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We reserve the right to limit quantities. We are not providing rain checks due to supply and demand from the Coronavirus (Covid-19).

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Sunday 11am-9pm

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 •
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www.journeyfamilychurch.com

Kibbie Christian Reformed Church

00479 CR 687 South Haven, MI 49090
269-637-6575
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(vswier245@gmail.com)
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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 (pastordelarosa72@hotmail.com)
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www.kibbiechurch.com
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Wednesday 4:00 pm Bible Study "Jude"
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Deacon Phone: 370-0026
210 Chestnut Street NW at Pine
Bloomington, MI 49026

Isn't It Time To Come Home?

Bangor Baptist Church

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

Bloomington Christian Church

Sunday School 9:45 am (classes for all ages)
Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Gospel Kidz 5:15 pm (3yrs-6th Grade)
Tuesday Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00 am
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 pm
Senior Bible Study 1st & 3rd Friday 11:00 am
208 East Pine Street, Bloomington
(269) 521-4233 •
bdalechurch1858@gmail.com
Church Office - Friday

Northpoint Ministries of Gobles

04077 M40, Gobles MI 49055
269-628-9199 • northpointgobles@gmail.com
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
Sunday - Worship Service 11am
Monday - Bible Study 7:00
Wednesday - Prayer Meeting 7pm

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Sun. School/Bible Study 10:15 am
Traditional Worship 11:00 am

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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 during the school year
- Clubs, Youth Group and Prayer Meeting
6:30 PM
Call (269) 673-5274 for transportation services



Pastor
Jim
Robertson

Townline Church

9:15 am - Sunday School for ALL ages
10:30 am - Sunday Worship Service

10:30 am - Worship on Facebook Live
Wednesday - 2nd and 4th - Pastor Office Hours
5pm-7pm at TCMC
Thursday - every other - Team Jesus Youth Group
Saturday - 1st of every month - Hands of Jesus
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41470 24th Ave, Bloomington / (269) 521-4559
Pastor Jim Robertson
www.facebook.com/townlineumc
townlineumc.org

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269-214-6696



Did you know?

Black History Month has a lengthy history that dates back more than a century. According to History.com, historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) in September 1915. Promoting the achievements of Black Americans was among the various missions of the ASNLH. One of the ways the ASNLH sought to achieve that mission was through the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926. Organizers chose the second week of February for the event because that week happened to be when Abraham Lincoln (1809) and Frederick Douglass (1818) were born. Lincoln and Douglass played pivotal roles in the abolition of slavery in the United States. After the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926, more and more cities began to celebrate it. History.com notes that by the 1960s Negro History Week had evolved into Black History Month on college campuses, eventually leading to formal recognition of the event by American president Gerald Ford in 1976. TF252662

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Bloomington 2025 Winter Sports CARDINALS

Photo by Richard Strange

Girls Basketball

Lady Cardinals Dominate Eau Claire with 53-23 Victory

In a commanding performance Wednesday night, the combined JV and Varsity Lady Cardinals triumphed over Eau Claire with a decisive 53-23 win. It was a complete team effort, with contributions coming from every player on the roster.

Leading the charge for the Lady Cardinals were sophomore Rebekah Youngblood, who scored 10 points, and junior Natalie Gumpert, who put up 11. Both players showcased their offensive skills, helping to build a lead that Eau Claire couldn't recover from.

Senior DeeAhna Cross played a crucial role in the win, particularly on the defensive end and as a playmaker. Despite not leading the team in scoring, Cross dominated the glass with key rebounds and took on the responsibility of point guard, orchestrating the offense and dishing out several assists.



Varsity Girls Basketball Defeats Comstock at Winterfest

The Bloomington Varsity Girls Basketball team picked up a key victory Friday night, defeating Comstock in an exciting Winterfest matchup. DeeAhna Cross and Gretchen Hutchins led the charge for Bloomington, each turning in standout performances to help secure the win. Cross and Hutchins were the team's top scorers, consistently finding ways to contribute on offense and keep the Comstock defense on its heels throughout the game.

