



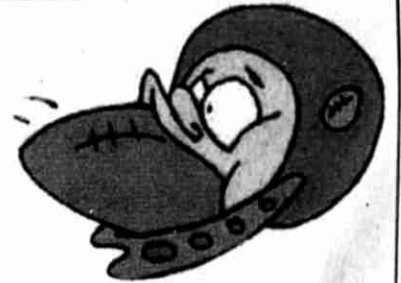
The Miss Watervliet contest is Saturday night and the Mr. Watervliet contest is Sunday... See Page 7. See Page 8 for a salute to the queen candidates.

### More news stories and features inside

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Help for the needy at holiday time; need for donors and volunteers... Page 5

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Armchair Q-Backs pick the weekend football game winners, Page 9

The Newspaper for Coloma - Hartford - Watervliet 463-NEWS record@i2k.com www.tricityrecord.com

# TRI-CITY

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HOAG & SONS  
SPRINGPORT, MI 49264

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# RD

127th Year Issue #50

December 10, 2009

seventy-five Cents

## Watervliet found innocent of violation of state laws

### City Clerk sends documents to prosecutor's office to "settle allegations once and for all"

By Lynn Attila

Watervliet City Clerk Jan Kelly told commissioners she had forwarded copies of City documents on to Berrien County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Cara Wilkinson, at Wilkinson's request, during the course of the regu-

lar monthly City Commission meeting Tuesday, December 8. Forwarded documents included minutes concerning budget, ad hoc committees, and emergency administration.

Kelly said the research hours involved in the project were intense and

the paperwork was extensive. On Tuesday alone, she reported faxing over 38 pages of documentation.

The request for the document copies from Assistant Prosecutor Wilkinson stems from charges brought against the City by resident David Flaherty.

Flaherty, unhappy with the way the City is being managed, leveled charges against Mayor Roger Prince and commissioners Danny Gray and David Brinker suggesting not only mismanagement of the City but possible fraud.

Wilkinson previously reported he had submitted FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) documentation to the Office of the Berrien County Prosecuting Attorney contending the Mayor had been absent from mandatory meetings more than allowed by the City Charter; an unsubstantiated amount of finance meetings were held, attended only by commissioners Danny Gray and David Brinker, without supervision of the City Manager as mandated per the City Charter, and meeting stipends (\$45 per Commissioner per meeting) were paid out without validation of corresponding meeting minutes; and a private consulting firm was paid unauthorized monies beyond its existing contract for unauthorized work.

On November 17, 2009, Wilkinson reported the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney found the City of Watervliet "in no violation of state law" and none of Flaherty's allegations had proved to be "criminal." She said the allegations could possibly be in violation of the City's Charter but that was not "within the scope of this office to handle."

Flaherty's response to Wilkinson's decision was to re-address the situa-

## Police & Fire Reports

Compiled by Annette Christie

### Watervliet man jailed for kidnapping and assault with a dangerous weapon

A Watervliet man landed in the Berrien County Jail after holding two women at knifepoint last Tuesday, December 2, in the Watervliet-Coloma area.

Davy Dwayne Hall, 46, is being held on two counts of kidnapping, two counts of armed robbery, two counts of unlawful imprisonment, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, domestic violence, and illegal entry.

Hall was arraigned Wednesday, Dec. 3, in Berrien County Trial Court and is being held on \$250,000 bond.

Coloma Charter Township Police Chief Randel Pompey said officers were dispatched at 11:00 a.m. to Randy's BP at Church and Center streets. Upon their arrival, they were told by workers that they had assisted a woman from a knife-wielding attacker. After the worker intervened, the male ran from the gas station.

Police found Hall in a vacant apartment about two blocks away. He had broken into the unit.

According to police reports, the victim told police that Hall, her boyfriend, physically assaulted her after she returned home from the bank with a friend. Pompey said the victim was told she and her friend would be killed if they didn't give Hall all of their money and assistance in leaving the state. The victim was assaulted again before Hall ordered them at knifepoint to turn over their money, almost \$1,200, and their cell phones. He forced them into a vehicle and ordered them to drive south.

The victim told police she suggested to Hall that they would need gas for the trip and convinced him to stop at Randy's. After parking near a pump, the victim ran into the store and was followed by Hall.

Store employees confronted Hall, telling him police were on their way, and he ran.

### Four arrested for active meth lab

On December 4, Berrien County Sheriff's Department received information on an active methamphetamine "cook" taking place at 7604 Red Arrow Highway, Lot #78, in Watervliet Charter Township.

The Narcotics Unit, along with officers from the Road Patrol, Watervliet Township Patrol, Watervliet City Police Department and Coloma Township Police Department, responded to that location. Once inside, the officers located four subjects inside the residence.

During a search, the officers located and dismantled a methamphetamine laboratory. Officers determined that an "active cook" had just been completed. Officers seized a small amount of processed meth as well as numerous ingredients and components used in the manufacturing. Officers also located and seized seven firearms, which were inside the residence, as well as \$156 in cash.

The four subjects were arrested and lodged at the Berrien County Jail, pending their arraignment in Berrien County Trial Court.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Free H1N1 flu shots available to all

As of this week, the Berrien County Health Department and the Van Buren County Health Department will begin vaccinating all people against H1N1. There are no restrictions on who can be vaccinated and there is no charge for the H1N1 vaccine.

### BERRIEN COUNTY

Any person desiring a vaccine can come to the following clinics:

\* Thursday, December 10 - Watervliet Saint Joseph Catholic School, 188 Lucinda Lane, Watervliet; 3:00-7:00 p.m.

\* Monday, December 14 - First Church of God, 2627 Niles Avenue, Saint Joseph; 2:00-6:00 p.m.

There will be additional community clinics that will be open to the public, scheduled to begin the week of December 14. Please stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Although we have seen relatively lower levels of flu activity in our community in recent weeks, H1N1 is still circulating. Traditionally, flu does come in multiple waves throughout the season. Now is an excellent time

to make sure that you and your loved ones are protected from this influenza virus.

Adults and children 10 years and older will need only one dose of the vaccine. Children 9 years and younger will need two doses of vaccine four weeks apart. Children under 6 months are too young to be vaccinated.

Please check the Berrien County Health Department Website at [www.bchdmi.org](http://www.bchdmi.org) for the most current information on the H1N1 and seasonal flu.

For further questions, please call the Health Department at (269) 927-5636 (Benton Harbor); (269) 684-2800, extension 5636 (Niles); or (269) 756-2008 (Three Oaks).

### VAN BUREN COUNTY

Any person desiring a vaccine can come to one of the following clinics:

South Haven L.C. Mohr High School, located at 600 Etkenburg Street, South Haven - Wednesday, December 9, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Van Buren ISD Technology Center,

located at 250 South Street, Lawrence - Tuesday, Dec. 15, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Dowagiac Middle School, located at 57072 Riverside Drive Street, Dowagiac - Thursday, Dec. 17, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

### HARTFORD OFFICE

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Please call (269) 621-3143

Friday, December 11

Friday, December 18

### SEASONAL FLU

Seasonal flu vaccine is now available! Seasonal flu clinics have been scheduled for Friday, December 11, at the Hartford office of the Health Department; and Wednesday, December 16, at the Paw Paw office of the Health Department. Please call (269) 621-3143 to schedule an appointment.

Please check the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department Website at [www.vbcassdhd.org](http://www.vbcassdhd.org) for the most current information on the H1N1 and seasonal flu.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



THE PANORAMA...of Christmas decorations greeting visitors at the end of this Coloma street is a neighborhood effort.

## Christmas decorations "light up" Bellwood in Coloma

By Chrissy Meek

Santa Claus, reindeer, candy canes, and blinking lights on a white bed of snow... it's all part of the Christmas spirit. And what better way to celebrate the season than by getting the family together, hopping in the car, and going to see the Christmas lights around town.

Many people love to decorate the inside of their house with Christmas trees and holiday villages, but a select few break out all the big lights and figurines that light up the whole yard. Sometimes it's just one house that stands out amidst the bland background, but for some it's a passion the whole neighborhood jumps in to enjoy.

Such is true on Bellwood, behind Hair Innovations in Coloma. The breathtaking beauty of color is a big car stopper. Each house blends in with the next in telling a story of Christmas. The nativity scene is in one yard; Santa on his sleigh is in the next one. It surely is a sight to see.

The question is, Who puts all of this "magic" together?

It started out about 30 years ago as a family tradition for Phillip and Darlene Gatchell. "We love to make people happy. I love to see the babies' faces smile," stated Darlene.

She shared the joyful story of getting to see her great-niece get so excited

this year with all the lights. Darlene continued, "We used to love going to see the Christmas lights ourselves; that it became an inspiration to us."

Phillip exuberantly told me, "I love to dress up as Santa Claus on the weekends and pass out candy canes while getting pictures with the kids. In fact, this Saturday I will be at it again."

He went on to say, with a chuckle, that his shed in the back of the house is "Santa's Workshop."

Phillip and Darlene are not alone in this adventure of lights. Phillip's brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Sharon Gatchell; and his nephew and wife, Darrold and Kelly, live next to them and help in the decorating.

One of the fondest memories Phillip and Darlene have shared during this light spectacular was the year a little boy drove by with his dad.

Phillip was out in the yard in his Santa Claus suit and the boy yelled out, "Where are Santa's reindeer?"

Phillip replied, "They are in my Workshop in the back."

At that point, the little boy tried everything he could to beg his dad to take him back to the Workshop.

Phillip and Darlene just embraced the enjoyment in the boy's eyes. "People see the lights from the main road and it attracts them," Darlene said.

She told me how one night two men were on duty in their ambulance and

were driving by. One of the guys saw the lights and wanted to stop, so the guy driving turned the vehicle back around and came to see the bright Christmas lights.

The process of putting the lights up takes some time. They said they start putting them up in October and keep going until Thanksgiving. They try to spend a little time every day putting some strands up. Funny, though, how every year they have also collected more and more. Once the lights are up, they keep them lighted from the day after Thanksgiving until the New Year. They turn them on about 5:00 every night and keep them on until about 9:30 p.m.

"The Clapping Santa you won't want to miss," said Phil. On their porch just by the front door sits a huge Santa Claus. He went on, "He will talk if you just clap."

They said the traffic for them can get really busy. They notice people coming by more on the weekends, but all during the week as well. People will stop and get out, "as long as they don't freeze their tail off," says Darlene.

They have even noticed that they get as many senior citizens out as they do families with children. "It's the perfect thing to do for all ages," Phil said.

I asked them, now that they have all their lights up for other people to admire, just how they will spend their

Christmas.

They told me they have a big family get-together planned at their house this year. "I have seven brothers and sisters and we usually go to my sister's house, but this year we are having the family here," replied Darlene. Phillip and Darlene plan on keeping the tradition going for as long as possible. "Knock on wood," exclaimed Darlene, "as long as we can."



When Phil Gatchell isn't putting up lights on the weekend, you might catch "Santa" near his Workshop.

(Chrissy Meek photo)

### Enjoyed the story on women in military service

Dear Editor,  
The article on the history of women in military service, in my opinion, is great and appropriate for Pearl Harbor Day since that was what it took for Congress to pass the bill establishing the women's Army Auxiliary Corps. I thank you for publishing it. Times have certainly changed.

### Coloma Jr. High Artworks! Art Club Stockings for Soldiers project

Dear Editor,  
This year will be the sixth consecutive year that the students of the Coloma Jr. High Artworks! Art Club will be sending holiday cheer to troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

CJHS Artworks! will spend the next two weeks collecting items and donations for the troops. We will then make our annual shopping trip to buy items we are short on and then spend many hours packing boxes for our

troops overseas. We count on donations of items and money each year from Southwest Michigan and Northern Indiana to send these items to our troops. We also count on people from these areas to send names of relatives and friends who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Stockings for Soldiers began as a way to empower young people to make a difference for those serving overseas. This has been an important part of Artworks! Art Club's commitment to change the community, and the world, through art.

Each year, the Art Club and many wonderful parents donate their time and materials to create literally hundreds of Christmas stockings for each person in a platoon, unit, or flight. The stockings are (almost always) sewn by volunteers, and then the Art Club decorates the stockings with the troop's name (if known).

The club also creates and collects handmade cards and letters from Coloma schools and any other school or people who would like to donate a card or letter of support.

Over the past six years, CJHS Artworks! Art Club has sent over 2,000 stockings and over 5,000 pounds of items and cards to our troops. This project has been met with heartfelt gratitude from many people serving overseas.

Here are some quotes from past servicemen and women that have benefited from our packages:  
"Today, 28th December, I received



your care package filled with food, goodies, toiletries and, most importantly, cards and letters from home. The candy was devoured by my co-workers and fellow paramedics, each filling their pockets full like Christmas stockings. Boxes of goodies around here don't tend to last very long."

"We each took turns reading your letters and cards and are equally thankful to know there are individuals like yourselves which - through kindness - think of others who are also away from their own families during the holidays. We sincerely accept your gratitude and kindness of heart. Many of my co-workers have children; some of which are your very age and, through your kindness, brought a smile to each and every face during these difficult holidays."

"Thank you all so very much for all the stockings. We really appreciate them. We are going to decorate our work area with all of them. Oh, except the one in my room. Thank each and every one of you for all your efforts to make us have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

"We also appreciate all the goodies you sent. We have young men in our section who eat all the time so they really appreciate the food."

