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Building upgrades sought during flood damage repairs

BY STAN MADDUX

he La Porte County government complex might be upgraded while repairs are being made to extensive flood damage caused by a frozen water line bursting at Christmas.

A new fire alarm system, replacing corroded galvanized water pipes and improvements to heating, cooling and ventilation of the 1970s structure were identified as needs during a Monday, April 24, workshop between members of the county council and county commissioners.

Officials said the upgrades would add roughly \$3 million to the cost of all the repairs now estimated at \$15 million or more.

However, officials said it makes financial sense to perform the upgrades now since those areas are exposed and easy to reach from water logged drywall being removed from the frames of the walls.

Waiting to upgrade the original parts of the building until sometime after the new drywall goes up would noticeably increase the cost of the improvements from having to tear back into the walls, officials said.

Commissioner Connie Gramarossa said the cost of all of the repairs, except for a \$25,000 deductible, are covered under the county's insurance policy.

There is some question how much of the tab the insurance company would be willing to pay for the upgrades since they were not damaged by the flood.

Gramarossa believes most, if not, all of the cost of the improvements would likely be covered, but waiting for the insurance company to decide payment before doing the upgrades could delay completion of the building restoration.

The La Porte County Council will be asked to approve the funds to perform the upgrades

before the new drywall goes up.

The claims would be submitted later to the insurance company for possible reimbursement.

"This would give us the ability to just go ahead and move the project forward," she said.

Councilman Randy Novak said doing the upgrades now would also bring almost everything about the structure into compliance with current codes without delaying the project and spending more money to do it later.

For example, Novak said the current fire alarm system is outdated but a new one with better smoke detection abilities would take six to eight weeks to design before installation.

"This projected cost is just a fraction of what it would cost if we had to do it after we put the building back together," he said.

Extensive damage was also done to electrical wiring inside conduits that filled up with water running down from the busted line on fifth floor.

ramarossa said most of the water damage was on the third and fourth floors occupied by the health department and prosecutor's office, which were among the eight departments relocated until the work is finished.

The damage was extensive because the water line burst while the complex was empty for the extended Christmas break.

It would have been worse had a maintenance worker not performed a routine check of the structure before it was scheduled to reopen.

Gramarossa said all of the work is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

At a celebrity studded event like this, as time goes on, the more diamonds, the more Louis Vuitton, the more Love. — Dino N. Fatouros

CASH FILLED WALLET RETURNED TO OWNER

wallet and large sum of cash inside it were returned to the owner thanks to a good Samaritan from the Michigan City area.

According to La Porte County Police, James Crozier was traveling County Road 450 North near 600 West Sunday, April 23.

The 69 year old man ran over a wallet and saw money flying into the air.

Police said Crozier stopped and grabbed the brown wallet and cash he saw lying on the ground then called police.

A sheriff's deputy drove to Crozier's residence, where he was given the wallet along with the cash inside of it.

Police were able to track down the owner, who was given the wallet by the officer who met her at a Family Express convenience store.

How much money the wallet contained was not disclosed.

The woman, though, said a couple of \$100 bills inside the wallet were missing.

Police said the 30-year-old woman indicated she was going to where her wallet was found to try and locate the rest of her money.

STAN MADDUX

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR CITY COUNCIL

MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCÉ PRICE

City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING **COMMISSION MEETINGS**

Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM

NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT,

JUDY H. ZABICKI, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS Board meets on the 3rd Monday

of each month at 7PM

NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM

SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY L. Paul Bailey, Sheriff

Chuck Heit, Undersheriff **NEW BUFFALO AREA**

RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo

NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD PAUL KELLER, LISA WERNER JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL BRADLEY BURNER, TRICIA NEWTON, VANESSA THUN

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG. RICHARD SULLIVAN.

BILL MARSKE Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM

THREE OAKS

THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD Meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at 7PM GRAND BEACH

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM MARY ROBERTSON, CLERK HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, **EDWARD BRANDES**

MICHIANA

VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Grand Beach Village Council fields concern about single family homes, zoning ordinance

embers of the Grand Beach heard a concern over what is and isn't allowed with regards to single family homes and the zoning ordinance at their Wednesday, April 19, meeting

In a letter addressed to the council, residents Tina and Chris Shanahan said that, as part of the Annual Rental Registration Application Process of the village's short-term rental ordinance, they were told by police chief Ryan Layman that, per Section 2, their studio apartment above the detached garage at their permanent residence does not meet the ordinance's definition of a dwelling and/ or single-family home. As a result, Layman told them that he cannot grant a shortterm rental permit.

Tina said they're requesting that they're able to rent their studio, adding that they only rent it when they're home. She said it's only two people who rent the studio, so they only allow one car for parking and have never needed anything extra for garbage.

Chris added that the purpose of the ordinance was to "get some real rules around the proper governance of short-term rentals largely due to out of control parties and neighbors having their peace disrupted, parking issues and general issues with enforcement."

Chris said they feel their studio apartment "does fully comply with the ordinance's safety and regulations and we feel it has never been a part of what the ordinance was designed to do."

Council president Harry Walder said he checked with village attorney Sara Senica and that it's not the ordnance that "triggered" the issue but the village's zoning ordinance, which defines all the homes in Grand Beach as single-family residences and single-family residences are defined by state law as one family in a home. When you allow someone to rent out a portion of the home, "you're, in essence, using it as a multi family residence" - which isn't allowed in the zoning ordinance.

Senica suggested they could give the Planning Commission a recommendation on if they want to amend the ordinance to allow a special land use permit for when a homeowner rents a room in their residence.

Council members didn't

make any official decisions on the matter. Peter Doerr said he'd like to first see what the Planning Commission had to say, and that he wanted to see "both perspectives" and if there were any negatives.

In a letter addressed to the council, residents Nick Mearsheimer and Briana Martin requested the "permanent removal of the seasonal speed bumps that were installed last year on Robin Lane and Arnold," adding that "driving over two sets of intrusive speed bumps each time we come and go is unpleasant, can cause damage to cars and golf carts, are dangerous to bicyclists, and added an unnecessary expense for the Village."

