot Air Balloonists from launching. They instead located their baskets and burners around the downtown, helping keep folks warm and providing some fiery sights.

Activities began in the morning with an arts & craft show at the Place of Refuge, followed by St. Agnes Catholic Church's 'Breakfast with St. Nicolas,' and the 'Soup Luncheon & Cookie Walk' at St. John's Lutheran Church. Later that afternoon saw the Pet Parade, Storybook Reading, hayrides, various special events at downtown stores, reindeer petting, the 5-K Run, activities at First Baptist Church and the Library, the chili dinner at the Fire Hall, and the chicken dinner at the First United Methodist Church.

The parade included this year's Grand Marshals, the Nelson Family—Scott, Kim and Racquel. Scott is the owner of Nelson Collision. Over 70 entries were in the parade, including all sorts of floats, the high school marching band, horses and dogs, lighted trucks and machines, the hot air balloonists lighting their burners, and Santa Claus.

Additional Photos are inside this issue.



Visiting Santa Claus prior to the evening parade was Bella Elliott. She is the three-year-old daughter of Robert and Victoria Elliott of Fowlerville.



Members of the Fowlerville High School Marching Band, who performed Christmas music, were dressed in holiday attire for the parade.

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Caleb Jenkins Column



Time of Giving

This time of year is marked by giving. Since we were children, we have been taught Christmas is celebrated by selfless and generous acts, and that sentiment stands prevalent during the holiday season. As we move ever closer to a new year, we start getting sentimental about what has transpired over the past year and the future prospects for our lives. In turn, we feel compelled to give a little extra to our family, friends, and even complete strangers who need our help. It really is a very special and beneficial tradition.

Since we have now entered this phase, I started thinking about the many ways we can give this Christmas season. Of course, the easiest and often least painful way to give is through the direct method of money. You've probably noticed that charities and various organizations drastically increase their push for donations as they look to provide those opportunities to people who want to help monetarily. And that is definitely a great way to contribute. Money makes the world go 'round, and these organizations can't do their important work if they lack the necessary financial resources.

But if extra cash isn't readily available to you, then don't give up hope. There are still plenty of ways for you to give this Christmas. First, we can give the gift of time. For most people, this is valued far more than any physical or monetary gift since we seem to have less and less of it. You can dedicate a little extra time to visit family or friends you haven't seen in a while, or perhaps you can find a few hours to volunteer with a food bank, Salvation Army, or some other charitable organization.

Second, the gift of listening is another great way to give. Most people love it when someone listens, really listens, to what they have to say. The art of listening is an active endeavor, and rarely do we give the appropriate attention to what our family and friends are saying. There's something special about someone being interested in what you have to say, and we can give that special feeling to someone we care about. Perhaps we can even make the effort to visit a local senior home. I can guarantee they would love to share their stories with someone willing to actively listen.

Third, we can share the gift of encouragement. While Christmas is a beautiful and joyful season, there are many who suffer with depression this time of year for any number of reasons. We can have a big impact on them by just reaching out and making sure they're okay. If you know someone who might be down this Christmas, then take a moment to touch base with them. Let them know someone is thinking about them, and give that word of encouragement they need to get through the next few weeks. It's an opportunity to be a direct blessing to someone.

Certainly, there are many other opportunities out there, but I hope this at least plants the seed on how we can give more this year for our families and our communities.

Kreeger Elementary School News

DATES TO REMEMBER:

12-10-18 – 12-14-18 9:00 – 3:30 KREEGER SANTA SHOP

12-10-18 – 12-14-18: KREEGER CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WEEK

Monday, 12/10: SNOWED IN! Wear your blue and white clothes!

Tuesday, 12/11: SANTA'S WORKSHOP! Dress up like santa, reindeer, elves or any other holiday cheer! Wear all of your festive items!

Wednesday, 12/12: CANDY CANE DAY! Wear red and white!

Thursday, 12/13: DECK THE HALLS! Wear your favorite holiday sweater, shirt, or socks! Get festive!

Friday, 12/14: SILENT NIGHT! Wear your favorite holiday jammies!

12-20-18 -1-1-19: NO SCHOOL-WINTER RECESS

1-2-2019: SCHOOL RESUMES

1-18-19: ½ DAY OF SCHOOL 12:02 DISMISSAL

1-21-19: NO SCHOOL

* * *

END OF DAY NOTES

Please call before 3:00 p.m. If you have a note that needs to get delivered to your child before the end of the day. *Thank you*

* * *

FYI: 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.

* * *

NOTE FROM MR. MEERSMA:

Dear Kreeger Families,

During the last five-and-a-half years I have had the privilege of working with your families through a great multitude of issues. I feel my work had purpose and meaning and that I came every day ready to give my level best to this community. It has been amazing making new friendships and learning more about this wonderful place. Sadly, I am moving on, but I will always have the fondest memories of my time in Fowlerville. Thank you for each kindness and the steadfast support thru the years.




KIM'S
BARBER SHOP
& SALON

Merry Christmas!

Thank you for your patronage in 2018.

Looking forward to serving you in 2019!

Downtown Fowlerville
146 N. Grand Ave.
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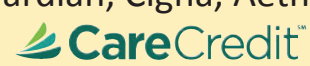
*** Dentures * Bonding * Partial * Crowns & Bridges**


*** Cleanings * Extractions * Root Canals * Sealants**

*** Nightguards * Mouthguards * Teeth Whitening**

*** Periodontal (Gum Disease) Treatment**

*** Implant Restoration * TMJ/TMD Treatment**

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Accepting New Patients

Emergency Patients Welcome

Office Hours:

Tuesday 9:00 - 5:00, Wednesday 9:00 - 6:30

Thursday 9:00 - 6:30, Friday 10:00 - 5:00

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EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS:

FRIDAYS 10-4 • NOW – DEC. 21

SATURDAYS 10-3 • NOW – DEC. 22

WE WILL BE CLOSED NOV. 30-DEC. 1 FOR A FAMILY EVENT.

- Drawings & In-Store Specials
- Refreshments Served in Our Tea Room
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June 18th - 29th, 2019 or
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michelle@bridgetgallaghers.com

NEW ITALY TOUR!
May 29-
June 7, 2019

Fowlerville Junior High School News

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ski club parent meeting- Wed. Dec. 12th 6 pm.
Holiday Dance- Fri. Dec. 14th 2-4pm
Winter Recess- Thur Dec. 20-Jan. 1st
* * *

SPORTS FOR WEEK OF DEC. 10TH

Mon., 12/10: BBB vs Haslett-4:30; 7A,8H; Bus-3:30
Tues., 12/11: PIZZA NIGHT W/ DUKE’S PIZZEA-- mention the Athletic Boosters w/ your order on Tuesday, 12/11, & Boosters will receive a percentage of the days’ sales
Wed., 12/12: BBB vs Charlotte-4:30; 7H,8A; Bus-3:15 (Usually no concession at Charlotte)
CCH practices: Mon., Tues., & Thurs.
GBB & WRESTLING at FJH: Both sports will begin immediately after the Christmas break. Physicals required to tryout/practice. GBB-7th & 8th & WRESTLING-6th-7th-8th
* * *

8TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL

Both teams lost on Dec. 4 against the Panthers of DeWitt, both teams played hard but ended short. The B team lost 22-44, Zachary Snyder and Owen Browne had 2 points, Jacob Yarbrough added 6 points and Mason Kirby lead the gladiators with 12 points.
The A team lost 35-78, Jacob Addington, Breylin Tschirart, Caleb Shermoe and Cole Jones each had 2 points, Jacob Loveland 5 and Brady Hanna led the Gladiator scoring with 18 points.
* * *



CSI WINNERS- The CSI Friday Winners from Nov. 30th are Jason York, Lillian Slayden, Gabby Wakeman, Sophia Doane and Jacob Chrzanowski.
* * *

SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB INFORMATIONAL MEETING- The Ski and Snowboard Club informational meeting will be on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Junior High Cafeteria. If you have any equipment to sell, please feel free to bring it to the meeting. Our first outing to Mt. Brighton is scheduled for January 09, 2019 (weather permitting). The club will meet for 8 weeks every Wednesday. For further information, please contact Mrs. DeLuca at 223-6250.
* * *

THE GIVING TREE
The Junior High Student Council and The Family Impact Center have joined together to make Christmas brighter for two families. Beginning, November 26th, located inside the office at the Junior High School is a Christmas tree with tags with gift needs labeled on them. Please remove a tag and bring back the unwrapped gift to the office by Thursday, December 13th with the tag attached. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Any questions, please contact Mrs. DeLuca 223-6250, delucac@fowlervilleschools.org
* * *

WE HAVE SPIRIT – YES WE DO!
Holiday Spirit week will be Monday, December 17th, through Wednesday, December 19th.
12/17 Monday – Holiday Headwear / Sockwear
12/18 Tuesday – Deck the Halls / Creative Holiday Attire
12/19 Wednesday – 6th Grade wear Red, 7th Grade wear Green, and 8th Grade wear White
* * *
HOLIDAY DANCE
Student Council is sponsoring a Holiday

Dance on Friday, December 14th from 2:30 until 4:00. Cost is \$5.00. Tickets will be sold during lunches on Thursday, December 13th and Friday, December 14th and at the door. If you would like to chaperone, please contact Ms. DeLuca at 223-6250 or delucac@fowlervilleschools.org
* * *
YEARBOOKS ON SALE
Yearbooks are now on sale. Don’t delay and order today! See Mrs. Spisz in room D-13 or order online at <https://www.balfour.com/shop/yearbook?smi=107958> The cost is \$32 and there is an option to donate a book to those in need.
Personalized yearbook orders are due by March 1. Final sales are March 8th
* * *

Bus Passes for Elementary Busses
For planning purposes, the Junior High and High School are no longer able to issue late bus passes for JH and/or HS students to ride the elementary bus home. Therefore, if a student plans to stay for an after school activity, they will need to arrange their own transportation home. This will be in place for the **entire** school year.
* * *



7TH GRADE ELA STUDENTS

The 7th grade students in Mrs. Bowling’s ELA class completed an impressive quarter 1 feat by reading a combined 49,400 pages in their independent reading books. Congratulations for committing to your reading goal and having insightful book talks with your teacher.
Certificates were awarded to the top three readers in each class. Third hour’s top readers were Kaitlyn Seiter - 2120 pages, Grant Kargel - 1090 pages and Holden Adams - 1000 pages. Fourth hour’s top three readers were Michael Dallas - 876 pages, Sophia Stahly - 808 pages and AJ Kitchen - 643 pages. Fifth hour’s top three readers were Matek Brewbaker - 1161 pages, Giorgia Beach - 1104 pages and Stephen Lower - 761 pages. Sixth hour’s top three readers were Sophia Pluff - 608 pages, TJ Bishop - 599 pages and Josh Pillar - 566 pages.
The combined 117 students are continuing their ravenous reading throughout quarter 2 and are well on their way of exceeding their goal of reading 53,100 pages. Reading Rocks! Thank you for supporting our literacy program and for continuing to support your reader, your child.
* * *

GENTLY USED BOOK SALE
Please consider donating your gently-used books to the Fowlerville Junior High Gently-used Book Sale. Books that are appropriate for teens/young adults, on down to elementary and preschool are acceptable. Other good donation considerations would be magazines, comics, how-to books, dictionaries and cookbooks. Please do not send in adult books, as our primary audience for the sale will be the junior high students.
Books may be dropped off in the office or your child may bring them to his or her 7th or 8th grade ELA teacher. We will collect books now- February 14th. The proceeds will be used to further our literary needs in our classrooms- replacing and purchasing new books, writing and reading supplies, journals, etc.
Any questions please contact Katie Bowling- 7th ELA teacher at bowlingk@fowlervilleschools.org.

Medicare questions?
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Debbie Holmes
Medicare Plan Specialist
Livingston County

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Fowlerville High School’s “ATHLETES” OF THE WEEK

From left, front row, Zach Schultz, Nathan Ash, Ayden Berry, Taiton Eastwood, Adam Simon, Ryan Dixon; second row, Billy Hutchins, Cameron Scharf, Trevor Maybee, Blake Cox, Jermaine Phifer, Austin Wilber, Gavin Camps; third row, Randall Kuch, Colson Waters, Traven Juopperi, Jack LaPres, Micah Keuvelaar, Michael Robinson, Anders Rajala; fourth row, Yahir Cervantes, Garrett Wilson, John Bacha, Landon Brockway, Emmet Niemi, Max Rose; back row, Jonathon Davis, Coach Robin Witjes, Coach Scott LaDuke, and Tucker Niemi.

Congratulations to the Fowlerville Junior Varsity Football Team!

The Fowlerville Junior Varsity Football Team had an outstanding Fall, finishing the season with an 8-1 record and 5-0 in the CAAC Red Division. Some key highlights of the season included a 13-12 win over Williamston with an interception in the end zone as time expired, a 41-40 victory over a tough St. Johns team where Adam Simon found Billy Hutchins with 28 seconds left in the game to give us a chance for a go-ahead extra point, and finishing the season with a 48-16 win over Corunna.

This was a great group of young men who understand success starts on the practice field. I enjoyed coming to practice each day and leading these boys onto the game field every Thursday. It was a pleasure, and I’m excited for the future of Fowlerville football. Thanks again, Coach Robin Witjes.

JUD’S FOOTBALL FORECAST

THURSDAY, DEC. 13 LA Chargers <u>30</u> at Kansas City <u>34</u>	Miami <u>16</u> at Minnesota <u>27</u>
SATURDAY, DEC. 15 Houston <u>24</u> at NY Jets <u>16</u> Cleveland <u>24</u> at Denver <u>26</u>	Tennessee <u>24</u> at NY Giants <u>20</u> Washington <u>13</u> at Jacksonville <u>16</u> Tampa Bay <u>13</u> at Baltimore <u>24</u> Seattle <u>23</u> at San Francisco <u>19</u> New England <u>27</u> at Pittsburgh <u>23</u> Philadelphia <u>24</u> at LA Rams <u>34</u>
SUNDAY, DEC. 16 Detroit <u>23</u> at Buffalo <u>19</u> Arizona <u>16</u> at Atlanta <u>30</u> Green Bay <u>20</u> at Chicago <u>30</u> Oakland <u>17</u> at Cincinnati <u>23</u> Dallas <u>23</u> at Indianapolis <u>24</u>	MONDAY, DEC. 17 New Orleans <u>30</u> at Carolina <u>23</u>
	LAST WEEK: W - 10 L - 6 SEASON: W - 141 L - 74

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

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SERVICE DEPARTMENT OPEN: Mon. & Thurs. 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. • Tues., Wed. & Fri. 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
BODY SHOP OPEN: Mon. thru Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

United Way’s annual ‘Matching Money Monday’ is Dec. 10

Donations to the Livingston County United Way on Monday, December 10, will be matched up to total funds available, thanks to big-hearted local sponsors.

Matching Money Monday has become not just a day to raise funds for community initiatives and programs, but an event that brings Livingston County residents together to celebrate the spirit of the season by generously giving.

Last year, Mike (name changed for privacy) one of many parents supported by this wonderful event. He told his story: “I was recently awarded full custody of my daughter (because my ex-wife is struggling with substance abuse issues), and I needed to change shifts at my job in order to take care of her. Unfortunately, my employer couldn’t approve my shift change, so I was forced to get another job. With the lapse of income, I missed a rent payment on our home and was served eviction papers. The Eviction Diversion team gave free legal and social services that helped me reach an agreement with my landlord, prevented my case from going to court, and also provided the one month’s rent that I needed. I truly am very grateful for the donations from Matching Money Monday!”

