

Alcona County Review

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1 Section

Serving Alcona County since 1877

Harrisville, Michigan 48740

ACCOA director suspended as board members resign

By Mary Weber
Staff Writer

Tempers flared during a six-hour meeting last week resulting in the suspension of the Alcona County Commission on Aging (ACCOA)

executive director and the resignation of four board members.

Without an evaluation of his performance or a plan in place, executive director Lenny Avery was suspended

without pay by five members, of what was just minutes before the suspension, a nine-member board.

Avery, who has been working as the executive director since January 2020, was instrumental in bringing a \$12.5 million state grant to Alcona County to build a new senior center/community hub/housing and amenities project. He also initiated many other senior services such as transportation, a food bank, and adult day care program.

The regularly scheduled meeting took place on Tuesday, Jan. 24 in front of about 70 concerned citizens. It began at 10 a.m. with vice president Will St. John; secretary Pamela Ashford; treasurer Rolland Lynch; and directors, Delores Schlicker, Stan Wojnar, Jacqueline Schwanz, and newest members as of October 2022, Robert Turek and Leroy Perrin.

and Avery were many issues including grievance letters from the staff of ACCOA against Turek and Schlicker and the ongoing issue of spending \$12.5 million dollars according to the grant requirements.

There were several special meetings held over the course of two weeks that played into the drama that unfolded on January 24.

January 19 Special Meeting Grievance Issue

A special meeting regarding grievance letters from the ACCOA staff against board members Schlicker and Turek was held on Thursday, Jan. 19.

During the special meeting, the board recused Maturen from comment and duties after it was disclosed Maturen formed the grievance committee, which as presi-

depth because their emotions could not be pushed aside to make a decision and called the special meeting to ask the board to hire a third party, ReCon, to handle the situation -- examine the letters, talk to staff and make a decision on how to move forward.

ReCon was not hired during the special meeting and the matter was tabled to discuss it with the board's attorney.

When Maturen left the meeting after being recused, Avery requested the matter to be discussed in a closed session to protect his staff's confidentiality. Schlicker and Turek refused and wanted an open meeting.

The grievance letters were not read aloud and were not given to Schlicker or Turek due to their confidential nature. Schwanz explained that she understood only the ACCOA president was allowed



A scarlet tanager perches on a pine branch. While this warm-weather bird isn't in the area this time of year, many feathered friends pass through or stay, and the annual bird count records their numbers. Photo taken by Michigan state parks photo ambassador Sheen Watkins at Tawas Point State Park.

Annual winter bird count needs local participants

The 26th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will take place February 17-20. Residents of Iosco and Alcona counties will have an opportunity to submit valuable data to researchers about the various bird species and their numbers located in this region prior to the massive global spring migrations.

Sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon, Birds Canada, and Wild Birds Unlimited, the event is open to anyone. Observers may count for all four days for at least 15 minutes each day. Participants may tally birds visiting their feeders, in their neighborhoods, wooded areas, or along river corridors.

New totals are requested for each day. Results are then submitted online to www.birdcount.org. Easy to follow instructions guide the observer through the submission process.

Peggy Ridgway, local ambassador for the event, encourages bird lovers to participate. "With the aid of modern technology and an increasing number of professional and amateur observers reporting online, scientists are now able to get a quick snapshot of where the various species are located, plus population status of each, prior to the massive movements to spring and summer breeding grounds," said Ridgway.

Many birds travel thousands of miles to reach breeding grounds and that may take two to three months for some. It's not uncommon for many to begin the journey toward the end of February, so that's why the timing of the GBBC is crucial.

Ridgway will hold an additional public information session on February 8 at 10 a.m. at the Robert J. Parks Library (Skeel Avenue, Oscoda) for those interested in learning more about participating in this world-wide event. Since seating space is limited, Ridgway suggested calling the library for a reservation at (989) 739-9581.



A special meeting was held by the ACCOA board after four members of the board, including the president and vice president, resigned just prior to the suspension of executive director Lenny Avery. (From left) Carolyn Brummund, Alcona County Commissioner liaison to the ACCOA; Robert Turek, secretary; Delores Schlicker, vice president; Rolland Lynch, treasurer; Leroy Perrin, president; and Stan Wojnar, director. Photo by Mary Weber.

Also seated at the table was Alcona County commissioner Carolyn Brummund, who is the commissioner liaison to ACCOA, and executive director Avery.

By the end of the meeting around 4 p.m., only Schlicker, Turek, Perrin, Lynch and Wojnar remained on the board. Maturen, St. John, Ashford and Schwanz resigned.

President Mike Maturen was not at the meeting due to being in the hospital with serious health concerns.

Fueling the flames of discord between board members

dent was in his right to do. Grievance committee members included Maturen, Schwanz, and Dan O'Connor, superintendent of Alcona Schools, who was also a former ACCOA board member.

Schwanz explained that in December 2022, she heard about the staff having issues and wanted to make sure their voices were heard. She asked Avery to inform them that if they had a grievance to put it in writing. Schwanz said she received many letters.

The committee deemed the grievance matter out of their

to hand the letters over to Schlicker and Turek.

January 24 Board Meeting

Schwanz apologized on behalf of the grievance committee saying they may have handled the issue incorrectly, but because they were in such uncharted territory and in the history of ACCOA no grievances had ever been given against board members, they felt they were doing the right thing.

On January 24, after the resignation of Maturen, Ashford and St. John, Sch-

Continued on page 4



God Bless America



Obituary

Allen Leo Wojnar

Al was born in Harrisville, Mich. on April 17, 1958, to Stanley and Beatrice Wojnar.

At the young age of 64 he went to be with his dad and other relatives and friends who had passed before him on January 19, 2023.

He leaves behind his wife and soulmate, Cheri; beloved mother, Beatrice; two daughters, Melani (Todd) and Vickie; two sons, John (Lisa) and Richie; one sister, Maria; one brother, Stan; three granddaughters, Alizabeth, Summer and Jocelyn; three grandsons, Jeremy, Eli and JR; special cousin, Joyce; and nephew, Richard; his mother and father-in-law, Ruth and Al; two sisters-in-law, Cindy (Michael) and Cristie (Ed); and two brothers-in-law, David (Sandy) and Dale; plus many more cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.



Al loved hunting, fishing, going to garage sales and casinos. His livelihood and hobby were working outdoors. His many friends and customers knew they could depend on him any day or night if needed. We'll miss you, Alley Cat!

A memorial is planned for late May. There will be an announcement in the Review as to the details when the time gets closer.

Paid Obituary

36 pages of coloring fun!
Meet the Whitetail Family! Come along with Doe, Buck, and all their friends and family from Lip North, USA. Take a tour of the Boreal forest, and learn all about the diverse wildlife that lives there!

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Alcona County Review

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are always welcome. All letters MUST be signed. Freedom of speech includes the responsibility for what is said. Authors MUST include an address and telephone number for verification, not publication. Word limit is 300. Deadline is Friday at 4 p.m. All rights reserved to edit letters for style, length and libelous content. Letters express the opinion of the author, not the opinion of the newspaper or its employees.

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Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

The Community Walking Club for Everyone will meet in the parking lot of the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library at 9 a.m. Call (989) 724-6796 for more information.

Veterans are invited to join fellow comrades for coffee and fellowship between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Harrisville. For more info., call (989) 724-9581.

TOPS 1502 Mikado will meet at St. Raphael Catholic Church, 2531 E. F-30, Mikado at 9:15 a.m. Weigh-in is at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call (989) 736-8022 or (989) 739-8600.

Free accessible yoga classes provide gentle movement for joint freeing, muscle strengthening and stress reduction. Classes are at 9:30 a.m. at the Senior Center in Lincoln. For more information, call Liz at (989) 335-1777 or the Senior Center at (989) 736-8879.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

There is story-time and a craft activity for children at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library at 10:30 a.m. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

All veterans and spouses are welcome to attend a coffee get-together at Alcona High School auditorium lobby from 2 to 4 p.m. The Alcona National Honor Society will provide coffee, tea, sweets and games.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

An Alzheimer's caregiver support group will meet at 2 p.m. at the Oscoda Grace Presbyterian Church on Skeel Avenue, Oscoda (on the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base), next to the Robert J. Parks Library. Anyone caring for a family member or friend with Alzheimer's, whether at home or in a facility is welcome. A local attorney will answer questions for participants who have legal documents or situations that need addressing. For more information, contact the church at (989) 739-3424 or (989) 739-5674.

Euchre is played from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, lower level, 207 Church Street, Lincoln. All seniors are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Children of all ages are invited to "Homeschoolers at the Library" for an educational activity at the Alcona County Library in Harrisville at 1 p.m. Call (989) 724-6796 for info.

The Sunrise Community Food Pantry is open from 1 to 3 p.m. at Hubbard Lake Bible Church. Clients are asked to come only one time per month and must be present to receive food. Recipients must remain in their vehicle for curbside pickup and follow volunteer traffic control. The pantry accepts clients regardless of county residence. Identification is required. Bring a box or bag. The church is located at 13508 Hubbard Lake Road, Hubbard Lake. Call (989) 727-3443 for more information.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

The Community Walking Club for Everyone will meet in the parking lot of the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library at 9 a.m. Call (989) 724-6796 for more information.

Correspondence

To the Editor,

I am writing you regarding the community and senior center development being proposed by the Alcona County Commission on Aging (ACCOA). At its two special meetings over the last couple weeks, the board has committed to develop a workable plan within the \$12.5 million grant budget for a new senior center and some senior housing. They promised to present this plan at the next meeting in February.

I implore the planning committee to hold a series of work-

shops over the next two weeks so that they can get input and ideas from the public — as the committee makes hard choices as to what will be doable with the money that has been granted (and what is required by the terms of the grant itself.)

This process would be a positive way for our community to come together, have respectful dialogue and share ideas to bring a wonderful asset to our seniors and our county.

