

## BUCK TALES

Anyone living in Clare County age 65 and older still needing a COVID vaccination please call Clare County Senior Services to schedule an appointment at 989-539-8870.

## COMING EVENTS

**Free Drive Thru Mobile Food Distribution** at the Clare County Transit Corp. Saturday, March 6 in Harrison. Vehicle lineup/ registration at 9 a.m.; distribution 10:30 a.m. until noon. One household per vehicle; bring a government issued ID or piece of mail to meet residency requirements. Restrooms NOT available.

**The Clare County Democratic Party** will meet at 6:30 p.m. March 10 via Zoom/phone or video. To attend, email stephterpening@gmail.com.

**Clare's 47th Annual Irish Festival** March 11-17 in Clare. View events at www.claremichigan.com.

**Ice shanties** in the northern Lower Peninsula including Clare County must be removed by midnight March 15.

**SEASONAL LOAD AND SPEED RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT**

## Spring Weight Restrictions Enacted

The Michigan Department of Transportation and local agencies are enacting spring weight restrictions, an annual move to protect roads.

Effective 6 a.m. Monday, March 1, weight restrictions are imposed and enforced on all state trunkline highways from the Michigan border north to and including M-20 from the interchange with US-31 in Oceana County, then east on M-20 to US-131, then north on US-131 to M-20 in Mecosta County, then east on M-20 to US-10 in Midland County, then east on US-10 to M-25 in Bay City, including the entire Thumb region.

All state trunklines in this area will have weight restrictions imposed and enforced. State routes typically carry M, I, or US designations.

Clare County restrictions began Feb. 27, and Maple Grove from M-115 to North Road has been added to the restricted routes.



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## Taking a Peek Behind the Curtain Surrey-to-Library Conversion Progressing

By Dianne Alward-Biery  
Cleaver Staff Writer

HARRISON – When Harrison District Library Director Sheila Bissonnette asked if the Cleaver was interested in doing a walk-thru update on the library's Surrey House renovation progress, there was no question – the answer was a resounding “YES!” That led to meeting up Friday morning to get a peek and to share with readers what has been going on behind the building's historic walls.

The Surrey was purchased in April 2016, the architectural drawings done by May 2017, and the plan finalized in June 2018. Now, nearly three years later, and after years of fundraising and grant-writing, the final result is a bit easier to visualize.

Bissonnette opened the front door, leading the way into the mystery lying in the community's midst. She explained the building had been gutted in early 2018 to learn “what things would jump out at us.” Fortunately, not much materialized by way of unexpected discoveries: a pipe here, a chimney there, and some lead paint and asbestos-laden tile adhesive which simply needed to be sealed rather than removed.

For the most part, the library board has been serving as project manager and tackling the project a



The Harrison District Library's remodeling of the former Surrey House is shown Feb. 26. Pictured are contractors Jeff Wagner and Rich Hilton, along with library director Sheila Bissonnette, as insulation is applied, the height of bathroom tile is set at 54 inches, and the possibility of flip down window seats is discussed. (Cleaver photos by Dianne Alward-Biery)



bit at a time. That is due in part to financial frugality and in part because contractors and materials have been in short supply

Hilton has worked our circulation desk, and he's a licensed contractor. They're working

during COVID times.

“We actually have two contractors who work at the library,” Bissonnette said. “Jeff Wagner does our maintenance stuff and Rich

with Hilts' Plumbing and Mark Heckman [electrician]; we're going local as much as possible.”

She added that while the latter two contractors are very busy, they come in periodically as the project evolves.

It was also noted that the project's roof work went to local contractor Britton Roofing which, fortunately, provided the most economical bid.

See **LIBRARY** on page 2

## County Commissioners Learn Legal Skinny on Court 'Revenue' BOC Hears from Prosecution, Courts

By Dianne Alward-Biery  
Cleaver Staff Writer

HARRISON – The Feb. 17 meeting of the Clare County Board of Commissioners, more than three hours in length, was a diverse mix of concerns. The Administrator's Report touched on documents prepared and sent in for a previously discussed Community Development Block grant which will cover a portion of the HVAC repair costs, and has been working on an HVAC request for proposals. Byard said all the departments had been notified of auditor requests for documents, as well as working on OPEB reporting for retiree health care. Byard also noted that the attorney is working on documentation of the 17 drains owned by the county, listing accompanying lake levels. She said this will be a benefit going forward with any additional drains the county may acquire in the future.

She also had been preparing documents needed for preparing the Tax Anticipation Note

In the absence of Community Services Director Lori Phelps, Byard also pointed out the work Phelps and her Senior Services staff had been doing in coordinating vaccination clinics at the



**Chief Judge Joshua Farrell addresses the Clare County Board of Commissioners in 2016 about a personnel change in the courts, which necessitated hiring at least one full-time replacement employee. Farrell also addressed the BOC Feb.17 in an effort to clarify the limitations on the court to assess fines and costs, and how little actual revenue comes through the courts into the county's coffers. (Cleaver file photo)**

behest of the Central Michigan District Health Department.

“The health department has called on them to take on the scheduling of the clinics,” Byard said. “What an amazing job they have done.”

Prosecutor Michelle Ambrozaitis provided a budget review, describing grant funding received, and how when the pandemic had stymied the original purpose for the funds, she had been able to change the scope of the grant to use money set aside for a counselor to implement a case tracking system, which takes the prosecutor's office paperless. The system's Cloud storage enables the cases to be accessed from anywhere – especially beneficial now with the current need to work remotely.

Addressing budget expenditures, Ambrozaitis talked about MGT the company that handles

the child support billing and the procedure for receiving payment from the state. She described an online research provider contract which had been renegotiated for a cheaper rate, and also spoke of a subscription for ICLE [continuing legal education for Michigan] which provides access to digital versions of evidence and appellate books, alleviating the need to acquire expensive hard copies. Ambrozaitis said her office had also gone to an online sentencing guideline calculator, which she said aids in preparation for a plea offer in felony cases.

The prosecutor said the travel and expense budget is essential to ensuring her staff and attorneys are continually trained and stay up-to-date on procedures, saying it is her office's duty to do so, and is part of making certain prose-

cutors maintain competency in their field.

Ambrozaitis said that, while COVID has enabled some of the training to be done online/virtually or be set aside for another time, it is important to maintain the budget for travel and expense to ensure everybody is trained and “on top of their game.” She also pointed out that the work of her office results in court fines and fees assessed which generate money for the county, which led to discussion of the disparity of fines levied by the courts and actual prosecution costs.

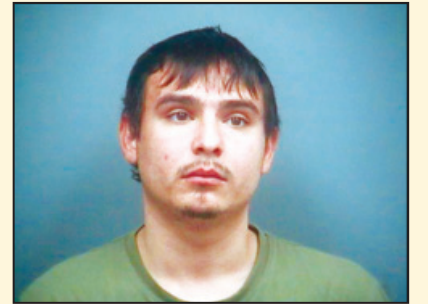
“They [courts] need to understand it's not right that the other taxpayers pay for that person doing the crime,” Majewski said. “And that these costs are higher than what we're charging, and we need to send the burden to the criminal or the person being charged.”

Noting the difference between what Clare County and other counties assess for prosecutor expense, Ambrozaitis said charges will be/and have begun to be higher.

Also addressed was a proposed attorney pay scale, sought to stem employee turnover, which Ambrozaitis asked commissioners to review

See **BOC** on page 10

## Four County Residents Sentenced



Chrishton Chapman



Eric Newell



Mark Kanoff

### Chapman Sentenced for CSC Crimes

Chrishton Daniel Chapman, of Farwell, plead no contest to Child Sexually Abusive Activity, Criminal Sexual Conduct 3rd Offense (13-15 years of age); and Inducing a Minor to Commit a Felony, and he plead guilty to habitual offender 4th offense on January 12, 2021. This case was originally brought to light through defendant's parole agent and was then investigated by the Clare County Sheriff's Department. Based upon the volume of suspected child sexually abusive activity located in defendant's possession, the FBI took over the investigation and turned the matter over to the US Attorney's Office for review for charges. After a year of no action, the US Attorney's Office determined they were not going to maintain the file for prosecution and referred it back to Prosecutor Ambrozaitis to review for state charges. On March 1, 2021, Judge Evans sentenced him to serve 8 years, 3 months to 50 years in prison. Chapman did not receive credit for the 818 days he served pending the resolution of this case because he was on parole at the time he committed these new offenses. He was also ordered to pay a total of \$1894.00 in fines, costs, and court appointed attorney fees.

### Newell Sentenced for Meth Manufacture and Possession

Eric Edward Newell, of Harrison, plead guilty to Delivery/Manufacture Methamphetamine, Possession of Methamphetamine, and Possession of a Controlled Substance under 25 grams on October 27, 2020. These convictions were a result of an investigation conducted by the Clare County Sheriff's Department. On January 21, 2021, he was sentenced by Judge Mienk to serve 15 months to 20 years, 15 months to 10 years, and 15 months to 4 years respectively with credit for 3 days served. He was also ordered to pay \$1894.00 in fines, costs, and court appointed attorney fees.

### Kanoff Sentenced for CSC 1st Degree

Mark Anthony Kanoff, Harrison, plead guilty to Criminal Sexual Conduct 1st Degree (under 13 years of age) on September 21, 2020. The investigation regarding this case began in 2011 by the Clare County Sheriff's Department. Charges were brought; however, the case was ultimately dismissed without prejudice after discussions with the minor victim's parents regarding difficulties with the case. In 2019, during an investigation into this defendant by the FBI, additional information was uncovered that made this a stronger case. On March 1, 2021, he was sentenced to prison for 25 years to 50 years, with credit for 365 days served. His sentence will run concurrent with a federal sentence that he is currently serving. He was ordered to pay \$1258.00 in fines and costs. Prosecutor Ambrozaitis thanks all agencies involved for their efforts to bringing this defendant to justice.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 4 →

# COMMUNITY LIFE



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*Residents Missing Abundant Printouts Available at In-Person Meetings*

## Hayes Board Exploring Blight Options Viability

By Dianne Alward-Biery  
Cleaver Staff Writer

HARRISON – While the Hayes Township Board continues to meet remotely via Microsoft Teams, citizen participation continues to be limited. At the Feb. 16 general board meeting, the agenda's Community Reports section began with Deb Hoyt, township clerk, reporting that no correspondence had been received from any of the three county commissioners who represent Hayes Township.

Supervisor Rick Jones reported the Airport Board meeting had been canceled, and that he had asked the City of Harrison and the Clare County Board of Commissioners to schedule a joint meeting but had not heard back on his request.