All proceeds raised through this event help struggling local families with nutritious food in local pantries, utility and shelter assistance, and keeping families from being evicted.

Not quite sure what to get for those hard-to-buy for people on your holiday list? Consider making a donation in their name, or in memory of a loved one. Certificates and gift boxes are available.

In addition to giving online at www.lcunitedway.org or by phone (810-494-3000), residents are encouraged to donate in person at any of these collection sites during regular business hours:

--Livingston County United Way, 2980 Dorr Road, Brighton (7am-7pm, homemade cookies and hot coffee)

--Brighton Area: Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce & First National Bank

--Fowlerville Area: First National Bank & Katie Pikkarainen State Farm Insurance

--Hartland Area: First National Bank & Hartland Insurance Agency

--Howell Area: Howell Area Chamber of Commerce, First National Bank & Jonna’s Market (free slice of pizza with any donation)

--Pinckney / Hamburg Area: First National Bank

Matching Money Monday is possible through these generous sponsors: Howell Rotary’s Tour de Livingston, Anonymous Sponsors, Ascension SEMI, LCUW Past & Current Board Members, Ravago Manufacturing Americas (Randy Rudisill Leadership Match), GM Proving Grounds, Champion Chevrolet, Culver’s, Chemical Bank and Kania Family Memorial.

To learn more about the work of Livingston County United Way and how to get involved or donate, call 810-494-3000, visit www.lcunitedway.org or social media accounts @lcunitedway.

Michigan DNR Fishing Tip—

Are you ready to go ice fishing?

Ice is slowly starting to form throughout the state, thus providing anglers with an opportunity to go fishing. Will you be joining them? Then it’s time to get prepared to head out safely on the ice!

Equipment

You’ll need some special equipment if you head out ice fishing. Take stock of your spud/auger, skimmer, shelter and apparel to have an enjoyable experience out on the water.

Techniques

Pick your preferred ice fishing technique and the species you wish to target and brush up on your skills – whether that is hook-and-line fishing for bluegill, sunfish, perch or crappie; using tip-ups for northern pike, walleye or trout; or spearing for northern pike, muskellunge or sturgeon.

Safety

You should always stay safe when heading on the ice. These five tips can help: 1) Never fish alone; 2) Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return; 3) Always test the ice with a spud; 4) Take the appropriate emergency items, such as a lifejacket and ice picks; and 5) Take a cell phone with you in case you need to call for help. Keep it in a plastic, sealable bag to make sure it doesn’t get wet.

Want more information on ice fishing? Visit Michigan.gov/fishing.

GriefShare seminar offered to the community starting in January

Griefshare is a hope-filled support group for grieving adults designed to assist in healing and rebuilding your life after the loss of a loved one. Healing is generated by providing a safe place for you to share your grief story and to experience the relief of knowing that you are not alone.

Join our 13-week Griefshare seminar, which will be held on Monday’, January 14th – April 15th, from 10am to noon. The cost is \$15 for your workbook. Seminar will be held at Shepard Of The Lakes Lutheran Church, 2101 Hacker Rd., Brighton, in Room 200. For additional information, or questions, contact Judy Gamary at (248)231-0922.

LOSS OF A SPOUSE SEMINAR

Are you grieving the death of a spouse? Or do you know someone that is? Find help at our NEW seminar: LOSS OF A SPOUSE. You’ll hear: practical advice from others who have been there; what to expect in your grief; how to cope with life without your spouse; and why it won’t hurt as much.

It is being offered only one morning on Monday, January 7, from 10am – noon. It will be held at Shepard Of The Lakes Lutheran Church, 2101 Hacker Rd., Brighton, in Room 200. For additional information, or questions, contact Judy Gamary at (248)231-0922.

Fowlerville Boys Varsity Basketball Team drops season opener to Alma

The Fowlerville Boys Varsity Basketball Team dropped its season opener at Alma on Friday, Nov. 30, by a score of 77-73. Brendan young led the way with 26 points and 12 rebounds. Geoffrey Knaggs added 20 points and 8 rebounds and Josh DuFore contributed 16 points. and 9 rebounds. Billy Hutchins had 9 points.

Fowlerville Boys Basketball Team wins first game of season last Tuesday

The Fowlerville Boys Varsity Basketball Team improved its record to 1-1 with a 76-45 win over Charyl Stockwell last Tuesday night. Geoffrey Knaggs led the way with 21 points and 11 rebounds. Billy Hutchins added 18 points and 5 assists. Brendan Young had 12 points and 6 rebounds, while Josh DuFore added 11 points with 6 rebounds.

Jeremy Odoms led the way for the Sentinals with 22 points. The Glads were up 8 at the half, but opened with a 14-2 run in the third quarter to open up a 20-point lead.

Consumers Energy offers help with heating bills as winter arrives

With winter making an early arrival this year, Consumers Energy is reaching out to families and small businesses to help them take charge of their heating bills.

Consumers Energy is sharing information with customers this month about how to reduce energy use and find available assistance in their communities to help with bills. Cold weather often leads to higher heating costs as furnaces work to warm homes and businesses. Electric use can increase in winter, too, as electricity powers furnaces or is used to heat many homes.

“We want to help the people we serve to stay in control of their energy costs. Households and businesses can take steps to keep bills down while staying safe and warm during a Michigan winter,” said Brian Rich, Consumers Energy’s senior vice president of customer experience.

Consumers Energy has sent emails to hundreds of thousands of customers with tips to reduce energy use safely during cold weather. The energy provider and nonprofit agencies each winter also make proactive phone calls to households who are past due on payments, letting people know help is available now.

Last month, Consumers Energy contributed \$2 million to help up to 2,500 Michigan households participate in its CARE program. CARE puts people in need on a path to self sufficiency, offering bill credits, forgiveness of past-due balances and access to energy-saving tools that can lower bills.

Consumers Energy encourages people to dial 2-1-1, a free statewide service that connects people with resources in their community. The 2-1-1 helpline and website refer people to resources in their community, including energy bill assistance.

“Our natural gas costs remain 60 percent lower than a decade ago, but we know that many people still face challenges to pay their heating bills,” Rich said. “Consumers Energy wants to help. We strongly encourage people to take action today if they want to reduce their energy costs or need help to stay warm.”

Fowlerville Fire Department Report

Thursday, November 29th, at 5:18 p.m. personnel responded to Coon Lake Road in Iosco Township for at a motor vehicle accident. The department was dispatched to Cedar Road in Handy Township for a fuel spill in the roadway.

Firefighters assisted EMS on Grand River in Handy Township at 9:33 a.m., Sunday, December 1st. At 4:58 p.m. the department was called to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Grand River in Handy Township and responded to a medical emergency on N. Grand Ave. in the Village at 6:28 p.m.

A medical emergency on Nicholson Road in Handy Township was reported at 8:50 a.m., Sunday, December 2nd. Personnel assisted at a medical emergency on Sargent Road in Handy Township at 7:33 a.m. The department was dispatched to downed power lines on Coon Lake Road in Iosco Township at 10:17 a.m. and investigated an electrical hazard on Eagle Ridge Lane in Handy Township at 12:22 p.m. At 12:48 p.m. firefighters were called to a medical emergency on Gehringer Drive in the Village and at 2:16 p.m. investigated an open fire on Owosso Road in Howell Township.

The department was dispatched to a medical emergency on Ann Street in the Village at 2:41 a.m., Monday, December 3rd and at 8:49 a.m. responded to a gasoline spill on Van Riper Road in the Village. Firefighters assisted EMS on Alans Drive in Handy Township at 6:36 p.m..

Personnel investigated a report of leaves burning in the roadway on Cemetery Road in Handy Township at 5:32 p.m., Tuesday, December 4th. A medical emergency on Deerhill Court in Iosco Township was reported at 9:44 p.m. Wednesday, December 5th, at 10:28 a.m., firefighters assisted EMS on Spruce Street in the Village. At 9:11 p.m. the department was called to a medical emergency on Garden Lane in the Village.

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NOTICE TO THE PROPERTY TAXPAYERS
OF HANDY TOWNSHIP
PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE BY THURSDAY, FEB. 14, 2019

WINTER TAX BILLS were mailed to all property owners on Dec. 1, 2018.

We also have a free website www.handytownship.org to verify amounts and payments online.

Taxes are payable with cash or check

Payments can be made the following ways:

- In person at the Handy Township Office at 135 N. Grand Ave. during Business hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs. from 9am-5pm
- Into the secure drop box located at the Township Office near the front door
- By mail — P.O. Box 189, Fowlerville, MI 48836
- In Person at the [Fowlerville Branch](#) of First National Bank

Receipts are mailed only if requested.

Connie Shear
Handy Township Treasurer

Annette Keeler
Handy Township
Deputy Treasurer
(12-2 & 12-9-18 FNV)

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The Fowlerville District Library will be closed Monday, December 24th and reopening Thursday, December 27th at 9:30am to observe Christmas. We will also be closed Monday, December 31st and reopening Wednesday, January 2nd to observe the new year. We wish you joyous and safe holidays. The Little Free Library is available for your reading needs during this time and any materials to be returned can be placed in the green drop box. Thank you.

Food for Fines - November 1st-December 14th
This food drive benefits the Family Impact Center. Each item donated equals \$1 in fines removed from your account, up to \$5. Donations are always welcome, even if you do not owe fines!

Toys for Tots Collection -November 24th-December 14th
We are collecting toys for children and teens. Please bring your new, unwrapped toy to donate and drop it in our Toys for Tots box.

Cardio Drumming -Tuesdays at 7pm
Adults. Increase your physical literacy with a fun workout from instructor Kim Griffes. Please remember to bring water and wear comfortable clothes. Spaces are limited to 20 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. **There is a small cash-only fee for this class of \$6 if you bring your own equipment or \$8 to rent a ball, bucket, and drumsticks. Drop-in class.*

Reading with Reindeer - Wednesday, December 12th at 5:30-6:30pm
Families. Welcome *Rooftop Landing* to the Fowlerville District Library! Indoors we will read and have parent-child stations. Outdoors we will visit and pet reindeer! **Space is limited. Register in person to attend. Registration begins November 28th.*

Yoga with Erin - Fridays at 9:30am
Adults. Join Erin, co-owner of *SoulShine Yoga* for weekly sessions at the Library. Yoga is accessible for adults of all ages through modifications. Please remember to bring water to drink and your own mat to practice on. **Spaces are limited to a first come-first served basis. There is a small \$5 cash-only fee for this class. Drop-ins are welcome.*

Due to the Christmas and New Year's Holidays, the Cardio Drumming class will not be meeting Tuesday, December 25th, nor Tuesday, January 1st.

Keep an eye out for our Winter/Spring 2019 Newsletter coming to your mailbox in late December! If you are not a Fowlerville resident, you can pick up a Newsletter at the library when they become available!



Michigan Senate Report

By Joe Hune, 22nd District

Property tax assessments on the way
If you are a homeowner and haven't received your property tax assessment yet, you will likely be receiving it very soon. While I am not generally a fan of taxes, and would never advocate for more, the property taxes that are taken from us do go to support some important community services. Such things as police and fire protection, public education, funding to operate local governments, and other projects like sewers, streets, and parks are all or in part funded through property taxes. And those taxes collected by local governments are mostly kept locally, for what it's worth.

Now, when it comes to your individual property tax assessment, there are times when the government gets it wrong. If you believe that your assessment is wrong, there is a formal appeals process to challenge the determination. Specifically, if you disagree for any reason with the assessed value, taxable value, or taxable status of property, you can appeal to your local governmental board of review. Township review boards meet to consider appeals one week in March, during which the second Monday of the month falls. They also meet in July and in December to correct qualified errors, including making adjustments for property incorrectly listed as having had a transfer of ownership or certain other errors regarding the taxable status of a property. If you file an appeal and are not satisfied with the judgment of the board of review, you may appeal the decision further to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Let's face it — most of us are not tax experts. Thankfully, free resources are available that provide more information about the process of appealing your property tax assessment. I gladly provide a step-by-step guide, called *How to Effectively Appeal Your Property Tax Assessment*, for free on my website at www.SenatorJoeHune.com. Once there, click the Publications link located within the Customer Service tab to download your copy. There you will also find this year's *Michigan Taxpayer's Guide*.

As always, my office is available to help. If you have any questions, please call my office toll-free at 855-JOE-HUNE or send us an email at SenJHune@senate.michigan.gov and my staff will be happy to assist you.

Howell Eagles to host Blue Notes Band at club house this Sunday, Dec. 16

The Howell Eagles will host the Blue Notes Band in their farewell performance for the 2018 season this Sunday, Dec. 16, at the club house located at 141 Schroeder Park Drive. The performance will run from 3 to 7 p.m.

A mere \$5 admission fee will provide you with an afternoon of pure enjoyment as you experience the vast repertoire of these talented musicians. You won't believe your ears. They are the best band, with the best sound anywhere. Join us and see for yourself. Membership is not a requirement to attend. Food and beverages will be available.

Our 2019 dance schedule begins on March 17 from 3 to 7 p.m. Should be a fun time. Have a Wonderful Holiday and see all of you next year.



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Fowlerville High School News

OFFICE HOURS

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

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES TO NOTE:

Dec 11 Balfour – taking grad orders at lunch
Dec 20 1st day of holiday break
Jan 2 Return to school

Doors at FHS will be open at 6:30 a.m. on school days. After school hours if your student is not participating in a sport, math lab, credit recovery or meeting with a teacher they should make arrangements to leave the building by 3 p.m.

Balfour representative will be at school lunches Dec 11th to collect orders and help with measurements if needed for graduation caps and gowns. Packets were given to seniors 11/12, if your student was not here for the meeting they can pick up information in the counseling office.

The high school music department will be presenting it's annual Holiday Concert on Tuesday, December 11th at 7 pm in the Alverson Center for Performing Arts. Admission is free. Performing ensembles include the High School Choir, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, and more.

I urge you to read these articles regarding vaping and the impact it has on the human body. I strongly encourage a conversation at home regarding vaping after reading the articles. Along the same line as the article, recently the Village of Fowlerville passed Ordinance No. 466 which deals with Tobacco Use and Vaping. Effective Nov. 18, 2018, a minor in possession of a vape pen or vape related products will be issued an ordinance ticket which results in a fine. Please contact the Fowlerville Police Department for information regarding Ordinance No. 466. Articles to read:

FDA launches new anti-vaping campaign aimed at teens:
<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/fda-launches-anti-vaping-campaign-aimed-teens-n910691>

Teens inhale cancer-causing chemicals in e-cigarettes: Fruit flavors have the most chemicals, study finds.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/teen-inhale-cancer-causing-chemicals-e-cigarettes-n853611?cid=related>

FHS is concerned about the health and wellbeing of our students and will continue to update you with information such as this when it becomes available.

Mr. Lusk FHS Principal

The Ski and Snowboard Club informational meeting will be on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Junior High Cafeteria. If you have any equipment to sell, please feel free to bring it to the meeting. Our first outing to Mt. Brighton is scheduled for January 9, 2019 (weather permitting). The club will meet for 8 weeks every Wednesday. For further information, please contact Mrs. DeLuca at 223-6250.