Ty Damon
Harrisville

TOPS 1502 Mikado will meet at St. Raphael Catholic Church, 2531 E. F-30, Mikado at 9:15 a.m. Weigh-in is at 9 a.m. Everyone welcome. For more info., call (989) 736-8022 or (989) 739-8600.

Free accessible yoga classes provide gentle movement for joint freeing, muscle strengthening and stress reduction. Classes are at 9:30 a.m. at the Senior Center in Lincoln. For more information, call Liz at (989) 335-1777 or the Senior Center at (989) 736-8879.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

There is story-time and a craft activity for children at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library at 10:30 a.m. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Recycle Alcona County will hold drop off day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the ARA site on Barlow Road in Lincoln. Enter and exit through the north gate. For more information, call (989) 724-5077.

(Editor's Note: Entries for Calendar are always welcome. The deadline is Friday at noon. They will be published in chronological order as space allows. Entries should be turned in at least two weeks prior to the date of the event. Events sponsored by businesses or individuals to make a profit or governmental units for meeting notification are not eligible for this free public service. Sorry, bingo, garage sales, raffle ticket sales, or political campaigning information is not eligible.)

The Garden Bug
Watering sustainably

Making plans now to reduce water usage in your garden in the coming months can save money and increase sustainability. Will you use soaker hoses instead of sprinklers, or set up a rain barrel to collect rain water? How about using a rain gauge? Do you need to reposition sprinklerheads so that the water avoids paved areas? Are your outdoor faucets dripping? Can you choose plantings that naturally use less water than others?

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

Local Notes **Local Notes** *Local Notes*

Alzheimer's Support

The Alzheimer's caregiver support group will meet Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. at the Oscoda Grace Presbyterian Church on Skeel Avenue in Oscoda (next to the Robert J. Parks Library on the former Wurtsmith Air Force base). Anyone caring for a family member or friend with Alzheimer's, whether at home or in a facility, is welcome to attend. At this month's meeting, a local attorney will be available to answer any questions participants may have concerning legal documents, or situations that may need addressing when caring for these individuals. For more information, contact the church at (989) 739-3424 or (989)739-5674.

Employment Workshops

Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium is planning to hold a series of free workshops over the next few months to help those who are looking for a new job. Whether someone has been out of the workforce, or switching careers, or looking for a part time job, the sessions could help brush up on job hunting skills. Workshop topics include resume writing, cover letters, and references; acing the interview; what employers expect from employees; online job search with Pure Michigan Talent Connect, Indeed, LinkedIn and more; and computer basics 101. Workshops are held at different times and days. Walk-ins are welcome or call ahead and reserve your spot. The full schedule of workshops is posted at www.miworks-ne.org/workshops.

4-H Composition Contest

In support of Financial Literacy Month in April, Michigan State University Extension and Michigan 4-H are sponsoring the Cash Composition Contest. Youth compose an essay of 300 words or less based on the topic listed below. The top five scoring essays will each win a \$100 gift card.

Essay Question: "What is the difference between a need and a want? Discuss how you determine if something is a need or a want. How can you make sure that you have enough money to meet your needs and still enjoy some of your wants? Share how needs and wants might change throughout one's life."

Essay submission due online by April 30, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Contact Laurie Rivetto at rivettoL@msu.edu and/or Kathy Jamieson at jamies13@msu.edu. For more information, go to <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/index>.

Starting a Food Truck

This free course was designed for entrepreneurs considering starting a food truck or mobile food business in Michigan. Each module walks through the process of developing a business plan based on SCORE's business plan template, developing a menu, selecting a food truck, trailer, or cart, writing a marketing plan and identifying target customers and competitors as well as Michigan Mobile Unit and Special Transitory Food Unit (STFU) licensing processes.

This is a free, self-paced course developed by Michigan State University Extension and the MSU Product Center. To earn a certificate of completion, participants must earn a 100 percent score on all nine quizzes (each quiz

can be taken up to three times).

This course will take approximately four to 10 hours to complete. The result will be a completed business plan and the knowledge to initiate the licensing process for a mobile food business in Michigan. More information can be found in the course materials. For more information, contact Kendra Wills at willsk@msu.edu.

top ten

FASTEST-GROWING PLANTS

1. Bamboo
2. Hybrid poplar
3. Algae
4. Duckweed
5. Eastern cottonwood
6. Giant Sequoia
7. Acacia
8. Wisconsin Fast Plants
9. Kudzu
10. Transgenic eucalyptus

Source: Conservation Institute

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Tiger Bowling Scores

The Alcona varsity bowling teams played a double header in Bay City, Mich. recently. The first game the boys played was with Houghton Lake. High scores (average) were Logan Bates, 151 (142); Sam Prince, 146 (152); Daniel June, 135 (127); Vincent Nardi, 131 (112); Robert Napier, 129 (82); Jacob June, 122 (129).

The boys second game was against Ogemaw Heights. High scores (average) were Logan Bates, 170 (145); Sam Prince, 151 (152); Daniel June, 133 (127); Jacob June,

116 (127); Vincent Nardi, 116 (113); Robert Napier 82 (80).

The first game the girls played was with Ogemaw Heights. High scores (average) were Morgan Munsey, 130 (121); Makayla Prince, 117 (104); Rylee Manning, 108 (128); Danica Manning, 95 (119); Nyhia Jackson, 70 (81).

The second game was against Whittemore Prescott. High scores were Rylee Manning, 150 (130); Danica Manning, 135 (119); Morgan Munsey, 113 (120); Makayla Prince, 101 (100); Nyhia Jackson, 80 (80).

 **District Court** 

The following individuals were sentenced in 81st District Court in December 2022.

- Nicholas Al Damore, 25, of Greenbush was sentenced to one day in jail and fines and costs of \$1,480 for operating while visibly impaired.
- Jonathan Louiskelly Kimball, 29, of Oscoda was sentenced to 10 days in jail and fines and costs of \$1,480 for operating while intoxicated.
- Charles Dean Wilson Jr., 58, of Greenbush was sentenced to one day in jail and fines and costs of \$590 for operator's license suspended, revoked, denied.

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ACCOA Continued from page 1

wanz again asked to look into having the matter handled by a third "no skin in the game" party.

The board decided to table the decision because of the cost of hiring a third party. Schlicker and Turek were given copies of the grievances and time to discuss the matter with their own attorneys and allow more time for the board to discuss the matter with its attorney. Lynch, who was chairing the meeting, seemed to think the matter could be handled internally by the board.

The meeting began tenuously when Perrin introduced a second agenda stating he and Turek had been restricted by president Maturen from putting items on the agenda in the past. The new 20-plus item agenda was voted in by five yes votes. St. John, Ashford and Schwanz voted no.

An auditor report of the financial status of ACCOA was given by Cindy Scott of Stephenson and Company in which she mentioned the difference between the 2021-year gain of income to AC-

COA was brought by the many grants Avery brought in during the pandemic. Loss of income concerning her in the 2022 audit was that food prices have gone up substantially, as well as the cost of fuel, which ACCOA could do little about, but suggested they keep an eye on ways to reduce that cost.

She mentioned a few internal deficiencies that Avery could work on with his staff, such as making sure to get signatures when making home visits. She also commended the ACCOA for hearing concerns about inventory control and other internal deficiency issues she targeted the year before which she could see were being worked on in 2022.

Turek asked about the words "internal deficiency" which he said Scott brought up several times and asked if Stephenson and Company performed internal deficiency audits. Scott answered yes, for a fee they could go into greater depth investigating certain deficiencies.

Perrin, who is on the new building committee, pre-

sented a plan closely mirroring Crawford County, which is building a senior center for a much lower expense. Schwanz and Avery questioned why he was presenting it because they already had a plan in place that mirrored Crawford County and noted that Crawford County was renovating an already existing building, while the ACCOA was building new.

Avery, Schwanz and St. John said several times that the building committee was only focusing on building the senior center with some senior villas for housing and had instructed the architects to keep it under the \$12.5 million budget.

Perrin said he was ambushed at the building committee meeting when he walked in and saw not just the building committee, but Doug Cheek from the Alcona County Economic Development Committee and two architects on Zoom.

Later in the meeting, Schwanz pointed out that Turek had asked at a previous meeting, when the board voted to not sign a contract with

Sidock Group architects, that the building committee sit down with some experts to bring a contract to the table they would sign, so that is why she invited Cheek and the architects to the building committee table.

Public comment was heard with the citizens seemingly divided in half; those wanting a community hub and family/senior housing, which would include residents of all ages saying they enjoyed being around younger people, and those wanting only a strictly senior center catering to only seniors with only senior housing.

From there the new meeting agenda began to systematically strip away Avery's work responsibilities with votes in opposition coming mostly from Schwanz, St. John and Ashford.

Perrin was named the liaison, along with the building committee, to talk with architects. Avery had performed that function since writing for the grant three years ago.

The board voted to have all audio and video equipment from the inside of the build-

ing removed as they felt it was invasive to staff. The equipment will remain outside and at door entrances. Schwanz asked if the indoor surveillance lowered their insurance rates and Avery said it did.

They reduced Avery's \$10,000 without board approval spending limit to \$200, saying anything over \$200, would have to be approved by the board.

Credit cards given to staff to make purchases of food and gas to perform their duties were asked to be collected, but was tabled after Lynch said he needed the card to buy pizza for the volunteers who were coming to hand out food at the pop-up pantry.

Schlicker noted that on a day when ACCOA was closed due to inclement weather, staff purchased donuts with an ACCOA credit card and were sitting around drinking coffee and gabbing. She felt it was a misuse of funds.

Avery later defended his staff saying the staff, caring for the seniors, wanted to work to make sure the seniors got food and opted to work despite the weather "They put themselves in jeopardy for the good of the seniors, and for that, they got donuts, they didn't just sit around. I reject that and I reject the pettiness of this meeting, much of which could have been handled by committees," Avery said.

Avery not only defended his staff but defended over \$100,000 that was spent by ACCOA, which included purchasing property for the food bank and the senior center, over the last three years. Money, he pointed out would be paid by the grant.

