



NOVEMBER 14, 2019

# The RECORDER

**Death Notices:** (see page 3)

**SALLY J. (WILLIAMS) CIPCIC**, 70, of Battle Creek  
**DEMETRIUS LAVEL HILL SR. (DEE)**, 30, of Jackson  
**CHARLES "MAC" HENSON**, 85, of Albion

**AREA SPORTS IN THIS WEEK'S RECORDER**

**Concord High School**

Volleyball, page 7  
Golf, page 8

**Marshall High School**

Football, page 8  
Volleyball, page 8

Golf, page 8

Swimming and Diving, page 8

**Springport High School**

Volleyball, page 7



**S.A.F.E. Pie Sale**

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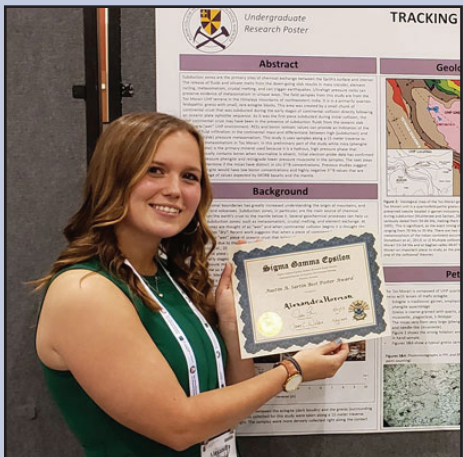
**Concord Village Council meets**

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**Construction at M-60 and N. Concord Road**

See page 2



**Geology Conference**

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## Entire Albion community mourns after tragedy ends life of Albion College student

By **MICHELLE MUELLER**  
Contributing Writer

"Our Albion College students belong to all of us and are on loan from their families. We have a responsibility to make sure they are good. In the coming hours and days, the entire Albion College family will mourn. That means we, their family, their Albion, mourns with them as well. Reach out to them, make sure that they are fine. Offer an ear to hear them, a hand to comfort them and a shoulder to cry on." So urged Albion resident John Face in an eloquent statement recently posted on social media.

The writer was referring to a tragic death that had occurred the night before: at approximately 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9, 19-year-old Albion College student Zachary

Winston, who, according to Albion Department of Public Safety Chief Scott Kipp's interview with the train's engineer, intentionally walked in front of a westbound Amtrak, was found dead at the pedestrian crossing just west of the Erie Street crossing. There were 65 passengers on board the Wolverine Train 355 which passes through Albion nightly, and there were no reported injuries on the train; service was temporarily suspended.

So, while Albion College is reeling from the loss of one of their students, the Albion community at large is saddened mightily that despite the combined presence of the College's staff and students, and the caring people who are permanent residents here, Winston's life could not be saved.

Tuesday evening, Goodrich Chapel on the Albion College campus was packed with

more than 1,400 mourners at a private vigil in Zachary's honor.

As guests entered the lobby, they were informed that on nearby tables were pens and blank notes were available with which to write messages of condolence for Winston's family, and by 7:30 p.m. when the event started, large baskets were filled to the brim with folded notes.

The chapel's first floor seating quickly filled to capacity as hundreds of people entered the building. It was not too long before guests had to be directed to additional seating in the balcony. Even when all seats were filled, mourners squeezed in to stand behind and next to the pews.

The life, leadership, and legacy of Zachary Winston was remembered and celebrated at the vigil, with reflections led by Albion's

chaplain, Rev. Donald Phillips, with support from various student leaders and members of the Albion Basketball Team.

Village elders Vivian Davis and Hazel Lias were both at the vigil and were especially touched by the profound message delivered by Zach's suitemate.

"The statements of love and support were so tastefully done," Lias commented.

Davis claims that in all her years in Albion, she'd never experienced the palpable sense of putting aside any differences and coming together as one unit that permeated the chapel. "It was heartwarming. All of the love and support of each other as hurting humans that was felt in the room, and the coming together to bring us strength. I don't re-

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## Al Smith sworn in for City Council seat



Photo by Michelle Mueller

**City Clerk Jill Domingo swears recently elected councilman Al Smith in to begin serving in his Precinct 3 seat.**

By **MICHELLE MUELLER**  
Contributing Writer

Newly elected Precinct 3 councilperson Al Smith was officially sworn in to begin serving in that position in a small ceremony on Wednesday morning. A group of about 15 residents and past and present city officials witnessed the event in the Albion City Council Chambers.

In the Nov. 5 special election, residents of Albion's Precinct 3 had voted 220-124 to recall City Council Member Sonya Brown, and elected Smith to finish Brown's term on the city council. With nearly 64% of people who voted

choosing him over Brown, he'll represent the precinct until the 2020 election, and could choose to run for the seat again.