"Additionally, we have had a handful of conversations with our neighbors who are all against having these speed bumps and would like to see them permanently removed," the letter said.

ouncil member Blake O'Halloran said a group of people from that area had talked "quite a few times" with regards to having those speed bumps due to people speeding sometimes 45 miles an hour down Robin Lane.

"I guess what we'd probably need to do is find out who actually is in favor of having these speed bumps - because if nobody is, then maybe we'd remove them," he said, adding that they'd probably find people who are "adamant about keeping

Mearsheimer said they could get signatures from people who want them and don't want them.

Council members heard a presentation on the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Brian Hake from Kruggel Lawton said the village has a net pension asset as opposed to a net pension liability, which means it's funding its pension plan sufficiently.

The general fund experienced a decrease of \$172,000 after transferring to Capital Projects, so the village "continues to set money aside with the intent of funding future capital projects."

In total, the village increased by \$75,000 for its governmental funds.

The months of fund balance for the general fund for this year, because of the land purchase of the 42 Acres (the Grand Beach Nature Preserve), was 4.8, which was a significant decrease from last year, which was 16.2. Hake said when expenditures are higher it "drives that metric down."

I got play dough. I don't play doe. — Chief Keef

or nongovernmental funds, the golf fund had a small decrease and the water fund experienced a moderate increase.

Council members adopted an ordinance to adopt the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code, with changes to sections 303.1 and 303.2 that were made by Senica.

Section 303.2 states that residents that have a powered pool safety cover that meets ASTM requirements can have a 4-foot fence around their pools; if not, then a 6-foot fence is required.

Council members approved a homeowner's request for the use of the driveway on Jensen Court adjacent to their property for the staging of contractor vehicles and equipment for construction of a pool on their property, subject to them receiving a permit for the pool. The homeowner as well as the contractor will sign a hold harmless agreement.

Council members approved an additional \$200 for the valuation that was done for

n arrest

made

for a

City shooting death

that occurred more

than two years ago.

was charged with

murder Tuesday,

Lamar Friend, 41,

April 25, in La Porte

has been

Michigan

the MERS multiplier.

Council members approved awarding the construction of the viewing platform at Ely Avenue to **ELD Construction LLC in** an amount not to exceed \$30,000, and that there be a cost contained in that number for a pervola that won't be built and that the platform be modified to allow for the addition of stairs. Superintendent Bobb Dabbs confirmed that ELD will be able to start the work in four weeks.

The purchase of a license plate reader for \$3,350, of which \$3,000 is the subscription for a year to Flock Software, was approved

Police chief Ryan Layman said that a month ago, there was an incident with a homeowner who had someone go up to their house on a Sunday night and that the homeowner was able to get them on camera. Layman didn't receive the email from the owner regarding the incident until Monday. On Monday morning, the same incident occurred with a different person and vehicle.

Layman said he had the

vehicle color and make but didn't have the plate. After they "threw it in their camera" that's on U.S. 12 facing eastbound at the state line, the sheriff's office got a hit, and the case was solved in an hour.

Layman said the village's license plate reading camera will be located on Grand Beach Road halfway between the arch and the tracks on the opposite side of the bike path. The spot is ideal in that it can catch cars that are coming into the village and "not just leaving." The camera is solar powered and can take about nine photos of a vehicle, which will all go into the cloud, and can link with the ones on U.S. 12. so data can be pulled out of those.

ouncil members approved a purchase with General Code of the codification of the village's ordinances in the amount of \$9,995 and an annual fee of \$1,195.

The purchase of 10 additional trees to replace the current dying pine trees along the driveway coming up to Village Hall and 10 burning bushes along Grand Beach Road at a cost of \$3,250 was approved.

Council members approved a \$1 an hour wage increase for all pro shop employees and a new hire rate of \$12 an hour.

Golf and pro shop commissioner O'Halloran said that it's getting "more and more challenging" to get people to work at the pro shop as well as to get the current ones to stay. Currently, he said employees are getting wages ranging from \$11.37 to \$13.37.

Council members approved increasing the water meter replacement cost on the water bill from \$5 to \$10 per month.

Walder said that this is due to the cost of replacing the water meters increasing.

The Social Club contract for this summer was approved as well as the use of the circle and clubhouse grounds for Family Fest July 1.

Council members approved the Social Club kids' tennis from 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays from June 24 through Aug. 5.

HIKERS TO PLAN TRIP TO COFFEE CREEK PRESERVE

he Harbor Country Hikers will walk the trails of Coffee Creek Preserve at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 6.

Coffee Creek in Chesterton offers many different environments, including a pond, wetlands, woodlands and prairie. Hikers have a choice of a paved, ADS-compliant trail of 0.4 to 0.75 miles, or a longer three-mile trail through the preserve's 157 acres.

More than 400 native plant species have been identified on the property. Coffee Creek, named for its color, the result of tannin from leaves, is one of the healthiest streams in the southern Lake Michigan watershed. It is home to salmon, trout and other fish. The preserve's trails are shared by hikers, birders, cyclists, fishermen and other nature lovers.

"Our local wildflower display doesn't end in April," said Hikers President Pat Fisher, who will lead this hike. "We'll learn which plants blossom in May and June and have an opportunity to see many of them."

Though membership is preferred, all are welcome to hike with the group. The hike is rated easy to moderately difficult, and those who attend are advised to dress for the weather and bring plenty of water. More information about the Hikers and this event, including directions to Coffee Creek Preserve, is available on the group's website, harborcountryhikers.com, and its Facebook page, Harbor Country Hikers.—STFF REPORTS

Arrest in 2021 murder

BY STAN MADDUX

Superior Court 1 for the fatal shooting of Demetrius Hall in the 100 block of Edwards Street.

Hall was outside a home when shot in the forehead, according to court records.

Friend is also charged with attempted murder for shooting a woman, who was inside of a parked car waiting for the victim to return when hit with gunfire at close range.