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful project, please send donations and make checks payable to Coloma Jr. High. Send them to: Coloma Jr. High Art Department 320 St. Joseph Street Coloma, MI 49038

\* Please write "Art Club" in the memo line on your check.

You can also e-mail us at [artworks4kids@yahoo.com](mailto:artworks4kids@yahoo.com).

You can drop off donations of items at the Coloma Jr. High School's office, or we are also willing to pick up donations of items needed. Please see the list below of items we will be sending.

Please remember as you sit down to your holiday meals that there are thousands of troops who will not be able to be at home with their family and friends and that this is a wonderful way to support local youth who are trying to make a difference in the lives of these heroic people.

**List for troops:**  
Candy (any kind that won't melt)  
Gum  
Ramen Noodles/Cup o' Noodles, all flavors  
Instant Hot Cereal  
Microwave Popcorn  
Pop Tarts  
Little Debbie or Hostess Snack Cakes  
Packaged Tuna  
Fruit Snacks  
Hand/Foot Warmers  
ChapStick  
Deodorant  
Shampoo/Conditioner  
Feminine Hygiene Products  
Body Wash, men's and women's  
Tube Socks, men's and women's  
Small Toys/Beanie Babies

Coloma ArtWorks Club

**Watervliet PTO thankful for Fun Fair donations**

Dear Editor,  
The Watervliet PTO held its annual Fun Fair on Saturday, November 9. The weather was great and the kids

had a blast. What really made the event extra special, though, was all the generous businesses that donated either cash or merchandise to the annual raffle.

We would like to extend a huge thank-you to the following:

Great Lakes Truck & Auto (\$150 cash), The wHAIRhouse salon (\$100 cash), Sharon Yoder at State Farm Insurance (\$50 cash), Mac's Brakes (\$50 cash), Lifestyle Chiropractic (\$50 cash), Contours (\$50 cash), Priebe's Creative Woodworking (\$50 cash), Waffle House of America (\$20 gift certificate);

Courtyard by Marriott (one free night's stay), Watervliet Wesco (\$25 card), Courtney Smalley at The

wHAIRhouse (gift basket), Doreen Hess (Whirlpool Workspace), Wilbur -Ellis (tools), Coloma Pizza Hut (lots of free food), Pepsi-Cola/Rick Liles (free pop); 5/3 Bank/Tina Tucker (duffle bag, umbrellas, clips & pens), Siderack Cafe (\$10 gift certificate), Nikki Priebe (Mary Kay gift basket), and TJ's Sports Bar & Grill (four free pizzas).

Please, when you stop by these businesses, let them know how much you appreciate their support of our schools! We wouldn't be able to do this without all of you. You are greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,  
The Watervliet PTO



And so it begins... the wet and the blowing and the ice and the slipping and sliding. I almost fell out of my car on Friday when one of my legs went one way and I went to other. I truly felt that 8 o'clock in the morning is too soon to give the public something to giggle at, and I should not be the source of those giggles.

Our family, meaning the Trotters, had the curse of laughter and the reason I say curse is at times it did get us in trouble. I can remember being asked to leave many a classroom due to the giggles. One time many years back, Mom and I had to leave church for the very same reason. I am now this OLDER lady and I can fess up to the crime of the giggles.

My brother, Richard, is a very dignified man and many years back he was helping one of the family members load the car during a snowstorm and after a Christmas party. My father watched from the front window, ready with cloth in hand to giggle.

Richard went around the car with his arms full of packages stacked up high and all Dad said he saw was the packages fly up in the sky and then he heard the thump. Dad began to laugh he knew what had occurred and only laughed at what he thought he saw.

When Richard came in the house, he could not make eye contact with Dad ... for the laughing would start all over again and also because he was

very sore. There were times when it was not appropriate to laugh but, still, on they come and we try to hide them but it does not always work.

We used to ice-skate at the Detroit Fairgrounds skating rink and we all loved our nightly attempts to become Olympic champs. Dad would watch from the sidelines, for his age prohibited him from doing his moves. He was a really good figure skater.

One time, he spotted this older lady on the rink in a pink tutu and with little pink balls on her skates; and the whole ensemble followed suit. She was hollering to her husband to watch her moves on the ice.

Yep, you guessed it, she went down in a cloud of pink and my dad was laughing so hard he almost got sick to his stomach. But when the husband realized that his father was laughing at his wife, Dad had to make a quick retreat.

So, at times, laughter is a curse... oh but what a curse.

Sometimes it is so hard to laugh, but my dad would still bring a light spot to all of our lives. We sure could use his ability to see the lighter side of life at this time when our Polly is going through her surgery.

Oh, Dad, where are you now? P.S. Please pray for our little Polly. Her first surgery is Thursday, December 17.



**LET THERE BE DARK...** The beep-beep-beep of the smoke detector woke me at 2:03 a.m. Tuesday, December 1, to warn me the power had gone off... gone off as in some 2,100 Watervliet homes and businesses were without electricity since a tree limb had torn down some transmission wires out on Paw Paw Avenue.

I went back to bed, figuring there was not a thing I could do about it. The house was warm, it was night, the full moon lighted up the neighborhood like twilight August... ZZZ-ZZZ.

When I awoke at 5:30, it was still dark, really dark. The moon was setting. I dressed by candlelight, pulled the emergency release cord on the garage opener, and was startled by the glare of the headlights as they illuminated the garage and then the yard as I backed out on the street. It was really dark.

I hear the term "light pollution" many times. The term means the amount of light from millions of sources obscured the beauty of the naturally occurring dark. Even when the "lights" are off, there is still light invading the dark from the neighbors, from the street lights, from cars on the road, from the glowing screens of the ubiquitous television set.

But let the power go out at night and there is no light "leaking" from anywhere. Then it is really dark. The stars in the night sky are brighter and "closer." The horizon disappears in the night sky.

I drove my car back into the driveway, turned off the engine, killed the headlights that were polluting the natural beauty of the stillness and dark just before dawn. I drank in and enjoyed the "unnaturalness" of it all; pitch-black dark, still, peaceful.

Then I got back into the car, "drove uptown to the shop"; the streets were all dark and silent. My car's headlights were invading the dark. A car pulled up close behind me, almost like it was seeking comfort. (Then I noticed I was creeping along at 15 mph and the frustrated driver behind was trying to speed me up.)

By then I got to the Record office; the streets were dark... the only lights were from emergency systems on some buildings and the flashing yellow lights of an AEP truck on the corner. Men were up in the hydraulic bucket, working on the wires.

In the minute it took for me to unlock the door in the dark, the lights came back on, the dark, the feeling of peace and quiet, all vanished with the light. I was kind of sorry to see it gone.

**MDOT GUARDRAILS RESPONSE...** I wrote here last week that I wasn't sure of the safety tradeoff for the new cable guardrails being installed on the freeways. My main concern was the shadows cast across the roadway when the headlights of oncoming cars shimmered through them and off the reflectors on the posts.

As "luck" would have it, I got a press release from Nicholas Schirripa at MDOT on the guardrail project, most notable the cost efficiency and the scope of the project. So I sent him a copy of the Karl's Kolumn noting my concerns.

Nick wrote, "Thanks, Karl. I appreciate the nod. I also hope you'll make a little space in your column for how safe cable guardrails can be. Certainly we understand there will be issues we need to address - we're already looking into the 'shadow' issue - but we are confident our investment in cable guardrails will improve the overall safety of our roadways."

In the interest of fairness and public information... this is the "scoop" from MDOT... "MDOT is installing cable guardrail along 280 miles of highway medians, in place of steel guardrails and concrete barriers, to stop vehicles from crossing into oncoming traffic - often with devastating consequences."

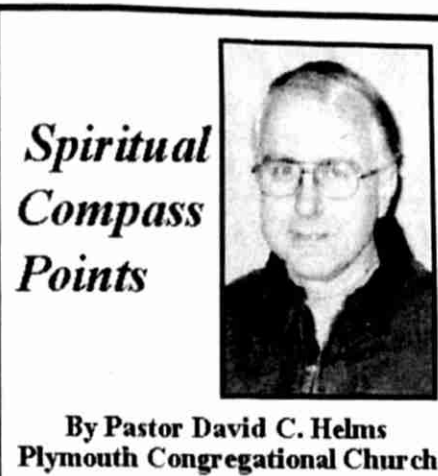
"Cross-median crashes are three times more deadly than other freeway crashes. Cable guardrail is expected to reduce cross-median crashes by an estimated 90 percent. Cable guardrail reduces the severity of crashes and is a very cost-effective safety measure when compared to other barriers. Cable barrier is designed to prevent a vehicle from crossing into lanes of oncoming traffic. The cable also absorbs most of the impact, preventing the vehicle from bouncing back into traffic. MDOT is installing cable guardrail along some medians with a history of median crossover crashes. Cable guardrail will run along select portions of median as wide as 70 feet. MDOT expects cable guardrail to save 13 lives and prevent 51 incapacitating injuries a year.

"MDOT is investing \$40 million over three years in the 280-mile cable guardrail program. According to state and federal regulations, the funding cannot be spent on other transportation projects, and cable barrier is the most cost-effective safety barrier available.

- Cable barrier: \$14-\$16 per foot.  
- Steel "W-beam" guardrail: \$28-\$33 per foot.  
- Concrete barrier: \$80 per foot or more."

So there you have it, the cable barriers are by far the cheapest.

I just don't know how the "cost effective safety barrier available" will equate if just one fatal accident is caused by some confused motorist swerving to miss "shadows" on the road.



**Spiritual Compass Points**  
By Pastor David C. Helms  
Plymouth Congregational Church

### God keeps His promises

Choices for leisure reading don't usually include the Old Testament book of Micah. Micah is the "minor" prophet whose writing contains the promise of a deliverer who would come from Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2 states: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." (KJV)

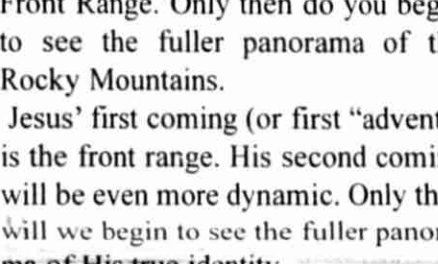
When the wise men came looking for the one born "king of the Jews," they were informed of this very passage by Jerusalem's religious leaders. The king would come from Bethlehem.

When we couple the Micah passage with another one in Isaiah 9:6, we come to the child part: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (KJV)

Biblical prophecy is like a promise from God, and sometimes the promises have both "close-in" and "far-off" applications. These two prophecies are like that. It's kind of like seeing the Rocky Mountains for the first time. Coming across the Colorado plains, you can see Pikes Peak and many other "Front Range" mountains. Very beautiful and very exciting. But taking the cog railway from Manitowish Springs to the top of Pikes Peak, you will be amazed at what's behind that Front Range. Only then do you begin to see the fuller panorama of the Rocky Mountains.

Jesus' first coming (or first "advent") is the front range. His second coming will be even more dynamic. Only then will we begin to see the fuller panorama of His true identity.

God kept His Christmas Child promise. He'll keep His Prince of Peace promise too.



### School start date may change again

Under a key measure before the House Education Committee, Michigan schools will be allowed to begin fall classes before Labor Day.

This move would be bad for Southwest Michigan communities that rely on the extended holiday vacation visitors to wrap up the summer tourism season. House Bill 5623 includes a provision to allow school districts to begin instruction prior to Labor Day, nullifying the post-Labor Day school start law the Legislature enacted in 2005 to encourage tourism opportunities within our state.

It is estimated that this small change brought millions of additional tourism dollars to Michigan.

I'm very disappointed with the short-sightedness of this legislation. Two of Michigan's top industries - tourism and agriculture - have benefited from moving the start day after Labor Day; and undoing that progress would harm our already struggling economy.

The bill has been proposed to help Michigan qualify for federal Race to the Top funding by the January 1, 2010, deadline - funding that could put up to \$600 million into Michigan classrooms.

Among eligibility requirements from the federal government are state policy changes for teacher certification, measuring student academic performance, and establishing charter schools.

I support real Race to the Top reforms that will help Michigan schools operate more efficiently and garner federal education funding and will continue working to give all Michigan schools the opportunities they need for success.



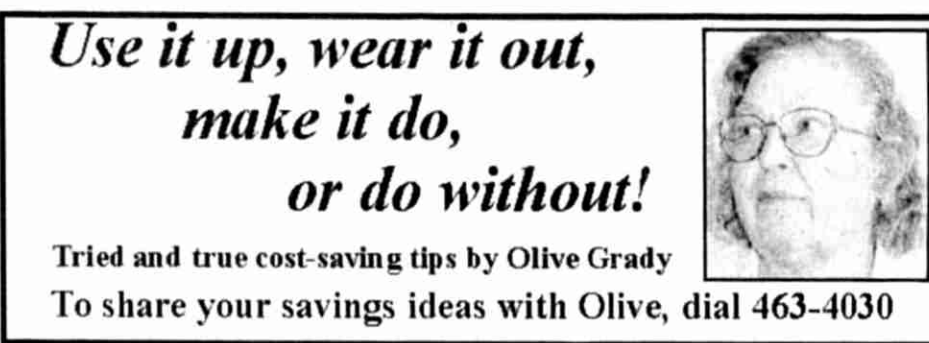
### Deck the halls; hold the calls

The holiday season is upon us and many people will be singing along with their favorite seasonal songs. So go ahead - sing your "Jingle Bells" and ring your "Silver Bells" - but hold your calls if your business can wait until after the holidays.

