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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

\$2⁰⁰



Columbia Central Upper Elementary School stands empty for the second day in a row Tuesday Morning after hackers broke into the JCISD computer system. PHOTO BY MATT SCHEPELER

Battle brewing

Residents prepare to fight proposed U.S. 12 gravel pit



PHOTOS BY MATT SCHEPELER

Wendy Holmes makes a point during a meeting held by *Protect the Irish Hills – No Gravel Pit* last week. Another meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at The Winery North of U.S. 12. The winery is located at 12775 Knapp Road.



lakes, the water, for our grandchildren," she said.

"Our ultimate goal is to protect the lakes in the Irish Hills."

With the planning commission hearing looming, one of the first things the group hopes to accomplish is to slow the process down. Nearhood passed around a petition requesting the planning commission adjourn and delay the public hearing until further notice. She noted that other municipalities such as Norvell Township are dealing with similar proposals, and have slowed the process so all the extenuating circumstances involved with mining could be factored into making an informed decision.

Nearhood said that this proposed gravel pit not only affects property owners on Allen, Kelley and Meadow lakes, but every lake and wetland up and down the entire chain. It was also pointed out that SSP Leasing

See *Irish Hills gravel pit* page 2

Ransomware attack closes local schools

By John Hummer
Editor

All public-school districts in Jackson and Hillsdale counties were closed Monday and Tuesday as a result of a ransomware attack affecting schools in the Jackson County Intermediate School District service area as well as in the Hillsdale County ISD. Over the weekend, Jackson County ISD technology staff detected suspicious activity they determined to be caused by a ransomware incident.

In the most recent update letter posted Monday evening on the Jackson County ISD website, JCISD Superintendent Kevin Oxley said, "Our technology consortium is currently experiencing a systems outage affecting critical operating systems in the district." In a post earlier Monday, Oxley noted that the

"Whatever is going on, they're taking it super serious."

Jim Graham
Napoleon Community Schools
Superintendent

systems outage included, but was not limited to heating, telephones, and classroom technology.

"Immediately upon discovering this activity, we proactively took systems offline in order to contain the incident," Oxley stated. The JCISD engaged external cyber security advisors to investigate and assist in the safe restoration of the district's systems. They also notified law enforcement. The Michigan State Police Cyber Crimes Unit was brought in to conduct an investigation into the incident.

"Whatever is going on, they're taking it super serious," said Napoleon Community Schools Superintendent Jim Graham on Monday.

Oxley noted in his Monday evening update that the JCISD had teams on site that would be working throughout the night to bring systems back online in a safe and secure manner. "While we continue to make progress, this process may continue to take some time," he stated in the letter. "Therefore, the superintendents from Jackson and Hillsdale counties have determined schools will remain closed for tomorrow, Tuesday, November 15, 2022."

Oxley asked everyone to refrain from using any school-issued devices. He noted that the ISD's technical teams would be providing updates

See *Cyber attack* page 2

Story, photos
By Matt Schepeler

A field adjacent to Killarney Highway in Cambridge Township holds what appears to be a mountain of gravel and sand, which the property owner wants to mine.

The hilly property lies amidst the chain of lakes that runs through the heart of the Irish Hills, and specifically is located between Allen, Kelley and Meadow lakes. Formerly known as "The Brighton Farm," the new owners, SSP Leasing, have requested a conditional use permit that would allow gravel mining and, eventually, a housing development to be established on 50 acres adjacent to Killarney Hwy. off of U.S. 12.

Company officials have not returned phone calls to the Exponent to discuss their proposal.

The Cambridge Township Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing for the proposal November 30. The Planning Commission, a recommending body only, will provide the township board with either a yeah, nay, or perhaps a suggested compromise for SSP Leasing's request. The final decision lies with the township board.

The idea of an ambitious mining operation being located between three Irish Hills' lakes has, for lack of a better word, grveled neighbors and area residents. About 70 of those residents gathered November 9 at The Winery North of 12 on Knapp Road to discuss how to fight the proposal.

"This is really important," said Cathy Nearhood, who is part of a group calling itself *Protect the Irish Hills – No Gravel Pit*, which organized the meeting. "We want to protect and maintain our wetlands, our



Above is the intersection of U.S. 12 looking northwest from Killarney Road. Trucks hauling product onto U.S. 12 would have limited sight distance when accessing the highway, particularly from the east.

Residents prepare



Cathy Nearhood speaks to residents about requesting the Cambridge Township Planning Commission to delay any decision regarding a conditional use permit request so more information can be gathered.

Irish Hills gravel pit . . . from page 1

owns a large tract of property north of U.S. 12, and that adjacent neighbors from Vineyard, Stoney and Wampers lakes are concerned about the possibility of those lands being mined as well.

The meeting only lasted about an hour, but Nearhood and her committee members brought up several concerns and formulated a plan of action.

One large issue with the proposal is how the gravel pit would be accessed. The property in question fronts U.S. 12 and Killarney Hwy. Killarney Hwy. is a Natural Beauty Road, so the company's gravel haulers would not be able to access the site from that road. The problem with accessing the property from U.S. 12 is that it has a limited sight distance. The land is located off a hilly, curvy portion of U.S. 12, and double-bottomed semi tractor trailers would not easily be able to access the busy highway.

Perhaps more importantly, *Protect the Irish Hills – No Gravel Pit* also has questions as to how the operation would affect the lakes. A visit to the

site shows that the property in question drains into the surrounding water basin, and how the leeching of sand and chemicals from the mining operation would affect the lakes is a question residents feel should be answered before any decision to move forward is made.

Protect the Irish Hills – No Gravel Pit officials are planning an extensive social media campaign against the proposal, and will be eventually making signs speaking against the proposal. "We want the township to know we are against this," said Nearhood.