Authorities said she drove to a nearby gas station for help and was found lying near the pumps on E. Michigan Boulevard. dozen or more total shots were fired in both shooting, police said.

Authorities suspect the motive was drug related because of evidence gathered during the investigation that linked some of the people involved in the shootings to the sale of large quantities of marijuana.

Friend could face up to 65 years on the murder charge and as much as 40 years for attempted murder.

SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo school board approves employment of Bowen as superintendent

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

pon recommendation from New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education President Lisa Werner, members of the school board approved the employment of Adam Bowen as the district's new superintendent per his contract at their Monday, April 24, meeting.

Board members approved Bowen, who's the current elementary school principal, after a second interview Thursday, April 20 (see page 7).

Werner said the process of interviewing the four candidates was "great" and that she learned a lot about what others believe to be the priorities of the district, which was "really helpful."

"We're excited to have you in that position," she said to Bowen.

Board members also approved the employment of Patricia Newton to the position of high school math teacher, effective the 2023-2024 school year. Newton stepped down from the position in 2018, when she became member of the school board.

Bowen and Suzanne Cramer, library/media specialist at the elementary school, presented on implementing a Makerspace/STEM program in the school's media center.

They reached out to the technology department at Berrien RESA, which led to them doing a site visit at schools in Troy, Michigan, and they also visited one in South Haven.

Cramer said Troy schools use the Harvard-developed Agency by Design curriculum, while the other schools used the four Cs: creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration.

The Makerspace program involves children learning a design process

Board members

also approved the

employment of

Patricia Newton to

the position of high

school math teacher,

effective the 2023-

2024 school year.

Newton stepped down

from the position

in 2016, when she

became member of

the school board.

and then applying that process by experimentation. Children are told to "tinker with it" when they're stuck instead of being told exactly what to do or being given step by step process.

Not all Makerspaces have to be technology spaces. Students can be "bringing their ideas and using technology but it doesn't have

to end up with a computer in their hands," Cramer said. The space can also involve lots of collaboration with music, movement and art.

Cramer said she'd like to keep the Makerspace separate from the library, as students still need to check out books and know basic library skills.

The media center is short on storage. Students will need space to store their Makerspace items, as most won't be completed within the 30 minute time frame. The current round tables also make it hard for students to walk around and collaborate with each other.

Cramer said the school would teach the four Cs, design and process, and problem solving – which she said is your "foundation, your bedrock."

"As they move up into middle school, they have the smart lab and that takes their learning to a whole different direction, but also they still use collaboration, creation, the four Cs, they still use problem solving - so they still apply a lot of the same concepts," she said.

Once students get to high school, they learn about engineering in the STEAM building.

Board members adopted the Berrien Career and Technical Education consortium contract for the 2023-2024 school year, remaining in effect until the conclusion of the 2043 school year.

Board members authorized Bowen to submit a Pokagon Fund Grant application requesting \$2,083.33 to restock the book vending machines.

The resignation of Kathleen Galvin, instructional paraprofessional at the elementary school, effective June 13, 2023, was accepted.

oard members approved adding vocal music, dance and drama to the middle/high school course list and Math Essentials at the high school level.

Lindley said that Pano Arvnitis, director of finance, and Devinnie Wysocki, administrative assistant to the superintendent, wrote a grant through the Berrien Technical Center and got a new trailer for the Building and Trades class.

The attainable housing group continues to meet. A grant opportunity

has recently been identified, which could provide funding up to \$75,000 per unit developed. Lindley said they have surveyors out and topographical and geographical surveys will be done within the next few weeks that will allow the district to close on the Komarnicki property as well as identify how much land the district has to develop. The district is also in conversations with Chikming Open Lands about them taking over stewardship of the portion of the property that isn't going to be developed.

This Friday is Sgt. Michel Troup's last day as SRO for the elementary school, as he will be moving into emergency management. Deputy Rich Edgerly will be assuming the position.

Lindley said that he and two other staff members will be putting together a safety grant, which has up to \$75 million available nationally, and the focus will be on upgrading the surveillance cameras and keyless entry.

Board members reviewed board policies at the 300 level.

Board trustee Vanessa Thun, who was appointed Berrien RESA representative, will be voting on behalf of the district on the BRESA Board seat in June. Lindley said that Thun's first vote would be based upon the school board's selected representatives for the BRESA Board and if there's tie, then Thun has the discretion to change her vote if she so chooses.

Lindley said he knows of at least three people running for three open seats on the board.

Bowen chosen as next superintendent of New Buffalo Area Schools

he New Buffalo
Area Schools Board
of Education has
decided to move
into contract
negotiations with Adam
Bowen to become its next
superintendent of Schools
Thursday, April 20.

The process concluded after gathering input from the staff and public via focus groups and an online survey, holding multiple rounds of interviews, visitations to the school district by the candidates and holding an open house for the community members and staff to meet the final two candidates.

The two finalists were Bowen and David Campbell, consultant with Public Policy Associates.

Other candidates included Tracy Ripley, principal at New Buffalo High School and Dr. Natacia Campbell Tominov, assistant superintendent from Joliet, Illinois.

Bowen has served as the elementary principal since 2017. Previously, he served New Buffalo Area Schools as the Title I Coordinator for two years and taught elementary school for nine years. He also taught in South Bend for a year.

It is anticipated Bowen will begin his duties July 1.

When asked by board trustee Denise Churchill how he plans to "cultivate his commitment" to the vision that he laid out in his first 90 days as superintendent, Bowen said he'd push the vision statement "Every Student, Every Day."

It would be a requirement for the statement to be posted throughout the district, as well as in communications with stakeholders. Implementing this would also require feedback, Bowen said, as getting everyone onboard would be part of the strategic planning process.

"Just saying it every day
- when we get off track, it's
getting people on track and
saying 'Look, here's our vision,
here's our mission, if it's every
student every day, is that what
we're doing?' So, it's coming
back and bringing it back
there," he said.

In five years, Bowen said he envisions the district being "high performing" under his leadership.

