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BEDFORD PRESS BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Community supporting Breaking Beans Coffee & Market and its purpose for past five years

By Jackie Giroux
Reporter

Do you like to give one-of-a-kind gifts to family and friends for special occasions? Do you like to look for unique items to add to home décor or a collection?

Marking five years in business in April, **Breaking Beans Coffee & Market** has been providing a place for shoppers to find unique items that have also been handmade by local, talented crafters.

“There are currently 15 vendors selling jewelry, gnomes, crocheted and knitted items, signs, cards, crafts, candles/wax melts, soaps/lotions spa items and bake mixes/pantry items,” said Tammy Lamb, founder of the business.

As you can see, there is quite a variety of merchandise for shoppers to browse through and it is ever changing. “The shopping is set up for seasonal and gift-giving items,” Tammy said.

The market also carries bags of Breaking Beans Coffee for sale. “We currently carry eight regular blends ranging from espresso to light roast and eight to 12 flavored coffees that rotate with the seasons. We also carry a variety of decaf coffees, both regular and flavored,” Tammy said. Additionally, shoppers can purchase freshly brewed hot and cold coffee by the cup.

Coffee drinkers can come to **Breaking Beans Coffee & Market** to replenish their stock of favorite coffee blends and/or flavors – maybe try something new when seasons

change. If you have a gift to buy for a family member or friend who enjoys a good cup of coffee, make up a gift basket with a variety of Breaking Beans Coffee for a gift that is certain to be appreciated.

For those that enjoy tapping into their creative side, **Breaking Beans Coffee & Market** holds workshops where you can learn how to do something new. Cookie decorating workshops are very popular.

“We do cookie workshops and craft and paint workshops. We’ve done wax melts and car freshener workshops,” Tammy said. Smaller workshops are hosted in the market with larger groups gathering in the Schoolhouse Lunchroom for needed space.

Tammy’s business venture is more than just the little market for shoppers – it was founded with a purpose that is dear to Lamb’s heart. She spends much of her time advocating for local adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

As the mother of a son, Craig, born with down syndrome, Tammy had a vision. She wanted to found an organization with a focus of assisting adults 18 and older in the Bedford area as well as throughout Monroe County who have developmental disabilities. Their quality of life would be improved as the organization assisted them in realizing a goal, pursuing a dream or meeting their employment needs.

She started the Breaking Barriers Foundation, which eventually became a 501(c)



Tammy Lamb and her son Craig inside their little market, **Breaking Beans Coffee & Market**, where shoppers can find **Breaking Beans Coffee** and a wide variety of handmade crafts by local talented crafters. You can find them inside the **Olde Schoolhouse Commons**.

Pick out flowers for mom at annual Breaking Barriers Foundation Flower Sale!

Just in time for Mother’s Day shopping, the annual flower sale that benefits the Breaking Barriers Foundation will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Olde Schoolhouse Commons, 8336 Monroe Rd., Lambertville (corner of Secor and Monroe roads).

Ten-inch hanging baskets filled with geraniums, million bells, petunias or sun impatiens are priced at \$15. Hanging

baskets 24-inch size are priced at \$27, ferns are \$20 and 12-inch deck pots are \$27 and are also available for shaded areas.

Plan on stopping in at the flower sale and selecting some beautiful flowers for a gift for mom that will last well into the fall. While you are there choose the flowers that you need to decorate your porch, patio or deck. Doing your flower shopping at the flower sale supports a very worthwhile organization!

(3) non-profit organization. Fundraisers built up funds that allowed Breaking Barriers to begin awarding grants to individuals that enhanced their lives.

As the foundation grew and was running smoothly, Tammy realized another way she could help. Seeing a need in the community for jobs for adults with developmental disabilities, Tammy came up with the idea for a micro-enterprise business.

“I wanted people to understand that people with disabilities, all have the same dreams and want to do the same things that you and I want to do. They want to have a job. I wanted people to understand that people with a disability are employable and can have a business,” she said.

Tammy founded Breaking Beans Coffee that was designed to train and employ adults with disabilities in all aspects of the coffee business. Craig was already working at the Lambertville McDonald’s making coffee and doing refills however after teaching him some new skills, Craig became a Breaking Beans Coffee entrepreneur, helping his mother operate the business.

Coffee beans are sold to Breaking Beans Coffee by a wholesaler in five-pound bags and once opened to fill an order the remaining beans are stored in airtight containers. “When we got an order, Craig weighed the amount of coffee ordered, and either packaged it as a whole bean or would grind the coffee, depending on what the customer re-

quested,” Tammy explained.

The business took off quicker than Tammy expected. Having put profits back into the business, Tammy and Craig were able to help Craig’s friends and other adults with disabilities build skills for future employment. The goal was not to provide permanent employment but to teach skills that would lead to a permanent job at a local business.

Adults with developmental disabilities each have different skill levels and Lamb felt that Breaking Beans Coffee would be able to adapt to meet each person’s needs. “We would be teaching somebody a skill until they became successful at it and maybe they could take this to another job in the community,” she said.

Always trying to figure out how she can expand on her business ventures, to be able to offer additional teachable skills along with providing more options to offer customers, Tammy got the idea to merge Breaking Beans Coffee with a shop that would carry handcrafted items made by local vendors.

In April 2018, Lamb opened **Breaking Beans Coffee & Market** on Jackman Rd. People could come in and purchase their favorite coffee or enjoy a freshly made cup of coffee along with baked goods made on the premises and browse the shop.

The goal of **Breaking Beans Coffee & Market** remained the same as Breaking Beans Coffee – an opportunity for adults with intellectual and developmental disabili-

ties to learn and build skills enabling them to move on and get a job out in the community. Craig also learned some new skills and continues to help his mother operate the business. “Craig comes to the shop everyday we are open during the week after he has finished working at McDonalds. When we do pop-up markets/farmers markets he generally attends those with me to work,” Tammy said.

