Beautiful, warm, sunny weather set the stage for a nearly perfect Memorial Day, which many people see as the unofficial start to summer. Beaches and backyard barbecues were calling, but there is more to the day than that… much more, as a large crowd lined the main streets of Mendon to give testimony.

Decoration Day was established in 1868 to honor those who lost their lives in the Civil War. Following World War I, the remembrance was broadened to

Honoring Those Who Gave All
by Bryan Balasa

Nottawa Street Bridge to Open Soon
by Bryan Balasa

The Nottawa Street Bridge closed on May 21, creating a considerable inconvenience for those who travel it every day. However, if weather cooperates, the bridge could re-open as early as a full two to three weeks ahead of the projected schedule.

Workers first removed the existing surface of the bridge to be able to make repairs to the underlying cement structure. Crews then went to work making repairs and minor upgrades to the bridge, both from above and from boats below. They also replaced the existing joints above the bridge supports. “There were a lot of concrete erosion issues due to water running off the sides of the bridge,” explained a supervisor at the site. “The new deck will be redesigned to redirect water flow for proper drainage and to help make sure the bridge reaches its full life expectancy. There are only so many repairs which can be made to a bridge of this age. The bridge is two-thirds of the way through its expected serviceability. Our job is to

Continued on page 3

The Nottawa Street Bridge closed May 21, one week after the proposed closing date.

Continued on page 3

Left to Right
See page 10 for photos and story.

Front Row
Alexandar McDaniel, Blake Everson, Gabriel Parks, Cheyenne Campbell, Eduardo Rubio, Nicole Elkins, Jack Leitch, Sydney Miller, Jordan Bell, Alexia Lange

Second Row
Austin Baldwin, Kaley Smith, Nicholas Crotzer, Camryn Rhodes, Noah Graham, Micaela Yoder, Jared Adams, Taylor Schmidt, Ruben Vonster, Angela Smith

Third Row
Malakai Baldwin, Hannah Frye, Jacob DeRyke, Madison Mykolaitus, Austin Samson, Cassandra Plummer, Alexander Heckman, Mary Leighton, Trenton Adams, Lara Speece

Fourth Row

Fifth Row
Gillian Himes, Austin Goertler, Julia Sutter, Zackary Green, Kaylee Hook, Garrett Russell, Megan Gilbert, Jacob Bingaman, Shyannah Stevens, Grady Garlingter

Sixth Row
Megann Leighton, Patrick Reynes, Sirasit Ketwaravech, George Huang, Lucas De Brito Berardi, Baptiste Halipre, Nancy Steinacker

MENDON CLASS OF 2017

The Connection
The Community Newsletter of Crossroads Missionary Church
June 2017 Vol. 23
FREE!
The June meeting of the Mendon Village Board included good news for our community. A review of the village water and sewer systems, conducted by an outside firm, indicated that the village water and sewer infrastructure is in good condition, with no major issues to be addressed in the near future. Some long-range future infrastructure updates were mentioned, but only as a reminder of what will be needed in future years. It was also pointed out that the current rates for water and sewer service allow the village to operate in the black, meeting state guidelines.

In public comments, a couple was present to object to a notice they received regarding the improper storage of “junk” on their property, which gave them only so many days to bring their property up to code before the village took action to clean it up and bill them for the expense. They stated that it was not adequate time. Village Manager Hyden has pointed out that the village has received a large number of complaints about the property and that five citations have been issued against the property in the past year. Several neighbors, who feel their property values and quality of living are being negatively impacted by the deteriorating condition of the property.

Rose Donation Did Well by Steve Gary
May 11th, 12th and 13th the St. Joseph County Area Marine Corps League Detachment #1401 was busy collecting donations in both Sturgis and Three Rivers Wal-Mart, Kroger’s in Sturgis, and Hardings in Three Rivers. “The people in this community are very generous in their help for our Veterans’ programs,” stated Steve Gary, paymaster for the MCL. “This year we were able to donate to the following programs: Walleye for Warriors, Homes for Our Troops, Meals at the American Legion Post 170 in Three Rivers for veterans from Battle Creek, and a scholarship program. We would like to thank the businesses for allowing us the collect at their stores and again, for the generosity of our community.”

Laugh a Bit
by Pinky Cass

A cheerful heart is good medicine. Proverbs 17:22

To Bean or Not to Bean

Like a lot of people these days, I am trying to offer healthier snacks to my family. When I say “offer” I’m speaking theoretically of course, because I don’t announce that the food is new, or healthy. I just put it somewhere obvious where they are sure to take the bait.

A few days ago, I made brownies where the oil and eggs were replaced with a can of black beans. The author of the recipe assured readers the brownies tasted nearly identical to a traditional recipe. The word “nearly” raised some questions in my mind, but I went ahead anyway. The timing was a bit tricky, as I had to blend the beans quickly before anyone witnessed this deceptive maneuver. In our family, noise from the blender seems to attract attention like Pavlov’s dog to a bell. Therefore, I moved with great speed and dexterity. Positioning the can opener in the proper spot, I cranked the handle quickly to remove the lid. The opener, which I’m sure came over to the Mayflower and has been here longer than a hoe, took an eternity to finish its circling of the can. Honestly, I could have picked the beans faster! At last, I selected a button on the blender that whirled the contents into a nice black mush.

Step two. I hurriedly scooped the bean slurry from the blender into a nice black bowl. Written by Pinky Cass, an ordinary co-worker who chooses to laugh.

The next edition is scheduled for July 20, 2017.

Help us keep publishing The Connection! Do you know we could not afford to keep publishing The Connection if it were not for the support of our advertisers? Please, support our advertisers and let them know you appreciate their advertising in The Connection. If you shop with businesses who do not advertise in The Connection, perhaps you could suggest they consider doing so.

The Connection- Keeping Mendon Connected!
Honoring Those Who Gave All

include those who gave their lives in the service in that war as well. Through the years it has become a day to remember and honor all those who paid the ultimate price in military service to our country. Memorial Day services in Mendon began shortly before noon at the Mendon Township Library. The Mendon High School Band, led by director Miss Kaitlin Black and drum major Emily Vendal, played the National Anthem as the color guard stood at attention before the flagpole on the library lawn. Representatives from the various branches of the service presented a 21 gun salute. Taps immediately followed, played by Mendon High School Band trumpeters Lauren Oke and Aubrey Crotser. St. Joseph County Marine Corps League Chaplain Larry Fitch, a Marine Staff Sergeant fighter pilot in the Korean War, spoke to the crowd gathered around the flag which was flying at half staff in honor of those who had died in service to our country. He urged those in attendance to, "Remember our fallen comrades. Do not mourn, but praise them for the good they did." He concluded his address with a wish for a safe holiday for all.