"People are going to come to us and see our K-12 STEAM curriculum, we're going to be leading in that, we're going to have state of the art technology with every classroom equipped with interactive boards, we're going to be leaders in safety and we're going to really invest in safety measurements for our students, – we're going to meet the needs of our kids with mental health," he said.

Bowen added that his goal will always be for the district to be towards the "top three in the county" in terms of its BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

academic performance.

"There's no reason not to.... We have small class sizes, we have the resources for us to score high in the county," he said.

Bowen added that he'd also like to see New Buffalo Middle School achieve a National Blue Ribbon in five years. New



Adam Bowen presents to the board April 20

Buffalo High School received a Blue Ribbon in 2019 and New Buffalo Elementary School achieved it in 2020.

He said his work at the elementary school has shown his "professional ethics along with my integrity and trust."

"Every student every day has been the vision in which the elementary school has reached the National Blue Ribbon status because of the focus on the individual children and the growth in meeting the needs of all learners," he said.

Bowen also said he's "approachable with an opendoor policy" and attends many school functions, during which others can also speak to him as needed.

He has a huge investment with the district, as he attended it himself from kindergarten through 12th grades. Next year he'll have a child in every building.

His success at the elementary school with "curriculum instruction and assessment to improve student learning" has been done collaboratively over the years, with the "relationships of students and staff members to meet the needs of our students."

owen added that he has high expectations for himself and would "never ask anyone to do anything that I wouldn't do."

"The past few years been challenging - we have risen above the challenge to revive high quality education, received outstanding results and worked together as a team to accomplish these goals," he said.

"I'll do whatever I can in my power to make the best learning experience for each school in the district."

Board president Lisa Werner said she feels Bowen is someone who's "easily approachable."

"I feel when he talks, he listens to all of us," she said, adding that, during the open house, she saw Bowen stop what he was doing to listen to and actively engage with someone – "to understand, not to just respond."

"I feel the integrity is a really important thing – 'Do what you say, say what you mean,' a clear message to everybody that you interact withand I feel that from him and feel that's a really important quality in who we have as superintendent," she said.

Board trustee Paul Keller concurred with Werner and said that watching Bowen at the open house was like walking with the "mayor of New Buffalo – he knew everybody, and everybody knew him."

"He was very approachable, he asked questions of people he came across, he was (like Werner said) engaged with those conversations, he earnestly wanted to know what people were thinking and he wanted to know good or bad of what people were thinking about his appointment...I think he was open to those conversations," he said.

School track record shattered

BY STAN MADDUX

New Buffalo High School student is following in his father's footsteps by breaking a school record in track.

Jack Lantz cleared the stick at 11'6" in pole vaulting during a conference meet at home Tuesday, April 25.

He shattered by 14 inches the previous mark set by Creo Brewster, who graduated in 2017.

"Very impressive on his part," said New Buffalo High School Track and Field Head Coach Nate Jones.

Lantz, whose previous high was just one inch below the previous record, said he knew he would break it sometime this year but was shocked by how much.

He didn't think he would clear the stick at 10 feet since he was still trying to adapt to a slightly longer pole he switched to recently.

"I'm completely surprised," he said.

Before his record setting effort, Lantz said his father, Josh, gave him a few pointers from the bleachers about his mid-air form to help him clear the stick.

"That just kind of made it click for me," he said.

Mr. Lantz was a record setting pole vaulter at Wawasee High School in Syracuse, Indiana.

His high mark was 12'3."

Lantz hopes to gradually narrow the distance gap between him and his father.

He might have a chance considering he just started pole vaulting as a sophomore.

"I'm trying to catch up to him," he said.

Jones said Lantz also excels in other track and field positions.

For example, he won the 300 meter and 100 meter hurdles last week in another conference meet.

Lantz is also a member of the four man one mile relay team, which Jones feels has a chance to make it to the state finals.

"We can put him almost anywhere and he's going to be successful," he said.



SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

n January 8th, the Vikings beat the Bears and the Texans beat the Colts giving the Bears the worst record in the league and the number 1 pick in the college draft.

Since then, the draft has been analyzed a million different ways by a million different "experts", each coming to a different conclusion. On March 10th, Bears General Manager Ryan Poles surprised everyone by trading their pick to the Carolina Panthers for the number 9 pick and this years second round pick, next years first round pick, the 2025 second round pick and all pro wide receiver DJ Moore. Most experts agreed that the Bears got a massive haul for their pick.

Thursday, the actual draft begins, and by the time Sunday rolls around, everyone will know just what the Bears will look like next season. As a lifelong Bears fan, I can hardly wait. Most of the experts believe that the Bears are going to draft an offensive tackle, and goodness knows they need help on the offensive line.

If they don't draft a tackle, many feel they will trade down a second time to accumulate more draft choices. A few think they may draft Jalen Carter, the talented but troubled defensive lineman, if he is still available. All of these scenarios are plausible and they may indeed happen, but I think the Bears have a couple of more tricks up their sleeves.

There are two players that could help the Bears a great deal. I'm aware that running backs have lost their luster as draft choices. I am a big fan of the current Bears who are slated to be the running back this season.

Nevertheless, there is a terrific running back who

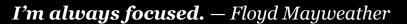
blocks, catches passes, and runs significantly better than any of the other backs leaving college this year. A three pronged running back attack could go a long way toward giving Bear quarterback Justin Fields a better chance to succeed. The other position I would like to see addressed is wide receiver.

New Bear DJ Moore is great, but Darnell Mooney is coming back from an injury and Chase Claypool still needs to prove himself, so drafting a wide receiver early isn't a bad idea. Enter Jaxon Smith-Njigba from Ohio State. Jaxon played with Bear quarterback Justin Fields at Ohio State, so they have a working knowledge of each other. Getting one of the best wide receivers in the draft would go a long way toward solidifying that position for the next few years.

If the Bears did draft a skill position player in the first round, they could draft a couple of offensive linemen and a couple of defensive linemen with their next 4 picks. Fortunately, if anything gets missed, the team still has some extra money they can spend and stay under the salary cap. It's starting to feel like it will be an exciting season. Go Bears.

