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New Year

Welcome 2024!
Van Buren



REMINDER



Covert
Public
Schools



pages 6-7



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Established 1949 - Bangor, Michigan

Classified Ads Page 8

Sunday, December 31, 2023

CAMP LEJEUNE TOXIC WATER

Under "The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022", those who lived, worked, or were exposed (even in utero) to toxic water may be entitled to compensation.

WATER CONTAMINATION AT CAMP LEJEUNE BETWEEN 1953-1987

Lived or worked near Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, and developed any of the following conditions:

- Aplastic anemia
- Bladder cancer
- Breast cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Pregnancy Hypertension
- Leukemia
- Liver cancer
- Lung cancer
- Miscarriage
- Multiple myeloma
- Myelodysplastic syndrome
- Neurobehavioral effects
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease
- Renal toxicity
- * Scleroderma

SIGNIFICANT COMPENSATION IS POSSIBLE LEARN MORE

Did you spend approximately **30 Days** at **CAMP LEJEUNE** between 1953 - 1987?

YES



NO

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Maple Grove Elem. K: 0 openings 1st GR: 2 openings 2nd GR: 0 openings 3rd GR: 0 openings	SH High School 9th GR: 1 opening 10th GR: 1 opening 11th GR: 1 opening 12th GR: 0 openings
North Shore Elem. 4th GR: 0 openings 5th GR: 0 openings	WAY South Haven 9th GR: 5 openings 10th GR: 4 openings 11th GR: 3 openings 12th GR: 1 opening

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(updated 11/01/23)

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A zoning compliance permit must be obtained before any construction is started, even if a building permit is not required.

Building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical inspections are required for all new construction and prior to moving mobile homes into township (as well as relocating within the township).

An investigation fee of \$100 dollars will be assessed for any work starting before obtaining appropriate permits.

Use of Recreational Vehicles, Travel Trailers, and Tents **require** a purchased permit from the Township Hall (open Monday through Friday 9 am to 1 pm).

ZONING ----- 269-434-6227
BUILDING - Rich McGrew ----- 269-228-3234
ELECTRICAL - MI Twp Services -----1-800-626-5964
PLUMBING - Fred Ristau -----269-249-8061
MECHANICAL - Norm Klug -----269-252-3512

BURN PERMIT- Fire Dept -----434-6266 / 434-6227
Please leave address of your burn on voicemail

The Transfer Station is open one day each weekend from 9AM to 5PM. That day is Saturday EXCEPT when we alternate to the first Sunday of each month. 18868 52-1/2 St., Grand Junction

The township provides a variety of other services including notary, copies/faxes, hall rental, end of life cemetery arrangements, and other services as needed and appropriate.

Meeting Notices are posted at the Township Hall and on the Township Website.
Please see our website for updates and details:
www.columbiatwp.com

Columbia Township Board of Trustees

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VBCD 2024 TREE SEEDLING SALE

Beautiful your yard through the Van Buren Conservation District (VBCD) Tree Sale! For many years, the VBCD Tree Seeding Sale has provided our community the opportunity to purchase affordable, native tree and shrub seedlings. Whether you are looking for ornamental plants, windbreaks, or building habitat, we have something for you!

Know that your participation in our Tree Sale goes to a great cause. This sale aims to reforest our community and raise funds for conservation programs.

What Tree Sale Offers
This year, we are excited to add several new species to our classic choices. We offer a variety of seedling species and products:
• Conifer seedlings • Deciduous seedlings • Small tree/shrub seedlings
• Dunegrass plugs • Seed packets • Accessories

For the full list of seedlings, their descriptions and species information, go to VanBurenCD.org/shop. We have habitat and plant experts to help you pick the right species for you!

How It Works
Pre-orders are placed from January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024. Pre-orders can be placed online by visiting VanBurenCD.org/shop or stop by the VBCD office for a paper order form. Order pickups are April 11, 12, and 13, 2024 at the VBCD office (1035 E Michigan Ave., Paw Paw) or the Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum (903 S Bailey Ave., South Haven). Any leftover stock will also be available for sale April 11, 12, and 13.