For years, Social Security has told the public that the busiest time for our field offices and for our toll-free telephone number is early in the week and early in the month; so if your business can wait, it's best to contact us at other times.

The same advice applies to the holiday time, especially the week between Christmas Eve and New Year's. So if you must do business with Social Security during the holidays, you may experience more busy signals and longer wait times.

As an alternative, we suggest you consider going online to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), where we have a wealth of information and online services available. You can apply online for retirement or disability benefits or check on the status of your pending



**Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without!**  
Tried and true cost-saving tips by Olive Grady  
To share your savings ideas with Olive, dial 463-4030

If you do not have a special lettuce keeper container, try this: Loosen the plastic cover from the store and put the lettuce and the plastic under it into a plastic grocery bag. Tie the handles tightly to keep in the natural moisture. Lettuce will keep several days.

I never cut into a head. Instead, I peel off as many leaves as makes the amount needed for the meal. This makes for variations in your salads, as sometimes you will have the dark

outer leaves and sometimes the pale inner leaves. Nice changes. Add whatever other salad ingredients you like.

I leave the dressing off so folks can choose the dressing they like. Dressings kept in the refrigerator last quite awhile.

Buy one little bottle of ketchup and refill it from the bigger one; so if the one at the table gets spilled, it isn't very much.



### Steer clear of hypertension through regular blood pressure checks

We've all experienced a rise in blood pressure while driving in heavy traffic, or struggling to meet a deadline at work. However, when high blood pressure becomes chronic, it is a serious medical condition that can result in complications including heart attack or stroke.

The American Heart Association estimates that some 73.6 million Americans suffer from high blood pressure, which is also called hypertension. Many people don't know they have the disease because it causes few symptoms.

"High blood pressure is a disease which affects the arteries," says Dr. Bridget Reidy, a family physician with Coloma Medical Center. "Sometimes, it will cause headaches, dizziness, shortness of breath or blurred vision. But more often, you won't know you have hypertension until your doctor diagnoses it during a routine office visit."

Adults age 20 and older should have their blood pressure checked at least every two years. Most doctors check your blood pressure each time you visit. Your doctor will check your blood pressure by attaching a soft, fabric cuff to your upper arm. Blood pressure readings have an upper and a lower number. A normal reading is below 120/80. If you have two or three high readings, you may have hypertension.

The good news is that you can take steps to reduce your risk of high blood pressure by:

- Losing excess weight
- Avoiding alcohol and tobacco
- Getting regular exercise from 30 to 60 minutes a day on most days of the week
- Following a low-salt diet
- Learning to manage stress more effectively

Many researchers believe that poor lifestyle habits, such as an unhealthy diet and lack of exercise, are causing a surge in hypertension among Americans of all ages. If lifestyle changes aren't enough to bring your blood pressure within a healthy range, your doctor may prescribe medication.

"Left untreated, high blood pressure can cause permanent damage to major organs including your heart, kidneys, eyes and brain," Dr. Reidy explains. "So get your blood pressure checked regularly. It's a simple test that only takes a few minutes. And it could be a real life-saver."

Free blood pressure screenings are offered by Community Hospital at: Hardings Market-Bangor, first Wednesday each month, Noon - 2:00 pm; Hardings Market-Watervliet, second Thursday each month, 10:00 am - Noon; Hardings Market-Hartford, third Tuesday each month, Noon - 2:00 pm; Hardings Market-Coloma, fourth Thursday each month, 10:00 am - Noon.

For more information about the causes and treatment of hypertension, talk with your physician or make an appointment with Dr. Reidy by calling (269) 463-2459.

### Asian carp are a grave threat to Great Lakes

We have a crisis on our hands with the discovery of Asian carp in tributaries that feed the Great Lakes, and the sanctity of the Great Lakes basin hangs in the balance.

Asian carp is a highly-destructive invasive species that poses a severe threat to any watershed that it infiltrates. They can grow up to 100 pounds, eating 40 percent of their body weight in plankton each day. Due to their large size and rapid rate of reproduction, these fish pose a grave risk to the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Originally imported to the U.S. by catfish farmers in the 1970s, Asian carp were used to remove algae and suspended matter from their ponds. However, flooding in the early 1990s caused many of these ponds to overflow, releasing the carp into the Mississippi River Basin. In the years since, the carp have made their way up the Mississippi, and ever closer to the Great Lakes, leaving behind a path of destruction.

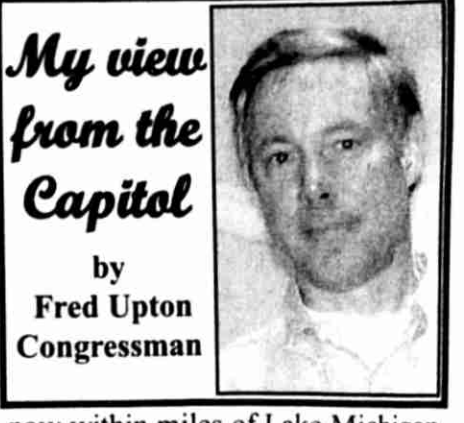
Recent tests have found genetic material from Asian carp above the electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, which is designed to stop the carp before they reach the Great Lakes. The fish are

now within miles of Lake Michigan. Genetic material from Asian carp was also found in the Des Plaines River, north of the electric dispersal barrier. Given the risk that the carp could bypass the barrier if the Des Plaines River were to flood, I recently voted to provide the Army Corps with additional authority to build up the barrier.

I have also joined members of the Michigan delegation in urging \$30 million in emergency funding be made immediately available for the Army Corps. Lack of adequate funding has been an obstacle to the both the Corps and the EPA who are tasked with preventing the spread of the Asian carp.

There is no greater immediate threat to the Great Lakes ecosystem than the introduction of the Asian carp. The stakes are too high to fail.

Keep physically active; it will increase your immune system and reduce your risk for diseases. Involving children in the kitchen with planning and preparing can have an extra special meaning during the holidays. Spending the time together can build family bonds and traditions they will remember into adulthood. Your children's age will determine how much they can help in the kitchen. Start with hand washing; encourage children to wash for 20 seconds. Singing the alphabet song can help them know how long to wash. Then they'll be ready to help with the measuring, pouring, and stirring. While you're working together, talk about healthy food choices; let them help with the planning of meals and snacks.



### My view from the Capital

by Fred Upton  
Congressman

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### Healthy holiday eating

Healthy eating during the holidays may seem impossible but with a little preparation it can be done.

At holiday gatherings, start with fresh fruit and vegetables. Drink plenty of water throughout the day. Don't wait until the big meal to eat. Start the day with a hearty breakfast including whole grains, fruit, and a low-fat dairy food.

Five healthy changes most people can make are:  
Eat more fruits and vegetables.  
Eat less fat, by avoiding fried foods and adding less fat to food.  
Use moderation when choosing the amount of food to eat.  
Drink more water and limit other beverages.

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### Investing in Your Future

By Denise Barowicz  
Financial Advisor  
Edward Jones  
"Making Sense of Investing"

**Smart Financial Moves Can Help Brighten Holiday Season**  
If you're like many people, you're watching your dollars extra carefully this year as you do your holiday shopping. And that's a good thing because, even in the best of times, it's never wise to go overboard on gifts. But by making the right moves during this holiday season, you can also help ensure that you stay on track toward your long-term financial goals.

Specifically, what steps should you be taking during these weeks? Here are a few suggestions:

Avoid racking up big debts. In a time of economic uncertainty, the last thing you want is to take on a new debt load. Everyone in your life who is important enough to receive a gift from you will understand if you don't splurge on presents you can't afford. And winter can be pretty gloomy when you're trying to pay off big credit card bills from the past holiday season.

Establish a gift fund. For next year's gift-giving season, you may want to open a special "gift fund." Of course, it's not easy for any of us to find "extra" money after we're done paying our bills, so the best way to set up your gift fund may be to have the money moved automatically each month from your checking or savings account to another liquid account - one that you wouldn't normally touch for your day-to-day expenses. Even if you can only afford to put in a small amount each month, you might be surprised at how much you'll accumulate in a year.

Protect yourself from identity theft. Victims of identity theft can testify that it's an enormous - and possibly expensive - hassle. Unfortunately, identity theft seems to go up during the holiday season, so take steps to protect yourself. When you go out shopping, just take one debit or credit card with you - and look around whenever you use it. Identity thieves have been known to copy down credit card numbers and even photograph credit cards with cell phones. Also, if you're shopping online, make sure you're on a secure Website. One way to check for a secure site is to look for "https" in the Web address, along with the icon of the locked padlock on your browser's status bar.

Shop early for bargains. As you probably know, some of the best bargains come during stores' "after-holiday" sales. By taking advantage of these sales, you can stock up on gifts for the next holiday season.

By following these suggestions, you may be able to remove a lot of the financial stress that often accompanies the holidays - and that, by itself, can help you enjoy the season even more.

Looking south at Baker Park in Coloma  
If you have any information about this photo, please contact Alex Gates, Curator/Director of North Berrien Historical Museum, 300 Coloma Avenue, Coloma; 468-3330.



### Rolling Back The Years

Local News and Newsmakers of Days Gone By  
As reported in the local newspapers: Coloma Courier, Hartford Day Spring, and Watervliet Record.

#### NEWS FROM THE COLOMA COURIER

100 YEARS AGO - 1909

G.W. Harris and son John, and nephew Frank Harris, went to Chicago Saturday for a visit with the former's son, Wilbur Harris, and to attend the fat stock show.

The marriage of Miss Jennie Antes of Benton Harbor and Jacob Friday of South Coloma was solemnized at the home of the groom last Thursday afternoon. Both are well known in this vicinity.

J.G. Dade was in Chicago Wednesday with a carload of stock, which he placed on the market.

60 YEARS AGO - 1949

Two young Coloma acrobatic dancers, Violet and Barbara Crawford, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Crawford, recently placed second in an Amateur Contest at Bangor.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Friday, prominent fruit growers of South Coloma, were honored at a family party honoring their 40th wedding anniversary, at

the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Bayers, and children, of Bainbridge.

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Of interest to the many sportsmen and nature lovers of this area will be the movies to be shown at the Watervliet high school building on Dec. 14 at 6:00 p.m. These include "Mallards over Texas," "Smallmouth on Fly, Plug and Bait," and "Slow Motion Quail." Lewis Drug Store is sponsoring the event.

After a lapse of several years a student council at the Watervliet high school again swung into full being through the election of two members of grades seven through twelve and the subsequent election of officers by this chosen group. Willie Griffin, a senior and vice president of his class, was elected council president.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Koshar entertained at a family party at their home on Harper avenue last Saturday evening in honor of her parents, Mrs. and Mrs. Ben Marvin, on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Submitted by Librarian Stephanie Daniels at Hartford Public Library from microfilm copies of the Hartford Day Spring. Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 10:00-5:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Phone: 621-3408

30 YEARS AGO - 1979

Brian Stanley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Stanley, Leedy Street, Coloma, has qualified on the local level for competition with other high school students in the state for the Century III Leadership awards.

A boy weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Kniebes, 5548 Paw Paw Lake Road, Coloma, Saturday, December 8th, in Berrien General Hospital.

Submitted by volunteer Barb Abrams at Coloma Public Library, from the Coloma Courier newspapers donated by the Tri-City Record. Hours: Monday & Friday, 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Phone: 468-3431

#### NEWS FROM THE HARTFORD DAY SPRING

90 YEARS AGO - 1919

Professor William Herbert Hobbs, head of the department of geology at the University of Michigan, was in Hartford Saturday and also visited other towns in this section of the county in an effort to trace the meteor which created an acute atmospheric disturbance over southern Michigan on the evening of November 2

**Tri-City Area Obituaries**

**PATRICIA S. CAPREZ**

Patricia S. Caprez, 51, of Covert, Michigan, passed away peacefully on Friday evening, December 4, 2009, at her home, following a long and courageous fight against cancer.



Funeral services celebrating her life were held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Coloma. With Pastor Sean Kidd of Buchanan Christian Church officiating. Burial was private. Visitation was held from 5:00 until the time of the service on Wednesday, at the funeral home. Memorial donations may be made to the Humane Society of Southwest Michigan.

Patricia was born on February 18, 1958, in Humbolt, Tennessee. On June 28, 1997, she married Michael Caprez.

Patricia enjoyed horses, gardening, and loved all animals. She particularly enjoyed motorcycle riding and will be remembered for being a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother.

She is survived by: her husband, Michael; her children - Janquell (Clint) Blosser of Berrien Springs, MI, and Jack Hill III; her stepchildren, Scotty and Kimmy Caprez and Tracy Morris; three grandchildren - Patrick Davis, Jorry Goff, and Charlee Robertson; her stepmother, Kathy Trudell; three sisters - Anna Brahm, Lovedia Stapp, and Maria Gibson; numerous nieces, nephews, and loving friends; and her dog, Ity Bitty.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Tony Gibson.

**RANDY CROSBY**

Randy Crosby, 47, of Wildwood, Florida, formerly of Coloma, Michigan, passed away Thursday, December 3, 2009, in Florida.



Funeral services celebrating his life were held at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 9, at the Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Coloma, with Pastor Doyle Jackson officiating. Burial followed at Coloma Cemetery. Visitation was held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorial donations may be made to a church of the donor's choice.