Jodi Picoult said, "There were two ways to be happy: improve your reality, or lower your expectations."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.





Covert.

here were a lot

of high-ranking

finishers from New

Buffalo and River

Valley high schools

during a co-ed track and field

River Valley took first place

at the meet in New Buffalo

followed by the Bison.

competition Tuesday, April 25.

The boys' varsity team from

The team from New Buffalo

took home a second-place finish

in the girls' competition while

the Mustangs placed fourth.

The other teams in the

Conference meet were Eau

Claire, Countryside Academy,

Berrien Cass St. Joseph



Bison, Mustangs shine in track meet

BY STAN MADDUX

Our Lady of the Lake and

The first-place finishers for the boys from River Valley were Owen Slavens in the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash and 400-meter dash; Landon Rogers in the 1,600 meter and 3,200-meter run and Jaquan Pierre in the shot put.

Other boys from River Valley winning were Eli Thomas in the long jump and Braiden Brooks in the 300 meter hurdles.

The winners among the boys from New Buffalo were Elliot Bourne in the 800 meter run and Jack Lantz in the pole vault.

The first-place finishers for

the girls from New Buffalo were Sam Smith in the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash; Jane Funk in the high jump and Eva Bauer in the long jump and 300-meter hurdles.

The highest honors for the River Valley girls were second place finishes for Angelina York in the shot put and Ashlyn Sikorski in the 300 meter hurdles.

New Buffalo Track and Field Head Coach Nate Jones said his teams also turned in solid performances in the two previous early season competitions.

At Eau Claire last week, for

example, the Lady Bison tied for first place while the boys finished third.

"Our girls, we have some really good top end talent," he said.

ones feels the boys' team with a number of inexperienced, but talented members hasn't reached it potential.

"Some of our young guys are learning how to race. We have a really good junior class. That's exciting," he said.

One of his juniors, Jack Lantz, broke the school record in the

pole vault Tuesday by clearing the stick at 11'6."

Jones said other performers to watch include Nmason Smothers, a sophomore placing second in the high jump.

Smothers, who seems to have springs in his legs, cleared the stick at 5'6" in the high jump and finished second in the long jump.

Jones said Smothers is also probably the team's best sprinter.

"He's grown a couple of inches in the last year. Especially for boys, as they physically mature, it helps them," he said.





Julie Lindsay with Joe and Jane Lindsay and Emma Brewster



Frank Magro, Teresa Peterson Linda Magro and Michelle Heit



Gloria Thomas and Heather Whitlow dish out the food

Guests enjoy hearty meal, live entertainment during hog roast

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

uests enjoyed a hearty meal to raise money for an annual hometown event during the Flag Day Pig Roast, which took place at the **Three Oaks American Legion Post** 204 Saturday, April 22.

In addition to enjoying a warm meal, guests could also bid on a variety of auction items from local businesses as well as on four dinner tickets with beverage pairings at Granor Farm during a live auction and enjoy live entertainment by Buddy Pearson. They could also meet local royalty, as members of the 2023 Three Oaks/River Valley royal court, as well as the 2023 Flag Day Prince and Princess, Braiden Boersma and Lexie Jaspering, could be seen greeting guests and helping behind the scenes.

Proceeds from the event went toward the 71st annual Flag Day Parade, which will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 11.



Mr. and Miss Three **Oaks and River Valley Gabriel Puff and Elizabeth Lumley greet** guests



Braiden Boersma and Lexie Jaspering pose with the parade's grand marshal, sheriff Paul Bailey



Janet Davies emcees the live auction



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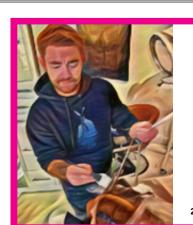
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Chamber unveils its 2023 area guide

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

than a road map for all that there is to see and do in this bustling corner of southwest Michigan.
"Ultimately, the guide is our member directory - all 400 plus of you are so special and make that guide really what it is and also your support of advertising, which is wonderful," Kimberlee Wendt, executive director of the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce, said at the 2023 guide's unveiling at Ghost Isle Brewery in New Buffalo Thursday, April 20.

he Harbor Country Guide is more

As in previous years, the 2023 guide was produced by the chamber.

"From the strength of our group, we're able to produce this award-winning publication," Wendt said.

In addition to the production of another successful guide, members of the chamber were also celebrating the fourth anniversary of one of their own members: Ghost Isle Brewery, the host of that evening's gathering.

Elizabeth Sima, who, with her husband, Jim, and sons, Bob and Bret, owns Ghost Isle, said she and her husband have been coming up to the area since before it earned its now official title of Harbor Country.

Recently, they celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary of living here.

"Having a business in Harbor Country and raising your children here is one of the greatest gifts our family could receive," she said.

Elizabeth thanked Ghost Isle's employees, whose dedication helped carry them through its first four years in operation.

She added that 90% of employees return every year, which is "huge" in the restaurant industry.

Elizabeth also attributes the annual guide for helping Ghost Isle get to where it is today.

"For so many years, this tourist guide has not only highlighted our business but is also a symbol of all the hard work we put in to get here... This year, 2023, will be one for the books, with only good things on the horizon for all of us," she said.

Amid running all of their businesses, members of the chamber should also take the time to indulge in the area's attractions and "not just let everybody else enjoy it," Elizabeth said. She added that one of the greatest things she hears from employees is when they took the kayak out the other day or "took the kids in the wagon on the beach."

"May you all take the time to be Harbor Country tourists yourselves and partake of these jewels that surround you everyday - we get busy, we get lost in our days working, do it," she said.

With the words "Coast in" emblazoned in an off white script in its lower right corner of it, this year's guide cover features an aerial view of the wide blue waters of Lake Michigan and the leafy greenery that hugs its coastline.

he photo is courtesy of Erin
Watson, whose work has been
published in USA Today, the
Chicago Tribune, Crain's Chicago,
book covers, travel guides, and
various other online and print works, of
Erin Watson Photography. She also has
participated in art shows and has her work
displayed in multiple art galleries.