With the energy of Winterfest fueling the atmosphere, the Cardinals played with intensity and focus, showcasing both their offensive firepower and defensive grit. The win not only boosts the team's record but also sets the tone for their upcoming games as they aim to carry this momentum into the rest of the season.



Boys Basketball

Boys Basketball Completes Thrilling Comeback to Defeat Comstock at Winterfest

In a nail-biting Winterfest showdown, Bloomington's Varsity Boys Basketball team rallied from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter to defeat Comstock 54-50, securing a dramatic win that had the crowd on their feet.

The Cardinals were led by a trio of standout performances from Javon Pittsley, Patrick Robinson, and Aiden Byers, who all played crucial roles in the team's comeback. Trailing by 10 points heading into the final quarter, the Cardinals dug deep and executed a well-coached, fast-paced offense that sparked a run to close the gap. Their defense also tightened, forcing turnovers and limiting Comstock's scoring opportunities. The late-game surge culminated in a tense final minutes where Bloomington held on to secure the 54-50 victory.



JV Girls Basketball

JV Girls Celebrate Win Over Comstock

The JV Boys and Girls Basketball teams hosted Comstock Thursday night. The JV Girls Basketball team earned a hard-fought victory over Comstock. The win highlighted their growth and teamwork, with the players showing great resilience and skill to secure the victory.



Wrestling

Varsity Wrestling at White Pigeon

Despite being short-handed, the Varsity Wrestling Team showed resilience and determination in their matches against Centerville and White Pigeon Wednesday night. While the team ultimately came up short, their effort on the mat was undeniable, leaving everything they had out there.

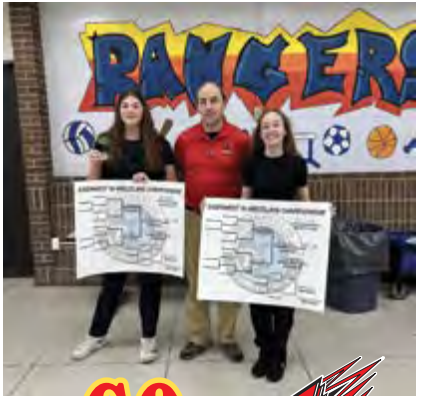
One of the standout performers was Troy Zuck, who went a perfect 2-0 on the night. Zuck's strong individual performances were a bright spot in what proved to be a challenging set of matches for the team. Molly Menzel also recorded a win, contributing to the team's overall effort.

High School Wrestlers Shine at Southwest 10 Conference Tournament

The high school wrestling team wrapped up their regular season on a high note this past Saturday at the Southwest 10 Conference Tournament in Cassopolis. With strong performances across the board, the team demonstrated their talent and determination, earning impressive placements.

Leading the charge, Molly Menzel and Rowan Hegelmann both brought home championships in their respective weight classes, showcasing their skill and dominance on the mat. Meanwhile, Xavier Gonzalez proved his resilience with a third-place finish, earning a spot on the podium after a competitive tournament.

The tournament served as a fitting conclusion to the regular season, as the team looks to build momentum and carry this success into the upcoming postseason.



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Cardinal Connection



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Publication of Bloomingtondale Public Schools
▶▶▶ [website: www.bdalecards.com](http://www.bdalecards.com)

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Pullman Elementary School
Facebook: Pullman Cardinals Elementary
Bloomingtondale Elementary School
Facebook: Bloomingtondale Elementary School

BLOOMINGTONDALE ELEMENTARY

Students Celebrate Positive Behavior with Reward Party

Bloomingtondale Elementary is proud to recognize and celebrate students who demonstrate positive behavior as part of our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) system. At the end of each marking period, students with no office referrals are rewarded with a special event to acknowledge their commitment to good citizenship and school expectations.

On Friday, January 17th, eligible students had the opportunity to participate in a fun-filled reward party. They could choose between an exciting sledding party or a movie screening in the gym. Over 240 students enjoyed the winter weather at the sledding party, while 20 students opted for a cozy movie experience.