As is custom, the flag was then raised to full staff to honor those who survived the wars. Retired Air Force Master Sergeant Jesse Toney performed the honors. Mendon Police Officer Bryan Regan and St. Joseph County Deputy Mike McCoy led the parade side by side in their patrol cars. World War II veteran Carroll Haas was given a deserved place of honor in the army jeep driven by Marine Cpl. Terry Large. Lt. Specialist Jim Haas followed his father on foot, accompanied by Master Sgt. Jesse Toney. Floats carrying distinguished service men and women were applauded as they followed. The procession continued with the Mendon High School Band in uniform, the Mendon Cheerleaders in patriotic attire, Girl Scout Troop 90880, and several unique vehicles. The St. Joseph County Mounted, Mechanized, and Water Patrols, and the Mendon Volunteer Fire Department vehicles completed the parade, which ended at St. Edward Cemetery, where Chaplain Fitch offered a prayer. The flag was raised and a 21 gun salute was offered, followed by Taps. A small crowd then traveled to the Mendon Township Cemetery, located west of town on M60, where this service was repeated.
IN THE GARDEN, Soil pH, Part II

Barb’s Helpful Hints by Barb Martus

Barb’s Helpful Hints

In the garden, soil pH is a measure of the amount of lime (calcium) contained in your soil and the kind of soil you have. Generally, soils in moist climates tend to be more acidic (pH lower than 7.0) and those in dry climates are alkaline (pH higher than 7.0). Different types of plants require varying degrees of soil acidity. Some plants are very sensitive to soil pH. Most garden centers will test a soil sample or an inexpensive pH test kit can be purchased. Test kits are very easy to use.

To raise the soil pH by 1.0 point to make it more alkaline, add 4 oz. of hydrated lime per square yard in sandy soils, 8 oz. per square yard in loamy soils, 12 oz. per square yard in clay soils, and 25 oz. per square yard in peaty soils. This should be a long term project. Soil should be tested each year and adjustments made gradually.

To lower the soil pH to make it more acidic, sulfur may be used, if it is available. To reduce the soil’s pH by 1.0 point, mix in 1.2 oz of ground rock sulfur per square yard if the soil is sandy, or 3.6 oz per square yard for all other soils, mixing in thoroughly before planting. Sawdust, composted leaves, wood chips, leaf mold, and especially peat moss will also lower the soil pH.

Source: The Garden Helper

COA Hires Life Enrichment Coordinator press release

The St. Joseph County Commission on Aging is pleased to announce that it has hired three Rivers’ native, Kelsey Larsh, as its Life Enrichment Coordinator. Ms. Larsh will be based at the COA’s Sturgis Enrichment Center, however, she will be responsible for planning and executing all activities for COA members at both the Sturgis and Three Rivers’ Centers. Larsh received her degree in therapeutic recreation from Central Michigan University and previously worked at Heartland Health Care and Elkhart General Hospital. “I’m really excited to be joining the COA,” Larsh said. “I hope to provide the seniors of St. Joe County a diverse range of activities and programs to enrich their lives and keep them healthy in mind, body and spirit.”

COA Executive Director Tim Stoll said Ms. Larsh’s previous work experience and her educational background is a great fit for the COA. “We want the seniors of St. Joe County to have engaging and vibrant activities to choose from and having someone like Kelsey in place will help ensure that we do just that,” he noted. The COA is increasing the number of exercise classes held at each center. Cardio drumming and Tai chi are now offered at both its centers. If you are interested in participating in either class, which are free to COA members, please call the COA at (269) 279-8083 for more information.

COA Lunch

Monday - Friday @ Noon
Three Rivers Community Center 103 S. Douglas
Sturgis Enrichment Center 306 N. Franks Ave
Fridays at Noon
Kline’s Resort
22360 Kline’s Resort Road, Three Rivers,
just off of Silver Street north of Michigan Avenue
for reservations
269-374-8083

Mendon Kiwanis Meeting
Mendon Kiwanis
Mendon United Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m.

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Mendon Fanners’ Market is open each Thursday at Reed River Park, just north of the bridge, from 2-6 p.m.

Noah Creek is the soil pH. Part II

Barb’s Helpful Hints by Barb Martus

IN THE GARDEN, Soil pH, Part II

Barb’s Helpful Hints

Lindley Creek Bluegrass

Kline’s Resort-July 9-6:30 pm
22360 Kline’s Resort Road
2.5 miles North of M60 on Silver St
Rain location: West Mendon UMC
Bring lawn chairs and finger foods to share.
A love offering will be received.

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Mark your calendars and watch for info.

Mendon 4:4 and More

Kline’s Resort-July 9-6:30 pm
Lindley Creek

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Recipe for Raising Good Children, part 1

by Pastor Bryan Bolasa

Raising children is hard! It is unlikely that anyone- at least anyone who has actually raised children- would disagree with that statement. There are no guarantees which say, “Do this or do that and your children will turn out just right.” But, just as in cooking, if you follow a good recipe, your chances of success increase considerably. Children grow up with minds of their own and the freewill to live their lives the way they want. So the secret ingredient in this recipe for parenting is simple: raise children in such a way that they will WANT to grow up to be what you hope they will become. No parents are perfect and no recipe turns out right every time. There are many, good, godly parents who have done everything they can to raise their children right, only to have them walk away from the beliefs and values with which they were raised. Some people quote Proverbs 22:6 as a promise that God will make their children turn out well if the parents raise them right. It reads, “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” (NIV84) But this way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” (NIV84) But this is not a promise. It is a passage found in the wisdom literature of the Bible which states a general, observable truth. Still, there are certain ingredients which can go a long way to raising good kids. First, keep in mind that it is not the goal of a recipe to help the cook to just make good dough, but it is to finish the process and turn it into a delicious loaf of bread. In the same way, parents should remember that they are not raising children, but future adults. Working to always make children “happy” cannot be the ultimate goal. The goal is to raise well-adjusted, competent, capable, godly adults, who will CHOOSE to live good and honorable lives. The old adage, “Children learn more through what is taught than what is taught.” These things cannot be simply told, they must be lived. As in cooking, there may be more than one recipe which will produce a good final result, but here are some ingredients which my wife and I have found to be indispensable in the raising of our adult children:

• A commitment to Christ and His teaching is of foremost importance. This is not about going to church every Sunday, though that is a definite part of it, but to live every day in a way which follows the teaching of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is to be taught, not as an obligation, but as a privilege and a joy.

• A commitment to the church, the body of Christ on earth. We learn and grow and serve through the local church family. The church is a place “where everyone knows your name” and cares about you and your family. Why would they not want to be a part of it?

• A respect for everyone, regardless of economic or social status, the color of their skin, the language they speak, or their physical abilities or limitations.

• A respect for those in authority, whether or not we like them or agree with them.

• A respect for rules and laws.