Watson is an FAA drone pilot and professional photographer, and serves as a board member of the New Buffalo Fine Arts Council.

Wendt thanked "many dedicated and talented people" who helped produce this year's guide: Robin Garoutte, former office manager; Patty Knicker, the chamber's new executive assistant, who helped with some of its distribution; Emily Hojara, digital marketing manager; Jen Thompson and Jessica Nance, who served as editors; Colleen Neubauer, event coordinator; Tim Rogers of Fusion Design Ltd., who served as the graphic designer and did the layout, along with Shelby Sexton, the contributing designer; David Knight, photographer; Holly Schulman, the writer.



David Konopacki, and Tracy and Celeste Hildebrandt



Brian Wilson and Becky Gushan at Ghost Isle



The Osos perform at the reveal party



Chamber members enjoy dining at Ghost Isle



Erin Watson, Tim Rogers and Kimberlee Wendt welcome the 2023 chamber guide



Patty Knicker, Elizabeth Sima and Kimberlee Wendt

First police department social worker fitting right in

BY STAN MADDUX

he La Porte Police
Department has its first
ever social worker to try
and get a better handle
on drug abuse and other
mental health issues that cause law
enforcement to get involved.

It's the type of work Caitlyn Kalisik has wanted to do since childhood, when reaching out to others seemed to come naturally.

Her first day on the job April 17 included responding to a drug overdose for lending moral support and connecting family members with any extended services that might be needed or wanted to address their difficulties.

Kalisik was chosen from nearly 20 applicants.

"I was very excited. I'm still super excited. I think I'll be very excited for some time." she said.

The position was created to help more people by filling cracks in the system.

After responding to a call, officers often don't have the time or training to get people to calmly open up and connect them with a mental health professional most suitable for their circumstances, said La Porte Police Chief Paul Brettin.

"This person will get them the resources they need," he said.

Kalisik, 26, grew up in Wisconsin and then spent four years as a U.S. Marine.

She often stepped in to be a friend to classmates needing advice or a shoulder to cry on and source of emotional support to military colleagues having trouble dealing with a traumatic experience.

Kalisik said her dream has always been to become a therapist but she wasn't trying out for the role.

Her actions just came naturally.

"I was doing a lot of social work without knowing that I was doing any

social work," she said.

After released from the military, she landed in Northwest Indiana and enrolled at Purdue University Northwest.

Her internships included actual social work duties ranging from helping people fill out applications for protective orders to assisting substance abusers in their recoveries through the courts.

After graduating, Kalisik said she was employed as a family case manager with the Indiana Department of Child Services.

She later became a case specialist for Family Recovery Court through La Porte Circuit Court and is currently working on her master's degree.

Kalisik and her 3-year-old daughter now live in Michigan City, where she bought a home last year.

For now, she said her primary goals at the department are reducing substance abuse and the number of repeat offenders.

alisik said she's ready to change her course, though, if other more pressing behavioral needs begin emerging over time.

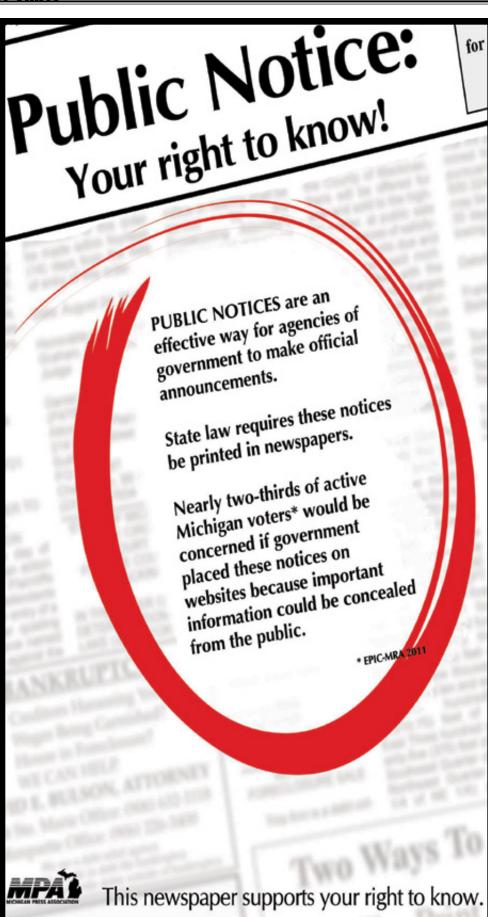
"It's really just going to be what the needs of the community are. I, personally, am willing to do as much as I can," she said.

Kalisik is also making herself available to help police officers struggling with something traumatic encountered while on duty.

She's already made it known that seeking help is nothing to be ashamed of and for them not to have second thoughts about seeing her.

Kalisik, said she's not ruling out becoming a therapist one day but that's not where her focus is right now.

"I would say beside a therapist being my dream job, this is my second dream job," she said.



PUBLIC NOTICES



BOARD OPENINGS

The City of New Buffalo has openings on various city boards. If you are interested in serving, please contact the City Clerk's Office afidler@cityofnewbuffalo. org or visit the city's website at cityofnewbuffalo.org for more information on board openings.

To find applications please visit: www.cityofnewbuffalo. org/documents/board-and-commissions-application/

Please submit applications no later than Friday, May 5, 2023.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis for all boards and commissions and are kept on file for a period of one year; applicants must not be in default to the city.



CITY OF NEW BUFFALO

This notice is hereby being given to the City of New Buffalo of the Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. The following will be presented: A brief and concise budget summary, showing the estimated receipts and expenditures of each fund and the total for all funds;

Truth- In-Taxation hearing and millage rate request for 2023-2024; and Recommended budget amendments for the 2022-2023 budget; and The hearings will be held at 6:30 PM on May 15, 2023 in the City Council Chambers during the regular City Council meeting.

The Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget will be available to the public for review at City Hall, 224 W. Buffalo Street, and online at cityofnewbuffalo.org May 1, 2023.