Students who received one or more office referrals took part in a Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) good citizenship lesson to reinforce the importance of positive behavior and personal responsibility. Seventeen students did not participate in this marking period's celebration, but we are hopeful that our ongoing efforts will encourage more students to join in the next event.

Our goal is to continue increasing participation in the reward party so that all students can experience the joy of these special events. By fostering a culture of positive behavior, we aim to create a supportive and respectful school community where everyone can thrive.



BLOOMINGTONDALE ELEMENTARY Celebrates Winterfest with Cozy Pajama Day!

Bloomingtondale Elementary is bringing warmth and fun to the winter season with Winterfest Pajama Day! Students and staff are invited to wear their coziest pajamas to school as part of the Winterfest celebration.

This special event is designed to spread seasonal cheer while giving students a fun and comfortable way to celebrate winter together. Whether it's fuzzy slippers, flannel pants, or favorite holiday pajamas, everyone is encouraged to participate and embrace the festive spirit.

"We love finding ways to make school a joyful and engaging place for our students," said Bill Dygert, Principal of Bloomingtondale Elementary. "Winterfest Pajama Day is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, have fun, and enjoy the season in a warm and welcoming way."



School with a Construction-Themed Celebration!



Get ready to build some fun! Bloomingtondale Elementary is thrilled to announce a school-wide celebration for our 100th Day of School on Friday, February 7th.

To mark this exciting milestone, students and staff are encouraged to dress in their best construction gear: hard hats, safety vests, tool belts, and all things builder-themed! This special day recognizes the hard work and achievements of our students over the past 100 days while fostering school spirit and community engagement.

"We are so proud of our students and their dedication to learning. "The 100th Day of School is a great way to reflect on all we've accomplished while having some well-deserved fun together."

BLOOMINGTONDALE ELEMENTARY Enhances Early Learning with Innovative Occupational Therapy Practices

Bloomingtondale Elementary is committed to ensuring every student thrives academically, socially, and developmentally. A key part of this mission is the school's Occupational Therapy (OT) program, which plays a vital role in supporting students in the early grades by helping them develop the foundational skills needed for success in school and beyond.

Occupational therapy at Bloomingtondale Elementary focuses on improving fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, sensory processing, self-regulation, and classroom participation. These early interventions help young learners build the necessary skills for writing, cutting, organizing materials, and developing independence in daily tasks. Through engaging, play-based activities, we help students strengthen their motor skills, focus, and overall readiness for learning.



PULLMAN ELEMENTARY

Snow making in STEM

Students in Ms. Morehead's STEM class created artificial snow using a mixture of baking soda and conditioner. Working in groups, students enjoyed the process of combining the ingredients to produce a snow-like substance.



Recycled Art Projects

In Mrs. Douglas's art class, students used many different items to make unique art projects. Students were very creative making projects ranging from a jetpack to a collage to a bird.




FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH Bloomingtondale Public Schools offers Free Breakfast and Lunch every day to all students.

All students will have an opportunity to get free breakfast every day at school. Breakfast is offered 20 minutes prior to the start of the school day. We have hot and cold options available throughout the week. Students can receive their breakfast in the school's cafeteria daily. We are committed to making sure every student starts their day with a healthy nutritious meal.

A reminder that Bloomingtondale Public Schools provides a free reimbursable lunch every day to all students in our district. Students will receive their free lunch during their scheduled lunch times.

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These materials developed with funds from a grant awarded by Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential. It is the policy of the Van Buren Intermediate School District that no discriminatory practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes"), be allowed in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. Inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies should be directed to Rebecca DePies, Director of Finance & Operations or Dave Manson, Superintendent, 490 S. Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064, 269-674-9091.

Fun with Math

Ms. Hentig's kindergarten class is learning math through hands-on activities, using manipulatives and games to build their skills. Students practiced counting and writing numbers and rolled dice to add and move their game pieces, making math both engaging and interactive.