Under Public Comment, resident Valerie Kusiak noted the January general board meeting was posted online, but that the Feb. 9 special meeting was not. She then requested that, before voting, the Feb. 9 meeting be read aloud, as well as the bills paid prior and the bills to be paid, which also were not posted and available to the public. Kusiak then listed many other items on the Feb. 16 agenda, asking that they, too, be read aloud. Jones informed her that she could pick up copies of those items at the township office.

After approving the general board meeting minutes of Jan. 19 and the special meeting minutes of Feb. 9, the board moved on to the consent agenda, which included bills paid prior, bills to be paid, and the treasurer's report. Treasurer Maye Tessner-Rood reported the township had a \$1,545,684.33 beginning balance, with \$853,442.63 in receipts for the



(Cleaver photo by Dianne Alward-Biery)

month. She said most of the revenue, \$853,209.09 was taken in through taxes, and that expenses were \$1,099,454.53 with \$9,360.82 in payroll transfers in and out. The left a \$1,477,779.43 fund balance.

In her report, Deb Hoyt spoke of House Bill 4131 being considered which would permit increasing precinct active voter size from the current 2,999 limit up to 5,000 active voters. Hoyt said she could foresee problems if precinct sizes were increased. Asked how that might affect Hayes, she said it would make running elections more difficult, although she didn't think it would mean having to combine the two Hayes Township precincts. The township has a total of 3,862 registered voters: 2,013 in Precinct 2 and 1,849 in Precinct 1. Hoyt said she would be reaching out to the Michigan House Elections Committee to let them

know her thoughts on the matter.

Zoning Administrator Ken Hoyt noted only three permits issued in January, all for fences. He also said 911 calls were down by 22 from the previous January and included one CSC, but no Narcan calls. He added that stalking and suspicious persons were down, but ORV complaint calls "were way up, with 30 calls for that." Hoyt also said there are usually one of two suicide calls but there had been four in January, although he was unsure if those incident calls were separate. Hoyt also noted fire calls in Hayes Township: two for medical assists for EMS, a car accident medical assist, two shorted electrical equipment/transformers, two non-life threatening fires and one house fire on Lois Drive between Harrison and Coolidge avenues.

Under New Business, the board moved to:

-Renew the expired, prior Joint Information Center [JIC] Memorandum of Understanding between Clare County and Hayes Township [which is used in case of emergency, exercise or disaster for the coordination of information distribution];

-Adopt Policy manual updates for Chapter 1 of the Board and Administration Policies Manual [no changes]; and Chapter 2 of the Township Board [with changes];

-Adopt Resolution 20-12 Budget Amendment for the second quarter [increasing revenues to \$626,338.98, an increase of \$3,797 and increasing expenses by \$4,478 and bringing expense budget to \$621,405; Road Fund expense increase of \$6,207; new Expense Budget of \$145,742; Fire Fund expense increase of \$1,939/new budget \$78,639; Recreational Development fund increase of \$90,406];

-Approve Michigan Association of Township Supervisors one-year membership at \$80;

-Approve spending \$295 for Michigan Association of Planning training consisting of eight classes;

-Approve the scheduled deputy treasurer wage increase from \$11.25/hour to \$11.75/hour effective Feb. 14; and

-Approved the Assessor's Report, as read aloud by Rick Jones.

It was noted the updated Consumers Energy Ordinance had been sent to Consumers for approval, and when it is returned to the township, it will be offered for approval by the township board.

Then it was time for an update on township blight. Deb Hoyt said board members had divided elements of blight concern among them and for her part, she had heard back from the township attorney and insurance agency. Hoyt said she would share that information with the board so it

could continue on looking at the blight issues.

Jones said he had not completed his portion, and Tom Willett reported having begun the webinar series on municipal and civil infractions. Tessner-Rood expressed the need to speak with local courts and the court administrator regarding how cases are handled.

"It sounds like a lot of them end up there," she said. "I was a little surprised at the lack of returned funding to the township in fines and what automatically goes to the court [judges] retirement fund."

Hoyt added that MTA and the attorney were asking what the township's plan was moving forward, so the township needed to develop a blight plan of action so the attorneys can better answer the township's questions. She did not receive one particular attorney comment regarding establishing a blight committee.

"The township attorney is looking into that more," she said. "The northeast states tend to use a town-hall form of government instead of township boards, and that's why they form a lot of committees. But he is looking into that for us and [will] do more research on it."

Willett added that it seems more blight concerns arise in areas away from the lake communities and that lake communities police themselves rather tightly. Hoyt advised that one of the guidance statements provided said the key to code enforcement is to treat everyone equally and not deviate from ordinances.

Under Public Comment, part-time resident Pat Adams requested how he could learn about previous years' township revenues/expenses and various other expenditures, particularly what had been spent on the Mostetler Road gravel pit legal fees. He was advised that all the township audit information was available through the state treasury website, and that for the gravel pit information, he should submit a Freedom of Information Act request to the township clerk, which she said would be looked at and honored.

"Anything to do with the gravel pit, we have required FOIA requests," Hoyt said.

When Adams asked if the board was leaning toward using a blight committee rather than hiring a person, Tessner-Rood explained that there was no leaning.

"We're not leaning toward anything yet," she said. "We're researching the feasibility in Michigan. That's used mostly on the East Coast, but it was brought forward by a taxpayer that asked about it. So, we're trying to cover all bases with everybody and see what's most viable."

Adams also asked why there was no longer a capability for attendees to type in questions [through Microsoft Teams], Jones said it was too difficult for him to monitor the computer and run the meeting, adding that until there is a facilitator for the program, that function will not be available.

The Hayes Township General Board meetings are held at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month.

### Library from page 1

She said Dave Lipovsky, county building inspector, has been helpful also when surprises are encountered, making recommendations which can be taken back to the architect.

What cannot be missed are the seriously spacious, functional areas for children, activities, expanded stacks, historical/archives, meeting room, patron quiet reading and computer access areas. Bissonnette conceded the window-lit, largest room will be a bit different once the 90-inch tall double bookshelves are in place. She also noted the architect's plan for skylights in that area were omitted, due to its flat roof increasing the possibility of leaks. "Just having the space – that's the biggest thing," Bissonnette said.

The existing outdoor wrought iron fenced patio will remain and be used for kids' activities, book group meetings, etc. And Bissonnette envisions the expansive front porch being used by patrons who stop by with their own coffee shop brew to enjoy an outdoor read.

Utility costs will be a bit more than at the current library, but minimized by the use of LEDs and extra insulation in floors, walls and ceilings. Another part of making funds go as far as possible is delaying heat to the upper floors – for now.

Amazingly, all the work to-date has been done using only about \$30,000 of the \$400,000 project fund – that's what can happen when people with a shared vision and other generous folks donate their time and efforts.

Bissonnette said the hope had been to have the project completed by the

end of this year, but that more likely it will be 2022.

"We've come a long way, and there's really not [much left]" she said, adding that once the bones of the structure are complete, "Then it's just finishes."

For now, the interior actually looks like any serious home remodeling project: doors to be salvaged leaning against exposed, newly-insulated stud walls; construction materials in the process of being applied/stored for the next step; and two men working hard to bring the library's vision into reality.

Long sections of hanging, black insulated coil ducting provide heat to the construction area of the building, bringing to mind the film "Anaconda" – enough said.

The community has been able to watch changes to the building's exterior: work done on the front façade and roof repairs. Another conspicuous change is the absence of the porch railing, which Bissonnette said could be replaced, although she actually prefers the new

"openness." She also pointed out the porch posts, now clad in long-life/low-maintenance PVC, noting that painting is an option, but unnecessary. The large overhanging entryway may still see some modifications, but that is yet to be decided. Also, the drive-up window may be affected by the location of a sewer drain cleanout access.

Again, as with any remodeling project, obstacles arise and plans adjust – so, the community just needs to stay tuned and wait for the turning of the library's next page.



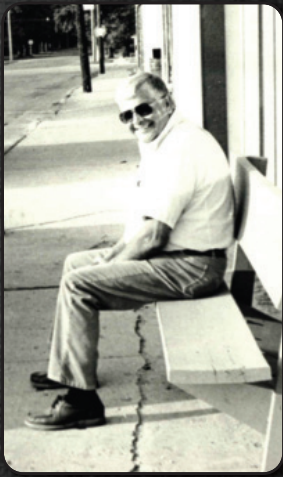
"PVC Joy!"

### A Tribute

## For Clare County's Godfather

(1/27/35 – 3/6/2020)

His name was Howard Haskin, the right kind of name for the good/bad cop façade he almost always wore, so he could switch sides, quick silver, with a sardonic grin. Hard to read until followed by his chuckle/laugh that let you know he loved you and that was enough to make you love him back. RIP,  
From a friend



9

### 10TH ANNUAL

## Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day

March 27, 2021

"Welcome Home U.S. Veterans"

Your Vietnam Veterans say thank you & welcome home to all our U.S. Military Veterans.

Let us never again forget another era of veterans!



Join us at the Harrison American Legion Post West M-61, Harrison, Michigan 989-539-9792

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6-6

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# Outdoors With Jeff

It's about this time of the year, I can't wait until we start seeing signs of spring. It's this time of the year people, me included, are looking vigilantly for spring to arrive. Most of the group known as the grouchy old men, are constantly telling they want spring to hurry up and get here. One person asked these old guys what are you going to do when spring gets here? There's nothing to do yet. It took a while for these old duffers to come up with an answer. They simply told the group of younger people that were there were things to do at this time of the year, many years ago.

It saddened them to think that what they used to do is long gone and they only have the memories of the fun they have had. They did admit that today there is one thing they can do now that wasn't an option in years past. When these

old men were a lot younger there was no turkey season back then and for that matter there were no turkeys. They discussed the only other things they could do are not until April arrives. April is the opening of trout season, the end of the month if the weather is perfect you can find and pick mushrooms.

After I listened to these old guys, I started thinking and many decades ago there were plentiful times to get outdoors. It was a big event for sportsmen in town; it lasted for a week or more. You could see when it was getting close, you would find sportsmen out in their barns or garages, digging for the equipment.

People today, would probably think these sportsmen had lost their minds. You would see them digging out stuff and one of the first things they may grab what looks like an old refrigerator, however it is no longer a refrigerator, it's called a smoker. It may look like a refrigerator, now it had a chimney and all the parts that make it run has been removed. They would clean it out and remove all the dead bugs that made their home in the smoker over the past year along with any old mice that may have taken up residency inside. They would wash it out and make the interior shine. Many people in town would take notice and for some reason it made them think of good food.

The other thing that neighbors would see them drag out what looked like a spear with many tongs on it. Once again when neighbors seen the spear come out, they thought of food again. What the sportsmen were getting ready to do was getting spear fishing for suckers. Dozens would go up to Houghton Lake at the Cut River and spear suckers. It wasn't hard; the fish were wall to wall. Once I was with Jack Robbins, he took his spear and threw it several yards down the river, when he walked up he had two fish on his spear. These fishermen would ensure that everyone in town would get smoked sucker in their refrigerator. The whole town smelled like smoked sucker.