Randy was born October 14, 1962, in Cavalier, North Dakota, to Donald Lee and Audrey Crosby. He moved from the area to Florida around 20 years ago. He enjoyed fishing and horses.

Randy is survived by his siblings - Lawrence (Diane) Crosby of Plainwell, MI, Robert (Kathy) Crosby of Lawrence, MI, Sheila Stevens of Coloma, Todd Crosby of Covert, MI, Twila Crosby of Coloma, Donald Crosby, and Shonda Crosby; daughter

Tabitha Crosby of Florida; two granddaughters; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Randy was preceded in death by: his brother, Richard; and his grandparents - John and Ruby Crosby and Edward and Eva Meagher.

**DOROTHY AUSTIN EWALD**

Dorothy Austin Ewald passed away on Wednesday, December 2, 2009, in Lansing, Michigan.

Dorothy was born July 14, 1914, in Lawrence, MI. She was the daughter of Sherman and Lula Austin and was the second of five children. After graduating from High School in Lawrence, Dorothy worked as a switchboard operator for the Lawrence telephone company. On November 30, 1940, she was united in marriage to Clare Ewald. For 47 years, they owned and operated Springdale Fruit Farm in Hartford, MI.

Dorothy is survived by: one sister, Norma Whiteman; and her two sons - Edward, who resides in Rock Hill, South Carolina, with his wife, Susan; and Douglas, who resides in Holt, MI, with his wife, Sharon. She is also survived by five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by: her husband, Clare, in 1987; her mother, Lula Austin; her father, Sherman Austin; two brothers, Volney and Harlow; and a sister, Clara Labadie. Dorothy worked hard on the farm as well as volunteering as a Cub Scout leader, was past President of the Child Care Club, past President of the Southwest Hartford Thursday Star Benevolence Chapter # 256, and member of the Lawrence Alumni Association.

In 1988, Dorothy moved to Paw Paw, MI, where she was a resident for 17 years. In 2005, she moved to the Lansing area and resided there until her passing.

The family welcomed friends from 11:00 a.m. until noon on Monday, December 7, at Calvin Funeral Home, Hartford, where the service to honor her memory commenced at noon. Reverend Ronald Hansen of the Hartford United Methodist Church officiated. She will be laid to rest next to her husband in Maple Hill Cemetery, Hartford. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Lansing or a charity of your choice.

**ERNEST ("ERNE") HASSELBRING**

Ernest (Ernie) R. Hasselbring, 83, passed away Saturday evening, December 5, 2009, in South Haven, Michigan.



He was the first child born to Ernest F. and Gertrude (Lenz) Hasselbring on November 21, 1926, in Hammond, Indiana. He spent the majority of his living and going to school in the Hammond-Calumet City area. He served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged at the end of World War II.

Ernie married Carmen Redenour and together they raised two wonderful children, Kimberly and Ernest F. Ernie and Carmen parted after their children were grown. Sometime later, Ernie met Judy (Callendar) Kroening. They were married on March 28, 1978, and spent 31 years together. He worked in Hammond as Warehouse Manager for Edward C. Minas Department Stores. He was a member of the Teamsters. After his retirement,

**Coloma United Methodist Church**

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Sun. Worship 9:15am  
Sun. School All Ages 11am

William W. Chu  
144 Church St.  
269-466-6062  
www.colomauumc.org

he moved to Michigan, where Judy resided. He worked at the Coast to Coast Hardware store in downtown Coloma until he retired a second time in 1998, due to illness. Ernie was also a member of Riverside Methodist Church and a life member of the Coloma American Legion.

Before his illness in 1998, Ernie was an avid golfer. He learned to enjoy camping; fishing; reading license plates; spending winters in Okechobee, Florida, where he loved visiting with people from all over; and fishing trips to the Upper Peninsula. His big joy was being with people. He loved his family, especially his two great-grandchildren.

He is survived by: his wife, Judy; sister Ruth Marquardt; brothers Henry and Paul; his children - Kim Wadlington, Eva Markham, Ernest F. (Karen), Lynn (Ray) Griffin, and Janet (Clinton) King; his grandchildren - Hannah (Billie) Boone, H.C. Wadlington, Ernest F. Hasselbring III, Kristin Ann Hasselbring, Angie Wadlington and Heather, Nicholas and Dennis Griffin; one great-grandson, H.C. (Tripp) Wadlington III; brothers-in-law - Gary (Barbara) Callendar and Virgil (Jean) Callendar; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, Gertrude and Frederick Hasselbring; sister-in-law Joan Hasselbring; and a beloved great-granddaughter, Claudia Faye Wadlington, and her very best friend, Riley Jane Lawrence. In keeping with Ernie's wishes, cremation has taken place. Visitation will be held from noon until 1:00 p.m. (EST) at Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home in Coloma on Saturday, December 12. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Riverside Methodist Church, North Berrien Senior Center, or to the family.

**DONNIE W. SCATES**

Donnie W. Scates, 65, of St. Joseph, Michigan, formerly of Coloma, MI, passed away Wednesday morning, December 2, 2009, at Royalton Manor in St. Joseph.



Funeral services celebrating his life were held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Benton Harbor, MI, with Pastor Richard Kiser officiating; with burial following at North Shore Memory Gardens in Hagar Township. Visitation was held Monday evening from 5:00 to 8:00 at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Donnie was born December 6, 1943, in Benton Harbor. He was the youngest of six children born to Homer and Bertha Scates. As a self-taught musician, Donnie was inspired by his early-day musical heroes James Brown, Junior Walker and many of the Motown greats. At the early age of 14, Donnie began playing at local nightclubs as a drummer. However, his love for rhythm and blues caused him to migrate toward learning to play guitar. His dedication and hard work paid off, as he had the opportunity to be a member of backup bands that played with B.B. King, Narvel Felts and John Anderson. For 50 years, Donnie treated his audiences to a wide range of music from rhythm and blues, Motown hits and, most recently, country. As the lead of "The Country Blues Band," he filled many Southwest Michigan venues to capacity. As a member of the Southwest Michigan music community, Donnie will always be recognized as a great rhythm and blues guitarist. He will also be remembered as a great humanitarian. He was always the first in line to offer his musical services in the form of organization and participation of charity fundraising benefits for those in need.

In his leisure time, Donnie enjoyed

fishing and was an avid viewer of westerns. "Gunsmoke," "Bonanza," and John Wayne movies were among his favorites. In addition, he found his comedic relief as a lifelong fan of the Three Stooges. Most of all, Donnie cherished his family - particularly his daughters and grandchildren.

Donnie is survived by: his daughters - Kelly (Alfonso) Chavez of St. Joseph, Kami (David) Milnickel of Coloma, and Kassie (Dennis) Thomas of Benton Harbor; eight grandchildren - Isabella, Alessandra, Bianca and Jonah Chavez, Kloe and Addyson Milnickel, and Jacob and Ava Thomas; his brother-in-law, Joe Giudice; several nieces and nephews; and his faithful dog, Football.

In addition to his parents, Donnie was preceded in death by: his siblings - Doyle Scates, Jerry Scates, Dorothy Broadwater, Shirley Giudice, and Rosa Giudice.

**Death Notices**

**Frances E. Harris**, 96, of Coloma, Michigan, died Wednesday, December 2, 2009, at Lakeland Continuing Care in Berrien Center, MI. Davidson Chapel, Florin Funeral Service, Coloma.

**Walter B. Arny**, 62, of Coloma, Michigan, died Monday, December 7, 2009, at his home. Starks & Mendinger Family Funeral Home, St. Joseph, MI.

**Albert Walter Holmer Sr.**, 90, of Coloma, died Monday, December 7, 2009, at Park Road Adult Foster Care Home, Coloma. Filibrand Family Funeral Home, South Haven, MI.

**POLICE REPORTS**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**Kenneth Leroy Vermilyer**, 50, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, second offense; and maintaining a drug house, second offense. Bobby Lee Vermilyer, 54, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Both reside at the address where the search took place.

**Derick Ray McConnell**, 29, of Dowagiac, was charged with manufacturing methamphetamines within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling, second offense. Also arrested was Angela Michelle McConnell, 30, of Dowagiac. She was charged with manufacturing methamphetamine within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling.

**Multi-state offender arrested in Hagar Township**

Coloma Township Police Officer M. Prince received a tip that Joshua Robert Bryant was walking down Coloma Road near I-96 on November 30. Bryant was wanted on several felony warrants out of Missouri, Arkansas, and Michigan. Officer Prince located Bryant inside the Riverside Food Mart at 3468 Coloma Road in Riverside. He was arrested without incident.

Bryant first claimed to be Jamie Lee Miller. He later admitted he was Bryant and said that he found Miller's black tri-fold wallet along the road in Florida. The wallet contained Miller's Florida picture driver's license and his Social Security card. The police department in Lakeland, Florida, was contacted in an attempt to contact Miller about his wallet and its contents.

Bryant had a felony warrant for home invasion out of the Berrien County Sheriff's Department and a misdemeanor warrant with a \$1,700 bond.

**Midway Baptist Church**  
7517 Red Arrow Hwy  
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(269) 463-3195  
Worship 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.  
Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship 9:30 A.M.  
Children's Church and Adult Bible Fellowship 11:00 A.M.  
www.midwayministries.org

He had three felony warrants out of Missouri and one out of the state of Arkansas. He was lodged at Berrien County Jail.

**Welfare check results in children's removal; mother arrested for meth possession**

Coloma Township Police Officer J. Roe was requested to accompany a Department of Human Services employee on a welfare check of two children on September 29.

Upon arriving at the residence at 5590 Paw Paw Lake Road, units 10 and 11, police made contact with a neighbor who had been caring for one of the children for approximately eight days. The neighbor informed Officer Roe that he had picked up the child from a home in Sister Lakes, where the child was left by his grandmother.

The neighbor reported that he found the child to be extremely filthy, covered with food, feet blackened by dirt, and covered in bug bites. The neighbor, knowing the mother, requested to take the child to the doctor, which she agreed to.

The other child was found to be with his great-grandmother, who had been taking care of him for a month.

Officers located the mother, Teresa Sue Clark, who agreed to be interviewed. She was found to be extremely skinny and was covered with sores on her face and hands. She appeared jittery, nervous, and talkative. Knowing that Clark had a prior methamphetamine abuse history, Officer Roe asked if she had been using meth. She denied she had been.

Clark allowed the officer to search her purse and its contents. A pill bottle was found containing five small bags, which contained a powdery white substance believed to be methamphetamine, based on the training and experience of the officer. A subsequent field test on a small portion of the substance tested positive.

Clark finally admitted that she smoked methamphetamine on September 28 in the morning hours. She was offered help or services from the Department of Human Services but refused, saying that she didn't have a problem. She was offered an opportunity to sign a power of attorney that would allow a family member to take custody of the children, but she refused.

The children were then placed into protective custody and were removed from the home with the Department of Human Services worker. They would be placed in foster care.

Clark denied knowing how the suspected narcotics were in her purse and that they had been put there by another subject, whose house she just left. Laboratory results from the Michigan State Police Forensic Science Division confirmed that the powdery substance was indeed methamphetamine. A warrant was requested for a possession of methamphetamine, first offense, charge on Teresa Clark.

On November 24, Clark was picked up by Officer Simpson of the Hartford Police Department. She was transported to the Berrien County Jail where she was lodged on her warrant.

**Fire report**

**North Berrien Fire-Rescue Department**  
Chief Jim Spiegel  
The North Berrien Fire-Rescue Department responded to 16 emergency calls in the month of November, including six fires, four alarms, four good intent calls, one rescue and one electrical transformer call.

Of the fire calls, one was an oven fire on November 15 in Hagar Township, one was a multiple vehicle fire on November 27 in the City of Coloma, and one was a mutual aid given to the Watervliet Fire Department for a house fire on November 23. The remaining fire calls were for open burning or field/leaf fires.

A subscription to the **Tri-City Record** would make a great Christmas gift!  
See Page 4 for details...

**Retiring Hartford Public Schools Superintendent to be honored with Community Reception on Dec. 17**

By Mary Brost Reek

Hartford Public School District will pay a special tribute to the man at the helm for the past three-plus years.

Hartford Superintendent of Schools Dave Levstek is retiring, beginning December 31, 2009. On Thursday evening, December 17, the Board of Education will hold a **Community Reception** to honor Levstek. The reception will begin at 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular Board meeting, at the Central Office meeting room.



Levstek

The public is invited to attend and show their support to Levstek for his years of service to the district.

Director of Curriculum and School Improvement for Fowlerville Community Schools before coming to Hartford.

**Serving in the interim**

Levstek said he will continue to have an interest in the workings of the district because of his concern for Hartford schools, staff, and students. "I just think the world of the schools, the people in the schools, the Board, and the community," said Levstek.

Present Deputy Superintendent Mike Hallgren will fill the interim position as acting Superintendent from January 1, 2010, through June 30, 2010, when the Board hopes the new Superintendent will begin.

**Watervliet royalty to be crowned this weekend**

By Annette Christie

There will be new royalty in Watervliet after this contest-packed weekend where a new Miss Watervliet and a new Mr. Watervliet will be crowned.

Outgoing Miss Watervliet Sarah Faulkner will crown the new Miss Watervliet from a field of 11 young ladies. They are Jordan Cowser, Jennifer Oliphant, Sara Carr, Haleigh Kiser, Bethany Milnickel, Kayla Warsko, Emily Fisher, Alyson Wendzel, Karlianne Loshough, Madi DiMaggio, and Kelsey Douglas.

