



Sports pages inside!

GOBLES HOMELINK

Van Buren

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REMINDER

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2. Scammers say there is a **problem** or a prize.
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4. Scammers tell you to **pay** in a specific way.

2. Known Tactics Scammers Use

Scammers frequently change their approach with new tactics and messages to trick people. We encourage you to stay up to date on the latest news and advisories by following SSA OIG on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook or subscribing to receive email alerts.

These are red flags; you can trust that Social Security will *never*

- **Threaten** you with arrest or legal action because you don't agree to pay money immediately.
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 - "Spoof" official government phone numbers, or even numbers for local police departments.
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Report the scam.

3. How to Avoid a Scam

Protect yourself, friends, and family — If you receive a suspicious call, text, email, social media message, or letter from someone claiming to be from Social Security:

1. **Remain calm.** If you receive a communication that causes a strong emotional response, take a deep breath. Talk to someone you trust.
2. **Hang up or ignore the message.** Do not click on links or attachments.
3. **Protect your money.** Scammers will insist that you pay with a gift card, prepaid debit card, cryptocurrency, wire transfer, money transfer, or by mailing cash. Scammers use these forms of payment because they are hard to trace.
4. **Protect your personal information.** Be cautious of any contact claiming to be from a government agency or law enforcement telling you about a problem you don't recognize, even if the caller has some of your personal information.
5. **Spread the word** to protect your community from scammers.
6. **Report the scam** to the Office of the Inspector General at oig.ssa.gov/report.

4. How to Report

When you report a scam, you are providing us with powerful data that we use to inform others, identify trends, refine strategies, and take legal action against the criminals behind these scam activities.

What to Do

If you receive a suspicious call:

- ✓ **HANG UP!**
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Phone Scam Awareness

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- Threaten arrest or legal action against you unless you pay a fine.
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Check Them Out During Women's History Month!

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March is Women's HISTORY month

- 1848 - The first women's rights convention, the Seneca Falls Convention, is held in New York, where 300 women and men sign the Declaration of Sentiments in a plea to end discrimination against women.
- 1848 - The Married Woman's Property Act is passed in New York, enabling married women to conduct business on their own, file lawsuits on their own behalf, collect rents and receive inheritances. The Act is used as a model for other states, all of which pass their own versions by 1900.
- 1860 - The Act Concerning the Rights and Liabilities of Husband and Wife is passed in New York, paving the way for other states. It acknowledges "mothers as joint guardians of their children," granting married women the same legal authority over their own sons and daughters as fathers.
- 1869 - Wyoming, a territory at the time, becomes the first state to grant women the right to vote in all elections.
- 1869 - Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton form the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA).
- 1872 - Victoria Claflin Woodhull becomes the first female U.S. presidential candidate.
- 1872 - Equal pay for equal work under the law is guaranteed to federal, but not private sector, employees.
- 1919 - The First Woman's Bank of Tennessee opens as the first bank to be directed, managed and staffed entirely by women. The bank welcomes deposits from men and women, although its shareholders are male.
- 1919 - Congress passes the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote.
- 1920 - The 19th Amendment is ratified by 36 states and becomes law, ensuring that the right to vote cannot be denied on the basis of sex.
- 1938 - The Fair Labor Standards Act establishes a federal minimum wage to eliminate pay differences between men and women for hourly jobs.
- 1948 - The Women's Armed Services Integration Act allows women to serve as full, permanent members of all of the branches of the U.S. military.
- 1963 - The Equal Pay Act is passed, protecting all workers against discrimination in pay rates.
- 1974 - The Equal Credit Opportunity Act is passed, prohibiting credit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age or receipt of public assistance. Prior to its passage, banks required a male cosigner on credit applications from single, widowed or divorced women, regardless of income.
- 1974 - The Fair Housing Act is amended to prohibit housing discrimination on the basis of sex.
- 1978 - The Pregnancy Discrimination Act is passed, making it illegal for employers to dismiss women from their jobs for becoming pregnant.
- 1981 - Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first woman appointed to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1993 - The Family and Medical Leave Act becomes law.
- 1994 - The Gender Equity in Education Act is passed to train teachers in gender equity, promote math and science learning by girls, counsel pregnant teens and prevent sexual harassment.
- 1994 - The Violence Against Women Act funds services, resources and rights for rape and domestic violence victims.
- 2007 - Nancy Pelosi becomes the first female Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.
- 2016 - The Department of Defense opens all military combat positions to women for the first time.

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COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES

The Columbia Township Planning Commission had to cancel the public hearing on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Township Hall. This public hearing will be scheduled for another time. That new meeting concerns an issue of critical importance: the future direction of our township.

As you know, PA 233 has granted the State of Michigan's Public Service Commission the authority to permit renewable energy facilities in Columbia Township, potentially overriding the community's vision of a rural farming community.

The Township has explored options to address this, including a working ordinance (which residents did not favor) and a Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance with an industrial overlay to guide potential development. However, the ultimate decision rests with the residents through public hearings and meetings.

