



Hornets anxious to face Panthers in playoff...

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2017

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Three Rivers

# COMMERCIAL-NEWS

THREERIVERSNEWS.COM

## Trial slated for former Sturgis teacher

Charged with two counts of CSC

By Alek Frost  
Managing Editor

CENTREVILLE — Former Sturgis High School teacher Keith Andrew Lang, 38, of Sturgis faces trial in St.

Joseph County Circuit Court on two charges of fourth degree criminal sexual conduct involving a former Sturgis High School student.

Lang's case was bound over to circuit court by Judge Jeffrey Middleton following a preliminary examination Thursday morning in district court. Testimony by the alleged victim included allegations that Lang

engaged in inappropriate sexual conduct during an after school visitation to Lang's classroom at Sturgis High School.

Middleton in announcing his decision to bind the case over for trial said the allegations made against Lang are "creepy."

"This, for lack of a better word, is creepy. If anybody in here can come

up with a better word you're welcome to it but it's creepy," Middleton said.

The prosecution's case was conducted by St. Joseph County prosecutor John McDonough. Lang was represented in court by attorney Randall Levine of Kalamazoo, who in comments following Thursday's courtroom session stated, "He (Lang) will be vindicated."

Fourth degree criminal sexual conduct is punishable by up to two years in prison and/or a \$500 fine, and is a Tier II offense under the Sex Offender Registration Act.

Alek Frost can be reached at 279-7488 ext. 22 or alek@threeriversnews.com.

## TR Honors young veteran from 'The Old Guard'

By William Allen Baltz  
Special to the Commercial-News

This is part two of a two-part story on veteran John Thomas. Part one can be found in the Thursday, Nov. 9 edition of the Commercial-News.

John Thomas says a typical mission begins at the Old Post Chapel at Fort Myer, where friends and family gather for the service. From there, the Caisson platoon transports the casket or urn to the final resting place of the deceased while the funeral procession follows.

"The only time we called off missions was when the roads were too icy for the horses to get traction. Countless times I rode in freezing rain and snow to the point where I couldn't feel my hands, toes or face."

Soldiers with Caisson only have approximately 15 minutes to dismount and relax between missions.

"After 45 minutes of riding, I had no feeling in my lower back, hips or legs," Thomas recalls.

On hot days, soldiers suffering from dehydration might have to be "bagged" to prevent passing out. "I'd call for the medic and say 'we have someone about to go down' and she'd come to us with an IV. I remember holding the bag while she gave me an IV, then resumed my duties."

Thomas says soldiers on a mission must maintain their statue-like positions and are not allowed to show any emotion until family members are out of sight.

"I buried at least two buddies that I know of. One of my friends was killed in Afghanistan. His wife looked at me sobbing during the service, but I had to stay at attention. If I didn't, I'd be in big trouble. That's how it is. I stopped looking at the names of those we were burying."

Control of the horses at all times is critical. "It's never the horse's fault, it's always the rider's fault if something goes wrong," says Thomas, who also served as a training instructor. He recounts that when he first joined the unit he had to mount and ride a greased horse and stay until he fell off as a method of dispelling fear. "If you're afraid of falling off, you're not able to focus and learn."

The Caisson platoon makes and maintains virtually all of its equipment. On site is a master leather worker, farrier and veterinarian technician. The barns, built in 1806, also serve as museums open to the public all year



### With great care

An accomplished woodworker, John Thomas proudly shows a cane he made with a U.S. Army theme. The Caisson platoon's distinguished emblem is displayed on the cane's handle. (Photo by William A. Baltz)

Below, Army Sgt. John Thomas tends to valued members of the Caisson platoon, Sarge and Sam.

Photo courtesy of John Thomas.



long. "By noon each day, the barns need to be spotless and not smelling like horse stables."

Care must be taken at all times working around horses. Once, just before his first mission of the day, Thomas relates his horse, a 2000-pound Percheron named Bo, kicked him in the chest knocking him 20 feet. "I literally could not breathe for five minutes. I wanted to finish my mission because horses test you and you can't let them win." Thomas, however, was taken to the hospital and told the blast to his chest could have easily killed him.

In all he was kicked three times, including an excruciatingly painful one to his shin and another to his

buttock.

There were humorous occasions as well. "We were to present flowers to the commanding officer's wife. I was to hand her the flowers, salute and depart. As I was handing her the flowers, I saw the eyes of my horse, Buck, start to bulge and said to myself, 'Oh, no!' He chomped the flowers right off. Without missing a beat, I handed her the stems. We all laughed. It took me hours to clean Buck's bit."

If it weren't for his injuries, Thomas says he had planned to remain in the Army. "I could have taken a desk job shuffling papers, but that's not for me."

Thomas was awarded brass spurs, given to those members of the platoon who complete 500 missions. He served

See OLD GUARD, page 3

## Meet Three Rivers Public Library's new children's librarian

By Samantha May  
Staff Writer

THREE RIVERS — With 12 years of experience as a children's librarian in the New Jersey area and with two young children of her own, Three Rivers Public Library's new children's librarian Laura Bultman said she has the "main qualifying factor of the job," she loves children.

"I love working with children. It really is the best job in the world. I am excited to meet the people here and see what is different from the last community I lived in, and to see what the kids like to work on, what they enjoy, what they don't enjoy and then have some fun," Bultman said.

In 2005, Bultman received her master's degree in Librarian Science, and from there, she said she couldn't imagine doing anything else, especially when moving to a new city.

Bultman is currently commuting from Portage, but when she does move to Three Rivers she said she plans on spending the majority of December getting to know the community and the people in it.

"I am still figuring out what the library has in place. I don't want to reinvent the wheel, I still need to get a better idea of what the library is doing," she said. "Before I do anything, I need to figure out things like who

comes to programs, when they come to programs, when they don't come to programs and just get a better feel for the community."

Although Bultman said she "has done hundreds and hundreds of children's programs in (her) lifetime," she is only in the brainstorming phase and has not yet reached out to the library with new ideas.

But from the outside looking in, Bultman said she didn't notice many activities at the library for the "middle age group," or children above five years old but not yet a teenager. Once she feels more adjusted, she said she hopes to add more after school programs that are educational, yet creative.

"There are crafts once a week but other than that I didn't notice many programs for the middle aged group," she said. "I hope we can get those kids more involved like maybe things with science, but still being creative. There are a lot of learning and exciting things we can do."

Although Bultman's ideas are not yet approved, she said she hopes to start "holiday cards for heroes," as well as getting involved with outreach programs in schools in order to promote summer reading programs.

Samantha May can be reached at 279-7488 ext. 23 or samantha@threeriversnews.com.



### 'The best job in the world'

After being a children's librarian for 12 years in the New Jersey area, Laura Bultman joins the Three Rivers Public Library team as the new children's librarian. She said she couldn't imagine doing anything else as a career since being a children's librarian is "the best job in the world."

Commercial-News/Samantha May

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**THERE WILL BE NO PAPER ON SATURDAY, NOV. 11 IN OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY.**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**THANK YOU VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE.**

Winter 2018  
**REGISTRATION**  
BEGINS NOVEMBER 13

**Classes Start Monday, January 8, 2018**  
**Glen Oaks**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Centreville, MI • 269.467.9945 • glenoaks.edu

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**WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON:**  
Fabius Park Fire Department Awards Banquet  
**HAVE A GREAT DAY: Connie Culp**

**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
HIGH: 32° LOW: 21°

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, Nov. 12  
 •Alcoholics Anonymous meeting with speaker, free and open to the public, 7 p.m., George Washington Carver Center, 436 Jefferson St., Three Rivers.

Monday, Nov. 13  
 •Three Rivers Airport Board, 6 p.m., airport lounge.  
 •Constantine School Board, 6 p.m., Mason Township Hall  
 •Animal Rescue Fund meeting, 7 p.m., ISD office, Centreville.  
 •Healing Hearts, Christ-centered support group for those who grieve, 7-8:30 p.m., Centreville United Methodist Church.  
 •Lockport Township Board, 7 p.m., township hall, corner of Holton and River roads.  
 •Mendon Village Council, 7 p.m., village hall, 206 W. Main St.

Tuesday, Nov. 14  
 •Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA), 8:30 a.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 321 N. Main St., Three Rivers.  
 •Three Rivers Food Site open, 9 a.m. — noon, 18 Railroad Drive.  
 •St. Joseph County Transportation Authority, 9:10 a.m., ISD office, 62445 Shimmel Road, Centreville.  
 •Three Rivers Community Kitchen, 4-5:30 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 321 N. Main St., Three Rivers.  
 •St. Joseph County Area Marine Corps League, 5:30 p.m., Mendon Village Hall.  
 •Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 7 p.m., George Washington Carver Center, 436 Jefferson St., Three Rivers.  
 •Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 8 p.m., St. Clare's Catholic Church, 229 N. Dean St., Centreville.

Wednesday, Nov. 15  
 •Community Corrections Advisory Board, noon, Lake Room of the New Courts Building in Centreville.  
 •Three Rivers/Mendon Great Start Parent Coalition (GSPC), noon, Riverside Church, 207 E. Michigan Ave., Three Rivers.  
 •Commission on Aging Board, 1:30 p.m., Three Rivers Community Center, 103 S. Douglas Ave./Enrichment Center, 306 N. Franks Ave., Sturgis  
 •St. Joseph County Road Commission, 5 p.m., Road Commission office, 20914 M-86, Centreville.  
 •St. Joseph County Conservation District board, 6 p.m., Conservation District office, 693 E. Main St., Centreville.  
 •St. Joseph County Animal Control Advisory Board, 7 p.m., St. Joseph County Parks building.  
 •White Pigeon Village Council, 7 p.m., village office, 118 S. Kalamazoo St.