Another concern the group has is pending legislation at the state level that could take the decision to allow or disallow gravel pits out of local officials' hands and put the authorization powers solely in the hands of state officials.

Wendy Holmes, who is also involved with the committee, said that legislation "basically affects the local jurisdiction over local mining operations.

"In a nutshell, it will allow the state to control the future of mining in Michigan," said Holmes. The Exponent will explore that issue more in-

depth in a future edition.

Tom Kissell, Chairperson of the Cambridge Township Planning Commission, said that the commission has drafted a list of questions for SSP Leasing.

"I have requested the questions have answers for the hearing. I have requested as information becomes available to submit it prior to the hearing," said Kissell in an email.

Protect the Irish Hills – No Gravel Pit officials are also considering seeking legal counsel.

Nearhood has three questions she would like answered before this is moved forward:

"Our biggest question, what does this bring to Cambridge Township?"

"How does this better our community?"

"How does a gravel pit fit into the surrounding land use?" she asked.

Protect the Irish Hills – No Gravel Pit has another meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at The Winery North of U.S. 12. The winery is located at 12775 Knapp Rd. The public is invited to attend.

Winter Craft Show in Napoleon

The Napoleon Middle School parent group is hosting a Winter Craft Show on December 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The craft show will be held in the middle school which is located at 204 W. Street in Napoleon.

Trying to stuff 20 pounds of information into a 10-pound sack...

Editor's note: There were several important action items and presentations at Monday night's Brooklyn Village Council meeting that we did not have space for this week. Watch for complete coverage of the meeting in next week's Exponent.

Kiwanis nuts are available at The Exponent and area stores. A portion of the proceeds from the nut sales goes towards the Swain Memorial Park improvements.

Cyber attack . . . from page 1

throughout Tuesday on the progress of the system's restoration.

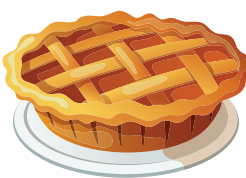
"Unfortunately, more and more school districts have become victims of ransomware attacks over the past few years, and we are no exception," he said. "Providing a high-quality learning environment for our students is our number one priority and we are doing everything in our power to get them back in their classrooms. Our investigation remains ongoing. We will provide more information as it becomes available."

The Technology Department of the JCISD helps with the technology needs of the local school districts it serves, providing the technology expertise, hardware, software, and training to help educators and students. The department accomplishes that by:

- providing internet connections for all school districts through servers located here at the JCISD
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Thanks, Irish Hills.

I love being here to help in a community where people are making a difference every day. Thank you for all you do.



The Exponent

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Jackson Christmas Parade Nov. 18

Downtown Jackson is hosting its 31st Christmas Parade on Friday, Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. The parade will feature floats, costumed characters, marching bands, and lots more. The route starts at Blackstone and Michigan Avenue and will travel east down Michigan Avenue and end at Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Following the parade children can visit Santa and Mrs. Claus at Flagstar Bank, 301 W. Michigan Ave. (corner of Blackstone and Michigan Ave.)

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Quotables

“Republicans’ 2022 Lesson: Voters Who Trust Elections Are More Likely to Vote”

Headline in *The New York Times*
After forecasts of a Mid-term ‘Red Wave’ came up far short

About Dad...

“We asked my dad why he still had a really old cologne bottle, and he said ‘I only used it four times.’ There are four kids in our family.”

“Whenever I would tell my dad that I was going to the bathroom, he would reply “Mention my name and you’ll get a good seat.”

“If my folks had company and it was getting late, dad would stand up and say ‘Well dear let’s go to bed so these people can go home.’”

“Once my dad came to my band show and didn’t take any pictures. I asked him why and he said ‘No one wants to remember that.’”

Responses from Jimmy Fallon of The Tonight Show requesting people to share quotes from and about their fathers



Fire destroyed a trailer in the 6000 block of Amberton Drive in Napoleon last Wednesday. The lone occupant residing in the trailer and a cat both made it out alive. COURTESY PHOTO

Fire destroys trailer, lone occupant and cat make it out

By John Hummer
Editor

A fire destroyed a trailer home on Amberton Drive in Napoleon’s Stetler subdivision last Wednesday, Nov. 9. The fire was called in by a neighbor that saw smoke coming from the residence.

“No one was injured in the fire, but one occupant has been displaced from the home because of the extensive damage from the fire,” stated Napoleon Township Assistant Fire Chief Jeremy Holbrook. The person was the lone human occupant of the dwelling. A cat made it safely out of the trailer as well.

The Napoleon Township Fire Department was dispatched at 12:40 p.m. to the 6000 block of Amberton Drive. “Upon arrival, there were heavy flames coming through the roof and the rear of the structure and out the

side,” said Holbrook. He noted there was a detached garage approximately eight feet from the trailer that was protected and saved by firefighters.

“I called for a second alarm, which gives us Blackman Township and Manchester Township fire departments through the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System),” Holbrook stated. “Knowing that Columbia was delayed in their response (due to a separate fire), I went ahead and called for a third alarm for a structure fire. That gives us a tanker out of Cambridge [Township], the air trailer to be able to fill our self-contained breathing apparatus out of Henrietta [Township], Liberty Township with a tanker, and Summit Township fire personnel to help fight the fire.

“It took about 30 minutes for the fire to get under control,” Holbrook said.

Fire personnel remained on the scene for three hours.

Holbrook noted that the American Red Cross was contacted to provide assistance for the displaced resident, adding that the home was insured. Consumers Energy was also called to the scene to shut off all electrical and gas utilities, and Jack Wood Excavating helped with the removal of debris to clear room for firefighters to be able to hit the hot spots

The NTFD was assisted by Blackman Township Public Safety, Cambridge, Columbia, Grass Lake, Henrietta, Liberty, Manchester, and Summit townships’ fire departments, the City of Jackson Fire Department, and Jackson Community Ambulance.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

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Columbia School District

Columbia operating millage fails, officials will try again in the spring

By John Hummer
Editor

Voters in the Columbia School District turned down the district’s operating millage proposal at last week’s election in a close vote – 2,443 people voted “yes” on the millage, while 2,614 voted “no”, a margin of only 171 votes.