After being located on Jackman Rd. for two years, **Breaking Beans Coffee & Market** moved in October 2020 and opened in November. The market is located in room 104 at the Olde Schoolhouse Commons, 8336 Monroe Rd. in Lambertville, easily found at the corner of Monroe and Secor roads.

Always desiring to enhance the shopping experience at **Breaking Beans Coffee & Market**, Tammy adds to what the market has to offer as well as holding workshops that are of interest to her customers.

“We are in the process of adding K-Cups to our coffee line. We currently sell 2 oz., 8 oz., and 16 oz. bags of coffee either whole bean or freshly ground. We will also be adding lavender lemonade to our menu board along with hot or iced coffee. We will also be selling the lavender lemonade packaged,” Tammy said.

“We are also looking to add dry bake mixes to our little market. The K-Cups, lemonade packaged and dry mixes are items that our skill builders, Kristen, Lindsey and

Shawn, will be assembling in our shop and creating more job skills for them,” she said.

Profits from the market go toward supporting the works of the Breaking Barriers Foundation. “We are a non-profit under the umbrella of Breaking Barriers Foundation,” Tammy said.

Considering the success of the two businesses that Tammy founded, interestingly she had no prior retail experience. She had worked in the banking business and due to a transfer, over 30 years ago she and Craig moved to Lambertville. She said her success has been based on observing what people want – what they like and don’t like.

“It has been a pleasure being a part of the Bedford community and we cannot thank our customers, neighbors and friends enough for all the support they have given us. We are excited to see what’s next for our little **Breaking Beans Coffee & Market!**” Tammy said.

Summer hours at **Breaking Beans Coffee & Market** begin in May. Summer hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Evening and weekend hours will be added periodically. Every Tuesday Lamb posts on the Breaking Beans Coffee Facebook page Coffee Tuesday and lists business hours along with additional hours for the week. Events that will be happening at the market will also be listed.

For questions or more information, contact Tammy Lamb at (734) 224-7100 during business hours.

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Two Monroe County Sheriff deputies graduate from DRE training



Deputy Balil Bazzi

Monroe County Sheriff Troy Goodnough is proud to announce that two deputies from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Deputies Balil Bazzi and Cody Carena, recently graduated from Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) school. DRE training is advanced and designed for highly motivated officers active in Operating While Impaired (OWI) enforcement.

The DRE program offers curriculum that is academically challenging and developed to enhance an officer's ability to identify, evaluate, and document suspected drug impairment. Officers who successfully complete the training oftentimes become the leader in alcohol and or drug impairment arrests within their department and communities.



Deputy Cody Carena

The DRE training consisted of three phases. Phase I and Phase II required 72 hours of classroom lecture and hands-on instruction. Those phases were completed in Pontiac, MI. Phase III involved 40 hours of field training which required them to perform evaluations on subjects known to be under the influence of drugs and/or drug alcohol combinations. Phase III was completed in Jacksonville, FL.

Funding for the training was obtained from a grant administered by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning with funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Deputies Bazzi and Carena will utilize this training throughout their careers to help keep the roadways safe for the residents of Monroe County.

LCRTA to meet May 16

Lucas County Retired Teachers are gathering on Tuesday, May 16, at 12 noon at the Highland Meadows Golf Club, 7455 Erie St., Sylvania, OH 43560. Ample parking is available and the building is handicapped accessible.

Ellen Kennedy, Education and Visitor Experience Director for the National Museum of Great Lakes, will be the guest speaker at the May luncheon.

The Community Partner for May is East Toledo Family Center. Items needed are: outdoor toys for summer programs (chalk, bubbles, hula hoops, balls, outdoor games); small paper cups, paper towels, tissues and wipes.

The luncheon entree choices include: apple cranberry chicken, roasted pork loin, and eggplant parmesan. Entree served with: Betty's salad, California blend veggies, roasted red skin potatoes, rolls and butter, dessert, and beverage bar – coffee, tea and lemonade. Cash bar available.

Make checks payable to LCRTA and send your reservations with \$30 per person, before May 8 to: Jeannine Petcoff, 15139 Todd Rd., Petersburg, MI 49270. Contact Jeannine at: jcpetcoff@gmail.com or (734) 854-7511.

Reservation forms can be found on page 2 of the Slate on the LCRTA website: <https://lcrtaweebly.com>.

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United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties and ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital to host Spring Health Checks

The United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties and ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital, along with three major partners, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Family Medical Center and the Monroe County Health Department annually provide opportunities for low-cost health testing and health information in the spring and fall.

This spring's events will be held on Thursday, May 18 from 8 a.m. to noon at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church at 8330 Lewis Ave. in Temperance and Thursday, May 25 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Dundee Assembly of God, 13790 S. Custer Rd., Dundee. A 12-hour fast is recommended before blood tests. Blood pressures are always taken before blood draws can be made.

An additional Health Check event is scheduled in Lenawee County on Thursday, May 4 from 8 a.m. to noon at the St. Mary's Activity Center at 305 Division St., Adrian. This event is co-sponsored by the ProMedica Charles & Virginia Hickman Hospital, based in Adrian.

The cost for a 22-panel blood test is \$20 and includes the following tests: a complete blood count, glucose, kidney function, sodium, potassium, chloride, carbon dioxide, thyroid function and total cholesterol check. Additional Vitamin D and HA1C tests are available at a minimum cost.

Vitamin D tests measure how much vitamin D is in your body. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and a lack of it can lead to health problems, including cardiovascular disease.

HA1C (Also called Glycohemoglobin) is a blood test that is an aid in diagnosing and monitoring diabetes. It is an index of the person's blood

sugar from the previous few months.