Thursday, Nov. 16  
 •River Country Recreational Authority, 8 a.m., 333 W. Michigan Ave. Three Rivers City Hall.  
 •Three Rivers Food Site open, 9 a.m. — noon, 18 Railroad Drive.  
 •Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 10:30 a.m., George Washington Carver Center, 436 Jefferson St., Three Rivers.  
 •Three Rivers Community Kitchen, 4-5:30 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 321 N. Main St., Three Rivers.  
 •Mendon's 4:4 Food and More community kitchen, 4:30-6 p.m., Mendon United Methodist Church, 320 W. Main St.  
 •St. Joseph County Democratic Party meeting, 6 p.m. potluck dinner and 7 p.m. meeting, Dresser Business Center, Glen Oaks Community College.  
 •Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 8 p.m., St. Clare's Catholic Church, 229 N. Dean St., Centreville.

# Lowering expectations for a more enjoyable holiday season

*A Weekly Almanac Guide  
 Plan, Do, Finish, Rest.  
 Living in Harmony With Earth  
 Weekend of Nov. 11-12, 2017  
 In A Nutshell...*

The Last Quarter/Finishing Moon occurs Friday, Nov. 10, at 3:54 p.m. EST in West Michigan. It brings a sense of moving toward completion that we can use to further anything that's "in the works" along in that direction. The cold temps have descended upon us and frost is on the fields in the early mornings. Those of us who have resisted, must now dig out our cold weather woolies; winter is just ahead. The Solstice on Dec. 22 marks official winter, but the season itself arrives long before. We are in the midst of finishing with fall, preparing for the next cycle.

**Last Weekend**  
 Nov. 4-5, 2017 Doing  
 We considered the wonder of pollinators, their winter hibernation, and their importance to our wellbeing.

**This Weekend**  
 Nov. 11-12, 2017 Finishing

The norm in our society is to have high expectations, pretty much about everything. There are times, however, when it might be appropriate to lower expectations. Like when your reality does not square with them in a reasonable way.

Take holidays. Many folks struggle mightily with various aspects of holidays. The travel, the crazy timing and hours, the demands, the stress. Sometimes, there is struggle with sadness, grief, loneliness. The expectations to show up or have somewhere to go can be overwhelming. That's the time to take ask whose expectations are they? Do they match my actual life? Is there a way I can adjust or adapt them to better fit my real life?

I know a group of wise women who are members of the L.E.S. The Low Expectation Society meets on Fridays after work in



## "CYCLES OF EARTH" Larry-Michael & Becky Hackenberg

the summer on each other's patios to share a potluck meal. These are the rules: no stress, keep expectations low, bring something from the deli, make it easy.

Is it time to finish with old expectations and create some new ones in balance with you and your family's life? Might holidays actually be more enjoyable with an L.E.S. approach?

**Next Weekend**  
 Nov. 18-19, 2017 Resting  
 This is your chance for unplugging; next Resting Moon isn't until Dec. 18.

**Musing**  
 One fall, a fly flew in the house just before first frost. I tried to kill it but couldn't. One morning, when I was flossing my teeth, the fly landed on the bathroom mirror just as a piece of gunk (digested food from between my teeth) snapped off my floss onto the mirror. The fly hopped on

the gunk and ate it. Next morning the fly was back waiting for food. This went on all winter. We became "friends." What could I do? I was happy for spring to be free of the responsibility.

Humans are made of Earth. So are flies that die at first frost. Who cares? Flies' life spans are short—more will come. Human violence and negligence kills many humans. Who cares? Compared to Earth's lifespan, human life span is short—more will come. Does Earth care about us any more than humans care about flies? That's a chilling thought.

Maybe flies are the only ones that care about flies. Maybe humans are the only ones that care about humans. What if that were true? Would Earth be happy to be free of the responsibility?

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
**Rick Konik**  
 Please call 279-7488 or email [news@threeriversnews.com](mailto:news@threeriversnews.com) to submit a birthday or anniversary announcement.

# TEXT 911 now available in Cass County

CASSOPOLIS — Cass County Sheriff Richard J. Behnke is proud to announce that the Cass County 911 center now has the ability to receive emergency TEXT TO 911 calls. This covers all of Cass County, the City of Dowagiac, Villages of Edwardsburg, Cassopolis, Marcellus and communities within the county.

Following industry recommendations, in an emergency, VOICE CALLS TO 911 are preferred allowing dispatch personnel to have the

ability to locate the caller in the event they cannot provide their location. If the person involved in an emergency cannot talk, Cass County 911 can receive a text 911 call and assist the person needing or requesting help.

This new service can be of tremendous value to persons with hearing disabilities or for people in an emergency situation where talking on the phone could further endanger the caller.

People in Cass County who are involved in an emergency requiring assistance can simply

text 911 to reach an emergency dispatcher. The call will be handled similar to a traditional voice 911 call.

There are some significant things people need to know about TEXT TO 911:

1. DO NOT TEXT AND DRIVE!
2. A dialed voice call to 911 is the best way to get emergency assistance. TEXT TO 911 should be reserved for times when voice contact is not possible or unsafe.
3. SMART911 Safety Profiles are displayed with TEXT TO

911.  
 4. TEXT TO 911 is dependent upon the cellular phone carrier, tower location, service availability, and signal strength. If TEXT TO 911 is not available for any reason the person placing the text will receive an automatic bounce back message stating TEXT TO 911 is not available and instructs the person to dial 911.

5. TEXT TO 911 uses SMS (Short message system) and is limited to 256 characters.

6. TEXT TO 911 cannot

receive photographs, pictures or video. Sending pictures etc. utilizes MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service). TEXT TO 911 does not support MMS.

7. Attempting to place a TEXT TO 911 and adding another person in the same message will not work. TEXT TO 911 does not support group texting.

8. Do not abbreviate useful words and sentences.

9. DO NOT TEXT AND DRIVE!

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**THE MARKET IN REVIEW**

**DAILY DOW JONES**

Dow Jones industrials  
 Close: 23,461.94  
 Change: -101.42 (-0.4%)

**STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST**

Name	Ex	Div	Yld	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD	YTD
AT&T Inc	NY	1.96	5.8	13	34.00	+56	-20.1		
AbbottLab	NY	1.06	1.9	26	55.45	+20	+44.4		
AmAxle	NY	...	...	5	17.67	+11	-8.4		
AEP	NY	2.36	3.1	20	75.49	+59	+19.9		
BP PLC	NY	2.38	5.8	29	40.72	-08	+8.9		
Cisco	NA	1.16	3.4	18	34.05	-45	+12.7		
CocaCola	NY	1.48	3.2	28	46.23	+05	+11.5		
ConAgra	NY	.85	2.5	19	33.96	-35	-14.1		
Disney	NY	1.56	1.5	18	102.68	+1.50	-1.5		
Eaton	NY	2.40	3.1	18	77.86	-1.19	+16.1		
ExxonMbl	NY	3.08	3.7	32	83.97	+50	-7.0		
FifthThird	NA	6.4	2.3	10	28.01	-29	+3.9		
FordM	NY	.60	5.0	11	12.04	-02	-7		
GenElec	NY	.96	4.8	17	19.99	-13	-36.7		
HP Inc	NY	.53	2.5	14	21.34	-08	+43.8		
HarleyD	NY	1.45	3.2	14	45.85	+34	-21.4		
HomeDp	NY	3.56	2.2	23	163.27	-78	+21.8		
Intel	NA	1.09	2.4	20	46.30	-40	+27.7		
JohnJn	NY	3.36	2.4	20	140.35	-97	+21.8		
Kadant	NY	.84	.8	26	104.30	...	+70.4		
Kellogg	NY	2.16	3.4	15	63.28	+46	-14.2		
McDnlds	NY	4.04	2.4	28	167.00	-3.10	+37.2		
Microsoft	NA	1.68	2.0	29	84.09	-47	+35.3		
Oracle	NY	.76	1.5	23	49.24	-1.30	+28.6		
PepsiCo	NY	3.22	2.9	23	111.48	-52	+6.5		
Perrigo	NY	.64	.7	...	87.99	+6.79	+5.7		
Pfizer	NY	1.28	3.6	14	35.20	+18	+8.4		
Stryker	NY	1.70	1.1	27	156.62	+16	+30.7		
VerizonCm	NY	2.36	5.2	9	45.07	-39	-15.6		
WalMart	NY	2.04	2.3	20	90.30	+04	+30.6		
Walgreens	NA	1.60	2.3	14	69.54	+04	+16.0		
Wells Fargo	NY	1.56	2.9	13	54.00	-26	-2.0		