We face a choice: proactively plan for potential renewable energy facilities, or leave the decision entirely to the State. I believe that the residents of Columbia Township should have a strong voice in this matter. Your opinions are crucial, and I encourage you to attend the public hearing and share your thoughts. If you cannot attend you can send an email to clerk@columbiatwp.com and reference the public hearing date and your comments.

I also want to inform you that there are two house bills, 4027 and 4028, currently under consideration that could potentially overturn PA 233 and return local control to townships. You may send an email to JRushlow@house.mi.gov to show support of the return of local control to the township. This is urgent as the bill is moving forward and it is time sensitive hearing to be held about March 31, 2025.

Your participation in the future public hearing is vital. I urge you to attend and make your voice heard. As a voting board member I want to make the right decision on this matter and I believe the right decision is what the majority of the residents determines, not me.

Sincerely, Columbia Township Supervisor
Ken Speicher (616) 218-3761

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BASKETBALL

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL **GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL**

Varsity Boys Ousted in Districts

The Varsity Boys season came to an end last weekend as they suffered a 51 - 39 loss to Kalamazoo Christian who have now advanced to the Regional Finals. Despite the loss the Tigers took a step forward and finished with a 12 - 9 record while going 7-3 in conference play. The Tigers finished in 2nd Place in the Lakeland Conference and with a stable of players returning have set their sights on a Conference Championship run next year.

The Tigers will lose Seniors Alex Akers and Jack Geiger but return their top seven scorers and a lot of experience. This year the team struggled with consistency but still managed the first winning season in the past seven years. With hard work and a commitment to get better the Tigers want to build on the past few years and compete on a nightly basis with anyone on their schedule.



WRESTLING

Tigers placed four at the MHSAA State Championships



Tiger wrestling placed four at the MHSAA State Championships at Ford Field. Mason Mansfield placed third at 157 lbs., Danny Timms placed fourth at 106 lbs., Devin Doorlag placed sixth at 126 lbs., and Brody Marshall placed sixth at 190 lbs.

Lady Tigers survive and advance with a 61-55 victory over Black River.

Ellie Wood with a career high 27 points 9 rebounds and 5 of 8 FT. Kylee Killeen 15 points 12 rebounds 5 assists. Lily Heintzman 12 points 6 for 6 on FT. Tigers will take on Saugatuck Friday night for the District Championship.



Pre-Tip off Huddle #4 Lily Heintzman Free-Throw #14 Ellie Wood for one of her 11 baskets on the night



Pre-Game #5 Kylee Killeen for a Three



<p>JOURNEY FAMILY CHURCH Sunday Services: 9am and 11am 514 W. Van Buren St. Gobles, MI 49055</p>	<p>SUPPORT YOUR HOME TEAM SHOP LOCALLY Thank You Sponsors</p>	<p>Samuel Mancino's ITALIAN EATERY 269-628-2814 407 S. State St. • Gobles Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 11am-8pm Thursday to Saturday 11am-9pm</p>	<p>These fine businesses support the TIGERS!</p>	<p>TIGER POWER! Stan's Yard & Sport 215 S. State Street Gobles, MI 269-628-1111</p>	<p>MILLER D.L. Miller Funeral Home Inc. • Bloomingdale: 521-3121 • Gobles: 628-2852 • Bangor: 427-7551</p>
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GOBLES HOMELINK



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March 9, 2025

Gobles Elementary Reading Month

Yeehaw! It's that time of year again for Gobles Elementary's Reading Month celebration, and this year, we're saddling up for a Reading Rodeo! There are several exciting activities planned throughout the month of March to encourage our young readers and writers to explore their creativity, develop their literacy skills and engage with new stories and ideas. These activities include:

Dress-Up Days

We'll be celebrating with fun themed dress-up days. Get your cowboy boots and hats ready, while we prepare to... read under the stars, dress like a twin- "Howdy Partner", have crazy "barn" hair, sport our favorite mustache and discover our "wild side" by wearing our favorite animal print!

Literacy Basket Raffle

Students earn tickets for a chance to win a literacy basket when meeting individual reading goals. The more they read, the better their chances to win! A huge thank you to our incredible Gobles Parents Association and community members! Their continued donations allow us to fill our baskets with amazing literature and exciting items. We are so grateful for their support and students are already working towards meeting goals to win them.

Family Literacy Night – March 19th

Join us for a special Family Literacy Night on March 19 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. There will be fun rodeo themed activities for the whole family, along with food, prizes and plenty of reading and writing fun to enjoy together! Dust off your boots, round up your cowboys and cowgirls and help us make this Reading Month event the best one yet!



Please help us congratulate our Gobles Public Schools Educational Hero Award Winners. Thank you for your dedication to Gobles Public Schools students & staff, you make Gobles School a better place!
2024/25 Education Hero Award Winners:
Megan Shein-Duncan and Veronica Salamanca

Accelerated Readers reach 100 points

Two incredible students who have been working all school year to get to 100 AR points finally did, and they are so proud! The boys celebrated their accomplishment with me buying them a lunch of their choice for reaching 100 AR points. They have been determined leaders, who have worked so hard to reach their goal.

I can't wait to continue to watch these boys get competitive with learning, and showcase their results!