Test results are mailed to the individual's home address and it is their responsibility to take the results to their medical professional.

All tests range in price from \$5 to \$20. The costs for this project are held to a minimum due to partnership collaborations.

The Monroe County Health Department will be on site offering a variety of vaccines.

Health Check usually offers a memory test, legal information from Monroe County Senior Legal Services, ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital sends staff from their many departments: Nutrition Counseling, Pharmacy, Pulmonary Functions, Pulmonary Rehab, Cardiac Rehab, Women's Center Health, and Family Center Mental Health Center. The Monroe County Library System, MCOP, and Area Agency on Aging are also present at Health Check events.

"We are so excited to offer our spring Health Check events. This is a much-needed service for the communities we serve," said Laura Schultz Pipis, executive director of the United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties. "Special thanks and recognition to the ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital for all their hard work and dedication in making our Health Check events possible".

Initial funding for the project comes from ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital and The United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties, while the partners conduct all the testing, lab work and supply staffing and volunteers.

Free medication disposal will be offered at each site. No syringes, liquids or creams are accepted. This is a safe way for you to dispose of any expired or unused prescription or over-

the-counter medication. Drop off is anonymous, and any patient identifying information will be destroyed.

This service is made possible through a partnership with the Monroe County Substance Abuse Coalition, the Monroe County Health Department, ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital, Michigan State Police and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

For more information contact the United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties at (734) 242-1331 or visit the website www.unitedwaymlc.org.

LaFontaine Foundation to present live concert by The Guardians on May 4

Literal Life Church, located in Petersburg at 11100 Summerfield Rd., will be hosting a live concert presented by the LaFontaine Foundation featuring The Guardians, with Sheri LaFontaine also appearing.

The concert is free and will take place on The National Day of Prayer, Thursday May 4 at 7 p.m. The Guardians are three-time Dove Award nominees. Sheri LaFontaine is a local artist.

The Guardians are a southern gospel quartet made up of Dean Hickman, John Darin Rowsey, Pat Barker and Scott Mullins. With a unique sound and tight harmony they have a passion for sharing the gospel through their music.

With three Dove Award nominations, multiple #1 songs and Fan Awards, The Guardians have been blessed by the Lord with an incredible journey since their beginning. Each member of the group brings a sincere commitment to glorifying Jesus Christ.

Come out for an evening of some great gospel music, everyone is welcome to attend! An offering will be taken.

Dates announced for 2023 marine vessel safety inspections

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office Marine Division is hosting it's annual Safety Inspections for Monroe County residents to certify their boats are safe and prepared for the 2023 boating season.

These inspections are provided by the Sheriff's Office at no cost to the public and participation is voluntary.

The Marine Division will be conducting Vessel Safety Inspections at the following locations:

Saturday, June 3 – Safe Harbor, Toledo Beach Marina, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, June 10 – Bolles Harbor DNR Boat Launch Site, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, June 17 – Lost Peninsula Marina, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The vessels can be trailered, dry docked, or in the water for inspection. Sheriff Troy Goodnough and the Marine Division would like to invite everyone out to Vessel Safety Inspection Days to meet the deputies, ask questions, and receive additional education while obtaining a safety inspection.

If you are interested in scheduling an inspection or have questions, please contact Sgt. Robert Moody at (734) 240-7744.

In Loving Memory of JUDITH A. HOWARD

Judith A. Howard (Judy), 82, of Temperance, MI, passed away peacefully Sunday, April 16, 2023, surrounded by her family.

She was born in Toledo, OH, Nov. 2, 1940, to John and Betty Jane (Brooks) Klag. Judy and her husband, John, were the owners of Fox Meadow Farm. The two were icons in the horse world. Their Temperance training stable is nationally renowned. It has been home to numerous champion horses and riders, as well as people who just enjoy the company of horses. Judy and her husband loved everything, from the training to the competition and the daily care of the animals. The couple worked tirelessly to support and promote equestrian sport in Michigan and around the country.

Judy grew up in Ottawa Hills and graduated from DeVilbiss High School in 1958. She married John W. Howard in 1960. They had four children: Polly, John, Beth and Meg. The entire family is involved in the business, with the third and fourth generations continuing to run the farm.


Judy had a quick wit, a curious mind, a generous heart, a feisty spirit and a fierce determination. She inspired generations of riders, both in the show ring and in life. She was a tremendous presence in countless lives. Judy was a friend and mentor to people of all ages. In addition to her lifelong love of horses, she enjoyed her garden, art, traveling and creating special experiences with her family.

Judy is survived by her children, Polly (John) Coberley, Meg (Jim) Fuleky, Beth (John) Pfeiffer, John (Nancy) Howard; grandchildren, Henry Pfeiffer, Laura (Matt) Walling, Jimmy Fuleky, Jada Fuleky, Christopher Coberley, Lydia Rae Howard, Ella Jane Howard; and great-grandchildren, Wesson Walling, Miles and JJ Pfeiffer. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her sister, Pat.

There will be a celebration of Judy's life on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at her home.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to Hospice of Northwest Ohio, The American Cancer Society, HJAM, or a horse/equestrian charity of the donor's choice.

American Cremation Events assisted the family with arrangements.



BHS Class of 1973 announces date for 50th Reunion

The Bedford High School Class of 1973 will hold their 50th reunion on Saturday, September 16 at The Back Forty, 5215 Monroe St., Beverly Hills Shopping Plaza, in Toledo from 5-10 p.m.

The cost will be \$45 per person payable by Thursday, August 31. This cost includes BBQ buffet with beef brisket, pork and chicken, three sides, soft drinks, coffee, tea, all taxes, room rental fees and gratuity. A full-service cash bar will also be provided.