The Youth Activation Committee (YAC) is a group of student leaders with and without intellectual disabilities that work to promote inclusion. YAC students strategize and plan school wide games and activities. The YAC educates, motivates and activates youth to become agents of change in their communities through advocacy for respect, inclusion and acceptance for all people. We just finished up our bowling season and are starting basketball for December/January. The FHS YAC meets every Wednesday after school 2:15-3:15. See Mrs. Connor if you are interested in joining or if you would like to help our students with basketball practice.

German students at Fowlerville High School are traveling to Germany in June 2020. We are raising money to offer a full, half, and partial scholarship to three lucky travelers. Please consider donating to the Scholarships for Germany fund at <https://goo.gl/XP6TcI>

The German Club is hosting a Gingerbread House Competition for the Junior High and High School to raise money for the 2020 Trip to Germany. The competition is open to groups, individuals, classes, clubs, and teams. Registration cost \$5. Winners will receive a 50/50 cash prize. Entries will be displayed in the high school from December 10th-14th.

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

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

School Mission: Focus on every student, every day.

School Vision: Empower students to be productive citizens in a global society

Smith Elementary School News

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 10 – Hats for Heroes: Fundraiser to help California Firefighters (25 cents to wear a hat day)
December 10 through 14 - Santa Shop
December 12 – 1stGrade Musical at 2:00 pm Alverson Performing Arts Center
December 13 – 1stGrade Musical at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm Alverson Performing Arts Center
December 14 through 19 – Holiday Spirit Week
December 19-Jan 1- Winter Break
January 2 – School Resumes

1st Grade Musical - The First Graders will present a Holiday musical, Elfis and the Sleigh Riders on Thursday, Dec. 13th at 7:00pm. There will also be two daytime performances, which parents and families are welcome to attend - On Wednesday, Dec. 12th at 2:00pm, and on Thursday, Dec. 13th at 10:00am. All performances will take place in the Alverson Center for Performing Arts.

Holiday Spirit Week

Friday Dec 14th- Grinch Day
Mon 17th- Ugly Sweater/Christmas Wear Day
Tues 18th- Candy Cane/Santa Day
Wed 19th- Wear PJs /Polar Express Day

Looking for Santa Shop Volunteers. If you would be interested in helping out during Santa Shop week, December 10 through 14, please sign up at signup.com/go/ceOzXRD and thank you for your time.

Please do not park in the drop-off (Kiss & Go) lane in front of the school. This lane is to be used for parents to drop off their children and move ahead so the next car can do a drop-off.

Medication–If your child requires any prescription or non-prescription medication during the school year, a parent or guardian must bring it to the Smith Office to drop it off and complete the necessary paperwork. **School Board Policy states that children are not allowed to transport medication.**

FYI- 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.

There are Preschool Openings for the 2018-2019 school year! -Livingston Educational Service Agency Early Childhood Programs continue to enroll for the 2018-2019 school year. There are many 4-year-old openings in the Fowlerville program located at Munn Early Childhood building. Head Start and Great Start Readiness Programs offer no cost/low cost preschool to income eligible or children "at risk" who qualify under federal and state guidelines. Families meeting eligibility guidelines have access to learning opportunities, health and wellness, social and disability services, and other community resources. Children of all abilities are encouraged to apply. To find out more information about applying and to see if you are eligible, call 517-548-2100 or go to www.LivingstonESA.org.

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Lee Hamilton Column

What Does It Really Mean to Be Patriotic?

Patriotism has been on a lot of people’s minds lately. French President Emanuel Macron recently criticized President Trump and other world leaders for their “us versus them” view of patriotism. “By putting our own interests first,” he said, “with no regard for others, we erase the very thing that a nation holds dearest, and the thing that keeps it alive: its moral values.”

Meanwhile, just ahead of the midterm elections, *The New York Times* noted that two clashing visions of patriotism were heading to the polls. President Trump and Republicans saw patriotism as “conspicuous displays of respect for the traditional expressions of America — the flag, the military, the Pledge of Allegiance.” Democrats, by contrast, saw it as protecting the norms and institutions of our democracy.

I don’t entirely buy this distinction, at least when it comes to partisan labels. I’ve known plenty of Democrats who consider it patriotic to honor the flag, the military, and the Pledge. And I’ve known a lot of Republicans who value our democratic traditions.

The vast majority of Americans consider themselves patriots — even if, as Gallup found in June, less than half of poll respondents considered themselves “extremely proud” to be American. This was the first time this has happened in almost two decades of polling on the question.

The two broad strands outlined by *The Times* inarguably exist. We all remember the naval hero Stephen Decatur’s famous toast in 1816, “Our country, right or wrong.” And Senator Carl Schurz’s amendment a half-century later: “My country, right or wrong — if right, to be kept right, if wrong, to be set right.” We may criticize our country, in other words, but this is not motivated by malice. It’s motivated by special

affection and a belief that a great country can be made greater.

“There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America,” President Clinton argued, laying out a vision of patriotism that is not about symbols, but about building on a nation’s intangible strengths.

I buy that. I believe that patriotism means getting on with the serious business of improving our country. It means that we strive to ensure that we live up to our pledge of liberty and justice for all. In this formulation, patriotism is best expressed not in parades or speeches or exhortations or conspicuous displays, but in what we do.

Perhaps the most persuasive description I’ve heard on this score was Adlai Stevenson’s. “True patriotism is not manifested in short, frenzied bursts of emotion,” he said. “It is the tranquil, steady dedication of a lifetime.”

Stevenson hit the nail square on the head. So much of our national discussion of patriotism is about military heroes. This is important, but it’s an incomplete view of love of country. I’d argue that we encounter patriotism at all levels of American life. The teacher in the classroom, the parents who raise their children to be good citizens, the clerk who keeps town records and helps people vote, the ordinary working person who goes about her tasks with dedication and proficiency — patriotism can be found everywhere in our communities, among all kinds of people who pursue their lives with the good of the country at heart.

We have inherited a magnificent political legacy, a set of customs and traditions and, yes, moral values that give ordinary people the tools and power to improve life for themselves and succeeding generations.

Patriotism lies in our efforts to enlarge that legacy so that it applies to all citizens. It means we defend civil liberties, the right to dissent, and the equality before the law of all Americans. And it means that upholding our core values — tolerance, mutual respect, the right of everyone to be heard, the belief that in pursuing our own lives and interests we all are capable of contributing to the vibrancy of our democracy — is every bit as patriotic as placing our hand over our heart while reciting the Pledge.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar of the IU Hamilton Lugar 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.



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1/7/19 - 1/25/19	3:30 PM-5:30 PM
2/11/19 - 3/1/19	3:30 PM-5:30 PM
3/18/19 - 4/11/19	3:30 PM-5:30 PM
4/29/19 - 5/16/19	3:30 PM-5:30 PM

Segment 2

1/29/19 - 2/5/19	3:30 PM-5:30 PM
3/5/19 - 3/12/19	3:30 PM-5:30 PM
4/16/19 - 4/23/19	3:30 PM-5:30 PM
5/21/19 - 5/28/19	3:30 PM-5:30 PM



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Michigan House Report

By Dr. Hank Vaupel,
47th District

The House Health Policy Committee was very active this week as we work to finish important legislation before the end of the term. The following are just some of the bills recently reported out of committee:

--Senate Bill 1198: Permanently expands the ban on the practice of prescribing abortion pills through video appointments, also referred to as telemedicine;

--House Bill 6431: Updates Medigap plans to comply with federal requirements for the purpose of strengthening Medicare access by improving physician payments;

--HB 5776: Clarifies the scope of practice for mental health counselors; and

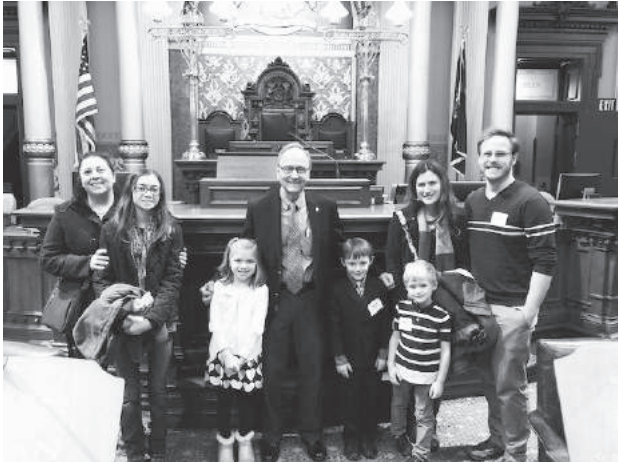
--HB 4134: Updates physician recertification practices to ensure more time spent with patients and potentially result in reduced healthcare costs.

If you have questions or thoughts on any bills being considered by the Legislature, then please feel free to reach out to my office. We would be happy to talk with you.

Fowlerville's Christmas in the Ville was another resounding success this year with a terrific display of community spirit. Thank you to all the volunteers and community members who helped or attended despite the weather to ensure a fun and beautiful event. Although I was unfortunately unable to attend the parade due to a prior commitment as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army in Howell, I was happy to see the great outpouring of support for this annual tradition.

On that note, I would also like to thank those who volunteer for the Salvation Army as bell ringers. The Salvation Army is an important organization providing assistance and support to many residents throughout Livingston County, and they cannot supply these critical services without the help of

volunteers. This is a busy time for all of us, but these selfless volunteers have sacrificed a little time to help those in need. There will be more opportunities as the season continues, and I encourage you to volunteer if you are able!



State Rep. Hank Vaupel welcomes honorary Representatives for a Day Ellie Rider (center left) and James Potter (center right) to the House floor. The students were joined by their families.

This past week, I welcomed our final two summer reading contest winners to Lansing. Ellie Rider, a home-school student from Howell, and James Potter of Hutchings Elementary School in Howell were sworn in as Honorary Representatives for a Day on Thursday. Thank you to all the students who participated in this year's contest. I was impressed by the excitement for reading demonstrated by young people across our district. It was a joy to host the contest, and I look forward to doing it again next year!

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

Webberville cagers come up short in defensive battle against St. Patrick

The Webberville Boys Varsity Basketball team came up just short in a hard-fought defensive battle last Friday night (Dec. 1) vs. the Portland St. Patrick Shamrocks, losing 41-35. Hunter McGowan led the way for the Spartans with 8 points and 6 rebounds. Chrystian Surline also contributed a team-high 9 points.

Webberville Boys Varsity Basketball Team picks up hard-fought win

The Webberville Boys Varsity Basketball Team was back in action last Tuesday night against Burton Bendle. The Spartans got off to a raucous start right off the tip when junior Nathan Walker caught a perfect lob from freshman Nate Lott and slammed home a thunderous two-handed dunk just three seconds into the game. The game was an exciting offensive battle with Walker contributing a team-high 24 points to go along with 6 rebounds and 3 assists. Senior Chrystian Surline got going offensively as well and deposited a 17 points, including several key buckets down the stretch. Surline also snagged 7 rebounds for the Spartans. Hunter McGowan contributed to the offensive tempo by distributing 5 assists coupled with his 7 rebounds and 7 points.

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Steve Horton Column

Mixed reactions to General Motors’ downsizing announcement

“If you build it, he will come” was the voice Ray Kinsella heard on his Iowa farm in the movie *Field of Dreams*. “Build what?” he wondered.

As it turned out, a baseball field in the middle of his cornfield—a means by which (as the plot unfolded) our protagonist could re-connect with his past and a chance to heal an emotional wound.

The *he will come*, we find out, was his father.

The two of them had been estranged at the time of the father’s death. His father, we learn, loved baseball—Shoeless Joe Jackson and Jackson’s fellow Chicago White Sox teammates in particular, the infamous crew of eight players banned from the Major Leagues for allegedly accepting money from gamblers to throw the 1919 World Series.

The game of baseball had been a bond the father and young son had shared.

Ray, with the support of his wife, plows up part of the cornfield and builds the ball field. However, this seemingly rash act understandably draws ridicule from neighbors and threatens the financial well-being of the farm. Eventually, though, Shoeless Joe comes out of the corn, followed by his teammates—all of them long deceased, but brought back to life on this field of dreams. Each of them given a chance to once again enjoy the game of baseball in its simplest, essential form.

Near the end of the story, the younger version of Ray’s father shows up and the two of them once more play catch—that long-ago act that helped create the bond, the shared affection.

All of them—father, the White Sox players, and others that were part of this story—return a final time to the cornfield, a sad departure. Yet in the distance we see a long line of cars—people wanting a chance to capture a more innocent time through the game of baseball.

He had built it and now they were coming.

A feel-good story. Who doesn’t in some nook-and-cranny of our being long for that idyllic past—real or imagined? Who wouldn’t want a second chance to re-connect with a loved one and heal an emotional wound?

What if you build it, and they don’t buy it? Or don’t buy it in sufficient numbers to create a desired profit. What then?

That reality is what’s apparently causing the Detroit Three automakers to eliminate much of their passenger car lineups.

American car buyers, it seems, have increasingly shifted their preference to SUVs and trucks—a change-in-heart the auto companies are only too happy to oblige since these choices are more profitable than the sedans.

Fiat Chrysler had already shrunk its passenger-car lineup, and Ford unveiled plans awhile back to do the same. But

General Motor’s recent announcement that several models would be discontinued has proven more jarring.

The unsettling news is not so much about the loss of these particular vehicles—after all models come and goes on a regular basis and change in size and shape. But to accomplish this goal and, in doing so, free up six million dollars for other uses, GM will cut up to 14,000 workers in North America and put five plants up for possible closure. Two of those plants are located in metro Detroit and the other three in Ohio, Maryland, and Ontario, Canada.

General Motors had already given a sneak preview of their plans by offering a voluntary buy-out to 8,000 executives—about 15 percent of the company’s North American white-collar workforce. News reports indicated that fewer than 2,500 of them accepted the offer, an indication that most of these executives were not ready to retire or start over with a new career or decided to wait-and-see what happens. Presumably, they’ll be laid off or otherwise terminated.

At the five factories, meanwhile, about 3,300 employees could lose jobs in the United States and 2,600 in Canada.

With the dust having settled since the initial announcement, the situation is more nuanced than it seemed at first glance. The other plants that produce the SUVs and trucks could increase production and take in some of the affected employees. The six million dollar savings, it was explained, will be earmarked for further research, development, and production of electric and autonomous vehicles and ride-sharing platforms that we’re told are the future of automotive manufacturing and, therefore, our future.

GM will be having new contract talks with the United Auto Workers next year and (we’ve learned) the ultimate fate of the plants and workers will likely be hashed out during the bargaining. The possibility is that some of the plants and workers, while no longer making sedans, might be used for other production purposes.

But when all is said and done, there’ll be fewer plants and a few thousand people will either lose their jobs or need to re-locate. While this realignment of focus and resources is going on, so, too, is the downsizing. “Getting leaner,” and presumably more profitable, is the new mantra of American manufacturing rather than job creation.

I have mixed reactions to all of this.

I feel bad for the workers (white collar and blue) who will lose out in this version of musical chairs. All of their hopes and dreams, not to mention their financial security, have been or will be made uncertain, even dashed.

Yet this is not the first major downsizing and reshuffling done by the automakers—and nothing compared to the uncertainty that faced us when Chrysler and GM plunged into bankruptcy—with Ford and the auto suppliers fearing a domino effect.