Mrs. Eichler- 3rd grade Teacher



Gobles High School Presents Little Women



On February 28th and March 1st, after a five year hiatus, Gobles High School put on a magical performance of the play Little Women by Marisha Chamberlin, based on the novel Little Women by Louisa May Alcott. Due to scheduling conflicts, these students received the script for this play on January 6th, and in only two months took us back to the 1860's in the small March family cottage, portraying a lovely coming of age story, with the cast becoming as close as the March family themselves by the end. The community continues to rave about the performance of our young cast, with only two being upperclassmen, and look forward to the future as the Gobles drama program continues to blossom.

Jo March..... Addison Tomsic
Amy March..... Samantha Quist
Meg March..... Zoie Wood
Beth March..... Ava Bair
Lorie..... Johnny Grice
Mr. Laurence..... Olivia Platt
Aunt March..... Ava Deyoung
Marmee..... Kat Kenjabev
Mr. Brooke..... Levi Collins
Mr. March..... Taleigh Sylvester
Hannah..... Ashlyn Myers

Jr. Director..... Ashlyn Myers
Ensemble: Ella Collins and Taleigh Sylvester
Understudy: Kat McCartney
Adelia Smith, Carter Bell, Loretta Hammond, Henry Lane, Ryan Quist
Pianists: Levi Collins and Ella Collins
Sound: Carter Anderson/ Vincenzo Romano
Director: Carlie Hancox
Assistant Director: Olivia Mazingo

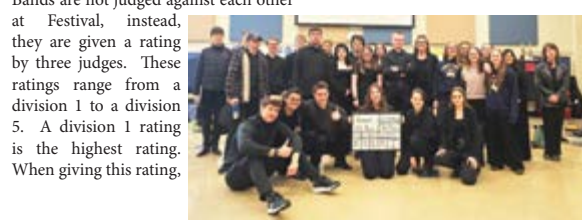
HS Festival Recap

The past few weeks have been a very busy and rewarding time for the Gobles Band program! All bands performed at the Pre-Festival concert in the middle school gym on February 19th. This was an extra special event as two bands performed for the very first time this school year: our MS/HS Jazz Band and our 5th Grade Beginning Band!

The following week the High School Concert Band performed at the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) District 6 concert festival. Bands are not judged against each other at Festival, instead, they are given a rating by three judges. These ratings range from a division 1 to a division 5. A division 1 rating is the highest rating. When giving this rating,

judges must assign letter grades to five different categories. These categories are Tone, Intonation, Rhythm, Technique, and Interpretation. An "A" is a 1, a "B" is a 2, a "C" is a 3, a "D" is a 4 and an "E" is a 5. The final score for their prepared performance is the predominant grade. The High School Concert Band received a Division 1 rating!

A special thank you to all the parents who helped our students move equipment, chaperoned, and drove all the way to St. Joseph High School to support us!



High School Concert Choir:

High School Concert did a wonderful job representing Gobles at District Choral Festival. Some of the noteworthy comments from the judges:

"I appreciate the energy you are creating together on diction."

"You have a taller vowel placement (it's north/south and not east/west) wonderful!"

"This group has great energy together. I can sense that as you sing."

High School Concert Choir received a high division II at choral festival. They scored a perfect 30/30 in the sight reading room! This is incredible. This is music they have never seen before and they went in and performed it nearly perfectly. So proud of them!



High School Varsity Choir:

High School Varsity represented Gobles with excellence at District Choral Festival. Some of the noteworthy comments from the judges:

"Strong, confident singing choir"

"Very supported breath and sound on this piece."

"Physical engagement is impressive."

"Your diction is strong in this piece. Lot's of good attention to beginning and ending consonants."

"Love the dynamic contrast at the end of this piece!"

High School Concert Choir received a high division II at choral festival. They



scored a 29/30 in the sight reading room! This is also incredible because we got a couple new singers/sight readers at the new semester. So proud of them!

7th/8th Grade Choir

7th/8th Grade Choir did a great job at choral festival. Some of the noteworthy comments from the judges:

"Nice diction throughout. Good forward rhythm across the choir. Nice attention to dynamics."

"Nice long phrase and supported sound on the final note."

"You look good and present yourselves quite well. There is good physical engagement. Let your whole body sing! Bravo!"

7th/8th Grade Choir received a high division II at choral festival. They scored a 25/30 in the sight reading room! So proud of them! Way to Go!



6th Grade Choir:

6th Grade Choir represented Gobles with excellence at District Choral Festival. Some of the noteworthy comments from the judges:

"Thank you for energizing your singing sound."

"I like your attention to dynamic contrast- you have a plan in mind of what to do."

"Lots of amazing musical moments."

"Good breath support in this piece. Wonderful tone happening here."

"You have a good sense of pitch and your intonation is quite good. Your harmonies at times are stunning."

6th Grade Choir received a high division II at choral festival. They scored a 25/30 in the sight reading room! So proud of them! Way to Go!



Beach Day

The food service staff worked hard February 19th to provide a Beach Day lunch, so for a brief moment we could feel like we were a little closer to summer. The kids enjoyed grilled Brats and Burgers with fresh cut pineapple, watermelon, and strawberries.