BOND PROJECTS

Exciting Updates on Bond Projects

We're thrilled to share the latest progress on the 2024 Bond Projects that are shaping the future of Bloomingtondale Public Schools!

In January, bids for Series 1 projects went out, and on February 6, bids were opened and reviewed. The school board will officially approve and award bids at their regular February meeting, paving the way for major construction to begin in early June.

These exciting projects include secure entry renovations, redesigned parking lots, ADA restroom upgrades, and boiler replacements across all campuses. These improvements aim to provide safe, modern, and accessible learning environments for our students.

We're grateful for the community's continued support in making this vision a reality. As construction begins, we'll keep you informed with regular updates, so stay tuned and join us in celebrating the bright future ahead for Bloomingtondale students!

Visit our website, www.bdalecards.com, for more details.

Chinese New Year

Ms. Nicole came to Pullman Elementary to teach our 2nd grade students about the Chinese New Year which began on January 29th. This year is the year of the snake. The students learned words in Chinese and made a dancing dragon.



BLOOMINGTONDALE MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Middle School Quiz Bowl

Congratulations to the **Middle School Quiz Bowl** team for placing **Third** out of **eight** teams in the Saturday, 1/25/2025 SouthWest10 Buzzer Tournament in White Pigeon. Eighth-graders, **Day Grimaldo**, **Gary Steinman**, and **Aiden Filegar** represented Bloomingtondale in dominant match-play against a strong White Pigeon B team. Shout-out to **captain Day** for leading the team with **24** out of **70** toss-up wins; earning a **third-place** (out of 36 individual competitors) **All-Star award!** The team placed **Seventh** out of **ten** teams in the final SouthWest10 Tabletop Match in White Pigeon Tuesday, 1/28/2025. Seventh-grader, **Jack Scherer**, joined the squad in a great end to the season. Coach Jacus said, "It was a great day to be a Cardinal. We look forward to more Cardinals joining next year!"



High School Personal Finance Class:

Our Personal Finance class spent time learning and practicing interview skills during the chapter on Career Readiness. As part of this unit, we conducted mock interviews with various candidates. Below are this year's interview candidates, along with comments from the students following their interviews:

Jaci Munn: Applied for the position of Special Education Teacher. Her experience at the Arizona residential treatment center will have prepared her well for teaching here. She didn't stay in her weakness (fear of failure/rejection) but overcame it by shifting her mindset. She has had to overcome struggles, so she understands what it's like and can put herself in a student's place which makes her more compassionate toward them. Her empathy stood out above and beyond all other traits.

Heather Scheuer: Applied for the position of ESL Teacher. She still gets excited about students' "Aha" moments. She is willing to go above and beyond - she has created & sponsored many clubs and activities. She evaluates success as being able to "make the world better". She uses a variety of methods in the classroom to reach all students - kinesthetic, structured notes, memory tricks. She knows the content area well and is also versed in various areas of specialized training.

Erin Cool-Banner: Applied for the position of ELA and Spanish Teacher. She seems to be very engaged with her students. She has a lot of emotional intelligence. She knows her values and is always willing to be more understanding. She considers success to be helping students succeed, seeing the light click on. She believes that collaboration and teamwork are critical. She is very creative and relational (also loyal, capable, passionate, energetic, reliable).

The interview process provided students with valuable real-world experience in evaluating candidates and understanding the importance of communication, professionalism, and preparedness in a job interview setting.



BLOOMINGTONDALE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL Hosts Second Quarter Cardinal Breakfast to Celebrate Strong Student Attendance

On the morning of Monday, February 3, 2025, Bloomingtondale Middle and High School hosted the Second Quarter Cardinal Breakfast in the school cafeteria to honor students in grades 6 through 12 for their commendable attendance records.

This special event recognized students who maintained three or fewer total absences across all scheduled classes, including Cardinal Time. For juniors and seniors, Tech Center attendance was also considered. A total of 89 middle school students and 86 high school students were invited to attend this celebratory breakfast.