District Superintendent Pam Campbell said the result of the vote will not affect the district’s operations this school year. And all is not lost for the school district beyond that. “We have an opportunity to vote in the next election – which will be May or June [2023] depending on what the [state] legislature does,” Campbell stated. “It won’t hurt us at all if we pass it the next time. One of the things is just making sure people understand how it works.”

Had the proposal passed the millage would have allowed “the school district to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance” as stated in the introduction to the proposal language.

The millage proposal called

for an increase of .9921 mills (\$0.9921 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 2 years, 2023 and 2024, to provide funds for operating purposes. The estimate of the revenue the school district would have collected if the millage had been approved and levied in 2023 is approximately \$47,781.

The millage language exempted assessments on principal residence “and other property exempted by law.” Proposal language said the millage was to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and would be levied only to the extent necessary to restore that reduction.

“Because of the effect of the increases in housing prices, we had a rollback of .07 mills last year,” she explained. Currently, the district is levying 18.0048 mills, which caps at 18 mills. “If we had a rollback of another .07 mills, it would then drop below the 18 mills. In order to get the \$9,150 in student-per-pupil allowance, we need the whole 18 mills.”

Campbell noted that the district used to put the millage on the ballot every five years, but because of the increase in hous-

ing prices. “We had to do it early this time because of the amount of the rollback. A lot of districts are in the same boat,” she noted.

“When you see [the word] ‘millage,’ I think people are like, ‘What? We don’t need another millage. We don’t need to pay for anything else.’”

She went on to explain and stressed that the millage only levies on non-homestead properties. “It doesn’t affect people that own their home in Columbia [School District].”

“I think there were people voting who really didn’t understand that it doesn’t affect them – the verbiage [of the millage proposal] was pretty confusing and maybe they were thinking it was going to raise their taxes in some way,” Campbell said. “We just need to make sure that when it’s on the ballot the next time that everybody understands what operating millage proposals are all about. We need to make sure that our homeowners know that this renewal does not apply to Michigan principal residences or qualified agricultural property as well.”

“Really, it’s all about the kids,” she concluded.

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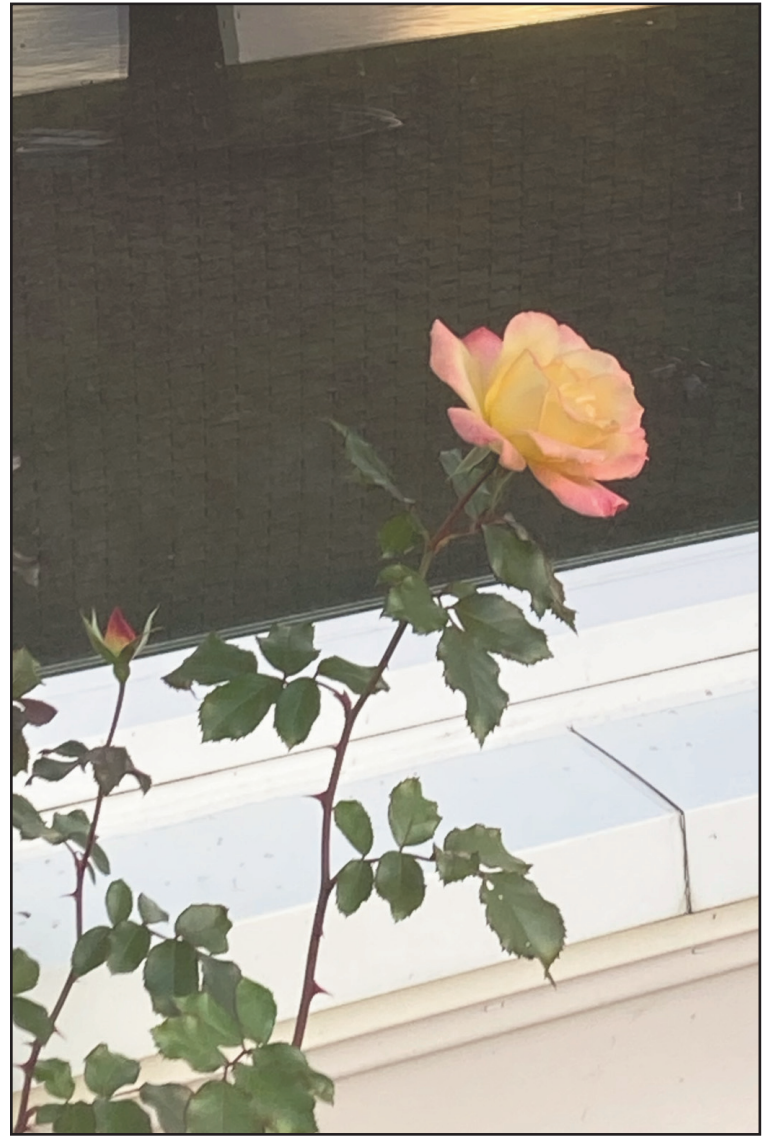
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The last rose of the season



Unseasonably warm weather tricked this rose into thinking it was spring and Sally Collins, of Vineyard Lake, caught it in a photograph sometime around November 3. True November weather has since arrived.

Letters

Support Appreciated!