At the time there was no way of knowing how it would all turn out.

Quite well as events have unfolded, thanks in large part to the governmental bail-out and to concessions made by the workers. Given this new lease, the Detroit Three have been enjoying record sales in the past few years and sizable profits.

But there were casualties during that downsizing and reshuffling —people who lost their jobs or had their lives uprooted, companies tied to the auto industry that closed, and a lot of economic pain and suffering that took place.

I think companies are better served—and serve society best—when they balance profits with the well-being of employees. Owners, whether hands-on individuals or stockholders, need to make money; however, they can’t generally do it by themselves. They require the efforts and talents of workers, and these employees, in turn, rightfully expect a decent wage and, where possible, a few fringe benefits. And some job security.

Yet, that said, private enterprise, including auto companies, are not public works programs where the only purpose is to employ people. The work force needs to be tailored to meet the needs of production. Overcapacity has been the Achilles Heel of GM, Ford, and Chrysler and was among the causes of their troubles.

I also realize that a lot of the workers at GM and elsewhere have been, are being, and will be laid off due to automation—an outcome that will occur regardless of how the realignment plays out. The relentless advances of technology have made life easier and improved efficiencies, but have (like a double-edged sword) reduced the number of workers needed to produce a vehicle or other products.

And speaking of technology, all of this talk of electric and autonomous cars, of ride-sharing platforms, and so on is a ‘brave new world’ that’s hard to comprehend, let alone anticipate what direction it will take us. The pace of change is mind boggling, hard to keep up with, and replete with unanticipated consequences.

It takes us merrily along. But, like others, I wonder if we’re heading to a Promised Land or following a Pied Piper?

A lot of the uncertainty—not to mention disruption—is due to the creative-destructive nature of our free-enterprise system.

Companies rise out of the new technology, while others, once successful, fall by the wayside—their demise the result of being tied too tightly to old ways of doing business or not adapting quickly enough.

Not so long ago Amazon was using this new-fangled idea of selling products over the internet and delivering them directly to the customer to peddle books. It worked and pretty soon independent, brick-and-mortar book stores began closing their doors. And then, in what seems like warp speed, the company is selling all kinds of products and services—most recently, live Christmas trees.

Not so long ago, Kodak sold cameras and film to a vast audience, and we bought them to record “the times of our lives.” Digital cameras, produced by other companies, took away most of the film market and, among the victims to this new competition, besides Kodak, were all of the small outfits that developed film.

Digital cameras, meanwhile, have lost market share to smart phones that now allow the user to take pictures. And all of the digital photos can be downloaded and stored in a personal computer and, if a person so chooses, can be produced on paper with a color printer attached to the computer.

There are countless other examples similar to these, but out of this ebb and flow, out of these multitude of rises and falls, are corresponding ups and downs in people’s lives and their livelihoods.

We celebrate the fortunes made. The latest success stories. Still, we need to be mindful that these outcomes do not occur in a vacuum. There is a human toll—the businesses that fail, but more importantly the countless individuals and families adversely impacted.

History has shown us that capitalism, propelled by technological advances and human ambition, has created and still creates a dynamic that pushes us forward. Even so, unfettered, it has a reflex to treat people (the workers) as expendable clogs in the machinery of commerce; a means to an end, with the end being profit.

The balancing act is to encourage the former and discourage the latter. To balance the need for profit with the well-being of people.

General Motors’ announcement was unsettling, not just because of the large number of employees who may lose their jobs and the adverse economic impact to the communities where the plants are located, but also because it further causes concern as to where “things” are heading.

“Things” is admittedly a vague term. It can refer to the world, our nation, our state, our society, the future, the general unfolding of events, as well as the fortunes of our families and ourselves.

We expect auto manufacturers to lay people off during recessions and weak sales, but not during boom times. There were hopes “things” had improved and we could count on a return to normalcy.

We’ve spent most of our lives viewing these companies as stable anchors that we can tie our fates to. The bankruptcies shook this faith. The news of layoffs and plant closings further erodes the confidence. The latest cause for concern or, for some, another kick in the gut.

When “things” seem to get too complicated, too unsettling, and too hard to grasp; when what seemed as solid ground and a predictable future suddenly is not; when that occurs, then we have a tendency to look back when “things” seemed simpler.

The idyllic past.

Back when a person could take a job at an auto plant right out of high school and retire 40 years later with a pension. Back when you and your family could “See the USA in your Chevrolet.”

The reality is that there are no Field of Dreams we can build that will take us back, no way to revive what’s gone or re-connect with those we’ve lost. There’s only the way forward.

Still, we can build a field of sorts for ourselves and others. It would be a way of living and outlook that allows us to regain what’s essential and matters most. One that helps those who have been disrupted and helps ease their uncertainty and ours. A field where we assist each other as we attempt to secure a measure of financial security and hold onto our hopes and dreams.

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—Area Deaths—



Frances L. Plummer

Frances L. Plummer, age 79, of Webberville went home to be with the Lord December 4, 2018. Born September 20, 1939, in Fennville, Michigan to Neil & Edith Vesper. Fran loved to cook and was an active supporter of the Livingston County 4-H. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Neil Jr and William Vesper and son Robert Plummer Jr. She is survived by her brothers Dale (Constance) & Denny Vesper, sister Cinderella Warr, sons James & William (Brenda) Plummer, daughter Candy (Ken) Church, grandchildren William Jr & Dalayna Plummer and Hunter Church, great-grandchildren Zachary and Addison, and her significant other Charles Howden.

A memorial service was held for Fran at the Bath Baptist Church in Bath, Michigan on Saturday, Dec, 8, 2018 at 12 P.M. with visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. Cremation has taken place and internment will be in Greenwood Cemetery at a later date. Please leave the family a condolence at pjherrmannfuneralhome.com.

Mary Elizabeth Niblock

Mary Elizabeth Niblock, age 92 of Howell, passed away early Thursday evening, November 22, 2018. Born in Brighton on September 21, 1926, she was the daughter of the late Joseph P. and the late Ruth (Hayner) Kutnic. Mary was a lifelong Livingston County resident. She was a loving wife and mother, often helping in the family business. Mary had been an avid bowler and very proud of having won the National Championship in Toledo with her team.

Beloved wife of the late Warren Russell Niblock who preceded her in death on January 13, 2016. Loving mother of Margaret Elizabeth (Ken) Monroe of Fowlerville and Warren Russell (Kim) Niblock of Howell. Proud and adoring grandmother of Kenneth Monroe II, Kristen Claus and Warren Niblock III; great-grandson, Ryan Monroe. She was preceded in death by three sisters and one brother. A memorial service in honor and celebration of Mary's was held Friday, November 30, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church in Howell. Please visit the family's online guest book at macdonaldsfuneralhome.com.

**Webberville Schools announces
1st Quarter Honor Roll students**

Middle School

Garrett Banks, Brooke Bayard, Dakota Beverly, Ava Boschma*, Mya Brozek, Lillyan Davis, Elicia Elzerman, Kylie Farmer, Connor Glover, Alexander Klempner, Hailey Knapp, Meadow Loftis, Magdalena Monroe, Cora Mosher, Thomas Newell*, Emma Peterson, Madeleine Rose, Kenneth Russell*, William Schrinier*, Logan Storey, Naomi Toland, Claire Bloom*, Thomas Cloudman, John Wyatt Coe*, Samuel Croft, Bradley Davis, Madeline Derian*, Kevin Farmer, Daisy Fuller*, Emma Heinig, Mackenzie Langham, Ryleigh Nelson*, Rebekah Phillips*, Sean Piper, Brianne Price Stanfield, Avery Rivera, Ayva Sholty, Lucas Smith, Caliana Tillitson, Taylor Wyatt*, Nettie Backus, Cassandra Bosworth*, Lauren Bosworth*, Grace Bowen, Emilee Ebert*, Garrett Ellsworth, Joshua Fairfield*, Charlotte Frinkle*, Shelby Harrison, Benjamin Haviland-Tobia*, Caleb Howard*, Gabriel Iler, Abigail Keuvelaar, Grace Kortman, Kalista Matiyow*, Tatum Mills, Evan Peterson*, Brady Pierce*, Sarah Sicher*, Makayla Surline, Nathan Toland, Ruth Wisuri, Sydney Wolff

High School

Kylie Atkins*, Hannah Birkett, Allison Bliesner, Mackenzie Bowlin, Dylan Branch*, Baylee Cloudman*, Gracie Croft*, Maddie Delaney*, Gracie-Lou Fisher, Molly Foreman, Garrett Goodwin, Lydia Howard*, Halie Hull, Owen Hull, Averie James, Olivia Kiernan*, Dayton Kraiger, Emma LeBoeuf, Nathan Lott II, Kolson Lycos, Maxin Mills, Kristina Pendell*, Michael Phillips*, Logan Pierce*, Anna



John T. Hernden

John T. Hernden of Byron, Michigan passed away Thursday November 1, 2018 after a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. Born in Detroit Michigan on December 8, 1939, John was the youngest son of Wesley and Ruth (Bones) Hernden. He grew up in Westland, Michigan and graduated from Bentley High School in Livonia, Michigan. John married Janet Nelson on September 2, 1961 and together they raised four children: Cathy, Bonnie, Mike and Sheri. John was the owner of Brake Tech Inc. located in Fowlerville, Michigan.

In earlier years he enjoyed many activities. He was a member of the Corvette Club of Michigan, and was also a private pilot who enjoyed the freedom of flying his own plane. Later in life, he enjoyed Sunday afternoons watching NASCAR from his easy chair. John was an animal advocate. His favorite cat, Charlie Chip, gave him many years of joy and comfort. He is now at peace with his four-legged friends.

John is survived by his caregiver and devoted wife Jan, his children, seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. He will be missed by many. His wife would like to give special thanks to their devoted daughters Cathy and Bonnie (Mark), as well as Chuck Watkins and Ed Bardon for always being there with a helping hand.

In keeping with his wishes, a graveside service was privately held at Greenwood Cemetery on Nov 7, 2018, Fowlerville, Michigan. Dr. Dan Paternoster officiated. Arrangements were made by Herrmann Funeral Home Fowlerville, Michigan.

Toland, Stella Wilder, Hayley Williams*, Lucas Wisuri, Lucas Bliesner, Peyton Branch, Eve Canfield, Daxton Driver*, Duncan Dusa, Thomas Fairfield*, Dana Gorski*, Katarina Haynes*, Hayden Heinig, Joshua Moran, Sydney Piper*, Gage Rhodes, Ella Smyth, Savana Stiffler, Nolan Tennant, Claire Weber, Austin Wyatt, Ashton Boldizar*, Sydney Chambers, Olivia Davis, Eden Elzerman*, Rebecca Fraley*, Bailey Jenson, Gavin Kubiak*, Ashton Lott*, Hunter McGowan, Tyler Nelson, Carson Nolan*, Hunter Norton*, Aidan Teague, Akeina Valera, Steven Velfling, Justin Williams*, Mackenzie Winebarger*, Seth Wisuri, Caiden Abner*, Skylar Byrne*, Mary Cubberly*, Taylor Dettling*, Alaia Driver*, Hannah Fairfield*, Stevie Fordyce, Nolan Gorski, Jacob Grubb*, Connor Hondzinski, Jillian Loftis, Kayson Lycos, Haley McDonnell*, Alyssa McGalliard*, Branden McGowan, Leah Nichols*, Brianna Pease*, Dylan Preadmore*, Hunter Rhodes*, Carli Ross*, Brennan Slick-Robinson*, Ethen Stiffler*, Chrystian Surline, William Thompson*, Taliyah Turner*, Reagan Tyler*, Jocelyn Underwood, Toby VanWyck*, Ashlee Weeks, Tyler Wyatt*
*denotes all A's

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**Santa Claus to be special guest at
Fowlerville VFW's Country Breakfast**

The Fowlerville VFW is hosting a Country Breakfast with Santa Claus as the special guest on Sunday, Dec. 16. The breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to noon, with Santa expected to arrive around 9 a.m. Cost is \$7 for adults, with children under 12 served for free. VFW Post 6464 is located at 215 Veterans Drive. Any questions, call 517-223-9842.

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Fowlerville celebrates Christmas in the ‘Ville



Fowlerville celebrated Christmas in the ‘Ville on Saturday, December 1. Despite rainy weather during the afternoon and at the start of the parade the scheduled activities drew participants and spectators. Having a bowl of soup at St. John’s Lutheran Church were, front row, from left, Alden Killinger, Mercedes Myers, Wendy Myers, Ken Myers, Hunter Myers; back row, Patty Killinger, Rebecca Wood, Xavier Wood, and Donovan Myers.



Having lunch at St. John’s Lutheran Church were, from left, Lindsey Palm, Kailey Fowler, Jennifer Fowler, Danzig Fowler, and in back, Libby Palm.



St. John’s Lutheran Church hosted a Soup Lunch & Cookie Walk during the ‘Christmas in the Ville’ celebration on Saturday, Dec. 1. Among those helping out were, from left, Gloria Towns, Jane Halliday, Pat Heath, Linda Humrich and in back, Val Bougher.



Michelle Brock, left, and daughter Kaylee Brock, both of Williamston, offered these Christmas trees at the Winter Wonderland Craft Show. The business is called Vintage Rose.



The Place of Refuge Church was the site of the Winter Wonderland Craft Show on Saturday, Dec. 1. Jeanne Dillingham was among those with items on sale. She calls her business Jeanne Bears.



Don Dryer of Fowlerville, left, and Bob Budzek of Gregory were helping operate Burny B Enterprises which featured several creations using re-purposed horse shoes. The craft business is owned by Burny Buckner of Howell who does Metal & Horse Shoe Art.



Pictured here are: Alisha Tuttle, Heidi Tuttle, and Nevaeh Townsend operating their table called Shabby Chic and Pretty Things.



Taking part in the Scavenger Hunt were, from left, Tom Chambers, Riley Yarbrough, and Kay Chambers. The Chambers of Fowlerville had brought their eight-year-old granddaughter, who lives in Dearborn, to the festivities.



Aleta’s Flowers & Gift Shop once again hosted a coloring contest. Shown here, at left, is Sara Hackenberg, who is an exchange student at Howell High School and comes from Austria. She is 16 and a senior. With her is a member of the family hosting her stay—eight-year-old Delaney Stropkai.



Youngsters who stopped by White Barn Designs got a chance to put together a snack bag of chex mix and have their photo taken. Shown here were, from left, Brandie Cyman, Tonya Panicacci, age 7, and Tony Panicacci—all from Fowlerville.



Among those serving food at the Fowlerville Fire Department's Chili Dinner were, from left, in front, Tyler Dailey and Kayla Donohoe; and in back, Bob Feig, Gary Cameron, Annette Villerot, and Sean Donohoe.



Enjoying a chili dinner after visiting with Santa Claus were the Stropkai Family of Howell. From left were Mike and Nicole, eight-year-old Delaney, and also Sara Hackenberg, an exchange student from Austria who is staying with them this school year. Nicole noted that the family has been the first in line to see Santa Claus for the past four years.



The Pet Parade, held at the Centennial Park Gazebo, drew nine entries despite the rainy weather. The top finishers were, from left, Heather Montgomery with Roxie who won the event, Brogan Smith with Poppy who took second, and Elizabeth Howe with Hannah who placed third.