• The importance of living moral lives of integrity.

• A respect for the Church in doing God’s work in the world. At the same time, learning to understand the low value of “stuff” which does not last.

• Understanding the value of family. Learning to be there for each other, support each other, and celebrate the successes of one another.

• There is one other ingredient beyond a parent’s control: The grace of God. While God does not generally force his will upon any of us, He still exhibits divine influence in response to the faithful, consistent prayers of parents who are seeking His help in raising their children.

Our kids are growing up in a time and situations most of us middle aged and older adults cannot imagine. If our kids are going to survive and thrive as they grow, they need us to instill in them the strength to stand up for what is right- in spite of the peer pressure and other influences around them- even if they have to stand alone. Well, these are the ingredients which are called for in the recipe. Of course it takes more than a list of ingredients to make a recipe turn out. Next month we will look at the directions for mixing them and baking.
At the Library

by Kim Foghino

With summer upon us, the library will be a cool place to head out. We keep the central air on throughout the hot days of summer. We welcome you to sit and read in the coolness.

Just a reminder, the library’s fax machine, a copier and printer set up for each computer. We offer free Wi-Fi, with copies and faxes for a fee.

This year our summer reading club will be held on Tuesdays at 11 am, beginning July 11th through August 1st. Our reading club theme is Ready, Set, Read.

The benefits of summer reading programming for children are:

- Children are motivated to read.
- Children develop positive attitudes about reading, books, and the library.
- Children maintain their reading skills during summer vacation.
- Children have access to experiences that further their sense of discovery.
- Children have access to experiences through which they can learn to work cooperatively.
- Children’s gifts will be used for building homes for severely injured veterans.

Michael’s home is designed with his specific ambulatory challenges in mind. Its special features will not only improve his quality of life; but will also, “make my wife and son’s life better since they won’t have to watch me struggle.”

According to HFOT’s website, it, “has received Charity Navigator’s highest rating of 4 stars every year since 2008. Charity Navigator is an independent charity evaluator that grades charities on their efficiency and financial health. The A rating and 4-star rating are awarded to HFOT based on its on-time and full donation payments to the wounded veterans’ families.”

Do you have trouble saying no?

Healthy relationships and sound living depend on maintaining effective personal boundaries, but many people don’t know where to start. Based on the bestselling book by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend, these nine interactive sessions can make a life-changing difference. Drawing on principles from the Bible, Boundaries will guide you on a journey of discovery and practical application. You’ll learn how to live your life more fully and display truth and love more freely.

Each of the nine Boundaries sessions contains a video presentation by Drs. Cloud and Townsend. It’s the centerpiece for insights, exercises, and spirited group discussion that can profoundly improve the quality of your relationships in every sphere of life—marriage, family, friendships, church, and the workplace. The participant’s guide will give you practical tools for cultivating the habits of productive relationships.

Free Event Series

Sundays @ 9 am

Crossroads Café

M60 & Silver Street, Mendon

Kim Foghino, head librarian

Mendon Township Library

314 West Main Street

Mendon MI 49072

269-486-4865

michlibrary.org

www.mendonlibrary.org

Community

Homes for our Troops

by Kim Mears

On August 5th from 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm, rain or shine, Jim and Peggy Fassett will once again be hosting a relaxed, family friendly evening of food, live music, dancing, and other activities to benefit Homes for our Troops (HFOT). The purpose of the event is to raise money to build homes for severely injured veterans.

This year, HFOT is building a home for Army Sgt. Ret. Michael Gower, his wife, Kelli, and their son, Alexander, of Wayland. In 2007, while serving on his second deployment to Iraq, Sgt. Gower was severely injured when his vehicle rolled over a two-ton improvised explosive device (IED) and he was pinned under the wreckage. Several of his teammates were killed and eight others were also injured.

Children of all ages are welcome to join in on the reading challenges.

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Gilmore Car Cruise-In

by Bryan Balosa

The Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, MI took part of their museum on the road Friday, May 19th, with a swing through a number of communities in southwest Michigan. Stopping for lunch in Mendon, a number of rare and beautiful cars lined the streets and filled the village parking lot, giving residents who had time to stop, a look back at the Golden Age of the Automobile.

Mendon Farmers’ Market Open for Business

The Mendon Farmers’ Market is open for the 2017 season. The Market is held in the pavilion at the Reed Riverside Park, just south of downtown on the river. The market is open every Thursday from 2 - 6 PM, now through early October.

A variety of gift items, as well as potted plants, creative cupcakes, popcorn and breads are available each Thursday. Stop by and shop!
For the fifth consecutive year, Mendon High School hosted the St. Joseph County Special Olympics Games. During this daylong event, special needs students from across the county competed in traditional and modified track and field events. Just as with general education students, some of these student athletes are limited in their abilities, even to the point of requiring a great deal of assistance to be able to compete, while others perform at the highest level of athletic competition. Like their general education counterparts, these athletes want to win, and are excited to have the opportunity to compete. They also get excited about cheering each other on, and giving each other lots of high fives!

Trudy Camp, Physical Education Director at the Pathfinder Center, was caught off guard, and it took her a while he was at Mendon. Trudy was working with her and her athletes delegation, as he had always enjoyed able to escort the St. Joseph County and told her how excited he was to be largest of which approached Trudy by three CMU football players, the uniform. The local delegation was met Michigan University athletes in full Ceremonies. During the march, each the grand march of the Opening for the local athletes came during of ribbons. One of the bright spots results which would be impressive at any high school track meet.

"I am so amazed by these great Mendon students," Trudy said. "I couldn't ask for a better group of students to help us. I would also like to express appreciation to the Mendon Student Senate, who provided us with bottled water, which was a huge help over having to use large coolers and cups, as in the past. Their generosity made such a difference."

After competing locally, twenty five St. Joseph County Special Olympics athletes traveled to the State Games for three days of competition alongside 3000 other athletes from across the state of Michigan. By the time the dust from the Games had settled, St. Joseph County competitors brought home nine gold medals, eight silver, five bronze, and a large number of ribbons. One of the bright spots for the local athletes came during the grand march of the Opening Ceremonies. During the march, each delegation was escorted by Central Michigan University athletes in full uniform. The local delegation was met by three CMU football players, the largest of which approached Trudy and told her how excited he was to be able to escort the St. Joseph County delegation, as he had always enjoyed working with her and her athletes while he was at Mendon. Trudy was caught off guard, and it took her a moment to recognize that she was talking with Mendon's own CMU offensive lineman, Logan Slaughter, who had requested assignment to the St. Joseph County delegation. All five members of the local Mendon delegation were thrilled to hang out with and have their picture taken with one of their local heroes!