Another thing you would see them drag out of a barn or garage was large metal landing net. These fishermen would be heading to the Singing Bridge located in AuGres. It was smelt dipping time. Hundreds of dippers would show up, they would drink beer, while



JEFF GOYT

waiting for the smelt to come up the river. When they started dipping the smelt, they would fill several washtubs up with smelt. After you got enough fish, you would sit on the bank and watch the intoxicated dippers for entertainment. Fishermen would again supply the town with smelt, enough to last them the rest of the year.

Those days have long passed. There is no more sucker spearing that was stopped by the DNR. The smelt are gone also. It's believed; they were consumed after the salmon was introduced in the great lakes. You no longer see refrigerator smokers; only thing now is a small, electrical smoker.

So, if you're tired of sitting home for a year, get out and apply for a turkey permit. There were more sold last year, then ever before. Winter will soon be over.



## Early Clare County Legal Cases

**JOLIET BRIDGE & IRON CO. vs. FARWELL PORTLAND CEMENT CO. DECEMBER 28, 1904 – The 'Year' Ends Poorly For Littlefield's Farwell Portland Cement Co.**

The Joliet Bridge & Iron Company entered into a contract with the Farwell Portland Cement Company to build beginning on January 1, 1903, a 50' by 134' Engine and Boiler Building (and possibly other buildings) in the town of Farwell pursuant to specific construction sheets.

The work was to include structural, galvanized corrugated steel covering, and painting -- and labor. Plaintiff JB&IC did the work totaling \$28,950 and received payments from FPCC, however a balance of \$15,042.45 was claimed due and owing as of the filing of the Bill of Complaint on December 28, 1904.

Plaintiff JB&IC asserted a mechanics lien on the property. The building(s) had been built on property which was located on the West side of present day Corning Avenue [a/ka/ Vandecar Road extended North of Main Street/ US BS-10] at its intersection with Ohio Street. The property with 4 large buildings indicated appears in the 1906 Plat Book.

Note that a mechanics lien creates a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

The Answer of defendant FPCC generally denied without lengthy elaboration the claim of JB&IC.

Following a hearing on February 23, 1909, Judge Peter F. Dodds decreed a lien on the property for \$11,431.16 except that the

# ~ CLARE COUNTY HISTORY ~



## A Glimpse Into The Past

**Stamman's Hi-Way Food Store was in Harrison in the current location of the car wash across from Walraven's Country Market. This photo is from 1959. Many Harrison residents will remember street dances in front of Stamman's.**

### Way Back in the Day-1884

136 Years Ago  
John Reed was arrested and tried [at Harrison] for selling liquor without a license. He was convicted and fined fifty dollars and thirty days in jail. The case has been appealed.

Smith Bartoo presented a meat bill to John White last Sunday night at Hatfield's. Bartoo received a "diff" in the neck and side of the head. When a warrant was issued no one could be found that would testify that White struck him first and so the case was dropped.

Charles Bailey is drawing hay from his farm near Clare to his farm north west of Harrison.

A pretty good evidence of Spring has come is to see a group of boys on the side walks playing marbles.

A party from outside came into town last Monday got pretty full and rather abusive and consequently got thumped. The longer we will the more we find out.

If the youngster who born at Harrison two weeks ago lives to be 50 years old he can have only twelve birthday parties in all that time. His mother presented him to the world on Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Cleaver thinks the last Register article about Gallup are published purely from spite and that in publishing them Holden has committed another blunder.

One of the plates glasses in Carr & Granger's store at Mt. Pleasant was blown in by the heavy wind of Tuesday night, breaking chinaware etc., to the amount of \$250.

A prematurely born infant was found interred in a cigar box, under one of the warehouses by the railroad on Tuesday.

An unknown man in this vicinity giving his name as John Keiley, aged about 32 years and employed in Pratt's camp, where he had been at work about twenty eight days, met with an accident on Saturday morning March 1<sup>st</sup>, which resulted in his death. He had just fell a tree and a limb had broken off and lodged in another tree. He proceeded to cut the tree up into logs and some of the men noticing the limb hanging about cautioned him about doing under but he thought, as the tree was a only a small one, he could cut the log before it fell. He started to work again when hearing it give he stooped his head and the limb (which had broken off in the shape of a wedge and would weigh about thirty pounds) came down, the end striking him and was driven about six inches into

his head. He has traveled a good deal and has been in Colorado, California, Texas and all through the west. He was heard to say that he had a brother in Cincinnati who was employed in driving a street car. His remains were brought to Clare, afterward taken to Mt. Pleasant and interred in the Catholic cemetery. The boys in camp where he was at work beating the expensive.

### Back in the Day-1959

62 Years Ago  
Events commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Citizens State Bank were announced this week by J. Stuart Bicknell, presidents. The bank, which began business under a state charter on March 10, 1909, will honor the occasion by events starting with a stockholder employee family dinner on March 8.

Whilden Hughes, Wayne Trowbridge, Keith First and Marion Roth drove to Detroit Sunday to attend the hockey game Sunday evening and returned home Monday.

Dale Brockway and Glen Stephson accompanied some friend to Thunder Mountain, near Boyne Falls, skiing Sunday.

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**March 8-12**  
**Hot Meal Menu**  
Recommended Donation is \$2.25  
*Please Note:* We are delivering Meals on Wheels Monday - Friday. Congregate Centers are NOT OPEN to the public, but all Seniors (60+), can pick up a meal to go. You must call Cheryl or Brenna in Harrison (989-539-6515) OR Deb in Lake George (989-588-9841 ext. 01) to reserve.

**Monday, March 8**  
Burbon Chicken,  
Sweet Potatoes,  
Stewed Tomatoes,  
Corn Muffine.

**Tuesday, March 9**  
Layered Beef & Cabbage,  
Whole Potatoes,  
Butter Beans,  
Sliced Peaches,  
Optional: Brown Roll.

**Wed., March 10**  
Potato Crunch Cod,  
Baked Potato,  
Ceasar Salad,  
Cracked Wheat Roll.  
Optional: Creamed Corn.

**Thursday, March 11**  
Baked Ham,  
Maple Spice Squash,  
Green Beans,  
Fresh Orange, Raisin  
Vanilla Bread Pudding.

**Friday, March 12**  
Smothered Mealloaf,  
Redskin Mashed Potatoes,  
Sauteed Spinach,  
Cantaloupe,  
Multigrain Roll.

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**FREEMAN TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS**  
*Notice Of Public Hearing*

The Freeman Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2021/2022 at 7280 Mannsiding Road, Lake, MI 48632 on March 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at 7280 Mannsiding Road, Lake, MI 48632, starting February 24, 2021.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Freeman Township Clerk by writing or calling 989-588-2752.

**Julie Lightfoot**  
*Freeman Township Clerk*

8-1

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# Senators Stabenow and Peters Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Strengthen American Manufacturing and Create Michigan Jobs

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters introduced their bipartisan bill Feb. 23 to strengthen our Buy American laws. The Make It in America Act will make it harder for federal agencies to use waivers to get around Buy American requirements, requiring the federal government to give preference to American companies and spend taxpayer dollars on American-made products and American jobs.

In 2018, Senator Stabenow released her Buy American report that found exceptions and waivers to the Buy American Act allowed federal agencies to spend \$92 billion on foreign-made products between 2008 and 2016. Senator Stabenow's Make It in America Act addresses the abuses identified in this report. The bill is part of her American Jobs Agenda, which will ensure we are making products in America, closing loopholes that send jobs overseas, and holding countries like China accountable for unfair trade practices.

“Michigan’s workers and manufacturers are the best in the world. This bill would make sure they are first in line when it comes to government contracts and spending. It’s common sense that American tax dollars should be used to create American jobs by purchasing American products, not products made overseas,” said Senator Stabenow.

Peters has led numerous efforts to support American manufacturers and workers. This past December, Peters’ bipartisan bill

## *Make It in America Act to Ensure Federal Government Spends Taxpayer Dollars on American-Made Goods*

to grant Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP) federal funding to help small and medium-sized manufacturers across the country expand growth, maintain staff and adapt to market changes was signed into law. Peters also previously introduced bipartisan legislation to ensure that American taxpayer dollars are used to buy American-made iron, steel and manufactured products for federally funded infrastructure projects.

Additionally, Peters previously introduced legislation that would address outsourcing and reform the tax code to reward businesses that bring jobs back from foreign countries.

“Ensuring that the federal government is spending taxpayer dollars on products made by American workers will create jobs and level the playing field for our small businesses and manufacturers,” said Senator Peters, a member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. “I’m proud to join Senator Stabenow in announcing this commonsense legislation that would strengthen Buy American rules, invest in Michigan and American workers and help rebuild a stronger economy.”

Each year, federal agencies spend billions in taxpayer dollars to buy products from the private

sector. The 1933 Buy American Act requires federal agencies to give preferential treatment to manufacturers of high quality, American-made goods and products. Unfortunately, loopholes, waivers, and outright violations have allowed federal agencies to buy products overseas — leaving our American manufacturers behind.

The Make It in America Act would close loopholes in our Buy American laws and make waivers public. For example, the bill would stop the use of the “public interest” waiver if a foreign contract would decrease American employment. The bill would also increase American-made content from 50 to 75 percent to ensure that manufactured products bought by the federal government are made with American-made components. The bill would also require that each waiver to the Buy American Act be publicly posted online with detailed justifications.

The bill would create a new “Made in America Office” within the Office of Management and Budget, charged with reviewing waivers to the Buy American Act and ensuring compliance with other Buy American laws. This office mirrors President Biden’s executive order to create a central office dedicated to enforcing Buy American laws.

Finally, the Make It in America Act would give small- and medium-sized American manufacturers the first opportunity to provide products for federally-funded transportation projects.

## MICHIGAN JOINS FIGHT IN SUPPORT OF STATES' RIGHT TO ENFORCE LAWS AGAINST 3D-PRINTED 'GHOST GUN' FILES

LANSING — Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has joined a coalition of attorneys general from around the nation in fighting a lawsuit that seeks to stop states from enforcing their laws against a company disseminating dangerous 3D-printed gun files on the internet.

In an amicus brief in *Grewal v. Defense Distributed* before the U.S. Supreme Court, the coalition seeks to protect states’ efforts to stop *Defense Distributed* from unlawfully publishing easily-downloadable internet files that provide instructions to build dangerous 3D-printed firearms, including assault weapons.