**STOCK MARKET INDEXES**

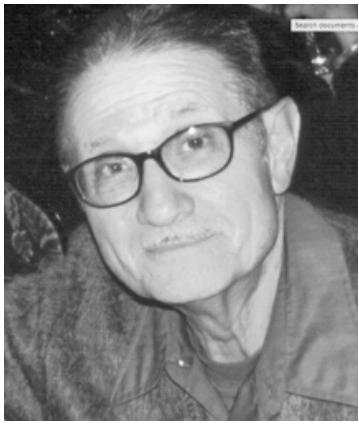
52-Week High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	%Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
23,602.12	17,994.64	Dow Industrials	23,461.94	-101.42	-0.43	+18.72	+24.75
10,080.51	8,116.68	Dow Transportation	9,517.50	-113.27	-1.18	+5.24	+11.23
761.54	616.19	Dow Utilities	759.47	-12	-0.2	+15.14	+20.52
12,443.80	10,416.34	NYSE Composite	12,339.67	-45.05	-0.36	+11.60	+15.50
6,795.52	5,122.77	Nasdaq Composite	6,750.05	-39.07	-0.58	+25.39	+29.59
1,146.19	930.22	S&P 100	1,142.07	-3.36	-0.29	+15.19	+18.92
2,597.02	2,100.59	S&P 500	2,584.62	-9.76	-0.38	+15.45	+19.25
1,845.20	1,498.03	S&P MidCap	1,826.20	-9.89	-0.54	+9.97	+18.00
26,951.57	21,884.59	Wilshire 5000	26,781.03	-111.49	-0.41	+14.32	+19.04
1,514.94	1,164.57	Russell 2000	1,475.02	-6.71	-0.45	+8.69	+17.85

**MUTUAL FUNDS**

Name	Total Assets	Obj	NAV	4-wk	Total Return/Rank	Pct Load	Min Init
American Funds AMCPA m	LB	28,790	31.88	+1.8	+21.8/D	+15.9/C	5.75 250
American Funds AmrcnBalA m	MA	62,016	27.48	+1.2	+14.6/B	+11.1/A	5.75 250
American Funds AmrcnMutA m	LV	25,577	41.19	+0.8	+17.8/C	+13.3/C	5.75 250
American Funds BdfAmrcA m	CI	19,730	12.95	+0.1	+2.0/D	+2.0/C	3.75 250
American Funds CptWldGrncA m	WS	56,398	52.42	+1.9	+23.2/B	+11.6/C	5.75 250
American Funds CptlncBldrA m	IH	71,515	63.00	+0.3	+13.4/C	+7.9/A	5.75 250
American Funds EuroPacGrA m	FG	29,114	57.19	+2.4	+27.5/B	+10.0/B	5.75 250
American Funds FdmllnvsA m	LB	52,942	63.62	+2.0	+22.8/A	+15.7/A	5.75 250
American Funds GrfAmrcA m	LG	84,435	51.59	+2.7	+25.2/C	+16.6/B	5.75 250
American Funds IncAmrcA m	AL	77,067	23.41	+0.3	+13.1/D	+9.6/C	5.75 250
American Funds InvCmrcA m	LB	62,268	41.25	+1.4	+18.8/D	+14.9/C	5.75 250
American Funds NwPrspctvA m	WS	41,713	44.98	+2.1	+26.9/A	+13.6/A	5.75 250
American Funds WAMltnvsA m	LV	56,163	45.40	+1.1	+20.2/A	+14.5/A	5.75 250
Federated EqInclncA f	LV	853	25.13	+1.6	+17.8/C	+11.0/E	5.50 1,500
Franklin Templeton WldA m	WS	4,294	17.46	0.0	+16.3/E	+9.3/E	5.75 1,000
George Putnam BalA m	MA	989	19.73	+1.2	+15.3/A	+9.9/B	5.75 0
Hartford BalC m	MA	168	23.57	+0.9	+13.4/C	+9.0/C	1.00 2,000
Hartford HCC m	SH	242	28.79	-3.3	+17.5/C	+18.2/C	1.00 2,000
Lord Abbett AffiliatedA m	LV	5,777	16.76	+1.0	+19.5	+14.1	5.75 1,000
Lord Abbett AffiliatedC m	LV	334	16.76	+0.9	+18.7	+13.3	1.00 1,000
Lord Abbett BdDebA m	MU	4,444	8.28	+0.6	+10.2	+6.5	2.25 1,000
Lord Abbett BdDebC m	MU	1,836	8.30	+0.4	+9.5	+5.9	1.00 1,000
Lord Abbett MltAsstBalOppA m	MA	1,389	12.14	+0.8	+13.0	+8.5	2.25 1,500
Vanguard 500IdxAdmrl	LB	224,167	238.99	+1.7	+21.8/B	+15.7/A	NL 10,000
Vanguard IntlDxlnls	LB	138,536	235.79	+1.7	+21.9/B	+15.8/A	NL5,000,000
Vanguard InslDxlnlsPlus	LB	92,835	235.81	+1.7	+21.9/B	+15.8/A	NL200,000,000
Vanguard TltnSlDxlnlv	FB	116,279	17.95	+1.9	+24.6/B	+8.1/C	NL 3,000
Vanguard TltnSlDxlnlvAdmrl	LB	182,030	64.52	+1.3	+21.8/B	+15.6/A	NL 10,000
Vanguard TltnSlDxlnlv	LB	108,166	64.53	+1.3	+21.8/B	+15.6/A	NL5,000,000
Vanguard TltnSlDxlnlv	LB	123,434	64.49	+1.3	+21.6/B	+15.5/B	NL 3,000

CI - Intermediate-Term Bond, FB - Foreign Large Blend, IH - World Allocation, LB - Large Blend, LG - Large Growth, LV - Large Value, MA - Moderate Allocation, SH - Health, MU - Multisector Bond, WS - World Stock, Total Return: Chng in NAV with dividends reinvested. Rank: How fund performed vs. others with same objective: A is in top 20%, E in bottom 20%. Min Init: Minimum \$ needed to invest in fund. Source: Morningstar.

## OBITUARY



### PAUL J. FIFER

Paul J. Fifer, 84, of White Pigeon, passed away Nov. 8, 2017 at Grace Healthcare in Three Rivers.

Now he is singing with his Lord in Heaven. He was born in Three Rivers on March 25, 1933, a son of Elmer and Leopoldine "Birdie" (Hotovy) Fifer. Paul graduated from Centreville High School in 1952. He worked as a janitor at Sturgis Schools for many, many years, before retiring at the age of 62. On Aug. 2, 1985, he married Lorraine Barkalow Smith in Three Rivers.

Surviving Paul are his wife Lorraine Fifer of White Pigeon, brother Richard (Margaret) Fifer of Scotts, stepchildren Lori (Fred)

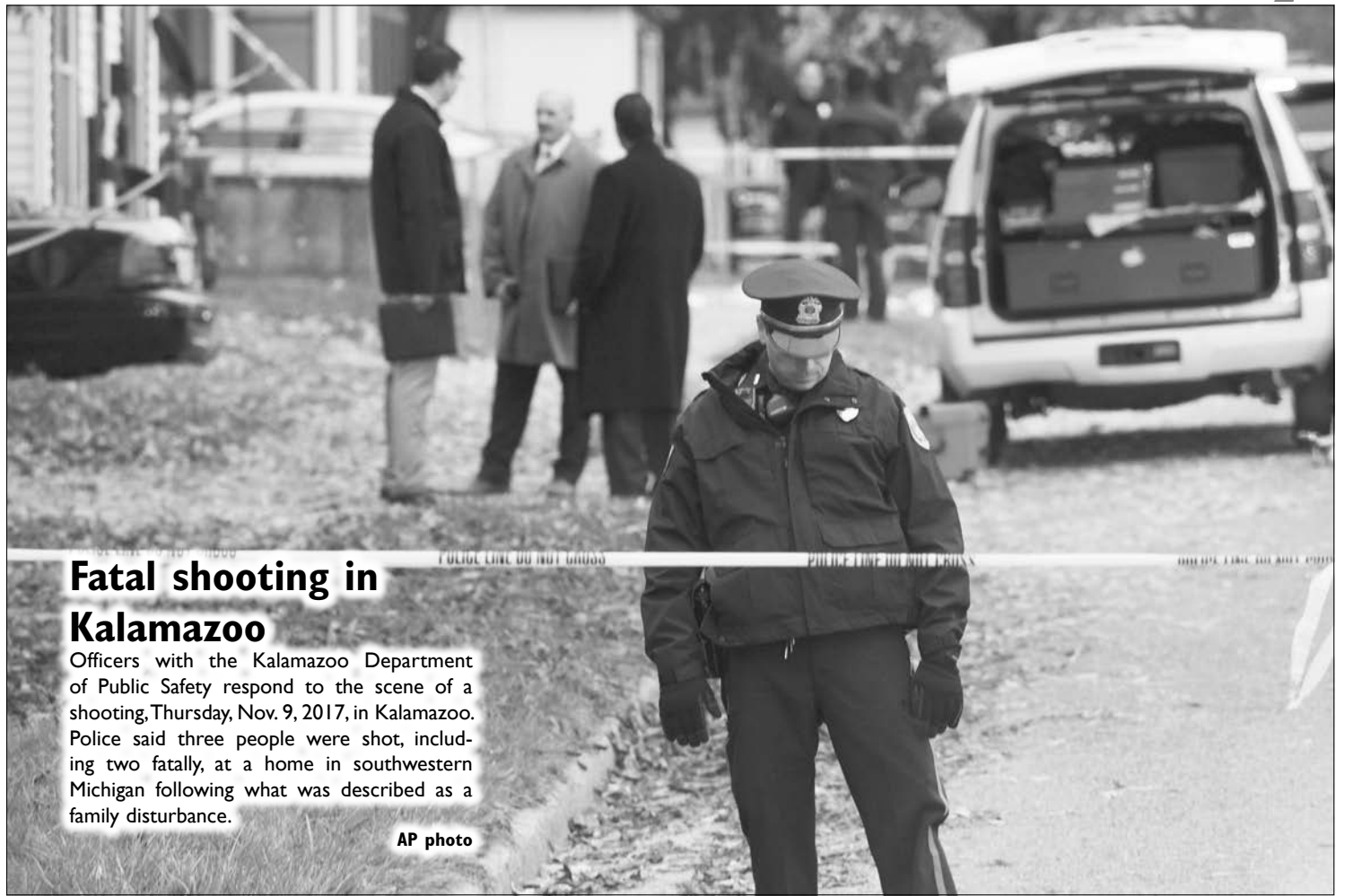
Trokey of Three Rivers and Eric (Marjorie) Smith of Hart, grandchildren James Ohmart, Samantha Hughart, and Allyson Trokey, six great-grandchildren, and uncle Luke Hotovy. He was preceded in death by his parents.