Payment by check should be mailed to: Bedford High School Class of 1973, P.O. Box 73, Lambertville, MI 48144. Make check payable to BHS Class of 1973. Space is limited so don't delay sending your reservations with payment before August 31.

Join in at a casual mixer on Friday, September 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the banquet room at Forest View Lanes, Dean Rd. Cash bar only.

If you would like to share high school pics or memories, please copy and send to the post office box above or scan and send to the Class of 1973 gmail account and you will added to the wireless streaming at the event.

Also, send your contact information to the gmail account including your name, phone number and email address so organizers will have them for future events. If you have contact with out of town classmates, please forward this information to them. Organizers don't want to leave anyone out!

Visit Facebook page "Bedford Temperance, MI Class of 1973 Reunion" or email inquiries to Bedfordclassof1973reunion@gmail.com.

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Notice of Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of Draft Bedford Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Public Review and Comment

The draft 2023 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Bedford Township is available for public review and comments. Any interested public can send comments to the Township Park Commission or will be given an opportunity to comment at the:

- Bedford Township Park Commission regular public meeting: Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Bedford Township Hall, 8100 Jackman Road; and
- A Public Hearing taking place at Bedford Township Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Bedford Township Hall, 8100 Jackman Road.

The Township will accept any written comments on the plan until June 2, 2023. Please direct your comments to Carol Laurie, Park Commission Chair, c/o Clerk's Department, Bedford Township, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182 or via email to claurie@bedfordmi.org

The plan is available for consultation at the Township Hall (8100 Jackman Road) and on the Township's website: bedfordmi.org.

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FISH TALES ... AND OTHER STORIES



Saltwater surprises

Lew Horn
Feature Columnist

One of the great parts of planning a fishing trip is the anticipation. As the day gets near, you begin to imagine the possibilities. Visions of monster-sized fish, one after another, make it hard to sleep the night before. This is especially true when the trip is on saltwater. You just never know what you're going to catch.

You could plan on snook, only to find redfish are biting. It's that mystery that makes a trip on saltwater so enjoyable. I write this the day before a saltwater charter on Sarasota Bay. I have done this trip many times and know ... well, you really never know. There are certain fish you expect to catch, but there is always the possibility of a complete surprise.

A few years back we were working some shallows, looking for snook, redfish or trout. We had hooked a few snook when suddenly I had a vicious strike on a small silver spoon. The fish was much faster than anything we had hooked previously. Finally, I worked him to the boat, where I discovered I had hooked a small barracuda. Normally barracuda stay in deeper water, but this guy was obviously hungry for snook.

The charter captain was surprised and mentioned he had never caught a barracuda in this area. About ten minutes later my buddy Ron hooked up with a fish, and yep, it was another "cuda" about the same size as mine. We took pictures of both fish and compared them. We were pretty sure we had two separate fish, although barracuda are super aggressive and would not be averse to going after a lure twice in the same day.

Another time I was fishing from shore in the Intracoastal Waterway, just to see what I could get. The bite was pretty slow until evening, when I noticed some fish feeding near a channel marker just in casting range. Big snook often start feeding after dusk, so I was hoping that's what I was seeing. I had made about five casts when I had a jarring strike, and the line began to burn off my drag. The fish made a leap far out into the channel and shook the lure. Still thinking snook, I knew they liked to school up, so I kept casting.

Sure enough, I hooked up again and this time the fish jumped right away, and I realized I had hooked a small tarpon. Now with tarpon, small is kind of misleading. This fish probably weighed 15 or 20 pounds, and quickly ran off most of my line. Running up and down the seawall, I slowly worked him toward shore. I could feel him tiring and thought I had a chance. Then he spotted that channel marker and ran around it cutting my line on the barnacles encrusting it. Sadly, I was fishing alone and didn't even have a witness to corroborate my story.

Even fish not nearly as exciting as tarpon or barracuda can make a trip interesting. On a charter in the Florida Keys with my cousin Billy, my wife tried saltwater fishing for the first time. The first thing she hooked was a large stingray. Billy patiently pointed out the poisonous barb on the stingray's back and even held the fish for a picture. Later on, a sizable bull shark made a meal of a redfish she was reeling in. Ok, that was pretty exciting! I thought those two experiences might sour her on saltwater, but quite the opposite. Jule couldn't wait to see what would happen next.

During this spring break, my grandsons Matthew and Marcus, who got to take a charter with their mom and dad, caught quite a variety. The boys were pretty excited and anxious to get back to saltwater fishing next year.

And that's the point. Thousands of species of fish inhabit



Jule looks on while Bill releases her stingray.

the saltwater estuaries. It's not uncommon to catch ten or more different types of fish in one trip. When that rod bends, you can never be sure what's on the line. Over the years I have caught a variety of fish but it's still a thrill when you catch a new species for the first time.

Florida has a neat program where anglers are given an award for catching a variety of species. The "Catch a Florida Memory" program offers a T-shirt and certificate for folks who catch a certain number of species. The first step is ten.

That was pretty easy. Next is 30. I'm at 20 now and hope to add a few this year. The ultimate award is to catch all 70 of the eligible species. That one might take a while!

If you get to Florida, add a fishing trip to your itinerary. If you like to fish and haven't tried saltwater, you're missing out.

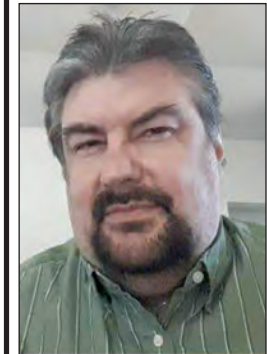
We hope you are enjoying this column. If you have any questions for Lew, please email them to BedfordPress@aol.com.



Matt with an unusual fish called a lookdown.