“Despite law enforcement efforts, *Defense Distributed* continues to recklessly, and illegally, make 3D-printed firearms easily accessible to anyone with an internet connection,” Nessel said. “These so-called ‘ghost guns’ are unregistered and untraceable, making them especially dangerous. States must have the ability to enforce our own laws and use the tools at our disposal to fight back against these illegal efforts in order to protect our communities.”

For years, *Defense Distributed* has attempted to widely disseminate internet files that give individuals the ability to manufacture unregistered and untraceable 3D-printed firearms that can be extremely difficult to detect, even with a metal detector. A number of state and local officials sent the company cease and desist letters ordering the company to stop breaking state laws. *Defense Distributed* then sued the officials in federal court in Texas, but ultimately only pursued its case against New Jersey’s attorney general. After the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit found that Texas courts had personal jurisdiction over New Jersey’s attorney general, he petitioned the Supreme Court to take up the case.

In the amicus brief, the coalition argues that cease and desist letters are critical and cost-effective tools for enforcing state law, and, in the internet age, state and local officials increasingly must direct such letters out of their jurisdictions. Because out-of-state entities, like *Defense Distributed*, operate online and across state lines, state officials cannot protect their residents from violations of their own state’s laws by such entities without being able to send cease and desist letters out of state.

Additionally, the coalition argues that the Fifth Circuit failed to account for critical state-sovereignty and federalism considerations when it found that the Texas courts had personal jurisdiction over New Jersey — in violation of longstanding Supreme Court precedent set out in cases, such as *World-Wide Volkswagen Corp. v. Woodson*. Specifically, the federalism principles underpinning that precedent do not permit the recipient of a cease and desist letter from an out-of-state official to sue the official in the recipient’s home state when the letter was sent from the official’s home state, and the official is simply enforcing his or her own state’s laws as applied to the recipient’s activities in the official’s home state.

The coalition makes clear that permitting suits in such circumstances — as the Fifth Circuit did here — forces a state official to risk burdensome and expensive lawsuits in a foreign forum as the cost of protecting state residents from an entity that is reaching into the official’s state and violating that state’s laws. Putting a state official to that choice undermines state sovereignty and harms the public interests of the official’s state by chilling legitimate law enforcement efforts or else dramatically increasing the costs of those efforts, including by encouraging premature lawsuits against states in courts that lack expertise and a stake in the relevant state’s law.

The coalition asks the Supreme Court to review the Fifth Circuit’s decision, and ultimately order the dismissal of *Defense Distributed’s* case in Texas for lack of personal jurisdiction.



CURTIS HONEYCUTT

## Grammar Guy

### A column that reads like an N\*SYNC song

I hope that headline grabbed your attention. As much as I’d love to see a reunion tour of Justin Timberlake and the other guys, the closest thing to an N\*SYNC lyric you’re going to get today is in this article. It might sound crazy, but it isn’t a lie; today we’re reviewing the words “buy,” “bye” and “by.”

As much as I wanted to quote the chorus of N\*SYNC’s turn-of-the-millennium chart-topper “Bye Bye Bye” word-for-word, I have some serious grammatical grumbles with the song’s subpar syntax. Feel free to re-discover the swoon-worthy lyrics for yourself in your search engine of choice.

The words “buy,” “bye” and “by” are easy to switch around, especially because they only require a few letters and they’re pronounced identically. It’s kind of like trying to distinguish the boy bands from the late ‘90s and early aughts from each other — they all sound the same.

The primary definition of the word “buy” is to purchase something with money: Pat, I’d like to buy a vowel. If something is considered a bargain, someone might say it’s a “good buy.” Another definition of “buy” is to believe or accept something: Byron doesn’t buy the fact that the Apollo 11 crew landed on the moon.

The word “bye” has its own set of definitions. The primary definition of “bye” comes from the word “goodbye,” which is a compound word combining the words “good” and “bye.” The word “goodbye” originated as the contraction “Godbweye,” which was a shortened form of “God be with ye.” Today, we just say “bye,” but the word’s roots lie in the pious society of sixteenth-century England.

“Bye” can also mean when a player or team advances to the next round of a competition without playing: The Chiefs got a bye in the first round of the NFL playoffs.

“By” may be the most versatile of this word trio. As a preposition, “by” means “near,” “toward,” “no later than,” or to indicate the person who created a work, just to name a few. As an adverb, “by” can mean “past,” “near,” or “aside.” “By” can also function as an adjective, meaning “being off the main route.” By golly, the word “by” can get by in just about any sentence!

By now, there are even a few more homophones for “buy,” “bye” and “by.” The word “bi” stands alone in the dictionary as an abbreviated way to describe someone who is bisexual. Finally, you can travel to the tiny Swedish town of “Bie,” although it may be pronounced like “bee.” Now that we’ve said all our “byes,” it’s time to standby until the next installment of *Grammar Guy*.

*Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist. He is the author of “Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life.” Find more at curthoneycutt.com.*

## Harrison Man, 1 of 2 Charged For Threats Made to Public Officials

LANSING — Two men are facing criminal charges for reportedly making threats against public officials in the events leading up to and following the November general election, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced today.

Daniel Thompson, 62, formerly of Gregory and now living in Harrison, is charged with three counts of malicious use of service provided by a telecommunications service provider, a six-month misdemeanor and/or a \$1,000 fine.

The Attorney General’s office alleges that Thompson left threatening messages for U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow on Jan. 5 from Livingston County and made vulgar and threatening remarks in a phone conversation with a member of U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin’s office on Jan. 19 from Clare County. A third charge alleges Thompson made another threatening call to Rep. Slotkin from Livingston County on April 30, 2020.

The voicemail message for Sen. Stabenow left by Thompson, who identified himself as a Republican, contained vulgar language and threatened violence meant to intimidate the public officials. Thompson stated he was angry about the results of the November election, that he joined a Michigan militia and that there would be violence if the election results were not changed. In an email to Stabenow’s office, he reiterated the threatening remarks and used vulgar language.

Thompson also spoke with a staff member from Congresswoman Slotkin’s office for more than an

hour in which he claimed people will die and used violent references, while also noting events that took place at the Capitol building.

The charges against Thompson involving the incident with Sen. Stabenow and an April 2020 call to Rep. Slotkin were led in Livingston County District Court. The charge involving the second call to Rep. Slotkin was led in Clare County District Court.

Clinton Stewart, 43, of Douglas, Georgia, is charged with one count of malicious use of service provided by a telecommunications service provider, a six-month misdemeanor and/or a \$1,000 fine.

The Attorney General’s office alleges that on Sept. 18 Stewart left a threatening voicemail message for Michigan Court of Claims Judge Cynthia Stephens in which he accused “activist judges” of making rulings that favored then presidential candidate Joe Biden to win the election through mail-in ballots.

The message was discovered by an employee of Judge Stephens’ office on Oct. 2, shortly after Stephens ruled in favor of plaintiffs in *Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans v. Secretary of State*. In that ruling, which was ultimately overturned by the Michigan Court of Appeals, Stephens granted plaintiffs’ request for declaratory and injunctive relief with respect to the receipt deadline for absentee ballots and ballot-handing restrictions that limit who can lawfully possess another voter’s absentee ballot.

The charge against Stewart was led in Wayne County’s 36th District Court in Detroit.

“It is unacceptable and illegal to intimidate or threaten public officials,” Nessel said. “To those who think they can do so by hiding behind a keyboard or phone, we will find you and we will prosecute you, to the fullest extent of the law. No elected official should have to choose between doing their job and staying safe.”

Arraignments of both defendants remain pending and no additional court dates have been scheduled.

**AG note:** *A criminal charge is merely an allegation and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

— CONTINUED FROM FRONT —

## Moore Sentenced for Stalking and Assault

Jerad Keith Moore, of Harrison, plead guilty to several charges in three different files on January 19, 2021: two counts of Aggravated Stalking, two counts of Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, and Possession of a loaded firearm within a Motor Vehicle. His convictions were a result of investigations conducted by the Clare County Sheriff’s Department from September to October of 2020. He was sentenced to prison term on March 1, 2021, by Judge Evans as follows: 17 months to 5 years on the Aggravated Stalking convictions, credit for 172 and 130 days served on each separate count; 17 months to 4 years on the Assault with a Dangerous Weapon convictions; and, 16 months to 2 years on the Possession of a Loaded Firearm within a Motor Vehicle, with 187 days credit for those counts. All sentences are to be served concurrently. The weapons were forfeited. He was also ordered to pay a combined total of \$4630.00 in fines, costs, and court appointed attorney fees.

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FREEMAN TOWNSHIP 8-1  
**March BOR 2021**  
Our Board of Review is  
**Monday, March 8, 2021** from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
**Tuesday, March 9, 2021** 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Freeman Township Hall**  
7280 Freemantown Road • Lake, MI. 48632

The purpose is to hear tax payer’s appeals of current year assessments. Appeals must be submitted in person or received by mail by the end of March 9th or e-mail AHouser@gmail.com. Please check website at [Freemantwp.com](http://Freemantwp.com) for any changes due to covid restrictions. You may also during the meeting times at (989) 588-2752.

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# LOCAL EVENTS & NEWS

## Clare County Animal Shelter Among Selected 2021 Recipients

### MDARD Grants Will Help Animal Shelters, New Pet Adopters

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is proud to announce the recipients of the 2021 Animal Welfare Fund grants. This year, MDARD will distribute \$137,144 to 24 registered animal shelters throughout the state to support various animal welfare projects.

The Animal Welfare Fund is supported by generous Michiganders during tax season when they check the fund's box on Form 4642, Voluntary Contributions Schedule on their state tax returns.

Since 2010, MDARD has distributed more than \$1.4 million to over 213 local animal shelters. One hundred percent of the contributions made to this fund go directly to these shelters to support efforts that increase sterilization rates among dogs and cats prior to adoption, provide anti-cruelty training for animal law enforcement agencies, offer proper animal care programs to the public, and assist shelters with the unreimbursed costs of care for animals involved in legal investigations.

"Thanks to the kindness of Michigan taxpayers, MDARD can help to support the growing needs of shelters around the state," said State Veterinarian Nora Wineland, DVM. "Over the last three years, we have seen an increase in not only the number of shelters applying for grants but also an increase in the amount of funds being requested. This year in particular, applicants have asked for more funds to educate the public and train staff."

For this year's grant cycle, MDARD received 59 applications, totaling more than \$511,000 in requests. Projects funded this year include the following:

-Equipment for the safe and secure transport of animals found in large-scale neglect and hoarding situations.



**Taxpayers: remember to check 'Animal Welfare Fund' box on voluntary contributions tax form**

-Outreach and educational materials to gain support for community changes that help promote the importance of spay/neuter and proper pet care.