Students also had your standard baked beans, potato salad, and pasta salad. The biggest hits of course were the Raspberry Cookies and Slushies. Students dressed up and enjoyed this time, knowing that in just over 5 weeks spring break will be here.



Gobles Elementary LITERACY NIGHT READING RODEO
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19
3:30-5:30PM
FREE PIZZA LITERACY GAMES FAMILY FUN
DRAWINGS FOR PRIZES
FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL!

READY TO RIDE AND READ

PLEASE JOIN US FOR . . .

GOBLES KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP
GSRP REGISTRATION ALSO (MUST BE 4 BY 12/1/25) = FREE FOR ALL
WEDNESDAY APRIL 16, 2025
4:00-6:00pm (DROP IN)

WHO: Children who are 5 years old on or before September 1, 2025 and their parents

WHAT: Meet your child's kindergarten teachers, register for kindergarten for the 2025-2026 school year, and ask questions!

WHERE: Gobles Elementary
- 409 N. State Street

TO DO: All forms will be available at the front office. Please call to request forms or stop in the office prior to April 16 to pick them up.

Questions? Contact the Elementary Main Office (269) 628-9440



American Red Cross
Please Donate. Our County Blood Supply is Low. www.redcross.org

ARLINGTON TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE

The Arlington Township ZBA will hold a meeting on March 26, 2025 @ 6:00 PM.
52022 34th Avenue, Bangor, MI. 49013
269-427-7300
Persons needing special accommodations please contact the Hall prior to the meeting date. For information, please contact Matt Butler at PCmember1@arlingtontownship.com
Georgette Peterson, Supervisor

Notable Lenten traditions

Easter is a significant day on the Christian calendar. Billions of Christians look forward to Easter Sunday each year, and that anticipation is amplified by Lent. Lent is a 40-day period preceding Easter that begins each year on Ash Wednesday. According to Campus Crusade for Christ International, also known as Cru, Lent is a time of preparation during which Christians reflect on their relationship with God and ready their hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter. Tradition features prominently throughout the Lenten season, and the following are some of the more notable customs during this significant period preceding Easter Sunday. • Wearing of ashes on the forehead: Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, occurring 46 days prior to Easter Sunday (Sundays are not counted among the 40 days of the Lenten season). The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops traces the tradition of wearing ashes on the forehead to the Old Testament, which depicted wearing ashes as a sign of repentance for one's sins and a sign of one's humility before God. Ashes are most often distributed as part of Ash Wednesday Mass, and adherents to the faith wear them throughout the day. • Avoiding meat on Fridays: Many Christians do not eat meat on Fridays during Lent. The Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis notes that canon law calls for abstinence from eating meat on all Fridays of the year, but bishops throughout the United States allow the faithful to eat meat on Fridays outside of Lent so long as they substitute another penance that is particularly meaningful to them. Avoiding meat, which all Catholics 14 and older are urged to do on Fridays throughout Lent, is to honor Jesus Christ, who the faithful believed sacrificed his flesh on Good Friday. To honor that sacrifice, Catholics do not eat flesh meat, which includes beef, pork, chicken, and turkey. Fish are not considered flesh meat, and many Catholics consume fish on Fridays throughout Lent. • Almsgiving: Lent is often seen as a season of sacrifice, but it's also a time for giving. Many Christians engage in almsgiving throughout Lent, and some tie it into the sacrifices they make in the name of Jesus Christ. When Christians sacrifice something during Lent, some donate the value of what they forego to the Catholic Church or a charity that gives money, food or other items to the poor. Almsgiving is a wonderful means of combining the many traditions that make the season of Lent such a special time of year for Christians across the globe. Lent is a unique tradition and special time of year for Christians, adding to the anticipation billions have for Easter Sunday. TF253702

100 Years Ago This Month: Historical events from March 1925

The month of March has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in March 1925. • A military committee in France concludes that Germany committed gross violations of the Treaty of Versailles on March 1. The committee, led by Marshal Ferdinand Foch, accuses Germany of violating provisions related to the disarmament of its military. • Huff Daland Dusters Inc., is founded in Macon, Georgia, on March 2. The company, which began as a drop dusting firm formed to combat a boll weevil infestation of cotton crops, would be sold near the end of 1928, at which time it is renamed Delta Air Service. • The United States Congress authorizes the Mount Rushmore Memorial Commission on March 3. The initial design for Mount Rushmore initially featured each president depicted from head to waist. But funding for the sculpture dried up in 1941, so only President George Washington's sculpture features any details below chin level. • The second inauguration of United States President Calvin Coolidge takes place on March 4. It is the first inauguration to be nationally broadcast on radio. • Alan Rowe opens the chamber of the tomb of Hetepheres I on March 8 in Egypt. He is the first person in 4,500 years to open the chamber. • The state of Bavaria in Germany bans Adolf Hitler from speaking in public for two years on March 9. The ban limits Hitler to speaking only in private, closed meetings. • Greek football club Olympiacos F.C. is founded in Piraeus on March 10. Olympiacos is now the most successful club in Greek football history, with 47 league titles to its credit. • Cuba and the United States sign the Hay-Quesada Treaty on March 13. The treaty recognizes that the Isla de Pinos, now known as the Isla de la Juventud, is the territory of Cuba. • Walter Camp passes away in New York City on March 14 at the age of 65. Camp, a college football coach considered the "Father of American Football," created the sport's system of downs and the line of scrimmage. • An estimated 5,000 people are killed when a 7.0 magnitude earthquake strikes the Chinese province of Yunnan on March 16. • Edvard Benes of Czechoslovakia proposes a "United States of Europe" on March 17. The proposal is an attempt to secure peace in Europe and includes a western bloc featuring nations including England and France, and an eastern bloc made up of countries including Poland and Austria. • The Breakers, a luxury hotel in Palm Beach, Florida, burns down on March 18. The cause of the fire is later traced to the wife of Chicago mayor William Hale Thompson, who left an electric curling iron plugged in.