Organized by the Cardinal Pride Team, this initiative is part of an ongoing effort to promote and celebrate positive school attendance, a top priority for Bloomingtondale Middle and High School this academic year. Assistant Principal, Nikki Meloche, spoke with pride about the students being honored and highlighted the importance of regular attendance as a crucial life skill. "For the third quarter, we are upping the ante! Students must maintain three or fewer tardies across all classes—meaning no more than three tardies in 1st hour, three in 2nd hour, and so on. Additionally, students must have no referrals resulting in In-School Suspension (ISS) or Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)," shared Assistant Principal Meloche. "Being present allows students to fully engage in discussions, group work, and hands-on activities that enhance learning."

Principal Brandon Lukes also addressed students and their families, expressing gratitude to the food service staff for their dedication in preparing the breakfast and supporting student well-being. He emphasized that developing the habit of being on time and present in class directly contributes to academic success. "Employers and colleges value students with strong attendance records because it reflects reliability and commitment," noted Principal Lukes. "Showing up, being prepared, and performing to the best of your ability is the foundation for future success."

The Cardinal Breakfast is just one of the many initiatives Bloomingtondale Public Schools is implementing to reinforce the importance of attendance. Since launching this celebration, Bloomingtondale Middle and High School has observed a positive trend in student attendance, demonstrating the impact of recognizing and rewarding strong attendance habits.



Celebrating Ms. Felty for National School Counselors Week

This past week of February 03 through February 07, 2025, we proudly celebrated National School Counselors Week by expressing our heartfelt gratitude for our incredible school counselor, Ms. Felty. To show our appreciation, staff and students shared affirmations, words of encouragement, and messages of thanks on index/thank you cards, posters, and more.

Ms. Felty's dedication, compassion, and unwavering support make a lasting impact on our students and school community. She is a guiding light, helping students navigate challenges, set goals, and believe in themselves. With her remarkable ability to listen, uplift, and inspire, she creates a positive and supportive environment for all.

We are beyond grateful for Ms. Felty's tireless efforts, kind heart, and commitment to making a difference. Thank you, Ms. Felty, for all that you do!





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Congratulations to William Bettis, Jr.

2022 Graduate of South Haven High School! William was chosen to be the 2022 recipient of the Black History Leadership Society's Youth on the Rise Scholarship. He is now a student in his third year at Western Michigan University and has been accepted into the University's Nursing School Program. The members of the Society are very proud of his hard work and determination as he continues to maintain a 3.92 GPA.

Black History Leadership Society
Dorothy Sherrod, President • Gail Patterson Gladney, Vice-President

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TIGERS

Gobles 2025 Winter Sports

BASKETBALL

BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL



JV Boys win 2 of 3 games

In the last three games the JV Tigers have collected 2 wins over Delton and Marcellus and dropped a heartbreaker to Fennville.

Last Thursday the young Tigers hosted Delton and came away with at 42 to 28 victory. The team was led in scoring by Ignacio Berzosa with 19 and Brian Heintzman with 13. The Tigers shook off a slow start to get the victory.

On Monday the Tigers traveled to Marcellus and were trailing by five points with three minutes to go and were able to pull off the victory with a score of 56 to 52. The Tigers used an intense full court press to get back into the game. The Tigers kept their composure when things got intense late in the contest. Ignacio Berzosa poured in a season high 32 points and Briar Heintzman added 8 points. Blaik Kuenzil had a great second half handling the pressure and coming up with 3 key points in the 2nd half.

On Tuesday the team was beaten for just the second time of year by a good Fennville team. The game was won by Fennville with a made three point shot as time expired. The team was not able to hold off a late charge by Fennville in the 4th quarter. Ignacio Berzosa had a team high 20 points and Harper Dominique had 10 rebounds.

The team will travel to Holland Black River on Thursday the 6th and Climax Scotts on the 10th for their two last away games of the year.



WRESTLING

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Varsity Boys Bounce Back!