According to Paul's wishes, cremation has taken place. A private interment of ashes will occur in the Prairie River Cemetery in Centreville. Arrangements were entrusted to Eley Funeral Home, Constantine. Online messages may be left for the family at [www.eleyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.eleyfuneralhomes.com).

## DEATH NOTICE

### MINNIE WILLIS

Minnie Willis, age 83, of Three Rivers, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2017 at the Heartland Health Care Center. Arrangements pending at Hohner Funeral Home.



### Fatal shooting in Kalamazoo

Officers with the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety respond to the scene of a shooting, Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017, in Kalamazoo. Police said three people were shot, including two fatally, at a home in southwestern Michigan following what was described as a family disturbance.

AP photo

## Two die in Kalamazoo murder-suicide; child, 4, critically hurt

KALAMAZOO (AP) — Authorities say a man and woman have died in a murder-suicide and their 4-year-old child is in critical condition.

Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Assistant Chief Vernon Coakley said the shootings Thursday morning killed Julina G. Gibson and Nicholas A. Mitchell. He

said during a news conference that the couple was estranged.

Gibson's mother, Linda Newkirk, told WOOD-TV the shooting occurred while

Mitchell was dropping off the child after an overnight visit. She said her daughter and Mitchell had been arguing about visitation of the boy.

### OLD GUARD

Continued from page 1

in all positions on the teams—beginning with swing and perfecting each one until moving on. He also served as a section sergeant.

Thomas considers himself fortunate—getting in and staying in the Caisson platoon is

challenging. "I'd say about 90 percent don't make it."

He gained enormous respect for both his fellow soldiers and the horses that faithfully help them carry out their duties.

"We did everything as a unit. It's different in civilian life. You

don't have the same camaraderie," he says. "As for the horses, they are incredibly smart and loyal. You develop a special relationship with them, too."

"Several years ago I went back to Fort Myer and saw one of my favorite horses, Klinger. He was in the center lot feeding. I yelled, 'Klinger, get over here!' He looked up and came running to me at full gallop."

Thomas pauses and reflects on that experience: "Now that's something special."

(BOLD) The Caparisoned Horse

In the case of full-honor funerals at Arlington National Cemetery in which the deceased is a commissioned officer holding the rank of colonel or above, a horse bearing an empty saddle led by a soldier follows behind the caisson. As Commander-in-Chief, U.S. presidents are afforded the same honor.

Known as the riderless, caparisoned horse—or "cap horse" as Thomas notes, it is one of the most poignant scenes in all military ceremony.

The tradition stems from a belief that ancient warriors had their horse killed and buried with them to ensure a faithful mount in the afterlife.

"The cap horse is led by the deceased are placed in the stirrups backwards symbolizing the rider is looking back on his troops one last time before riding to the beyond," Thomas says.

Over the years millions have witnessed caissons bearing the

flag-draped caskets of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, Douglas MacArthur, John F. Kennedy, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Lyndon B. Johnson.

In each ceremony the caisson was followed by the caparisoned horse.

In 2004, President Ronald Regan's coffin was transferred from a hearse to the Caisson platoon for the journey to the Capitol. Nancy Regan's request was granted to have her deceased husband's own riding boots placed in reverse in the stirrups of Sergeant York.

"For us, being a cap walker is the highest honor granted by our platoon," Thomas says.

He notes that the Caisson platoon was home for the Army's oldest and most famous horse—Black Jack, who came to Fort Myer from Fort Reno, Oklahoma, in 1952. He was named after General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing of World War I fame.

Black Jack took part in literally thousands of funerals in Arlington Cemetery during his 24 years of service with The Old Guard.

The last of the Quartermaster-issued horses branded with the Army's U.S. brand, Black Jack ended his distinguished career in 1976, and was buried with full military honors on the parade ground of Fort Myer's Summerall Field.

William Allen Baltz is a writer and journalist. His stories can be found at [williambaltz.com](http://williambaltz.com).

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# Pacific Rim trade talks weigh pluses, costs of open markets

DANANG, Vietnam (AP) — Talks aimed at salvaging a Pacific Rim trade pact rejected by U.S. President Donald Trump continued Thursday on the sidelines of a regional summit, but prospects for an agreement remain uncertain.

The negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership are being held in

Danang, Vietnam, alongside meetings of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, where Trump's markedly different stance from past U.S. leaders was being felt even before his arrival Friday in the coastal resort city.

While most APEC members say

they remain committed to their multi-country approach in weaving their economies ever closer together, many acknowledge that open trade is a mixed bag: Not everyone benefits equally.

Trump is seeking to renegotiate several major trade agreements, most notably the North American Free Trade Agreement, to, he says, put "America First."

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte told a business conference on the APEC sidelines that he believed Trump was pushing back

because America was the first victim of globalization.

China's decision to open its markets to the world under leader Deng Xiaoping attracted U.S. businesses eager to take advantage of the country's low-cost environment.

"And that is why Trump is trying to roll it back and say America First," he said.

Trade and foreign ministers of 11 members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership hope to agree in principle on a way forward without U.S. involvement after Trump pulled

out earlier this year.

New Zealand Minister for Trade and Export Growth David Parker said the TPP talks being held at the ministerial level were more likely to progress if few changes are made to the original accord.

"The more the changes, the harder it may be to form a consensus," Parker said. "There is good will. There is a desire to make progress."

But Parker said it was still uncertain if talks by the TPP leaders themselves would be held as planned.

Japan likewise is eager to see the talks succeed, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters before leaving Tokyo for Danang.

"We will do our utmost so that we can reach a basic agreement," Abe

said.

The U.S. pushback on "free trade," evidenced in Trump's "America First" policy, has raised eyebrows in the region after decades of U.S. pressure on opening markets.

"Over the last year, things have changed a lot," Alan Bollard, executive director of the Singapore-based APEC Secretariat, said in an interview. "The new U.S. administration does have a markedly different view about trade policies and regional economic integration," he said. "We're trying to get more clarity about what they're comfortable with and what the response of other members is."



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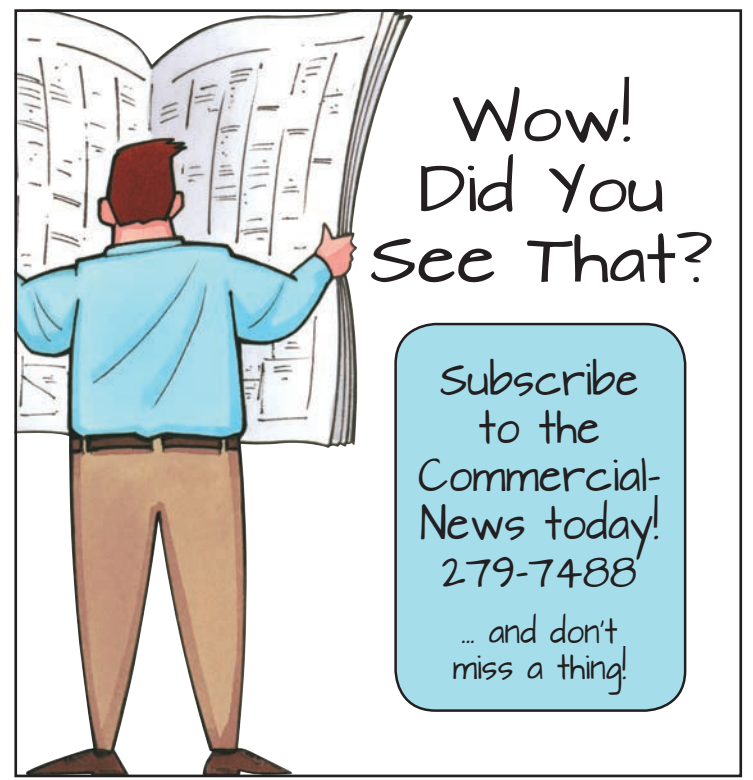
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## Boy with rare disease gets brand new skin with gene therapy

LONDON (AP) — Doctors treating a critically ill boy with a devastating skin disease used experimental gene therapy to create an entirely new skin for most of his body in a desperate attempt to save his life.

Two years later, the doctors report the boy is doing so well that he doesn't need any medication, is back in school and even playing soccer.

"We were forced to do something dramatic because this kid was dying," said Dr. Michele De Luca of the University of Modena in Italy, who got a call for help from the German doctors treating the boy.

The boy, then 7, was hospitalized in June 2015 with

blisters on his limbs, back and elsewhere. He quickly lost about 60 percent of the outer layer of his skin and was put into an induced coma to spare him further suffering. Doctors at Children's Hospital at Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany, tried skin grafts from his father and donor skin, but all failed.

"He was in severe pain and asking a lot of questions," the boy's father said in a video provided by the hospital "Why do I suffer from this disease? Why do I have to live this life? All children can run around and play, why am I not allowed to play soccer? I couldn't answer these questions."