SHERIFF'S CORNER
DANIEL E. ABBOTT

I had the pleasure of being a Judge for the 3rd Annual Paw Paw Chili Walk. It was a great turn out and thank you to everyone that participated in the event. After 18 samples of chili, I didn't want to eat that night. Uniform Response had a Domestic Violence call in Geneva Township. After Deputies investigated the incident, the female half was lodged for assaulting her boyfriend. Dispatch was Notified by an Alarm Company that a Heat Detector was Going Off and they were Unable to Contact the Resident. Lawton Fire Department was dispatched along with a Deputy to the location in Porter Township. Upon getting to the residence, it was on fire. Once the fire was out, a sweep of the residence unfortunately found the deceased owner. No foul play was determined after the initial investigation. Michigan State Police Investigation Unit assisted with the fire as well. Uniform Response was Dispatched to a Possible Domestic Violence Call in Decatur Township. The call came in as a male running next to a car being driven by a female with an argument taking place. Deputies where able to speak to the two individuals who denied anything took place. Deputies received a call a few hours later stating that the female was assaulted, but she wouldn't disclose her location. According to the victim, the suspect and her separated for the night. Uniform Response was Dispatched to a Texted 911 Call for Someone Trying to Break Into a Residence in Hartford. The investigation determined it was unfounded, and the texter/caller sent Deputies to his ex-girlfriends' residence. The incident will be sent to the Prosecutor's Office for false report of a felony. Uniform Response was Dispatched to a Hit and Run in Decatur Township. The victim's vehicle was sitting in the driveway when a white full-size truck went off the roadway and hit it. The suspect vehicle will have damage to the front passenger side. Anyone with any information on this is asked to contact our office. Uniform Response was Dispatched to a Single Vehicle Crash in Keeler Township. The investigation found that the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and lodged for the incident. The Van Buren County Road Commission implemented Full Seasonal Weight Restrictions February 28th for all roadways under the jurisdiction of the Van Buren County Road Commission, with the exception of its State Class A and County Class A roadways(All-Season Roads). Our Office was Contacted by a Family from Decatur due to an Accident That Damaged Their 2 1/2 Year Old's Son's Car Seat. Our office works with Safe Kids Michigan to assist families with free car seats and showing them how to install them correctly. A Detective from our office met with the family and replaced their car seat as well as showing them the proper way to use it.

GOBLES CITY 2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the City Hall, 105 E. Main St., Gobles, Michigan 49055, to examine and review the 2025 assessment roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessments or taxable values, poverty exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials: **Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 3:00 pm Organizational Meeting** **Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 9:00 am to Noon and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm** **Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 9:00 am to Noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm** And on such additional days as required to hear all persons who have given notice of the desire to be heard until assessment rolls have been revised, corrected, and approved. **APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED.** Contact the Assessor at 269-655-1144 or by email at ben.apglc@gmail.com for further information. Letter appeals will be accepted and must be received no later than 5:00 pm March 14, 2025. Address listed below. Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2025 are as follows: Agricultural 46.53% 1.0746 Commercial 46.65% 1.0718 Industrial 50.00% 1.0000 Residential 41.70% 1.1990 Personal Property 50.00% 1.0000 Tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 for all classes is expected after completion of Board of Review. Ben Brousseau, Assessor Gobles City Gobles City Board Meetings are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. **American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice** The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven-(7) days' notice to Gobles City. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Gobles City by writing or calling. Paula Sipes, Gobles City Clerk 105 E. Main St, P.O. Box 38, Gobles, MI 49055

Columbia Township Planning Commission
The March 12, 2025 Public Hearing is CANCELLED, to be rescheduled - Date TBD. Public comment can still be submitted in writing to the Clerk: clerk@columbiatwp.com or PO Box 323, Grand Junction, MI 49056.



Varsity Boys Basketball

Bloomingdale Cardinals Capture First District Championship Since 2013

The Bloomingdale Varsity Boys Basketball Team made history Friday night, claiming the MHSAA District Championship with a 50-36 victory over Delton Kellogg at Saugatuck High School. This marks the first district title for the Cardinals since the 2012-2013 season, cementing their place among Bloomingdale's top basketball squads.