The Pathfinder Education Center is a centralized education facility operated by St. Joseph County ISD. The Pathfinder Center provides life skills training to eligible special education students through twenty-six years of age. Students come from nine local school districts. In addition to the center, several off-site programs are also in operation. The Pathfinder Educational Center is located in Centreville at 62445 Shimmel Road and educates over one hundred students from across the county.

COMMUNITY

The Pathfinder Education Center

Mendon
& Subway

265 West Main St, Mendon
269-496-5965
Open 24 Hours 7 days a week for your anytime convenience!

Above Michael Milowe
Below Kaleb Sailor jumping

Left Randy Barfield and Right Kolten Guthrie

Below
April King

Above
Michael Lock

Special Olympics
High School

by Bryan Balasa

June 2017
Adam Spence, Attendac teacher and Mendon Alumni prophet to the nations.” “God created you,” Adam added, “to follow your passion.”

Adam shared that he has found three parts to living in your passion. The first is to follow your passion to see where it leads. The second is to struggle to achieve your passion. The third is to enjoy your passion. He went on to explain that while following and enjoying may be a lot of fun, it is normal to try to avoid the struggles in the middle, but it does not work that way. Quoting again from the Bible, this time from John 16:33, Adam read the words of Jesus. “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Adam said that if Jesus could overcome the world, then we can certainly trust Him with whatever struggles we face, which are small by comparison. He shared several humorous stories from his own struggles to illustrate his point, and to help the seniors understand the difficulties nearly everyone faces. The reward for our struggles, Adam said, is reaching that third part of the process, where we get to enjoy living in our passion. He explained that life can be wonderful when we are living in our passion, because there is nothing better than doing what we were created to do and that we love doing.

The seniors were then invited to the front of the church where they introduced themselves and shared some of their plans for the future. A prayer for the seniors was then offered by Msgr. Thomas Martin, of St. Edward Catholic Church. A final benediction was offered by Rev. Bryan Balasa of Crossroads Missionary Church. An informal time of fellowship and refreshments followed in the church fellowship hall, provided by the ladies of the church.

Mendon Spring Band Concert
by Bryan Balasa

The Mendon Community Schools’ middle school and high school bands presented their spring concert on Thursday evening, May 18, on the stage at the high school cafetorium. A near capacity crowd was on hand to hear the bands perform under the direction of Mendon’s new band director, Miss Kaitlin Black. Both bands performed a variety of arrangements which displayed the commitment the band students have made to their art. Their hard work has definitely paid off and is a credit to the inspiration being provided by Miss Black.

Near the end of the evening, a number of awards were presented to band members in recognition of their accomplishments in the band program. Middle school band awards were presented to tuba player Noah Iobe, who received the award for most improved player, and to Kennedy Cupp, who received the Director’s Award, the highest award presented to a middle school student. Eligible juniors and seniors in the high school band were all presented with their varsity band letters. Seniors were also presented with plaques in recognition of their hard work and dedication to the band program at Mendon. The highest award of the evening was the John Phillip Sousa Band Award, presented to the most outstanding student in the areas of superior musicianship, leadership, dependability, and loyalty. This year’s recipient of this prestigious award was Eathan Bingaman, who has not only made a significant contribution to the band program at Mendon, but has also stepped in to fill the void left when the elementary school was without a music director for a period of time. Eathan not only

The Varsity band performed a number of enjoyable selections.

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Chicken Wings & Pulled Pork

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Lee Fassett hosted the service Thursday evening, May 25th at 7:00 PM. Lee Fassett hosted the service Thursday evening, May 25th at 7:00 PM. Lee Fassett hosted the service Thursday evening, May 25th at 7:00 PM. Lee Fassett hosted the service Thursday evening, May 25th at 7:00 PM. Lee Fassett hosted the service Thursday evening, May 25th at 7:00 PM. Lee Fassett hosted the service Thursday evening, May 25th at 7:00 PM.
As the 2016-17 school year was drawing near its close, students were recognized for their hard work and study through academic awards ceremonies for high school, middle school, and elementary students. Students were recognized for achievement in a variety of areas pertaining to academics, sports, band, and various other activities including quiz bowl, Science Olympiad, accelerated reading, and more.

This year, Ms. Borkholder’s middle school class entered an essay contest sponsored by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, judged by local representatives Jim and Elsy Wagner. The top two essays were chosen from the school. First place went to Chloe Behrends, who was awarded a $100.00 cash prize. Second place went to Alivia Stuart, who was awarded a $75.00 cash prize. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner then took the essays to their convention where seventeen schools were represented. Essays were all read and ranked. As points were totaled and first, second, and third place essays were chosen, Mendon’s Alivia Stuart took third place, receiving an additional cash award of $200.00, and classmate Chloe Behrends took second place, receiving an award of $300.00. As MS/HS principal Marc Kramer quipped, “Who says doing well at academics doesn’t pay?”

Those who excel at academics may not have fans filling stands to cheer them on. They may not have their pictures in the paper for athletic prowess. Their achievements may go mostly unnoticed. But their achievements are what give most of them the opportunity to succeed in life as they pursue college and careers. It is good to see their achievements acknowledged and to see them encouraged to keep up the silent, behind-the-scenes efforts which will so strongly influence the rest of their lives.

Study and Hard Work Pay Off: Mendon Schools Awards

Principal Marc Kramer announced the Military Order of the Purple Heart essay contest award recipients. Second place was awarded to Alivia Stuart left, and first place was awarded to Chloe Behrends right.

Below Mr. Swanwick presented a certificate to Kennedy Cuff for achieving High Honors all year.

Below Principal Frisbie presented a national handwriting award and medal to Logan Stuart center while his classmates applauded.

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Large crowds were present June 4, 2017 as the Mendon Varsity Band opened the graduation procession with the traditional Pomp and Circumstance. The fifty-two member Mendon Class of 2017, along with five foreign exchange students, each carrying or wearing the green-tipped white carnation class flower, was escorted in by junior Honor Guard, Emily Vendal and Arjun Vorster. Twenty-one members of the class wore the light blue National Honor Society stole, signifying membership, with sixteen members wearing the gold honor stole indicating a final GPA of at least 3.7, and an additional seventeen members wearing gold cords representing a GPA of 3.0 to 3.69.

Senior band member, John Vendal, played the National Anthem as the crowds rose to honor our flag. Senior Class President, Julia Sutter, welcomed the class, staff, and guests, stating the Class of 2017 shares a common bond. She urged her classmates to remember and thank those who have given them patient guidance. She added, “It has been an unforgettable journey which would have not been possible without the support of parents and staff.” She concluded, “Forget what is gone. Appreciate what is to come.”