The boy's parents asked about experimental treatments, and De Luca and his colleagues were contacted. They had previously used gene therapy to produce a small piece of skin in a similar case. They told the family that the boy's precarious state meant that he might not survive the complicated surgeries needed to save him.

"It was a tough decision for us, but we wanted to try for (our son)," the boy's father said. The family asked that their names not be used to protect the boy's privacy.

The boy had a rare, incurable skin disease called junctional

epidermolysis bullosa, caused by genetic mutations. People with the disease lack critical proteins that attach the outer layer of the skin to the inner layer, resulting in fragile skin with almost constant blisters and open sores.

To fix that, the doctors took a small piece of the boy's skin from an area that was OK. In the lab, they added a normal version of his bad gene to his skin cells. They grew sheets of the boy's skin, in much the same way skin grafts are grown for burn victims.

In total, they grew close to a square meter of skin (9 square feet.) The lab-grown skin was then transplanted onto the boy in three operations, ultimately covering 80 percent of his body. Ten days later, the new skin was already beginning to grow, De Luca said. After eight months, the doctors said that nearly all of the boy's skin had been generated by the modified stem cells.

So far, no problems have been detected. De Luca said the boy will be monitored closely for skin cancer and other potential issues.

"This kid is back to his normal life again," one of the German doctors, Dr. Tobias Rotheoet, said Wednesday. "That's what we dreamed of doing and it was possible."

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# HEALTH MATTERS

## Medicare Annual Wellness Visits "101"



Dr. Anil Patel, MD  
FAMILY MEDICINE

About the Author: Anil Patel, MD  
Board Certified in Family Practice for over 25 years

What is the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit?

For more than 40 years Medicare has provided seniors and people with disabilities with health coverage. That health coverage has been concentrated on treating conditions and diseases but

has not focused on prevention and keeping people healthy in the first place.

Since 2010 there is an added new benefit to Medicare recipients called an Annual Wellness Visit (AWV). The AWV puts new emphasis on preventive services and wellness care without the added cost of deductibles, coinsurance, or copayments.

During this visit, you can work with your primary care provider to develop a personalized prevention plan (PPP). This PPP is a written strategy developed with you to help you manage your health, including planning the preventive services and screenings you may need over the next 5 to 10 years. The plan will help you to take advantage of Medicare's preventive services, many with no cost-sharing. What the Medicare AWV is not:

- The AWV is not a physical examination nor is it meant

to replace a physical examination.

- The AWV does not include a hands-on examination.

- The AWV is not a "sick visit" to address any current medical problems, conditions or medications.

- The AWV does not include medication management, vaccinations, diagnostic testing, or lab work.

You will likely need to schedule another visit to address those issues. Although these services are important to your overall health, they are beyond the intended scope of the AWV. IF your provider includes these additional services, they charged and covered according to Medicare's usual coverage guidelines and you may incur cost-sharing in the form of copays, deductibles, or copayments. Why should I bother to have an AWV?

- You don't have to be sick to see your provider!

- The AWV provides an excellent opportunity for you to talk with your provider about your overall health concerns. Even if you are not sick!

- The AWV can reveal problems that your provider was not aware of; things like depression or an increased risk of falling.

- During the AWV, your provider will be able to discuss personalized health advice that takes into account your risk factors and specific health needs including weight loss, physical activity, smoking cessation, fall prevention, and nutrition.

- You can discuss referrals to health education resources or preventive counselling that may help minimize potential health risks.

These are things that are not typically addressed during a routine visit to the doctor!

- What's included in an AWV?
- Routine measurements such as height, weight, blood

pressure, and body-mass index

- Review of medical and family history

- Establishing a list of current providers, suppliers, and medications

- A personal risk assessment (including any mental health conditions)

- A review of your functional ability and level of safety

- A detection of any cognitive impairment

- Screening for depression

- Establishing a schedule for Medicare's screening and preventive services you qualify for over the next 5 to

10 years.

- Other advice or referral services that may help intervene and treat potential health risks

- Voluntary advanced care planning

When can I schedule my Medicare AWV?

You may receive your AWV after you have been with Medicare for more than one year, or it has been at least one year since your "Welcome to Medicare" exam. Call today to schedule an appointment at: 269-273-9062.

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# OPINION

## VIEWPOINT

### Cooperation would benefit US more than blame game

China Daily (AP)

U.S. President Donald Trump once again harped on his favorite bête noire, trade deficits, during his visit to Japan on Sunday, the first stop on his five-country Asia tour, saying his country had “suffered massive trade deficits at the hands of Japan for many, many years”.

Trump is expected to play the same card when he visits Beijing after his stop in South Korea this week, as he called the United States’ trade deficit with China “embarrassing” and “horrible” ahead of his trip.

His criticism of the country’s major trade partners in Asia may win him support back home from those who believe his claim that unfair trade practices have stripped jobs and wealth from the U.S. — “decade after decade, trade deficit upon trade deficit”, as he said in March.

But his argument that the U.S. is a loser in global trade simply because of the massive trade deficits it has incurred each year is misleading and fails to reflect the real benefits the country has gained from the existing global trade and economic regime.

In past decades, due to rising labor and environmental costs at home, the U.S. moved much of its manufacturing production capacity overseas, retaining mainly its high-tech industries. It then imported low-priced manufacturing goods from other countries, which helped

drive down its domestic inflation and benefited those U.S. multinationals making the goods abroad, creating a windfall for US investors and consumers.

The US president habitually attributes the country’s manufacturing job losses to “unfair trade”. But according to the United States’ own data, its jobless rate dropped from 9.6 percent in 2010 to 4.9 percent in 2016, while its trade of goods deficit surged from less than \$700 billion to \$796.7 billion over the same period, indicating that a rise in its trade deficit is not accompanied by a loss of jobs.

Whether a country registers a trade surplus or deficit is largely decided by its role in the global division of labor and its development stage.

Trump’s lambasting of the United States’ trade partners and his vows that under his administration the theft of American prosperity will end play well with the crowd — they carried him on a wave of popular sentiment into the White House after all — and no doubt they will serve to distract attention from his troubles at home, but they do nothing to help revitalize the U.S. economy, unless he can gain a few favors from other leaders, or boost the global economy.

Instead of criticizing his hosts, Trump should seek to promote cooperation to advance “free and reciprocal” trade to the benefit of both the region and the world.



### How Rep. Steve Cohen keeps his district poor

Last week, I testified before the House Judiciary subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, on HR 490, also known as the Heartbeat Bill.

The bill, introduced by Iowa Republican congressman Steve King, prohibits abortion of an unborn child once the child’s heartbeat is detectable.

I have been fighting for the last 30 years to protect the unborn, and I wholeheartedly gave my endorsement to this bill.

In follow-up questioning, I responded to allegations, often made, that abortion is essentially a health and welfare program, categorizing it like major government spending programs that target the poor, such as Medicaid and food stamps.

I shared my view that thinking about abortion in this way is “disingenuous.”

It represents the very sick view that killing children in the womb is a way to fight poverty.

One member of the committee, Steve Cohen, a Democrat representing the 9th district of Tennessee, has a lifetime record, both in the U.S. congress and as a state legislator, advocating this distortion that somehow abortion is a remedial measure for low-income black women.

Confused liberals like Cohen think the problem is pregnancy rather than sexual activity taking



Star Parker

place outside of where it belongs -- in marriage. So they encourage the very behavior that leads to poverty -- promiscuity and abortion.

We can see the results in Cohen’s own district. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in Cohen’s 9th district in Tennessee, 8.7 percent of households headed by a married couple with children under 5 are poor. However, 59.5 percent of households headed by a single woman with children under 5 are poor.

Cohen attacked me in the hearing, calling me “ignorant,” and suggested that my telling the truth somehow showed disrespect to him. After the hearing, he approached me, put his finger in my face, and told me to come to his office and personally apologize to him.

In 1997, Cohen opposed legislation that banned partial-birth abortion in Tennessee. This procedure was banned in federal law in 2003.

Because of the unique brutality of partial-birth abortion, Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy included

in his opinion, in which the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of banning this procedure, testimony of a nurse who witnessed it.

She described the baby moving its fingers and toes as the doctor jammed scissors into the back of its head.

Cohen’s district in Tennessee is a picture of the kind of distressed communities that my organization CURE targets to help recover. It is two-thirds black, has eight ZIP codes with infant mortality rates triple the national average, has a median household income two-thirds the national average, and poverty 10 points higher than the national average.

It is indeed a challenge to get truth into poor black communities that have suffered for years from liberal leaders like Cohen telling them what they need is more government and abortion. My work in Washington, D.C., focuses on getting public policy that will allow more flexibility for people like those in Cohen’s district to self-govern.

In 1996, a year before Cohen

voted to oppose banning partial-birth abortion in Tennessee, I worked in Washington to pass welfare reform.

The only apology I have to make is that I do not have more opportunities to testify against the distortions and damage caused by liberals like Cohen.

He extols his affection for Planned Parenthood, which annually aborts more black babies than any organization in the country: “For me Planned Parenthood is part of my DNA. It is one of the finest organizations in this country.” And he equates black fertility to slavery: “women since the days of slavery were ... encouraged to have children, because ... you needed ... more property to bring the crops to make the money.”

Work needs to continue to help poor blacks in Steve Cohen’s district understand that he is the last person they should have representing them.