Taking part in the Pet Parade were, from left, Brooke Krueger with Banjo, Julia Johnson with Zoey, Kathy Black with Luna, Gabe Minock with Reeces, Margaret Minock with Gunner, and Debbie Lybrink with Daisy Mae.

Kern Road Veterinary Clinic once again sponsored the Pet Parade—a tradition at Christmas in the Ville. Staff members who ran the event were, from left, Amy Kirchen, Dr. Bernadette Hermann, and Jennifer Koprince.



The Fowlerville Police Department had the SUV at the Main Four Corners, accepting donations of food and other items for the Family Impact Center. Helping 'Stuff the Cop Car' were, from left, Belinda and Tom Bailey of Fowlerville and their five-year-old granddaughter, Kristianne Daniels. With them is Officer Dylan Lorenz.



Gannon Dodd, age 2, was among the dozens of area youngsters who visited with Santa Claus both before and after the parade. Santa was at the Fire Hall and also took part in the parade. Gannon is the son of Kevin and April Dodd of Fowlerville.



Kodet's Hardware decorated the upstairs of their store and offered the visiting youngsters a chance to make an ornament. Among those doing that was Allisen Martin-Panoff of Fowlerville, the five-year-old daughter of Christa Panoff and Todd Martin.



Jim and Ashley Kodet assisted the children in making ornaments at Kodet's Hardware on Saturday, Dec. 1.

More photos on page 27

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Fowlerville High Dance Team wins first-ever championship in jazz competition

The Fowlerville High School Dance Team won its first-ever championship, winning the jazz competition during an event held at Coopersville on Saturday, Dec. 1.

The team also had a great day in the hip hop competition, placing third. Last year the team received numerous awards, including best choreography.

The team began six years ago. It was started with student coaches, including current coach and choreographer Marissa Leonard and FHS graduate Darian Huetner.

Darian now is a dancer, captain, and recruiter for the Ferris State dance team, while Marissa is a senior at Michigan State University where she dances competitively, recruits, and is a captain for the MSU Elite dance team. She also teaches at Maria’s School Of Dance.

The Dance Team is a self-funded club at FHS . Members are grateful to the many volunteers who help, including Maria Usher for free use of her studio, parents for assisting with additional practice gymnasiums, photography, and fundraising, Coach Marissa for volunteering her time, Coach Jonas for letting the team perform at several basketball halftimes, and & Mr. Osborn (the athletic director) for his support in the growth of the team.



Team members include Sydney Bush, Brianna Davison, Stephanie Krueger, Bekah Leonard, Lydia Luark, Aubrae Miller, Lottie Moorehouse, Lauren Murray, Nathan Redford, Marla Rose, Claire Schwarz, Gabby Shields, Coco Simons, Bre Wallner, Shelby Walter, Ava Yon and Willow Yon.

The team was back in action this past Saturday (Dec. 8), competing at Brighton High School. They will compete in team jazz & hip hop as well as several solos & duets. They plan to also perform at five home basketball games this year: Tuesday, Dec. 18, Friday, Jan. 11, Friday, Feb. 1, Friday, Feb. 8, and Friday, Feb. 22.

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NETWORK

Fowlerville Christmas Parade features over 70 entries

The Fowlerville Christmas in the Ville Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 1, was culminated with the lighting of the community Christmas Tree at 6 p.m., followed by the annual Christmas Parade. This was the 26th year that the parade has helped usher in the holiday season for area residents. There were 72 entries in the line-up with the Nelson Family—Scott, Kim, and Racquel—serving as Grand Marshals. Scott is the owner of Nelson’s Collision, a business located west of town. Rainy weather kept the crowds down from previous years, but several thousand people were still lined along both sides of Grand River to watch the assorted floats, the lighted trucks and machines, the high school marching band, the horses and dogs,

Card of Thanks

Thank you to all the Christmas in the Ville parade participants for braving the weather on Saturday, December 1st. Your participation makes the parade uniquely Fowlerville. To all that participated, we will be mailing out 2019 packets in August. Mark your calendars to watch for them. We thank everyone that came out to watch the parade and enjoyed the day’s activities. See everyone next year.

Fowlerville Christmas Parade Committee

the Fowlerville Homecoming King & Queen, the Livingston County Homemaker of the Year, the hot air balloonists shooting off flames, and Santa Claus riding in his sleigh.

Parade Photos by Deb Utter



Michelle Soli began the Christmas Parade by singing the National Anthem. Next to her is Steve MacDermaid from Edward Jones who was the parade announcer.



The tree lighting is one of the highlights of the evening festivities.



Chamberlin Pony Rides had this float featuring live animals and a dancing unicorn.



Fowlerville First United Methodist Church and Heartstrings Learning Center had this float in the parade.



Coldwell Banker’s float featured this cozy house complete with smoking chimney.



Both Girl and Boy Scout troops were well represented in the parade. Shown here is the float of Girl Scout Troop 30362.



Candyland was the theme of this float featuring giant candy canes and lollipops.



Citizens Insurance / Hanover Insurance Group had this float with many popular movie characters aboard.



The Fowlerville Community Theatre’s Wizard of Oz float was promoting their upcoming performance of the play next May.



Parade Grand Marshals Scott and Kim Nelson are pictured here enjoying the parade.



Remax Platinum once again featured their lighted gazebo in the parade.



Grampy's Auto Parts had their mini vehicles driving on the parade route.



Fowlerville Homecoming Queen Dalaija Franklin and King Corey Lempman ride in this Jeep driven by Nelson Cypher provided by Dick Scott Motor Mall.



Wicked Jeeps of South East Michigan had a number of decorated Jeeps entered in the parade. This one was featured a Margaritaville design.



This LESA bus was decked out with lights and different scenes on its sides.



This float was entered by Jane's Garage.



This float full of lighted animals was entered by Fowlerville Feed & Pet Supplies.



Signature Signs' float featured Santa's Toy Factory.



Reggie's Barber & Beauty Salon had this float in the parade that showed people having fun in the snow.

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8:30 am to 10:30 am

Webberville United Methodist Women
at
Webberville United Methodist Church
4215 E. Holt Road
(corner of Holt Road & M-52)

NOTICE TO LEROY
TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

A special meeting of the Leroy Township Board of Review will be held Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at Leroy Township Hall located at 1685 N. M-52, Webberville at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of correcting any mutual mistakes of fact, qualified errors or clerical errors in the description on the 2018 Winter Tax Roll, Principal Residence Exemptions and Veteran's Exemptions.

No public appeals will be heard at this time.

Earl Griffes
Leroy Township Supervisor
Board of Review Secretary
(12-9-18 FNV)

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Webberville Report

Pictured are members: Jake Bales, Jeffrey Michalski, Lydia Howard, Julia LaRue, John Walters, Zoe Hodge, Haley McDonnell, Katarina Haynes, Nathan Walker, Camden Jackson, Toby Van Wyck, Connor Hondzinski, Gavin Kubiak, Seth Wisuri, Skylar Byrne, Bailey Jenson, Chrystian Surline, Reagan Tyler, Rebecca Fraley, Alyssa McGalliard, Keith Haynes, and Jacob Friend.

Webberville FFA members win recent State Broiler Contest

Webberville FFA members were state winners in the FFA State Broiler Contest held recently at Munsell's Poultry Processing. Webberville had five teams whose members checked on the 200 chickens daily for five weeks in preparation for the contest. Their hard work paid off and led to five state winning teams.

“The broiler contest teaches us responsibility and the importance of the proper nutrients for the chickens and how to properly take care of animals,” said team leader and Chapter President Skylar Byrne. “I am very proud and appreciative for how hard everyone worked. Each member who participated gave it their all, and were eager to learn and put the skills to work during the contest.”

The chapter donates the broilers to the area food bank. Community members interested in broilers should contact the FFA 517.521.3447 ext. 7964

Calvary Baptist Church to present Christmas musical on Sunday, Dec. 16

Christmas is a time for joy and bringing hope to a hurting world – which is what the staff at the Bethlehem Inn strives to do every day of the holiday season for its guests! Throughout this musical, the theme of hope shines through as various characters face difficult, real-life circumstances. From a couple struggling financially, to a teenage runaway needing help when she finds herself homeless.

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM encourages us to remember a timeless truth... “when it seems you just can’t go on, there’s always hope.” There will be two free performances Sunday, Dec. 16, at 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM. All ages are welcome and nursery care will be provided. Calvary is located at 500 N Howard St in Webberville. You can find more information at www.webbervillechurch.org or call 517-521-4700.

Williamston Eagles offering live country music on New Year’s Eve

Williamston Eagles Club will be ringing in the new year with live country music from the Potts Road Band. A light dinner of smoked brisket or pulled pork sandwich with slaw and chips will be available for purchase from 6 pm until gone. (Kitchen closes at 9 pm so volunteers can enjoy the night.) Table snacks provided, also a champagne toast and balloon drop at midnight.

Potts Road plays a great selection of modern country music and is sure to please everyone! Gift basket raffles, card board game, Jello Shots, and fun! The New Year’s Eve party is open to the public with no cover charge. Doors open at 3 pm. Band takes the stage from 8:30 until 12:30 am. Club is located at 835 High Street. Call the club after 3 pm at 517-655-6510 for more info.

Senior Spotlight—Tyler Wyatt By Skylar Byrne

This week’s Senior Spotlight is none other than Tyler Wyatt. Wyatt the son of Heather and Joseph Wyatt and is a brother to 10th grader Austin and 6th grader Rachel Wyatt. Wyatt is extremely thankful for his family’s backing.

“I’m not sure of the person I would be without my family’s constant support,” said Wyatt. “How close we are, it is really special, and it has shaped me into who I am.”

Like his family, Wyatt admires how close the school and community of Webberville are, and aspires to help people because of the community he knows so well.

“Having a sense of community drove me to want to help that community,” said Wyatt. “I really just want to help people.”

Wyatt hopes to accomplish this goal of helping people by attending either Michigan State University or the University Michigan to study Kinesiology.

“I want to study Kinesiology because it’s such an interesting part of the medical field,” said Wyatt. “It’s also so interesting to learn about.”

While excited to begin a new adventure, Wyatt will be missed by his friends.

“He’s just a really nice person,” said William Thompson. “He always there to support and encourage me and other classmates.”

Not only will he be remembered by his classmates, but especially by his favorite teacher and band director Gary Franks.

“Tyler is going to be remembered as a positive person who never stops trying to improve himself,” said Mr. Franks. “Furthermore, I think teachers and students will remember him as someone who is moral, compassionate, and humorous.”

Wyatt was an active member in band and enjoyed playing at festivals and performing at concerts.

“Tyler’s passion for band carries out in the quality of music,” said fellow band member William Thompson.

Wyatt has been very active in athletics throughout high school. He will especially miss football.

“What I’ll miss the most about football are the people,” said Wyatt. “Football was temporary, but the friendships I’ve made are permanent.”

Out of school Wyatt enjoys spending time with friends, walking his dogs, and spending time with his family.

While Wyatt will be missed at Webberville High School, he can be proud of the huge impact he has left.

“His dedication and involvement throughout his school career in activities has been very admirable,” said Leah Nichols. “He just sets a great example for others to follow.”



Williamston Area Senior Center

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

3rd Annual Charity Chili Challenge – Wednesday, December 12, 2018 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Old Nation Brewing 1500 W. Grand River, Williamston, Michigan. Old Nation Brewing is the winner of our first two Chili Challenge now the competition is between their five great cooks. Cost: \$8.00 for one large bowl or \$11.00 for a flight of 5 small bowls. Please come and support your Williamston Area Senior Center.

Senior Citizen Potluck– come join us at the Williamston Area Senior Center Monday, December 17, 2018 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Please bring a dish or desert to pass and a nonperishable item that we will donate to the food bank. If you forget to bring a dish to share that is OK, just bring your check book for a donation to the Center.

Christmas Party – On Thursday, December 20, 2018. Christmas music by the Senior Class Band.

New Year Celebration - Thursday, December 27, 2018. Bring in the new year with a toast at the Williamston Area Senior Center.

Other December Activities at the Senior Center – On --Wednesday, December 12, 2018 the Williamston Area Library will conduct *Mind Games* for Seniors; on

--Wednesday, December 12, 2018 the *Williamston High School PALS and Choir* will perform Christmas Carols for the Williamston Seniors, in addition on

--Thursday, December 13, 2018 the elementary children from the *Memorial Lutheran School* will also sign Christmas Carols for our Seniors,

-- Tuesday December 18, 2018 *Belton* will provide hearing test,

--Wednesday, December 19, 2018 there will be a presentation on *Energy Saving Tips*. The presentation will be held at 12:30 pm at the Senior Center. Free coffee for all seniors Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm.

Enhance Fitness Class on Tuesday and Thursday 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. No pre-registration required. The Williamston Community Programming Office is located at 3939 Vanneter Rd. Williamston, MI.; telephone number 517-655-7510. (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.

Tuesday Knitters Group – meets from 1:15 pm to 3:00 pm.

On any October 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.

Webberville Community School News

Please help the Webberville Student Council, National Honor Society and Webberville Dean Transportation staff by supporting the second annual STUFF THE BUS event on Saturday, Dec. 8, at the Leroy Township Fire Hall. Drive by the station after the tree lighting and parade to drop off non-perishable food items, diapers, wipes, toiletries, new toys and monetary donations for the local food bank. Everything you give will help families in our community. Together we can all help make a difference this holiday season!

The Webberville Music Programs invite you to the following December performances:

--Webberville Middle and High School Choirs Holiday Concert on Monday, December 10, 7:00 PM in the Webberville Middle and High School Cafetorium.

--Webberville Middle and High School Bands Holiday Concert on Wednesday, December 12, 7:00 PM in the Webberville Middle School Gym.

The Webberville Competitive Cheer Team is holding a fundraiser at Ellie's Country Kitchen on Sunday, December 9, from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. Come enjoy a dinner served by the team and 100% of the tips and a portion of the proceeds go to the team.

The Webberville FFA Chapter is holding an apparel, fruit and nut sale on Monday, December 10 and Wednesday, December 12. This is a perfect opportunity to support your local FFA chapter and purchase holiday gifts for friends and family! Chapter members will be on hand in room 164 of Webberville High School on sale days from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. Please contact the FFA office at 517-521-3447 extension 7964 for more details.

Crossroads United Methodist Church to serve pancake breakfast Dec. 15

Kids in the Williamston/Perry/Haslett/Okemos areas can enjoy a pancake breakfast and Christmas story and make a variety of Christmas crafts at an open house planned this season at Crossroads United Methodist Church. The church is located at the corner of Haslett and Zimmer Roads east of Haslett and north of Williamston.

The church will offer the fun free of charge from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, December 15. For details, contact the church at 517/655-1466, email at office.umccrossroads@gmail.com, and find the church on Facebook.

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TriCounty 4-H Club shares Christmas carols & more at Perry facility

TriCounty 4-H Club members, along with some leaders and parents, made homemade cards and wrapped up some goodies and shared some Christmas carols with the residents of Olive Branch in Perry, on Dec. 1. It was wonderful to share the true meaning of Christmas, giving to others

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Fowlerville News & Views



-DEADLINE THURSDAY BY 3PM-

LOST ADULT ORANGE TABBY CAT. Missing vicinity of Judd and Cedar Roads since Oct. 12. Please call with information. Sharon at 517-521-3594.