Dear editor,

I want to openly thank my wife Lisa, for helping me in so many ways during this campaign. Also, a big thank you goes out to my team of friends, who spent many hours going door-to-door: Diana, Janet, Kathleen, Michelle, Shelly, Anson, Bruce, James, and Jeff. I appreciate all your hard work. And, also, to all the voters who turned out during this

mid-term election. Every vote counts!

Meeting so many of you at your front door has been the highlight of these past 7 weeks. The handshaking and talks we had were both candid and enlightening. Though I won't be able to remember every single home, I will remember some of those long driveways. I will also remember the many smiling

faces and the people who invited me into their lives and shared their thoughts, even for that short time.

Again, I thank all who allowed my presence into their daily routine and all who supported this endeavor.

Roger Downey
Columbia elected school board member

Gravel pit a threat to Irish Hills lakes

Dear editor,

What will become of the Irish Hills and the Lakes?

I am a very concerned citizen that is living on Vineyard Lake. SSP Leasing is asking for rezoning of the land on U.S. 12 and Killarney Hwy. They also own the property on U.S. 12 and Person Hwy. There are companies trying to come in and take the land.

My family has owned this land for more than 50 years. I learned how to ski at the age of 7-years-old on the lake. There are so many happy memories on the Lake. Many citizens have stories and

memories at all the lakes around Brooklyn.

Reasons why it should not go through:

1. The roads are too curvy and dangerous. It takes too long for a truck to get on the highway and there are curves. It is called dead man's curve for a reason;
 2. Silicone dust and all the illnesses;
 3. Noise pollution;
 4. Water, Lake, Wetland damages;
 5. No one will want to live or visit the Irish Hills.
- These are just a few reasons why.

Cathy Nearhood
Brooklyn

GLAHS is hosting a membership drive

The Grass Lake Area Historical Society is conducting its 2023 membership drive. For more information on how to join, contact Patricia Simpson at

517-748-1078 or email
coehousemuseum@gmail.com

Crop Hunger Walk fundraiser a success

This year's Crop Hunger Walk was held on Sunday, Oct. 9 at the Napoleon United Methodist Church.

Pledges and donations collected were \$3,840, with 25 percent coming back to the Brooklyn Food Pantry. The total number of canned goods collected was 2,865.

Springville United Methodist Church brought in the most cans with 806 to retain the trophy.

Columbia's high school leadership class retained the trophy by winning all three categories. Napoleon's leadership class collected 1711 canned goods and \$160 in donations.

Next year's Crop Walk will be

held on Oct. 8, 2023, at the Brooklyn Presbyterian Church.

On the menu at Irish Hills Eagles

The Irish Hills Eagles have the following specials planned for the upcoming week: Wednesday, Nov. 16 coney dogs, all day, for members only; Friday, Nov. 18 fresh perch dinner served from, 5 to 7 p.m., the public is welcome; Saturday, Nov. 19 they are hosting Super

Soup Cook Off, from 5 to 7 p.m., prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will be awarded, for members only; Sunday, Nov. 20, from 8 a.m. to noon an all-you-can-eat-breakfast, the public is welcome.

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A new era for Brooklyn

Meet Brooklyn's new village president



Mahr

By John Hummer
Editor

Terry Mahr will soon take the oath as Brooklyn's new village president as she defeated incumbent Estella Roberts in a tight race, with Mahr getting 280 votes while Roberts picked up 233 votes.

Mahr will be officially sworn in by the village clerk at the village offices on Nov. 21. A public oath of office ceremony will take place at the Brooklyn Village Council meeting on Monday, Dec. 12. She and the three incumbent trustees elected – Gabriella Bach, Phillip Bliven, and Bob Jenson (who all ran unopposed) will all be sworn in then.

"I want to do anything I can to make this community the best place to live in Jackson County," Mahr said.

Mahr is a native of Brooklyn, having grown up in the village and graduated from Brooklyn High School. She also attended Jackson Community College. During her high school years, at the age of 16, she began working for the Brooklyn Exponent. "I

worked there on and off through the years in every capacity there was," noting she did a wide array of reporting, even sports.

Throughout her career, Mahr also served as a district manager for a transportation company, worked for an employment placement firm, and did a stint with the City of Jackson as its downtown development director.

In addition, Mahr owned a couple of her own businesses, including an antique store she had opened in the old railroad depot in Cement City and a year-round Christmas store in Brooklyn.

"That was right before I started the Chamber of Commerce," she said. "I was the [Chamber's] first executive director." She recollected that was in the 1980s.

Mahr has also done a lot of volunteer work in the community – being a member of multiple service organizations and on the school board at one time. "I just love the community – it's my home," she says.

Mahr has two children and five grandchildren. "They keep me very busy," she said with a smile. "I'm an Uber Nana – I make sure they get to all their sporting practices and events."

When she takes the reins, Mahr says she will first meet with Brooklyn's new village manager, Matt Swartzlander. "I know that there are powers that the village manager has been given because under the organization for the village, it says, 'you can make the decision about so and so.' I want to clarify all of that with him." In her initial meeting with Swartzlander, Mahr said she will learn what is already on

the plate of the village that must be dealt with.

Then she plans to meet with the business community – each individually. Because many of Brooklyn's business owners live outside the community, Mahr says she will work to involve them in the decisions that have to be made that affect economic development. "There are a lot of decisions that the business community is interested in – at least the ones I have spoken with have felt like they weren't listened to because they don't live in the village," she stated. "The village belongs to more than just the people that live in the village – it belongs to a much broader, wider range of residents. So, I'm hoping to rejuvenate that feeling of community that we have with people that live wherever and want to help make Brooklyn something special."

Digging deeper into her business community plans, Mahr said she would like to start an economic development committee. She notes it would focus on the question, "What can we do to keep our business community thriving? I believe that if the business community is thriving, the community will thrive. We've got to work to keep that going," she says. "What we need to be aware of is 'how is the face of our community, and the downtown especially – which anchors the whole town – going to look? What do we want it to look like? That's a way to involve the business community – the people that live outside of town that own these businesses – they certainly want their business to be successful. They've got to be willing to participate – and I'm sure they will if they're asked to."