Chairman Mendy Treder said that tickets will be available at the door for the event being held on Saturday night, December 12, at 7:00 p.m., in the Watervliet High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$12; and the doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

The Watervliet Lions Club is sponsoring the pageant, as it has historically. There will be a total of over \$3,000 in educational scholarships awarded, in addition to other nice prizes received by the queen and her court.

Master of ceremonies will once again be Phil McDonald, midday radio host of 94.9, The Coast. The theme of the event is "When You With Upon A Star."

Last year's court includes First Runner-up Kelseyann Kremers, Second Runner-up Brandi Mannino, and Miss Congeniality Kristina Griffith.

**Mr. Watervliet**  
Outgoing Mr. Watervliet Scotty Sexton will say his farewells before crowning a new Mr. Watervliet on Sunday afternoon, December 13, at 3:00 p.m. in the WHS Auditorium.

Six young men are vying for the title, including Jesse Marquardt, Eric Kibler, Chris Eisbrenner, Sean Williamson, Blake Baiers and Vic Felner. The contest, sponsored by the WHS Class of 2012, is being chaired by Ann DeHaven and Tonya Thumm who also served as the class advisors.

High School teacher Mrs. Sibley will serve as master of ceremonies. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door.

The 2009 court includes First Runner-up Jeremy Flagel, Second Runner-up Kevin Broce, and Mr. Nice Guy Kyle Garland.

**Fish fry Dec. 11 at American Legion**

The Coloma American Legion bowling teams are serving an "all-you-can-eat" fish fry on Friday, December 11, at Post 362, located on the corner of St. Joseph Avenue and Sassafras Street. They will serve from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

Cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 3-10, and children under 3 are free. Also being offered are chicken strip dinners for \$6.

The public is invited to this event.

**Bake & Candy Sale Dec. 18 at Comm. Hospital**

Take a break from baking and come to the annual **Bake and Candy Sale**, sponsored by Community Hospital Auxiliary, in Watervliet on Friday, December 18, in the lobby of the hospital on Red Arrow Highway. Delicious breads, cookies, candy, etc., will be on sale from 6:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to the hospital.

**WATERVLIT**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wilkinson has revisited the situation. Clerk Kelly reports, at this time, the Assistant Prosecutor continues to maintain the City is not criminally liable for any state violations. She has requested the "more detailed documentation" in order to satisfy "Mr. Flaherty's allegations once and for all." Kelly said she didn't expect a final "report" from Wilkinson until the first of the year but is assured nothing will change.

In a related matter, Kelly reported that while doing her research she was unable to come up with written documentation to support the practice of "committees."

The Commission commonly forms committees, normally a three-member crew, to perform numerous jobs from research for a pending project, reworking an existing ordinance or writing a new one or working out the yearly budget.

Twenty-two year veteran Commissioner Danny Gray told Kelly the practice of "committees" had been in place in the City's governmental practices as long as he had been involved in Watervliet politics. He suggested she look into old City meeting minutes for a record and a paper trail of committees in the function of the municipality.

New City Manager Troy Clay announced he planned on putting together a prospective that will outline the specific function of a "committee." He hopes to have this document approved and in place prior to the new commissioners being seated for their first meeting on January 5, 2010. Clay also stressed that he "is transparent when I do work for the City and everything is above board and will always remain so."

**Other business**

The three newly elected City commissioners were legally sworn in by City Clerk Jan Kelly. New Commissioners are: Pamela ("Pam") Loyd, 824 Richard Street; Melanie Marvin, 424 Lucinda Lane; and Richard ("Rick") Wicks, 333 Highway Street.

Plaques and commemorative American flags were presented to the outgoing, incumbent commissioners: 22-year veteran Danny Gray; Duane Cobb, who served six years on the Commission; and Jason Roland, who has been a civil servant for the past five years. All were thanked for their generous and unselfish service to the community.

The Commission unanimously approved the annual donation of \$3,500 to the Watervliet Business Association, specifically to be used for the upcoming Winter Fest slated for January 8-10, 2010.

Commissioner Gray commented, "The festival last year was a very successful and the WBA did a great job." Talks are continuing between the City

and the Planning Commission to accept a new "Rental Ordinance."

The Commission agreed to pay \$92,121.36 for November 2009 bills.

The next City workshop meeting is January 5, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.; and the next regular meeting is January 12, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

The newly elected commissioners will be seated at these meetings.

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Open Christmas Eve, Noon-4 p.m. (no kitchen service)  
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**Community Medical Center Welcomes Providers**  
Michael Kelly, DO and Ann Watkins, FNP, are now accepting patients at Community Medical Center in Watervliet. The new practice will join the Community Hospital family of medical centers and is conveniently located on the hospital's main campus, in the same facility as the After Hours Clinic.  
A graduate of the Michigan State University of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Kelly is board certified in osteopathic family practice and has a special interest in diabetes management. He provides general and preventative medical care for individuals of all ages.  
Ms. Watkins is a graduate of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She has been a provider with Community Hospital since 2006. Ms. Watkins also offers medical care for children through seniors, with a special interest in whole family care.  
New and former patients are welcome to make an appointment. For more information, please call (269) 463-2459.  
**Community HOSPITAL**  
Community Medical Center  
420 Medical Park Drive  
Watervliet, MI 49098  
(269) 463-2459

# Our best wishes to these beautiful blossoms of Watervliet in Saturday's Queen Pageant



THE 2010 MISS WATERVLIET SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT...will be held on Saturday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the Watervliet High School Auditorium. The contestants are: (front row, from the left) Jordan Cowser, Jennifer Oliphant, Sara Carr, Haleigh Kiser, Bethany Milnickel; (back row, from the left) Kayla Warsko, Emily Fisher, Alyson Wendzel, Karlianne Loshbough, Madi DiMaggio, and Kelsey Douglas. The contest is sponsored by the Watervliet Lions Club. The theme of this year's contest is "When You Wish Upon a Star." (Annette Christie photo)

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Have a great day, girls  
**The Side Track Cafe**  
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Downtown Watervliet

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wish the girls good luck in this year's contest!

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## Nancy is back in the AQB race lead

There were some surprises this week but only one position change as the pack tightened up with the lower players making up some ground on our leaders. Nancy Huffman went 8-4 this week and that was enough to boost her back into first place. She took a few chances that paid off for her and now she has a bit of a cushion over her nearest threat. And Mark Bolin is that nearest threat as he went 6-6 to fall out of the lead. Mark went with all of the favorites and some of them let him down, like Florida, Pittsburgh, Clemson and USC. But as they both have proven so far, things could change in one week... just like they did this week. Chris Leach stays in third place this week with an 8-4 record. That puts her just five games behind Mark. And, she doesn't lose any ground to Nancy either. This has to be Chris' best performance to date of any year that she has competed. However, she still has to watch out behind herself as someone is still right on her tail.

That competition happens to be John Demis who stays in fourth place this week with an 8-4 record as well. John is still just one game behind Chris and three games ahead of his nearest competition. That still makes it easy for him to pass Chris and move up to third with another solid performance by him and a stumble by Chris.

Tom Gear stays in fifth place this week despite posting the best weekly record at 9-3. That gives Tom a needed boost and he may do even better in the weeks to come, as Notre Dame has decided not to go to a bowl game so he won't have to worry about losing that one.

Jim Edwards stays in sixth place this week as he went 8-4 for the week. Jim is now five games behind Tom and has to catch him to move up. Jim has still come closer to the pack in general but has a way to go the get out of the cellar. This week there are some more good match-ups with the Army-Navy game, the only college game on the schedule. The rest will be NFL games and there are some good ones as it comes down to the nitty-gritty for teams trying to nail down a play-off spot.

## Armchair Quarterbacks pick this weekend's game winners!



<b>Nancy Huffman</b> Huffman's TV & Appliances 118-45 Navy, Colts, Vikings, Giants, Cowboys, Jags, Packers, Ravens Total Pts. 47	<b>Mark Bolin</b> Watervliet Public Works 116-47 Army, Colts, Vikings, Giants, Chargers, Dolphins, Packers, Ravens Total Pts. 36	<b>Chris Leach</b> Guy's Marine 111-52 Navy, Colts, Vikings, Giants, Cowboys, Jags, Packers, Ravens Total Pts. 48	<b>John Demis</b> John's Glass 110-53 Navy, Colts, Vikings, Eagles, Chargers, Dolphins, Packers, Ravens Total Pts. 36	<b>Tom Gear</b> Tri-County Computer Services 102-61 Navy, Colts, Vikings, Giants, Cowboys, Jags, Packers, Ravens Total Pts. 48	<b>Jim Edwards</b> Nancy's Furniture 102-61 Army, Colts, Vikings, Giants, Chargers, Dolphins, Packers, Ravens Total Pts. 49
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This week's picks...  
Army vs. Navy  
Denver Broncos at Indy Colts  
Cincinnati Bengals at Minnesota  
Philadelphia Eagles at NY Giants  
San Diego Chargers at Dallas  
Miami Dolphins at Jacksonville Jags  
Miami Bay Packers at Chicago Bears  
Detroit Lions at Baltimore Ravens  
The tiebreaker for positions will be the total points of the Packers-Bears game.

## My view from the Press Box

By Mike Leith, Sportswriter



### Watervliet girls take first game of the season

The Watervliet girls varsity basketball team started its season off on the right foot as it notched a 50-48 win over Lawrence last Friday, December 4.

The Lady Panthers had a balanced effort by their team, with Andrea Hiler scoring 18 points, six rebounds, three blocks, and two assists, Alex Spaulding with 16 points, nine rebounds, and three steals; along with nine points, five rebounds, seven steals, and four assists from freshman Nicole Winter. Kirsten Sill added four points and two rebounds, Lauren Richardson added two points and three rebounds, while Hiler also went 6-9 from the free-throw lines. Winter also went 5-7 from the free-throw lines, as the Lady Panthers scored a lot of time there with many fouls coming from the Lady Tigers. In fact, they were 16-28 from the charity stripes on the night.

Watervliet shot 36% from the floor for the night as the Lady Panthers had a lot of missed shots and could have easily scored over 60 points. Coach Jim Winter was pleased with the balance his team showed and hopes they get better with each game. The Lady Panthers will not play again until this Friday when they play the first game of a doubleheader against Lawton, with the boys taking the court for the second game of the night. Saugatuck will then travel to Watervliet next Tuesday, December 15, for the girls game.

### Coloma girls split first week

The Coloma girls varsity basketball team split a pair of games last week as it downed Decatur 41-31 to start the week and fell to Brandywine 47-24 to end it.

In their game against Decatur, the Lady Comets fell behind 6-5 after one quarter before going on a 14-7 second-quarter run to make it a 19-13 score in their favor at the half. The third quarter saw Coloma build on its lead, as the Lady Comets went on a 16-6 run to make it a 35-19 game going into the fourth. They then coasted from there for the win.

Julie Timm led the way with 19 points, Shatoria Dancer had eight points, Olivia Zvonar and Kaitlyn Sink each added four points, while Amanda Swihart and Karleann Staniewicz each added three points.

They then took on Brandywine in a Lakeland Conference game and fell by a 47-24 score to suffer their first loss of the season.

The very first quarter did them in as they were outscored 21-2 to put themselves in a deep hole. It was a 25-10 game at the half, before Brandywine really put it away in the third quarter with a 15-4 run.

Julie Timm led the Lady Comets with 14 points, while Shatoria Dancer added seven points.

The Coloma girls will travel to Bridgman this Saturday, Dec. 12, for a game; before hosting Centreville next Tuesday, Dec. 15.

### Lady Indians fall to Decatur

The Hartford girls varsity basketball team gave it a good fight but fell to Decatur by a 41-34 score last Friday night, Dec. 4.

The Lady Indians started out slowly, as they were outscored 5-1 in the first quarter, but took a 13-11 lead at the half. They were then outscored 30-21 in the second half to fall by seven points.

Kara Weberg led the Lady Indians with 17 points, including three treys; Ashley Clark had five points; while Megan Daisy, Becky Drake, and Katelyn Smith each added four points.

Earlier in the week, the Lady Indians fell to South Haven by a close 47-45 score. The game went very similar to their game against Decatur, as Hartford took a 10-9 first-quarter lead and led 26-23 at the half. However, the Lady Indians were outscored 24-19 in the second half to come out on the short end of the score.

Katelyn Smith was high scorer with 12 points, Megan Daisy and Kelsey Kroboth each had nine points, Brooke Edmonds and Ashley Clark each had five points, while Becky Drake added four points.

The Lady Indians will now host Marcellus this Friday, Dec. 11, before hosting Bloomingdale next Tuesday.

### BCS bowls set

The college bowl season has been set, with Alabama and Texas set to meet for the national championship on January 7, 2010, in Pasadena, California. Georgia Tech will take on Iowa in the Orange Bowl, Central Michigan will face Troy in the GMAC Bowl on Jan. 6. Boise State faces TCU in the Fiesta Bowl, Michigan State will face Texas Tech in the Alamog Bowl on Jan. 2, Cincinnati faces Florida in the Sugar Bowl, Ohio State will face Oregon in the Rose Bowl, Northwestern takes on Auburn in the Outback Bowl, Penn State faces LSU in the Capital One Bowl, Virginia Tech faces Tennessee

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



WATERVLIET HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM... (front row, from the left) Kirkland Love, Mike Zaluckyj, Kevin Lynch; (back row, from the left) Eric Phillips, Nathan Wisdom, coach Aaron Weber, Troy Burchett, and Eric Kibler. (Photo by Lee Browndorf Photography)

## Congratulations to the Watervliet H.S. Cross Country Team; thanks for the exciting season You are always winners with us!