As the audience fanned themselves with their programs, whose cover was designed by Nancy Steinacker and Lara Speece, Mr. Rathburn introduced the student speakers, chosen by the senior class. Eathan Bingaman began his speech with the quote, “Oh, if life were made of moments, you’d never know you had one.” He took his classmates on a reminiscent journey through their school career, and concluded encouraging them to seize each moment and not worry about what others think. Alex Heckman thanked his parents for choosing Mendon School System, adding, “I can’t imagine being anywhere else.” He encouraged his classmates to consider, “The importance of this place. Don’t leave it in a hurry – take it all in. We’ll never be the same after this day…Try to find yourself…Never stop learning. Life is meant for learning. Do not prevent this growth. Green is meant to grow and this is Hornez Green!”

The final student speaker, Garrett Russell, incorporated humor into his speech, but ended on a more serious note, encouraging his class with, “Find out what you are passionate about. Class of 2017, this is your chance. Don’t screw it up.” The Varsity Band, including seven members of the graduating class, under the direction of Miss Kaitlin Black, performed a very enjoyable and energetic musical piece, Celebration.

Principal Marc Kramer gave a job well done to the senior class. He then turned to address the parents with, “Thank you for your support in educating your children.”

Eathan Bingaman was the first student speaker to address the crowd.

John Vendal played a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem.

Future Plans for the Class of 2017

- Alex Heckman plans to attend Tiffin University with a major in Marketing to become a Sports Marketer.
- Gillian Himes plans to enter the world of work.
- Kaylee Hook plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin with a major to become a Vet Tech.
- Gabe Parks plans to attend the University of North Carolina with a major in Diesel, ultimately becoming a Diesel Engineer.
- Cassie Plummer plans to attend Kalamazoo Valley College with a major in Science before transferring to become an Engineer.
- Camryn Rhodes plans to attend Glen Oaks Community College with an unknown major.

Miss Vedmore concluded her speech with, “Give back. Never lose when you give back. Choose to give back, to do good every day.” As she closed her address, she reminded the students, “You will always have a place here.”

The class slide show was met with applause as it was presented each of the class members as small children or babies, then as...
Alex McDaniel plans to enter the Army. Sydney Miller plans to attend Glen Oaks Community College with a major in Welding. Madi Mykolaitis plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin with a major in Agriculture to become a Vet Tech/Equine Pharmacist. Gabe Parks plans to attend the University of Northwestern Ohio with a major in Diesel Agriculture to ultimately become a Diesel Ag. Tech. Cassie Plummer plans to attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College with a major in Health Science before transferring to ultimately become a Biomedical Engineer. Camryn Rhodes plans to attend Glen Oaks Community College with an unknown major.

Eduardo Rubio plans to enter the world of work. Garrett Russell plans to attend Western Michigan University with a major in Electrical Engineering. Austin Samson plans to attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College with a major in Education. Braxton Samson plans to attend Glen Oaks Community College before transferring to ultimately become a Physical Education teacher. Taylor Schmidt plans to attend Adrian College with a major in Pre-Med to ultimately become a Neonatal Nurse. Angela Smith plans to attend Southwestern Michigan College with a major in Accounting. Kaley Smith plans to attend Western Michigan University with a major in Elementary Education. Lara Speece plans to attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College before transferring to ultimately become a Forensic Psychologist. Nancy Steinacker plans to attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College with a major in Nursing to become a Registered Nurse. Shyannah Stevens plans to attend Western Michigan University with a major in Phlebotomy to become a Paramedic. Julis Sutter plans to attend Grand Valley University with a major in Sociology. Brooke VanZoest plans to attend Glen Oaks Community College before transferring on to ultimately become a Physician. Micaela Yoder plans to attend Southwestern Michigan College with a major in Pre-Med to become a Physician. Ruben Vorster plans to attend Albion College with a major in Pre-Med before transferring to ultimately become a Physician. Micaela Yoder plans to attend Southwestern Michigan College with a major in Pre-Med to become a Physician.

The school board members and principals were on stage and presented the class with their well-earned diplomas, as well as certificates of achievement for the exchange students. Following the recessional, the classmates shared hugs and laughter, and smiled for many photos as friends and family congratulated them on their achievements.

Smiles, hugs, and lots of pictures completed the day.

Congratulations
Mendon
Class of 2017

Mendon Class of 2017
Class sponsor
Ms. Leasa Griffith
Class flower
Green-tipped white carnation
Class colors
green, black, and silver
Class motto
“If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will get you there.” Cheshire Cat
Class song
“100 Years” by Five for Fighting
Senior Scholarship Awards  Mendon Class of 2017

CTE Scholarship Awards to Sydney Miller, Kaylee Hook, and Cheyenne Campbell, with CTE Executive Assistant DyAnn Steinberger

Kwanzis J. Stuart Hedges Memorial Scholarship to Jacob Hagenbuch by Kwanzis member Lee Fassett

Mendon Women’s Club Scholarship to Angela Smith by Carolyn Link, Women’s Club member

Bud Swihart Memorial Scholarship to Camryn Rhodes, by Betty Swihart

Board of Education Scholarship Awards to Angela Smith and Taylor Schmidt, by Roger Cupp, Board Vice-President

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Board of Education Scholarship Awards to Angela Smith and Taylor Schmidt, by Roger Cupp, Board Vice-President

Heritage Scholarships to Jacob Hagenbuch, Ruben Vorster, Julie Sutter, and Blake Everson, by Roger Cupp, Mendon Schools Foundation President

Doug Samson Memorial Scholarship to Braxton Samson, by Glen Samson

Trident Scholarship for athlete scholars to Ruben Vorster and Mary Leighton by Glen Samson

Dean’s Scholarship from Glen Oaks Community College to Jacob Hagenbuch and Braxton Samson, by David Victors, Admissions Representative for Glen Oaks

Michael Vrobel Scholarship to Cheyenne Campbell by Todd Cook, co-owner of Affinity Custom Molding; Susan Vrobel, Mike’s wife; Joe Vrobel, Mike’s son; and Dave Cook, president of Affinity Custom Molding

Glen Oaks Community College Foundation Scholarship to Jacob Hagenbuch and Brooke VanZoest, by David Victors, Admissions Representative for Glen Oaks

John Outman Memorial Scholarship Award to Alex Heckman, by Bonnie Outman

Michigan Education Association scholarship award to Braxton Samson, by Mendon High School math teacher, Lisa Vedmore

Super Senior Award, as voted on by the senior class, to Nancy Steinacker and Garrett Russell

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2017
Mendon Athletes Compete at State Track

by Bryan Balasa

For an athlete to qualify for State Track is an incredible experience and a credit to his or her years of hard work in his or her sport. To win at state is amazing. For the second year in a row, Mendon’s Mary Leighton competed at state in the 100m hurdles, not only winning the Class D4 Title, but also setting a new record in the event, breaking her own record which she set last year. Mary also earned All-State honors in the 300m hurdles.

