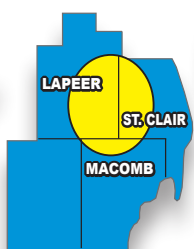


Tri-City Times



Wednesday, August 12, 2026

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attracts 132

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Officials hold Main Street ground breaking



Photo courtesy of Lisa McClain's office

There were smiles all around last Thursday in Capac as local, state and federal officials gathered for a ceremonial ground breaking of the Main Street renovations.

By David Fredrick
Managing Editor

CAPAC — The Village of Capac had a problem with its downtown. It was in dire need of upgrades, namely Main Street itself, and to make it accessible and walkable for residents and visitors.

Along the condition of the main road traveling through this small village, repair attempts, albeit ineffective, were tried a number of times, with no luck. The end result was a village long

speed bump that forced cars to slow down while others sustained damage to their vehicles.

The Village's aging sidewalks being non-American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant will now be made accessible thanks to Congresswoman Lisa McClain.

McClain, who represents Michigan's 10th district which includes the Village of Capac, secured \$1.5 million in Congressionally Directed Spending for Capac to upgrade its

pedestrian infrastructure to meet ADA requirements.

"We appreciate the efforts of Congresswoman Lisa McClain for advocating on behalf of the Village, securing funding for this project and helping us move forward," said Travis Youatt, Village of Capac's Manager.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the improvements was held on Thursday.

"One of the best things about Michigan is its small towns, and

Capac is a great example of that," said Congresswoman McClain. "This project is going to make the downtown more welcoming for visitors and a better place for local businesses to grow. That's exactly the kind of investment I want to fight for because when communities like Capac succeed, Michigan succeeds."

For Capac, it was also crucial to upsize utilities and upgrade infrastructure for safety and walkability.

Not only was the downtown not up to ADA standards, but it also had drainage issues that needed to be addressed.

Consultant Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V) of Grand Blanc provided conceptual and final design engineering services, coordinated public engagement meetings, managed bidding services and will provide construction administration.

"We're excited to

Ground page 4

Almont voters approve non-homestead

Back to the polls in the fall for Sinking Fund request

By David Fredrick
Managing Editor

ALMONT — Voters in the Almont Community School district gave approval for a non-homestead ballot pertaining to their operational millage, saving officials from having to look at making cuts throughout the district.

"We are very pleased with the results of the election," School Board President Janaea Smith said at a special meeting Aug. 6. "No one wanted to even think about having to make cuts, which would have happened had not the vote been a positive outcome."

For a variety of reasons, including a perception of a lack of trust and transparency by the board, voters have not been in favor of two previous millage proposals.

"I think we have things going in the right direction now," Smith explained. "We have our new superintendent (Kyle Wood), several new staff including principals and administrative staff and we are ready to keep things moving in what we hope is a positive direction."

The approval of the millage renewal means saving the district having to cut over \$1 mil-



Photo by David Fredrick

The Almont school board has decided to go back to voters this fall for a sinking fund request to help with maintenance needs.

lion in programs.

The millage renewal passed by a count of 1,156 yes to 745 no votes. 1,901 votes were

counted and equaled a 36% voter turnout.

The district is not totally out of the woods yet but continue to work

hard to gain the trust and confidence of taxpayers.

Voters page 4

Former Attica Twp. Supervisor left his mark

Ochadleus was a dedicated public servant

By Phil Foley
Contributing Writer

ATTICA TWP. — He lived a heck of a life.

Al Ochadleus often described himself as a "punk kid from Brown City" who "married up" when he met Donna Buckingham.

He died at his Attica Township home July 30 following a long illness. He was 80.

After graduating from Brown City High School in 1962, he got his start cleaning out wooden sauerkraut barrels at Vlasic Food Products, Inc. in Imlay City.

By the time he retired in 1996, he had worked his way up to



Photo by David Fredrick

Former Attica Twp. Supervisor Al Ochadleus was presented with a Chief's helmet during his retirement party.

Director of the Michigan plants for Vlasic Foods and Campbell Soup.

Along the way Ochadleus earned an Associates degree in Economics at Mott Community College and a bachelor's degree in business administration at the University of Michigan. He was also a licensed contractor.

Ochadleus had a larger-than-life personality. "We thought he'd live forever," said Attica Township Trustee Nancy Herpolshiemer.

He served his township as Township Supervisor for 26 years. He was also a member of the Lapeer County EMS board for 25 years, his last 10 as chairman.

"I valued Al for his friendship and presence," said LCEMS

Executive Director Russ Adams. "I was lucky to spend a couple of minutes with him last week."

Adams maintained a relationship with Ochadleus after he lost his last re-election bid for township supervisor in 2024 and the township did not re-appoint him to the board.

Adams said Ochadleus' insights into budgeting, navigating the county's political landscape and strategic guidance will have a "lasting impact on the agency."

He said Ochadleus understood the value of a county wide ambulance service and while he was not in favor of tax support for the agen-

Ochadleus page 4

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2026 Summer Fest in Photos

IMLAY CITY — The Chamber of Commerce Summer Fest was held under sunny skies and warm temps once again and yet again, the three-day event was a rousing success. From taco and pie eating contests which always provide great photo ops for

those watching, to a car show put on by Chuck Bennett (DDA Executive Director), it was a great weekend. Guests enjoyed talent performances by those involved with the Junior Miss and Little Miss pageant, fireworks on Friday and the Saturday evening parade.



The Imlay City Fire Department was honored for 150 years of service to the community. Above, Julie Chrysler presents Chief Keith Klobucar a plaque thanking the staff for their dedication and work.



Downtown Imlay City was looking good once again, with flowers in full bloom, welcoming guests from around the area.



On his own time and money, DDA Executive Director Chuck Bennett put together a nice car show for Summer Fest. Several classic beauties were on display, vying for top honors.



Banana 101.5 radio was at the festival as former Imlay City resident Tony LaBrie played tunes throughout the morning. LaBrie is a 1992 graduate of Imlay City and has been with 101.5 for 25 years.



Participants in the Junior Miss and Little Miss pageant put on a great show during a brief performance Saturday.



This young fella got into the spirit of things, kicking up his heels to the music.



"I'm all shook up" - Elvis was on stage delighting the crowd Saturday with a special version of Jailhouse Rock.



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Available at Almont Library or contact Jim Wade on Facebook or by email at jrwade49@gmail.com

Work ethic drives co-owner of family farm

Editor's note: The following story was written by Paul Constanzo for the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Paul is a former Sportswriter for the Port Huron Times Herald.

Matt Van Dyk's work ethic was always easy to spot, even for those not spending every day at Imlay City's basketball practices.

"The only way he could get out of work in the summer was for church or basketball, nothing else," Imlay City boys basketball coach Don Gauthier said.

"We would have summer league games in Flint or wherever we were playing, and he would show up five minutes before tip off, covered in mud, dirt, or whatever he was doing on the farm, and with no excuses, would come out there and play as hard as anybody. That work ethic, it was contagious to everybody else."

That work ethic was born in the fields at Van Dyk Farms, grew through his time on the court for Imlay City and eventually Michigan State, and continues to serve him in his role as part owner of that same family farm, which serves as one of the largest produce suppliers in the eastern United States.

"I've had some phenomenal coaches in my life," Van Dyk said. "My high school coach was Don Gauthier, and he really instilled work ethic into us. I think his favorite quote was, 'Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.' When I think about high school, just that work ethic of working hard every day really helped with being at the college level, but also with farming. And, really, I've been blessed to have role models that have all echoed that same mentality. My high school coach, my junior college (St. Clair County Community College) coach Dale Vos, and at Michigan State with coach (Tom) Izzo, plus my father, Doug Van Dyk."

Van Dyk, a 2012 Imlay City graduate, returned home to the 1,000-acre family vegetable farm after graduating with his agri-business

degree from MSU in 2017.

While he's officially one of the owners, he said his unofficial title is field operations, as he oversees planting, growing and harvest operations.

"I'm the person they call when something's broken down, or they need to know what field to go into next," he said.

Van Dyk has immersed himself in the Imlay City community since his return, joining the township board for a while, as well as his church council.

He's also giving back as an athlete, helping with the basketball program. His wife, Rachel, who played volleyball at MSU, was the varsity girls volleyball coach at Imlay City for three seasons and still works with clubs in the area.

"The Bible says that to who much is given, much is expected, and I've been given a lot, more so than I deserve," he said.

"The opportunity to play at Michigan State, not many people get that opportunity. For me, to be able to use that and give back is what we're called to do. With the farm, too. I have the opportunity to work on a family business, and some people will say that you're starting on second base – well there's a lot that's expected from me with this opportunity that I'm given. That is where my true worth comes from; it doesn't come from personal success, it comes from what our team here at Van Dyk farms can accomplish."