This brings up a more specific goal of Mahr's – beautifying the village. "We are going to paint the damn fire hydrants," she said sternly. "I promised my 95-year-old neighbor that – the one who sent the picture in [to the Exponent]."

Other than painting the fire hydrants, Mahr says, "There are so many small things that can be done to make a big difference."

She mentioned having flowers planted on the street side of the sidewalk. "People are willing to be a part of doing things like that. We have to just take a hard look at what all that is as far as beautification – there's just a lot of things that can be done – things that people will do themselves if you ask them to. And it's catchy – if one person does something it's like keeping up with the Joneses!"

One of Mahr's key campaign platforms was communication. "I think communication is very

important," she says. To meet with a wider cross-section of people interested in "anything Brooklyn," Mahr plans to hold quarterly town hall meetings. "It gives people the right to come and just talk about anything they want to and ask questions," she said. In addition, she says, "My door will always be open." Mahr also plans to write a monthly newsletter that will be posted on the village website.

Another thing on Mahr's early to-do list is meeting with the landlords of Brooklyn. "More than 50 percent of the residents in the village are renters," she stated. "That's what I've been told." And many of the landlords do not live in the village. "If they're encouraged to fix up their properties, I think for one thing they can raise their rent." From the renter's perspective, Mahr says, "Renters are transients – they're not always as interested in keeping up the property or making it look nice...let's help them find ways to make it possible to be able to purchase those properties." Overall on the housing front, Mahr theorizes, "I think it's possible to make us become a village again that people want to live in."

One project in the works that Mahr supports which will make Brooklyn safer for nonmotorized transportation is the Safe Routes to School project that will connect Columbia Junior-Senior High School with the elementary schools in town. At the village council meeting this week, the council approved contributing \$25,000 toward the engineering cost of the project in the fiscal year 2025. "If the community really thinks that this is something that needs to be done, then I'm okay with it," she says, noting that the school's track and cross-country teams run along the roads, which is a "real bad safety issue." She also takes heart in the fact that the project will provide a healthier option than walking along roads where exhaust from vehicles is an issue.

Of the Brooklyn/Old Irish Mill dam project, Mahr says she has some concerns, but

"I don't know enough about the process and project at this point in time. I don't have enough information." A resolution of support for the River Raisin Watershed Council to seek funding through the state's Dam Risk Reduction Grant Program to support the dam reconfiguration project, on behalf of dam owner Dan Ross, was approved at Monday's village council meeting. "I'd hate to see it lost totally because it's a physical feature that's been there for all of my life," she noted. "There are so many memories people have around that section of the property." Notwithstanding that, she says, "I'm in favor of his project there – right from the start I've been excited about that – that he has a vision that is viable. It would make a wonderful destination point for people to come to visit. There is a huge Irish community in Detroit that will travel 60 miles to come and 'do Irish.'"

So, let the Terry Mahr era as Village of President begin. Staying true to her "open door" policy, Mahr is open to receiving phone calls from anyone regarding Brooklyn's ideas and issues at 517-917-2872. She can be emailed at her village email address once she takes office.

"I want to do anything I can to make this community the best place to live in Jackson County."

Village of Brooklyn President-elect,
Terry Mahr

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JC concert band to perform a musical double feature

The Jackson Community Concert Band will perform a musical double feature "Michigan Roots and Music of the Southwest," at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20 in Harold Sheffer Music Hall, Potter Center.

This free concert features works by Michigan composers and Southwestern favorites. Selections include an original work by band member and composer Chris Evan Hass (Il Nostro Ragazzo Dolce). Two band members will perform solos with band accompaniment, including Dustin Moeckel, trombone (Variations on Barnacle Bill), and Tianna Gillis, flute (Fantasie). Guest conductors will include retired JC faculty member Ron Douglass (Danzon #2), and Napoleon School Music Director Trevor Trudeau (Variations on Barnacle Bill). And the arrangement of "Be Thou My Vision" is by another Michigan composer with Jackson roots, David Gillingham.

The 70-plus-member Jackson Community Concert Band is comprised of both college students and community members, under the leadership of director Dan Bickel.

It's YOUR Business

By Cindy Hubbell, President/CEO

Irish Hills Regional Chamber of Commerce

517-592-8907 • www.irishhills.com

The Irish Hills Regional Chamber of Commerce is holding a Chamber Cheers — Happy Hour on December 1 at the **Town's End Events**, 15951 Rome Road, Manitou Beach from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. sponsored by **ERA Reardon Realty**. To register, go to IrishHills.com or call 517-592-8907.



The **Downtown Brooklyn** businesses will be holding their Holiday Open Houses on Saturday, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kick off the holiday season by shopping locally. The **Downtown Brooklyn Holiday Parade & Activities** will be held on Friday, November 25 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The 8th annual **Nite Lites 5K Fun Run/Walk** is back and it is set to run on Saturday, November 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at **Michigan International Speedway**. For more information, go to nitelitesshow.com.

Black Dog Meadows Flower Farm is holding a centerpiece workshop on Monday, November 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. at **Sandbar Café & Creamery**. Individuals wishing to participate may register at blackdogmeadowsflowerfarm.com.

The **Winery North of 12** is holding a Thanksgiving Workshop on Tuesday, November 22, from 6 to 9 p.m. Grab your friends and family to build your own Thanksgiving Centerpiece. The cost is \$60 per person. A \$30 nonrefundable deposit is required to hold your spot in the class, space is limited to 20 participants. For more details or to register, call 517-592-5909.