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Movie Guides & Community Calendar

Coloma Middle School "Student of the Month"

December 2, 2009

Tammy Hess, a seventh-grader, has been selected as Coloma Middle School's "Student of the Month." Tammy is the 12-year-old daughter of Jim and Gloria Hess. She has three older siblings: Johnny (age 32), April (29), and Gary (15). Also living with Tammy is a dog named Shyanne.



Tammy was nominated for this honor by Ms. Knaff. In her nomination, she said, "Tammy is one of those students that always gives her best. Even when something is hard, she doesn't complain. She is happy, helpful, and kind to others. Tammy is honest, hard working, and the kind of person you would want for a friend."

Hobbies for Tammy include hanging out with friends, watching TV, riding her bike, coloring, making her own greeting cards, and playing on the computer.

In her spare time, she enjoys listening to country music and reading any books about cats and dogs.

Her favorite subject is math with Ms. Knaff and her favorite video game is Sonic for PS2.

Tammy has participated in the Special Olympics in Stevensville and enjoys watching the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Throughout Middle School, Tammy has been on the Honor Roll and C.A.R.E.

Watervliet Middle School "Student of the Week"

The seventh-grade team at Watervliet Middle School is proud to announce Dustin Johnson as "Student of the Week."



Dustin is the son of Bryan and Susan Johnson. He has four siblings, Kayla and Kyle are older, and Zach and Brianna are younger.

Dustin's favorite class is social studies because he likes to learn about the Earth.

Mr. Toothman is Dustin's favorite teacher because they both like basketball.

Mr. Toothman says, "First of all, I want to congratulate Dustin for being chosen as the 'Student of the Week.' Dustin is a perfect example of why we have this honor. He is always prepared, ready, attentive, and present.

Dustin is a very outgoing young man who is easy to talk to and appears to be fun to be around. I know that I enjoy being around him. He seems to take a lot of pride in his schoolwork and his athletics as well, and I like that in a student athlete. Dustin's locker is outside my classroom door and we always find something to talk about. He is a true pleasure to have in class. Again, congrats, Dustin, and keep up the good work."

Dustin is quite the athlete. He played on the Middle School football team, is currently on the basketball team, and plans to wrestle and run track.

Outside of school, Dustin enjoys riding his three-wheeler, collecting football cards, playing with his sister, and shooting pool. He went to Lincoln, Nebraska, last year to participate in the National VNEA Pool League. He placed 21 out of 300 in the 10-13 age group.

After graduation, Dustin would like to attend the University of Michigan to study math and play football. He dreams of playing in the National Football League someday.

The seventh-grade team chose Dustin because he is pleasant to have in class. He works diligently and is respectful and friendly to everyone.

Congratulations, Dustin!

News from Coloma Public Library HOLIDAY HOURS

Coloma Public Library will be closed on Thursday, December 24; Friday, Dec. 25; and Saturday, Dec. 26. The following week, the library will be closed Thursday, December 31; Friday, January 1; and Saturday, Jan. 2.

The Library Board and staff wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year!

STORY HOUR

Story Hour is going to be taking a break for the winter season and will resume in the spring. The last Story Hour is Wednesday, December 16.

Story Hour meets Wednesdays at 10:30 at the library for children ages 3 and up. There is no fee or sign-up required. It is asked that all children be supervised by an adult.

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS

The next two meetings for the Coloma Public Library Book Group will be on Thursday, December 17; and Thursday, January 7, 2010. The meetings take place from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

The book to read before the Dec. 17 meeting is *The Day Donny Herbert Woke Up* by Rich Blake.

On Jan. 7, the group will be discussing *Bridge of Sighs* by Richard Russo.

Both books are available for check-out at the library. Inquiries about joining the group may be made by phone, (269) 468-3431; or by stopping in and speaking with someone at the check-out desk.

Movie Guide

**NOW SHOWING**  
Please check Celebration Cinema and LOMA ads on this page for ratings & showtimes

**The Princess and the Frog...**

A fairy tale set in Jazz Age-era New Orleans and centered on a young girl named Princess Tiana (Anika Noni Rose) and her fateful kiss with a frog prince who desperately wants to be human again.

Invictus...

A look at the life of Nelson Mandela (Freeman) after the fall of apartheid in South Africa during his first term as President when he campaigned to host the 1995 Rugby World Cup event as an opportunity to unite his countrymen.

Armored...

A newbie guard for an armored truck company is coerced by his veteran coworkers to steal a truck containing \$42 million. But a wrinkle in their supposedly foolproof plan divides the group, leading to a potentially deadly resolution.

Brothers...

Sam Cahill (Maguire) returns from being held as a prisoner-of-war in Afghanistan to find that his ex-con brother (Gyllenhaal) has become the man, of sorts, of the household where Sam's wife, Grace (Portman) had been living under the assumption that she was a widow.

Everybody's Fine...

A widower (De Niro) takes an impromptu road trip in order to reconnect with his grown children, only to discover that his family members are living far from perfect lives.

New Moon...

When Bella's blood is shed at her birthday celebration, Edward's intense reaction to the event causes his parents to pull up stakes and leave Forks, Washington, for the sake of the young lovers. Heartbroken, Bella finds a form of comfort in reckless living, as well as an even-closer friendship with Jacob Black (Lautner). Danger in different forms awaits.

Blindside...

A disadvantaged teenager is taken in by a conservative family who see tremendous promise in the young man. Despite certain obstacles, the attention and inspiration he receives helps him mature into an athletically and academically successful NFL prospect.

"Kute Kids"...

THIS "KUTE KID"...is Lacey Jeanne Gautreau, daughter of Brian and Margaret (Martin) Gautreau of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Lacey was born September 25, 2009, in Colorado Springs. Lacey's proud grandparents are Rodney Martin; Katherine and Joe Rodriguez of Watervliet; and Lee and Nikki Gautreau of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Lacey is also the first great-grandchild to the late Charles and Wanda Martin and is the 18th great-grandchild of Phil and Rita Lynch, all of Watervliet.



Share a photo of your "Kute Kids" with your friends, neighbors, and relatives who read the Tri-City Record. Make sure you write your kids' names on the back of the picture and include any other information about it you'd like to see in the paper, including mom and dad, grandma and grandpa, and so on. Send the photo to the Tri-City Record, P.O. Box 7, Watervliet, MI 49098.

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LOMA	468-LOMA	COLOMA
OLD DOGS	12:25 8:20 PG	
2012	12:15 3:20 7:00 PG13	
BLIND SIDE	12:35 3:30 6:20 8:45 PG13	
PLANET 51	2:15 4:15 6:30 PG	
MICHIGAN	637-1662	SOUTH HAVEN
OLD DOGS	2:25* 4:45 7:00 9:00**PG	
NINJA ASSASSIN	2:15* 4:35 6:50 9:00**R	
PRINCESS & THE FROG	2:05* 4:25 6:40 8:50**G	
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WONDERLAND 683-1112 NILES		
PRINCESS & THE FROG	10:50 1:25 4:00 6:20 8:25 G	
OLD DOGS	11:10 1:45 4:20 6:40 8:35 PG	
NEW MOON	10:40 1:15 3:50 7:00 9:25 PG13	
2012	11:30 2:45 7:10 PG13	
BLIND SIDE	10:30 1:05 3:40 6:50 9:20 PG13	
PLANET 51	11:00 1:35 4:10 6:30 8:30 PG	

Community Calendar

Sponsored as a community service by Orchard Hill Sanitary Landfill  
Send Community Calendar listings to: Tri-City Record, Box 7, Watervliet, MI 49098; Fax to (269) 463-8329; or E-mail to record@t2k.com  
Listings must be renewed weekly; the listings deadline for next week's newspaper is 12:00 noon on Monday.

Now, "WATERVLIET VFW POST 6803 IN NEED OF DONATIONS" of canned goods & nonperishables. For pickup, call 463-7544 or 463-4528. Now until Thursday, December 17, "PROJECT SCRIBBLE" sponsored by Watervliet High School Student Council. Needed are NEW coloring books, crayons, stuffed animals, toys, etc., for children in the hospital over Christmas. Monetary donations also appreciated. Please drop your donations off at the WHS Office. Call Mrs. Sibley at 463-4221 if you have questions.

Now until Friday, December 18, "TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE" at Rookies Bar & Grill, Red Arrow Hwy., just east of the spotlight in downtown Watervliet. Your new unwrapped toy or toys are desperately needed.

Now until Saturday, December 19, "TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE" at Curves in Watervliet. Your new toy donations are needed.

Every Sunday, 8:00 a.m.-noon, "BREAKFAST SERVED AT COLOMA ROD & GUN CLUB," Angling Road. Open to the public.

Thursday, December 10, 3:00-7:00 p.m., "FREE HINI VACCINATION CLINIC" by the Berrien County Health Dept., at Saint Joseph Catholic School, Watervliet. No restrictions on who can be vaccinated.

Fridays, December 11 & 18, "VAN BUREN/CASS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPT. HINI VACCINATION CLINIC" BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, at the Hartford Office. Please call (269) 621-3143. Also on Dec. 11, you may get the seasonal flu vaccine by calling this same number.

Friday, Dec. 11, 5:00-7:00 p.m., "ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FISH FRY" hosted by the Coloma American Legion bowling teams at Post 362, St. Joseph Ave. & Sassafraz St. in Coloma. Adults, \$7; children 3-10, \$3; free for children under 3. Also, chicken strip dinners, \$6h. Open to the public.

Saturday, December 12, "GIFT SHOP OPEN" at Sarett Nature Center in Benton Harbor. Many locally made nature-related items for sale.

Saturday, December 12, 5:00 start for chili cook-off at Ely Park and 6:00 p.m. parade start time at HHS, "LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE & CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK" in Hartford. Besides the parade to Ely Park, activities include a chili cook-off & tasting, karaoke, pictures w/Santa, and Christmas music. Hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee & baked goods will also be available for purchase.

Saturday, December 12, 7:00 p.m., "MISS WATERVLIET SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT" in the WHS Auditorium, sponsored by Watervliet Lions Club. Tickets are \$12. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 13, 3:00 p.m., "MR. WATERVLIET CONTEST" in WHS Auditorium, sponsored by WHS Class of 2012. Tickets are \$10.

Sunday, December 13, 3:00 p.m., "CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM" at Salem Lutheran Church, 275 Marvin Street, Coloma. Potluck will follow the program; all are invited.

Monday, December 14, 1:00 p.m., "TREE OF LOVE LIGHTING CEREMONY" sponsored by the Auxiliary of Community Hospital Watervliet, in the lobby of the hospital. Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, December 15, "LAST DAY TO ORDER CHRISTMAS FRUIT BASKETS" from Salem Lutheran Church, Coloma. Cost is \$10 per basket; must be paid in advance. Call Edith at 468-5580 to order.

Thursday, December 17, 12:00 noon-5:30 p.m., "RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE" at Watervliet Knights of Columbus Hall, Paw Avenue.

Thursday, Dec. 17, 6:00-7:00 p.m., "OPEN HOUSE HONORING RETIREMENT OF SUPT. DAVE LEVSTEK," hosted by School Board before its regular meeting at 7:00, in the Central Office. Public is invited.

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PRESS BOX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9  
in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, Florida State will play West Virginia in the Gator Bowl, Oklahoma State faces Ole Miss in the Cotton Bowl, Stanford plays Oklahoma in the Sun Bowl, Nebraska plays Arizona in the Holiday Bowl, and Minnesota takes on Iowa State in the Insight Bowl.

Those are just a few of the major bowl match-ups that will occur during the holiday season, and those mentioned and a few of the others should be good.

MSU will be short-handed

The Michigan State football team has received an invitation to the Alamo Bowl where they will take on Texas Tech.

However, not all is rosy in Spartanland, as had for the second year in a row MSU has had to punish football players for beating up students on campus.

Head coach Mark Dantonio said that he was disappointed in their actions and he permanently dismissed running back Glenn Winston and defensive back Roderick Jenrette from the team and suspended eight others. Most notably among those suspended were starting defensive back Chris L. Rucker, along with wide receivers Mark Dell and B.J. Cunningham.

Winston was involved in a similar incident last year so he had his second chance, which is why he and Jenrette were dismissed.

Dantonio said that what made it even more disappointing was the fact that the players involved were not exactly forthcoming when confronted about the incident.

So now the Spartans will be minus 10 players because of this incident when they head to the bowl game, and the suspended players will have to ask themselves if it was worth it.

It's funny that Al Arend hasn't said anything about his beloved Spartans and their problems, since he never passes up a chance to bash the Wolverines or the Irish when he has a chance. Come on, Al, give us some of your insight and wisdom on how this is going to positively effect the MSU program.

Maybe you could have William Ast put on his 50-year-old cardigan sweater and give them some of his wisdom about wanting to jump off the top of Spartan Stadium like he did earlier this season after they lost to Central Michigan.

It's frustrating to beat up on him like this, at MSU's expense, because my daughter went there and I root for them whenever they are not playing Michigan.