While Van Dyk describes his time at MSU as an opportunity he was given, the reality is it was one he fought long and hard to earn.

After becoming an all-state selection in Class B and Blue Water Area Conference MVP at Imlay City, he originally went to Hope College after high school but transferred to SC4 following one semester.

During his lone year there, he was named the Michigan Community College Athletic Association Eastern Conference Freshman of the Year, First-Team All-MCCAA and National Junior College Athletic Association Region XII

All-Defense.

That earned him scholarship offers from in-state Division II programs, but he chose instead to walk-on at MSU and follow his dream of playing for the Spartans. At worst, he thought, he would graduate with a top-notch degree in the field he wanted.

Of course, he ended up with much more than that. After two years as a walk-on, Van Dyk earned a scholarship for his final season at MSU. He wound up playing in 53 games during his career, starting four during the 2016-17 season.

"I guess while you're in it, it's just work," he said. "You put your head down, take it one day at a time. Looking back and seeing how there are no days off in life, you're like, 'OK, maybe that was pretty awesome what I did.' I got to go to Italy, got to go to Madison Square Garden, got to play at Duke, got to travel the world." He also went viral.

While work ethic was what pushed Van Dyk to reach his dreams, he was also a remarkable athlete, possessing one of the best vertical leaps on the roster. That came out in a game against Ohio State his junior season, during which he threw down a massive dunk off an alley-oop. The play made the ESPN SportsCenter Top 10.

"That's not my style of play at all," Van Dyk said with a laugh. "Dunking, that's what got me on the team, was my athleticism. But being flashy, that's not my thing. It's a funny way to work things out, and I'm forever indebted to Alvin Ellis for throwing it off the backboard."

Now, as Van Dyk is back in Imlay City with his wife and two young daughters with another on the way in November, he's putting his head down to better his fami-



At left, Matt Van Dyk puts up a jumper for Imlay City. At right, Van Dyk and his daughters enjoy a moment in one of his family's fields. (Photos provided by Matt Van Dyk.)

ly's business and the community at large.

All while continuing to set the right example for the next potential athlete willing to work for what he earned.

"They see him, and

he played at Michigan State, and there's his picture on the wall," Gauthier said.

"Most young kids have big dreams, and they have a guy right there in their hometown

that did it. They look up to that. For the athlete and basketball player he is, he's just a better person. He's very humble, he doesn't act big time toward anybody. That's even more impressive."

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To help prevent cardiac tragedies among students, the 20-minute screening includes a family history questionnaire, ECG, and echocardiogram.

Imlay City Middle School students have opportunity to study performing arts

By David Fredrick
Managing Editor

IMLAY CITY — The Performing Arts Center in Imlay City has been well used since it's construction, with numerous outstanding performances by students.

The tradition of memorable performances will continue this year and the program is always looking for new members to join in on

the fun.

This year, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students at Imlay City Middle School have an exciting opportunity to spend the last two class periods of their day at the Imlay City High School Performing Arts Center, where they'll receive immersive instruction in Musical Theatre and Theatrical Arts.

According to those associated with the program, students will experience hands-on learning in: Acting, Singing, Dance, Lighting and Sound, Design, Scenic Art and Set Construction, Costuming and Makeup, Technical Theatre and nearly every aspect of bringing a production to life.

What truly sets this program apart is its focus on the Arts, Entertainment, and Design Career Cluster, helping students explore the many career opportunities available in the performing arts while building technical, artistic, leadership, and collaboration skills that will serve them for a lifetime.

Students are taught by Mr. Don Brewer, whose career includes three Broadway productions, numerous national tours and regional professional productions, and experience as a college professor of Musical Theatre. His real-world experience provides students with authentic training and mentorship rarely found in a public school setting.

Whether a student dreams of performing on Broadway, designing sets, running lights and sound, choreographing productions, managing stage operations, or simply wants to grow in confidence and creativity, this program provides an incredible foundation.

Enrollment is open to: All Imlay City Middle School students, Schools of Choice students and Homeschooled students

Organizers encourage students to come discover why Imlay City Schools is becoming a destination for students passionate about the arts. Students are invited to explore a program where creativity, excellence, and career preparation come together every day.

The stage is just the beginning. The possibilities are endless.

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Students in the Imlay City school district, including home school students, are being encouraged to take part in the upcoming season of Performing Arts.

Voters:

from page 1

At the special meeting on August 6, the board met to discuss the district's Sinking Fund.

With deadlines looming with the State Elections Bureau, should they decide to go back to the voters this fall, the Almont school board wasted no time in keeping their foot on the gas pedal.

President Smith said, "If we decide to move forward with a sinking fund request, we have deadlines to meet and it's in a matter of a few days, not weeks."

The board approved a motion to go back to

their voters this fall, seeking a two-mill sinking fund request that if approved, would generate \$1,094,871 the first year. The request is for four years.

The district's financial director, Kathy Merrifield, said if approved, the millage would be, "a no-mill net increase" to what taxpayers are currently paying.

Taxpayers were paying 8 mills in 2023 and saw the amount levied to 3 mills in 2024. The millage is due to drop to 2.6 next year.

According to the wording that will appear on the ballot, sinking funds money could be used for construction or

repair of school buildings, for school security, acquisition or upgrading technology, equipment used to maintain trucks and vans and more.

During last week's special meeting, board members agreed to form a committee comprised of staff, board members and members of the community to oversee a list of sinking fund projects and make recommendations based on most immediate needs.

Board members, working from a compiled list earlier this year, agreed three of the district's biggest needs currently are HVAC system, roof repairs and sidewalk updates across the school's campus.



The Imlay City Performing Arts program allows students to discover hidden talent, whether it be on stage or behind the scenes. Incoming middle school students are able to join in on the fun.

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Ground:

from page 1

assist the Village with reinvigorating and reimagining their downtown," said Geric Rose, PE, F&V's engineer and project manager. "This is an exciting project for Capac that will further enhance its image as the front door to Michigan's Thumb."

"The Village's goal with this project is to make the downtown area safe and walkable," Youatt said. "We are upsizing the utilities and infrastructure as far as drainage so that we won't have safety issues

with flooding and making the sidewalks and walkways ADA compliant."

Youatt said the new streetscape will feature ADA accessible sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks, complete streets and traffic calming, added trees and soft scaping, benches for seating, extra waste receptacles and continued on-street parking.

"A special thanks to the Village's landscape designer, Brianne Soful, for helping bring this project to life by creating a landscape design that perfectly captures the Village's vision," Youatt continued.

"This project will revitalize our downtown and stimulate the economy so our businesses, some 100 years old, can thrive."

Currently, the Village's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is working with downtown business owners to improve their facades and is helping to fund these additional upgrades.

The Village's intent for this project is for it to be pivotal in shaping the landscape of the downtown area, thus improving social interactions, commerce, and creating a sense of community.



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Ochadleus:

from page 1

cy in the beginning, he became an "unwavering supporter" of the measure, which first passed in 2016.

Scott Jarvis, Chairman of the Construction Code Authority (CCA) and Lapeer Township Supervisor, said he was "shocked" when he heard of Ochadleus' passing. "He was a good guy to have on the board."

Jarvis said Ochadleus served on the CCA board for more than 20 years. "He was very, very conscious of the numbers. He was very mathematically inclined," Jarvis said, "Al was good at policy. He put a lot of thought

Al Ochadleus was involved in Attica Twp. government and history.

into things."

As Township Supervisor, Ochadleus added 10 acres to the township park, expanding it to 52 acres and added a playscape.

Along with the late Township Trustee Phil Madeline, he created the township museum, which opened in 2009, in what had been a maintenance shed.

In 2017 Ochadleus convinced the board to approve a 1,400-square-foot addition to the museum.

Ochadleus revived the township's decades old summer homecoming event in 2013 and Attica Days has become a popular two-day summer event.

He was an avid sportsman and enjoyed traveling the world.

Though his career with Vlasic took him to Ohio for a time, he and Donna returned to the land they got from her mother on Newark Road.

Following a funeral Mass at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Lapeer, the Ochadleuses in time plan to have their ashes combined and spread on a wild violet bed beneath a tree behind their home.

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Pen and paper person who prefers to write rather than type journal entries on a device, I've filled a bookshelf with notebooks of various sizes.

As nothing thrills me more than fresh, empty pages to fill, many of my journals are gifts from loving friends and family.

I owe this devotion to preserving personal and family history to my most amazing Appalachian ancestors who quickened my interest in writing when telling their stories.