AMY FIDLER, CITY CLERK



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AT THE REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING

In accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, MCL 15.261, et. seq., the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the regular meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 5:00 PM*.

The purpose of this meeting is for variance requests by the owners listed below:

Peter Bernal, owner of 446 E. Buffalo Street, New Buffalo, MI 49117. The applicant requests variances for the following: required minimum lot width from 100 feet to 60 feet; side setback from 40 feet to 10 feet.

Zoning District: GCD (General Commercial District) Said property is located at 446 E. Buffalo Street, New Buffalo, MI 49117. Property Tax Code is 11-62-1150-0013-00-0.

The city's Zoning Ordinance is available online at cityofnewbuffalo.org and City Hall.

Written Comments concerning this request will be received at the City Clerk's Office. (See address below).

Per the Americans with
Disabilities Act, individuals
with disabilities requiring
auxiliary aids should contact
the city in writing or by calling
the following:
City Clerk's Office
224 W. Buffalo Street
New Buffalo, MI 49117
(269) 469-1500
afidler@cityofnewbuffalo.org

AMY FIDLER CITY CLERK

*This is an in-person meeting only with no virtual participation available. The public is welcome to attend the meeting in the City Council chambers located at 224 W. Buffalo Street, New Buffalo, MI 49117

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-106 was adopted on the 19th day of April, 2023,

entitled "An ordinance to adopt the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code by reference".

A full copy of Ordinance Number 2023-106 is on file at the Clerk's Office, Village of Grand Beach, 48200 Perkins Blvd., Grand Beach, Michigan 49117 and available online at grandbeach.org.

This Ordinance shall become effective May 8, 2023.

MARY J. ROBERTSON CLERK-TREASURER

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-107 was adopted on the 10th day of April, 2023. entitled "An ordinance to amend ordinance 52. an ordinance establishing minimum property safety and sanitary standards, declaring that premises must be free of litter, noxious weeds, and dangerous or hazardous conditions, and amending such ordinance to include the International Property Maintenance Code, compliance with the zoning ordinance for swimming pools, and amending the penalties to declare a violation a civil infraction".

A full copy of Ordinance Number 2023-107 is on file at the Clerk's Office, Village of Grand Beach, 48200 Perkins Blvd., Grand Beach, Michigan 49117 and available online at grandbeach.org.

This Ordinance shall become effective May 8, 2023.

MARY J. ROBERTSON CLERK-TREASURER

OBITUARIES



Amalie Klimes

malie Klimes (Pitrova),

age 100, of New Buffalo,

Michigan passed away on Sunday, April 16, 2023. She was born on March 25, 1923, in Rohozna, Czech Republic, to Frantisek and Marie Pitra (Hejhalova) and immigrated to America in 1945 where she resided in Chicago. On October 17, 1956, she married Jan Klimes and they spent 55 years together until his passing in

Amalie is survived by her nephew, Jiri Charvat, of Rohozna, Czech Republic; grandniece, Jane Manzke, of Westmont, Illinois; grandnephew, Robert Golias, of Westmont, Illinois; and countless friends and neighbors who will remember her as "Amy" and recall her always with her beloved, Pepik, enjoying her garden.

October of 2011.

A memorial mass will take place on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 11:00 am at St. Mary's of the Lake Catholic Church (718 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, MI 49117). A luncheon will follow mass at the church. For a more lasting memory, donations in Amalie's name may be made to the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan (5400 Niles Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085) or to an animal shelter of your choice. Feel free to share a memory with family and friends on the online guestbook at www.starksfamilyfh. com. Arrangements entrusted to the Sommerfeld Chapel, 15 North Barton St. New Buffalo, MI 49117.

HOROSCOPE

APRIL 27-MAY 3, 2023

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19



It is important that you follow your feelings. You tend to overlook your psychic abilities. This week your intuition will be on target when it

comes to evaluating prospective partners and financial opportunities. That much needed career change is just within reach. Do not hesitate.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20



Your emotions and passions will be intensified this week which may cause your green-eyed monster to come out of his cave

and disrupt your partnerships. In depth conversations may be required to get your jealousy under control. Be gentle with yourself and be completely honest...

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21



Issues with authority or your father could come up this week in a big way. You may find yourself thinking and planning in a

style reminiscent of your father or on a deeper psychological level. The "father" will be an inner voice telling you what you should and shouldn't do. Father knows best.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22



An above average amount of frustration is coming your way this week. Understand that this is stemming from an inability to investigate

fully, fascinating intrigues. This is not the week for complete understanding. Your quest for knowledge will continue. Some things must remain a mystery.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22



Despite your need for serious love affairs your desire to do the right thing will have a sobering effect on your passions. Therefore, you

may experience an extended hiatus from relationships this spring. Take this time to invest in yourself. Radiating at optimum levels attracts the optimum mate.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22



There will be many changes this week in your career area, which may lead to changes in the direction of your life. You can feel there are

things that are in need of reorganizing and you are now ready to face these changes. Do whatever it takes to keep things on track. Your stamina is amazing.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22



Positive attitudes and enthusiastic energy are flowing into your perception which will help you to take things at face value and not

get caught up in intrigues and gossip. The encouragement that you will be giving to others will be very needed and appreciated. You have much influence over others.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21



You are in the middle of a three-month Saturn influence. This influence has the tendency to create negative feelings which may cause you

to be uncharacteristically depressed and dispirited. This is actually having a positive effect on your long-term goals and dreams. Call it Divine Discontentment.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21



This is an excellent week to become aware of and overcome negative habits and patterns. Coming to terms with how certain situations

and people are not serving your spirit will be a huge step forward in your life progress. This is not an easy week but it will have many positive future affects.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19



Your outlook may turn rather serious and stern this week, which may cause you to have a rather grim determination to accomplish tasks.