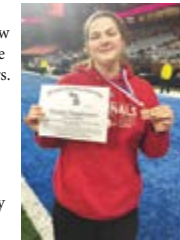
The Cardinals played lockdown defense and executed their game plan to perfection, keeping Delton Kellogg in check for all four quarters. Javon Pittsley and Aiden Byers led



Varsity Wrestling

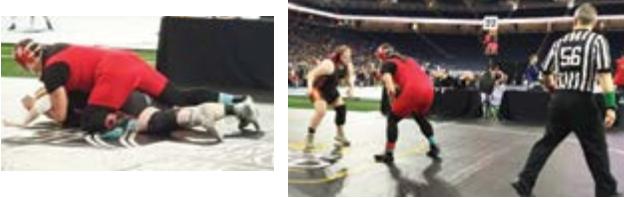
Hegelmann Finishes 4th at MHSAA State Wrestling Finals, Earns Second Consecutive All-State Honor

The High School Wrestling season wrapped up over the weekend with the State Finals at Ford Field in Detroit, where Rowan Hegelmann represented Bloomingdale High School and our community in exemplary fashion. Competing against the best in the state, Rowan secured a 4th place finish and earned her second consecutive All-State honor, improving on her 5th place finish in 2024. Rowan put together an impressive 3-2 record at the State Finals, earning three victories by pinfall. In the consolation semifinal, she displayed brilliant tactical wrestling, pinning her opponent in the second period to advance to the 3rd place match. She then went the full six minutes in a hard-fought battle but fell just short, losing 6-2. Her final season record stands at 22-5, with two of those losses coming against the eventual state champion in her weight class.



Cardinals' Season Ends in Regional Semifinal Battle

The Bloomingdale varsity boys basketball team saw its postseason run come to an end Tuesday night in the regional semifinal, falling to Pewamo-Westphalia at Kent City High School. The loss eliminates the Cardinals from playoff contention, officially closing the book on a memorable season. Despite the tough defeat, the 2024-25 campaign was one for the record books. The Cardinals captured their first district championship since 2013 and secured their first winning season since 2020, marking a significant step forward for the program. Congratulations to the entire team and coaching staff on an outstanding season filled with determination, hard work, and historic accomplishments. The future remains bright for Bloomingdale basketball!




WINTER SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT
The Winter Sports Awards Night for middle and high school sports is Wednesday, March 12th at 6:30 pm in the High School Auditorium. The ceremony is open to all Bloomingdale Winter Athletes and their families.

Spring Sports Start Dates
High School Spring Sports practices begin Monday, March 10th after School. Bloomingdale Spring Sports include: Baseball, Softball, Girls Soccer and Boys Golf. Middle School sports practices begin on Monday, March 24th after school. You can sign up to play at bloomingdale-mi.finalforms.com.



 Sunday Services: 9am and 11am 514 W. Van Buren St. Gobles, MI 49055	Get 'em Cards! COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE 08337 M-140 Hwy. • South Haven, MI (269) 637-6135 www.countryhousefurniture.net	A&B LAWN CARE COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL SNOW PLOWING TOTAL LAWN CARE • TRIMMING CLEAN-UP • HAULING SR. DISCOUNTS • FREE ESTIMATES 492-4612	3WEST SALON 269-459-1322 6772 S. Westnedge Portage, MI 49002	 Andy Peterson 521-6462	 We care for our Cardinals! 269-628-9099 Main Office in Downtown Gobles Bangor location opening soon.
 We're calling for a Cardinal win! 269-521-7300	The Cardinals appreciate your support! Thank you! 	 Kridler Insurance Agency (269) 238-0280	Samuel Mancino's ITALIAN EATERY 269-628-2814 407 S. State St. • Gobles Hours: Sunday to Wednesday 11am-8pm Thursday to Saturday 11am-9pm	Southwestern Michigan Dust Control 521-7638 P.O. Box 152, Bloomingdale, MI	Van Buren REMINDER We've got you covered. Serving: Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, Glenn, Grand Junction, Lacota, Pullman & South Haven 269-427-7474 www.vanburenreminder.com

Van Buren Reminder's

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Publishing Sunday, March 30

Deadline: Wednesday, March 26 @ 3 pm

March is Women's History Month

• Contact the Van Buren Reminder

269-427-7474

reminder49013@aol.com

\$69
2 col x 3"

\$94
3 col x 3"

Other sizes and prices are available!



\$45
2 col x 2"

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ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Pine Grove Township is seeking applicants to fill 1 part time position (20hrs per month) as attendant at the Township Recycle Center. The application is a simple letter of interest, Stating your full name, address, phone number, past references.

Your letter may be mailed to Supervisor, Pine Grove Township 26520 CR 388 Gobles, MI 49055
E-mailed letters will also be accepted at supervisor@pinegrovetownshipmi.gov.
Deadline to apply is March 4, 2025.
For further information call Michelle Meert, clerk at 269-628-4380.