DIRECT CARE STAFF NEEDED: To take care of disabled adults in Howell. Valid driver’s license required with clean driving record. Call Sam (517) 548-4495 or (517) 545-9921.

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EPIC SPORTSMAN’S AUCTION Live & Simulcast Bidding 11:00 AM Sunday, December 16, Leslie Event Center 169 S Main Street Leslie, MI 49251 Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Muzzleloaders, Archery. Pre-bid and details at www.EpicAuctionsAndEstateSales.com 734-320-9627.

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NOTICE OF SALE
A liquidation sale will be held on **December 26** at **10am** to dispense of the items stored in the following units:
Thomas Huey O-273
Joyce Rose P-252
This sale is subject to cancellation without notice.

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Fowlerville Christmas in the Ville Celebrated



Members of the Livingston Legacies 4-H Club were selling cookies at Shear Image during the recent Christmas in the Ville celebration in Fowlerville to raise money for public service projects. The club is in its first year. Shown here, from left, front row, were Gracie Ruttman, Alice Krebs, Grayson Patterson, Avery Clemons, Addison Kromer, Kirsten Patterson, Emmalee Shull, Peyton Ruttman; middle row, Ruby Krebs and Raegan Kramer; back row, Nancy Krebs (leader), Ann Clemons (leader) and Adriann Clemons. Missing was Tracy Patterson (leader).



The raining weather and overcast skies kept the hot air balloons grounded during this year's Balloons Over the Ville. But the balloonists had their baskets and burners situated around the downtown, helping keep the area warm and adding a bit of fire to the festivities. Mark Lytle of Portage, who brought his Rerun balloon, was one of the participants.

Congresswoman-elect Slotkin urges passage of campaign finance reform

Congresswoman-elect Elissa Slotkin is urging passage of campaign finance reform. Slotkin joined End Citizens United Action Fund, House Majority Leader-elect Steny Hoyer, and other members-elect last week in a tele-press conference about the mandate voters gave to Democrats to pass a sweeping anti-corruption and clean elections bill as the first item of the new Congress.

Congresswoman-elect Slotkin noted that she ran on a platform to curb the influence of money in politics and increase government accountability. In October, Slotkin led Democratic House candidates in the signing of a letter to

make campaign finance legislation a priority for the 116th Congress.

This past January she she launched her campaign, Slotkin announced that she would not take Corporate PAC money, stating: "Our campaign finance system is broken -- and voters know it in their bones. We have seen how the vast sums of money in our elections have given corporations undue influence over Congress, putting the interests of powerful insiders and corporations ahead of constituents"



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FOWLERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2018 TREASURE BOND PROGRAM HIGH SCHOOL CHILLER REPLACEMENT

Fowlerville Community School District will receive proposals for Fowlerville High School Chiller Replacement project located at 700 N. Grand Avenue, Fowlerville, MI 48836 for the 2018 Treasure Bond Program.

The bidding documents consist of plans and specifications as prepared by Mielock Associates, Inc., 114 Rayson Street, Suite 2C, Northville, MI 48167. Documents may be downloaded from Pipeline Suites. Contact Evan Jacobs or Shawn Debo at the George W. Auch Company 248-334-2000 if you need assistance viewing or obtaining documents from Pipeline Suites. A copy of the documents will also be available for review at the offices of the George W. Auch Co., 65 University Drive, Pontiac, MI 48342, (248)-334-2000, on or after Friday December 7th, 2018.

A Pre-Bid meeting will be held at Fowlerville Community Schools Facility & Maintenance Building, located at 7577 Sharpe Road, Fowlerville, MI 48836 on Thursday December 13th, 2018 at 2:00PM. Site visits will follow the pre-bid meeting.

The envelope bearing your proposal must identify your company, the proposal being bid and addressed to the attention of Wayne Roedel, Superintendent, Fowlerville Community Schools, 7677 Sharpe Road, Suite A, Fowlerville, MI 48836. Bids must be delivered no later than **Friday December 21st, 2018 at 12:00 noon**, to Fowlerville Community School District at the address noted above or the George W. Auch Company. Each proposal must be submitted on the forms furnished by the construction manager and must be completed in full. Each proposal shall be sealed in an opaque envelope and marked with the name of the bidder. A bid bond executed by a **U.S. Treasury listed surety company** acceptable to the owner, or a cashier's check in the amount of at least 5% of the sum of the proposal payable to Fowlerville Community Schools shall be submitted with each proposal in excess of **\$24,459.00**. All proposals shall be firm for a period of sixty (60) days.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at a meeting convened at the Fowlerville Community Schools Administration Building located at 7677 Sharpe Road, Suite A, Fowlerville, MI 48836 starting at Friday December 21st, 2018 at 2:00PM.

Successful bidders whose proposals are \$50,000 or more will be required to furnish a Satisfactory Performance and Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of their bid. The cost of the Bond shall be included in each proposal.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids in whole or in part and to waive any informalities therein. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept that bid which in its opinion, is in the best interest of the Owner.

Sheila Burkhardt
Secretary Board of Education
Fowlerville Community Schools
(12-9-18 FNV)



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Drama in lame-duck: Good government reform or naked power grab?

By Lindsay VanHulle
Bridge Magazine

Good government or a naked power grab?

The debate was sparked this past week by a flurry of bills introduced in the waning days of Republicans’ eight-year control of all branches of Michigan government. And it promises a contentious lame-duck session as the GOP-controlled Legislature winds down its two-year term in late December.

Republicans will still control the Legislature come January, but Democrats, led by Gov.-elect Gretchen Whitmer, are taking control of top elected offices from Republicans.

Democrats and good-government watchdog groups say the GOP bills are an obvious attempt to hold on to as much power as they can before they lose it. Republicans say the reforms are overdue, and they’d support them even if they didn’t control the Legislature.

Among the bills introduced in the first week of the lame-duck session:

--**House Bill 6553**, sponsored by state Rep. Rob VerHeulen, R-Walker, would allow the Legislature to intervene in court when one or both chambers “deems such intervention necessary in order to protect any right or interest of this state, or of that body.” The bill would give the Legislature the same right as any other party to a lawsuit to ask for an appeal.

--**Senate Bill 1250**, sponsored by state Sen. David Robertson, R-Grand Blanc, would move responsibility for enforcement of state campaign finance law from the Secretary of State’s office to a new, bipartisan commission consisting of three Republicans and three Democrats appointed by the governor from lists of candidates provided by state political parties.

--**Senate Bill 1176**, sponsored by incoming Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake, passed in the Senate. The bill would *prohibit disclosure of donors to nonprofit groups* organized under the federal Internal Revenue Code’s Section 501(c). That would include charitable organizations, as well as groups that engage in political activity. The only way the information could be disclosed is through a court order.

--**Senate Bill 1197**, introduced by state Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba would authorize the Mackinac Bridge Authority to operate a tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac as part of enabling Gov. Rick Snyder’s recent deal with Canadian energy giant Enbridge Inc. to replace the aging and controversial Line 5 pipeline. Democrats say the bill could make it tougher for Whitmer and Attorney General-elect Dana Nessel to follow through on campaign promises to shut down Line 5.

--Republicans in the state Senate also introduced legislation to implement two voter-approved constitutional amendments, to create an independent redistricting commission and expand access to voting in Michigan. Democratic Secretary of State-elect Jocelyn Benson will play a significant role in managing both efforts.

Term-limited Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican, hasn’t tipped his hat as to whether he’d sign any of the controversial bills if they reach his desk.

Aside from urging lawmakers to advance his priority issues to raise money to pay for recycling and environmental cleanups, “he is not taking a formal position on anything,” spokesman Ari Adler said, adding the governor “never been one for horse-trading.”

Michigan is not the only state experiencing such tests on shifting power. In Wisconsin, Republicans reportedly are discussing ways in which they might limit incoming Democratic Gov.-elect Tony Evers’ authority, billed as a check on the growing powers of the executive branch. Similar

efforts have been tried, and litigated, in North Carolina.

“There’s no question that once the governor changes parties, that creates a new incentive for the Republican-controlled Legislature to try to No. 1, do things before the new governor comes in, and No. 2, do things that might keep power in the hands of the Legislature,” said Matt Grossmann, director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University.

Secretary of State-elect Benson was more blunt, calling the legislative effort an “end run around democracy” on a recent radio show.

“Every voter in the state of Michigan should be outraged, because if any of these things go through, it creates a dangerous precedent,” she said in an interview on WJR in Detroit.

“If it was Democrats in charge and Republicans coming into office, it’s just as terrible,” Benson said. “What’s happening right now in the 11th hour is a complete eradication of the voters’ power.”

CAMPAIGN FINANCE LEGISLATION

Shirkey said his bill to prevent disclosure of donors is a free-speech protection that would prevent donors to nonprofits such as Right to Life from harassment.

“I don’t think anybody should be exposed to somebody infringing upon their freedom of speech by the choices they make as to where they spend their money,” he told Bridge Magazine.

He said his bill would not restrict the attorney general’s ability to investigate fraud actors, but would require a court order.

Craig Mauger, executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, said the campaign finance-related bills would limit a Democratic administration from setting rules to increase transparency around money in politics.

He and Benson both noted the likelihood that a bipartisan commission could deadlock, rendering enforcement of campaign finance violations impossible.

“It’s pretty clear what’s happening,” Mauger said of the political maneuvering. “The desire among some of these people to conceal where their money is coming from is very troubling.”

Said Shirkey on critics’ pushback: “You always find what you’re looking for.”

MORE LEGISLATIVE INFLUENCE IN COURT

Gideon D’Assandro, a spokesman for Republican House Speaker Tom Leonard, said the bill to allow the Legislature to intervene in court cases is intended to give lawmakers a stronger voice in the process as more state legislation tends to be challenged in court.

Leonard lost the Nov. 6 election for attorney general to Nessel and has said he would support VerHeulen’s bill even if Democrats controlled the Legislature and he had won the election.

“If it passes, there’s not a four-year sunset on it, or an eight-year sunset on it,” D’Assandro said. “The intent is for this to be a thing available to the Legislature from here on out.”

Nessel is “deeply concerned and troubled” by how quickly the bill came up in lame-duck session, and that it “appears to be an intentional effort on the part of some legislators to undermine the role of the state’s Attorney General,” transition spokeswoman Kelly Rossman-McKinney said in a statement.

D’Assandro denied the bill is intended to thwart Nessel, who said during her campaign that she didn’t intend to defend laws that were unconstitutional, and that lawmakers already can compel the attorney general to defend state laws.

LONG-TERM IMPACT

Taken together, these efforts in Michigan and other states indicate that political norms are eroding and will continue to erode public trust and contribute to gridlock, said Peverill Squire, a political science professor at the University of Missouri.

“This is short-term thinking at its worst,” he wrote to Bridge via email.

“Legislatures operate most efficiently and effectively when norms of reciprocity are observed and when members do not burn bridges in an attempt to get what they want now. This is true even in term-limited bodies. Thus, the majorities engaging in these actions are inviting others to take similar steps when they take control.”

If the GOP is successful at passing the measures, Squire said, they could pay a hefty cost leading into 2020: “They will have poisoned their relationship with the incoming governor. Their Democratic colleagues will feel free to obstruct the majority at every turn. And of course, if Republicans lose control of either or both of the chambers following the 2020 or 2022 elections they may wish that they hadn’t engaged in these sorts of shenanigans.”

This article was published in Bridge, an online publication.

THE CONVERSATION

Social Security helped slash elderly poverty; that triumph is now in jeopardy
By David W. Rasmussen
Professor of Economics, Florida State University

In 1959, more than a third of all elderly Americans lived in poverty. Slashing that number to under 10 percent by the late 1990s was among the great U.S. triumphs of the 20th century. Social Security deserves a large share of the credit.

I believe eliminating old-age poverty entirely could one day be deemed a triumph of the 21st century. Even sustaining it at 10 percent would be a significant achievement.

But that meager goal is in serious jeopardy. My research shows more Americans are increasingly struggling to save enough for their later years. And one of the main ways they have left, Social Security, is just 15 years away from going broke.

This leads me to ask one question: Do Americans want to return to a time when so many of their elders died in poverty?

Since its advent in 1935, Social Security has been one leg of Americans’ three-legged retirement stool. The other two have been the wide availability of defined benefit retirement plans and personal savings supported by broadly shared economic prosperity.

This stool turned out to be remarkably successful by reducing the poverty rate among Americans aged 65 and older from as high as 78 percent in 1939 to 35 percent in 1959 – as Social Security benefits began kicking in – to 10 percent by 1995.

But in recent decades, the defined benefit plans and worker savings legs have become increasingly wobbly. If they break entirely, saving Social Security becomes even more vital.

For much of the 20th century, defined benefit plans promised an annual lifetime payment determined by salary and played an important role in the financial security of many households with residents over 65.

Rising life expectancies required companies to pay out benefits for much longer, making them more expensive and risky. Coupled with uncertain investment returns, companies have been getting rid of them in a hunt for savings and more profits for shareholders. Only 16 percent of Fortune 500 companies offered such plans in 2017, compared with 59 percent just two decades ago.

The Department of Labor reports that the number of active participants in these pension programs as a percent of the labor force peaked in 1981 at 28 percent. Only about 9 percent participated in 2015.

Instead, they’ve shifted to defined contribution plans like the 401(k), placing the financial risk of retirement on workers.

That might have been OK, had working and middle-class Americans continued to share in the nation’s prosperity.

But increasingly, that is not happening.

That’s in part because employment growth in the U.S. is now concentrated among highly skilled workers and low-paying service sector jobs, leaving fewer and fewer positions that provide enough income to set aside money for savings.

My research shows job opportunities are increasing most rapidly in positions that pay less than US\$30,000 thanks to automation as well as the growing demand for personal services – and the accompanying low wages. These types of jobs do not share as much in the fruits of economic growth.

In short, the American dream, characterized by the hope that children will have a higher standard of living than their parents, is fading. Ninety percent of children born in 1940 made more than their parents at age 30, but only 50 percent of those born in 1984 had higher income at that age.

This means many more Americans will not be able to set aside much money for retirement, whether in terms of personal savings or a plan like a 401(k) or an IRA. And it’s why personal savings is the shortest leg on the retirement financial stool and it will become shorter as a result of widening income inequality.

Without more revenue, Social Security will have to cut benefits by 2034. Even if current benefits are sustained, increasing low wage employment will result in lower benefits because they are determined by lifetime earnings.

HOW NOT TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

That brings us back to Social Security, perhaps the last leg still standing for tens of millions of Americans as they head toward their twilight years in the coming decades. Increasing benefits for some Social Security recipients is required to avoid increasing poverty among retirees.

The system was designed so that today’s workers pay for today’s retirees. Back in 1960, there were 5.1 workers for every recipient. That ratio is projected to fall to 2.6 in 2020. This fact, coupled with increasing life expectancy, is behind the system’s impending fiscal crisis, putting the Social Security Trust Fund into deficit.

Republicans have typically argued that the best way to

Continued on next page

Two views on paid sick leave legislation



Even amended, Michigan's paid sick leave would cost employers \$1.1 billion

Commentary by James M. Hohman

The supporters of the paid sick leave ballot proposal are upset that the Legislature is considering amendments to it. They argue that the amendments “gut” the proposal. But even with the changes and even with improving the compliance problems the original proposal creates, this remains an expensive mandate on employers that will likely do many employees more harm than good.