-Certified anti-cruelty training for animal control officers to aid in their investigations of cruelty and fighting incidents, as well as assist in the cooperation and coordination of local law enforcement, the prosecutor's office, and community relations.

-Surgical packs for spay/neuter of shelter animals to reduce the backlog of surgeries and reduce the length of stay for shelter animals, helping them make it to new homes sooner without the chance of more unwanted puppies or kittens.

The following animal shelter organizations were awarded 2021 Animal Welfare Fund grants:

Alpena County Animal Control \$4,925; Al-Van Humane Society Inc. \$9,60; Bay County Animal Control Shelter \$5,600; BestPals Animal Rescue Center \$2,500; Cheboygan County Humane Society \$6,990; City of River Rouge Animal Shelter \$9,650; City of Romulus Animal Shelter \$4,376; **Clare County Animal Shelter \$6,480**; Country Cat Lady \$2,700; Friends of Companion Animals \$700; Genesee County Animal Control \$9,630; Greater Hillsdale Humane Society \$1,570; Humane Society of Midland County \$5,302; Humane Society of Monroe County \$4,125; Isabella County Animal Control \$7,550; Kent County Animal Shelter \$5,585; Lincoln Park Animal Shelter \$3,000; McCloud's Lake Haven \$7,500; Newaygo County Animal Shelter \$891; Ontonagon County Animal Protection Inc. \$2,055; Otsego County Animal Shelter \$10,000; Roscommon County Animal Shelter \$7,215; Saginaw County Animal Care and Control \$9,200; and Taylor Animal Shelter \$10,000.

The generosity of Michigan taxpayers makes these grants possible, which helps shelters fill the needs present in their communities. To continue to protect homeless animals and improve their care, check the Animal Welfare Fund's box on Form 4642, Voluntary Contributions Schedule on your state tax returns.

### COVID-19 one year later: Americans Continue Stepping up to Address Families' Urgent Needs

One year since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, people have stepped up to address the emotional needs of families reeling from the coronavirus and 2020's record-breaking disasters.

In Michigan and across the country, trained American Red Cross disaster mental health and spiritual care volunteers have had more than 53,000 conversations to provide emotional support to people in 2020 – which had the greatest number of billion-dollar disasters in a single year. In addition, trained volunteers have provided free crisis counseling through the Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center for grieving families during COVID-19.

"The past year has been overwhelming for many in our community, and yet through it all, people are caring for one another," said Mary Lynn Foster, Regional CEO. "When help can't wait, they provide families with the support they need during emergencies. During Red Cross Month in March, we honor this humanitarian spirit and ask you to join us by donating, giving blood, volunteering or taking a class to learn lifesaving skills."

**WHAT IS RED CROSS MONTH:** For nearly 80 years, U.S. presi-

dents have proclaimed March as Red Cross Month to recognize people giving back through its lifesaving mission – which is powered by more than 90% volunteers.

They include people like Helen Ostien, a social worker who has volunteered with Red Cross disaster response for 20 years in Michigan and beyond. Ostien and other disaster mental health volunteers provide emotional support, psychological first aid and referrals to community assistance for families coping with disasters during the pandemic like home fires and the Midland floods.

"Community resources have been stretched thin by the pandemic," said Ostien. "Red Cross mental health volunteers help people work through the challenges they're facing as a result of disaster by engaging clients in conversation, problem solving and providing structure so clients can triumph over the disruption a disaster creates."

**A GROWING DESIRE TO GIVE BACK:** A 2020 study on a rise in volunteer experiences added to LinkedIn profiles shows that more people want to help others during this unprecedented time. Last year, more than 70,000 people across the country became new Red Cross volunteers largely to support urgent disaster and essential blood donation needs. In addition, thousands of COVID-19 survivors – many new to blood donation – rolled up a sleeve to give convalescent plasma and help patients battling COVID-19.

Every day thousands of patients rely on lifesaving blood donations. The need for blood is constant, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tina Rocco knows firsthand how important it is to have blood on hospital shelves. After welcoming baby Gemma by cesarean section, she began hemorrhaging badly and was rushed back into the operating room. "I was later told it was several pints of blood and an amazing doctor that saved my life," Rocco said. "That allowed me to hold my first daughter and go home all together as a family of three."

Before that day, Rocco hadn't known anyone who needed blood transfusions. Now, this grateful mother says, "You truly never know when you, or someone you love, might need it."

**HOW TO HELP:** You can help ensure that families don't face emergencies alone – especially during a pandemic:

**DONATE:** Support our Disaster Relief efforts at redcross.org/GivingDay. A gift of any size makes a difference to provide shelter, food, relief items, emotional support and other assistance. Your donation will be part of our annual Giving Day on March 24 to aid families in need across the country.

**VOLUNTEER:** Visit redcross.org/VolunteerToday for most-needed positions and local opportunities.

**GIVE BLOOD:** If you're healthy and feeling well, make an appointment at RedCrossBlood.org. Your donation can make a lifesaving difference for a patient in need. As a thank you, those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma on March 15-26 will receive a Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

**LEARN LIFESAVING SKILLS:** Take a class in skills like CPR and first aid to help in an emergency at redcross.org/TakeAClass. Online options include our Psychological First Aid for COVID-19 course, which covers how to manage stress and support yourself and others.

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**SUMMERFIELD TOWNSHIP, CLARE COUNTY** 6-3  
 2021 March Board Of Review  
 Meeting Schedule

The Summerfield Township Board of Review for March 2021 will be held by electronic remote access, unless by the dates of the March Board of Review meetings it becomes lawful under state agency rules and statute for an in-person meeting to be held. Electronic remote access, in accordance with Michigan law, will be implemented in response to COVID-19 social distancing requirements and limitations on the number of individuals in a meeting hall.

If in-person meetings become a lawful option, then the meeting will be held both in person at the Summerfield Township Hall, 9971 N. Finley Lake Ave and via electronic remote access.

The public may participate in the meeting through electronic remote access via (freeconferencecall.com) by computer, phone.

**Dial-in number (US):** (978) 990-5012  
**Access code:** 5465016#  
**Online meeting ID:** hallsummerfield  
**Join the online meeting:**  
<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/hallsummerfield>

The public may also participate by landline phone or cell phone by calling into this 978-990-5012

The township will post the information confirming whether the March BOR will meet in person on its notice (board, sign, window), and the township's website and shadow box.

**The Summerfield Township March Board of Review will meet on the following dates:**

- Tuesday, March 2, 2021, (11:00am -?): **Organizational Meeting**
- Monday, March 8, 2021, (9:00 am – 3:00pm): **Appeal Hearing**
- Tuesday, March 9, 2021, (3:00 pm – 9:00 pm): **Appeal Hearing**

(Note: Appeal Hearing days must provide a total of at least 12 hours during the second week of March, with at least three (3) hours held after 6 p.m. as required by MCL 211.30.)

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2021 assessments. By board resolution, taxpayers are able to protest by letter, (including email), sent to (9971 N. Finley Lake Ave, Harrison, MI 48625 or hallsummerfield@gmail.com, provided protest is received prior to March 9, 2021.

**Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Notice:**  
 The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon three (3) days' notice. **Contact: 989-539-2501 Summerfield Township**

**Board of Review Members:**  
 Thomas Rhinehart, Chair  
 Robert Daves  
 Laurie Bartel  
 Meghan Van Wormer, Secretary of Board of Review / Assessor  
 Dan Wilhelm, Supervisor

**Notice Summerfield Township**  
 9970 North Finley Lake Ave.

Appointments for meetings are highly recommended.  
 Call Summerfield Township at 989-539-2501 to schedule your blocked time.  
 L-4035a – Petition for Board of Review  
 Forms must be filled out and turned in prior to scheduled meeting.

**Seasonal Employment**  
 City of Clare

The City of Clare is accepting applications for seasonal help for parks mowing and grounds maintenance of City properties. This position pays \$12 per hour, 40 hours per week, and runs through November 14.

Applicants must have a minimum of a high school diploma; the ability to establish and maintain positive working relationships with fellow employees and the general public; the ability to perform routine work in an accurate, efficient, self-motivated manner; and the ability to organize, prioritize and work independently.

Applicants must possess a valid driver's license and are subject to a background check and drug and alcohol screening. Applicants must submit an application for employment online at [www.cityofclare.org](http://www.cityofclare.org), or submit a resume detailing their qualifications and include a minimum of three professional work references to:

City of Clare, Seasonal Employment,  
 202 W. Fifth Street, Clare, MI 48617.  
**The deadline for application is 11:59 pm on March 14, 2021.**  
 The City of Clare is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

# Obituaries

## TERRY STEPHENSON

AUGUST 8, 1952 - FEBRUARY 15, 2021

Terry Stephenson, age 68, of Harrison, Michigan, passed away on February 15, 2021 at the V.A. Palliative Care Unit in Saginaw, MI. after a service-connected illness from the Vietnam War. He was born August 8, 1952 in Dearborn, MI to H.L. Stephenson and Erma Dale (Massey) Stephenson.



At age 17, he enlisted in the army and did his basic training at Fort Knox. He trained for Special Services, and was sent to Fort Wainwright, Alaska for further training. He then went to Vietnam, where he was injured. He became a P.O.W and after rescued, went to Valley Forge to recuperate. He got his Honorable Discharge and left the service in 1971. He later did Infiltration Specialty for the government.

He came to Harrison in 1977 and finished his education with a degree at Mid Michigan Community College in Harrison. He met his wife, Carol, over a pool game. Three months later, they eloped to South Carolina during spring break on April 15, 1978. They moved to Escanaba, MI., where he attended Bay de Noc College, and then to Menominee, MI., where he worked at Enstrum Helicopter.

After a death in the family, they moved to Ohio, where they lived in the city where his wife, Carol, was from. They returned to MI and settled in Harrison. Being 100% disabled vet, he was a life member of the D.A.V. and American Legion.

He was predeceased by his parents, H.L. & Erma Dale Stephenson, his sister, Regina, numerous aunts, uncles, & cousins. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Carol (Brandenburg) Stephenson,

daughter Amy from a former marriage, and son, Matthew Stephenson, three step-daughters, Rebecca (Lee) Robertson of Clinton Twp., MI., Vickie (Dana) Wade of Miamisburg, OH, Donna (Randall) Sullivan of Riverdale, MI, and also a half-sister, Charlotte. Brothers, Rick (Janie) Stephenson of Arizona, Tim (Donna) Stephenson of Lexington, KY, Mark (Nancy) Stephenson of Prattville, Alabama. Sister Linda Sue (Mike) Stevens, nieces, and nephews. His mother-in-law, Garnet Davis, and his long-time friend, Vern Watkins, both of Fairborn, OH. and nine grandchildren.