The Irish Hills Regional Chamber of Commerce is looking for a detailed oriented, problem-solving individual to join our team. This position starts as part-time with the potential of growing into a full-time position. Experience is beneficial but will train the right person. Please email your resume to Cindy Hubbell at cindy@irishhills.com.

The **Brooklyn American Legion Post #315** is holding a Hurricane Relief Concert Saturday, Nov. 19 featuring lunch, limited edition shirts, and the bands Storm Bandits, Backwater Drift, Straight Up, Mark Arshark Band, and Leadfoot. For more information, go to legion.org. Doors open at 1 p.m.

The **Irish Hills Eagles** have the following specials coming up: On Wednesday, Nov. 16 they are offering \$1 and \$1.25 coney dogs for members only, beginning at 11 am; Friday, Nov. 18 they are serving perch dinners for \$10 from 5 to 7 p.m., the is public welcome; on Sunday, Nov. 20, from 8 a.m. to noon they are serving an all-you-can-eat breakfast, adults are \$7 and children under 10 are only \$3; the public is welcome. On Saturday, Nov. 19 they are hosting Super Soup Wok Off from 5 to 7 p.m. Entry fee is \$5 with prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, members only. The Eagles are located at 9500 Wamplers Lake Road in Brooklyn.

The **Irish Hills Roots & Strings Music Series** will feature Geez Louise on Thursday, November 17, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at **Jerry's Pub & Restaurant**. Admission is a generous donation to the Brooklyn Food Pantry. Reservations can be made by calling Jerry's Pub at 517-467-4700.

Columbia police report

November 4
General non-criminal: Hilltop Court; Marshall Street; Whitehouse Court; **Accident:** Jefferson Road/Woodland Drive; M-50/Daugherty Road; **Civil dispute:** West Mill Pond Drive; **Warrants:** East Mill Pond Drive; **Disorderly:** School Street; **Assault:** Hewitt Road; **Alarm:** South Main Street

November 5
Health and safety: Ocean Beach Road; **Animal complaint:** Water Street; **Accident:** Audell Drive; Brooklyn Road/Daugherty Road; Kirkley Drive; **General non-criminal:** North Drive/Wamplers Lake Road; Nicole Drive; Russell Court; **Traffic hazard:** Lakeview Drive/Jefferson Road; **Conservation:** Jefferson Road

November 6
Personal welfare check: Ernest Street; **Accident:** Taylor Road; **General non-criminal:** Jackson Street; **Domestic:** Lane Street (2)

November 7
Assist other agency: Wamplers Lake Road, Norvell Township; **General non-crimi-**

nal: Hyde Road; **Fraud:** South Main Street; **Alarm:** School Street; **Motorist assist:** Hyde Road/Jefferson Road; **Inspect vehicle:** North Shore Drive

November 8
Disorderly: South Main Street; **General non-criminal:** Brooks Meadow Drive; Hyde Road; South King Street; Broad Street/Monroe Street; **Personal welfare check:** East Mill Pond Drive; **Assist other agency:** Amberton Drive, Napoleon Township; **Accident:** Case Road/Antcliff Road; **Field contact:** North Lake Road/York Road; Jefferson Road; **Peace officer:** North Lake Road

November 9
Suspicious situation: Monroe Street; **Civil dispute:** Irwin Street; **General non-criminal:** South Meridian Road; Hyde Road/Reed Road; **Disorderly:** Jefferson Road; North Lake Road; **Personal welfare check:** Hyde Road/Jefferson Road; **Accident:** Cement City Road/Dearmyer Road; **Health and Safety:** North Lake Road; **Assist other agency:** Bayberry Court, Norvell Township



Columbia Fire Department Report

November 3
Rescue: Whitehouse Court (2); **Fire:** Tecumseh Street

November 4
Rescue: Hilltop Court; Marshall Street; Whitehouse Court

November 5
Fire: South Mill Street; Ocean Beach Road; North Drive/Wamplers Lake Road; Clarklake Road/Reed Road (2); Palmer Road; Grand Boulevard; Lakeview Drive/Jefferson Road; **Rescue:** West Mill Pond Drive; Spicer Drive; Brooklyn Road/Daugherty Road; Wolf Lake Road/Case Road; Camelot Court; Nicole Drive; Russell Court

November 6
Rescue: Reed Road; Jackson Street; **Assist other agency:** Mann Road, Concord Township

November 7
Assist other agency: Chapel Road, Spring Arbor; **Rescue:** North Main Street/Marshall Street; Hayes Road

November 8
Rescue: Brooks Meadow Drive; South King Street; **Fire:** Broad Street/Monroe Street

November 9
Assist other agency: Flagstone Drive, Napoleon Township; Amberton Drive, Napoleon Township; **Rescue:** Hyde Road/Jefferson Road; North Main Street; Diversy Drive; **Fire:** Hyde Road/Reed Road

Jackson College boys basketball tournament

Jackson College will host a boys' basketball tournament at the beginning of the year, giving area teams the chance to qualify for the state tournament.

A Boys Youth Basketball Tournament for grades 3-8 is scheduled for Jan. 28-29, 2023, at the Victor Cuiss Fieldhouse, on the JC Campus, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson.

The cost per team is \$155, with a three-game

guarantee. New this year, the tournament will be a state qualifier for school-based tournaments. The tournament starts at 8 a.m. each day.

The Jackson College Jets baseball team is sponsoring this tournament, now in its fourteenth year. Any questions, call Rick Smith at 517-796-8592 or SmithRichardT@jccmi.edu. To learn more, visit www.jacksoncollegejets.com.

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Cemetery tour leads participants on a trail of history



Grass Lake cemetery historian Linda Hutchinson explains the family history behind the grave in the village's Maple Grove Cemetery on the west side of town.