After a few tough road losses the Varsity Boys played a great first half and bounced back with a 48-44 win over the Fennville Blackhawks. The Tigers came out strong in the 1st quarter with Aiden Newberry scoring 6 and Jaden Otis scoring 8 as the Tigers jumped to a 17-5 lead. The team's man to man defense was really solid and propelled the Tigers to a 25-11 halftime lead.

The Blackhawks battled back in the final two quarters but with the play of PG Carter Crippin who scored 9 of his 15 in the second half the Tiers prevailed in the contest. Otis led the way for the Tigers with 18 points and 11 rebounds on the night. Fellow Jr. Aden Newberry finished with 8 points and 9 rebounds in the contest as well.

The Varsity Tigers are now 9-6 on the year and will continue to work on a daily basis. The Tigers will host Holland Black River and then travel to Climax-Scotts in the upcoming week.

7TH & 8TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL

The 7th Grade Girls basketball team started the 2025 campaign 2 and 0 beating Fennville and Allegan while the 8th grade team split, losing to Fennville and beating Allegan.

Fennville was January 27th and Allegan was January 29

7th Grade
Chavez, Leah
DeLucas, Xochil
DeYoung, Emma
Eastman, Kendall
Gerould, Lylia
Jackson, Vivian
LaBranche, Cora
Miller, Bridget
Potter, Aurora
Smith, Maggie
Walker, Alivia

8th Grade
Collins, Ella
Curtis, Kendra
Diaz, Aria
Krukowski, Livia
Piper, Madison
Rickli, Miley
Sherrod, Kelsey
Wilkins, Grace

COMPETITIVE CHEER

Keep reaching for the stars ladies.

Way to keep your heads up with all the ups and downs you have encountered. We had one goal break 600. And you scored 632.8!

On Friday, we traveled to Portage Central for a great invitational with amazing talent in all divisions. It was a great performance for the Lady Tigers and they stayed consistent with Thurs scores. The best part of the meet was watching so many teams great performances.

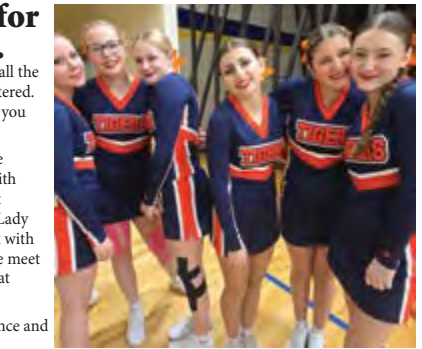
We are thankful for all the guidance and support. Coach Sarah



Tigers earn SAC Tournament recognition

Due to injuries and illness, Tigers wrestling sat seven starters for the SAC tournament in preparation for the District Playoffs. But that didn't stop Danny Timms, Jose Boger, Mason Mansfield, and Edgar Raseman from earning medals at the SAC Tournament in Coloma. In doing so, Danny, Mason, and Edgar earned SAC All-Conference recognitions.

Also, six Girl Tigers hit the mats for the SAC Girls division. Alyssa Sparks, Daisy Estrada, Orion Ennis, Freedom Morris, Sydney Raseman, and Neely Ketchum earned medals. Alyssa, Daisy, Orion, and Freedom earned SAC All-Conference recognitions.



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PUBLIC AUCTION

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COLLECTIBLES: Bubble Gum machines; Large Collection of FIESTA dishes; pitches; ashtrays; dish towels; placemats; set of 3 mixing bowls; 1933 World Fair Collectibles; Excelsior Accordion; (8) Kit KAT clocks; Delft ware—kitchen clocks & music box, Chalkware; RCA Diner music center; kerosene lamps; Stoney Brook wall clock; horse anchor; Atlas table; Doll ice cream table & chairs; misc jewelry; quartz pocket watches; wind up pocket watches; silver dollar; walking liberty; proof coin sets; bag of wheat pennies; state quarter set; Victor record player; V-Tech ABC Learning Classroom; Singer sewing machine; O'Doul's mirror; 1977 Coca Cola calendar; alabaster sculptures; LARGE collection of banks; delph items; Royal Doulton figurine; Royal Worcester Elizabeth Figurine;

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AUCTION NOTE: Another great auction with MANY fine items. The cars and parts will be sold at 12:00. Take your trailers, loader available. Payment cash, check, CC (5% fee). See web for MANY pics. Viewing Friday Feb 14, 3:00-5:00.