A family service was held at New Comers Funeral Home, Kettering, OH, with a full military burial at the Dayton National Cemetery. Condolences may be made to the Go Fund Me at <https://gofundme/8154ceee>, to help with expenses or to a charity of choice

We wish to thank the Home Care Team Hospice, the V.A. Palliative Care, and the nurses who cared for him. We are planning a memorial service in the summer at a date not yet set.

## MARY HELEN WALTON

FEBRUARY 4, 1949 - FEBRUARY 15, 2021

Mary Helen Walton 72 of rural Harrison passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, February 15, 2021. Mary was born the daughter of Maurice Frederick Monroe and Helen Agnes (Berger) Monroe on February 4, 1949 in Lansing, Michigan. Mary graduated from Webberville High School in 1967. On July 27, 1974 at St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing, Michigan, Mary was united in marriage to the love of her life, Mr. William Edward Walton.



Mary had resided in Harrison since 2015, moving from Ossineke, Michigan, where she, her husband and two daughters had resided for many years. Prior to her retirement, Mary worked as a bookkeeper for several businesses in the Ossineke area. Upon retirement in Harrison, Mary became a member of St. Athanasius Catholic Church, Harrison. She enjoyed bird watching, floral gardening, boating on her beloved Lily Lake, rock picking, studying Astrology, cooking family dinners, cheering for her favorite drivers in NASCAR and cheering for the Detroit Lions and Detroit Tigers. Mary's fondest memories were shared with her family, especially time spent spoiling her grandchildren.

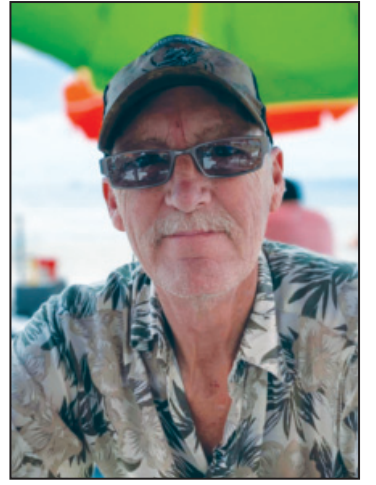
Surviving Mary Walton is her loving husband and best friend of forty-six years, Mr. William Edward Walton of Harrison, two daughters; Erin Pilarski and husband James of Holland, Michigan and Jennifer Volker and husband Matthew of Blackfoot, Idaho, ten grandchildren; Kaitlyn, Abagale, Erek, Elisabeth, Gabriel, Hallie, Jayden, Jensen, Tayson and Brie, two sisters; Lynda Hetrick and husband Paul of Grayling, Michigan and Barbara Monroe of Lansing, Michigan, two brothers; Christopher Monroe and wife Debbie of Remus, Michigan and Steven Monroe and wife Maureen of Webberville, Michigan, two sis-

ters-in-law; Alice Monroe of Holt, Michigan and Andrea Monroe of Calumet, Michigan, one brother-in-law, David Kidd of Dansville, Michigan, many nieces, nephews, extended family members and her beloved fur babies; Kal and Kai. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Elizabeth Kidd and two brothers; Maurice Monroe Jr. and Joseph Monroe.

Celebration of Life services honoring Mary Walton will be held Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. from Hope Baptist Church, 3315 East Townline Lake Road, Harrison, Michigan with Pastor Connie Bongard officiating. A time of gathering will be held Saturday, March 6, 2021 from 1:30 p.m. until time of service. Memorial gifts in honor and memory of Mary may be considered to: V.F.W. Post 1075 of Harrison, 3190 North Clare Avenue, Harrison, MI. 48625. To share an online memory or condolence with Mary's family, please visit: [www.stockingfuneralhome.com](http://www.stockingfuneralhome.com). Arrangements and care of Mary Walton and her family are entrusted with Stocking Funeral Home, Harrison (989) 539-7810. Following COVID 19 guidelines, all guest attending the gathering and service for Mary Walton are required to wear face masks and practice suggested social distancing.

## DALE ALAN WOODWORTH

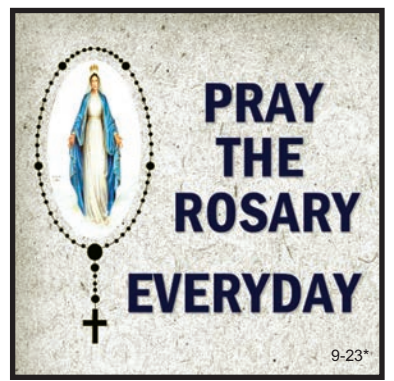
Dale Alan Woodworth, age 60, died at his youngest daughter's Florida home on Friday, February 12, 2021, after a three-year battle with small cell lung cancer. Born in Jackson, Michigan, the United States Air Force veteran and long-time Harrison resident is survived by his two daughters, Lesley (Steven) Marie Woodworth-Thomas and Tonya Lynn Woodworth; ex-wife, Patricia Ann Woodworth; two brothers, Lester (Crystal) George Woodworth II and Carter Andrew Woodworth; his youngest sister, Margie (Michael) Lynn Gestro; his uncle, Arthur (Diane) Dale Woodworth; and three grandchildren, Makayla Lynn Woodworth, Clara Marie Thomas, and Tristan Salvatore Thomas. Dale was preceded in death by his parents, Lester George Woodworth and Marjorie Marie Mitchell; his uncle, Robert (Helen) Alan Woodworth; and two sisters, Dawn (Skip) Louise Willis and Sharron (Robert) Lynn Curns.



Dale was always the entertainer, the life of the party, with his witty sarcasm and gregarious grin. A prankster in his youth, his unwavering optimism and zest for life were evident, even in his final days. Dale's family will spread his ashes at sea in a private gathering on May 20, 2021, in Fort Myers, Florida.

A separate Celebration of Life will be held for family and friends at the home of Dale's cousin Bert (Kay) Stinson, located at 3444 Camino Rd, Harrison, MI 48625, on Saturday, August 7, 2021, at 4:00 pm. Inquiries may be e-mailed to Tonya Woodworth: [tonyalwoodworth@gmail.com](mailto:tonyalwoodworth@gmail.com).

The family asks that donations, in lieu of flowers, be made to the American Cancer Society.



**Harrison Sportsman's Club Youth Archery Shoot**  
 January 3, 2021 - March 7, 2021 • 1 pm to 3 pm  
 Location: 3704 N. Harrison Ave. • Harrison, MI  
 This archery shoot is open to all ages, also all levels of shooting. All equipment is furnished. We have a 60 ft. indoor shooting range with 3D & paper targets. If you have a bow of your own, please bring it. Also this year, we would like to invite the parents to shoot with the kids as well.  
 If you have any questions please contact Ray 989-539-5004.

### Sign up now: CLARE COUNTY 4-H

Now enrolling new members for the 2021 year. Michigan 4-H is open to all youth ages 5-19 and offers many club-based programs such as crafts, textile, and science to name a few. There is no cost to join Clare County 4-H.

The 4-H slogan is "learn by doing" so please contact the Clare County MSU Extension at (989) 539-7805 to start your "learn by doing" experience today or for more information contact Alex Schunk at [schunkal@msu.edu](mailto:schunkal@msu.edu)



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**989-539-1590**



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 CHURCH SCHOOL 10:30am  
 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30am  
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 11:00 a.m. - Morning Services  
 6:00 p.m. - Evening Services  
 Wed. 7:00pm full Youth Programs  
 3088 Mostetter 539-7301

**ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH**  
 310 S. Broad St., Harrison  
**Mass Schedule**  
 Sunday 11 a.m.

**COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 452 N. Clare Ave. • Harrison • 539-9101  
 9:45AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 11AM - MORNING SERVICE  
 6PM - EVENING SERVICE  
 6:30PM - WED. NIGHT PRAYER SERV. & KINGS KIDS

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**A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 (989) 539-1445  
 Join Us Sunday 11:00am  
 426 N. First St. • Harrison, MI  
 New Pastor Ray McClintic

**J & G AUTO CLINIC**  
 Gary Hudson  
 3950 N. Clare Ave.  
 Harrison ..... 539-5141

**HARRISON UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH**  
 250 East Main St. • Harrison  
 (989) 539-9131  
 Sundays - Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
 Worship 11:00 a.m.

**Love**  
 Because God is love, love is the first fruit of the Spirit. When Jesus was asked which commandment was the greatest He answered unhesitatingly, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40)  
 The entire Old and New Testament are a love story: The love of God for his people and their frequently wavering love for God and for each other. But how often we see that God's people need to be reminded of this. And again, how often we hear the prophets reminding them, and us, that God does not want strife or sacrifice, but a loving heart. Jesus tells us repeatedly that love is about loving our enemies and turning the other cheek, and the Epistles drive home this same point again and again. Consider how much hatred and dissension there is in the modern world. Political, ethnic and religious strife, and wars around the world all show us that, contrary to the requirements of all the world's major religions that we love one another, we are constantly failing to uphold the first and foremost of God's commandments. We should not be deceived; we cannot be constantly filled with hatred, strife and neglect of our fellow man, and still be considered a child of God. So, we should banish hatred and strife from our life and show active goodwill toward our fellow man. We must ask God to give us a loving heart, and then go forth and do His good work.  
 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.  
 New K.J.V. 1 John 4:7

**MONTE'S RESTAURANT**  
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 Harrison **539-5551**

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**THE CLASSIFIED DEADLINE IS 5:00PM MONDAY**

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**MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

**FOR SALE**  
 Cedar Chest - 45" long, 20" wide & 14" deep with an insert, it's a beauty. \$250 FIRM. Call 989-539-9646. 9\*

**WANTED & HELP WANTED**

**HELP WANTED at Pallet Solutions**  
 Willing, cheerful attitude required. Will train for skills. Incentive based pay. Call now for immediate openings. 330-473-3530. 9-1\*

**GARAGE & YARD SALES**

**Moving Sale**  
 March 6 & 7 from 9 am - 6 pm. Couch with hide away bed and matching loveseat, dressers, chairs, home décor, Elvis collection, & tons more. Harrison Estates (on Mostetler Road), Lot 39. 989-339-7598. 8-1\*

**PERSONALS & OTHER**

**Hi, I'm Barry.** I golf, tennis, motorcycle, go for walks, & love the outdoors. 67-years old. Looking for a White female. Please call 989-544-0549, between 8 am - 9 pm, if you would enjoy spending time together. 8-1\*

**AUCTIONS**

**Large Online Firearm & Ammo Auction Bidding Is Open & Begins Closing Mon. March 8 @ 8:00 PM.**  
**Sale Features:** 246 Lots With 114 Firearms Including (63) Rifles, (32) Shotguns & (19) Handguns. Sale Also Includes: 1,000's Of Rds. Of Ammo. & Primers.  
**Located:** 27 E. M-61 Gladwin. Preview Is Welcome By Appointment. John Peck Auctioneers For Over 40 Years, (989) 426-8061 To View A Complete Detailed Listing With Hundreds Of Photo's Visit johnpeckauctions.com 8-1\*