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Temperance teen RJ Cornett takes on asphalt racetrack following in his father's footsteps

By Jackie Giroux
Reporter

Sixteen-year-old RJ Cornett (Royce James Allen Cornett, Jr.) of Temperance, is scheduled to run his first race on the asphalt track at Flat Rock Speedway this coming Saturday,

May 6. He will be following in his father's footsteps, a fan favorite at the track for many years.

Royce Cornett, Sr. retired from racing in 2011, ending a more than 30-year career as a race car driver. He was known as "The Carolina Flash." Achievements include Track Championship in 2002 and 28 Late Model wins, still holding the #5 spot for All-Time Late Model wins at Flat Rock Speedway. "People know the name," RJ said. "I've got some massive shoes to fill but I have to take it one step at a time. I'll be driving dad's car that has been sitting in the garage. He was the #8 and that's what I'll be."

RJ will have had two practices in the #8, the past two Saturdays, before his first race. "Dad is nervous but excited," RJ said. The John 3:16 Cornett Racing Team operates on a shoestring budget. "If I tear it up that will probably be it. I get one shot."

Normally, races at the track are 50 laps, RJ said. "I'm on the schedule for 10 races at Flat Rock for the season." He said that if things go well at Flat Rock, they might venture out to other tracks.

At 16, RJ already has a 10-year racing history under his belt. At just six years of age, he got his start racing karts on the asphalt track at Palmyra Speedway and the asphalt road course at Fremont Raceway Park.

RJ quickly moved up the ranks and began competing in adult classes at the age of nine. His skill ranked up with drivers who had decades of experience on the track. Being one of the youngest drivers in the open class, RJ earned the respect and admiration of his fellow racers, track owners, promoters and sponsors.

At 14, RJ had a fourth-place fast time in qualifying at The Fall Classic held at Big B Speedway in Gibsonburg, Ohio. This once-a-year race is held with some of the best karters in the area and RJ brought home a first-place finish in a field of 65 go-karts.

RJ finished the 2022 season with his fourth Season Open Division Championship at Palmyra Speedway, setting a track record for the most consecutive championship wins.

RJ's passion turned to dirt track racing, running laps at many area tracks including The Dirt Track at Fremont Raceway Park, Sandusky Speedway, Martinville Speedway in Attica, Ohio, Little Eldora Speedway in New Weston, Ohio, Cridersville Speedway and various other tracks in the tri-state region.

RJ has raced a truck on a dirt track for local racer/owner Cory McCaughey, at Fremont Speedway in Fremont, Ohio. "I ran the dirt truck for two years," he said,

Last year was probably every parent's fear when watching a child race. RJ was involved in an accident that

luckily was not a racing career stopper. "I had an accident last July. I was life flighted out of Fremont. I was in the corner, the throttle stuck on the truck and when I went to hit the brakes the brake line broke, so I had a double whammy," he said.

While not life threatening, there was some recovery time from the serious injuries of the July 31 crash. RJ said he was a little hesitant about racing again. "The first night I was a little timid. My dad handled it pretty well. In 1989 he went through a wreck where he broke his back and some other bones. So he understood."

When asked what his goals are for a career in racing, he said, "My dream is to be on the TV every Sunday afternoon in NASCAR. But, that takes deeper pockets than I've got." He added that he would not rule out Outlaw Series racing.

For now, RJ's focus is on his first race at Flat Rock. "I'm following where dad left off. I have experienced people around me with wisdom and knowledge," he said. This includes Keith Nelson and Bill Schneider, longtime family friends as well as past pit crew members for Cornett, Sr., as well as RJ's Uncle Randy Cornett. Keith and Bill have spent countless hours over the last several months in preparing the well-recognized #8 for the track.

RJ's longtime sponsors, Rich and Karen Pilatowski of Petersburg, have been instrumental in RJ's racing career to date. The John 3:16 Cornett Racing Team is looking for a couple more sponsors for this year's racing season.

When RJ is not on the track he is just like any other teen

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As RJ Cornett gets ready to race his dad's #8 car on the asphalt track at Flat Rock Speedway for the first time, he has crew behind him with years of experience. L to r: Randy Cornett (RJ's uncle who used to race at Toledo and Flat Rock Speedways), RJ Cornett, RJ's dad Royce, Sr. and Keith Nelson and Bill Schneider (both RJ's pit crew and former racers and pit crew for Royce Sr).

and has other interests. RJ is finishing his junior year at Whiteford where he has played football with the exception of this past season. "I went through the hardest part of playing football (summer practices) and then didn't get to play when they won the championship because of my injuries." He says he plans on returning to football his senior year.

Additionally, RJ has played the banjo for the past seven years. He has strummed his banjo at local Bluegrass events. This has earned him the nickname "The Banjo Man" in the racing field.

RJ says he would like to be his own boss someday, owning a trucking company. Giving it a lot of thought, he has plans in mind for working his way up to owning a semi.

Good luck RJ in your first season running in the #8 at Flat Rock Speedway!

Pallet Moms Retail Outlet celebrating 5th anniversary

Stop in at the Pallet Moms Retail Outlet, located at 6588 Secor Rd. in Lambertville, and help them celebrate their 5th year in business!

A Customer Appreciation Party will be held on Saturday, May 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. All store merchandise will be priced at \$5 or less in honor of their five-year anniversary.

There will also be hourly give-aways, a food truck, surprises and much more! Spin the wheel for free store and food truck items.

Visit PalletMoms.com to learn more about the business and to check out the great deals when you shop with Pallet Moms.



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April 28th designated as Law Day in Monroe County

Friday, April 28 was designated Law Day in Monroe County and observed with a program that was held in the courtroom of Judge Nichols in the Monroe County Courthouse. The event was hosted by the Monroe County Bar Association (MCBA).