He explained the hard work put in over the last three years, first by going to the state and having them even recognize Alcona County and the potential it had if the grant was awarded and then the vast amount of non-compensated work by the architects, the Sidock Group, Ethos Construction, and O'Brian and the process of continually going to the architect to tweak bubble drawings for the board. "We earned this grant through hard work," Avery said.

He said the board was invited to meetings with the architects every step of the way, but chose not to attend and, whenever a question came up, it always came to the board. Avery asked if the board had even read the contract that was ready to be signed with only a few saying they did. "You have a fiduciary responsibility to read that," Avery said. Schlicker said she read it but didn't understand it.

Schlicker complained the print on the drawing was too tiny and didn't stipulate what room was what. St. John explained the plans given to the board were only conceptual bubbles of what could be planned, not the actual blueprints of what would be built and that those would come

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Catholic Parishes of the Resurrection
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 • Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.

Haynes Community Church
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 Pastor Claire Duncan • haynescommunitychurch.org

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 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
 Monday Ladies Bible Study 1 p.m. • Wednesday In Word 7 p.m.

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LINCOLN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 101 E. Main St., Lincoln
 Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m.
 Rev. Reeve Segrest - Pastor ~ 989-335-4282



Suspended executive director asked to leave public meeting

By Mary Weber
Staff Writer

A special meeting was held Thursday, Jan. 26 by the Alcona County Commission on Aging (ACCOA) two days after the suspension of its executive director and resignation of four board members, including the president and vice president.

A considerable number of citizens attended the special meeting, including suspended executive director Lenny Avery.

The meeting had just been posted on the door the day before and no mention of it was made on the ACCOA Facebook page.

With very little discussion and no opposition, a board of officers was motioned in with Leroy Perrin as president, Delores Schlicker as vice president and Robert Turek as secretary. Rolland Lynch stayed on as the treasurer and Stan Wojnar remained as a director.

No consideration was given that Pamela Ashford was still the ACCOA secretary until her official resignation date of February 10.

Turek motioned to have President Perrin hire an attorney for ACCOA. Motion passed.

Joshua Geiersbach, Alcona County Sheriff Deputy, arrived and made a very public position to stand near Avery.

Perrin then addressed the public and said the board was reorganizing. "We are moving on. The building project is going ahead full steam and the staff is doing a great job and haven't missed a beat," Perrin said. He explained they were there to help and wanted to hear from the community. He opened the meeting up to public comment.

After one person asked questions about what the building project was, Perrin told him they would not be accepting questions during the public comment section. Perrin then stated that Mr. Avery was not supposed to be in the building and asked the deputy to remove him.

People in attendance interrupted saying it was a public

meeting and Avery had the right to be there. The deputy stated he was told that Avery was suspended and was not supposed to be in the building. Avery turned around and put his hands behind him. Deputy Geiersbach said he was not going to arrest him and was not going to play that game.

"It is an open meeting open to the public and I have the right to speak or comment. So if you are going to take me, you must take me in handcuffs, Avery said. The deputy said to Avery, "They don't want you here," and asked him again to leave. More public shouted they wanted Avery to remain at the meeting.

Again, Avery said calmly to the deputy that he would comply but he would comply in handcuffs to be arrested for trespassing.

Perrin called for a recess, Schlicker seconded. Motion carried with opposition called from the public.

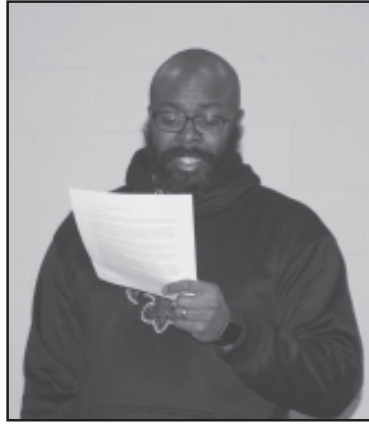
Geiersbach left the building. Avery read a statement he handed to the board earlier stating, "I Lenny Avery, former executive director of the Alcona County Commission on Aging, hereby reject the board of directors decision to suspend my employment and my position as executive director.

"Per the policies of ACCOA, I have not been given formal notice of my suspension. An employee can only be suspended for up to a day to three weeks and not an indeterminate amount of time.

"Furthermore, it has been established that the board of directors has displayed a bias toward me as executive director.

"Therefore, I formally request an independent review of my job performance, my body of work composition, grievances, and board accusations. This review should have all evidence presented, not hearsay, produced for formal review."

Avery then requested the independent review team be the Alcona County Board of Commissioners which has knowledge of ACCOA and a fiduciary understanding of



ACCOA executive director Lenny Avery, who was suspended from his duty last week, read a statement to the new board rejecting his suspension. Photo by Mary Weber.

the commission on aging.

He said if it is found that the ACCOA board of directors did not have cause to terminate, suspend, or violate its employee agreement with himself then it was hereby requested the ACCOA board be dissolved and a new board of directors formed with the help and support of the Alcona County Board of Commissioners.

Applause was heard by public. A few minutes later Deputy Lenny Franklin arrived and told Avery he could stay at the meeting. He addressed the board and said as a member of the community and resident of Alcona County, Avery had the right to attend the meeting.

The meeting was called back to order and public comment continued. Wilfred Weber asked that Avery be allowed to read his statement again as he wanted it on the meeting minutes and cameras. Avery was permitted to read the statement again in full.

Avery also added that the breach of HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) violations that came from the ACCOA board the day before by allowing community members to access client files, data and records was criminal and they could be punished up to \$50,000 per breach. "We have

Continued on page 9

Request for Bids Building Repair in Lincoln, MI

Alcona County Library is requesting sealed bids for the repair of damage done to the Lincoln Branch (330 Traverse Bay Rd; Lincoln, MI 48742).

The scope of the work includes brick, window and wall repair to the east side of the building, along with prep work and clean up.

The work needs to be completed before April 15, 2023. Please include in the bid how the number of days needed to complete this job and the amount of time the library will need to be closed.

Successful bidders will be required to provide proof of \$1 million dollars of liability insurance.

Sealed bids must be received by Friday February 10, 2023 at 5:00 pm; either by Mail or email. Bids must clearly be marked "2023 Lincoln Repair Bid" (on the front of the envelope or in the subject line). And addressed to

Denise Bearre, Library Director
312 W Main St
Harrisville, MI 48740
director@alcona.lib.mi.us

Alcona County Library Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive irregularities in bids to accept any bids which, in the opinion of the Board, may be the most advantageous to the Board.

ALCONA COUNTY NOTICE OF CLOSEOUT PUBLIC HEARING FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR MSC-2014-0755-HOA

Alcona County Board of Commissioners will conduct a closeout public hearing on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 1:35 p.m. It will be held at the Alcona County Courthouse Building, 106 5th Street, Harrisville, MI 48740, in the Commissioners room, located in the lower level, for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to submit comments and receive a final report on the completion of the MSC-2014-0755-HOA CDBG grant.

The CDBG grant provided funding to assist in five residential dwelling households in Alcona County, with emergency, and rehab and administration totaling \$60,480.00 The CDBG project benefitted at least 51% low to moderate income persons; No One was displaced as a result of the project.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the project in person, at the public hearing, or in writing through February 13, 2023 and addressed to Alcona County Housing, P.O. Box 272, Harrisville, MI 48740.

Citizen views and comments on the CDBG project are welcome.

Alcona County
Diane Rasch, Director
989-724-9515
drasch@alcona-county.net



ALCONA COUNTY 2023 EQUALIZATION

01/04/2023 10:16 AM

IN COMPLIANCE WITH SEC.211.34A OF THE GENERAL PROPERTY TAX LAW OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, FOLLOWING ARE THE TENTATIVE RATIO AND TENTATIVE MULTIPLIERS TO BE APPLIED TO THE ASSESSED VALUES OF EACH CLASS OF PROPERTY IN EACH UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ALCONA COUNTY TO ACHIEVE COUNTY EQUALIZED VALUES FOR 2023.

Township or City	Agricultural		Commercial		Industrial		Residential		Timber-Cutover		Developmental		Personal	
	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor
ALCONA TOWNSHIP	47.64	1.04954	44.93	1.11284	39.02	1.28139	44.11	1.13353	N/C	N/A	N/C	N/A	50.00	1.00000
CALEDONIA TOWNS	43.94	1.13792	48.07	1.04015	46.37	1.07828	41.84	1.19503	N/C	N/A	N/C	N/A	50.00	1.00000
CURTIS TOWNSHIP	44.17	1.13199	45.92	1.08885	39.44	1.26775	40.18	1.24440	N/C	N/A	N/C	N/A	50.00	1.00000
GREENBUSH TOWNS	44.14	1.13276	43.96	1.13740	42.13	1.18680	41.24	1.21242	N/C	N/A	N/C	N/A	50.00	1.00000
GUSTIN TOWNSHIP	44.76	1.11707	45.61	1.09625	43.79	1.14181	41.97	1.19133	N/C	N/A	N/C	N/A	50.00	1.00000
HARRISVILLE TOWN	44.20	1.13122	41.64	1.20077	38.85	1.28700	41.73	1.19818	N/C	N/A	N/C	N/A	50.00	1.00000
HAWES TOWNSHIP	41.60	1.20192	42.80	1.16822	41.48	1.20540	45.60	1.09649	N/C	N/A	N/C	N/A	50.00	1.00000
HAYNES TOWNSHIP	42.68	1.17151	47.76	1.04690	N/C	N/A	39.88	1.25376	N/C	N/A	N/C	N/A	50.00	1.00000
MIKADO TOWNSHIP	42.78	1.16877	48.68	1.02712	N/C	N/A	41.42	1.20715	N/C	N/A	N/C	N/A	50.00	1.00000
MILLEN TOWNSHIP	49.90	1.00200	44.87	1.11433	N/C	N/A	45.50	1.09890	N/C	N/A	N/C	N/A	50.00	1.00000
MITCHELL TOWNSHI	46.17	1.08295	44.49	1.12385	41.76	1.19732	45.66	1.09505	N/C	N/A	N/C	N/A	50.00	1.00000
CITY OF HARRISVILL	N/C	N/A	40.27	1.24162	41.62	1.20135	43.23	1.15660	N/C	N/A	N/C	N/A	50.00	1.00000

BOARD VACANCY

Harrisville Harbor Commission is looking to fill one vacancy on the commission. Letters of interest must be received by noon February 13 2023. Letters may be submitted to Harrisville Harbor Commission, P.O. Box 331, Harrisville, MI 48740 or Email: harbormaster@harrisvilleharbor.com. Please direct Questions to Steve Alexander, Harbormaster: (989) 335-3436.