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Covert Public Schools NOTICE OF VACANCY

Covert Public Schools is seeking applications for the current vacant position on the Covert Board of Education. An individual will be appointed to fill the vacant position until the **November 2026** election.

Individuals must submit an application/letter of interest expressing interest in the Board position to the Secretary of the Van Buren Intermediate School District Board of Education, John Faul at the Van Buren Conference Center, 490 South Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, Michigan 49064 OR via email to dmanson@vbisd.org no later than noon on **Friday, February 28, 2025**. Application/Letter of Interest form can be found at www.vbisd.org.

Following a review of the submitted applications, the Van Buren Intermediate School District Board will schedule interviews with selected candidates between March 3-11, 2025. Not all applicants for the board vacancy may be interviewed. If you have any questions concerning the role of the Board of Education and the responsibilities of a Board member, please contact Yolanda Brunt, Superintendent of Covert Public Schools OR Dave Manson, Superintendent of Van Buren ISD.

TIMELINE

February 17 -28, 2025 - Notice of vacancy advertised.
 February 28, 2025 - Deadline for submitting applications.
 March 3-11, 2025 - Board meets to review applications and hold interviews.
 March 12, 2025 - Board makes an appointment of the new board member.

To be eligible, a person must be a registered voter and resident in the area covered by Covert Public School District, at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the U.S., a resident of the State of Michigan for at least 30 days.

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Valentine's Day Traditions

Valentine's Day is a day of love nestled in the middle of February. Sweethearts use Valentine's Day as an opportunity to show the people they care about just how deep those feelings run. A 2023 survey from the National Retail Federation found consumers expected to spend \$25.9 billion on Valentine's Day, up from \$23.9 billion in 2022. Forecasters suspect spending is likely to increase this year as well.

Valentine's Day is awash in many different customs. Here's a deep look at some of those enduring traditions and others that some may feel should be brought back into favor or adopted entirely.

Handwritten cards
 It's a common scene each year in card retailers and pharmacies: people three-deep in the aisle trying to pick out Valentine's Day cards in the eleventh hour. People can save themselves the hassle of fighting the crowds if they make their own handmade cards. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, sweethearts created unique cards from scratch, according to Country Living. And prior to products produced by Hallmark and other greeting card companies, people used to send one another cards customized with personalized messages.

Pampering gentlemen
 It is common in North America for Valentine's Day celebrations to lean significantly toward favoring women, who are often on the receiving end of flowers and chocolates. However, in South Korea and Japan, it is the men who are pampered with such gifts. Women purchase chocolates for their male partners, family members and coworkers as tokens of appreciation and affection. Never fear, a month later on White Day (March 14) men reciprocate with candy, cake and flowers.

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Bouquets
 These days a dozen long-stemmed red roses might be the norm for Valentine's Day gifting. However, roses weren't always the preferred flower for the holiday. History.com reports that, in the nineteenth century, bouquets might contain all sorts of flowers, each chosen to convey certain meanings. Individuals can research the meanings behind certain flowers and put together a Valentine's Day gift this year that expresses exactly what they are feeling.

Puzzle purses
 Sweethearts in Victorian England created "puzzle purses," which were a series of love letters that could be read separately, but also fit together to create a design and message. These intricately folded sheets of paper had parts of messages or verses written on different corners and were meant to be read in a specific order.

Heart-shaped chocolate boxes
 British chocolatier Richard Cadbury is credited with creating the first heart-shaped box for Valentine's Day. The boxes were intended to be so beautiful they would be kept to hold trinkets or love letters. Ornate chocolate boxes are not quite as common today, although the gifting of chocolate for the holiday is still strong. TF242700

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