As they did not write their history, I appointed myself to the mission.

The discipline sparked the beginning of a memoir cook book, now 600 pages including recipes.

I'll return to my memoir come fall when I stow away my gardening tools.

Another strong influence that encouraged me to journal daily was the story of Anne Frank. As she did millions of teenagers of my era, Anne introduced me to the dark details of the Jewish Holocaust.

Thus, I began reading memoirs which developed over years to owning a copy of A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis. Reflections of the loss of his wife, this little book maintains its place amongst the titles on my dresser for bedtime reading.

Recently, straying from literature, the portrait of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence snagged my interest this past July.

Several years ago, my late husband and I toured Washington D.C. during our "I love America" tour.

Two amongst mil-



Iris Lee Underwood

lions who view annually the document inscribed "When in the course of human events," we stood in the National Archives Building in Washington D.C.

There, in the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom, we viewed the original parchment copy devoted to founding our country's independence from Great Britain, signed July 4, 1776.

From farmer to scientist, each signature declares their common vision for a durable government named The United States of America.

Again, I consider the Founder's differences, yet unified vision, their goal to "create a more perfect union."

I trust and honor that remarkable time in American history. I "hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that amongst these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Dear Reader, although dyslexia confuses the cooperation of my right and left hand when I type, I've learned to use my keyboard's cursor.

Thankfully, "in the course of human events," a brilliant person created this key for persons like me.

Perhaps a descendant of our brilliant and benevolent Benjamin Franklin? For our pursuit of happiness when we type.

Contact Iris at iris-farmletters@gmail.com

Ryan's Road Rally

As summer winds down and kids prepare for heading back to the classroom, there is still plenty of entertainment to be had. This week has two local events, one in Almont (Homecoming) and the other in Armada (Armada Fair). For all you Parrot heads, it is time for your yearly pilgrimage to Caseville for the annual Cheeseburger Fest (Fins up). There's lots to see and do around the state this week. Grab the family and get out and enjoy before the back to school activities start — *Ryan Nolin*

8/12-8/16 - Michigan Fiber Festival - Allegan
8/13-8/16 - Buckley Old Engine Show - Buckley
8/13-8/16 - Howell Melon Festival - Howell
8/14-8/16 - Pasty Fest - Calumet
8/14-8/16 - Stanton Old Fashioned Days - Stanton
8/14-8/23 - **Cheeseburger in Caseville - Caseville**
****Staff Pick****
8/15 - Almont Homecoming - Almont
8/15 - Rubber Ducky Festival - Bellaire
8/16-8/22 - Northern District Fair - Cadillac
8/17-8/23 - Armada Fair - Armada
8/18-8/23 - Michigan Mud Jam - Hale

Letters, opinions welcome

We're always pleased when readers take the time to share their opinions with us. We're bolstered by the diversity of opinions that make our editorial pages consistently judged winners by the Michigan Press Association each year. We welcome feedback, letters, guest columns, complaints, praise, opinions—the whole gamut.

However, we're unable to share some of the input we receive because it is sent anonymously and therefore we can't confirm the source. All letters, guest columns, opinions, etc. for the editorial pages must include a name and contact information for verification purposes. Writer's names may be withheld upon request when deemed appropriate. If there are any questions or the material is deemed inappropriate, the writer will be notified or the letter will simply not be published. Write to the editor at P.O. Box 278, Imlay City, MI 48444 or send an email to dave@tri-citytimes.com.

Letters from our readers

Thank you for the support of Attica Days

Dear Editor,

Thank you for another successful Attica Days! We want to thank everyone who attended the festival. The weather was beautiful both days!!

On Saturday the car and motorcycle show was a success with so many beautiful cars and motorcycles, it had to be a hard decision. Congratulations to Ben Palmer for People's Choice, Katlyn and Greg Rowden for Best Custom, Bill Huss for Best in Show and Wayne James for Most Original.

Also winners for their motorcycles were Mark Adkins, Frank Ranthaler, Terry Bunch and Peter Spada. Many people who visited the car show also received breakfast from the Attica Methodist Church.

We would like to thank those that visited and supported the Attica Museum during our Festival. Thank you to the Seven Ponds

Astronomy Club for returning!

The music, coordinated by Keith Davison, kept everyone entertained while they wandered the festival enjoying the crafters, vendors and food trucks.

The inflatables were a hit with the kids, especially with the water slides!! The kids' central tent was a success with everything from sand art, giant bubble making, carnival games, the Bubble Lady and more. The petting zoo was enjoyed by all.

The cornhole tournament inside the beer tent put on by the Eagles of Imlay City had 25 team entries. The 1st place winners were Trey Hill and Josh Demski. We can't forget to mention the amazing fireworks show put on by Michigan Family Fireworks on Saturday night. The perfect way to end our festival!

To those who volunteered individually or as part of The Young

Marines, we couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to the committee members who worked to make this event something the community can enjoy.

We want to express our deepest appreciation of those businesses who were sponsors:

PLATINUM - Attica Township, Owen Tree Service, Owen Lawn Care, Bryan's Supermarket, Efficient Foam Insulation, Kapala Heating & Air Conditioning, View Newspaper Group, HealthQuest Physical Therapy - Imlay City, White Feather Farm, Rowley Auctions, and Choice One Bank.

GOLD - Lapeer Rent-All, Huntsman Hunt Club and Total Marine Technologies. SILVER - Muir Brothers Funeral Home-Lapeer, Randazzo Jeweler, JEM Electric Service, Lapeer County Sportmans Club, Rosy Brothers, Inc., R.A. Duthler Land Surveyor, Liebler

Agency Insurance, Chapman's Starter & Alternator Service and Ray C's Cycle & Sports.

BRONZE - Inkspot Custom Screenprinting, Meeschs, LLC, BJ Septic, Paul Rhein Jr. Disposal, Rowley's Grocery, RYO Distribution, Inc., D&K Market, Ruth Hughes Memorial Library and Rolling Hills Golf Club

Fun was had by all who attended! If you didn't make it out this year, we are already planning next year's event. It is a fun family friendly festival, and we encourage you to volunteer, become a craft or food vendor or attend to support your community!

We can't wait to see everyone next year on July 9 and July 10, 2027, when we will do it all again.

Thank you and see you next year!!

— **Diana Weingartz**
Cathy Churilla
Attica Days Festival
co-chairs



Courtesy photo

Second row aisle Bowie beaming. A mandatory netting now protects visitors like Rick Liblong.

Beaned in Bowie and other ballpark bits

Regular readers of my column over the years know that I love baseball. Our national pastime has been one of my faves since childhood. I liked playing baseball, watching or listening to it, coaching it and umpiring it. I have attended countless games at all levels from Little League to the major leagues.

Most of the time I just attended the game, savored a couple ballpark franks with mustard, enjoyed the action and went home satisfied. But not always. Let me share with you some unusual events I've endured at the ballpark.

In 1980, one of my friends and I attended a game at old Comiskey Park on the southside of Chicago. We sat in the first row of the upper deck directly opposite first base. In the fifth



Rick Liblong

inning, a batter lifted a pop foul and I, the old Almont High second baseman, knew it was coming right to me.

Sure enough. I had no baseball glove with me so I reached out with both bare hands intending to make a Willie Mays' type basket catch. Nobody interfered with me as the ball hit my palms dead center. But before I could squeeze the souvenir snugly and proudly wave it to the crowd, the ball, spinning like a supercharged top, spun itself out of my grasp and dropped on to the TV camera stand below our seats.

In baseball scoring terms it was an E-4, error on the second baseman.

I was roundly, loudly (and justifiably) booed by 14,000 fans. A chance at stardom, probably caught on TV, dashed. I sat down humiliated.

My friend said nothing. He let me sulk and absorb the pain. A pain I still feel more than four decades later.

However, not long after, I was able to redeem myself somewhat. During batting practice at Wrigley Field in north Chicago, I snagged a ball off the bat of a New York Mets player.

I was smart enough not to try to grab it in flight but wait 'til it bounced off of some other hands and landed at my feet. I also got one later at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium in Washington, D.C. hit by Kirk Gibson during a Tigers exhibition game.

I got another ball in 1998...the hard way. On our second date, Sue and I went to a Bowie (now Chesapeake) Baysox game in Bowie, Maryland.

Great seats in the second row next to the home dugout. A left-handed hitter checked his swing and launched a line drive foul...right at my head.

I was able to put my hands up and duck a little but the ball hit me and took a divot of hair and scalp with it 20 rows back. I fell out of my seat. They stopped the game and the manager came into the stands to see if I was OK. I asked him for a game ball which he happily furnished. The stadium medical team cleared me

to return.