But it's people like him who give them a bad name when they cannot base their arguments on their team's record and have to take cheap shots to try to feel good about themselves. Remember this, Al: 66-30-5. That is the football record in wins and losses that Michigan holds over the Spartans. Call that a rivalry but I call it a dominant record over a Big Ten Conference opponent.

Notre Dame pulls the trigger on Weis

Yes, sir... just 45 minutes south of here, the Charlie Weis era is over at Notre Dame as university officials fired him after the season-ending loss to Stanford.

But, as he stated himself in an interview with South Bend media last week, he knew it was pretty much over after the loss to Navy; but the loss to Connecticut sealed his fate.

What he said was the most frustrating, though, was the fact that over the years disgruntled fans have placed for sale signs in front of his house that he kept having to remove; and now that he needs one, he can't find one to use.

With the reportedly \$18 million buyout that Notre Dame has to pay him on his remaining contract, I'm sure that he doesn't have to worry about selling his house.

Look for him to be back in the NFL next year as an offensive coordinator... and very successful at that.

Meanwhile, it looks like Cincinnati's Brian Kelly is the front-runner for the job right now. He is interviewing with them this week.

WMS basketball raffle

Attention! The Watervliet Middle School basketball raffle is on now. Tickets were sold at all home Middle School games (11/30, 12/1, 12/2) and will be sold at select varsity games.

Proceeds from the raffle tickets will help purchase equipment for the Middle School basketball program.

The final raffle drawing will be held at the varsity game on December 11. Tickets are: 1/\$3, 2/\$5, 5/\$10, 15/\$20.

There is a change to the prizes this year. The first 30 people to purchase \$20 in raffle tickets at one time will be instantly able to draw one of the following non-grand prize items. Non-grand prize items range from \$15 to above \$20.

Please remember that you do not need to be present to win any of the grand prizes.

All raffle tickets are eligible for the grand prize items. Remember, you can only win one grand prize item.

Focus on Fitness

By Ann DeHaven



Holiday Health Hazards

You will probably be reading a lot about holiday weight gain over the next few months. I've read that most people gain an average of 7 pounds from Thanksgiving to New Year's; some will gain only a pound; some as many as 10 pounds or more. The hazard begins when you don't lose the weight you gain one year and then you gain again the following year, etc. Even just one or two pounds a year gained adds up over time.

As exciting as the holiday season is, it can also be a source of stress with the extra demands on your time for shopping, baking, decorating, parties and hosting visitors. Exercise is a great stress reliever! Even if you only have 10 minutes a few days a week to devote to exercise over the holidays, that is better than not exercising at all. Schedule your workouts just like all of your other holiday activities, and then follow through and keep your appointments. You will probably find that after you begin your exercise session, you will want to keep going because you feel better, and you will likely discover that you have the extra energy needed to get through the holiday season in great shape!

We achieve because we believe!

This column is written for informational purposes only. Always seek the advice of your healthcare provider before beginning a new diet or exercise program.

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Steven's Tale of the Hunt



STEVEN JOHNSON...holds the beautiful 11-point buck he got on opening day, November 15. The DNR gave the buck an overall rating of 155 3/8. (Angela Stair photo)

By Angela Stair  
Steven Johnson, 19, has been hunting since he was 14 years old but hadn't gotten a buck yet. That was all to change for him on opening day.

Johnson was hunting from a blind they had just built in Bloomingdale and he hadn't seen a thing.

The neighbors had seen this nice buck that was coming up to an apple tree in their yard, and eating, and Johnson

Deer catches self in fence

By Angela Stair  
Helen Meachum, who lives on County Road 687 north of Hartford, was hearing an awful noise around 9:00 a.m. Sunday, November 29. When she went out to investigate, she found a deer lodged in the fence by her home.

Meachum said a herd of deer had come into the area of the trailer park; a neighbor had seen them and let their Labrador retrievers out and they chased them. In the deer herd's panic to make an escape, the deer tore most of Meachum's 70' fence up and then started making their escape through a metal fence by the junkyard.

Most of the deer leaped through a crack in the metal fence panels, but a good-sized button buck got caught and couldn't free himself.

Meachum called her brother, Bob, to come help her get him out of there. She said it looked like he was going to cut himself in half every time he leaped up and fell back down.

First, they tried to tie his hind legs together and lift him through but they fought so that he broke free several times. Eventually, Bob took a screwdriver and removed the two panels to free the deer.

Meachum said at first the deer just collapsed, with his head leaned back toward his neck, and she thought he was dead.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Pockrandt for ticket information or purchases.



LUCKY BUCK...This button buck caught himself in the metal fence as he tried to escape from the dogs chasing him. Lucky for him, Helen Meachum and her brother, Bob Meachum, freed him.

Bob said, "No." The deer was just in

(Contributed photo)

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Holiday Refillable Popcorn Buckets are here!  
\*\*Dave Matthews Band 3D (PG) (Premium 3D Prices Apply)  
12:30, 6:10,  
\*The Princess & The Frog (G)  
1:10, 2:35, 3:35, 5:00, 6:30, 7:25, 9:55  
\*Invictus (PG13)  
12:45, 2:45, 3:45, 6:45, 8:15, 9:45  
\*The Boondock Saints II: All Saint's Day (R)  
6:55, 9:50  
\*Armored (PG13)  
1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10  
\*Brothers (PG13)  
2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55  
\*Everybody's Fine (PG13)  
1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:10  
Old Dogs (PG)  
1:45, 4:05, 6:20, 8:35  
Planet 51 (PG)  
1:30, 3:50  
\*\*Blind Side (PG13)  
12:40, 3:35, 4:30, 6:30, 7:40, 9:25  
New Moon (PG13)  
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00  
2012 (PG13)  
12:30, 4:00, 7:30  
\*\*A Christmas Carol 3D (PG) (Premium 3D Prices Apply)  
1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15  
Sunday Night Coast Movie  
Old Dogs  
6:20 & 8:35

**Public Notices and Want Ads**

**WANT ADS**

For sale, for rent, help wanted, lost & found, work wanted, personal announcements, thank-you notes, etc.

\$12.00 per ad of 25 words. Add 10¢ a word over 25 words. Repeat same ad for \$2 less. Add \$2 to border want ad. Add \$2 for tear sheet.

Ad must be paid in advance AD PLACEMENT DEADLINE IS NOON ON TUESDAY!

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FOR SALE 1 LOT...with 2 adult spaces in North Shore Memory Garden in Garden of the Good Shepherd. Best offer. Call (513) 225-2474.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COLOMA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COLOMA, BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Coloma will conduct a public hearing, concerning the following matter on Monday, December 21, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Coloma Charter Township Hall, 4919 Paw Paw Lake Road, Coloma, Michigan 49038.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a hearing will be held to consider a request from Tina Buck, 2691 Friday Road, Coloma, MI 49038, for a Special Land Use Permit in order to increase the size of her current off-site sign on a vacant piece of property located on Friday Road, property code 11-08-0032-0012-09-2. The property is owned by Mountain Road LLC, P.O. Box 127, Paw Paw, MI 49079. Any interested parties are invited to attend.

Written comments will be received from any interested person concerning the foregoing matter by the Coloma Township Zoning Administrator at the below listed address at any time during normal business hours of normal business days up to the date of the hearing and may be further received by the Planning Commission at the hearing.

Coloma Charter Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the (4) days notice to the Coloma Charter Township Zoning Administrator. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Coloma Charter Township Zoning Administrator at the address or telephone listed below.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009, AT 5:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Ferguson, Clerk Phillips, Treasurer Boothby, Trustees Fowler, Harvey, Hudson & Jefferson  
MEMBERS ABSENT: None  
ALSO PRESENT: Controller Elden Piontek  
Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held November 17, 2009, and the special meeting held November 19, 2009.

Approved payment of bill listing totaling \$134,637.66. Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.  
Carolyn Phillips  
Township Clerk  
(12-19-09-TCR)

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**Decedent, Settlor of a Trust**  
RE: Charles A. Jewell Trust dated June 18, 1997  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Your interest in the estate may be barred or affected by the following: The decedent, Charles A. Jewell whose last known address was 4232 Red Arrow Highway, Stevensville, Michigan 49127, died on November 15, 2009.

The decedent was the Grantor of the Charles A. Jewell Trust dated June 18, 1997 ("Trust").

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Trust will be forever barred unless presented to the current acting trustee (whose name and address appears below) of the Trust within four (4) months of the date of publication of this notice. The current acting trustee is: Stephen C. Jewell, Successor Trustee of the Charles A. Jewell Trust dated June 18, 1997, 6347 Brookpark Dr. Stevensville, MI 49127

Notice is further given that the Trust will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Dated: November 24, 2009

Attorney for Trustee: Kathleen Kinney Bowman (P34254) Sperry & Bowman, PLC 317 Center Street, P.O. Box 465 South Haven, MI 49090 (269) 637-1151 (12-19-09-TCR)

**WATERVLIET CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF WATERVLIET CHARTER TOWNSHIP AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Watervliet Charter Township Board will consider the amendment of Zoning Ordinance No. 50, Article V, Section 5.08 at their December 21, 2009, regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Watervliet Charter Township Hall located at 4959 M-140 Highway, Watervliet, Michigan. The proposed amendment would add the item "light equipment and recreational vehicle storage totally enclosed within a building" to uses in the M-2 Industrial-General District that require a Township Board Special Land Use Permit. The proposed amendment was accepted for first reading at a special meeting held on December 1, 2009. Below is a true and complete copy of the proposed amended section.

**DISTRICT AND INTENT:** To establish and preserve areas for industrial and related uses which might typically create problems of incompatibility because of noise, smoke, fumes, vibration, odors, etc., with other kinds of uses.  
**PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USES:** Same as M-1 Permitted Principal Uses, Section 5.07  
**PERMITTED ACCESSORY USES:** Uses typically incidental to the permitted principal use.

**USES REQUIRING TOWNSHIP BOARD SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT:**

1.) The following uses may only be permitted upon conclusive demonstration through specific plans that the proposed use shall not be obnoxious, hazardous or detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare. No such use shall be located closer than one thousand (1,000) feet to a residential district: Junk, scrap paper or rag baling or handling; poultry killing, dressing or live storage; ammonia, bleaching powder or chlorine manufacture, asphalt manufacture or refining; boiler works, forge works, aluminum, brass, copper, iron or steel foundry employing five (5) or more workers; brick, tile or terra-cotta manufacture; celluloid manufacture or treatment; creosote treatment or manufacture; disinfectant or insecticide manufacture; distillation of bones, coal tar, wood or agricultural products; dye manufacture; electroplating; fat rendering; fertilizer manufacture; glue, cement or size manufacture; lime, gelatin or plaster of paris manufacture; molten bath plating; oil cloth or linoleum manufacture; plastic manufacture or articles therefrom; raw hides or skins or the storage, curing or tanning thereof; rock crushing, rolling mills; rubber manufacture; slaughtering of animals or fowl; smelting or iron; soap manufacture; stockyards; sulfuric, nitric or hydrochloric acid manufacture; tallow, grease or lard manufacture or refining; tar distillation or manufacture of dyes; tar roofing or tar waterproofing manufacture; yeast manufacture; food processing employing more than ten (10) people; concrete ready-mix plants; manufacture, processing or storage of explosives; smelting of tin, copper, zinc, iron ores or any other metal; operation of junk yards or salvage yards; light equipment and recreational vehicle storage totally enclosed within a building.

2.) Planned Unit Development.  
3.) Communication and other towers.  
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that printed copies of the proposed amended section are available at the Township Hall for purchase or inspection. Copies of the proposed amendment may be mailed to interested persons upon the reception of \$1.00. Inquiries may be directed to the Office of Zoning Administrator at (269) 463-5113. Watervliet Charter Township will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the meeting upon four (4) business days notice by contacting the Watervliet Charter Township Zoning Administrator at the above phone number or writing to P.O. Box 384 Watervliet, MI 49098

Robert Lohr  
Zoning Administrator  
(12-19-09-TCR)

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**Decedent, Settlor of a Trust**  
RE: Pasquale Santaniello Trust dated August 22, 1995

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Your interest in the estate may be barred or affected by the following: The decedent, Pasquale Santaniello whose last known address was 2234 West Glenford Road, Stevensville, Michigan 49127, died on September 12, 2009.

The decedent was the Grantor of the Pasquale Santaniello Trust dated August 22, 1995 ("Trust"). Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Trust will

be forever barred unless presented to the current acting trustee (whose name and address appears below) of the Trust within four (4) months of the date of publication of this notice. The current acting trustee is: Marianna Santaniello, Trustee of the Pasquale Santaniello Trust Dated August 22, 1995 2234 West Glenford Road Stevensville, MI 49127  
Notice is further given that the Trust will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Dated: December 7, 2009  
Attorney for Trustee: Kathleen Kinney Bowman (P34254) Sperry & Bowman, PLC 317 Center Street, P.O. Box 465 South Haven, MI 49090 (269) 637-1151 (12-19-09-TCR)

Quinton James Schaffer, Watervliet; and Denise Lyn Cates, Dowagiac. Todd William Below, Dowagiac; and Ashley Sue Grimes, Niles. Derek Thomas Rutledge, Niles; and Erin Nichole Terry, Cassopolis. Jeremy Richard Minikel and Amanda Carlene Spratling, both of Benton Harbor. Justin Ryan Gross, Statesville, North Carolina; and Shawnee Louise McLane, Niles. Matthew Jacob Baker, Berrien Springs; and Loretta Marie Slavings, Benton Harbor. Robert Earl Goodman and Brenda Kay Ross, both of Benton Harbor. Raymond Emanuel Davis, Benton Harbor; and Doretha Davis, Kalamazoo. John Errol Tyler Conlin, New Buffalo and Muri Linn Thomas, Gladstone, Oregon. Shawn Christian Fant, Monroe; and Angela Nicole Casey, Niles. Fred Theodore Williams, Remus; and Connie Faye Williams, Bridgman.