Need Help?
Contact Outreach Coordinator Jacob Diljak by calling 269-633-9052 or by emailing Outreach@VanBurenCD.org







Covert Public Schools

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Covert Public Schools Strategic Plan Summary | 2023-2028

Mission

Provide a quality education in an inclusive and supportive environment while promoting excellence through innovative possibilities.

Vision

A nurturing community where all are inspired and empowered to pursue their dreams.

Board of Education

Val Bury, President
Geoffrey Rose, Vice President
Veronica Aburto Cortes, Treasurer
Cheryl McCray, Secretary
Ella Harrington, Trustee
Dewayne Swans, Trustee
Aaron Wittorp, Trustee

Belief Statements

We believe:

- in providing meaningful opportunities to achieve excellence.
- in a safe, nurturing, and kind environment for all.
- in helping students to define and pursue their future.
- all community members should be seen, heard, and valued.
- we are one school, one family, and one community.

Strategic Goal Areas



Learning Environment / Culture

Goal Statement: Covert Public Schools will create an environment that fosters learning for all.

- First Year Objectives:**
- o Identify PBIS system (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) for middle and high school.

Personnel / Leadership

Goal Statement: Covert Public Schools will recruit, retain, and develop a diverse, high-quality staff.

- First Year Objectives:**
- o Have adequate bilingual staff at each grade level.

Operations

Goal Statement: Covert Public Schools will provide safe facilities and streamlined operations and procedures while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

- First Year Objectives:**
- o Complete an overview of playground. Determine next steps to address repair/replacement of playground equipment.

Academics/Programs

Goal Statement: Covert Public Schools will provide a quality education and a variety of opportunities that motivate and support students to become the best versions of themselves.

- First Year Objectives:**
- o Ensuring essential standards at each level per subject are identified.
 - o Start creation of curriculum maps for content alignment.

Communications / Community Engagement

Goal Statement: Covert Public Schools will foster community relationships and enhance communication and involvement

- First Year Objectives:**
- o Identify and recruit family members (to increase parent involvement).

Christmas Miracle



Pre-K through 5th grade students had the opportunity to pick a Christmas gift thanks to Pastor Eric Jarvis and his gracious parishioners at South Haven First Assembly of God. Students were treated to a festively decorated library, holiday music, and a variety of age-appropriate toys. In addition to the giving spirit of Pastor Jarvis and many in the South Haven community, many of our staff members pitched in to create a beautiful setting for this very special event! The kids were beyond excited to see the decorations and gifts!



Many Blessings Received



Covert Township Fire Department and Covert Township Lions Club bless Covert students with a gift giveaway for the Thread of Hope After School Program at Covert Public Schools. Children from Pre-K to Eighth grade all received Christmas gifts to take home.



Christmas Concert

Covert High School and Middle School raised the roof with their dynamic Christmas program. Band students and the Choir Ensemble blessed the audience with carols and songs. Great job, Nicole Bell, Music Instructor.



Academics and Behavior Awards



Students were nominated to receive special awards from their teachers for both academics and behavior. First-semester winners are; Marcus Preston, Katy Ruiz, Rachel Gibson, Natasha Diaz, Gracie Diaz, Zachary Riddle, and Rilee Williams. Great Job Bulldogs!!!

Athletics



Varsity Basketball takes center court with their win over Howardsville. Coached by Jeremy Jones.



Cheerleaders cheered on the team. Coached by Natisha Jones.

Hark Up Performance



Students love attending the Hark Up performance every year. This year was extra special as their former music teacher made a point of honoring them at the performance. Chaperoned by Nicole Bell (music teacher) and Melanie Smith (English teacher).



Meeting with Representative Joey Andrews



Covert students had a fun Meet and Greet with Representative Joey Andrews.



Thanksgiving Fun

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PUBLIC NOTICE SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals of South Haven Charter Township will hold a public hearing and regular meeting at the South Haven Township Hall 09761 Blue Star Hwy on Monday January 15, 2024, 7:00PM to allow public response to the following variance application:

John and Cynthia Smagacz of Chicago IL have petitioned for dimensional variances to construct a dwelling at 77587 Sheridan Road (80-17-229-015-00). Required front setback is 35ft; request is for 16ft of relief (19ft from property line) for front steps (house 22ft from front property line) and required rear setback is 50ft; request is for 12ft of relief (38ft from property line).