The Law Day committee consisted of MCBA president Steven Jedinak and the MCBA vice-president Jessica Paladino.

During the program they recognized area students that were essay and poster contest winners.

The Liberty Bell Award was presented to the family of Trooper Herman Brown of the Michigan State Police who passed away from COVID-19 in March 2021.

As quoted from the MCBA website, "The Liberty Bell Award is given each year by local bar associations in conjunction with Law Day to honor outstanding citizens within the local community.

The award recognizes outstanding service performed by a non-lawyer citizen who has given of his or her time and energy to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of freedom under law, in keeping with the spirit of our Constitution.

Such service may include activities which promote a better understanding of our form of government, especially the Bill of Rights; encourage greater respect for the law in the courts; educate people in the contrast between totalitarianism and freedom under law; or stimulate the deeper sense of individual responsibility to the end that citizens recognize their duties as well as their rights."

A designation for Law Day was first declared by President Eisenhower in 1958 to occur on May 1 of each year. It is meant to be a day to reflect on the role of law and the importance of law in our society

As a result, many bar associations, schools and other organizations around the country conduct programs that are designed to improve the public's understanding of our justice system.

Pictured l to r: District Judge Christian J. Horkey, Circuit Judge William P. Nichols, Judge Joseph Costello, Jr. (Retired), Circuit Judge Daniel S. White, Chief Probate Judge Cheryl E. Lohmeyer, Chief Circuit Judge Mark S. Braunschweig, Judge Terrence Bronson (Retired), District Judge Amanda L. Eicher and Chief District Judge Michael C. Brown.

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Literal Life Church – offering Biblical guidance for the challenging times we are living in

By Jackie Giroux
Reporter

If you are not a part of a church family and are seeking a church to attend, you are encouraged to try a Sunday worship service at Literal Life Church, located at 11100 Summerfield Rd. in Petersburg. “I think you will find the church warm and friendly,” said Pastor Paul LaFontaine.

Pastor Paul founded Literal Life Church 34 years ago. “I originally moved to Toledo for an office manager job. The church was started almost immediately with a small Bible study on the east side of Toledo in 1989. A few families joined us and after five years, we found a building in the Ottawa Lake/Lambertville area and have grown into two other buildings since then,” he said.

Pastor Paul said he chose the name Literal Life because “literal” means real or original and as a church they seek the real life of Christ now, not just a Christ of history.

“We are non-denominational Bible believing,” Pastor Paul said. The mission of Literal Life Church is “To publish and preach Christ’s message of restoration for the last days and to display the real (literal) Life of Jesus Christ to our families, the church, and the world.”

“There are specific scriptures that are related to the

times we live in now. The fulfillment of these scriptures is a direct answer to the challenges we are all facing in the world right now. God did not leave us to fend for ourselves in the last days. He cares and showed he cared by giving us the Word and Spirit we would need for these particular times, Pastor Paul explained.

Pastor Paul described a typical worship service at Literal Life Church as about 30 minutes of great music and worship followed by the reading of prayer requests of people and then together praying. Lastly, a message that people can take with them, “the Word preached with clarity and inspiration,” he said.

Since the last move of Literal Life Church was into a much larger building, he said many people stay for fellowship after the service.

Music of praise is an important part of most church’s worship services. “We have a tremendous music ministry at the church. I think all ages would enjoy it.” Pastor Paul said.

His sister, Sheri LaFontaine, who is pretty well known in the area has been a part of Gaither videos and concerts, and The LaFontaine family history brings a lot of Southern gospel/inspirational influence to the music ministry. “We love the hymns and sing many of them, but there are many new songs being written these days that are really inspiring as well,” Pastor Paul said. “Our objective in worship is not to copy anyone, especially the world’s status-quo music and spirit, but to worship God in the beauty of Holiness.”

Pastor Paul’s son Gideon is the main song leader. “Gideon is really gifted to follow the Spirit’s lead when it comes to the song service. It softens and prepares your heart to receive the Word,” Pastor Paul said.

Membership at Literal Life Church is currently a little over 200, made up of people of all ages. There are between 50 and 60 Sunday-School-age children.

Sunday School is at 10:30 a.m. followed by the 11 a.m. regular service. There is a nursery where parents can care for the youngest Literal Life attendees. Wednesday night service is at 7 p.m. There is

Lambertville lodges sponsor Mother’s Day Drive for moms in need

The Lambertville IOOF Lodge #467 and the Eva Rebekah Lodge #299 are sponsoring “A Mother’s Day Drive” to help needy moms and their babies in the community.

Donations of personal hygiene items such as soaps, shampoos, deodorants, toothbrushes/pastes, feminine hygiene items, etc. for moms and baby care items such as bottles, formula, diapers, wipes, baby food, etc. will be collected for local needy moms and their babies.

Community residents wanting to reach out to others this time of the year and help needy moms and babies may drop off donations at the Lambertville IOOF Hall, 8128 Summerfield



BEDFORD PRESS Preacher Feature

worship followed by either the teaching or preaching of the Word. Youth meetings are every other Friday night.

One of the ways that Literal Life Church reaches out to the community is by hosting Vacation Bible School. Kids from the community are welcome to attend. Kidz Dayz will be held Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24.

“Over the last 25 years, Kidz Dayz has been an outreach to hundreds of children, teaching them the simple truths of The Bible. Our main goal is to ensure that our kids understand at least one thing: God is good, and the devil is bad,” Paster Paul said.

Through making crafts, learning new songs, interacting with characters, solving mysteries in the escape room or running through an obstacle course, the kids will be receiving this message during the two-day event.

If you are interested in having your children attend Kidz Dayz, visit <https://kidzdayzvbs.com/> to get more details.