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP SERVICES AND INFORMATION

(updated 2/03/24)

53053 County Road 388 – PO Box 323
Grand Junction, MI 49056 • (269) 434-6227

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 – MI Twp Services -----800-626-5964
BUILDING – MI Twp Services -----800-626-5964
ELECTRICAL – MI Twp Services -----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. The Township has joined with VBCCO Conservation District for free collection of up to 10 tires (passenger and semi) per day for landowners in Van Buren County (businesses are not included), from the month of May through October. The Transfer Station is located at 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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ANNUAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING


The Arlington Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township Budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026 at the Arlington Township Hall, 52022 34th Ave. Bangor, Mi. 49013 on Wednesday, March 19th at 6:00 PM. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

A copy of the budget will be available on the website. Call 269-427-7300 for questions.

The Regular Arlington Township Board meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

Persons in need of special accommodations please contact the Township prior to the day of the meeting.

Arlington Township Board



Douglas John Latchaw

Douglas John Latchaw, age 79, of Bloomingdale, passed away Saturday, March 1, 2025 at his home. Doug was born to Roy and Emilie (Blank) Latchaw on March 29, 1945 in South Haven, MI.

He graduated from Bloomingdale High School, where he earned all-state football honors, Doug worked his entire life on the family farm "Latchaw Orchards" in Bloomingdale, where he later became co-owner.

Surviving are his daughter, Tonya (Ben) Finch; step-daughter, Amy (Mark) Harris; brother, Steve Latchaw; sister, Linda (Kelly) Page, four grandchildren, Gage & Miller Finch, Brody & Marty Harris; also surviving are many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Bloomingdale Conservation Club.

According to his wishes he was buried at Pecktown Cemetery, Bloomingdale Township. Arrangements entrusted to the Bloomingdale Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home.



we care about your community. because it's our community too.

simple human sense

GOBLES INSURANCE CENTER
203 S. State Street, Gobles
Call 628-2691 or 628-2107
www.newellinsuranceagency.com

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NEWELL Agency, Inc.

Michigan Association of Insurance Agents

ROCKY JOHNSON Insurance Services

Covert Public Schools

35323 M-140 Highway
Covert, MI 49043
269-764-3700

NOTICE OF BOARD VACANCY

The Covert Public School District is seeking letters of interest for the current vacant position on the Board of Education. An individual will be appointed to fill the vacant position until the November 2026 election.

The letter of interest should include the following information: Your name, address, telephone number, a statement that you are a citizen of the United States and a qualified and registered voter in the Covert Public School District, and a brief statement indicating why you want to become a board member.

All interested individuals must submit their letter of interest for consideration by 3:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 12, 2025**, to Geoffrey Rose, Board President, Covert Board of Education Central Office, 35323 M-140 Highway, Covert, MI. 49043.

After reviewing the submitted materials, the Board will schedule interviews with candidates at a **Special Board Meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.** If you have any questions concerning the role of the Board of Education and the responsibilities of a Board member, please contact Mrs. Yolanda Brunt, Superintendent of Covert Public Schools, at (269)-764-3710.

To be eligible, a person must be a registered voter and resident of Covert Public School District, at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and have lived in Michigan for at least 30 days. Property ownership isn't a requirement for candidacy.

The Board of Education of Covert Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, height, weight, marital status, or any other legally protected characteristic in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

Van Buren REMINDER

SERVING Van Buren & beyond

Why advertise with us? In a profit oriented world, you know that to get ahead, advertising is necessary. You advertise to tell people about your goods and services. Local paper advertising is certainly not the only way to deliver your message but many times it is the best way and the most affordable. How else you gonna tell people about your open house, grand opening, a big sale on your bumper crop or a classified ad to sell that treadmill that is collecting dust and Happy Birthday to you know who? We know that young people be like, "Who needs a paper? I can just go to a website and find what I am looking for." Yes, that is true for the most part, but many things you'll only find in a local paper. At the Reminder we like to mix things up a bit with articles of interest, like school newsletters and sports pages, local events like the Apple Festival, Harborfest, and other activities. These newsworthy events are sponsored by the community and appreciated by all.

We Care. The Reminder puts the employees and the customers first and Pam Harris, the owner, has experienced what it means to struggle and to succeed. That being said, the Reminder's goal is to successfully deliver quality and quantity advertising commensurate with the audience that you are trying to reach.

Where are the papers going? Glad you asked. 14,000 plus and if you add the internet exposure it is endless. Reference the map area below of Van

Buren County. Also note that the Reminder has store drops where you can pick up a paper for free at the locations below.

Who reads the Reminder? Everybody. Check it out and you will find how effective advertising can be. Some ads in the Reminder may only be applicable for a week or two, but like your Facebook feed, it just scrolls away until the next issue rolls around. Every week is a new adventure with some repeat ads. Yes, the Reminder includes the same old, same old. We try to keep up with facelifts for our clients, but keeping it the same is also a good thing because your logo is your branding and getting it in your face is the purpose of the advertising.

But what about the internet? The Reminder's website is available to download the weekly paper or search the archives. There you will find information about our prices, school newsletters and seasonal or local happenings.

So, give us a shout and our designers will give you something to be happy about!