In 1984, at the American League Championship game at Tiger Stadium, joyful victorious Tigers fans ripped up chunks of turf and tossed them into the stands. I caught one, took it home and planted it in my yard where it continued to flourish.

Sue likes baseball so we have been to many games together over the years. (Guys, if your girlfriend likes sports, marry her!)

I took her to old Tiger Stadium where she and one of the ushers proudly sang the Polish national anthem on Polish American Night.

Once, we saw an afternoon Tigers game at Comerica Park, then drove to Cleveland where the Indians (now Guardians) were playing. It was our first day-night double header in different cities.

The next day, on our way back to Virginia, we stopped in Pittsburgh and saw the Pirates play at old Three Rivers Stadium.

No matter what, it's always fun at the ballpark. Well, maybe except for getting beaned. But they've put up nets now to protect you. Play ball!

Contact Rick at dave@tri-citytimes.com

Town Talk

Editor's note: Due to space constraints announcements will be posted one week in advance of the event. Notices must be received by noon Monday prior to the publication date. Please email them to natalie@tri-citytimes.com; subject: town talk.

For Senior Citizens

Almont-Dryden area seniors will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 12 noon at the Almont Lions Hall. For info, call 810-798-8210.

Gentle Yoga Tuesdays from 9-10 a.m. at First Congregational Church in Almont. Practice led by Dina Miramonti, RYT.

The Berlin Township Senior Center is open every Tuesday for cards, games and socializing. Doors open at 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring a lunch or a dish to share. Refreshments provided. Potluck luncheons are the fourth Tuesday of every month at noon. For information call 395-4518.

Free Meals, Food

Free food distribution at West Berlin UMC SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026 at 9:00 AM West Berlin UMC905 Holmes Rd., Allenton, MI 48002. Volunteers are always welcomed - please arrive around 8:00 AM. Funding from 4 County Comm. Foundation, St. Clair County Comm. Foundation, FBEM, Mich. Conf. UMC, many local businesses and individuals.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Imlay City. Food for Families is offering meal and pantry Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00-5:30 p.m.

The First Congregational Church of Almont's Food Pantry is available Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. by appointment

only. To make an appointment, call the church at 810-798-8855.

The Attica Methodist Church will be holding a free community meal on Tuesdays following Food Pantry of each month from 4-5:30 p.m. For more info please call 810-724-0690 or visit our Facebook page.

The Attica Food Pantry at the Attica Methodist Church, 27 Elk Lake Rd., is open from 12:30-3 p.m. the second Monday and 3-5 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month. Open to Lapeer County residents only.

Imlay City First Congregational Church's food pantry is open Thursdays from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for residents of the Imlay City School District. The Pantry is closed when Thursday falls on a holiday. The church is located at 275 Bancroft Street in Imlay City. For more information, please call 810-724-6207 or send an email to fccic5thandbancroft@gmail.com Please contact FCC if you would like to know how to donate food to support the food pantry. Always needed are: peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, juice, canned meat, cereal, soup, crackers and pasta sauce. Monetary donations can be sent to: First Congregational Church, 275 Bancroft Street, Imlay City, MI 48444. Earmark your donation to "food pantry."

Orchards' Cupboard Food Pantry is open the 3rd Saturday of every month 9-11 a.m. Food distributed at 74903 McKay Rd., Bruce Twp., 586-336-4673. www.orchardsonline.org.

Museums

If you are looking for something unique to do on a Saturday, the Imlay City Historical

Museum could be a place to visit. Throughout the summer, from June thru November, vernece Biggers' American Indian collection of dolls and other items are being displayed at the Museum on S. Main St., from 1 to 4 p.m. each Saturday. The display is a lifelong labor of love by Bigger.

The Imlay City Historical Museum is closed for the months of January, February and March. Opening is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2026 with new exhibits. See you in the spring and please consider supporting the museum with your membership. Also, like us on Facebook or leave a message there. Also, watch the Facebook page, the member newsletter or local press for announcements.

The Attica Township Museum is located at 4350 Peppermill Rd., behind the township offices. The museum is open Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Donations are welcome.

The Almont Community Historical Society Museum is open Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. Please stop by and learn about your community. Society meetings are held at the museum on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m.

The Capac Historical Society is open Saturdays 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., May-September or by appointment. Call 810-395-2859 for more info.

The Dryden Historical Society's Depot. Please call Chris at (810) 577-5786 for an appointment. But if the train lights are flashing - someone's there. Come see us!

Support Groups

Grieving a loss? Find hope and healing after the death of a loved

one. Join us at Grief Share. Weekly grief support group. Tuesdays, July 7 - September 29, 2026 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Amazing Grace Church of Imlay City, 210 N. Almont Ave., Imlay City, MI 48444. For more information, contact Pastor Gary Bird at 810-724-0687 or by email at office@imlaycityamazinggrace.org. You can register at griefshare.org/findagroup

TOPS 620 LAPEER has a new meeting room. Trinity Methodist Church 1340 N. Main Street, Lapeer. Weigh-in 6 p.m. Information: call Nancy 810-796-3467

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings are held every Saturday at 10 a.m. at West Berlin United Methodist Church, Allenton.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings are held every Monday night at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Imlay City.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Al-Anon meetings are held every Wednesday night at 8 p.m. at the Capac United Methodist Church, Capac, MI.

Lapeer Area Citizens Against Domestic Assault meets 1-3 p.m. every Wednesday in the Lapeer Court House for personal protection order clinic. For info 810-667-4193.

Fundraisers

The Imlay City VFW Auxiliary 2492 are collecting bottles and cans to help with memberships. Drop them off in front of the Imlay City VFW at 598 N Almont Ave, Imlay City, MI 48444. For more info call Roberta at 810-656-7725.

Events

The Symphonia Chorale is recruiting

new singers for the 2026/27 season which begins Tuesday, September 8, 2026 and meets weekly at St. John Lutheran Church , Romeo, from 7-9 PM . Concert dates are December 4, 2026, and December 6, 2026. This is a non audition non-profit organization that strives for excellence in performance and repertoire. For more information or to join visit: symphoniasing.weebly.com or contact Joan McIntyre, mcintyre-jkm@yahoo.com

Join us for a Soaring Eagle Casino Bus Trip Wednesday, September 23, 2026, for tons of fun! All participants must be 18 and over. Departing from North Branch from the parking lot at the corners of Lincoln and Mill Streets at 9:00 a.m. so please arrive 15 minutes prior. Your ticket will include premium play, dining credit and bingo bucks. Any questions or to purchase tickets call or email Mary Jane at 810-614-6605 or maryjwalker56@yahoo.com. Payments must be received by August 19 and is not refundable unless your ticket can be resold. Sponsored by North Branch Chapter 149 OES.

Other

Are you interested in improving your English speaking and listening conversational skills in fun and meaningful ways? Two sessions to practice your English conversational skills! The morning session is held on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 am. The evening session is on Thursdays from 4:30-6:00 pm. Held at the Family Literacy Center at 311 Higgins Street, in Lapeer. Please call the Family Literacy Center at 810-664-2737 or email ican@readlapeer.org for more information.

Stepping Out Steps (S.O.S) 12 step program/12 Pasos programa. Available in English or Spanish. Teaches individuals what the Bible says and how to incorporate it step by step into their daily lives to be an overcomer. This class is opened to the public every Thursday evening 7 p.m. at First Apostolic Church, 859 N. Vandyke Rd., Imlay City. For more info call or text Sister Mary E 586-746-5765 or Brother Dalton Oliver 810-542-0566.

Do you know an adult who wants to get their GED or improve their reading or math skills? The Family Literacy Center offers FREE tutoring and support. Participants can earn their GED at NO COST. Tutoring is provided through trained volunteers and lessons are customized for each student. Contact the Center for more information at ican@readlapeer.org or 810-664-2737.

Club News

Grocery Bingo play has just resumed at the Lapeer Center Building with a new coordinator. It will be held weekly on Wednesday nights starting at 6 PM and is

open to everyone. For details on the bingo, call John at (810) 664-2109.

MEAT BINGO at Berville Lions Hall, 13651 Hough Rd, Berlin. 1st Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. 15 meat packages; 50/50 drawing, last game is winner take all. Refreshments available for purchase.

American Legion Memphis Bingo is held every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. A light dinner is also served at intermission. Snacks are available for purchase. 34330 Bordman Rd, Memphis Contact Susan Oldham for more information at (810) 300-4561.