**LEGALS**

**Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement**  
 Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clare County, starting promptly at 11:00 AM, on March 17, 2021. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:  
**Name(s) of the mortgagor(s):** James S. Zarembo, a single man  
**Original Mortgagee:** Green Tree Financial Servicing Corporation  
**Foreclosing Assignee (if any):** U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, for Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Pass-Through Certificate Trust 1999-6  
**Date of Mortgage:** July 27, 1999  
**Date of Mortgage Recording:** August 17, 1999  
**Amount claimed due on date of notice:** \$45,195.70  
**Description of the mortgaged premises:** Situated in Township of Redding, Clare County, Michigan, and described as:  
 Part of the West Half of the Southeast quarter, Section 15 Town 19 North, Range 6 West, Redding Township, Clare County, Michigan, described as beginning at point which is North 89 degrees 25 minutes 35 seconds East, along the East/ West one quarter line, 426.23 feet from the center of said Section 15, thence Continuing North 89 degrees 25 minutes 35 seconds East, along said East/West one quarter line, 214.47 feet; thence South 01 degrees 18 minutes 56 seconds East, 1117.17 feet, thence South 88 degrees 28 minutes 30 seconds West 214.46 feet; thence North 01 degrees 18 minutes 56 seconds West, 1120.73 feet back to the point of beginning  
**Common street address (if any):** 8383 Fir Trl, Harrison, MI 48625-8427  
 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).  
 If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.  
**Attention homeowner:** If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty,

please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.  
 This notice is from a debt collector.  
 Date of notice:  
 February 11, 2021  
 Trott Law, P.C.  
 31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
 (248) 642-2515  
 1429106 6-3  
 \*\*\*  
**NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE**  
 Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clare County, starting promptly at 11:00 a.m. on March 31, 2021. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.  
**MORTGAGE SALE -** Michelle Lee Skonieski, original mortgagor, granted a Mortgage to United States of America, acting through the Rural Housing Service, its successors and assigns, United States Department of Agriculture, dated October 14, 2002, and recorded October 18, 2002 as Liber 815 Page 816 in Clare County records, Michigan, which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty-Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Twenty-six dollars and 56/100 dollars (\$82,226.56).  
 The following described premises: Situated in the Township of Hayes, County of Clare, and State of Michigan: Lots 98 and 99, Second Addition of Allendale Subdivision, Hayes Township, Clare County, Michigan Commonly known as 1004 James Street, Harrison, MI

48625 Property ID# 007-125-098-00 The redemption period shall be 6 (six) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241, in which case the redemption period shall be 1 month, or under MCL 600.3241a 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the date of foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.  
**ATTENTION HOMEOWNER:**  
 If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.  
**ATTENTION PURCHASERS:**  
 This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.  
 This notice is from a debt collector.  
 Dated:  
 February 16, 2021  
 For more information, please call:  
 (513) 852-6066  
 Daniel A. Cox and  
 Crystal L. Saresky Wood & Lamping LLP Attorneys for Servicer  
 600 Vine Street, Suite 2500, Cincinnati, OH 45202  
 File 21-02014 (02-25)(03-18) 8-3  
 \*\*\*

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF CLARE NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate FILE NO. 21-18233-DE Estate of JAMES A. BATEMAN Date of birth: 8-14-1941 TO ALL CREDITORS: \* NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, JAMES A. BATEMAN, died 11-18-2020. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to AMY J. MASON, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 225 W. MAIN, HARRISON and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.  
 Dated: 1-26-21  
 TARA S. HOVEY P54258  
 195 W. MAIN P.O. BOX 649 HARRISON, MI 48625 (989) 539-7134  
 AMY J. MASON 12854 RAMBLER RD. DEWITT, MI 48820 (517) 388-2457 9  
 \*\*\*  
 STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF CLARE NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate FILE NO. 21-18266-DE Estate of Mary Jane Mains Date of birth: 9/16/1953 TO ALL CREDITORS: \* NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Mary Jane Mains, died 12/7/2018. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Duane Mains, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 225 West Main St., P.O. Box 96, Harrison, MI 48625 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.  
 Dated: 2/26/2021  
 Denise Medina P82976  
 31800 Northwestern Hwy. Ste. 350 Farmington Hills, MI 48834  
 888-789-1715  
 Duane Mains 3086 Tobacco Rd. Harrison, MI 48625 9  
 \*\*\*

**LEGALS**  
 (Continued on Page 8)

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 9-2\*

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**14.75 ACRE CLARE AVENUE** - 14.75 +/- acres ready to be developed, just south of the north Harrison freeway interchange. The property has been cleared and is ready to be built on. Great traffic flow. \$172,500  
<https://harrison-realty.com/173564>

**6350 ROBIN** - Find real comfort in this metal-roofed 2-bedroom home with beach access and a pole barn to store the toys. \$79,900  
 For Info Text **RBQVMVK To 52187**

**07 TAMARACK RIDGE** - Building lot overlooking 7th fairway Tamarack Golf Course, comes w/3 years membership for 2 \$29,900  
 For Info Text **RBGHCQS To 52187**

**14.15 ACRE WESTLAWN** - Great Development site. Approximately 14.15 acres in the City of Harrison ready to be developed. \$172,500  
 For Info Text **RBVJQQ To 52187**

**9.5 ACRES CLARE AVE.** - Great development property on BUS127 south of the north freeway interchange 400' frontage. \$150,000  
 For Info Text **RBGFHXIS To 52187**

**3200 GREENBRIAR** - 3BR/2BA Ranch. Nat Gas heat. Fire place Two-car garage, well water. Do not let this lovely charmer get away! \$159,000  
 For Info Text **RBGJTSS To 52187**

**2061 GARY** - Explore the many virtues of this 2-bedroom Ranch. Freshly painted, new bath, move in ready. Possible L.C. \$97,700  
 For Info Text **RBGHCQR To 52187**

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**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP Board Of Review**  
 Franklin Township will be holding Board of Review meetings via ZOOM this time around.  
**March 2 at 5:00 pm**  
 The ID# is 83723985008  
 The Passcode is 020512  
**March 8 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**  
 The ID# is 89715011202  
 The Passcode is 828643  
**March 10 from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm**  
 The ID# is 88202212460  
 The Passcode is 609408 8-1

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**212 PARK.** 1 Bdrm. well & septic, lp gas space heater, on a large lot near state land & trails. \$21,500. **MLS 173804**

**143 OAK GROVE.** 4 Bdrm. 2 bath, utility, nat. gas, cent. air, shed, 24x24 pole barn, & on a nice lot with access to a shared waterfront lot on Budd Lk. \$93,500. **MLS 174105**

**6670 EBERHART.** Custom built log sided 4 bdrm. 2 bath home with large family room, garage, on 10 wooded acres near lakes, state land & trails. \$349,900. **MLS 173387 (Due To Many Recent Sales, Listings Are Greatly Needed & Appreciated!)**

**6559 SAW MILL.** 3 Bdrm. Waterfront 83' on canal of Chain of Lakes, vinyl siding many updates, move in ready, decks, shed, beach area and seawall. \$124,900.00 **MLS 173696**

**6009 PIERCE.** 160 acres, small hunting cabin with elec., gas heat, no well or septic. has many trails, great hunting area bordering state land & trails. \$429,900. **MLS 173601**





# To Make or Break America: 9 Proven Ways to Destroy Freedom

By Bryan Golden

History teaches us two things: what works and what doesn't. After over 200 years of experience, we know definitively what has worked for America. We also know just as definitively, what has caused other countries to fail.

America was the first country in history to be founded exclusively on individual freedom. It was an experiment never before done. The outcome was unknown. Today we do know with certainty the wildly successful impact freedom has on people. Americans have created the highest standard of living, along with the best quality of life in human history.

While America was growing and prospering, most other countries were doing the exact opposite. Their populations were suffer-

*This article ran in the Cleaver in 2014. It was clipped and kept by a reader and they suggested we run it again.*

ing under tyrannical regimes that exerted iron fisted control through the elimination of freedom.

The American Constitution was crafted specifically to limit the scope of government in order to prevent its infringing on individual liberties. Our government was formed to serve the people, rather than vice versa.

America was created to enable each citizen to control his or her destiny without fear of interference by government or others.

The doors of America have always been open to people from anywhere in the world who want to come here legally to work hard, contribute, and assimilate into our society. America's reputation as a melting pot is derived from the fact that people from every walk of life work together to create an unstoppable force for good.

History has also clearly documented the tactics used by dictators, tyrants, and fascists to enslave a population through the suppression of freedom. History has recorded the abject misery and suffering which results.

Here are 9 of the tactics used by tyrannical regimes throughout history to destroy freedom:

**1) Control healthcare:** Government control of healthcare provides control over virtually every aspect of people's lives.

**2) Increase poverty:** Expand the welfare state by suppressing the economy and driving up unemployment. People who are dependent on government are readily controlled. Poor people are easier to control and will not object to oppression when government is providing everything for them to live.

**3) Create massive debt:** Increase national debt to an unsustainable level. Taxes can then be increased, which suppresses the economy leading to more poverty.

**4) Prohibit self-defense:** Remove the ability of individuals to defend themselves. This enables justification of the creation of a police state under the guise of public safety.

**5) Centralize control of education:** Total government control of what children learn in school

usurps educational system oversight from the people and allows indoctrination of the students.

**6) Cultivate class warfare:** Divide a population into opposing segments based on money, race, gender, religion, and age. Provoke the various groups to fight with each other. This creates civil unrest, which prevents unification against oppressive policies.

**7) Suppress free speech and dissent:** Crush criticism of the government by wielding the force of government agencies.

**8) Eliminate privacy:** Monitor all communications. Install an endless array of cameras.

**9) Spread fear:** Use fear of government retribution to force people into submission.

America's greatness is proof of the power of freedom. However, liberty is only maintained through constant vigilance. America's founders recognized that the forces of evil seeking to destroy America would be ever present.

Our Constitution provides the framework to protect America. It's up to Americans to ensure that the Constitution is enforced. If there is no outcry when the Constitution is violated, then its provisions will no longer protect our Country and America will fail.

America belongs to you. If you love freedom, don't sit on the sidelines watching it slip away. Stand up and speak out in support of liberty. America's fate is in your hands.

*Golden is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact him at Bryan@columlist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com, 2014 Bryan Golden*

## Former Osceola County Sheriff's Deputy Pleads to Child Sex Crimes, Felony Drug Charges

LANSING — A former Osceola County sheriff's deputy pleaded guilty Feb. 26 to multiple felony drug charges and possessing child sexually abusive material, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced.