Smith welcomed the group who came to support him on Wednesday. "I look around and see many friends and supporters. And I'm happy that not everybody is from my precinct, he said with a chuckle. "I promise to listen twice as much as I talk – God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason!"

Councilman Smith told the Recorder that he'd scheduled the swearing in for Wednesday so that he'd be qualified to participate fully in a council budget meeting scheduled for this Saturday.

## Pulaski Township discusses Swains Lake sewer project

By **KEN WYATT**  
Contributing Writer

In its monthly meeting, the Pulaski Township Board discussed the status of a longstanding effort by Swains Lake residents to get sewers.

In a recent meeting, board members met with Larry Stephens of Stephens Consulting Services and others with an interest in the proposed sewer project. Based on that meeting and continuing conversation with lake residents, Township Supervisor Bob Jones asked if the board is willing for the township to take the lead in making the sewer system possible.

That prompted discussion of what the township's support would entail. A concern voiced at the board meeting was the township's financial risk. According to Jones, residents would not have the standing to secure financing, so the township would need to sell bonds. But those would be paid off by residents themselves, board members said.

Currently, a sewer committee of residents on the south side of the lake is trying to get petitions signed by a majority of residents. An earlier effort in the summer got 26 signatures, and probably 38 or 40 would be needed. But that earlier petition drive was unpopular even with those who want sewers.

That earlier proposal would have imposed per-resident expenses ranging from \$22,000 to \$48,000. Stephens' proposal, which would use an on-site drain field to treat only the wastewater, would cost residents \$20,000 to \$22,000, according to pre-engineering estimates.

One audience member wanted to know why the issue continues to come up. Jones responded that he is concerned that with several residents unable to live in their homes due to septic issues on their property, someone might eventually file suit against the township for failing to provide for sewer service. It makes sense to work with residents that want sewers, he added.

In other issues before the board:

**Cemetery.** A property owner adjacent to the Pulaski Cemetery along Pulaski Road has raised the possibility of selling an acre to the township for expansion. The board discussed the matter, along with what might be a reasonable offer for the

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# NAACP-What is in a name?

By **SYLVIA BENAVIDEZ**  
Contributing Writer

What is in a name? In the case of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a history of fighting for civil rights for people of color. This year alone the Albion Branch of the NAACP gave out 10 forms in response to complaints of discrimination in the community with five returned for the organization's Legal Redress Committee to investigate further.

The Albion Branch President of the NAACP Robert Dunklin said that many times people tell him about housing and employment issues, but the individuals refuse to fill out the form, which leaves the organization unable to follow through with the complaint. In other instances, members have worked with the Marshall Public Schools to deal with reports of prejudice and discrimination, and 2019 saw the Youth Branch of the NAACP established in the high school last year grow and restructure for a whole new group of students.

However, the work doesn't stop there. President, Robert Dunklin and his wife, Mae Ola, have dedicated much of their lives to the NAACP and are passionate about sharing the important role that the Albion Branch has in supporting the city and the surrounding areas.

Mae Ola said that all people benefit from the mission of NAACP and all people are welcome to join the membership. She further stated sometimes individuals get caught up in the name of the organization unnecessarily and not in its goals. She has been approached about the relevance of using the word "colored" in the non-partisan membership's name by someone who was a person of color and asked why the name isn't changed.

Her husband, Albion Branch NAACP President Dunklin explained the meaning of the name as shared with him from a national office representative, "When you open up a box of crayons, you don't see the one color. It's all colors. That's why it's called 'Colored People,' because it's all races, all colors are in that box." He added, "And all colors and all races are involved in the NAACP."

He said this applies locally too. "Dr. Wesley Dick is the 2nd Vice President, and he is a stern supporter of the NAACP. Wesley and I have been fighting together for civil rights for years." Dick works as a U.S. history professor for Albion College and is Caucasian.

"Doing the work of the NAACP doesn't come from the head. It comes from the heart," said President Dunklin.

Both he and his wife want to see Albion prosper.

"I am not the person to talk about nega-



Photo by Sylvia Benavidez

**Albion Branch NAACP President Robert Dunklin at Big Read with author Ibi Zoboi**

tive things about Albion. If so, I'll ask, 'What are you doing? How are you helping us to move forward?' If you have suggestions, I will listen to those, but complaints I have no time for because my business is moving forward and making Albion a better place," said

Mae Ola Dunklin.

The members of the Albion Branch of the NAACP are involved in so many activities in the city to make Albion a better place,

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