American Legion Memphis, 34330 Bordman Rd, Memphis. Euchre is held every Friday. Start time is 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Cost at door. For more information contact Susan Oldham at (810) 300-4561.

The St. Clair Kennel Club meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at an area restaurant. Check www.stclairkc.org for times and locations. Info on shows, trials, and activities with dogs is on their website and facebook page. New members welcome.

The Quilters in Training Quilt Guild meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 109 East Kempf Court, Capac. For more information, call 810-310-2114.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of Imlay City, Post 2492, 598 N. Almont Ave. (Fairgrounds Rd.) Overseas Veterans Meetings 2nd Thursday, every other month, 7 p.m.; Post Meetings 1st Thursday every month, 7 p.m., unless holiday then next week; Auxiliary Meetings 1st Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.

Almont/Dryden Masons meets 7 p.m. every 2nd Thursday of the month at Masonic Center in Almont.

The Imlay City American Legion Post 135 meets the second and last Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. The post is located at 212 E. Third St. New members welcomed. Contact them at 810-441-0792.

The Capac American Legion, located at 115 N. Main St., meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. New members welcome. For more information, call 810-395-7250.

Markets

The weekly Sunday Flea Market continues with up to 50 vendors of all types of items. Vendors should contact Annemarie, market manager, at (810) 417-5416 for space details. The Flea Market is open free to the public 8 AM to 2 PM. The Lapeer Center Building, a non-profit, also offers 3 different size meeting rooms for community rental. Contact John, general manager, at (810) 664-2109 for information.

Church Directory

 New Life CHRISTIAN CHURCH 4411 Newark Road Attica, MI 48412 810-724-2702 email: nlccc@newlifechristian.net www.newlifechristian.net <i>Pastor Tim Martin</i> Sunday 10 a.m. Service Friday 6 p.m. Service	St John's Episcopal Church 4074 South Mill St. • Dryden Phone 810-796-2371 email: stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com website: www.stjohnschurchdryden.org Facebook St John's Episcopal Church Dryden Worship 10:00 a.m. Sundays "Living in Hope, United in Faith, Led by Love"	Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church 4538 Dryden Rd. • Dryden, MI (2 miles west of Dryden) 810-796-3951 Bible class - 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship service - 9:30 a.m. Dryden Soup Suppers - 5:45 pm TO LIVESTREAM AND THE WEBSITE - GO TO HOLYRED.ORG <i>Pastor Evan Veen</i> Christian Pre-school available ALL ARE WELCOME!!	First Congregational Church <i>United Church of Christ</i> <i>All Are Welcome Here</i> <i>Come As You Are</i> 275 Bancroft, Imlay City Worship Sundays 10:30 am Facebook FirstCongregationalUCC.ImlayCity 724-6207 fccuccimlay.org <i>Rev. David Forsberg</i>	Attica Methodist Church 27 Elk Lake Road, Attica, MI (810) 724-0690 Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Attica Food Pantry: 12:30-3 p.m. - 2nd Monday of month 3-5 p.m. - 4th Monday of month Community Dinner: 4-5:30 p.m. - Tuesdays following the Food Pantry <i>Pastor Ron Rouse</i>
Imlay City Church of Christ 670 N. Van Dyke Imlay City, MI 48444 Sunday Service Bible Study (all ages) 10:00am Morning Worship 11:00am Wednesday Bible Classes (all ages) 10:00am 248-392-6160 COME WORSHIP WITH US! <i>Dwaine Estes, Minister</i>	HERITAGECHURCH.COM  heritagechurch SERVICETIMES SUNDAYS 9:30AM 11:00AM 810 721 7570 543 N. CEDAR ST. IMLAY CITY	Sacred Heart - Imlay City 700 Maple Vista Sunday 10:00 am, 12 noon (Spanish) Tuesday 6:00 pm (Bilingual) Thursday 9:00 am St. Cornelius - Dryden 3834 N. Mill Rd Saturday 4:00 pm • Sunday 8:00 am Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am 810-724-1135	West Berlin U.M.C. 905 Holmes Rd. - Allenton, MI Corner of Almont Road 810-395-2409 Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. <i>Pastor Patty Hoppenworth</i>	St. Paul's Lutheran Church (ELCA) 200 North Cedar (M-53) Imlay City, MI 810-724-1200 Traditional Service: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School: 10:00-10:55 a.m. Contemporary Service: 11:00 a.m. Also Available on Facebook St. Paul's Lutheran Church, ELCA www.stpaulslutheranic.org
Capac U.M.C. 14952 Imlay City Rd., Capac Church 810-395-2112 Sunday School - 10:00 am - All Ages Sunday Service: 9:00 am Junior Church and Nursery Available Bible Studies Available Come as you are - everyone is welcome!	Goodland Community Church 2008 N. Van Dyke Imlay City, MI 48444 810.724.1747 Worship Service: 10:00 am <i>Rev. Chad Hampton</i> goodlandcc.org	 395 N. Cedar (M-53) 810-724-4315 www.imlaycitycrc.org <i>Pastor Alex Snider</i> Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. SERMONS AVAILABLE ONLINE <i>Come Grow With Us!</i>	ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) 109 E. Kempf Court • Capac, MI (810) 669-3009 Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. CHURCH SERVICES: Sunday 10:00 a.m. Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. September thru May	Amazing Grace Church of Imlay City <i>A Global Methodist Congregation</i> 210 N. Almont Ave. Corner of 4th St. & Almont Ave. (Across from the Library) Sermons Available on imlaycityamazinggrace.org • Sunday Adult Bible Study - 9:30 am • Sunday Worship Service - 10:30 am • Nursery Available • Youth Group Sundays - 4:30 pm • 4th & 5th Grade Group • Wednesdays - 4:00 pm Pastor: Rev. Dr. Marcel Allen Lamb Youth Pastor: Rev. Gary Bird office@imlaycityamazinggrace.org 810-724-0687
BLESSED HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH 1635 Berville Road, Allenton, MI Phone: (586) 784-5854 Sunday School - 10:00 am Sunday Worship - 11:00 am Eve. Service - 6:30 pm Wed. Service - 6:30 pm Christian School K-12 <i>A Warm Welcome Awaits You!</i> <i>Gayle P. Hortop, Pastor</i>	Place your church ad in the Tri-City Times! 810-842-0557 rnolin.tct@gmail.com 			

Almont Homecoming sermon

ALMONT — Rev. Larry Rieck, retired pastor of the First Congregational Church of Almont, will return to give the sermon this Sunday, August 16, as a cap off for this week-end's Homecoming festivities. Rieck helped the church for 27 years, and holds the record for the longest-serving pastor in FCC's 188 year history. The service will begin at 10:30 a.m., with a Potluck in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the conclusion of the service. Please join us in welcoming back Pastor Rieck and his family.

Even small ads draw BIG attention in the TRI-CITY TIMES 810-842-0557

Imlay City PD weekly report

8/3/2026

S ALMONT AVE..... 911 Hang-up
NEWARK RD&
S BLACKS CORNERS RD Property Damage Traffic Crash
N CEDAR ST&E CAPAC RD Traffic Offense
HICKORY LN..... Family Trouble
S. CEDAR ST Property Check
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
E FOURTH ST&N ALMONT AVE Traffic Stop
E CAPAC RD&N CEDAR ST Traffic Stop
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
NEWARK RD Alarm
W FOURTH ST&N BLACKS CORNERS RD Traffic Stop
NEWARK RD&S BLACKS CORNERS RD Traffic Stop
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
S CEDAR ST..... Ordinance Violation
WESTON ST..... Welfare Check
S BLACKS CORNERS RD Traffic Stop
E THIRD ST Traffic Complaint / Commercial Vehicle Inspection
S CEDAR ST..... Alarm
S CEDAR ST&E BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
N ALMONT AVE&E THIRD ST Traffic Complaint / Road Hazard

8/4/2026

S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
N CEDAR ST Disturbing the Peace
SHAGBARK LN..... Mental Health Call
S ALMONT AVE&NEWARK RD Traffic Stop
W FOURTH ST&N BLACKS CORNERS RD Traffic Stop
S CEDAR ST&NEWARK RD Traffic Stop
W FOURTH ST..... Miscellaneous ORV Complaints
E THIRD ST Citizen Assist
MAPLE VISTA ST Citizen Assist
N CEDAR ST&E CAPAC RD Traffic Stop
S ALMONT AVE&WESTON ST Traffic Stop
S CEDAR ST..... Traffic Stop
N CEDAR ST Traffic Stop
S. CEDAR ST Property Check
N. CEDAR STREET..... Property Check
S VAN DYKE RD&E I69..... Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol / Liquor
S CEDAR ST&E BORLAND RD Traffic Stop