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Movie prophecy concerning
the demise of an online
money transfer service:
"I see dead PayPal."

Lady Tigers outlast Alpena in overtime thriller

By Ben Murphy
Sports Writer

The Alcona girls varsity basketball team is certainly going to remember its home game against Alpena on Monday, Jan. 23 for a long time. The Lady Tigers and Lady Wildcats met in a wild back-and-forth non-conference affair, but Alcona survived long enough to get the win, 49-48 in double overtime.

"This was one of the most exciting, intense and fun games I have been involved with," head coach Mark Feldhiser said. "We have ended up on the wrong end of a couple of close ones this season, so it was nice to close this game out. I was very proud of our girls' effort in this game."

Alcona got off to a good start, leading 12-4 after the first quarter. That lead was trimmed to just 23-22 at the half. Alpena went ahead 32-31 after three quarters, and the game was deadlocked at 40-apiece after regulation.

"Alpena kept coming back, tying the score right at the end of regulation and again at the end of the first overtime, but we never gave up," Feldhiser said. "We kept our composure and finally got the job done in double OT."

"We were attacking the rim, and rebounding very well, which led to a bunch of free throws, 15 of which we made. Kelsey Hansen had a really good night shooting the ball. One of the key points in the game was at the beginning of the first overtime. We had given up a late basket after a turnover against their press right at the end of regulation."

"Our girls didn't get down, Emma Travis came out and hit five quick points to get the game back in our favor. Our girls really dug deep and played great defense in both overtimes. Again, just very proud of the effort put forth by our girls," he said.

Hansen finished with 23 points to lead the way for the Lady Tigers. Travis scored 13.

Carmen Dellar put in five. Jena Wambold and Kaylee Wambold chipped in with four points apiece.

On Thursday, Alcona defeated visiting Charlton Heston Academy, 55-5, in a North Star League Big Dipper contest.

"We were ahead 21-1 after the first and just kind of coasted from there," Feldhiser said. "It was a good game where everyone got lots of minutes, and we had good balanced scoring."

Travis led the way with 10

points. Hansen scored nine points. J. Wambold put in eight. K. Wambold, Sage Gauthier and Liberty Kimball had six points apiece. Sierra West added four, while Addison Beatty, Graycn Tracy and Dellar added two points apiece.

Alcona (8-5 overall, 2-2 NSL Big Dipper) played at Whittemore-Prescott on Tuesday, Jan. 31, hosts Rogers City on Thursday, Feb. 2 and hosts Oscoda on Monday, Feb. 6.

Tigers bounce back with lopsided win at Fairview

By Ben Murphy
Sports Writer

A day after a road loss to Ogemaw Heights, the Alcona boys varsity basketball team bounced back with a convincing road win at Fairview on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

The Tigers took a big lead in the first quarter, never looking back on their way to the 70-32 North Star League crossover victory.

"It was a great team effort," head coach Alex Cole said. "DJ Howe was able to get going early and they really didn't have an answer for him inside. It was nice that all 14 guys played solid minutes and everyone had nice contributions."

Howe dominated the opening quarter, hitting a three and netting 13 points total in the frame. The Tigers also had a three-pointer by Garrett Somers in the frame, as they led 20-11 after one.

Howe and Hayden Johnston scored four points apiece in the second to help Alcona extend its lead to 37-17 at the half. Howe put in eight more points in the third quarter, helping make it 51-26 entering the fourth.

Howe finished with 25 points. Cayden Hebert hit two threes and scored all 10 of his points in the fourth quarter. Somers netted seven points. Johnston made six points, and with four apiece was Sam Johnston, Nate Nardi and Evan Borsvold. William O'Neill and Ricky

Schott had three points each and Jacob Renchenski and Owen Borsvold had two points a piece.

On Monday, Jan. 30 Alcona dropped a non-league game at Ogemaw Heights, 70-59.

"Although it ended in a loss, it was a much better showing than the previous match-up," Cole said. "They are very tough and disciplined on the defensive end, so it was nice to be able to get the looks we wanted. I would have liked to slow them down more defensively, but it gives us something to focus on over the coming weeks."

Alcona got off to a great start with nine points in the opening quarter by Howe and a pair of threes by Somers, and the Tigers led 24-11 after one.

Things slowed down in the second quarter. Ogemaw pulled ahead 39-38 by the half and also led 59-50 entering the fourth.

Howe finished with 18 points to lead the Tigers. Somers hit three treys and finished with 17 points. David Sharboneau had eight points. Renchenski put in six points. H. Johnston and E. Borsvold added four points apiece and Schott netted two points.

Alcona (6-5 overall) played at Whittemore-Prescott on Tuesday, Jan. 31; heads to Rogers City on Friday, Feb. 3 and plays in Oscoda on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

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Americanisms



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— Julia Child

Best practices for ‘stress-free’ snowy owl viewing

Each winter, Michiganders get a chance to glimpse the large, magnificent snowy owl – and this species’ appearance across the state attracts a lot of attention. However, it’s important to remember that winter tends to be a stressful time for birds like the snowy owl.



Snowy owl in flight. Photo courtesy of Michigan DNR.

Snowy owls spend most of their year in the Arctic tundra, far away from humans and urban landscapes. When they travel to populated areas in the winter, these new places present unfamiliar threats like curious humans, rodent poison, and vehicle and power line collisions. Moreover, they often do not display signs of fear toward humans. This can sometimes get them into harmful situations.

Keep the best interests of these majestic creatures in mind. Here are a few quick tips for viewing snowy owls to keep them stress-free and safe:

Give snowy owls space. A good rule of thumb is to view wildlife from a distance, using binoculars or a scope, rather than approaching. If

you “flush” an owl, or cause it to move to a new area, you are too close and need to back away or leave. Even if the bird doesn’t seem to display signs of fear, it can still be scared and stressed by your presence.

Don’t lure owls with audio recordings. While it might be tempting to use audio recordings to attract snowy owls closer to you, hearing another owl’s call — even a recorded one — can be stressful for the bird. Snowy owls are solitary and territorial,

and the call of another bird can put them on high alert.

Leave “live baiting” to the pros. Scientists and wildlife rehabbers use live bait like mice to entice owls for banding, relocation and rehabilitation. However, this practice can be dangerous for owls when it’s done by photographers, birders, or others. Baited owls learn to associate people with food, and may be drawn to dangerous places — like roads or airports — to find humans.

Wolf survey results show population stable

Wildlife biologists from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently released the findings of the latest Michigan gray wolf survey.

The survey, conducted in early 2022, shows the wolf population in the Upper Peninsula remains stable, as it has for more than a decade.

“These results show a continued trend of statistical stability, indicating that gray wolves may have reached their biological carrying capacity within the Upper Peninsula,” said Cody Norton, the DNR’s wolf specialist. “Wolf presence has only been confirmed twice genetically in the Lower Peninsula in recent times; in 2004 and 2014.

“The survey, which is conducted every other winter, covers the U.P., including Drummond, Neebish and Sugar islands, with Isle Royale excluded. The wolves on Isle Royale are managed by the National Park Service,” Norton said.

Completing analysis of the field data collected during the DNR’s 2022 wolf survey was delayed during the past year as wildlife biologists focused on updating the state’s Wolf Management Plan.

The plan was updated using all pertinent social and biological scientific knowledge on wolves to date.

The minimum wolf population estimate from the 2022 survey is 631 wolves, plus or minus 49 wolves. A total of 136 packs was estimated with an average number of individuals per pack calculated at 4.5.

“Our minimum wolf population estimate is not statistically different from the last estimate in 2020,” Norton said. “All of the estimates since 2011 have not differed statistically.”

However, wolf density appears to have shifted over time.

“The density of wolves may

have decreased in some areas of the west U.P. and increased in some parts of the east U.P.,” DNR wildlife biologist Brian Roell said.

This may be linked to significant winter weather events during 2013-2015, which greatly reduced deer densities in mid- and high-snowfall zones of the region.

The wolf population in the U.P. showed mostly steady growth from 1989 to 2011. From 1994 to 2007, the population grew at an average annual rate of 19 percent. From 2003 to 2007, the average annual growth rate was 12 percent.

The growth rate was expected to decline as the population moved toward the maximum level the U.P. can sustain.

Since 2011, the minimum estimate for the wolf population has remained stable ranging from 618 to 695. A minimum of estimate of 695 wolves occurred in the U.P. during the winter of 2020.

Lower Peninsula

In October 2004, a wolf that had been captured and radio-collared in the eastern U.P. was captured and killed by a coyote trapper in Presque Isle County of the northern Lower Peninsula. This event represented the first verification of a wild wolf in the LP. in at least 69 years. However, winter track surveys during 2005-2010 failed to indicate the presence of any wolves in the LP.

In 2014, biologists from the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians captured what appeared to be a wolf on a trail camera and collected a scat sample. DNA analysis of the scat confirmed that the animal was a wolf. Although it is possible that wolves occur in the LP, but as of January 2023, no wolves are known to exist there.

Changing legal status

The legal status of wolves at both the federal and state level has changed several times, which impacts the ability of all agencies to manage wolves. Regardless of changes in legal status, wolves in Michigan have surpassed federal and state population recovery goals for 22 years.