Also earning All-State honors from Mendon were Sam Cleveland in the 100m dash; Alex Heckman in the mile run; the two-mile relay team of Keaton Crotser, Jacob Hagenbuch, Ruben Vorster, and Alex Heckman; and the 800m relay team of Jordan Bell, Kaden Frye, Sam Cleveland, and Ruben Vorster.

Other events where Mendon athletes competed at state included Julia Sutter in high jump; Sam Cleveland in long jump; and Mendon’s 400m relay team of Jordan Bell, Sam Cleveland, Ruben Vorster, and Arjun Vorster.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Above Mary Leighton, two time state champion in the 100m hurdles, ended her high school track career breaking her own state record with a time of 14.89 seconds. Congratulations Mary!

Junior Varsity Girls’ Softball

by Bryan Balasa

The Mendon Girls’ JV Softball Team is a group of girls filled with potential. Coaches Chelsie King and Jessica Balk have worked hard with the girls and have seen a lot of improvement through the season. “We have a very young team and some girls who are new to the sport,” said Coach King. “But they are a bunch of girls who want to play the game.” With such talent coming up, the girls’ Varsity Softball Team has the potential to become a real powerhouse in their league.

Nicole Parsons released a pitch.

Sophia Schultz prepared for the pitch.

Nicole Parsons laid down a bunt.

Morgan Eckert made a hit.

Taylor Schabes made good on a hit.

Julia Sutter in high jump.

Sam Cleveland in long jump.

Mendon’s 400m relay team of Jordan Bell, Sam Cleveland, Ruben Vorster, and Arjun Vorster.

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**MENDON VARSITY BASEBALL**

by Bryan Balasa

The Mendon Hornet Baseball Team finished their season with a winning 17-12 record, but as a young, and still inexperienced team, they fell short of their goals of winning the BCS Division and the District Title. “I felt that our seniors brought leadership and on-field experience that helped us be competitive throughout the season,” said Coach Samson. “We ended the season in Colon playing 2 great games, but the new pitching rules caught up to us. Cole Decker pitched very well for us, ending up with a record of 10-3, not too shabby for a sophomore. Braxton Samson ended his career with 113 hits, which is the second all-time record behind Trey Cook's 126.”

Several Mendon players received league recognition with Braxton Samson and Wyatt Cool being named All-League Players, and Braxton Samson (infielder), Gabe Parks (utility), Wyatt Cool (pitcher), and Cole Decker (pitcher) all being named as All-District Players.

**MENDON VARSITY GIRLS’ SOFTBALL SHINES IN POST-SEASON!**

by Bryan Balasa

Mendon fielded a very young team this year, but that did not stop the girls from playing like a much more experienced team. With three starting freshmen and only two seniors, Cassie Plummer and Hannah Frye, the team reached deep to play to a higher level. Four girls hit over .400 for the season, including senior Cassie Plummer; junior Lauren Lash; and two freshmen, Hannah Duchene and Juliana Hagenbuch. Ending the regular season around 50%, this has been seen as a building year for future success.

Sometimes that future is closer than one thinks. The team has proven that it already has what it takes, rising to the challenge of post-season play. Mendon faced off first against Athens on Friday of post-season, rallying to beat Athens 6-3 after trailing most of the game. Mendon then faced off against Colon, defeating the Lady Magi 3-0 for the District Title. With district title in hand, the Lady Hornets advanced on Sunday to regional play against North Adams-Jerome, beating them with a firm 6-2 score. The Lady Hornets then advanced against Camden-Frontier, defeating the Lady Redskins 13-3 in only five innings of play, clinching the regional title for the first time since 1992. Unfortunately, that is as far as the Lady Hornets were able to advance this year, getting stopped 0-4 by Kalamazoo Christian in the decisive quarter-final game. But they ended the season as Regional Champions for the first time in 25 years! Well done, Lady Hornets! Thanks for a great season.

**VARSITY SOFTBALL GIRLS Give Back**

by Bryan Balasa

What better way to give back to the school and community which has supported them through the years, than for the Girls’ Varsity Softball Team players to invest in developing the next generation of players of the sport? The Varsity players, under the direction of head coach Christina Duchene and assistant, Billy Rivard, conducted a series of sessions to teach girls basic softball skills. This hands-on training involved hitting, pitching, throwing, running, and fielding. All of the girls- both varsity players and elementary hopefuls- seemed to really enjoy working together at a sport they all love.

**Wednesday’s Softball Camp**

Front Row: Auxiliary Coach Ray Miller, Grace Russell, Lila Schinker, Brielle Bailey, Ally Butler, Abby Butler, Kadee Gonser, Hailey Stover, Anna Grabe, name withheld, Juliana Hagenbuch

Middle Row: Abby Miller, Maliah Brandys, Shara Wenzel, Jadyn Samson, Kaycie Tyler, Presley Allen, Dalila Moreno, Taylor Johnson


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Elementary Field Day by Bryan Balasa

They sat in their classrooms all year long, but the time finally came for the Mendon Elementary Students to enjoy some good old-fashioned organized play on Elementary Field Day. The younger elementary students enjoyed getting wet and having fun playing outside games on a hot day near the end of the school year. Games for the younger grades were run by students of the upper elementary, who got their chance to compete at a higher level of play with a day of athletic competition at the Mendon High School John Green Track, with Mendon Track Team members running the events and giving them tips on competing. All the students, of all ages, seemed to have a great time letting go of some stored-up energy in a fun and positive way.

Second and Third graders ran the Gauntlet.

Shelby Crotser tossed the frisbee as classmates watched and waited their turns.

Right Mackenzie Oswalt and Kylee Vroman battled it out in the final leg of the 400m relay.

Above

Penny Standleish in the long jump

Right

Cameron Bingaman took off in the third leg of the 400m relay.

Above

Raegan Holtz and Carter Huston competed in field hockey

Above Right

Connor Doehring threw a football

Right

Zoey Goodman, far right, threw the softball

Jaden Behrends, Devin Kent, Sam Heflin, Dylan Cupp in the 400m relay

Rowan Allen in a water relay

Cheyanne Kloth led the pack in the 400m relay

Leyton Wyckoff with the baton in the 400m relay

Emily Foster in a water relay

Jaden Behrends in the long jump.

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New Revised Menu!

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Debra Cooper Memorial Scholarship Awarded

During the graduate recognition at Crossroads Missionary Church, where one college and five high school graduates were recognized, the Debra Cooper Memorial Scholarship was awarded. Alexis Grostick, a 2017 Centreville graduate, was awarded the scholarship, which she will use at the University of Michigan, pursuing an education in psychology.

Deb Cooper was born and raised in Parkville, Michigan and graduated from Mendon High School in 1976. She earned her bachelor’s degree in education from Fort Wayne Bible College and her master’s degree from Western Michigan University. Deb was very active in her church, first as Wakeman Chapel Missionary Church, then as Crossroads Missionary Church.