8/5/2026

N BLACKS CORNERS RD&W FOURTH ST Citizen Assist
MAIN ST..... Welfare Check
N ALMONT AVE&E THIRD ST Traffic Stop
S CEDAR ST&NEWARK RD Traffic Stop
S CEDAR ST..... Intimidation (Also Includes Interfering with 911 call)
N CEDAR ST&E CAPAC RD Traffic Complaint / Commercial Vehicle Inspection
S CEDAR ST..... Traffic Stop
E CAPAC RD Larceny of Gasoline
S ALMONT AVE..... Assault/ Battery
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop

8/6/2026

NEWARK RD Welfare Check
E FIRST ST 911 Hang-up
N VAN DYKE RD..... Felony Arrest Warrant (Originating Agency)
S VAN DYKE RD Assist Fire Department
S CEDAR ST&NEWARK RD Motorist Assist
BANCROFT ST&E FIFTH ST Traffic Stop
MIDWAY Traffic Stop
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
S CEDAR ST..... Medical Assist
S CEDAR ST&E FIRST ST Traffic Offense
E THIRD ST Citizen Assist
IMLAY CITY RD&MARTIN RD..... Traffic Flee / Eluding
EAST THIRD STREET..... Citizen Assist
EAST THIRD STREET..... Civil Matter
S ALMONT AVE..... Assist Other Law Enforcement Agency
N ALMONT AVE Ordinance Violation
WESTON ST.&SCHOOLHOUSE DR..... Ordinance Violation
NEWARK RD Citizen Assist
S CEDAR ST..... Citizen Assist
S CEDAR ST..... Alarm
E THIRD ST Larceny
N CEDAR ST&E CAPAC RD Traffic Stop
E SECOND ST&S CEDAR ST..... Traffic Stop

8/7/2026

E THIRD ST Welfare Check
MAIN ST Resisting Officer
MAIN ST Welfare Check
N VAN DYKE RD..... Citizen Assist
MAIN ST Welfare Check
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
S ALMONT AVE..... Property Damage Traffic Crash
S CEDAR ST..... Traffic Stop
S CEDAR ST..... Personal Injury Traffic Crash
FAIRVIEW ST Welfare Check
S BLACKS CORNERS RD Traffic Stop
S CEDAR ST&E FIRST ST Property Damage Traffic Crash
E BORLAND RD&S CEDAR ST Traffic Stop
E THIRD ST Citizen Assist
N CEDAR ST&E CAPAC RD Traffic Stop
ENGLE ST..... 911 Hang-up

8/8/2026

3RD AND MAIN ST..... Property Check
E CAPAC RD Traffic Stop
WESTON ST..... Welfare Check
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
E THIRD ST Traffic Complaint / Parking Complaint
S ALMONT AVE..... Alarm
DIRGO ST Animal Complaint
S CEDAR ST..... Property Damage Traffic Crash
N CEDAR ST&E CAPAC RD Medical Assist
E THIRD ST Traffic Complaint / Parking Complaint
NEWARK RD Assault/ Battery

8/9/2026

HICKORY LN..... Nuisances Ord - Noise / Prohibited Hours
E FIRST ST&S CEDAR ST Traffic Stop
S CEDAR ST..... Alarm
NORLIN DR..... Property Check
M-53 & BORLAND Traffic Stop
S. CEDAR ST..... Property Check
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
S BLACKS CORNERS RD&W BORLAND RD Traffic Stop
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TOWNSEND DR..... Larceny
E THIRD ST Citizen Assist
N CEDAR ST&E CAPAC RD Traffic Stop
E THIRD ST&MAIN ST..... Citizen Assist

Almont Historical Society to host program

Special visitor at Museum on August 22

Editor's note: The following article was written by Volunteer and Historical Society Trustee, Lynn Nolin.

Dan Kurkowski, the name does not sound very Native American, but as Dan tells me, he is fortunate to have come from a diverse mix of cultures.

When we spoke by phone last month, he said “I have the blessing of such a mix in my family. I got the benefit of my Polish grandfather’s humor, and I got the wisdom from my grandmother on my Indian side, it’s kind of neat.”

Dan’s Indigenous heritage is Potawatomi. Michigan is home to 12 federally recognized tribes. Mr. Kurkowski’s program will explain the movement and eventual assimilation of the Anishinaabe or “original people.”

When asked how he would like to be



Dan Kurkowski will be visiting the Almont Historical Museum this month.

addressed, the jovial 82-year-old replied, ‘Dan or Danny.’ He explained that his talk will cover the many conflicts often referred to as the ‘Indian Wars,’ up to 1812.

Dan said many people do not realize how quickly the Potawatomi recognized the threat posed by European and American expansion. He explained that tribes sometimes shifted alliances among the English, French, and Americans, depending on which alliance seemed most likely to benefit their communities.

“At one time, they (Anishinaabe) outnumbered the French, British, Canadians, and Americans by 10 to 1.

Most died off from the diseases that the Europeans brought with them,while many of us have heard of the stories of the Jesuits giving out blankets contaminated with smallpox.”

Dan says that primarily happened up by Quebec City and along the Ottawa River, “Down here, what happened is they succumbed to things like chicken pox, measles, mumps, and syphilis.”

He added, “Our people did not have immunity to such things. When I was young, I had chicken pox so bad that I was in the hospital for 10

days.”

On the other hand, he says mosquitoes never bothered his full-blooded indigenous grandmother. She said it was “the Indian blood in her that repelled them.”

It may have been the campfires and burning of plants such as sagebrush, sweetgrass or an acquired tolerance that repelled the skeeters. In any case, that brings us to the environment/climate of Michigan at the time the original people were here.

Dan said “Most people don’t understand that the interior of Michigan was a dismal swamp. Most of the Indians and white men up until the 1840s just traveled along the shore and up and down the river. They did not go far inland.”

At this presentation Dan will explain the waterway passages that crossed Michigan. He said to give us an idea of how fast they could travel by canoe, they were able to travel from Montreal, where the Treaty of Paris was signed, to New Orleans where it was countersigned, in 72 days.

Dan said “the people that were transporting it had a passage belt or a wampum belt that granted them passage through any tribes with-



Those who attend a special presentation at Almont’s Historical Museum will learn of Native American history.

out molestation. The tribes along the way would feed them, give them canoes, fresh paddlers, whatever they needed. They were covering sometimes as much as 65 miles a day.”

Dan will also discuss “Indian Councils,” especially those held in Almont and Port Sanilac, describing where tribes gathered and the objectives and agendas of the various tribes.

This special program will be held Saturday, August 22, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Almont Community Historical Society Museum, 149 S. Main St., Almont, Michigan. Dan will speak for one hour, followed by audience questions and light refreshments served by ACHS volunteers.

Obituaries

~ Dorothy Spencer, 94 ~

Dorothy Spencer, age 94, of Imlay City, Michigan died Sunday, August 9, 2026 at Serene Gardens of Imlay City, MI. Dorothy Opal Schuette was born January 16, 1932 in Saginaw, MI. She is the daughter of the late Quentin and the late Luella (Sells Moggo) Schuette. She married Delbert Oscar Spencer on April 12, 1952 in St. Ignace, MI. Her husband, Delbert died October 3, 1985.

Dorothy grew up in Saginaw, Michigan. She lived most of her life in the Imlay City area. She was a member of the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS) in Imlay City. Dorothy retired as a Sales Clerk at the D & C 5 & 10 Department Store in Imlay City; she retired in the late 1990's. She had previously worked at Hammill Seatbelt Mfg. in Imlay City and



the Kingsmen Seatbelt Mfg. in Almont, MI for several years.

Dorothy is survived by: her daughters, Penny Edwards of Imlay City, MI and Jackie (Randy) Mauldin of Brown City, MI; son, Delbert (Vicki) Spencer of Imlay City, MI. Also surviving are; her grandchildren, Greg (Shannon) Sarca, Jennifer (Scott) Willard, Doug (Jessica) Strong, Jacob (Emily) Spencer, Tonya (Lance) Waterman; and great-

grandchildren, Savannah Waterman, Mason Waterman, Lucas Waterman, and Renesmee Strong.

She was preceded in death by: her husband, Delbert O. Spencer; son-in-law, Larry Edwards; her sister, Elaine Miller; and brother, Everett Dupraw.

Graveside burial of Dorothy’s cremated remains will take place

next week at Imlay Township Cemetery. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Muir Brothers Funeral Home of Imlay City, 225 N. Main Street, Imlay City, MI. Please be sure to sign our on-line register book at www.muir-brothersfh.com to share your memories and condolences with the Spencer family.