Gray wolves are currently on the federal list of threatened and endangered species. Consequently, they cannot be killed legally unless in defense of human life.

Regardless of the federal listing status, the Michigan DNR will continue to have management responsibility for wolves in the state. It is the regulatory authority over lethal take of wolves that varies with the changing status of wolves.

Implementing some portions of the Michigan Wolf Management Plan are curtailed given the federally endangered legal status of wolves.

Find out more about wolves and the Michigan Wolf Management Plan at Michigan.gov/Wolves.

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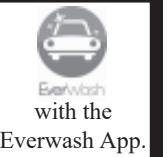
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Director Continued from page 5

over 300 active clients and 300 inactive clients and in less than 24 hours you have fined ACCOA more than \$6 million," Avery said.

Jacqueline Schwanz, who sat on the board until last Tuesday when she gave her resignation, formally requested an answer as to why Pam Ashford was not sitting at the table because according to her letter of resignation, her last day would be February 10. She wanted to know if she was called to the meeting and wanted to know where her seat was. "Was she included on roll call? If not, was she excused from this special meeting?" she asked.

Others commented as well, some offered advice on how they would like the board to proceed in finding suitable candidates for the board, some were in favor of Avery's suspension criticizing the board that resigned, others were concerned by the conduct and lack of transparency of the board.

Ellen Fritz commented the members who resigned last Tuesday did so because they knew of the coming attempt to fire Avery and did not want to be liable for breaking the law. "They could not in good conscience participate in that. Pam Ashford is still a member of the board until the date in her letter and you have to make a space for her," Fritz said.

Margy Kutzera addressed the board, "I don't know what to say, this is such a disaster. These are the papers I brought to the board last Tuesday of (signatures from) people who support a \$12.5 million building project for the county that I handed to the board, it was found after the meeting, lying on the floor.

"I'm concerned. Is this what you are about? Do you not care about all the people in this county or is it just those people behind us today? I hope that now you are here you understand the role you accepted to take. It's about confidentiality, it's about ethics, it's about all the people in this county. So once again, I would like to resubmit this (paper) and implore you to stop this nonsense. Move forward and do what is right and appropriate by the law and by the letter of your commitment to Alcona County," Kutzera said.

Karen Sharboneau spoke in favor of the new board and its desire to build only a senior center not a community hub. "You know that what we want in Alcona County is a senior center. Not a community (center). Not housing, either re-do this place or give us a new senior center," she said.

Patty Thomas repeated Will St. John's statement from a meeting that took place on December 6, 2022. "The grant was given for the purpose of a multi-generation opportunity for the citizens of Alcona County. You can want whatever you want but the money is for a specific thing that the grant was written for and anything else is going to go back to the state legislature," she said.

After the meeting, Avery said that as a black man, having a weaponized officer approach him was the scariest moment of his life. Not only was the sheriff's department called during the special meeting to escort Avery out, but three responded just minutes after the meeting when Avery went downstairs to do an interview with WBKB.

"They notified me they were called because a disgruntled employee was going into offices. I did not go into any

office, nor did I have keys to go into any office. The reporter from WBKB was standing next to me the whole time, still it was scary. They (police) come in thinking tactics, thinking that someone is threatening, they come in with scenarios in their brain because that is what they are trained to do.

"To have (the board/public) sick (law officials) on me and then (have public) pull out their cameras looking to see a confrontation is vile and

evil.

"As one of the few African Americans in this community, I don't have a rainbow and unicorn view of the police. I grew up in New Orleans, I have been a victim of discrimination by police officers, so I was terrified. I didn't know that first deputy (Geiersbach) and even right now I'm fighting back tears because it was the grace of God that Lenny Franklin came in and I knew him and I knew he would protect me

and I wouldn't get hurt," Avery said.

The current board would not comment on Avery's suspension but Perrin did give a statement written by their attorney. "Mr. Avery has not been terminated. He has been placed on administrative leave pending an investigation. There were several issues regarding the executive director and this is an issue of merit, not race. This is in no way racially motivated," Perrin said.



Buggy Rides



Harrisville Lions award Gauthier Citizen of the Year

February 4, 1998 ~ By Cheryl Peterson

The Harrisville Lions Club broke new ground Monday evening when it presented Doris Gauthier with a "Citizen of the Year 1997" award.

This award was the first of its kind for the club, and Harrisville Lions Club President Lloyd Bleau said this award was a new form of recognition for members of the community.

"We are pleased to present the first Citizen of the Year award to Doris."

George Byelich highlighted many of the reasons why Gauthier was chosen to be the 1997 recipient. "Doris has the distinction of having but one name, but many differ-

ent faces to suit the numerous jobs and kindnesses she performs," Byelich said Monday.

To name a few:

- Register of Deeds - for over 30 years (give or take) and has a near photographic memory in knowing what person(s) belong to what property.

- County historian - Having written numerous books on and about Alcona County, she is quite possibly the most knowledgeable resident on family and landmark history. She maintains a mountainous array of historical documents and has written six books - "Pioneer Harrisville," "Alcona History Bit By Bit," "Alcona, The Community Pioneers," "Alcona, More Com-

munity Pioneers," "Alcona, The Lake Pioneers," and "Alcona, The Women Pioneers."

It is not usual for people seeking family background or information to seek out or be referred to her for information. It would be unusual for Gauthier to say she couldn't help in some way.

- Guardian of family and friend - Gauthier is a member of one of the largest founding families in Alcona County (she has 108 cousins - not counting marriage). On many days after work, she helps elderly relatives with their daily tasks and has also adopted many friends and does for them, too. She does not expect any compensation for her deeds and enjoys spreading her kindness and help.

- She is a member of the VFW, Craftmakers' Cabin and many other local and state organizations.

Doris was pleased to accept the award. "Casper Bloomer was my first boss," Gauthier said. "He was a Lion, too. He told me 'service is the rent you pay for occupying space on earth.'"

The group plans to present the award each year. Nominations are being taken for 1998.

Nominations can be submitted in writing to P.O. Box 265, Harrisville, Mich. 48740. Each recipient will receive a plaque, and their name will be added to a plaque that will hang in the Alcona County Building.

Lyman H. Dunn was Civil War veteran

He Lived in Alcona County 52 of His 81 years

Whiting. This regiment was assigned to Key's division, Army of the Potomac.

And he was honorably discharged August 27, 1861. He reenlisted and during his term of service participated in the following battles: Bull Run, Ball's Bluff, Hanover Court House, Seven Days Retreat, Second Bull Run, Harper's Ferry, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Beverly Ford, Winchester (1863) Gettysburg, Manassas Gap, Rappahannock Station, Wilderness, Winchester (1864) and Fair Oaks.

At the battle of Gettysberg he was wounded by a gun

shot in his right hip and was in Condelson's Camp hospital, West Va. He was captured by Confederates at Poolsville, Va., Nov 1, 1862, and confined in Libby Prison, but was released March 1st, 1863. He was finally discharged on Sept. 29, 1866.

A few years following his release from the service, Mr. Dunn came to Harrisville where on June 8, 1871, he was united in marriage with Elizabeth Nestle, who with one daughter, Mrs. Thos. T. Allen of Alpena, survives. There are also seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren living.

In his early life here, Mr.

Dunn followed the woods and mill work, being several years in charge of the lath mill at the old Colwell saw mill.

He was an enthusiastic Odd Fellow and when health permitted was seldom absent from the meetings of the local lodge. He lived 47 years on the farm where he died.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon from the home, being in charge of Rev. G. W. Hawley. The interment took place in the family lot at Springport where the burial service was performed by the Odd Fellows and a firing squad from Armstrong Post American Legion participated.

Spruce home destroyed by fire

February 1, 1973 ~ The home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kolb Jr., near the village of Spruce, burned to the ground early Tuesday morning.

Mrs. Kolb was aroused to get a drink of water for one of her children, when she smelled the smoke. Mr. and Mrs. Kolb and their three children, two boys, five and

three years old, and a fifteen-month-old daughter, escaped without injury.

Both the Hubbard Lake and Ossineke Fire departments were summoned, but by the time the firemen arrived the fire was out of control. The two-story house, including furnishings, clothing, personal effects and \$100 in

cash, were destroyed.

The Kolbs, who only recently moved here from Birmingham, purchased the former Everett Alstrom farm on Swede Road, and had just moved their furniture into their new home this week.

Cause of the fire was not determined. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

Super Crossword

Answers

RAISES	SUP	EMILIA	NAVAL
ESCALATE	MESONS	ELENA	
WHENAL	LARGEN	NORTH	EARN
ROSINS	IRA	ELEED	VIE
ARUT	AMERICAN	REIN	DEER
PEEPI	ADDLES	NESTS	
POME	SRS	TEND	
ISPREPARING	TO	BLU	RAY
DIRECTS	REO	DRAIN	PIE
ILES	TAINT	ARMPIT	
GOFORAL	ONGD	DISTAN	CERUN
IRISES	HOBO	RENO	
JUXTAPOSE	LEW	UPBRAID	
EKE	SSN	WHAT	NUTRIENTS
TEST	EEO	TEED	
RAINN	HEALER	ESTAS	
SHOULDIT	TLOAD	UPON	COLI
LOX	FIERO	RCA	AEROBE
ARBOR	CARIBOU	HYDRATES	
SNORE	ENDSUP	REIMPORT	
HEWED	STEADY	SARASOTA	

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Trivia Test

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **GEOGRAPHY:** Where is Mount Fuji located?
2. **MOVIES:** What is the material used in Captain America's shield?
3. **MUSIC:** Who wrote the lyrics to the 1961 "West Side Story" movie?
4. **SCIENCE:** Which color has the longest wavelength?
5. **HISTORY:** When did the United States outlaw child labor?
6. **TELEVISION:** Who played the leading role in the legal series "Ally McBeal"?
7. **AD SLOGANS:** Which fast-food chain tells customers that "We have the meats"?
8. **LITERATURE:** What is the setting for the "Divergent" novel series?
9. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** Which animal represents the 2023 Chinese zodiac year?
10. **ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a group of butterflies called?