Star Parker is an author and president of CURE, Center for Urban Renewal and Education. Contact her at [www.urbancure.org](http://www.urbancure.org). To find out more about Star Parker and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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## YOUR LETTERS

### Voter apathy

To the editor:

I subscribe to the Three Rivers Commercial-News to stay in touch with what goes on in our community. I have questions for the current editor of our local paper. Was the lack of any mention of our local elections a reflection of your voter apathy? Do you think it’s proper for our local paper to promote voter apathy? Wouldn’t you agree that not covering any aspect of what appears on a local ballot encourages lack of participation? Do I need to start looking for our local news elsewhere? This inquiring mind would like to know.

Bob Tomlinson  
Three Rivers

## YESTERDAY

### 10 Years Ago November 10, 2007

CONSTANTINE — Jodi Christine Parrack, 11, was murdered by an unknown assailant, according to information released by the Constantine Police Department and the St. Joseph County Major Crimes Task Force. A manhunt is underway to apprehend the murderer. Jodi’s body was found by her mother and family friends Thursday night at 10:32 p.m. in Constantine Township Cemetery.

THREE RIVERS — Members of the American Legion Firing Squad were at American Axle & Manufacturing in Three Rivers on Friday in honor of Veterans Day, which is Sunday. American Axle employees Jay Sams, Otto Smead and Erv Heidbrink spoke about the day. This is an annual memorial at American Axle as about 130 veterans are employed there. “Veterans Day is that day where we can say “thank you,” Heidbrink, president of UAW Local 2093 which represents company employees, told the attendees.

### 25 Years Ago November 10, 1992

CENTREVILLE — It’s likely Centreville High School will seek a two-year release from the St. Joseph Valley League football schedule. High School Principal William Miller told the Centreville School Board he intends to present to the league at the next meeting. If the league approves the Athletic Council’s proposal, football would be in place at Centreville for the 1993 and 1994 seasons, except the school would be an independent and not a member of the St. Joseph Valley league. On Sept. 29 of this year, four games into the season, Centreville canceled the remainder of its varsity schedule for 1992. It had not won a game.

CENTREVILLE — Centreville School Board members learned it would take approximately \$140,000 to repair the junior high building. Barbara Lester, junior high principal said the junior high facility is a temporary building that as been in use since 1970. Board member Perry Hastings observed it was a strong comment on the quality and commitment of school district’s custodial and maintenance staff that classrooms designed to last five years have been maintained and used for 20 years.

### 50 Years Ago November 10, 1967

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY — St. Joseph County Civil Defense Director Calvin Wagner reports good cooperation from residents in the current Home Fallout Protection Survey. Wagner says about 75 percent of all homes in the county have been visited by Census Bureau interviewers. The survey is being conducted statewide by the Bureau of the Census for the Department of Defense, Office of Civil Defense, with the cooperation of the Michigan Office of Civil Defense. In St. Joseph County every home is being contracted by a house-to-house interviewer to determine the fallout protection for the house.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY — Pattie Acker, a member of the Renco Lassies and Trailblazers 4-H Clubs, has returned from a trip to Chicago where she attended the national Safety Club Congress. Acker won the trip at the State 4-H Show for giving the best safety demonstration in the safety division. Her winning demonstration was entitled “Safety with Horses.” Acker has been a 4-H club member for five years.



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9	5	2	8	7	6	3	4	1
1	6	7	2	3	4	8	5	9
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# SPORTS

## Hornets anxious to face Panthers in playoff rematch

By Scott Hassinger  
Sports Editor

MENDON — A playoff matchup between football powers Mendon and Climax-Scotts is becoming as common as a visit to the doctor for an annual physical.

No. 3-ranked Mendon (11-0) and Climax-Scotts (9-2) meet in the postseason for the seventh straight year at 1 p.m. Saturday with a Division 8 Region 3 title on the line.

The winner advances to the state semifinals on Saturday, Nov. 18 against the winner of the Clarkston Everest Collegiate (9-2) at Ottawa Lake Whiteford (11-0) game being played on Saturday as well.

Climax-Scotts has ended Mendon's season the past two years, including a 28-14 win in the 2016 district finals at the Panthers' Field. The Hornets dropped an 8-6 road decision to the Panthers in the 2015 pre-district.

Prior to those two games, Mendon captured seven straight postseason wins over Climax-Scotts. The Hornets own a 43-8-1 edge in the all-time series between the two schools, who are separated by just 20 miles of farmland, woods, and country roads.

Both schools are traditional state powers. Mendon has won 11 state titles in its history while Climax-Scotts hoisted a state title trophy in 2004.

Climax-Scotts has won the past two postseason meetings

against Mendon, including a 28-14 win last year on the Panthers' home field.

Unlike the past two years, Mendon is a heavy favorite to beat Climax-Scotts, a 14-13 winner in its district final over Pittsford.

The Panthers' win over the Wildcats avenged a 28-14 loss to Pittsford in the eighth week of the season. That loss ended the Panthers' lengthy streak of consecutive titles in the South Central Athletic Association. Pittsford finished 4-0 for first place while Climax-Scotts was second at 3-1.

The other loss this season by Climax-Scotts came in its season opener 35-6 to playoff qualifier Michigan Center.

Mendon achieved its first unbeaten regular season this fall since 2013 and captured the inaugural Southwest 10 Conference title with a 9-0 mark.

The Hornets beat St. Joseph Lake Michigan Catholic 28-12 in its playoff opener before knocking off No. 1-ranked and four-time defending state champion Muskegon Catholic Central 26-15 last Saturday on a rain-soaked and muddy field.

Veteran Climax-Scotts head coach Kevin Langs is very impressed with the Mendon team his Panthers will face.

"What doesn't impress you about Mendon? They have a great coaching staff, talent, size and are very physical up front," Langs said.

Climax-Scotts' head coach says the biggest challenge for his

Panthers' defense will be finding a way to slow down Mendon senior tailback Wyatt Cool.

The 5-foot-10, 180-pound Cool shredded Muskegon Catholic Central's defense for 256 rushing yards on 36 carries and three touchdowns on a messy field.

"Wyatt Cool just might be the best football player in Division 8," said Langs.

Mendon's T-Formation, ball control, and time consuming drives in the second half were critical in its victory over Muskegon Catholic Central.

Cool has 163 carries for 1,397 yards and 30 touchdowns this season.

Cool's 99-yard interception return for a touchdown late secured a 34-24 win by Mendon over Cassopolis, a Division 7 playoff qualifier who will play Saugatuck for a regional title this weekend.

Cool has 45 tackles, 2.5 quarterback sacks, two interceptions and one fumble recovery on defense.

Mendon has added a wrinkle to its offense this season with the T-Formation, which has made the Hornets even more explosive. The Hornets can also feature I-Formation and spread sets.

"In the offseason we took a look at who our best blockers were. We put the T-Formation in pre-season drills and started using it more in the Bloomingdale game. It gets our best 11 players on the field," Kretschman said.

Smash mouth football has been the recipe as the Hornets

have outscored its 11 foes 460-72.

Sophomore fullback Austin Renis has 807 yards rushing on 109 carries and seven TDs. Junior Corbin Weinberg is next with 370 yards and four TDs. A.J. Voorde has 335 yards and four TDs.

Junior Cole Decker is Mendon's starting quarterback in the T and I formations. Lovell can be inserted when the Hornets go to the spread.

Unlike the past two seasons, Mendon features a much bigger and physical offensive and defensive line.

Mendon's offensive line consists of sophomore left tackle Emmett Bingaman (5-11, 220), senior left guard Mikki Feister (6-0, 205), senior center Kaden Frye (6-0, 170), sophomore right guard Noah Slaughter (6-1, 225) and junior right tackle Jake Allison (6-0, 205).

Mendon's tight ends are seniors Hunter Lovell (6-5, 190) and Arjun Vorster (6-0, 165).

Feister has 77 tackles, one interception, two fumble recoveries and has forced four fumbles at inside linebacker. Renis has 68 tackles, two sacks, and a pair of fumble recoveries at the other inside linebacker spot. Weinberg and Frye are the outside linebackers. Cool and Slaughter are defensive ends. Bingaman is the nose guard with sophomore Zach Duchene (5-11, 250) and senior A.J. Voorde rotating at that spot as well.

See MENDON HORNETS, page 10

## Ex-Jags coach Bradley returns to Jacksonville with Chargers

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Gus Bradley has kept close tabs on the Jacksonville Jaguars from afar.

Friends, colleagues, former players. Offseason moves, personnel changes, steady improvements.

The Los Angeles Chargers defensive coordinator will get to see everyone and everything in person Sunday, when Bradley returns to the place where he spent the previous four years and helped lay the foundation for a franchise is off to its best start in a decade.

Bradley has no idea what kind of reception he will get. He's focused on what kind of performance he will get from the Chargers (3-5), who have won three of their last four.

"I haven't thought much about it," Bradley said this week. "It's like another game week, where you look at a team and you study their personnel. I think it will be like all of a sudden, 'Oh, we're going to Jacksonville.'"

"It will probably hit me a little bit late. It'll be all good. My family is there still, so I'm sure I will get a chance to see them. But it will be different lining up on that other sideline."

Bradley should hope for different results, too.

The Jaguars (5-3) fired Bradley nearly 11 months ago, parting ways with the gregarious head coach following a nine-game losing streak that capped one of the least successful coaching tenures in NFL history. Jacksonville won just 14 of 62 games under Bradley.

Progress was difficult to see at times and consistency was rare. Owner Shad Khan knew when he hired Bradley and general manager Dave Caldwell that the rebuild would take time because it would be draft-driven process that would be supplemented in free agency.