Literal Life Church recently began holding Hymn Night on Sundays beginning at 5 p.m. This is not a concert, but a sing along that will be featuring The LaFontaine Family and will be joined by more singers from the church. The Sing Along is a free event. Just be ready to join in the singing of lots of old time favorite hymns and gospel songs.

Reaching out into the world, Literal Life Church gives to many mission projects around the world as funds are available. The church has helped to support ministers and build churches in Laos, Israel, South

America, Mexico, Cambodia and many other places. They also try to provide funds for material like Bibles and tracts in their language.

Pastor Paul was born in Ann Arbor. Much of his younger years were spent traveling. His father, John, was an evangelist and the LaFontaines were performing. The family traveled a lot throughout the United States and Canada, and lived in several places. When they were traveling he was homeschooled by his mother.

“I went straight to the ministry since the Lord called me at a young age. At 16 years old, I had a real special experience from God that kind of got my attention. I started to really stay close to and listen to what God wanted from that point. He made it clear in my heart a few months later of the calling He placed within me to preach the gospel,” Pastor Paul said.

Pastor Paul and his wife Rebekah will be celebrating 30 years of marriage this year. They have four children: Amariah 27, Solomon 26, Gideon 23 and Gabriella 20. They have one granddaughter Ellie that is three years old.

In his spare time, Pastor Paul enjoys fishing. “Music is still a big part of my life. I love playing the piano, singing,

writing and producing new songs. My siblings and I wrote many songs and produced many CDs through the years,” he said.

Pastor Paul has thoroughly enjoyed his 34 years serving the Literal Life membership. “I enjoy watching the transformation God can do in broken lives. One thing people are learning is that religion alone isn’t working anymore. Something deeper is needed because of the extreme need and emptiness in humanity. I love watching hearts of young and old becoming tender to the Lord and surrendering their lives to Him.”

“If someone visits Literal Life Church, I believe they will notice a difference. If they are hungry for something beyond

church, I believe they will find it. Come and see us. The music and the message will be worth the visit!” Pastor Paul invited.

For more information regarding Literal Life Church or to contact the church with questions visit www.literallife.church. For those who have difficulty getting out to attend a worship service, Literal Life Church has a broadcast on WNWO Toledo Sunday mornings at 11:30 a.m.

I looked on child rearing not only as a work of love and duty but as a profession that was as interesting and challenging as any honorable profession in the world and one that demanded the best that I could bring to it.
~ Rose Kennedy

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES 8100 Jackman Rd., Temperance, MI April 18, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisor Paul Pirrone, Clerk Trudy Hershberger, Treasurer Krista Jandasek, and Trustees Todd Bruning, Joe Gore, Craig Montri & Rick Steiner.

The Regular Meeting of the Bedford Township Board was called to order by Pirrone at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion was made by Gore, seconded by Bruning, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Bruning, to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT – Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek, to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$51,970.20, Fire District-\$43,912.53, Fire Equipment-\$5,654.33, Downtown Dev. Authority-\$71.68, Library Operating Fund-\$451.01, Transit System Fund-\$45.00, Building Department-\$626.63, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$8,605.15, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$1,174.00 for a total of \$112,510.53. Motion carried.

COMPENSATION COMMISSION SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS – Motion was made by Montri, seconded by Bruning, to deny the Compensation Commission’s recommendation for the salary change for the four trustees for fiscal year 2023/2024 & 2024/2025. Motion carried.

APPROVE REQUEST FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A FENCE AT 7193 SULIER DRIVE –Motion was made by Bruning, seconded by Steiner, to approve the request for the installation of a fence at 7193 Sulier Drive on the condition that the applicant must work with the Fire Department on accessibility through the gated area, provide a trash/dumpster enclosure to meet the Declarations of Restrictions II.F requirements for screening and comply with any/all additional requirements of the “Grantor” for the proposed fence. Motion carried.

APPROVE MCRC CONTRACT FOR WHITMAN DRIVE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT – Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek, to approve the Whitman Drive Special Assessment District contract with the Monroe County Road Commission from Lewis Avenue to the dead end, with the Township’s portion being \$111,300.00 and the MCRC portion being \$3,600.00. Motion carried.


APPROVAL TO BID OUT AND SELL UNUSED TOWNSHIP VEHICLES – Motion was made by Gore, seconded by Bruning, to bid out and sell the five listed township vehicles. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger, CMC, MiPMC
Bedford Township Clerk

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Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary

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June 6th Issue	Deadline: Tues., May 30
June 20th Issue	Deadline: Tues., June 13
July 4th Issue	Deadline: Tues., June 27
July 18th Issue	Deadline: Tues., July 11
Aug. 1st Issue.....	Deadline: Tues., July 25
Aug. 15th Issue.....	Deadline: Tues., Aug. 8
Aug. 29th Issue.....	Deadline: Tues., Aug. 22
Sept. 12th Issue.....	Deadline: Tues., Sept. 5
Sept. 26th Issue.....	Deadline: Tues., Sept. 19
Oct. 10th Issue.....	Deadline: Tues., Oct. 3
Oct. 24th Issue.....	Deadline: Tues., Oct. 17
Nov. 7th Issue	Deadline: Tues., Oct. 31
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Introducing Hampton, MGU’s first safe digging “ambassador”

Coopersville native wins “pup-ular” vote to share important safety message

There’s no place like home for safety – just ask Hampton. The eight-year-old from Coopersville has gone from waiting for his “fur-ever” home to standing as the top dog in town as Michigan Gas Utilities’ (MGU’s) first safe digging “ambassador.”

MGU customers and dog lovers alike cast thousands of votes for the best canine to remind everyone to call 811 at least three days before digging. As the top vote-getter, Hampton will spend the next year reminding people across Michigan to call 811 before they dig.