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Legal Announcements

ATTICA TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ATTICA TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Attica Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday August 27, 2026 beginning at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the agenda allows. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments on a request submitted by Cindy Troyanovich for a variance from the Attica Township Zoning Ordinance 3.70 residential zoning district dimensional requirements.

The Property is located in the R-1 district at 4819 Northway Drive, Attica, MI 48412 Parcel #44-003-300-013-00

A complete copy of the application for the proposed variance may be examined at the Attica Township Hall, 4350 Peppermill Road, Attica, MI.

Written comments may be sent to the Zoning Board of

Appeals, PO Box 86, Attica, MI 48412 prior to the hearing. Verbal comments will be taken during the Public Hearing.

The notice is published pursuant to the requirements of Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Public Act Number 110 of 2006, as amended.

Valerie Schultz
Attica Township Clerk
32-1

BERLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS August 10, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Winn. Pledge of Allegiance recited. Members present: Parks, Klos, Winn and Christian. Wittstock was absent. Seventeen audience members. July minutes approved. Treasurer's report approved. Fire report: 23 runs last month; Open House (50th Anniversary) will be 10/3 (11 a.m.- 2 p.m.) and hired Gavin Rogers and Marissa Kik. Planning Commission: one split approved and pheasant farm per-

mit renewed. Senior report: exercise is every Monday at 11 a.m. and cards is every Tuesday at noon; next potluck is 8/25. Park report: Tie-dye went well, Halloween party will be in conjunction with Fire Department Open House (pumpkins and candy), basketball hoops were ordered and waiting for paint on pickleball court. Discussed: township hall sidewalks will be repaired, Sharrard Road culvert replacement approved, 5-year contract approved with King & Messing (auditors), Primary Election turnout was only 28%, wastewater site needed more

pumping out, marijuana growers will be held to the ordinance, speeding on Capac Road will be addressed and discontinuation of resident land lines by Frontier is being looked into. Audience: questions about speeding on dirt roads, a barn issue on a 5 acre parcel and a ditching issue on Belle River/Berville Roads area were discussed. A complete copy of the unapproved current minutes is available at the township hall during business hours and on the township website within a couple days of the meeting.

Karen A. Klos, Clerk
32-1

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Sports

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Marchwinski Scramble attracts 132



Photo provided

James Urban, Corey Oleyer, Brenden Henge and Henry Birchmeier posted a 61 to win the Kirk Marchwinski Memorial Scholarship Scramble last Saturday.

By Kevin Kissane
Tri-City Times Sports Editor

DRYDEN — A team consisting of James Urban, Corey Oleyer, Brenden Henge and Henry Birchmeier posted a 61 total over 18 holes, paving the way to a first-place finish at the 11th Annual Kirk Marchwinski Memorial Scholarship Scramble. Heather Hills Golf Course is where the action unfolded last Saturday.

A total of 132 golfers competed, with many of the groups coming from Dryden

and who went to school with Kirk.

The winners of Kirk's scholarship this year from Dryden High School are Caila Fitchett and Cara Prusakiewicz.

"Every year the love and support from our families fill our hearts," Kirk's mom Renee commented. "Even after 11 years our numbers keep growing," she noted.

"It means so much to us to have Kirk's memory still with all of us. We are truly blessed. Thank you again."



Photo provided

Cara Prusakiewicz (L) and Caila Fitchett (R) were the winners of the Kirk Marchwinski Memorial Scholarship.

Vock heads to Rochester Christian

By Kevin Kissane
Tri-City Times Sports Editor

CAPAC — Boston Vock, a 2026 graduate of Capac High School, made a verbal commitment to continue his basketball playing days with the Rochester Christian program recently.

Vock supplied Capac with 268 points in 22 games, an average of 12.2 points per contest, this past winter.

That placed him first on the Capac squad and fifth among Tri-City Times All-Area first team honorees.

The 6-1 senior guard also provided Capac with 101 rebounds, 46 steals and 39 assists.

This was his second year on Capac's varsity.

Vock completed the season as a Tri-City



Photo by Kevin Kissane

Boston Vock, a Capac High School graduate, will continue his basketball playing days with the Rochester Christian program.

Times All-Area first team selection and a

All-Big Thumb Conference Black

Division second team choice.

Stine plays at Alliance 14U Nationals

By Kevin Kissane
Tri-City Times Sports Editor

IMLAY CITY — The T2 National Goleski softball squad, which counts Imlay City's Macie Stine among their ranks, took

41st at the Alliance 14U Nationals recently.

Kokomo, Indiana is where the action unfolded.

They earned the right to compete there by winning a tournament on June 15.

The team began tournament play July 25 with an 8-6 win against Yardley, Pennsylvania.

Later that day, T2 Goleski dropped to 1-1 with a 10-1 loss to Tampa Mustangs Obama (Orlando,

Florida).

They would split their games on July 26 as well, picking up a 9-8 victory over Glory Atkins Gold (Flower Mound, Texas) and falling 13-3 to Firecrackers Premier RTI (Whittier, California).

T2 Goleski followed that up July 27 with an 8-3 triumph against Bombers Gold (Grapevine, Texas) and an 8-1 win over TN Mojo West on July 28.

The next two games contested July 29 saw the team needing to prevail at least once to secure a spot in the Elite Eight.

Unfortunately, they were denied in that pursuit. It was there they dropped a 6-2 verdict to Bombers Gold Futures (College Station, Texas) and absorbed a 12-2 loss to Bombers Gold SETX Futures (Mont Belvieu, Texas).

That left the T2 National Goleski softball squad 41st overall among the 110-team field assembled.

Stine finished with five singles, four doubles and two home runs in 27 at bats.

She also contributed seven RBI to T2 National Goleski softball squad's cause.

Stine played 27 innings at catcher, pitched 10 2/3 innings and played 10 innings first base, registering 20 putouts along the way.



Photo by Kevin Kissane

Almont standout Emma Campbell looks to throw out an opposing baserunner in a game this past spring. She will play at Macomb Community College.

Campbell to take skills to Macomb

By Kevin Kissane
Tri-City Times Sports Editor

ALMONT — Emma Campbell, a 2026 graduate of Almont High School signed her letter of intent to become a part of the Macomb Community College softball squad recently.

She is coming off a strong senior season which saw her produce a .377 average. That ranked her third on the Almont squad.

The infielder amassed 27 singles, 10 doubles and three triples in 106 at bats.

Campbell also contributed 25 RBI, 21 runs and six walks to Almont's cause.

Those numbers earned Campbell a spot on the Tri-City Times All-Area first team lineup as an infielder.

In addition to that, Campbell was an All-Blue Water Area Conference honorable mention selection.

This was her fourth year on Almont's squad.



Campbell



Photo provided

Imlay City's Macie Stine looks to throw out an opposing baserunner at the Alliance 14U Nationals recently.



Photo provided

Almont's Benjamin Kline took third in his age group at the Hanson's Running Shop 3 Mile Summer Running Series recently.

Kline pulls up third in his age group

By Kevin Kissane
Tri-City Times Sports Editor

ALMONT — Benjamin Kline, who will be a senior at Almont High School this fall, excelled at the Hanson's Running Shop 3 Mile Summer Running Series recently. The first race of the series was cancelled

due to the poor air quality.

The event was contested Friday, July 31 at River Bend Park in Shelby Township.

Kline crossed the finish-line 18:48 after the three mile race got underway. That left him third among male 17-year-old age group entrants.

Opening day practices

The Imlay City football team puts in the time with an early morning practice Monday. The Spartans kick off their 2026 campaign soon, playing at Flint Powers on Thursday, August 27.



Photo by Kevin Kissane



Photo by Kevin Kissane



Photo by Kevin Kissane

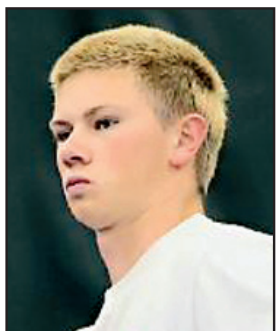


Photo by Kevin Kissane

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Capac junior track standout Keira Smith managed a season's best long jump performance of 14 feet 2 1/4 inches this past spring. For her effort, Smith earns our Girls' Athlete of the Week honor.



Imlay City senior tennis standout Levi Lengemann reached the semifinals of his flight at the Robinson Tournament recently. For his effort, Lengemann nets our Boys' Athlete of the Week honor.