"Shad had a great vision to create an organization that could sustain it and do it year after year," Bradley said. "Sure, the beginning years are tough, but hopefully they're starting to see the rewards. That coaching staff is doing a great job with it."

They're well coached, and the players are playing hard for them.

"I think more than anything the city of Jacksonville deserves this with some of the things they've gone through. They've been tremendously patient and now hopefully it comes together — just not this Sunday."

It will be Bradley's second cross-country trip in as many weeks.

He was in Jacksonville for part of the Chargers' bye week. Bradley's family — his wife, Michaela, and four children — stayed here after Bradley took the job on the opposite coast.

With just a few days home, Bradley split up his days for one-on-one time with each kid: rehab with his oldest son, a high school quarterback who recently had reconstructive knee surgery; dinner with his oldest daughter; shopping with the other; and fishing with his youngest son.

"Anytime you're across the country, it's always difficult and it takes a strong commitment with everybody," Bradley said. "That's what we're doing. We visit, we talk a lot when we have time and we stay connected."

"It's working. I wouldn't want to make a habit of it. I wouldn't want to do it for three years in a row or anything like that. This is what was best for our family and our kids."

Bradley had other offers from Seattle, Washington, Atlanta and New Orleans, so he could have chosen to be closer, but he picked Los Angeles because of his relationship with first-year head coach Anthony Lynn and the personnel fit for his defense.

Bradley interviewed Lynn for Jacksonville's open offensive coordinator position after the 2014 season.

"That was the first time I've ever met him," Lynn said. "That interview went for about eight hours, which is about five hours longer than most. It's because we connected. We hit it off. I just knew when I left the building that I wanted to work with him."

## A backup for now, Bridgewater happy to be truly part of team

By The Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Finally, Teddy Bridgewater has become truly part of the team again.

He'll stand on the sideline this weekend when the Minnesota Vikings play at Washington, backing up Case Keenum with no guarantee he'll play, but his mere presence in that No. 5 white-and-purple jersey will be a major milestone.

Walking without crutches for his surgically repaired left knee was the first big step, followed by a return to the field for football activities. Now he's on the active roster, ready for action if Keenum is significantly injured or deemed ineffective.

"It's always hard when the guys are going to work and you have to go in the opposite direction," Bridgewater said Thursday. "It's like when all the kids are going to P.E. and you have to go detention or something like that."

There were days, undoubtedly, when the rehabilitation process felt like punishment. His refusal to let it get him down is one of the

reasons he made it back. Now he's able to participate along with his teammates in the fun part, their present-day gym class.

"Just being activated, knowing that I will be suiting up, coming out of that locker room and getting that rush and that adrenaline going through my blood and my body, it's great feeling," Bridgewater said.

The final exam will be how his knee, which was dislocated, resulting in multiple ligament tears, holds up during a game against a pass rush with the tacklers coming at him fast from every direction. Bridgewater has not played in a non-preseason game in 22 months.

"No concerns at all. Our training staff, our strength and conditioning staff, they've done a great job of preparing me to get to this point," Bridgewater said. "So once I get out there, there's no regrets, no holding back. Whatever's meant to happen, happens. I trust God's plan for me, and I'm going to go with that."

For the first time since the

third game of his rookie year, Sept. 21, 2014, at New Orleans, Bridgewater will begin Sunday as the backup. Matt Cassel was hurt that afternoon, beginning of Bridgewater's takeover of the position until that fateful practice on Aug. 30, 2016.

The Vikings (6-2) have been playing well enough behind Keenum that, for now, there's no obvious reason to replace him. Bridgewater said he's not concerned about when he'll have the starting job back, nor whether he'll get any playing time down the stretch, even in a low-pressure situation. He's not blind to the two-game lead the Vikings have in the NFC North race, with momentum they'll be trying to maintain.

"We're just going to go with the flow by how the game goes," Bridgewater said. "If I'm asked to go in, then I'll go in. I won't have any hesitation. I'll go out there and give it my all. But you always hope for the best, and I wish and I hope that we can just go out there and handle our business."

One of the beneficial byproducts of the 14-month recovery was all the time spent

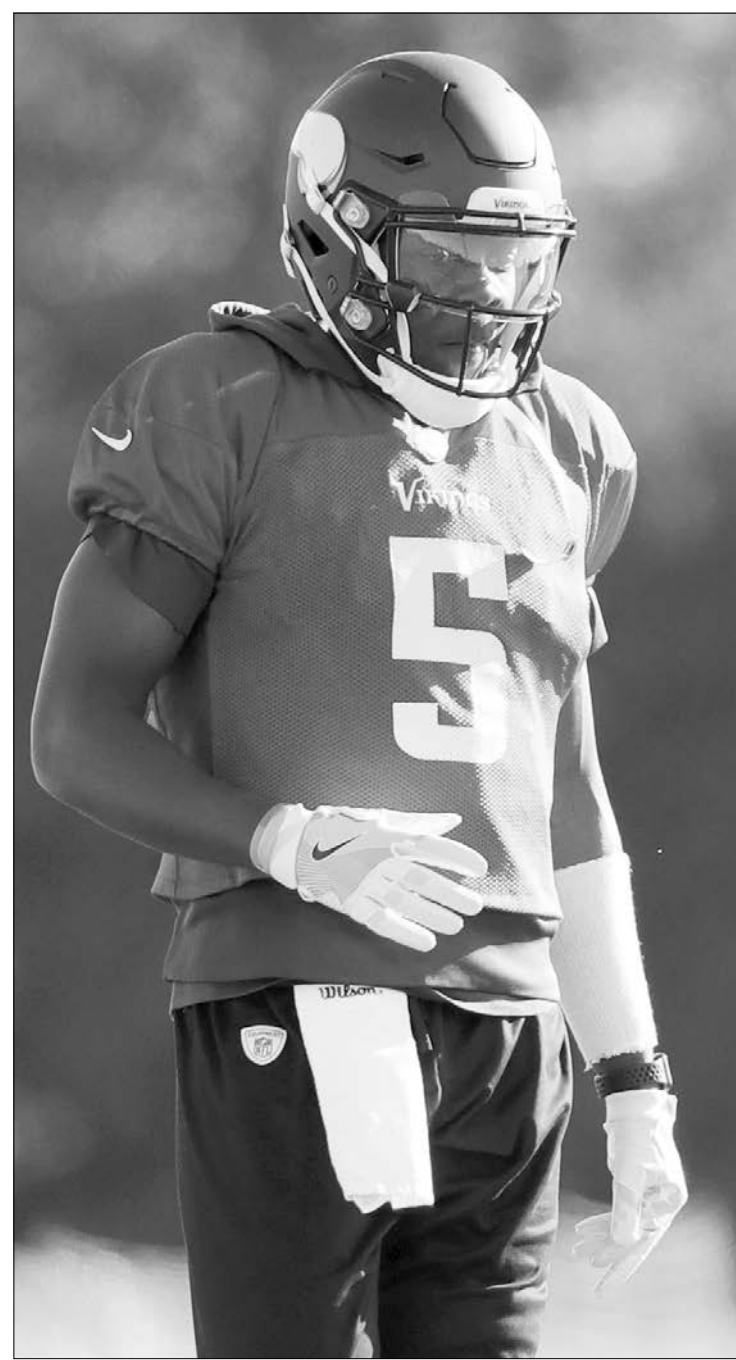
in the weight room. By all accounts, Bridgewater's arm has emerged with more strength. His leg will be more scrutinized, but coach Mike Zimmer said he's seen no hesitation or limitation over the past three weeks of practice with the team.

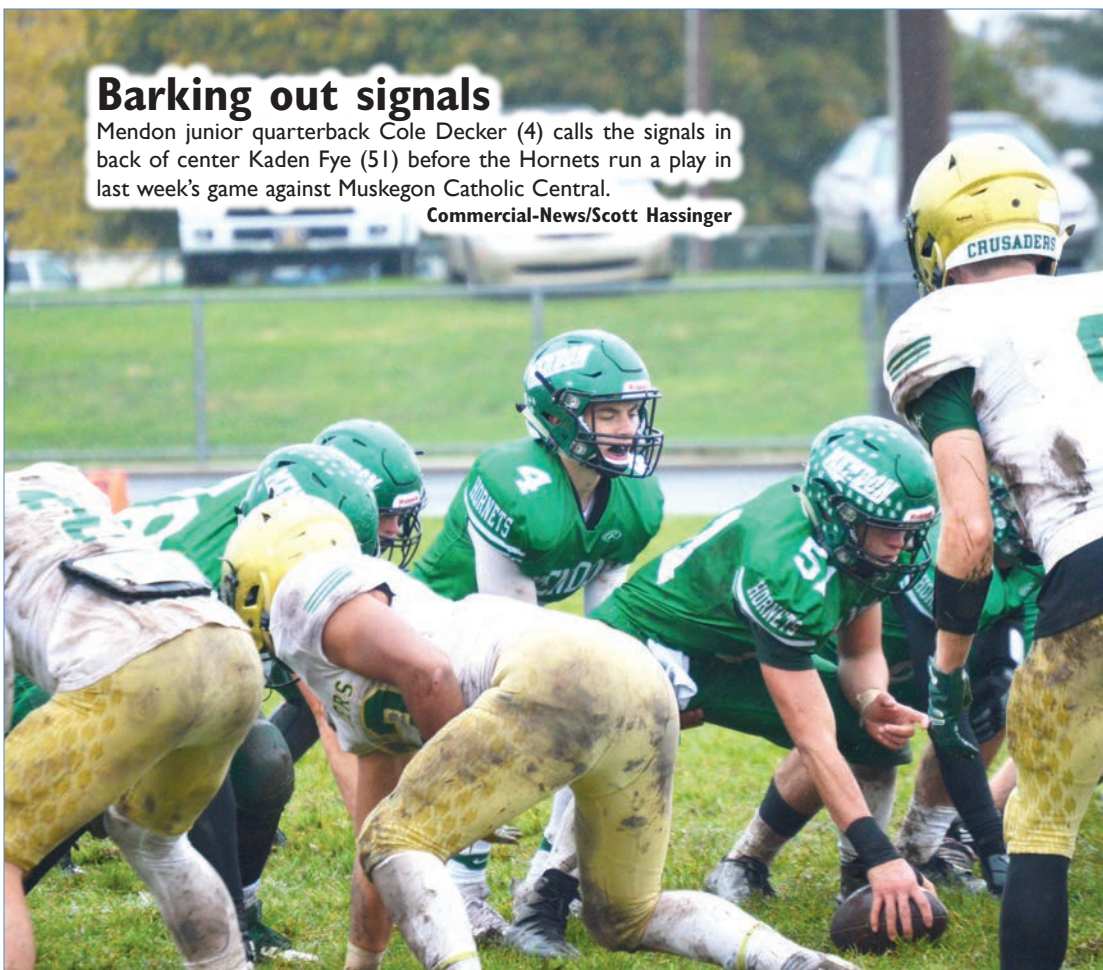
"I don't know if that's the most impressive thing," Zimmer said. "Just coming back is the most impressive from what he had to go through."