Iver Johnson of Chicago IL has petitioned for dimensional variances to construct a dwelling at 77533 Michigan (80-17-230-001/006-00). Required front setback is 35ft; request is for 5ft of relief (30ft from property line) for 18x10 front porch (house 40ft from front property line) and required rear setback is 50ft; request is for 35ft of relief (15 ft from property line) for 20x20 deck (house 38ft from property line).

Melody Williams Trust of South Haven MI has petitioned for lot area and lot width variances for a land division at 20001 20th Ave (80-17-239-024-10). Zoned LDR, Low Density Residential. Required lot area is 1 acre; request is for .37acre of relief. Required lot width is 150ft; request is for 41ft of relief.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the application can be reviewed at the Township Hall during the zoning administrator hours Tues's 9-12p and Thurs's 1:30-4p or call 269-637-3305 / 1-800-626-5964 or request by email shtwp.zoning@gmail.com. Written comment may also be submitted to the zoning administrator.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments may be submitted to the Township Clerk at the address set forth below, during regular business hours of regular business days or by mail at the address set forth below, up to the date of the hearing and will also be accepted by the Planning Commission at the hearing. South Haven Charter Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to the South Haven Charter Township Clerk.

South Haven Charter Township Hall
Brenda Bertorelli, Clerk
09761 Blue Star Highway, South Haven, MI 49090
269-637-3305

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Pastor Gary Napp

Journey Family Church
Sunday Bible Study: 9am
Sunday Service Times: 9am & 11am
Prayer Night: 6:30pm on Tuesday
FUSION Youth Group: MS: 6-7:30pm / HS: 7:30-9pm on Wednesday
Location: @ The Church
514 W. Van Buren Street, Gobles • (269) 628-2288
www.journeyfamilychurch.com

Pastor Jim Robertson

Townline United Methodist Church
9:15 am - Sunday School for ALL ages
10:30 am - Sunday Worship Service
10:30 am - Worship on Facebook Live Life Groups
Wednesday's @ 7pm
FAYGO Youth Group 6-12 grade - 1st & 3rd Saturday's @ 5:30p.m.
Men's Group- 1st Sat. of the month at 8:00am
Prominent Women's Ministry activities prominentwomenministries.com
41470 24th Ave, Bloomingdale / (269) 521-4559
Pastor Jim Robertson
www.facebook.com/townlineumc
townlineumc.org

Bloomingdale Christian Church
208 East Pine Street
bdalechurch1858@gmail.com
Sunday School 9:45 am (classes for all ages)
Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm
AWANA 5:15 pm
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 pm
Tuesday Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 am (269) 521-4233
bccpastorbrett@gmail.com

Bangor Baptist Church
Pastor David Johnson & First Lady Renee Johnson

55661 M-43 East P.O. 236, Bangor, MI
Phone (269) 427.7067
Sunday School 10:00 am
BBkids Church 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Monday Prayer & Praise 6:00 pm
Everyone Welcome
Wed. Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm
Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Ave., Grand Junction, MI
Phone (269) 521-4580
Sunday School 10 am
Sunday Worship 11 am
Evening Services 6pm
Wed. Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:30pm
Pastor Don Miller

The Bloomingdale Bible Church
Jer. 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.
A Caring Church Family with In-depth, verse-by-verse Bible Study, the Old Hymns & Praise, & Prayer Power.
Interim Pastor Dave McAlpine
Sunday Services: 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service
Wednesday 3:00 pm Prayer Power Hour
Phone: (269) 427-2101
Deacon Phone: 370-0026
210 Chestnut Street NW at Pine
Bloomingdale, MI 49026
Isn't It Time To Come Home?

Northpoint Ministries of Gobles
04077 M40, Gobles MI 49055
269-628-9199
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
Sunday - Worship Service 11am
Monday - Bible Study 6:30
Wednesday - Prayer Meeting 7pm

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
"Engaging & connecting all people to the love of Jesus"
Sunday Praise Service 9:00 am
Sun. School/Bible Study 10:15 am
Traditional Worship 11:00 am

Pastor Phil Pfifer
Additional activities for all ages listed on our website at www.trinitylutheran.com
721 Pine St. Paw Paw, MI 49079 • (269) 657-4840
Email churchoffice@trinitylutheran.com
Church office hours are Monday-Friday 8am - 4pm
Providing infant care, daycare, and Kindergarten - 8th grade.