Deb loved children and loved to interact with them. She was a youth leader, Bible quizzing coach, Bible camp counselor, and a public school teacher at Colon Elementary School in Colon, Michigan. Her love of children was evident to all who knew her.

In March of 2012, Deb went to be with her Lord. The Debra Cooper Memorial Scholarship was established in remembrance of Deb and her evident love for children and youth.

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Let them know you appreciate their support!
In Psalm 127:1 we read, "Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labored in vain; Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." (NIV84)

Before you can build a house, you need a foundation. And so it is with a nation. Every house, if it is to stand, must be built on a firm foundation. That foundation, if it is to be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian... This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation... that this is a Christian nation. We are founded to legislate, propagate, and secure Christianity.

Our founders and our early courts understood a truth which has been greatly forgotten or ignored, "Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." (Psalm 127:1 NIV84)

Is it too late for America to return to its foundational roots? Not if God's promise to Israel can be applied to God's people in America. In 2 Chronicles 7:4-5 God said, "I will place my house amongst you, and my people will walk around my house, and I will walk around my people... I will dwell in their midst. I will be their God and they will be my people. And I will cleanse their sins and their wicked ways, then will I hear from their unnerved hands in the day of battle!"

"Be Thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation. That the scene of blood may be speedily closed: that order, harmony and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety, prevail and flourish amongst the people. Preserve the health of their bodies and vigor of their minds; shower down on them and the millions they here represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior. Amen."

Amen

by Pastor Bryan Balasa

In June 2017

THROUGH THE LENS

FAITH

The Connection

June 2017

COLUMBUS

miracle of maps. It is simply the fulfillment of inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, "There is no question that the Columbus, whose name means, "The

millennium they here represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior. Amen."

...by the Reverend Jacob Duché, Rector of Christ Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which follows. "O Lord our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings, and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth and reignest with power supreme and uncontrollable over all the Kingdoms, Empires and Governments; look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these our American States, who have fled for refuge from the froward oppressor and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on Thee. To Thee have they appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to Thee do they now look up for that countenance and support, which Thou alone canst give. Take them, therefore, Heavenly Father, under Thy nurturing care; give them wisdom in Council and in the field; defeat the malicious designs of our cruel adversaries; convince them of the unrighteousness of their Cause and if they persist in their sanguinary purposes, of unarning justice, sounding in their hearts, constrain them to drop the weapons of war from their unworn hands in the day of battle!

"Be Thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation. That the scene of blood may be speedily closed: that order, harmony and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety, prevail and flourish amongst the people. Preserve the health of their bodies and vigor of their minds; shower down on them and the millions they here represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior. Amen."

Amen

by Pastor Bryan Balasa

In June 2017

THROUGH THE LENS

FAITH

The Connection

June 2017

COLUMBUS

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June 2017

Ruth V. Weinberg
June 12, 1922-May 10, 2017
Ruth Virginia Weinberg passed away quietly Wednesday morning, May 10, 2017, in her home in Mendon, Michigan, with her family at her side. She was one of 11 children, born June 17, 1922 to Fred and Ethel Lyons in Plainwell, Michigan.

Her husband, Wilbur, preceded her in death on March 28, 2013, and her eldest son, Watson, on November 22, 2014, at age 72.

Surviving are her children, David Weinberg and Louise and Tom Millard of Mendon; She had ten grandchildren, Wilbur Weinberg, Jr., Ginger Frying, Jay Weinberg, Tony Weinberg, Tim Weinberg, Candy Lang, Shane Leech, Melissa Leech, Alex and Summer Frying, and Julie Rice; her sister, Marilyn Scott of Yellville, Arkansas; cousin/sister-in-law Fanny Weinberg, brother-in-law and sister-in-law Dick and Lois Henry of Glen Arbor, Michigan; numerous great and great-great grandchildren and numerous nephews and nieces.

Ruth’s greatest love was for her great God Jehovah. She loved telling people about his glorious kingdom soon to come here on earth.

Beside the many duties of a farmer’s wife, she loved to sell. In the early 70s, she bought and sold antiques, she even had a small shop in Vicksburg. She loved jewelry and sold Indian jewelry at stores, parties, and festivals for the next 30 years.

Ruth loved people. She was always there helping or giving to someone in need. She had six grandchildren. Her oldest grandson, Wilbur Jr., devoted the past five years, 24/7, to care for her during her illness of Alzheimers.

Her memory will always be in our hearts. I can see her now making a salad and preparing our food to take on a adventurous trip in the Superstition Mountains for a fancy cookout, where the smell of steaks cooking fills the air and the grandchildren are playing in the water in the river bed and collecting beautiful rocks.

Think of her in the springtime when the pumpkins and gourds all the beautiful flowers fill the garden, thinking of her in the summertime when the smell of steaks cooking fills the air and the grandchildren are playing for many weddings.

Survivors include her husband of 60 years, Nowman, whom she married November 11, 1956; a daughter

Beverly Mathos of Grand Rapids, two sons Donald (Dee) and Daniel (Andy) Taylor, MI, and William (Sara) Arent of Zeeland, MI. Also surviving are numerous great-grandchildren.

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One-Pot Cabbage Casserole

I’m not sure what it is about cabbage, but I can’t get enough of it! Easy to make, flavorful, and budget friendly, cabbage can take your simple dinner recipe to the next level of deliciousness.

**Ground Turkey Cabbage Casserole**

Ground Turkey Cabbage Casserole is a hearty and delicious cabbage casserole recipe that will please even your toughest critics. This ground turkey casserole is lean and packed with protein, so you can feel good about serving it to your loved ones.

**Ingredients**
1/2 cup breadcrumbs  
1/2 teaspoon fresh ground pepper  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup sour cream  
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese  
(about 1 head 6 inches across)  
8 cups chopped cabbage  
1 teaspoon caraway seeds  
1 tablespoon finely minced garlic  
1 cup onion, chopped  
1 pound ground turkey  
1 tablespoon vegetable oil  

**Instructions**
1. Preheat oven to 375 º F. Lightly spray an 8x12-inch baking dish with cooking spray.
2. Add vegetable oil to a large skillet over medium high heat. When it’s hot, add the onion and cook until translucent, about 3 minutes. Add garlic and caraway seeds and continue to cook and stir for 2 more minutes.
3. Add the turkey and cook until no longer pink, breaking up clumps of meat with the back of a spoon.
4. Add the cabbage and cook, stirring, until cabbage is translucent, about 4 minutes.
5. Turn off heat, add the cheese, sour cream, salt and pepper, and stir to combine evenly. Pour into the prepared baking dish and sprinkle with breadcrumbs.
6. Bake 40 minutes until lightly browned.