ADVERTISE With us

Read Local



Shop Local



Eat Local



The Van Buren Reminder is delivered to homes and businesses!

Delivery Areas by Zip Code

Gobles	- 49055
Grand Junction	- 49056
Lacota	- 49063
Paw Paw	- 49079
South Haven	- 49090
Bangor	- 49013
Bloomingdale	- 49026
Breedsville	- 49027
Covert	- 49043

Not in our delivery area? Find your Van Buren Reminder in the these drop off locations.

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| <p>1. Bangor
Harding's
Speedway Gas
Shell Gas
Calabash
Sunoco (Box Outside)
Reminder Office (Box Outside)
Blinkers Restaurant
Lander's Hardware (Box Outside)
Library
Post Office
Carnitas Mexican Restaurant
Breedsville Post Office</p> | <p>Cousins Park
Kal-Haven RV park
Phoenix Quik stop
Phoenix Farm Market (In Summer)
Paper box on Phoenix Downtown
A&D One Stop (Box Outside)
Marathon Blue Star
Paper Box by Outpost Sports
BP Gas Station
Phoenix Road
Barden's Farm Market
Village Express Gas Station
Senior Services (Box Outside)</p> | <p>Village coin laundry
Lander's Hardware store (Box outside)
Jerico Corner's Store
Faith Restored
Thrift shop</p> | <p>3. Covert
Citgo Gas Station
Public Library
Marathon Station (Box Outside)</p> | <p>4. Coloma
Harding's Market
Wesco Station (Box outside)</p> | <p>5. Watervliet
B&B Discount Store
Tom Smith Tractor</p> | <p>6. Hartford
Wash-N-Dri Laundromat
Coin Express Laundry
Harding's Market
Marathon Gas Station
Hosteller Metal Sales
Van Auken Store</p> | <p>7. Lawrence
Lawson's Gas Station
Marathon Gas Station
Lone Pine Amish Store
Acapulco Mexican Restaurant</p> | <p>8. Paw Paw
Save A Lot
Clothes Basket
Laundromat
Family Fare Grocery
April's Tea Pot Dome</p> | <p>Dave's Place Flea Market
Marathon Station
Red Arrow
Lawson's Citgo M-51
Walt and Marie's Wagon Wheel Cafe
Restaurant
Magoo's Mobil Gas Station
Marathon Station
Glendale
Tea Pot East</p> | <p>9. Gobles
Village express Gas Station
Village Market
Mancino's Restaurant
Healy's True Value
Hometown Pharmacy</p> | <p>Robin's Nest Restaurant
Shell Gas Station
Nino's Pizza (box outside)
Malia's Mexican Restaurant (Box outside)
Woody's Goodies
Post Office
The Den Cafe</p> | <p>10. Bloomingdale
Wagoner's Market
Bent and Dent
Amish Store
Bloomingdale Library</p> | <p>11. Grand Junction
Mr. Grocery Gas Station
Country Fare Restaurant
Post Office</p> |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|

EMAIL: reminder49013@aol.com • WEBSITE: vanburenreminder.com • PHONE: 269-427-7474

2025 WINTER SPORTS

BANGOR VIKINGS

Basketball

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Vikings beat Hartford

From Coach Witkowski:

Thursday, Feb. 27

Game vs Hartford
Final Score. Bangor 54 Hartford 38

Stat Leaders:

Scoring
Jaelynn Little 16 points
Madi Lennox 14 points
Lexi Wisniewski 10 points
K'Liyana O'Steen 9 rebounds
Lexi Wisniewski 6 steals & 3 assists

Comments

Vikings fell behind 12-6 mid-way through the 1st quarter but went on a 12-1 run to end the quarter. The Vikings lead by 10 at half and 16 by the end of the 3rd quarter.

Bangor record

Overall 9-12
Conference 7-11

FINAL SCORE
2.27.2025
VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL
54 **38**
VIKINGS HARTFORD



go Vikings!

Vikings lose to Watervliet

From Coach Witkowski:

Wednesday, Mar. 5

Game vs Watervliet
Final Score. Bangor 18 Watervliet 34

Stat Leaders:

Lexi Wisniewski 9 points
K'Liyana O'Steen 9 rebounds
Jaelynn Little 8 steals
Izzy Horvath 2 blocks

Comments

Vikings struggled to get good shots to fall but played good defense to hold

Watervliet to 34 points, while getting 18 steals on the night. The Vikings ended their best season in 2016. I what to thank our seniors Jaelynn Little and K'Liyana O'Steen for all their effort in and off-season.

Bangor record

Overall 9-12
Conference 7-11

GIRLS JR VARSITY BASKETBALL

End of Season

From Coach Beck:

Thursday, Feb. 27

The JV girls ended their season last night although it was a loss, they had Solexy with 6 points and Zari with 4. The girls JV season is over, but varsity starts districts next week!



Wrestling

Congratulations to Aiden Muñoz!

Friday, Feb. 28

From Coach Muñoz:

Aiden Muñoz placed 8th in the MHSAA State Finals at Ford Field, after going 2-3. Congratulations Aiden on a great season!



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