**Story and photo
By John Hummer
Editor**

Cemetery tours are sponsored by the Grass Lake Area Historical Society. As the organization's vice president, Linda Hutchinson has conducted research on area history on behalf of GLAHS. After the three cemetery tours she conducted, many of the 52 people followed up with a visit to the Coe House

Museum. To join the Grass Lake Area Historical Society visit their website at coehousemuseum@gmail.com.

Below is a continuation of last week's story with history on two more family graves, plus a bit about historian Linda Hutchinson.

**Milburn A. Taylor – 1842-1933
Catherine E. Kerber Taylor – 1845-1927**

Milburn Taylor was raised on the family farm near Little Pleasant Lake. When eight years old, the log cabin in which he was born was replaced by an unfinished two-story frame house, allowing the snow to drift in on the beds while the kids were sleeping. There was no door; only a blanket that was hung in the opening. Passing Indians would enter unannounced, select a lump of hot coal from the grate, light their pipes, and leave without speaking a word. In Milton's boyhood days, the Indians would often cross the farm during trips to Little Pleasant Lake.

Milburn recalled that at the age of 10 he began driving an ox team that was used to break ground for farming. After completing his schooling at the Welch-Taylor School, he moved on to Williamston for three years where he ran a mill that used waterpower to grind grain between stones. He said that he once saved a girl from drowning in a flume.

In 1871, Milburn married Katherine Carver at her home in Waterloo. The couple had eight children. They bought a farm four miles north of Grass Lake where they resided until 1911 when they moved into the village.

Milburn Taylor assisted in the formation of three important businesses in Grass Lake. He was one of 25 men to buy \$1,000 of stock for the organization of Farmers State Bank and was one of the original stockholders of the Grass Lake Elevator Company and of the Lakeside Elgin Butter Company. He was a faithful adherent of the Democratic Party. He held school offices and belonged to Excelsior Lodge No. 16.

Milburn recalled that the building of the railroad made Grass Lake a thriving business center with grain, wool, and other produce being brought in for shipment on the trains.

After Katherine died in 1927, Milburn lived with his children until his death at the age of 91.

Zera Patterson – 1822-1915

Zera Patterson was born in Steuben County, N.Y. in 1822 and came to Michigan with his parents at the age of 12. His father had served during the War of 1812.

Patterson attended a country school near Unadilla in Livingston County followed by three years at the Academy at Grass Lake Center. He wanted to take advanced study in oratory, but due to poor health at the time, he became a clerk in a Grass Lake general store.

Martha Bunnell became Zera's first wife. They both taught school for a time in the old schoolhouse on the west side of Grass Lake.

Patterson was a business pioneer in Grass Lake. Under the firm name of Patterson & Walker, Patterson was engaged in the mercantile business in Grass Lake. This firm also manufactured brick. After three years, he bought out his partner and continued the business until the close of the Civil War.

Patterson, along with others, bought the Dr. McWhorter farm and laid out the Patterson addition in the village. They built the brick block on the hill. A new partnership with James Dwelle and J.C. Branch began a business that specialized in buying wool and grain.

Zera Patterson had an imposing presence – tall and of "massive proportions." He had a strong personality, and high ideals, and was a large influence on the community. He was a director of the Union School and a superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1872, Patterson moved to Fenton and later moved to Detroit, where he retired. He died at his home in Detroit at the age of 92.

Zera's first wife, Martha Bunnell, died in 1879. Twenty years later he married Minnie French. The couple had one daughter born in 1899 when Zera was 79 years old.

About cemetery historian Linda Hutchinson

Linda Hutchinson was raised on the Lockwood Farm on Lee Road. Her great-great-grandfather, Joseph Lockwood, came to Michigan in 1837, settling on Napoleon Road in Leoni Township, south of Dorrell Road. His farm was expanded by his son David.

Hutchinson's great-grandfather, Clarence Lockwood, owned a farm on Lee Road. Her grandparents, Clyde and Lydia Lockwood, took over. Then her parents, Lewis and Louise Lockwood followed suit, raising five kids on the Lee Road farm. Her brother, Bing, now operates the farm.

Hutchinson graduated from Grass Lake High School in 1966. In 1972, she and her first husband emigrated to Australia. They returned to Grass Lake in 1974. They raised four sons, all prominent in education – Ryan teaches eighth-grade science in Dearborn; Roger teaches physical education at Grass Lake Elementary; Joel is the principal at East Jackson High School, and Brady is superintendent at Michigan Center. Linda taught for 15 years in Onsted. (Her name then was Linda Cook.)

She then married her senior high school prom date, Harold Hutchinson, 23 years ago. They currently live in the village next to Maple Grove Cemetery.

Hutchinson remains active in the community. She is the vice president of the Grass Lake Area Historical Society and president of the Grass Lake Alumni Association. The Coe House Museum in Grass Lake now has a dedicated area for alumni materials.

"My impetus for organizing the cemetery tour is to gather support for the museum and alumni association," she said. "I encourage membership and support for the museum. Also, by living next door to the cemetery, I spend considerable time walking among the grave sites – talking to my relatives and their friends."

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Lenawee County election results

Addison

Long-time Addison village trustee Cary Jo Snyder Milosh was re-elected on November 8 to the village council with 131 ballots cast in her name.

Cement City

In the end, three of the four candidates for Cement City village trustee won a seat, in one of the few contested races in the area.

John Weber received the most votes, 72; Carrie Mae Shafer received 63 votes and Dustin Blakley 54 votes. Candidate Jason Shafer received 47 votes in the election.

Onsted

Onsted village president Sam Lafata was unopposed in the November 8 election and received 287 votes. Robert Wright received 328 votes in his return bid for village clerk. Treasurer Shawna Rohrbach was re-elected with 330 votes, facing no opposition on the ballot. Mike Slick was voted in as trustee with 323 ballots cast in his name.