### Getting back into shape

In this Oct. 27, 2017, file photo, Minnesota Vikings quarterback Teddy Bridgewater takes part in an NFL football training session at the London Irish rugby team training ground in the Sunbury-on-Thames suburb of south west London. The Vikings have taken Bridgewater off the physically unable to perform list on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017, adding him to the active roster for the first time since he badly injured his left knee during practice more than 14 months ago.

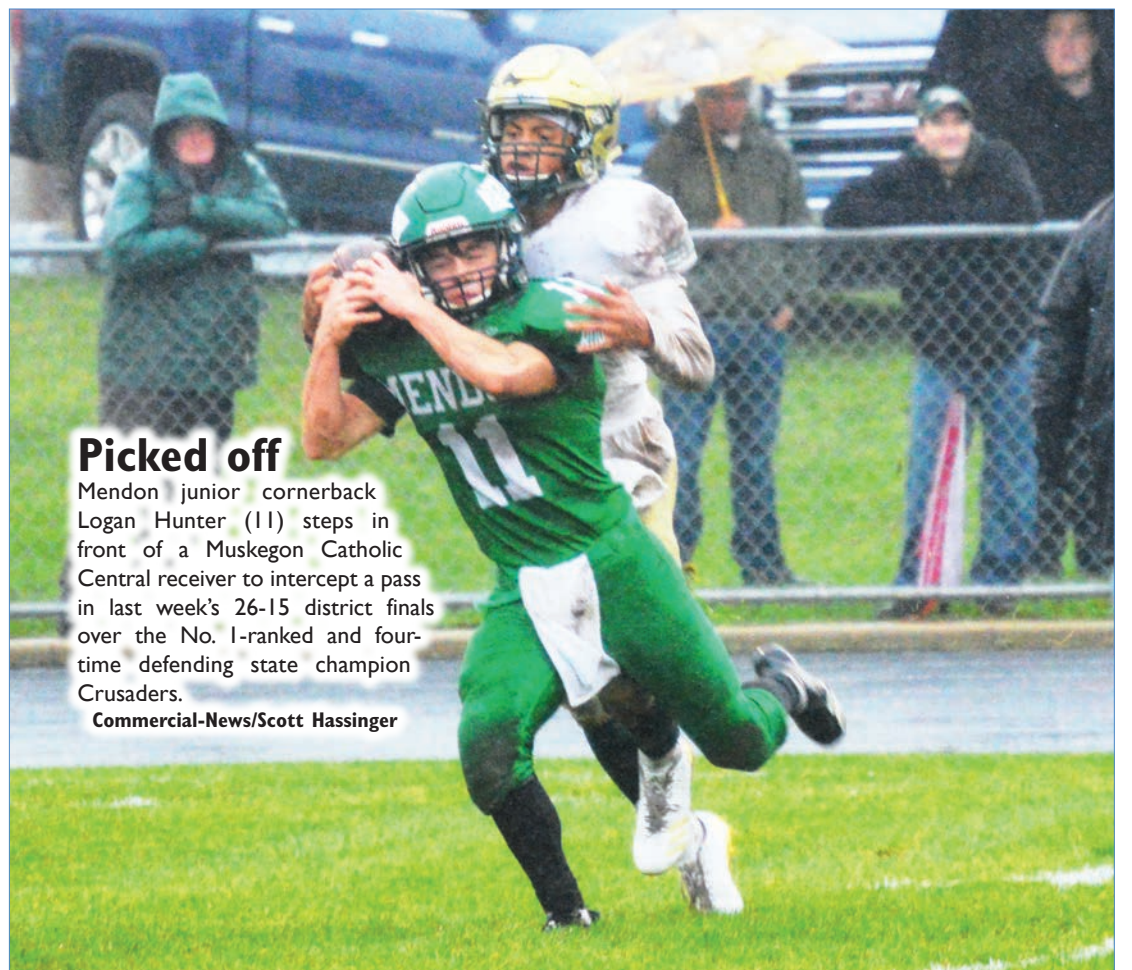
AP photo





### Barking out signals

Mendon junior quarterback Cole Decker (4) calls the signals in back of center Kaden Fye (51) before the Hornets run a play in last week's game against Muskegon Catholic Central.  
Commercial-News/Scott Hassinger



### Picked off

Mendon junior cornerback Logan Hunter (11) steps in front of a Muskegon Catholic Central receiver to intercept a pass in last week's 26-15 district finals over the No. 1-ranked and four-time defending state champion Crusaders.  
Commercial-News/Scott Hassinger

## MENDON HORNETS

Continued from page 10

Mendon's secondary is solid with Lovell and Vorster at safety, and juniors Sam Cleveland and Logan Hunter at cornerback.

Lovell has six interceptions to go with 52 tackles, one fumble recovery, and he's forced three fumbles.

Mendon's defense shutout Muskegon Catholic in the second half holding the Crusaders' spread offense, led by all-state candidate in sophomore Cameron Martinez, scoreless in the final two quarters

Langs was pleased with how his team played last week against Pittsford.

"We are small on our defensive line, but we were able to hold our own against a very physical Pittsford team," Langs said.

Climax-Scotts is led up front by senior left tackle Nyime Chaib (5-foot-10, 260-pounds), junior right guard Jason Myers (5-10, 170), and Hunter Mejeur (5-9, 205) at left guard.

"Climax-Scotts runs a T Pitch Style offense. They are very efficient on the offense and are well coached," said Mendon's second-year head coach Bobby Kretschman.

Senior Dylan Butler (5-8, 155) starts at quarterback for Climax-Scotts in its Wing-T offensive set.

Butler was brought up for the playoffs in his sophomore year and has started every game since.

"Dylan is the straw that stirs the drink for us," Langs said.

Butler has completed 18-of-29 passes for 366 yards and six TDs

with two interceptions. He has rushed for 276 yards on 42 carries and four TDs.

"They have three solid backs in the backfield and their quarterback is very quick and makes smart decisions within the offense. He is a playmaker," Kretschman said.

Junior Brock Borden is the Panthers' top receiver with six receptions for 169 yards and Tullis has three catches for 109 yards.

Climax-Scotts is led in rushing by senior tailback Nathan Vickery (6-0, 155) with 113 carries for 1,124 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Senior halfback Zachary Tullis (5-9, 155) is another rushing threat for the Panthers with 96

carries for 914 yards and 16 TDs. Senior fullback James Behlke (5-9, 180) is next with 74 carries for 747 yards and eight TDs.

"They do not make many mistakes offensively and put a lot of strain on defenses because they can chew up clock and move the chains. They get three to four yards a play and when you can do that over and over it wears down people, and that is when they break long runs," Kretschman said.

"We will need to play assignment football and be physical up front. They have improved tremendously throughout the season and we know that they will be well prepared and ready to play us Saturday."

Behlke also stands out at linebacker for Climax-Scotts' defense with 69 tackles. Junior free safety Jake Lane (6-1, 170) has 67 stops and five interceptions for the Panthers' secondary.

Junior defensive back Cole Eshuis (6-0, 160) has 58 tackles and one interception and one fumble recovery.

Vickery, also a starter at defensive back, has four interceptions to push his career total to 13. He also has 25 tackles this season.

Junior Luke Mobley (5-9, 171) has 19 tackles, two quarterback sacks, and two fumble recoveries. Junior defensive end Dylan Peck (6-0, 195) has 37 tackles and Borden, who also starts at outside linebacker, has 39 tackles and

two fumble recoveries. "Defensively Climax-Scotts will run versions of a 4-4 and 5-2. They are very aggressive defensively and get to the ball well," Kretschman said.

"We need to re-focus and stick to business. Our kids have executed game plans all year long and we need to keep doing the little things throughout the week if we want to advance to the next round.

"At this point in the season you are playing quality football teams every week. We cannot over look anyone."

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# 2017 MENDON HORNETS (11-0)

## DIVISION 8 – REGION 3 CHAMPIONSHIP



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