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Dryden grad to run for Indiana Tech

By Kevin Kissane
Tri-City Times Sports Editor

DRYDEN — Cara Prusakiewicz, a 2026 graduate of Dryden High School, is listed on the roster of the Indiana Tech women's cross country squad this fall. She is coming off an outstanding senior campaign which saw her register a school record-setting time of 19:36.8 en route to a 12th at the Division 4 state finals on Saturday, November 1. Michigan International Speedway, in Brooklyn, is where the meet was contested. For her performance, Prusakiewicz earned All-State accolades (reserved for the top 30 placewinners in the race). She also claimed a first at the Fox and Hounds Meet at Orion

Oaks and Dryden Cardinal Classic; obtained second at the 57th Annual Holly Duane Raffin Festival of Races, Green Devil Invitational in Brown City, BTC Red/Blue League Meet hosted by Wagener Park and at a Wagener Park-based Division 4 regional; placed fourth at the Hatchet Invitational in Bad Axe; generated a 13th at the Lamplighter Invitational; and contributed a 25th at the Greater Flint Championship. Prusakiewicz concluded the season as a Tri-City Times All-Area first team selection. Indiana Tech opens its season Saturday, September 5 at the PFW Alumni Open in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The race is slated to get underway at 10:30 a.m.



Photo by Lori Hall

Former Dryden High School standout Cara Prusakiewicz will run for Indiana Tech's cross country team this fall.

Capac names new athletic director

By Kevin Kissane
Tri-City Times Sports Editor

CAPAC — Capac Community Schools announced Mitchell Cooper as its new Athletic Director/Dean of Students recently. He assumes the role from Devon Conklin, who stepped down from

the post at the completion of the 2025-26 school year. Cooper says he is committed to putting students, staff, coaches and families first by fostering a



Cooper

culture of respect, accountability and opportunity. He believes that strong relationships, collaboration and integrity are the foundation of student success both inside and outside the classroom. His goal is to support the growth of every student by creating a positive learning environment, developing character through athletics and empowering others to reach their full potential. Outside of school, he enjoys spending time with his wife and son, who inspire his commitment to serving others and investing in the next generation. Mr. Cooper says, "I am honored to serve the Capac community and look forward to using my prior experiences in coaching and teaching to build meaningful connections while helping our students thrive academically, socially and athletically."

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Spartans attend Hudson Team Camp

By Kevin Kissane
Tri-City Times Sports Editor

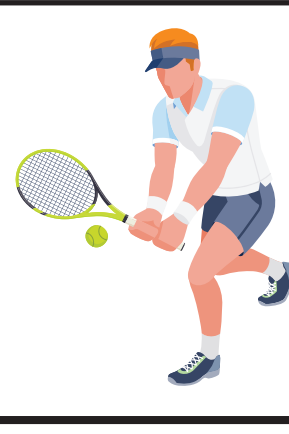
IMLAY CITY — The Imlay City wrestling squad had 11 grapplers attend the Hudson State Champ Team Camp on July 30-31. Their ranks consisted of Tristan Wagner, Ben Creamer, Avery Eastern, Jace Fernandez, Jacob Capling, Pierce Murray,

Alex Gomez, Cyrus Washington, Cole Bontrager, Mason Brown and Scott Isaacson. The camp was led by the staff of the 13-time MHSAA state champion Hudson Tigers, Adrian Assistant Coach Derik Marry as well as former Eastern Michigan University starter and four-time state finalist, Devin Marry.

Sports Schedule

Boys' Tennis
Monday, August 17
Almont, Imlay City at Lapeer quad, 8 a.m.
Tuesday, August 18
Sandusky at Almont, 4 p.m.

Girls' Golf
Monday, August 17
Almont at Stoney Creek, 8 a.m.



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Former NFL player Taiwan Jones poses for a photo with members of the Almont football team. Jones visited the school where he talked to the players recently.

Former NFL player speaks with members of Almont grid squad

By Kevin Kissane
Tri-City Times Sports Editor

ALMONT — The Almont football program had the privilege of hearing from former NFL linebacker, Michigan State standout and Anchor Bay graduate

Taiwan Jones recently. An All-Big Ten selection during his college days, Taiwan was a three-year starter at Michigan State. It was there he helped lead one of the nation's top defensive units before furthering his career in

the NFL. More importantly, he shared how the game of football helped shape the man he is today, teaching discipline, perseverance and the importance of serving others. The Almont players were afforded the oppor-

tunity to hear about the challenges he faced both on and off the field. His message reinforced that football is much more than wins and losses. It is also about developing character building relationships and preparing for life beyond the game.

Austin Howard sinks his tee shot

By Kevin Kissane
Tri-City Times Sports Editor

CAPAC — Austin Howard, a 2026 graduate of Capac High School, sunk his tee shot on the par-3 14th hole at Holly Meadows last Wednesday.

He used a pitching wedge to accomplish the

feat and went on to shoot a 47 for nine holes. Brendan Bussone, who was playing in Howard's group, witnessed the ace as did Anthony Vigiletti and Jeff Kegler, who was playing the hole ahead of them. It was Howard's first hole-in-one.



Austin Howard, a 2026 grad of Capac High School, registered a hole-in-one while out for a round at Holly Meadows last week.



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Veronica Luzinski
Savanna Siewert
Remie Verougstraete
Lillian Wright

Mary Jane Congdon Memorial Scholarship

\$2,000

Addalyn Warren

Kendall Coulter Memorial Scholarship

\$1,000

Mia Swoish

Daley Acres Agricultural Memorial Scholarship

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Jessica Peters
Rayana Slack

Christopher Jon Dirks Memorial Scholarship

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Madeline Franckowiak

Irma Gelhausen Scholarship

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Vivian Graver
Alaina Przekora

Jack & Carolyn Griffin Memorial Scholarship-Part 1

\$22,000

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Logan Burack
Jolee DeBono
Lela Denryter
Aubree Deshetsky
John Ehardt
Katie Gill
Josie Greschaw
Jersee Haslett
Lexandra Heronemus
Kayleigh Kaake
Martin Knight
Taylor Knox
Amirah Leitner
Clara McNees
Valeria Manzanares Davila
Addyson Martus
Joseph Pittenger
Riley Saint Pierre
Alivia Swoish
Mia Swoish
Hannah Thomas

Jack & Carolyn Griffin Memorial Scholarship-Part 2

\$16,000

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Natasha Bickel
Nicholas Caldwell
Kaelynn DeBono
Alana Deshetsky
Regan Healy
Lauren Leach
Courtney Ludescher
Tracy Ludescher
Maverick Ludwig
Jasmine Mauk
Emma Nichols
Braydon Robinson
Emily Russell
Josie Smith
Ella Swoish

Philip Hart Scholarship

\$2,000

Madeline Franckowiak

Virgil Horton Scholarship

\$1,000

Hannah Thomas

Jim and Lorraine Jessop Scholarship

\$2,000

Alanah Hannigan
Charlotte Verougstraete

Jacob N. Johnson Memorial Scholarship

\$500

Madison Gillilan

Patricia A. Kuhlman Memorial Scholarship

\$2,000

Thomas Lajewski

Lakeville Memorial High School Alumni Scholarship

\$3,000

Tyler Leach
Anabell Newbery
Eve Trowt

Lapeer County Medical Fund Scholarship

\$5,000

Gabriella Thomas

Lapeer High School Boosters Scholarship

\$1,000

Madeline Franckowiak

Lapeer High School Legacy Scholarship

Cost of Attendance

Madison Amy

Dr. William Laur & Dr. Kimber Persia Scholarship

\$6,000

Rileigh Nowak
Cara Prusakiewicz

McLaren Lapeer Region Medical Scholarship

\$8,000

Paige Erla
Addison Fidler
Aiden Fitchett
Gabriella Thomas

LeRoy and Hazel Mabery Educational Scholarship

\$1,000

Martin Knight

P.E.O. Chapter DX Scholarship

\$3,000

Madison Gillilan
Addison Tomhave
Charlotte Verougstraete

Fred Pasternak Memorial Scholarship

\$1,000

Amirah Leitner

Dr. James and Doris Richardson Scholarship

\$1,400

Aiden Fitchett
Allyson Gipson

Jon Sak Memorial Scholarship

\$500

Avery Walter

Schiedegger Engineering Scholarship

\$20,000

Evan Dougherty
Chloe Dunavant
Shannon Hall
Jenna Kline
Lily McCreedy
Wade Murray
James Stewart

Hazel Simms Nursing Scholarship

\$3,800

Megan Essenmacher
Avery Walter

Jimmy Thompson Memorial Scholarship

\$1,000

Penelope Nuculovic

Tracey Thompson Memorial Scholarship

\$1,000

Joshua Kenny

Traver-Carter Scholarship

\$4,000

Erin King
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