Andrew Wernette, 39, of Reed City, entered the plea Feb. 26 in Osceola County 49th Circuit Court before Judge Scott Hill-Kennedy.

Wernette pleaded guilty to: -Two counts of aggravated child sexually abusive activity, a 25-year felony;

-Using a computer to commit a crime, a 20-year felony;

-Child sexually abusive activity-aggravated possession, a 10-year felony;

-Child sexually abusive material-distributing or promoting, a seven-year felony;

-Larceny in a building, a four-year felony;

-Possession of a controlled substance — morphine, a two-year felony;

-Possession of a controlled substance — OxyContin, a two-year felony; and

-Controlled substance-maintaining a drug house, a two-year high-court misdemeanor.

"The crimes this defendant has now pled guilty to are extremely disturbing," Nessel said. "Children must never be taken advantage of, and this office will take aggressive action to ensure the laws that protect them are enforced and those individuals

who exploit minors or support that immoral behavior are punished."

A tip provided to authorities led to the execution of a search warrant, which allowed police to discover more than 100 images and video of child sexually abusive material on Wernette's computers and cell phone. It also led authorities to the discovery of drugs that were illegally in Wernette's possession.

Wernette used his position as a deputy in charge of the drug takeback program at the Osceola County Sheriff's Office's to procure various medications, meant to be disposed of, for his own personal use.

Michigan State Police conducted the investigation and arrested Wernette on Sept. 14, 2020. The Attorney General's office is prosecuting the case following a request from the Osceola County Prosecutor's Office due to a conflict of interest.

Wernette was originally charged with additional counts, but those were dismissed following his plea Feb. 26. Those charges were:

-Child sexually abusive activity, a 20-year felony;

-Using a computer to commit a crime, a 20-year felony;

-Child sexually abusive activity, a 15-year felony; and

-Controlled substance — delivery/manufacture of morphine, a seven-year felony.

He is scheduled to be sentenced March 26.

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By Dianne Alward-Biery  
Cleaver Staff Writer

## 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Resolution Gets Mixed Reception

HARRISON – Also addressing the BOC Feb. 17 was Gordy Mason, who requested the BOC adopt a resolution to make Clare County a Second Amendment Sanctuary. He said the movement of Second Amendment sanctuaries was gaining popularity around the country, with counties adopting resolutions and ordinances. He even said some states are considering it, adding that three states are proposing a law so that their individual states are not bound to obey or enforce federal laws that are done by executive order.

“I see one state is even attempting to pass a bill allowing their state law enforcement to arrest any federal agent attempting to violate the Second Amendment,” he said, adding the reason for that is that so many people are afraid their Second Amendment rights will be taken away or violated. “I’m quite passionate about it because it’s such an important part of our history. It’s not about our forefathers coming back from a hunting trip, it’s about them defending their rights against tyrannical government. It’s about our inherent right to own and possess a firearm to protect ourselves and our family. It’s about a person being put in a situation where they need to defend themselves, without becoming a criminal in the process.”

He said some of the laws being presented today are doing just that.

“There was something presented over the weekend that really doesn’t look good,” Mason said. “It’s so important that we do this. It’s so important when a person enlists in the service and takes the oath of office to defend the Constitution, and it would be very easy to give up this right by turning a blind eye or vote, and you’ll never get it back.”

He said he was before the board to reaffirm its support that this county would never under any circumstances enforce any laws that are contrary to the idea.

When commissioner Sandra Bristol asked if Mason was worried his guns would be taken away, he said there was a plan proposed over the weekend to do just that, and that to do so, in his opinion, would violate the Second Amendment.

Bristol then asked who proposed the plan, and Mason said he did not want to be political, but that President Biden had “proposed some things,” and more specifically “to take away all our semi-automatic firearms, no shotguns larger than a .410,” and that he didn’t remember all of it.

When Bristol then asked “Where did you get that information?” Mason replied, “I read an article.” He did not cite the source of the article.

**Bill of Rights  
Amendment II**  
*A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.*

Then commissioner comments began, starting with: “Now it’s getting crazy.”

“I don’t think it’s physically possible to take away our guns,” said Bristol. “I think financially, logistical, the Second Amendment is good enough. No other administration has tried to take guns away.”

“I think in order to change a Constitutional Amendment, it’s got to be done through Congress,” said board vice chair Dale Majewski. “And it can’t be done by executive order. I know there’s as many gun-toting Democrats as there are Republicans, and we all own the same guns. And I just don’t see something like that coming through our Congress – whether it’s a Democrat-controlled or definitely not a Republican-controlled Congress.”

Haskell said that, obviously, whatever Congress passes is a law, and the resolution would not supersede that or anything else but would simply show support that people in this area believe in the Second Amendment. He suggested it could be talked about until the next board meeting.

Majewski urged caution in what documents the county observes.

“I don’t believe there’s anybody who doesn’t believe in the Second Amendment,” he said.

Haskell then informed Mason that the board would take his document and make a decision on it at the next meeting.

Mason reiterated that he believed the resolution was just a reaffirmation of the Second Amendment.

Bristol said she thought it was fear mongering.

Majewski suggested the board needed to find out the court legalities, and whether it would stand up if the county signed it, and that it really needed to be researched prior to signing. It was decided the resolution should be forwarded to the county prosecutor for an opinion, and also that the sheriff’s input should be sought, as well.

“We had a sheriff that said he wasn’t going to enforce certain executive orders of the governor,” Majewski said.

“And if he did decide to enforce some sort of ‘taking your guns away,’ how would he pull that off?” Bristol said. “And even if he decided he would do that – which he never would, I’m sure – the minute I heard that, I’d take my .22 and bury it in the backyard. Even on a national level, what are they going to do, send in the army and the Air Force? Go door to door? I don’t think it can be done.”

Mason agreed, saying he didn’t think it could be done either, repeating that the resolution is a reaffirmation.

## BOC from page 1

as she planned to present it at the next board meeting. Commissioner Bronwyn Asplund requested the prosecutor provide a comparative listing of prosecutor salaries from other counties.

Haskell conceded the fact that raises are not forthcoming unless someone leaves and their replacement hires in at a lower rate of pay, freeing up the balance for distribution among existing employees. This he called a double-edged sword, and assured Ambrozaitis that the board is putting increasing revenues at the top of its list.

In his report at the end of the meeting, Rick Fancon said he had reached out to Rep. Jason Wentworth to inquire about the county’s budget worries, employee retention and election integrity. Fancon had asked if there was any help available at the state level.

“What he offered to do is get two budget specialists and set up a meeting with commissioners to sit down and look at our budget and try to help us see if there’s anything out there, or anything in-house we can do,” Fancon said. “Jason’s going to get back with me when he gets it all set up, and I’ll bring it back to the commissioners.”

Administrator Tracy Byard said Wentworth had also included Dina Bosworth from the Michigan Association of Counties to work with their staff. The consensus was the help would be a good thing, and Haskell said the idea was actually exciting. Haskell also urged Fancon to relay to Wentworth the BOC’s desire to speak with him about Indigent Defense, as well.

Speaking on behalf of the courts were Darrell Schlese, court administrator/referee, and Steven Worpell, magistrate, whose budget presentation was short and to the point, describing the courts’ relationship with the BOC and providing an overview of the anticipated to-date budget spending. Schlese also described the changes to probate court cases, noting that many matters previously handled in probate court have now come under the purview of the family division

of circuit court. He also informed that revenue from the circuit/probate court was close to where it should be at this time. Schlese also noted the current figures are affected by as-yet-unreceived state payments.

Majewski then asked why the courts can’t assess the true costs of prosecuting a crime, rather than the lesser fines and costs traditionally adjudged. Schlese said the circuit court judges have their own philosophy on what judgements should be, and deferred response for district court to Worpell and Judge Joshua Farrell.

Farrell said he wanted to be sure the board had a clear understanding of the two things being discussed.

“For the newer board members, the Constitution states that every county in the state must fund a court system,” Farrell said. “Most boards like to see that county departments and court departments run as a business where you have a balanced budget. Unfortunately, just simply due to the nature of the people we deal with, that’s not always possible.”

He said many court systems around the state run “in the red” every year, but that doesn’t mean things get cut from the courts, because there is a constitutional duty to run the court system. Farrell noted that at the current time district court is under expected cost and over projected revenues, while running the same caseload as in previous years, despite the effects of COVID-19. He reminded the board that just a few years ago, between the two counties, district court handled 14,000 cases, and although that has come down, that even with 2019 numbers there were more than 430 felonies, 778 misdemeanors, more than 1,600 civil infractions, more than 1,500 civil cases and problem-solving courts.

Farrell reminded the board that, due to some court employee retirements, district court is operating at 25% of its work hours of several months ago. This was because two staff members took advantage of

the early buy-out which yielded what Farrell called “a substantial savings to the board.” He advised the board that when court operations is prioritized, collections is at the very bottom.

“You deal with felon incarcerated inmates and work your way down,” Farrell said. “And right now, due to limited staffing ... we’re working with a skeleton crew right now.”

He also noted that there are many criminal justice reforms coming in the next couple months, which also will substantially affect revenues. An example cited was a simple sheriff department issued ticket which had to be paid within 14 days will now have to provide for options such as community service in lieu of payment. Farrell also mentioned the example of the recreational marijuana law which resulted in at least a \$70,000 to \$90,000 decrease in revenues.

“The next few months will be very key to the courts’ budgets,” he said. “I agree that we need to get these funds from the people that are committing crimes; we’re already at the top end of the fines and costs schedule. If a misde-

meanor has a \$500 maximum fine, you’re not supposed to assess more than two-thirds of that in costs. We’re already ordering \$750 to \$775, so when you add costs of prosecution and law enforcement, I fully support that. Absolutely. But you’re squeezing blood out of a turnip.”

He said no matter how much cost is added, until there is staff to collect it, “it’s not going to happen.”

During Commissioner Reports near the end of the meeting, Sandy Bristol mentioned a letter to the editor in which the writer took issue with elected officials not having attended Sen. Rick Outman’s Feb. 5 community office hours, other than Lori Martin, county clerk/register. Bristol took issue with people being denigrated for not attending, noting that, other than herself, all the commissioners have jobs. Martin, of course, was already at her job in the County Building.

Community Office Hours are essentially opportunities for citizens to bring up topics of concern with their district representatives. Dale Majewski added that he and

other commissioners have the ability to contact legislators’ offices at any time. Bristol also reminded that the winter storm of Feb. 4 and 5 caused herself and many other

people to stay off the roads, as was advised by the Michigan State Police. Schools in the county also were closed that day.



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