It is important you consciously control this energy and utilize this to finalize long standing obligations. Things will lighten up when you address old issues.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Emotions you have for another may fluctuate and you may come off as moody and changeable. You are not one-hundred

percent sure of your own feelings anymore. Something has changed and you are unable to get things back to the way they were. It may be time to move on.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

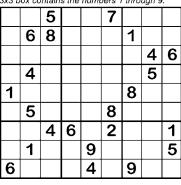


Your elusive emotional qualities will be countered with common sense and fiscal ability. This practical approach to love and financial

matters will help you to get some of those long-standing problems in a close intimate relationship under control. You are able to stick to your resolutions now.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.



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48 Mountain

51 Event

55 A (Ger.)

56 Andes grass

57 River into the

58 Television

59 Six (Sp.)

61 Vanity

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summit (Ital.)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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29 Fat (pref.)

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lizard

31 Single lens

Columbus

28 City in Judah

- clergyman 49 Chin. dynasty 50 Year (Lat.)
- 51 Possessive pronoun 52 Card
- 53 Greek letter
- 54 Precious stone



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Deadline set for property owners to decide annexation

BY STAN MADDUX

now or never May 31 deadline has been set for property owners in the 39 North Conservancy District to decide whether they want to be annexed into La Porte.

Mayor Tom Dermody said the deadline was ished because he wants to focus on other projects after

Mayor Tom Dermody said the deadline was established because he wants to focus on other projects after three years of discussing with district property owners what the city brings to the table.

He said the city has the funding to immediately begin an over \$10 million upgrade to the conservancy district's water system to provide adequate fire protection and allow for future growth.

Currently, the district is debt free but doesn't have the money to pay for improvements.

If a majority of property owners fail to sign a petition in support of annexation by the end of next month, Dermody said "we will walk away. We will not come back to the table. We'll focus on other projects we want to do and let 39 North figure out how they're going to pay for these necessary improvements."

Dermody praised the district's success at drawing considerable development over the past 20 years since putting in water and sewer lines.

The utilities serve an area beside Indiana 39 from just north of the city limits to the Indiana Toll Road.

However, Dermody said the district has not solved the problem of demand several years ago exceeding the system's ability to provide adequate fire protection and serve additional customers.

"Unfortunately, this problem has been ignored for far too long, making urgent action necessary," he said.

He pointed to a recent Nies Engineering study revealing the flow of water for fighting a fire in the district is limited to one hydrant and the system cannot provide the supply rate needed for a large industrial fire.

"The results from this study have proven what we at the city already knew to be true. The district's industrial fire protection needs have far exceeded the system's capabilities," said La Porte Water Department Superintendent Tim Werner.

39 North Conservancy District Attorney Shaw Friedman said the deadline might be another scare tactic aimed at reversing what he suggested is declining support within the district for annexation.

He said the city has repeatedly made property owners in the district feel unsafe about their fire protection, but more residents might be starting to learn the water system is not used for fire protection.

hat service has always been provided by the Center Township Volunteer Fire Department, which brings water in from other sources on tanker trucks.

Water to the district is supplied by the city under an agreement set to expire in June of 2025.

Dermody said the customers will have to find another water provider without annexation.

"We'll continue to honor the contract but at the end of the contract we'll be done," he said.

Under state law, though, Friedman said municipal providers cannot immediately turn off the spigot if contracts are allowed to expire.

Friedman said there's a two year "cooling off" period where both sides are ordered into arbitration to try and hash out their differences.

"Alarmist statements does nothing to aid calm, deliberate debate on an issue of public importance," Friedman said.

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DEATH NOTICES:

THREE OAKS – Nancy C. Francis, 88, of Three Oaks, died Sunday, April 23, 2023. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.



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COME CHECK OUT OUR SHOWROOM!

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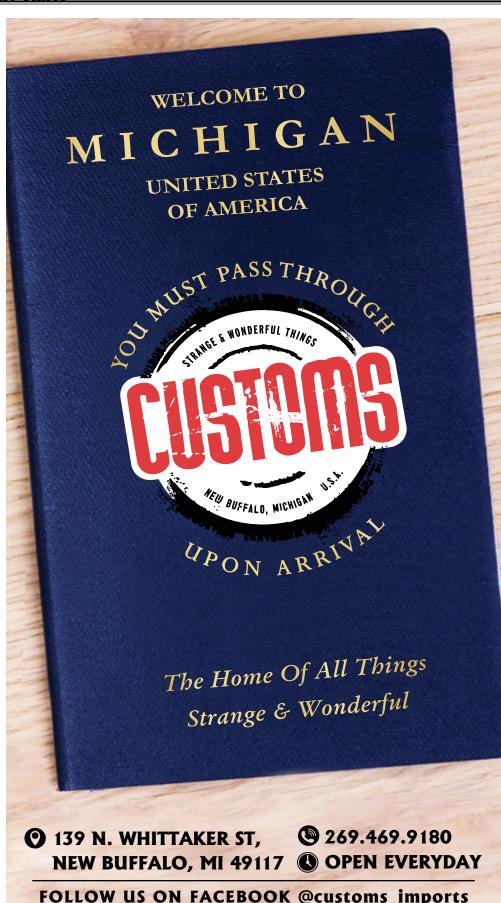
CALVARYCHAPELNB.ORG

We are a non-denominational church teaching through the bible line by line - come and see!

Sunday service 1015 ET

Thursday bible study 7pm ET

Saturday men's bible study 915 ET in person and zoom Saturday women's bible study 1030 ET on zoom

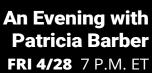




Art Attack Launch Party!

A Celebration of Women Artists

THU 4/27 7 P.M. ET





The Music of Pat Benatar

featuring Natalie Gaza, Nikki Gauthier, Meredith George, Abbie Thomas & Kyla Webb SAT 4/29 $\,$ 8 P.M. ET

Immersive Dance, Art and Music Fusion SUN 4/30 4 P.M. ET





NEW! Summer Camp at The Acorn!

The Acorn Dramatic Arts Camp (TADA)

June 19 - July 13 | Ages 8-18 acornlive.org/TADA



Find more events at acornlive.org







Open 6 days davidsdeliandcoffee.com

30 N Whittaker St Bar by night



Open Thursday-Monday thefalsefrontbar.com



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