Hampton’s journey to becoming MGU’s first “ambassa-

dog” started hundreds of miles away. The pit bull-mastiff mix originally lived in an animal shelter in Arkansas with more than 200 other dogs until October 2020. That’s when a volunteer from a Grand Rapids dog rescue – who would end up becoming Hampton’s dog mom – visited and agreed to help find a home in Michigan for him and 11 more dogs.

At first, Hampton’s parents weren’t planning to adopt him – until they saw how well he bonded with their dog, Cedar. Hampton has called western Michigan home ever since, becoming a foster brother to numerous other dogs. And

while he enjoys being playful with his foster siblings, he loves to dig – especially in a large dirt pile in his backyard.

Watch for Hampton serving as MGU’s chief canine communicator in its safe digging campaign throughout 2023.

About 811: Whether you’re planting a garden or installing a fence, you could be putting yourself in danger if you strike an underground natural gas line or electrical cable. Contact 811 at least three days before you dig to have the location of buried utility lines marked – and to keep you and your family safe.

Phone scam alert!

Monroe County Sheriff Troy Goodnough is warning residents of a phone scam where the caller portrays himself as a sergeant with the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office.

On April 28, 2023, a person claiming to be “Sergeant Berman” of the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office called several Monroe County citizens and demanded money or face jail time for warrants. The telephone number that was associated with the scam calls was (734) 250-9198.

Sheriff’s Deputies are investigating and attempting to identify the impostor and where the calls originated from.

Sheriff Troy Goodnough reminds residents that no law enforcement agency will call citizens and demand money or face arrest for any reason. Should a Monroe County resident encounter this situation, it is requested they call Monroe County Central Dispatch at (734) 243-7070 and report the crime. For citizens living outside Monroe County, please contact your local police department or sheriff’s office.

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Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Secure Document Shred Days to be offered

The first of four Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections for Monroe County residents will be on Tuesday, May 9, from 3 to 7 p.m., behind the Monroe Charter Township Hall, 4925 E. Dunbar Rd., Monroe, MI, behind the playground and Nature Center. The event is free of charge and open to Monroe County residents only; business waste will not be accepted.

Acceptable materials include, but are not limited to: pesticides and fertilizers, oil-based paints, automotive fluids, cleaning products, flammable items, all types of batteries, mercury-containing items, and fluorescent bulbs. For additional accepted items, please

visit www.greenmonroecounty.com.

Residents are strongly discouraged from pre-event arrival, as this tends to create longer wait times. There is no need to arrive early as no HHW will be accepted before the start time.

“Proper disposal of hazardous materials and sensitive documents is essential for the protection of our environment and our identity,” said Dan Rock, Recycling and Green Community Program Coordinator. “We encourage all residents to take advantage of these free services and help us keep Monroe County green and clean.” Over 1,356,898 pounds of hazardous materials were collected through this program since 2015.

Two secure document shred days will also be offered this year. The first will be Wednesday, June 14, from 3 to 7 p.m. at Indian Creek Park, 8486 Douglas Rd., Temperance, MI, and the second on Saturday, August 12, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Monroe Township Hall, 4925 E. Dunbar Rd., Monroe, MI. During this event, Monroe County residents can have their documents shredded on-site and recycled.

From drop-off to destruction and recycling, all documents will be constantly monitored and protected. There is a limit of 100 pounds per vehicle (strictly enforced) to ensure capacity for all wishing to participate.

Mark your calendars for the other household hazardous waste collection and shred events:

- June 14: 3 to 7 p.m., Indian Creek Park (HHW and Document Shredding)
- August 12: 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Monroe Charter Township Hall (HHW and Document Shredding)
- September 16: 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Indian Creek Park (HHW only)

For more information on the Recycling and Green Community Programs please contact Dan Rock, (734) 240-7909, dan_rock@monroemi.org or www.greenmonroecounty.com.

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PNCC announces date for next Pork Chop Dinner

On Thursday, May 11 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. (or until sold out) Resurrection PNCC Parish, located at 1835 W. Temperance Rd. in Temperance (between Douglas and Jackman roads), will be hosting a curbside pickup Pork Chop Dinner.

This popular dinner will feature: pork chop, kielbasa, mashed potatoes and gravy, pierogi, sweet and sour cabbage and for dessert Polish-style coffee cake. The cost is \$10 per person. There will be additional items available for purchase that include: duck soup, Polish-style coffee cakes and pierogi sold by the dozen.

Resurrection PNCC also has gift certificates available. A gift certificate that treats someone to a delicious home-cooked meal is certain to be appreciated for a birthday or any special occasion gift.

The next Pork Chop Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, September 14. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar!

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SAFETY SERVICES STAFF
Monroe County Community College has part-time positions open for Safety Services Staff. The Safety Services Staff is responsible for providing a safe and secure campus environment for students, staff, faculty and visitors. The Safety Services Staff performs safety, loss prevention, conducts regular vehicular and foot patrols and responds to emergency and non-emergency situations, renders assistance as appropriate, and makes reports. The Safety Services Staff enforces College parking and other College regulations and provides directions and information. The Safety Services Staff is instrumental in campus safety through proactive safety efforts, such as identifying hazards, making building visits, checking safety equipment, and having positive interaction with students, faculty, staff, and guests. Qualifications include high school diploma and proof of successful completion of police academy training (validated via an academy certificate or transcript) and/or an Associate's degree; ten or more years of experience in law enforcement, criminal justice or security enforcement, required; Concealed Pistol License (CDL) or certified to carry a firearm concealed (i.e., Certified Law Enforcement Officer); and a Michigan Vehicle Operator's License. The scope of the position requires occasional weekend and evening work, providing oversight of the activities of three shifts (10+ hours per week plus special event assignments. Hourly wage is \$20.75 per hour.

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