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles
Sundays
Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Service 6 pm

Ladies Bible Study
Tuesday 9:30-11:00 am
Wednesday Nights Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
Call (269) 673-5274 for transportation services
Sr. Pastor Alan Carson Sr.
Assistant Pastor, Paul Gilie
Youth Pastor Jim Davis

Kibbie Christian Reformed Church
00479 CR 687 South Haven, MI 49090
269-637-6575
11am Sunday Worship Service-Pastor Vern Swieringa (vswier245@gmail.com)
Additional activities:
Adult Sunday School 10am
Children's Worship ages 4-8yrs old
AA Meetings every Thursday 7pm
Community Potlucks the 2nd Wednesday every month @ 6pm
Principe de Paz-Spanish Church
3 pm Sunday Worship Service-Pastor Alfredo De La Rosa (pastoralarosa72@hotmail.com)
Additional activities:
Spanish Bible Study every Wednesday 6pm
www.kibbiechurch.com
www.facebook.com/kibbiechurch

Calvary Baptist Church
403 E. Van Buren
Gobles, MI
(269) 628-4100
Sunday School 9:45 am
-for all ages-
Morning Service 11:00 am
Jr. Church Program for Children
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night @ 7:00 pm
King's Kids Program
-ages 4 & up
Ladies Bible Study 9:00 am

Let it Snow!

the Reminder
269-427-7474

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SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP Board Meeting Schedule 2024
Regular Meetings of the South Haven Charter Township Board will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 7:30 p.m., at the South Haven Township Hall, 09761 Blue Star Memorial Highway (southwest corner of Blue Star & M-140)

January 10th	July 10th
February 14th	August 14th
March 13th	September 11th
April 10th	October 9th
May 8th	November 13th
June 12th	December 11th

FOR SALE: 1983 Chevy C70 (16,039 miles) flat bed truck (tank not included) and a 1997 Ford 350 pickup truck (11,579 miles). Please note that the Ford 350 was involved in an accident. For more information, contact Bloomingdale Township Fire Department at 269-521-3535 or via email at fhouse@btc-bci.com. Or via Mail: P.O. Box 11, Bloomingdale, MI 49026. Bids will be accepted until the Township Board meeting on January 17, 2024 at 7 pm.

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Model MT125
FINANCING AVAILABLE as low as **\$180 PER MONTH!**
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Models available from 25HP up to 95HP
69760 Red Arrow Hwy. (Between Hartford & Watervliet, West of Four Winds Casino) Website: tomtractor.com email: tom@tomtractor.com
Hartford (269) 621-2001 • Watervliet (269) 463-6141 M-F 8AM-5PM SAT-SUN CLOSED

Meet our #PetoftheWeek, Callista!
ADOPTION READY: This sweet lady is Callista and she desperately needs a home and out of the shelter. She's roughly 8 years old and is currently on some treatment for her skin and it seems to be working. She's good with other some dogs, cats and kids. Please consider adopting her this sweet girl. Please stop in at Friends of Van Buren County Animal Control Michigan to meet her today.
If you'd like to adopt this amazing lady, go to al-van.org/adopt to fill out an application.



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- Traditional funerals and grave side services
- Cremation services • Tribute Life videos
- Prearrangement service with free consultation
- Grave Markers & Head Stones



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 Bangor, MI 49013
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BLOOMINGDALE CHAPEL
 203 E. Spring
 P.O. Box 171 Bloomingdale, MI 49026
 PH: (269) 521-3121
 Floyd Decker - Manager

GOBLES CHAPEL
 208 W. Main
 P.O. Box 6 Gobles, MI 49055
 PH: (269) 628-2852
 D.L. Miller - Manager

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT FUNERALS

- Funerals have to be traditional
- Funerals are inconvenient
- Funerals and cremation are mutually exclusive
- Funerals are routine and meaningless
- Funerals should reflect the wishes of the deceased
- Funerals are too expensive
- Funerals are only for religious people



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 brooksidefarmsmi.com
 (269) 637-3500
 OTHER LOCATIONS (call for product availability)
 37988 CR 388 Gobles, MI 49055 (269) 521-7655
 1475 116th Ave/M-222 Otsago, MI 49078 (269) 673-5727

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VAN BUREN TECH

your career
your future
your life

Times

December 31, 2023

250 South St. • Lawrence, MI 49064 • 269-539-5256

Happy Holidays from Van Buren Tech

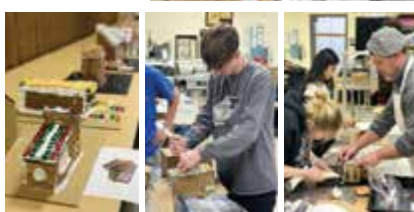
Van Buren Tech would like to wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with warmth, laughter, and good times with loved ones!