In the Onsted Community Schools board member election, the incumbents were returned to their positions each for a six-year term. Jason Terakedis was the top vote-getter with 2,183

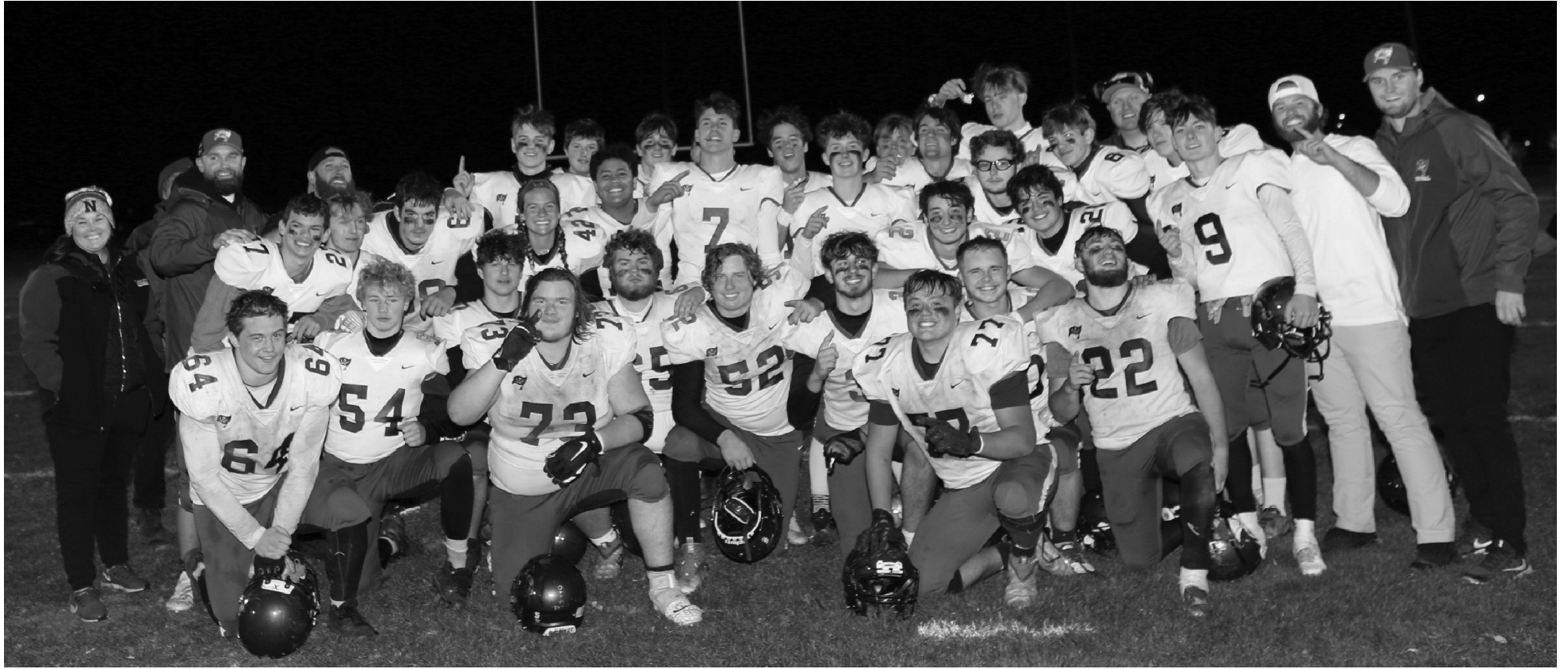
ballots recorded for him. Raymond Tessier Jr. received 1,966, while challenger Courtney Chamberlain received 1,876 votes. Keith Williams retained his seat for a partial term to end December 31, 2024, receiving 2,980 votes.

Woodstock Township

In Woodstock Township, trustee John Clark was unopposed on the ballot and was returned to his seat with 1,270 votes. His partial term is set to expire on November 20, 2024.

Champions!

Napoleon's hard-nosed football earns team regional title



Stifling defense and a pounding run attack gave Napoleon their first regional title in school history.

Story, Photos by Paul Snyder

The greatest season in Napoleon High School football history continued last Friday night as the Pirates defeated Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central Falcon's 14-7 in a defensive battle at Monroe for the Pirates' first football regional title in school history and twelfth win of the season.

The Pirates made a statement early, taking the opening kickoff and marching 88 yards in 11 plays with running back Bart Laretz going the final three yards for the score and an early 7-0 lead. The drive ate up 6 minutes and 11 seconds off the clock.

The Pirate defense forced a three out on St. Mary's first offensive possession, and Napoleon started their second possession of the game at their own 10-yard line. This time the Pirates were unable to move the ball against the Falcon defense and were forced to punt early in the second quarter giving the Falcons good field position on their own 46-yard line.

The Falcons took advantage of the good field position and put together a 13-play scoring drive of their own with Carson Kinsey scoring on a six-yard run to tie things up 7-7.

The Pirates put together a nice drive in the final 2:30 of the half, starting at their own 22, and driving to the St. Mary's 24-yard line but a 41-yard field goal just before halftime was no good and the game remained tied at halftime.

On their first possession of the second half, Napoleon regained the lead for good with a 67-yard, 13-play drive that ate up 7:21 off the clock and culminated with Laretz going the final five yards for the score. Cooper Wyers then earned a 14-7 lead after he kicked his second extra point kick for the night with 2:35 left in the third quarter.

The Pirate's defense came up big in the fourth quarter to secure the win, stopping the Falcons at the Napoleon 21-yard line on a fourth and two early in the quarter and a fourth and four at the Pirates 32 with 5:12 left in the game.

Napoleon was able to maintain possession with their hard-running ground game, picking up four first downs and eating up

See *Champions* next page 2

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