Love stuffed cabbage rolls, but hate doing all the work? One-Pot Cabbage Casserole is an easy cabbage recipe that’s made in just one pot!

**Cabbage Rolls**

No one knows good old-fashioned home cooking like Grandma, which is why this recipe for cabbage rolls is one of the best there is, period.

**Ingredients**
For the cabbage rolls:  
12 leaves cabbage  
1 cup cooked white rice  
1 egg, beaten  
¼ cup milk  
¼ cup diced onion  
1 pound extra lean ground beef  
Salt and pepper to taste  
4 cloves minced garlic  
1 tablespoon garlic salt  
1 tablespoon onion powder  
For the sauce:  
1 (15 ounce) can tomato sauce  
3 tablespoons brown sugar  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

**Instructions**
1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Boil cabbage leaves 3 minutes; drain.
2. In a large bowl, combine 1 cup cooked rice, egg, milk, onion, ground beef, salt, and pepper. Place about 1/3 cup of meat mixture in center of each cabbage leaf, and roll up, tucking in ends. Place rolls in large baking pan.

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Ron Roth, a St. Joseph County resident, has a passion for food and enjoys cooking as a hobby. Ron, a former restaurateur, current food columnist and food blogger, claims he is not a “gourmet” cook, but just a guy that enjoys eating and preparing good food.

The foods he prepares contain ingredients most people have on hand in their pantry, and most recipes can be completed in less than an hour.

Check out Ron’s food blog at oldguycooking-ron.blogspot.com. If you have any recipe requests, or food questions, feel free to email Ron at wesley2000@comcast.net.
Bill, the Barber

In need of a haircut? Stop in at Bill’s Barber Shop, located at 127 1/2 W. Main St. in Mendon. Bill Homan has the distinction of operating one of the oldest businesses in town. Bill grew up in nearby Athens, and graduated from Greens Barber College in Detroit. His work as a barber in Marshall and Battle Creek was cut short when he was drafted into the Army. He served as an M.P. (Military Police) from 1966 to 1968. After his tour of duty ended, he decided Mendon would be a good place to raise a family and settled here in 1969. Bill was married to his wife, Mary, for fifty-one years before she passed away from cancer in 2015. Together they had two sons. Jeff the oldest, followed by Craig, who tragically passed away from a car accident in 1989. Jeff is married with one daughter. He formerly pastored a church in Deckerville, MI, but just moved to Three Rivers this spring to pastor the Three Rivers Bible Church.

Grandpa Bill is happy to have his granddaughter moving closer to him. When Bill is not cutting hair, he likes to play a little golf and is a Kiwanis Club member. He has been an active member of the Factoryville Bible Church in Athens for most of his life, as well as being their song leader for the past fifty years. It’s easy to see when you enter his shop that he’s an avid, loyal Michigan State fan. He loves sports, and while he’s not involved in Little League anymore, continues to closely follow school athletics.

Bill thinks his is the third oldest business in town, following Jim Wise and Eickhoffs. He says his longevity in business is due to the fact that he loves the people in the community. He always tries to have a joke for his customers so they will leave happy. He tells about a lady who was looking for the antique store which is next door to him. As he was cutting an elderly gentleman’s hair, she popped her head in the barber shop and said, “Oh! Wrong antiques!” Bill said his customers become good friends and feel much like family. Bill purposely keeps his haircut cost at the low rate of $10.00. He said he’s aware of how others are struggling, especially in recent years. So when you see the barber pole, stop in, get a haircut, save a little money, and say hi to Bill!

Many people share the hobby of model railroading. Many a youngster grew up, in days gone by, with playing with small train sets mounted on a piece of plywood. Many traded in their tracks and engines to pursue other hobbies, but some caught the model railroading bug for life. A little over 21 years ago, a group of such friends in Sturgis decided to get together and pool their resources to make their hobby even more enjoyable. Of the original seven members of the group, four have now passed on, but the surviving members continue to share their love of the hobby with others, and the club has now grown to include eleven members. Many of the members have their own track set-ups at home, but as part of the club, each member builds one or more sections of track on a modular section, where they can build it up and landscape it with tree, hills and valleys, buildings, or any other way they desire. When the club comes together, these sections are connected together in various configurations to make a pretty impressive layout. The trains are HO Scale, which is a 1/87th scale, but even at this size, the details are amazing, with some of the members even designing and building their own buildings and train cars. Combine this attention to detail with modern electronic controllers, which can allow fifty or more trains to operate independently on one track with one power supply, and engines capable of producing VERY realistic sounds, and it is easy to see the attraction these members have to this hobby.

The club has recently begun meeting in the gym at Crossroads Missionary Church, which is located three miles west of Mendon on M60. The club members welcome others to join them, and they enjoy demonstrating their hobby to others. If you would like to learn more about this hobby, or would just like to enjoy seeing this set-up in operation, you are invited to attend an open house to be sponsored by the club on July 8, from 8 am to 2 pm in the Crossroads gym. Club member Randy Yeomans placed a train on the tracks for a test run. The Hornets’ Nest Learning Center Opens to Assist Students Studying for Finals

by Bryan Balasa

The Hornets’ Nest Learning Center, a community educational assistance center, was open to assist students preparing for final exams during the last two weeks of the school year. The Center exists to give middle school and high school students a place in town to study after school- either alone or in small groups- and to offer help, when needed, from adult volunteers, who are screened and trained prior to working at the Center. The newly renovated building, located at 217 West Main Street, the location of the former Blue Bird Cafe across from the Village Hall, provides a clean, well-fit, safe and conveniently located learning environment for students to gather with friends and study.

With summer and the end of school upon us, the Center is currently closed while some renovation is completed at the back of the building, behind the student study area. Once completed, an open house is being planned in July to introduce the center with table games, music, pop and pizza. Several other uses of the building are also being considered, including a meeting place for a chess club and a summer youth band. Other ideas are also being sought. The Center is also being used as the meeting place for the Sunday evening youth ministry of Crossroads Missionary Church, which has relocated much of its furnishings to help make the Hornets’ Nest possible. Of course, when the school year begins in August, the Learning Center will be available and ready to offer help to those students who want it, or who just want a place to get together and study with friends.

If you would like to learn more about the Learning Center, or would like to volunteer to help as a mentor, or have other ideas for how the Center can be used to benefit our students, please contact Bryan Balasa at 269-496-4305 or email pastor@crossroadsmcusa.org.

**New Accepting Applications for Volunteer Tutors at the Hornets’ Nest Learning Center!**

**HO Model Train Club Public Open House**

Fascinated with model trains? Always wanted to see the trains run the line? Wonder what it takes to make your own train layout? Saturday, July 8

9 AM – 3 PM

Come Watch Our Questions Enjoy Crossroads Missionary Church Gym at M60 & Silver Street, Mendon