Answers: 1. Japan.; 2. Vibranium.; 3. Stephen Sondheim.; 4. Red.; 5. 1938.; 6. Calista Flockhart.; 7. Arby's.; 8. Chicago.; 9. The rabbit.; 10. A kaleidoscope. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Moments In Time

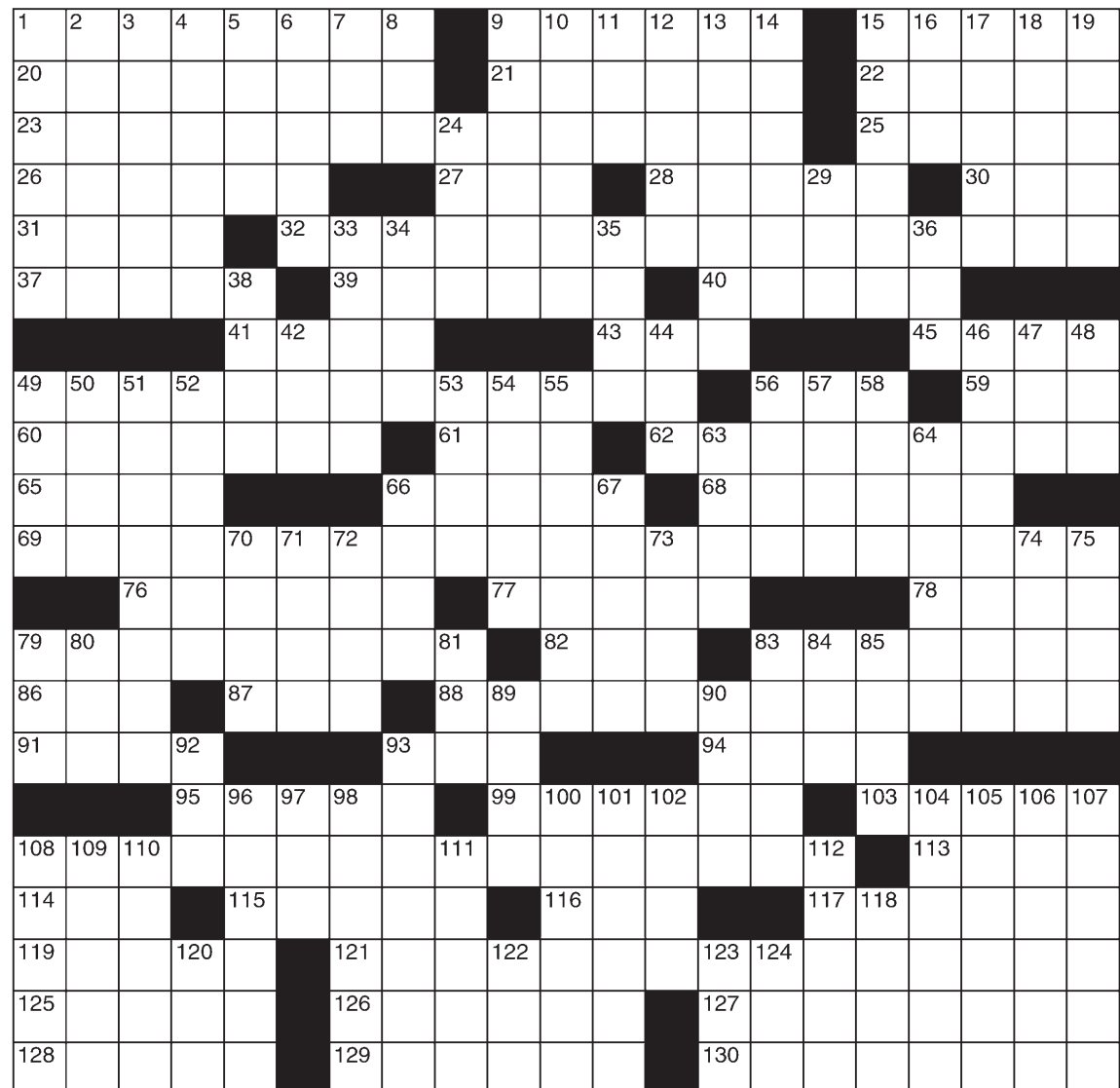
By The History Channel

- On Feb. 19, 1473, Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Poland to a prosperous merchant family. Originally designed for a career in church law, he is considered the father of modern astronomy and was the first European scientist to propose that Earth and other planets revolve around the sun.
 - On Feb. 16, 1894, gunslinger John Wesley Hardin was pardoned after spending 15 years in a Texas prison for murder. Reputed to have fatally shot one man merely for snoring, Hardin likely killed more than 40 people, and while he became an attorney after his release, the following year he took a bullet in the back himself in a revenge shooting.
 - On Feb. 18, 1937, severe dust storms hit five western states, resulting in a dozen deaths within a few days. Citizens were advised to plug their window sills and door jambs, and hang wet sheets over their doors and windows. They could taste dirt and dust in their food, and the clouds of it were so thick that they blocked the sun.
 - On Feb. 15, 1953, 17-year-old Tenley Albright, of Boston, became the first American female to win the world figure skating championship at an outdoor rink in Davos, Switzerland, with all seven judges giving her a first-place vote. Three years later, at the Winter Olympics, she also became America's first female skating gold medalist.
 - On Feb. 14, 1962, Jacqueline Kennedy led a virtual tour of the White House's state rooms, which she had recently refurbished. Wearing a red wool dress and pearls, she described the mansion's antiques, furnishings and historic portraits to a wide TV audience at home, earning both critical praise and an honorary Emmy.
 - On Feb. 13, 1974, the Symbionese Liberation Army, which had kidnapped 19-year-old heiress Patricia Hearst, demanded a ransom in the form of \$70 worth of food to be given to every needy Californian -- an exchange that could cost as much as \$400 million.
 - On Feb. 17, 2007, customs officers in Sydney, Australia, freed Sylvester Stallone after holding him for several hours and confiscating items from his staff members' suitcases. Officials claimed X-rays revealed banned products but refused to give any further details, and Stallone called the incident "a misunderstanding." The actor was in Australia to promote his Rocky Balboa character.
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Super Crossword

UNBRIDLED ENERGY

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Elevates</p> <p>9 Faithful attendant in "Othello"</p> <p>15 Maritime</p> <p>20 Intensify</p> <p>21 Quark model particles</p> <p>22 Kagan of justice</p> <p>23 Start of a riddle</p> <p>25 Deserves</p> <p>26 Violinists' rub-ons</p> <p>27 Radio's Glass or Flatow</p> <p>28 Fished for morays</p> <p>30 Jostle (for)</p> <p>31 In — (mired)</p> <p>32 Riddle, part 2</p> <p>37 English diarist Samuel</p> <p>39 Confuses</p> <p>40 Aviary homes</p> <p>41 Apple, e.g.</p> <p>43 Next yr.'s alums</p> <p>45 Look after</p> <p>49 Riddle, part 3</p> <p>56 With</p> <p>59-Across, DVD format</p> <p>59 See</p> <p>56-Across</p> <p>60 Supervises</p> <p>61 —</p> <p>Speedwagon</p> | <p>62 Liquid-emptying conduit</p> <p>65 Bits of land in la mer</p> <p>66 Pollute</p> <p>68 Target of</p> <p>69 Riddle, part 4</p> <p>76 Some purple flowers</p> <p>77 Drifting types</p> <p>78 Home of Club Cal Neva casino</p> <p>79 Place side by side for contrast</p> <p>82 Ayres of "State Fair"</p> <p>83 Scold</p> <p>86 — out a living</p> <p>87 ID for the IRS</p> <p>88 Riddle, part 5</p> <p>91 Part of</p> <p>93 Fair-hiring abbr.</p> <p>94 Irate, with "off"</p> <p>95 "The Office" actor Wilson</p> <p>99 Cure provider</p> <p>103 "Cómo —?" (Spanish greeting)</p> <p>108 End of the riddle</p> <p>113 E. — (bacterium)</p> | <p>114 Bagel salmon</p> <p>115 1980s</p> <p>116 JVC rival</p> <p>117 Bacterium that requires oxygen</p> <p>119 Shady recess</p> <p>121 Riddle's answer</p> <p>125 Sleep loudly</p> <p>126 Turns out</p> <p>127 Bring back in from another country</p> <p>128 Axed down</p> <p>129 Not wobbling</p> <p>130 Florida city south of Tampa Bay</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Put a fresh bandage on</p> <p>2 Onto dry land</p> <p>3 Frosts over</p> <p>4 Soundness of mind</p> <p>5 Enthusiasm</p> <p>6 Taco sauce</p> <p>7 Hagen of Broadway</p> <p>8 According to</p> <p>9 Chef</p> <p>10 Threaten</p> <p>11 Lead-in to thermal</p> <p>12 Sophia of "Firepower"</p> | <p>13 Doctors in training</p> <p>14 "Boyfriend" singer</p> <p>15 "You — have worried"</p> <p>16 According to</p> <p>17 Enthusiasm</p> <p>18 Markswoman</p> <p>19 Surgical</p> <p>24 Encircle with a belt</p> <p>29 Sue Grafton's "— for Evidence"</p> <p>33 Papas' other halves</p> <p>34 Central</p> <p>35 Deputy: Abbr.</p> <p>36 Oct. clock setting</p> <p>38 Plan detail</p> <p>42 Choose (to)</p> <p>44 Fishing pole</p> <p>46 Asmara</p> <p>47 Midday</p> <p>48 Salon supply</p> <p>49 "Understood, dude"</p> <p>50 Farm tower</p> <p>51 Un-, non-, pro- and con-</p> <p>52 Vacation</p> <p>53 Shah's land</p> <p>54 Horse noise</p> <p>55 Boat in Venice</p> <p>56 Theda of silent films</p> <p>57 Describe by drawing</p> <p>58 Potentially offensive, for short</p> <p>63 Disloyal sorts</p> <p>64 Capital of South Dakota</p> <p>66 Throw easily</p> <p>67 Lhasa's land</p> <p>70 Narrow inlets</p> <p>71 African vipers</p> <p>72 Singer</p> <p>73 Strewn, as seeds</p> <p>74 Military group</p> <p>75 "Yes" signals</p> <p>79 Boeing plane</p> <p>80 Hawaiian guitar, for short</p> <p>81 Lamb nurser</p> <p>83 In — (prior to birth)</p> <p>84 Start for eminent</p> <p>85 — one's time</p> <p>89 Chocolate</p> <p>90 Lone Star</p> <p>92 Mr. Capote, informally</p> <p>93 Contest competitor</p> <p>96 Filmdom's Hitchcock</p> <p>97 Ugandan despot Amin</p> <p>98 Girls in family trees</p> <p>100 Listening accessory for an iPod</p> <p>101 Text</p> <p>102 Oahu shindig</p> <p>104 Tiny pieces</p> <p>105 Overly, emphatically</p> <p>106 Writer</p> <p>107 Midday</p> <p>108 Really mark down</p> <p>109 Singer Lena</p> <p>110 "The — Incident" (Henry Fonda film)</p> <p>111 Singer with the #1 hit "Royals"</p> <p>112 Bottom point</p> <p>118 Humorist</p> <p>120 Metal source</p> <p>122 "That — lie!"</p> <p>123 Divs. of days</p> <p>124 "For" vote</p> |
|---|---|--|---|



Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

- In the 1800s, popcorn was often eaten as a cereal with milk and sugar.
- Players of the video game "Call of Duty" have spent more hours thus engaged than the entire course of human existence.
- There are more than 400 Scottish words for snow.
- The longest surgical procedure in history, in which doctors separated a pair of Nepalese conjoined twins who were born with a shared brain cavity, took place in Singapore in 2001 and lasted 103 hours.
- Cats born in May were once thought to be not just poor rodent killers, but prone to bringing home snakes.
- Valentine's Day weddings are apparently 18-36% more likely to end in divorce.
- A Harvard study found that a person's IQ can drop by as much as 13 points when they are under financial stress, due in part to the amount of brain power used to think about such burdens that causes distraction.
- Alexander the Great loved his horse, Bucephalus, so much that when it died in 326 B.C., he named the town of Bucephala for it.
- "Guerrilla grafting" is the illegal process of turning city-maintained sterile fruit trees into fruit producers by splicing compatible branches onto the sterile trees with branches from the fruiting trees.

Thought for the Day: "Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can." -- Danny Kaye
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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: K equals P

XTOYF KGTKUFWM WTAWFGAYAQ

VUF SFXYNF TZ JA TADYAF

XTAFM VGJANZFG NFGOYWF:

"Y NFF SFJS KJMKJD."

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Veteran's Post

By Freddy Graves

Get your free PACT act screening

As of the first week of 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs had screened 1 million veterans for exposure to toxins. As part of the PACT Act, signed last summer, they pulled out all the stops to get this done.

If you're one of the million who stepped up to get your screening, well done. If you haven't, don't let this opportunity pass by.

The PACT Act expands benefits for veterans who were exposed to toxins from Agent Orange and other chemicals, as well as from burn pits, Camp Lejeune water, radiation and others. The damage from those can take years to surface in your health.

You might have been turned down in the past if you filed a claim, but the PACT Act opens a big new door: You no longer have to prove that your illness was caused by toxic chemicals. It will be assumed that it was based on your service in that location. The PACT Act adds to the list of presumed medical conditions, called "presumptives."

If you've never received VA health care, you can

still qualify for this screening. Call them. They're doing screenings at VA facilities across the country, and it takes about 10 minutes. It's better to get going with the VA now rather than wait until down the road when a health issue might crop up. Get the screening; get your information on file. Benefits will be backdated to the time the bill was signed, so don't delay.

Survivors of a veteran also might be eligible for the benefits -- either a monthly payment or a one-time payment -- for a surviving spouse, dependent child or dependent parents.

To learn more about the PACT Act, go to www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits. At that link you can apply online for disability compensation with Form 21-526EZ. You can also call them at 800-698-2411. Or call 800-827-1000 for help applying online. Look for Form 10-10EZ to apply for VA health care or to check the status of an application you already submitted.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

5				9		1	
	9		2		3		
3		8		4			2
		9		1	4		
	8		5			2	
2			6			7	5
		2	9				3
	6			7		5	
7				1	8		6

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Alcona County Review Classifieds

All Classified Ads **MUST** be Paid in Advance

Ads may be brought in to our office at 111 Lake St., Harrisville Cost per ad is \$5 for the first 10 words and 20¢ for each word thereafter. Boxed ads are \$5 per column inch. Ads and payment must be received by 4 p.m. Monday.

Call 989-724-6384

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale
This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty; if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago; or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Attention purchasers: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In the event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a mortgage made by 3F'S Entertainment, Inc. and Frank O. Belloli and Judy Belloli Revocable Living Trust as mortgagors, to Northland Area Federal Credit Union as mortgagee, which mortgage is dated September 10, 2008, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Alcona County, Michigan, on September 12, 2008, in Liber 455 at pages 782-788, and upon which mortgage is claimed to be due on the date of this notice the sum of \$62,982.24, and no suit or proceedings at law or equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said Mortgage, or any part thereof.

Now, therefore, by virtue of a power of foreclosure sale by advertisement contained in said mortgage, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by sale of the mortgage premises, or some part of them, at a

public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Alcona County starting promptly at 10 a.m., on March 1, 2023.

The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

The land and premises in said mortgage, being situated in the City of Harrisville, County of Alcona, State of Michigan, and described as follows:

Parcel 1 – That part of the SW-1/4 of the NW-1/4 of Section 13, T26N, R9E described as: Commencing at the west 1/4 of said Section 13, thence S. 89°33'10"W, along the east-west line of section 7.05 feet to a point on the westerly right-of-way line of Highway US-23, thence N. 26°49'10"E, along said right-of-way 323.26 feet, thence continuing N. 26°49'10"E 222.00 feet, thence N. 63°10'50"W 273.96 feet to a point on the west line of said Section 13, being the point of beginning, thence S. 0°32'25"E 70.00 feet along said west line, thence S. 63°10'50"W 150.00 feet, thence N. 0°32'25"W 70.00 feet, thence N. 63°10'50"W 150.00 feet to the point of beginning.

Parcel 2 – That part of the SW-1/4 of the NW-1/4 of Section 13, T26N, R9E described as follows: Commencing at a point of the Section line common to Sections 13 and 14, 33.00 feet northerly from the 1/4 section corner on said section line,

thence easterly along the north side of a county road 10.00 feet, thence northerly along the west right-of-way line on Highway US-23, 511.25 feet to a point of beginning, thence westerly to section line between Sections 13 and 14, thence N. 3°30'00"E 127.05 feet, thence easterly 334.61 feet to the west right-of-way line of US-23, thence south 109.52 feet to point of beginning.

Parcel 3 – That part of the SW-1/4 of the NW-1/4 of Section 13, T26N, R9E described as: Commencing at the west 1/4 corner of said Section 13, thence S. 89°33'10"W along the east-west 1/4 line of said section 7.05 feet to a point on the westerly right-of-way line of Highway US-23, thence N. 26°49'10"E along said right-of-way 323.26 feet to the point of beginning, thence continuing N. 26°49'10"E, 222.00 feet, thence N. 63°10'50"W 123.96 feet, thence S. 0°32'25"E 70.00 feet, thence N. 63°10'50"W 150.00 feet to a point on the west line of said Section 13, thence S. 0°32'25"E, along said west line, 180.00 feet, thence S. 63°10'50"E, 159.07 feet to the point of beginning.

Commonly known as: 226 South Huron, Harrisville, Mich. 48740. Please be advised that the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale, or to the mortgage holder, for damaging the property during the redemption period.

The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale. Dated: January 3, 2023
Paul E. Wenzloff (P27662), Attorney for Mortgagee
903 N. Jackson Street, Bay City, MI 48708
(989) 893-9511
1-11, 1-18, 1-25, 2-1

State of Michigan
81st Judicial District
Judgment of Possession
After Land Contract Forfeiture
Case No. 22-450-SP-1
Honorable Christopher P. Martin
422 W. Lake Street
Tawas City, Mich. 48764
(989) 362-4441
Plaintiff
Bonnie E. Cheney
V
Defendant
Meagan Van Acker
Plaintiff attorney
Ann Victoria Hopcroft, P34150
Hopcroft Law PLC
P.O. Box 372
Oscoda, Mich. 48750
(989) 630-3792
Defendant attorney
Meagan Van Acker
2854 Poor Farm Road
Greenbush, Mich. 48738
(989) 335-0987

The court finds by default. The land contact has been forfeited. The plaintiff has a right to possession. There is now due the plaintiff: Amount \$5,459.65; other damages \$1,560.68; costs \$252.58; total \$7,272.91. Payment of the purchase price: Less than 50 percent of the purchase price has been paid. To the defendant, it is ordered: A judgment of possession for breach of a land contract is entered in this case for the following described property: 7337F-41, Oscoda, Michigan, 48750; Parcel No. 064-N50-000-013-00.

An order of eviction may be issued upon expiration of 90 days after the entry of this judgment if the defendant does not: pay total amount due listed above. A money judgement for damages under MCL 600.5739 is awarded in the amount of \$1,560.68.

You are advised that you may file a motion for a new trial, a motion to set aside a default judgement, or an appeal and appeal bond within 10 days of judgement. Any motion or appeal must comply with the court rules and must be filed in court by February 9, 2023. You may want legal help. Bond amount of \$10,000 (CPM).