The proposal originally required that workers get one hour of paid leave for every 30 hours they work, up to nine days per year for larger employers and five for smaller companies. The amendments changed this to 40 hours and a cap of 4.5 days annually.

While the majority of employers already offer paid sick leave, the proposal and the amendments makes these benefits mandatory. Given the breakdowns for the number of employees covered, the proportion of business establishments with fewer than 10 workers, the proportion of part-time workers as a percentage of the workforce, the average hours worked by part-time employees, and the average hourly wage, the proposal requires an estimated \$7.1 billion in benefits to be paid out. The amendments reduce this mandate to about \$3.4 billion.

That is not the increased cost of the benefits, though, it is only the cost of the mandate. Employers already providing benefits at these rates won't face new costs. Assuming that all employers providing paid leave benefits offer them at levels at least as generous as the new mandate, and that Michigan offers the same proportion of paid leave benefits as the regional average, employers are going to need to provide an estimated \$2.3 billion in new benefits. The amendments proposed by the Legislature reduce this to about \$1.1 billion.

Even the amended mandate will cost businesses more than the corporate income taxes this year. And it does not include the extra human resources costs to comply with the mandate.

There may be some further unintended consequences if employers are required to pay \$2.3 billion or \$1.1 billion in paid leave benefits. They have options to lower their costs

Social Security, continued

fix the system is to cut benefits and encourage more workers to save through savings plans like 401(k)s and IRAs. A bill that would erase the Social Security deficit for the rest of this century would cut benefits for 75 percent of recipients – requiring them to save on their own, which is not an option for workers stuck in low-wage employment.

The only alternative for those financially unprepared for retirement will be to continue to work into their 70s and beyond. But substantial evidence has shown that opportunities to work in the retirement years are greatest for the best-educated and highly skilled. That leaves the rest – the vast majority – in dire straits.

The result seems inevitable: More Americans will grow old in poverty.

Whether Americans will tolerate more poverty among retirees is a political question. And I believe this debate should be about values as much as affordability.

The fact that other highly developed countries spend more to support their retirees makes clear the reducing poverty among retirees is a matter of commitment, not affordability.

So if Americans agree that our elders should never again return to having to age in poverty, there are several ways we can shore up the Social Security system.

One involves extending the Social Security tax to include all earnings: In 2018 it was levied on only the first \$128,000 of income. Another is more controversial but may be necessary: use general government revenue, financed by higher taxes on the wealthy, to permanently ensure Social Security remains a bedrock of retirement.

While increasing taxes is hard, the only question is whether we have the political will to do so.

This article was originally published at www.theconversation.com

elsewhere. They may cut back on vacation days. That would be a loss for employees that would prefer to have vacation days rather than paid sick leave. Or they may drop the average wage rates. Or they might lay off employees as the mandatory costs of employment increase.

Bottom line: These new mandatory costs will be paid for by reductions in spending elsewhere, and it's likely that most businesses will have no options but to make changes that will result in more employees being worse off than before. As others have put it, there's no free lunch.

While the amended mandate is still an expensive requirement, it fixes the compliance problems of the proposal. The proposal gave little recourse for employers to ensure that benefits were being used for allowable purposes. An employee could be a “no-call, no-show” with impunity.

The business could not even request an explanation about why an employee was missing work until the worker missed three straight days. Complaints from employees could give them a “rebuttable presumption” that employers were violating their rights and subject employers to court costs, double damages and a fine of up to \$1,000. The amendments do away with these rules and let employers use their already-established processes for managing paid sick leave benefits.

The amendments to the paid sick leave proposal leave the essential features of the policy intact. They make it less burdensome and allow employers to keep their enforcement policies. This is far from “gutting” the original proposal, as it leaves the essential structures in place.

This column was published by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.



Gutting paid sick leave disrespects voters, undermines democracy

Commentary by Yousef Rabhi

Those wondering why so many citizens trust government so little need only look at the current cynical effort by Republican lawmakers to undermine paid sick leave policies advocated by Michigan's voters and passed by those same Republican lawmakers in September.

Michigan's constitution starts with the lines, “All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for their equal benefit, security and protection.”

Apparently, the outgoing GOP leadership in the Legislature has decided to amend that to “All political power is inherent in our political action committee contributors.”

The failure of our political leaders to trust voters is undermining democracy in our state, and it is part of the reason Republican politicians are failing in statewide elections. In fact, only the ruthless 2011 Republican gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts leave them with any power after Democrats took nearly every statewide office in the Nov. 6 election. Democrats won a majority of votes statewide, but gerrymandering let Republicans retain control of the House and Senate.

Thanks to Proposal 2, partisan gerrymandering will be illegal next time around – a proposal that received support from 61 percent of state voters, but which was opposed by Republican Party leaders in another case of not trusting “the people.”

It's time for politicians to trust the people – starting by killing *SB 1175*, now in the state Senate, which is a tool to undermine the earned paid sick leave policies approved only a few months ago.

This summer, more than 400,000 persons signed petitions supporting an initiated law instituting mandatory paid sick leave in our state. Polls showed it was poised to pass with large majorities of voters if it reached the Nov. 6 ballot. That's not surprising: Everyone agrees someone who is sick should be able to stay home and get well without the threat of being fired or losing pay. And anyone who says they believe in family should be willing to support the ability of a mother to stay home with a sick child. In fact, we have those policies in place with our staff in the Legislature.

Republicans voted in September to approve this measure. It's the law of the land, *Public Act 338* of 2018. It is good policy. And it's good politics, as the results of the November election show women flocking to support candidates who are

pro-worker and pro-middle class.

But now the GOP leadership is moving to gut the very law they just voted for. It's one of the dirtiest political moves since Republicans overrode the will of voters who in 2012 ended the state's autocratic emergency manager law. Turning their backs on voters, GOP lawmakers and Gov. Rick Snyder reinstated an emergency manager law – and then Snyder appointed czars who poisoned the city of Flint. The voters, as usual, knew best.

The new bill would exempt any company with fewer than 50 workers, and not include any part time workers – even though many people in today's service industry world are forced to work two or more jobs because employers refuse to give them a regular 40 hour a week job. It also has other exemptions, so that more than half of state workers would not be eligible for sick leave under this callous bill.

A standing attorney general's opinion says this action is illegal. And the advocates of this law are ready to start collecting signatures again for the 2020 ballot – meaning anybody who votes for this bill will be held accountable in the next election.

Snyder and Republican leaders, it's time you listened to the voters, not those PAC contributors who want to be able to fire workers who stay home when sick, or require parents to send sick children to school because they can't stay home with them. You were able to ignore the voters and restore the flawed emergency manager law in 2013 because of gerrymandering. You won't be able to hide in 2022.

Trust the voters. And help restore trust in our political institutions.

Remember: “All political power is inherent in the people.”

Stop trying to gut the paid sick leave law.

Yousef Rabhi is the House Democratic Floor Leader-Elect and a representative from Ann Arbor. This commentary was printed in Bridge, an online publication.

Arc of Livingston Parent Support Group to meet on Monday, Dec. 17

Arc of Livingston Parent Support Group, parents supporting parents of children and adults with disabilities, meet every month. Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month and will include presentations and/or discussions on topics of interest to parents. Attendance is free. Meetings are held at Two Brothers Coffee Brew and Eatery 423 W Main St, Brighton, MI 48116 10am-11:30am. To RSVP visit www.arclivingston.org/parentsupportgroup or call The Arc at 517-546-1228. Next meeting: December 17th.

Foster Parent Information meeting being presented by Catholic Charities

Livingston County Catholic Charities (LCCC) is holding an informational meeting for persons interested in learning more about foster care. Currently there are not enough local homes to accommodate abused and/or neglected children to keep them close to their home of origin in order to maintain stability in their lives. Do you have room in your heart and home for one more child? Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month from 5pm–7pm at LCCC, 2020 E. Grand River #101, Howell. Call Amanda today to reserve your spot 517-545-5944.

Fowlerville High Class of 1969 seeking contact information for classmates

The Fowlerville High School Class of 1969 is making plans for its 50th year reunion. A class party is planned on Friday, June 7, at the Woodshire Place, and the class will be honored at the annual Fowlerville Alumni Banquet the following evening, Saturday, June 8, at the high school.

Contact information is sought for several classmates. If known, please contact Steve Horton at 517-223-8760 (the Fowlerville News & Views office) or email: fowlervilleneeds@gmail.com

Those classmates include: Lynda Bicker, Jack Bell, Lorraine Blanton, Carol Breslin, Carol Brown, Richard Bush, Rodney Caskey, Ruth Curtis, Karen Darnell, Katherine Dendel, Roberta Dyko, Lynda Dysinger, Terry Gunsell, Thomas Heilner, May Lou Higdon, Andrew Johnson, Nancy Kelly, William Kozma, Denise Lang, Roy Melvin, Mary Lou Nelson, Gordon Nicols, Michael Phillips, Christopher Roy, Gordon Saunders, Charles Scott, Shelia Thompson, Jimmy Walker, Michelle Walters, Darlene Watters, James Wegienka, and Allen Wright.

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Pastor Tom Tarpley

Keep Your Eye on the Prize

“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you” (Isa. 26:3)!

Trusting God is easy when our jobs are secure, our financial obligations are being met, our children are behaving, our health is good and our family members are doing well and everything is running smoothly. However, trusting God in the storms of life can be a little more difficult. Finding peace in the midst of trials and misfortunes requires a strong faith in God and a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ.

When we come face-to-face with unpleasant circumstances such as chronic illness, broken relationships, distress over finances, civil unrest in our country or any number of other situations in which we find ourselves involved, trusting in God and waiting for His direction and guidance is almost impossible if we are not closely connected to Him and spending time daily in His presence. Remaining focused on God is essential if we want to experience His Peace as we travel through this life.

As I think back to the times in my life when I have felt the most overwhelmed and the most defeated, it has always been during a season when I had allowed my attention and focus to drift away from God and the things He views as important.

The Bible tells us in Philippians 4:8: *“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”* These are the kinds of things we need to spend our time thinking about. Instead, most of us allow the noisy chatter of the world to distract us and draw us away from focusing on the things that God says we should.

One of the culprits that helps to drown out the voice of God is modern-day technology.

To be honest, I think that technology is more of a curse than it is a blessing. Cellphones, the Internet, and social media have created a society that relies on Facebook, and Twitter to communicate with one another instead of face-to-face communication. Personal communication and intimacy are things of the past. People don’t take the time to talk with each other anymore. Therefore, relationships are being strained every day. Based on what I know, I would be willing to wager that over fifty percent of the people who use a hand held electronic device are addicted to it.

Another pitfall of technology is the way it has separated our nation. When the broad-stream media broadcasts untruths and fake news over the airwaves all day long, the results can be seen in the way the people react. No two networks tell the same story, and each one has its own version of the same story. Reporters are reporting news that has not been authenticated and in many cases they are voicing their opinions rather than reporting the news as it occurred.

Technology has made us lazy and dependent on remote controls for almost everything we buy. More people are opting to stay inside and stare at a screen over getting outside and enjoying God’s Creation.

So where or when does it end? What will it take for us to wake up and realize that we are in need of a spiritual and a physical revolution?

God wants His people to live in community and unity with one another. If we are going to get along in heaven, why not start practicing down here. The way to begin is by taking that first step and humbly admitting to God that we have fallen away from His teachings and ask for His forgiveness. Then we must surrender our hearts and minds to Him.

God created us in His own image that we might live here on this earth with one another in peace. But the world has not experienced peace since the first sin. That doesn’t mean we can’t. All things are possible with God. If we want to enjoy the peace of God, we must first learn to live in peace with God.

Something to think about. The Holy Spirit is what connects us to Jesus Christ. So if the Spirit that lives in you is really the same Spirit that lives in Jesus, then whatever we do to one another is like doing it to Christ Himself. Jesus said this in Matthew 25:40. *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”* This should make us stop and think before we act unkindly toward another human being.

Jesus also said if we see another person in need and refuse to help him, it is the same as refusing to help Him (25:45).

When our minds are filled with love for God and love for one another, serving Him will be a joy and a pleasure regardless of what we face, because the reward that God has for those who love Him is greater than we can even imagine.

But for those who try to make it through this world on their own, without acknowledging the authoritative power of the Holy Spirit, on judgment day there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

If we focus all of our attention on the noise and ungodly happenings that are going on around us, we will soon get caught up and lose sight of the prize that Jesus has for us. But if we practice the discipline of being a good Christian disciple, God will protect our minds and keep our focus on the glorious eternity that awaits us in heaven.

Praise God for His grace and mercy which we don’t deserve but has been given to us anyway. Christ demonstrated His love for us by dying for us while we were still sinners (Matt 5:8). Keep reading your Bible and stay focused.



By Beth Lowe, Director

According to Webster, gratitude is the state of being grateful. I am very appreciative for my life in the library. I love reading the suggestion slips that we get. Some of their suggestions we can implement immediately, others are long-term suggestions. Sometimes we get notes. Here are some of my favorite kid notes lately:

“I like the new library. It has the best pets.”

“More dogs, lady, please.”

“More Dogs please.”

“Don’t make kids sign into use computers.” (This is an internet safety issue, we won’t be changing our policy on this for the children’s protection.)

“Hi Lady.” We get a lot of greetings from kids. We enjoy hearing from them!

“I love the library.”—Thank you; we love the library also and appreciate being able to offer all this space for our patrons of all ages!

Our younger patrons also give us lots of book series suggestions. Per our Collection Development Policy, we purchase most newer titles. We also replace titles that circulate often. For titles over 5 years old, we ask that patrons order them through www.mel.org. However, if a title is pop culturally relevant and in high demand, such as the titles included in PBS’s The Great American Read or a book that has a movie being released, we will often purchase older titles due to the increased interest.

We are thankful to have the ability to share books across the state so that all of Michigan’s library patrons can have their reading and information needs met.

I am very grateful to work in an organization where animal therapy is encouraged. I am grateful to have the ability to share my personal pet with our community; be it children, teens, adults, or one of my favorite groups: our seniors. I love seeing people’s faces light up when they visit with one of our therapy dogs through outreach or in-house during *Reading with Fred the Therapy Dog*. I am especially appreciative for Shelly, Fred’s ‘mom’ for sharing her dogs with us for over 10 years.

We are very thankful for the incredibly warm welcome we have had in our new library home! We loved being part of the village celebrations of Halloween and Christmas in the Ville! Collaborating with the many village-community partners has been wonderful! We have enjoyed the many school field trips that we hosted this fall, and our regular three-week visits from senior patrons who reside at the Willows. It is awesome to have the space for ease of access with wheelchairs and walkers between shelves and along walkways.

For me, an important part of gratitude is thanking everyone who has touched my life in a positive way. It goes without saying that I am thankful for my health, happiness, friends, and family. Here at the Library, I am also thankful for all our board members, staff, volunteers, and EVERYONE who worked hard this past year to give the Library a new home. There are so many people to thank! I especially appreciate Cheryl Poch, former Director of the Fowlerville District Library, for her 33 years of service to our community and ALL of the board members over those years who helped us achieve the dream of this big beautiful library.

Here is to a gratitude filled December! I have so much to be thankful for this month and every month! Please take a moment to express the gratitude in your heart for those that you appreciate in your life.

“Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.” – Melody Beattie



Savvy Senior Column

By Jim Miller

Does Medicare Cover Dental Care?

Dear Savvy Senior,

I will turn 65 in a few months and will be enrolling in Medicare, but I am concerned about Medicare’s coverage of dental care. Does Medicare cover dental procedures? And if not, where can I get dental coverage?

Almost 65

Dear Almost,

Medicare’s coverage of dental care is extremely limited. It will not cover routine dental care including checkups, cleanings, or fillings, and it won’t pay for dentures either.

Medicare will, however, cover some dental services if they are required to protect your general health, or if you need dental care in order for another health service that Medicare covers to be successful. For example, if you have cancer and need dental services that are necessary for radiation treatment, or if you need surgery to treat fractures of the jaw or face, Medicare will pay for these dental services.

Although Medicare’s coverage of dental services is limited, there are other ways you can get coverage and care affordably. Here are several to check into.

Consider a Medicare Advantage plan: While dental services are mostly excluded under original Medicare, some Medicare Advantage plans do provide coverage for routine dental care. If you are considering joining a Medicare Advantage plan, find out what dental services, if any, it covers. Also, remember to make sure any Medicare Advantage plan you’re considering covers the doctors and hospitals you prefer to use and the medications you take at a cost you can afford. See Medicare.gov/find-a-plan or call 800-633-4227 to research plans in your area.

Purchase dental insurance: If you have frequent gum problems and need extensive dental care, a dental insurance plan may be worth the costs versus paying for care yourself. Expect to pay monthly premiums of \$15 to \$40 or more for insurance. To find dental plans in your state, go to NADP.org and use the “find a dental plan” tool. Then review a specific plan’s website.

Consider dental savings plans: While savings plans aren’t as comprehensive as insurance, they’re a good option for those who can’t get covered. How this works is you pay an annual membership fee – around \$80 to \$200 a year – in exchange for 10 to 60 percent discounts on service and treatments from participating dentists. To find a savings plan, go to DentalPlans.com (or 888-632-5353) where you can search for plans and participating dentists, as well as get a breakdown of the discounts offered.

Check veterans’ benefits: If you’re a veteran enrolled in the VA health care program or are a beneficiary of the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), the VA offers a dental insurance program that gives you the option to buy dental insurance through Delta Dental and MetLife at a reduced cost. The VA also provides free dental care to vets who have dental problems resulting from service. To learn more about these options, visit VA.gov/dental or call 877-222-8387.

Shop around: FairHealthConsumer.org and HealthcareBlueBook.com lets you look up the cost of different dental procedures in your area, so you can comparison shop – or ask your regular dentist for a discount.

Try community health centers or dental schools: There are many health centers and clinics that provide low-cost dental care to those in need. And all university dental schools and college dental hygiene programs offer dental care and cleanings for less than half of what you would pay at a dentist’s office. Students who are supervised by their professors provide the care. See ToothWisdom.org to search for a center, clinic or school near you.

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



Jenkins promoted to rank of Staff Sergeant

Caleb L. Jenkins of Fowlerville was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force and Michigan Air National Guard on Sept. 1, 2018. Jenkins is an Intel Analyst serving with the 191st Operations Support Squadron out of Selfridge Air National Guard Base and was the 2017 State Airman of the Year. His wife, Kaila, and parents, Gerry and Jill, would like to congratulate him on becoming a Non-Commissioned Officer.

Pictured here is Jenkins as his new rank insignia is 'pinned' by his father and wife during a promotion ceremony at his unit.



If our kids get graded A-to-F, then our Michigan schools should, too

Commentary by John Kennedy

Getting your money's worth.

It's a saying we are all familiar with. Unfortunately, when it comes to improving the education system in Michigan, we clearly have not gotten our money's worth. As Michigan continues to face a shortage of talented and qualified workers, we need to find a way to change this trend or risk losing all the positive economic momentum we've established in recent years.

A full review of the data demonstrates that a lack of spending on schools is NOT the problem. In terms of total education expenditures, Michigan spending on education reached an all-time high this year. And, other states have demonstrated they perform better while spending less money: Florida spends less than \$9,000 per pupil while Michigan spends more than \$11,600 per student.

Part of the problem is that while we're spending more, too much of our spending is not going into the classroom. Due to things like pensions and administrative costs, only 51 percent of Michigan's education funding goes directly into the classroom. Other states, like Florida, spent at least 5 percent more in the classroom.

Top performing teachers should most certainly be well paid. A national study by WalletHub found that when adjusted for cost of living, Michigan teacher pay was tops in the country.

Improving results must start with improving accountability.

In recent years, we've been spending more and more money, and yet more than half of our third graders cannot read at grade level. And this number is not just an issue in certain districts; these disappointing results are consistent across the state, regardless of location. At the recent West Michigan Policy Forum, hundreds of business leaders voted that one of their top priorities is implementing an A-to-F letter grade system for schools to increase quality and accountability in education. Given the importance of education to students, families and our entire state, this is a priority that needs to be acted on now.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush spoke at the West Michigan Policy Forum conference and talked about how he oversaw massive reform to the Sunshine State's schools, changes which took Florida from near the bottom of the national rankings to the top 10. Florida demonstrated that through big and bold change and a commitment to accountability, rapid improvement is possible. Here are several steps that Michigan can take immediately to more efficiently use the dollars we are spending and to get better results.

--A-to-F letter grade school rankings. Urge your legislators to support legislation to create a simple A-to-F grading system for our schools. This important step should be based on student performance and provide clear results. Doing so would improve accountability and quality in our schools. There will be pushback on this as there always is anytime school rankings are discussed but letter grades are a universally understood system that will create clear accountability. These grades will measure both performance and progress and will be based off rigorous and consistent criteria.

--Reward schools for either high achievement or strong growth.

--Measure and reward growth of the lowest performing students in each school.

--Streamline Michigan's school bureaucracy.

There is no silver bullet that will instantly and magically improve Michigan's education system. Rather, everyone involved, whether in government, business or the schools themselves, need to commit to the same level of boldness that has helped turn around Michigan's business climate. A-to-F accountability is a clear and essential next step.

John Kennedy is Chairman of the West Michigan Policy Forum. This column was printed in Bridge, an online publication.

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Peripheral Neuropathy WARNING!

Brighton, MI – The most common method your doctor will recommend to treat your neuropathy is prescription drugs that may temporarily reduce your symptoms. These drugs have names such as Gabapentin, Lyrica, Cymbalta, and Neurontin, and they're primarily antidepressant or anti-seizure drugs. These drugs may cause you to feel uncomfortable and have a variety of harmful side effects.

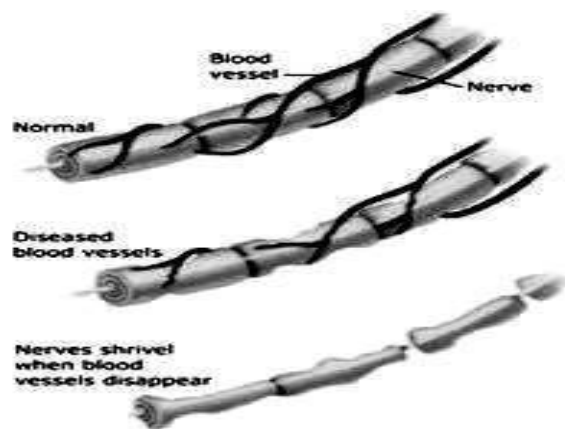


Figure 1: When these very small blood vessels become diseased they begin to shrivel up and the nerves begin to degenerate.

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves. It most often causes weakness, pain, numbness, tingling, and extremely debilitating balance problems. This damage is commonly caused by a lack of blood flow to the nerves in the hands and feet which causes the nerves to begin to degenerate due to lack of nutrient flow.

The main problem is that your doctor has told you to just live with the problem or try the drugs which you don't like taking because they make you feel uncomfortable.



Figure 2: The blood vessels will grow back around the nerves much like a plant's roots grow when watered.

There is now a facility right here in Brighton, that offers you hope without your taking those endless drugs with serious side effects. (See the special neuropathy severity examination at the end of this article.)

In order to effectively treat your neuropathy three factors must be determined:

- 1) What is the underlying cause?
- 2) How much nerve damage has been sustained?

NOTE: Once you have sustained 85% nerve loss, there is likely nothing that we can do for you.

- 3) How much treatment will your condition require?

The treatment that is provided at Trigenics Chronic Pain Relief of Brighton has three main goals:

- 1) Increase blood flow
- 2) Stimulate small fiber nerves
- 3) Decrease brain-based pain

To increase blood flow we use Pulsed Electro Magnetic Therapy and Infrared Diode Therapy. Your nerves will be stimulated at the rate they heal, not a rate that burns them out. The treatment to re-set the way the brain communicates with your problem is called Trigenics.

We even have home based programs available to those who have transportation concerns. So, don't worry that we aren't in your town. You may still be able to get the care you need, in the comfort of your own home.

Dr. Robert Moore, D.C. at **Trigenics Chronic Pain Relief of Brighton**, will do a neuropathy severity examination to determine the extent of the nerve damage for only \$99. (The normal cost of such an exam and x-rays is \$357.)

This neuropathy severity examination will consist of a detailed sensory evaluation, x-rays, extensive neurological testing, and a detailed analysis of the findings of your neuropathy.

Dr. Moore is offering this neuropathy severity examination now through the next two weeks.

Call 810-225-7246 to make an appointment with Dr. Moore to determine if your peripheral neuropathy can be treated.

The \$99 fee from this ad will benefit a local food bank, Community Sharing. Hungry people eat and your life gets better!



1371 South Old US23 in Brighton.
On the NE corner of Hyne Rd. and Old US23
Call 810-225-7246 today

Fowlerville Christmas Parade photos, continued



This float was decorated to look like Whoville from The Grinch movie.



Ken Myers ushered in the many balloon baskets that are a highlight of the Christmas Parade each year.



These numerous balloon baskets and pilots make the end of the parade a delight as they light their flames and warm up the crowd of parade watchers.



Santa's sleigh is the culminating float of the parade. Riding on the float with Santa and Mrs. Claus are families from the Make A Wish Foundation.

Calvary Church Presents

Welcome to Bethlehem

A runaway teenager, a stubborn father, and a couple in financial trouble all find hope at the Bethlehem Inn in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Join us for this uplifting Christmas Musical. All ages are welcome and nursery care is provided.



Sunday, December 16
10:30 AM & 6:00 PM

Calvary Church of Webberville
500 N Howard St. Webberville, MI
www.webbervillechurch.org
517-521-4700



From left were Nikki, Craig, Luke, and Brody—members of the Kalczynski Family of Dansville—shown here with Santa. They were among the Make A Wish children who rode with Santa in the Christmas Parade.



Children who were part of Make A Wish and their families had the opportunity to ride on Santa's sleigh during the Christmas Parade. Afterwards they were given special gifts. From left were Jason, Rene, Carson, Hudson, and Madison—members of the Seigle Family of Fenton—shown here with Santa.

Mrs. Claus (aka Pam Couling) read Christmas stories to children (along with their parents and grandparents) during the afternoon in the lobby of Chase Bank. Assisting her during the 'Story in the Window' event was Grant the Elf (aka Grant Kargel). One of those listening to the stories was Olivia Walsh, age six of Livonia. Bringing her to the storytime were her grandparents, Carol and Chuck Hill of Fowlerville.



Hosting the 'Reading in the Window' were staff members from Chase Bank. From left were Sara Dyer, Cassie Etter with daughter Lily Etter, Shannon Young, and Laura Elliott.



The Fowlerville High School Choir, above photo, strolled around the Downtown during the afternoon, singing holiday songs. From left were Tyler Long, Andie Kozakiewicz, Hannah Skinner, Olivia Murray, Maddy Kusmierz, Lyanne Maddox, Genivere Winiarski, Grace Shea, and Hannah Scanlan.



The Davis Family of Fowlerville took part in the Christmas in the Ville run. From left were Steve, Katie, Allie, Chris, and Arianne. Katie was the winner of the Woman Masters category. Allie, Chris and Arianne each did well in their age category.



Young and old took part in the Dashing Through the Snow Race. The oldest was Harrison Hensley, age 86, of Pinckney. His running partner was Krista Meier, age 47, of Haslett.



Wearing pajamas to keep warm while running in the race were, from left, Jen Merritt, MacKenzie Hevner and Erin Heaver. They were from Lake Orion.



Winning the Dashing Through the Snow 5K Run & Walk were Lauren Hunter and Riley Hough. Riley, a 15-year-old from Hartland, was the top male and race finisher with a time of 17:27.3. Lauren, a 13-year-old eighth grader from Haslett, was the top female runner with a time of 19:54.



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It is with much gratitude that we take this opportunity to thank all those who made the 2018 Christmas in the Ville such a huge success!

Without the tireless efforts of the Christmas in the ‘Ville committee members and the sponsorships by the following people and companies, this event would not have been the largest and most successful one we have seen in Fowlerville. From the hot air balloons to Santa Claus and his fantastic sleigh finishing the parade, the day was next to perfect. We give sincere thanks to our committee members: Dawn Horton, Sherry & Ed Prevo, Nadia Freeman, Cathy Elliott, Patt Hansen, Gabi Bresett, Ken Myer, Karl Witt, Carrie Newstead, Judy Recker, Jim Mayhew, Fowlerville Police Chief John Tyler, Jeff Kodet, Mary Tumbarella, Stacey Fountain, Jennifer MacGillis, Christine Asher, and Erin Paul.

We also would like to thank all the Activity Sponsors, Parade Coordinators, Staging Crew, Pet Parade Sponsor – Kern Road Veterinary Clinic and Community Emergency Response Team.

Scavenger Hunt Participating Businesses – Harmon Real Estate, Maria’s School of Dance, Fowlerville Pharmacy, Sweet Sensations Homemade Chocolates, Reggie’s Barber & Beauty Salon, Fowlerville Library, Shear Image Salon & Boutique, Save-On Family Foods, Coldwell Banker Town & Country Real Estate, Olden Days Cafe, Aleta’s Flower Shop, Duke’s Pizza Plus, Chase Bank, Grille In The Ville, First Baptist Church of Fowlerville, Fowlerville Police Department, Village of Fowlerville, Kodet’s

True Value Hardware, Carpet Depot, Fowlerville News & Views, Katie Pikkarainen - State Farm, The Shop, Keller Williams Realty, Fowlerville Wal-Mart, and Fowlerville Family Dentistry.

Our beautiful Christmas Tree was provided by the Van Gilder Family and set up by Fowlerville Police Chief John Tyler; Jim Mayhew, Christmas in the Ville tree chairman; Allan Irani of Allan’s Tree Service; Karl Witt of KW Corporation; Ray Decator and Garrett Decator of Van Gilder Farms; Casey Witt; and DTE Energy who assisted with the power lines. Also thanks to the Village DPW staff who decorated the tree for all of us to enjoy throughout this Christmas Season.

We want to thank the Village of Fowlerville staff, the DPW employees, the Fowlerville Police Department, the Fowlerville Fire Department, and all the community volunteers who stepped up to make this a wonderful event.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the people of our community and visitors for attending the event and for participating in the various activities and supporting our local businesses.

With heartfelt thanks,
Steve MacDermaid, Paul Harmon & Patti DuFore

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