EAD & Culinary Arts & Catering Management

Van Buren Tech's Engineering and Architectural Design program joined forces with the Culinary Arts & Catering Management program to create gingerbread houses.

Combining creativity and precision, our students are crafting sweet masterpieces that showcase the perfect blend of design and culinary skills.



Student of the Quarter



Gracie Smith
Marketing, Sales & Business (AM)
Deatur High School



Jennifer Hafer
Polymer Technologies (PM)
Dowagiac Union High School



Kady Sherrill
Dental Occupations (PM)
Paw Paw High School



Joshua Bemis
Auto Maintenance & Light Repair (AM)
Bloomington High School



Megan Robertson
Allied Health (AM)
Lawton High School



Emily Clark
Culinary Arts & Catering Management (AM)
Lawton High School



Trevor Ransler
Finance, Investment & Technology (PM)
Paw Paw High School



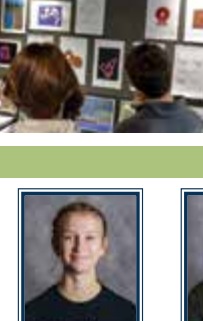
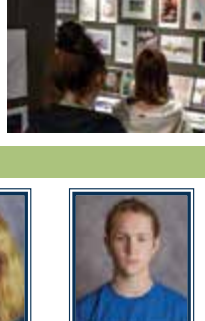
Antonio Fonseca
Culinary Arts & Catering Management (PM)
Paw Paw High School

Congratulations to the Student of the Quarter winners for the first quarter.

One AM and one PM student was selected from each career cluster at Van Buren Tech: Health, Phys Tech, Human Services, and Info Tech. Winners were selected based on the recommendation from their instructor and their excellence and exceptional behavior.

10th Grade Visits

Van Buren Tech welcomed 10th graders from local school districts to explore exciting possibilities and dive into over 25 diverse CTE programs that Van Buren Tech offers.



Marketing, Sales & Business

The Marketing, Sales & Business program took two teams to the Junior Achievement Titan Business Challenge at WMU's Haworth College of Business on Friday, December 15. In addition to meeting with business professionals, students heard from keynote speaker Jeff Fielder, President and CEO of Advia Credit Union about the challenges of operating in today's business world.

JA Titan is a simulation-based program in which high school students compete as business CEOs in the phone industry, experiencing firsthand how an organization evaluates alternatives, makes decisions, analyzes the outcomes of those decisions, and then strategizes what to do next. With a focus on financial literacy and insights into the workforce, JA Titan brings business economics to life. As students work in teams, or on their own, to make financial decisions about production, marketing, research and development (R&D), and corporate social responsibility (CSR), they begin to see how every choice an organization makes relates to its future success.

Participating Students: Jennifer Bacilio-Hartford, Estephanie Rodriguez Munoz-Bangor, Selah Davis-Paw Paw, Audrey Lewis-Mattawan, Chaz Hart-Watervliet.



Fire Science Academy

Van Buren Tech is proud to congratulate Fire Science Academy instructor, Jeromy Robertson, on being named the 2023 Fire Instructor of the Year by the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association. Steve Richardson nominated Robertson.

Nick George, Fire Chief for Highland Township, MI spoke in support of the nomination and was a mentor to Jeromy. Steve Lowder (Bangor, MI) read a letter of support from Assistant Chief Jed Wild (Portage, MI). Assistant Chief Wild is a former Van Buren County Training Coordinator for the FireFighter Training Division for the State. Lowder is a long-time instructor and member of the Van Buren County Training Committee. After the nomination was submitted, Jeromy was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Columbia Township Fire Department. He was listed as a Captain at the time of the nomination.