Date: January 12, 2023
Judge Christopher P. Martin, P58765
Payment in the full amount may be made to the plaintiff or to the court by certified check or money order.

Alcona Humane Society is hiring a part time animal caregiver/cleaner!

Please stop by to fill out an application!
Tues, Fri, Sat
11-3
989-736-7387



- 24 hours per week @ \$11/hr
 - Must be 18 years old and have a valid driver's license and insured vehicle
 - Must be dependable, willing to work holidays and weekends, and trustworthy
- Duties include but are not limited to:**
- stray and surrendered small to large dog, and cat, handling
 - getting on the floor to clean cat cages (bending)
 - scrubbing dog kennels
 - Dishes, scrub litter pans, laundry, sweeping
 - poop scooping, snow shoveling
 - animal health checks, vaccinations, medicine administration
 - Customer service skills on the phone and in person

HELP WANTED

Alcona Community Schools is seeking a full-time paraprofessional and a separate receptionist/paraprofessional for two weeks. Resumes can be directed boyds@alconaschools.net.

MSU Extension is seeking candidates for a 4-H Program Coordinator that will work from the MSU Extension office located in Alcona County. Please visit <http://careers.msu.edu/cw/en-us/listing/> and search for posting #843529 to learn how you can become the next Spartan Who Will! MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.

ACCOA (Alcona County Commission on Aging) Board of Director openings. Please send your resume and letter of intent to oliverr@alconaseniors.org or drop off to Robin at Lincoln Senior Center 207 S. Church St., Lincoln, MI 48742

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Jamieson
Nursing Home
Now Hiring
R.N., LP.N., CNA
and a cook.
Call 989-724-6889

BUYING TIMBER

Buying standing timber, minimum five acres. Cole Forest Products (989) 736-8928.

BIDS WANTED

Accepting bids for Mikado Township Hall cleaning as needed Please call (989) 736-7721

FOR SALE

Central Boiler Certified Classic Edge outdoor furnaces. Exceptional performance and value. Call today! Gauthier Heating & Cooling (989) 471-2478.

BINGO

Mikado Goodfellows Bingo every Monday 6:30 p.m. at Mikado Civic Center. Winner-takes-all game and hot balQl. All proceeds to charity.



TBTA is proud to be providing public transportation options to Alcona County for over 25 years

Reduced fare rates for seniors and disabled riders

For more information on how we can assist with your transportation needs, please call us Mon. - Fri.: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. for scheduling and pricing.
1-800-354-2487



ACCOA Continued from page 4

later. “(The board) has continually been kicking this can down the road month after month and it’s time to move forward before we lose the grant,” Avery said. ACCOA has until September of 2024 to use the grant funds.

Committee reports were given and St. John and Schwanz said they were looking into different plans to evaluate the executive director on an annual basis and they would have a plan in place by the February meeting.

Personnel matters were to follow on the agenda, but Lynch wanted to move old business up and asked Avery for a generator update, which Avery gave.

St. John read resignation letters individually from Maturen and Ashford, both stating the stress from the

last few months meetings were impacting their health. Ashford said she would remain the secretary until February 10, after filing the necessary paperwork for Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency which helps to fund ACCOA.

Before moving on the agenda to personnel matters, St. John said he felt the matter was a personal attack on Avery and he would have nothing to do with it and resigned leaving the table. Ashford also left the table.

Lynch, who was the senior member remaining on the board, took the president’s seat. He asked if Avery wanted to go into closed session. Avery refused, indicating he had nothing to hide from the public.

Schlicker brought up the grievances again and men-

tioned one of the letters came from the head of a certain department. Avery cautioned the board that she just breached confidentiality and not to divulge any more letters. He agreed to an open meeting pertaining to himself, not his staff.

Turek brought up several issues he felt were concerning about Avery, one being the Shaw Report which demonstrated housing was not needed in our area. Other areas of concern were grievance letters against Avery that were never given much consideration; if land purchased in Harrisville for the food bank was buildable; signage remaining in the building asking people to wear masks; Avery not working a full 40-hour week; a USDA claim filed against him; and a video he reviewed of the Village of Lin-

coln planning commission chair saying Avery threatened to sue them if the zoning for the new senior center was not changed.

Schlicker demanded to know why Avery sold pots and pans from the ACCOA kitchen and what happened to the money. Avery said he didn’t want to participate in such foolishness. Schlicker accused him of calling her a fool.

Turek motioned for the immediate suspension of Avery or to accept his resignation, Schlicker seconded. Avery would not resign. Schwanz asked if there was a contingency plan in place if Avery was suspended? Turek asked if Avery had committed murder would there be a contingency plan in place?

A five-to-one vote was taken for the suspension of Avery without pay, Schwanz being

the only no vote.

Schwanz then handed in her resignation. Schlicker wanted to adjourn before the citizens were given time for public comments.

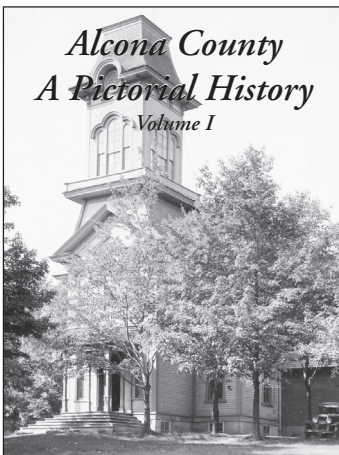
The board seemingly fell apart at that point not knowing how to proceed; it was prompted by the citizens attending the meeting on what to do next.

Schlicker and Turek said they had applications in hand by prospective board members and asked to vote on them, they were informed by attending citizens the proper procedures to add members to a board.

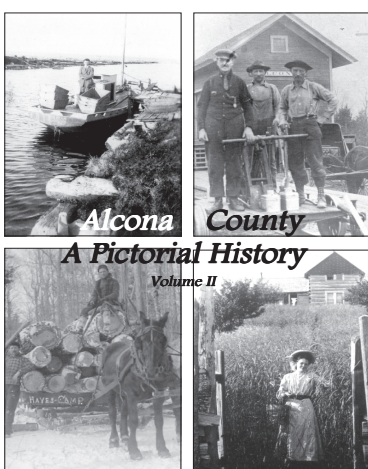
During public comment, a few commended the remaining board for being resilient in their beliefs, while others said the board was ill-prepared to suspend Avery and they were disappointed in them.

Review Publications FOR SALE

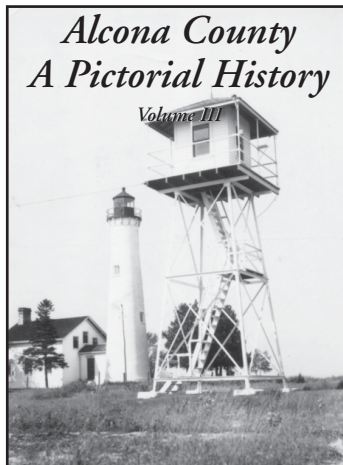
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A Pictorial
History Vol. II*



*Alcona County
A Pictorial
History Vol. III*



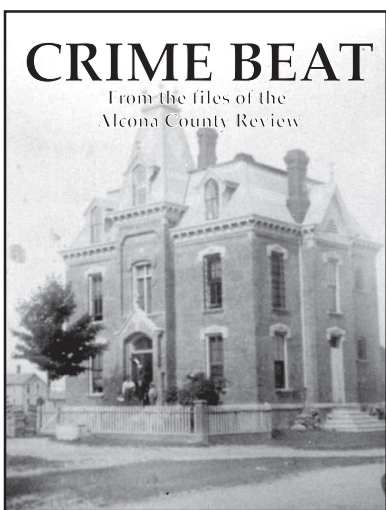
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of the Alcona County Review
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\$10
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Tax

Scam Alert

Homeowners beware of real estate program offering fast cash

Alcona County Register of Deeds, Melissa Cordes, is asking homeowners to be aware of MV Realty’s Homeowner Benefit Program.

The program entices homeowners by offering an up front cash payment in exchange for signing an agreement. This agreement gives MV Realty exclusive authorization to act as a selling agent for any sale of the property during the terms of the agreement, which can be for a period of 40 years.

According to MV Realty’s website, the homeowner is to pay a three percent commission upon the sale of the property and a termination fee equal to the amount of commission when sold without an agent or sold through another agent. Upon signing the agreement, a memorandum will be filed with the register of deeds office where the property is located. This memorandum serves as a public notice of the homeowners’ obligations under the agreement.

MV Realty contracts with telemarketing firms, targeting unsuspecting homeowners with the offer of fast cash in return for signing a restriction to the property for a period of 40 years.

Cordes explained that homeowners should use caution when entering into a contract affecting property, as this can potentially place a



Melissa Cordes

lien against the property and bind future successors of interest. “Homeowners may consider contacting an attorney or real estate professional before entering into a contract,” Cordes said. “Civil lawsuits have been filed against the company by Florida and Pennsylvania attorneys general, citing ‘misleading’ or ‘deceptive’ business practices.

“Don’t be fooled by the opportunity to receive free cash. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Property scams like this one are occurring more frequently,” she said.

As a line of defense Cordes reminded property owners of the Property Fraud Alert program. This program is free of charge and alerts Alcona County property owners via phone call or email when a document is recorded in the register of deeds office. This program doesn’t prevent a document from being recorded but does alert the property owner, so they may act right away to protect their property interest. To sign up contact Fidlar Technologies at (800) 728-3858 or visit the Alcona County website at alconacountymi.com, under the Register of Deeds department click on the links tab, then click the Property Fraud Alert link. For more information contact the Register of Deeds office at (989) 724-9450.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

5	2	4	6	3	9	8	1	7
1	9	6	2	8	7	3	5	4
3	7	8	1	4	5	6	9	2
6	5	9	7	2	1	4	3	8
4	8	7	5	9	3	1	2	6
2	3	1	8	6	4	9	7	5
8	1	2	9	5	6	7	4	3
9	6	3	4	7	2	5	8	1
7	4	5	3	1	8	2	6	9