**PUBLIC NOTICE HARTFORD TOWNSHIP DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING**

Tuesday, December 15, 2009 At Hartford Township Hall 9 A.M. until finished  
The Board will meet to correct any Tax Roll Errors or omissions. Matters of "judgment of value" cannot be considered by Dec. BOR. (12-19-09-TCR)

**Marriage Licenses**

**The following marriage licenses were issued by Berrien County Clerk M. Louise Stine**  
(Compiled by Annette Christie)  
Timothy Jeffrey Bolton and Sarah Mae Genung, both of Niles. David Buccini and Patricia Belen Hayes, both of Chicago, Illinois. Ralph John Lohraff and Dana Jeanne Webster, both of Berrien Springs. Anthony Alexander Buzas and Crystal Lynn Blann, both of Niles. Bryan Mark Chan and Sandy Rachel Molnar, both of Zionsville, Indiana. Charlie Kay Field Jr. and Priscilla Jane Byrns, both of St. Joseph.

**E-mail your news to: record@i2k.com**

Christoph James Hammond and Samantha Lee Gaul, both of Niles. Lewis Opper Marks, Charlotte, North Carolina; and Melanie Gaile Feddersen, Chicago, Illinois. Bryan Adam Williams, St. Joseph; and Lindsey Rachael Gaynor, Stevensville. Dwight W. Bates Sr. and Angelique Marie Motton, both of Eau Claire. Nesbitt Clayton and Joan McManus, both of Benton Harbor. Steve Roger Massey and Vila Mae Buskirk, both of Coloma. Cory David Hubbard and Karla Mae Batchelor, both of Niles.

**Tri-City Area Outdoor News**

**Paw Paw Lake Almanac**  
By Delavan Sipes

By Delavan Sipes  
Note from Mother Nature on December 4, "The pieces are on the way." When I checked the delivery system, they definitely were on the way. I wondered how long it might take for all of them to arrive. When all the pieces were here, I knew it would be a delight to put them together. There are always so many varied ways in which the assemblies can be made. That is one of the joys of getting new pieces. It increases the number of possibilities, limited only by the imagination. The pieces come in both large and small and all in-between, and they come in dry, moist and downright wet. The best ones are large and moist; and when there are enough of them, it's time to build a snowman, or a dragon, a dinosaur, or a fort on the hill, because all of these fall from the sky...unassembled. And what fun it is to assemble them. The beginning of the fun is in deciding what to make of those unassembled snowflakes.

One Valentine's Day, we had a great snow and it produced a large hearth with a derby hat and cane, all of snow; and a face made of twigs and small branches. One Christmas holiday our assembly of those glorious flakes brought a Brontosaurus to our yard. Every other year or so there was a semi-traditional fort. Of course, every year brought forth a snowman related to, but not quite a close relative of, the previous year's snowman. Sometimes they stood erect, and others leaned precariously until the first warm day sent them toppling.

It's hard to beat the imagination that comes to play with you when unassembled snowflakes flutter earthward. Much of the light snow was gone by

**Sarett Nature Center news**

The recent snows will make the Sarett Nature Center boardwalks a bit slippery again but will also highlight the tracks of the many animals that stay active here during the winter season. A pine tree owl has been spotted in the pine tree area across the street from the nature center building. Although these owls breed in the northern part of the state, they are only winter visitors for us here at Sarett.

**DECEMBER 12**  
Remember the Sarett Nature Center gift shop for those last-minute holiday gifts. Many locally made nature-related items like gourd birdhouses, honey, maple syrup, ornaments, and wooden items are available. Nature books, bird feeders, and birdseed make great gifts. Sarett Nature Center members receive 10% off gift store purchases during the month of December.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
**DECEMBER 17, 7:00 P.M.**  
New York City Opera tenor Paul Mow will present a Christmas Concert at Sarett Nature Center. He and his musical colleagues and students will perform holiday favorites. Advanced reservations are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$20 for adults and \$7 for children.

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**Next Week:** More about stuff...  
**It's questionable:** What should you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

delavan1122@comcast.net

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**Hunting & Fishing Reports**  
By Angie Stair  
angie@cybersol.com

The Department of Natural Resources reports that about the only action taking place right now is stream and pier fishing. Anglers on the St. Joe and South Haven piers are still taking a fair number of Whitefish, using spawn or wax worms. On the St. Joe River, Steelhead have been caught near the dam at Berrien Springs on the latest trend in bait, floating shrimp under a bobber seems to work. Some fish are still being caught at the Watervliet dam. The DNR has certified a 2.15-pound Pumpkinseed fish caught October 26 in Lapeer County as a state record. It broke the earlier record set in June of this year in Emmet County with a 1.58-pound fish. Other records set in 2009 were for the Great Lakes Muskellunge, Brown Trout, and Redear Sunfish. A preliminary estimate of the Firearm deer harvest by the DNR shows a 10% to 20% decline over the state as a whole from last year's figures. The biggest decline was in the Upper Peninsula with the harvest being down 20% to 30%. This had been expected because of the harsh 2008-2009 winter. Muzzleloader hunters may reap that benefit now that the season has opened in our area, with more deer out there. Deer muzzleloading season in our zone runs from December 4 to December 20. Late firearm season opens December 21. The DNR is seeking help in finding Lower Peninsula dened bears. This is an ongoing effort in the northern Lower Peninsula; and because bears are becoming more common in the southern Lower Peninsula, biologists are interested in learning more about their movements and habitat associations. DNR wildlife biologist Mark Boersen reported that there are currently three

female bears being tracked in the northern Lower Peninsula with the aid of radio tracking equipment. They would like to do the same in the southern Lower Peninsula. Hunters, or anyone, who encounter bear dens are asked to record (GPS it, if possible) the location and contact Dwayne Etter at (517) 373-9358, extension 256, for bears in the southern Lower Peninsula. The public is reminded that it is illegal to disturb a bear den or disturb, harm, or molest a bear in its den.

**WATERVLIET ROD & GUN CLUB NEWS**  
Trap shooting at the Watervliet Rod & Gun Club is open to not only the members but the public as well. Monday shoots start at 6:30 p.m. and will be held December 21. Sunday shoots start at 2:30 p.m. and will be held on December 13 and 27. The Straight Shooters 4-H Club will hold its monthly meeting on Sunday, December 13, and will also have its Christmas party then. The public is welcome to come by for the meeting or to join up. It will be from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**COLOMA ROD & GUN CLUB NEWS**  
The Coloma Rod & Gun Club's Children's Christmas Party was a success on Saturday, December 5, with 23 youngsters and 45 adults attending. Santa made it and talked to the children and presented gifts. Club members would like to thank Santa and his helpers for stopping by and providing a good time. Coloma Rod & Gun Club will be conducting a CCHW class on Saturday, December 19, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Anyone interested needs to contact Dan Everts at (269) 621-3370 for scheduling.

**WATERVLIET ROD & GUN CLUB NEWS**  
Trap shooting at the Watervliet Rod & Gun Club is open to not only the members but the public as well. Monday shoots start at 6:30 p.m. and will be held December 21. Sunday shoots start at 2:30 p.m. and will be held on December 13 and 27. The Straight Shooters 4-H Club will hold its monthly meeting on Sunday, December 13, and will also have its Christmas party then. The public is welcome to come by for the meeting or to join up. It will be from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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**Mornings 5a to 10a**  
**FREE BEER & HOT WINGS**  
**MORNING SHOW**  
**ROCK 107 WIRX**  
**Funny Name, Funnier Show**

# Hometown Holiday Happenings

## Toys for Tots at Curves

Curves in Watervliet will be collecting toys for Tots drive until Saturday, December 19. Please drop off your unwrapped toy(s) during regular business hours.

### Donations requested

## Watervliet VFW Post 6803 to assist local families

Watervliet VFW Post 6803 is accepting donations of canned goods and nonperishables, as it will be assisting six families in the Tri-City Area. For pickup of donations, please call 463-7544 or 463-4528.

## Children's Christmas program Dec. 13 at Salem Lutheran Church

Salem Lutheran Church will be featuring its Sunday school and preschool children's Christmas program "Twas The Night Before" on Sunday, December 13, at 3:00 p.m.; with a potluck to follow.

Everyone is welcome. Salem is located in Coloma, is a member of the Missouri Synod, and holds its regular worship services on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

### Christmas fruit baskets

Salem is also selling Christmas fruit baskets. Orders must be placed and paid for by December 15 at the cost of \$10 each.

All baskets will contain two apples, an orange, bananas and other fruits, plus a homemade treat.

Baskets can be picked up on Saturday, December 19, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Send your fruit basket orders to the church: P.O. Box 729, Coloma, MI 49038; or come directly to the church at 275 Marvin Street in Coloma.

For more information, call 468-6567 or Edith at 468-5580.

## Donations needed for "Project Scribble" at WHS

The Watervliet High School Student Council is sponsoring a new program called "Project Scribble." The program began Monday, December 7, and will continue through Thursday, Dec. 17.

The students will be collecting NEW coloring books, crayons, stuffed animals, toys, etc., for children who are in the hospital over Christmas. Monetary donations will be used to purchase such items and are very much appreciated.

Gifts or donations may be dropped off in the High School Office.

## "Christmas in the Park" is Saturday

By Chrissy Meek

"Christmas in the Park" is a Hartford tradition. For the past eight years, the City of Hartford has put this event on at Ely Park. Hosted by the Lions Club and Chairman Judy Sinclair, the festival brings the community out for a good time.

On Saturday, December 12, starting at 5:00 p.m., the chili cook-off takes place with three different versions of chili to be judged: red, green, and alternative (unusual meats).

The judges will include District Representative Tonya Schuitmaker this year.

Taste testing is available to the daring individuals who wish to partake in the fun. Awards will be given for the best tasting chili there.

Like to sing? There will be karaoke for the kids and the "kids at heart," along with a disc jockey playing Christmas music throughout the evening. After the cook-off, the Christmas tree lighting and caroling will be sung by the Hartford Middle School students.

Once the lighting ceremony is finished, the Christmas Light Parade be-



THE WATERVLIET BUSINESS ASSOCIATION...will again sponsor a visit from that "jolly old elf" Santa Claus this coming Saturday, December 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Cortez Flooring in downtown Watervliet. Have you been naughty or nice? It doesn't matter... come one and all, tell Santa the desires of your heart, and enjoy a special treat. The charming and magical "Nana Christmas" will also make a second appearance on Saturday to read favorite holiday stories to youngsters of all ages. Don't miss this last chance to see Santa in the Tri-City Area!

(Dan Faulkner photo)

gins. When the sky is dark, the beautiful lights on the floats look amazing.

This is when Santa arrives. All the kids look forward to this because he gets up on the stage and takes pictures with the children. Not only do you get the picture taken with Santa, but a free picture is yours to keep.

The event concludes around 8:00 p.m. Kim Sinclair, daughter-in-law of Judy Sinclair, said, "We don't give away fancy prizes. We just want people to come out for a good time."

## Honoring loved ones this holiday season

Community Hospital's Auxiliary would like to welcome the public to the annual Tree of Love lighting ceremony on Monday, December 14, at 1:00 p.m.

The festivities are held in the lobby of the hospital, where refreshments will be served to the sounds of holiday carols after the lighting of this special tree.

Loved ones can purchase personalized angel ornaments or festive holiday globes in memory or in honor of a friend or family member.

All names will be displayed on a master list for everyone to see.

Contributions will go toward the Auxiliary's fundraising efforts that

support Community Hospital Watervliet and all of its patient-care programs.

## WBA Downtown Christmas Window Decorating Contest deadline is December 18

The Watervliet Business Association annual Downtown Christmas Window Decorating Contest for 2009 is in process, with many of the storefronts already showing holiday cheer. There is no entry fee to enter this competition.

Who will win the "Traveling Trophy" and cash prize this year?

Deadline for the contest is Friday, December 18, at noon.

Judges will be last year's winners, "The Tri-City Record." The creativity of Anne Bayer and Amy Bayer Loshbough, coupled with the carpentry skills of son-in-law Billy Loshbough, brought together a 3-D window display that dazzled and delighted the community.

Can you outdo the Bayer family for 2009? The WBA invites all Watervliet businesses to "give it a try"... after all, it's all in good fun and it's a great way to add joy to the season and beauty to our town!

## When holidays are not joyful...

For those who have lost a loved one, who are experiencing illness, who cannot be with their family, who are experiencing financial difficulties or any other difficulties, holidays often bring feelings of sadness, depression or despair. The joy that fills the air often brings just another sadness.

On Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, there will be a Blue Christmas Service of scripture, music, prayer, and candle lighting with the theme of comfort and hope.

Those who are interested are invited to come and listen or participate as they are so inclined. Please take the time to invite friends and neighbors you feel might appreciate a time to reflect and seek peace for their lives.

St. Paul's is located one mile west of M-140 at the corner of Hill Road and North Bainbridge Center/Hennessy roads.

For further information, please call Pastor Miryam Hammond at (269) 605-9912.

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