



The RECORDER

OCTOBER 10, 2019

Death Notices: (see page 3)

Ronald Vern Stone age 78 of Albion.
Barbara Arlene Shaffer Age 85 of Albion.

AREA SPORTS IN THIS WEEK'S RECORDER

Concord High School
Boys and Girls Cross Country, page 6
Football, page 6
Volleyball, page 6

Marshall High School
Boys and Girls Cross Country, page 6
Soccer, page 5
Football, page 5
Volleyball, page 6
Tennis, page 6

Springport High School
Football, page 6
Volleyball, page 6



Marshall wins I-8 soccer Gold Cup



Marshall falls by one point in I-8 battle



Marshall wins, loses on volleyball court



Springport earns comeback win against Concord

Albion City Council

By ANN DWYER
Contributing Writer

Albion City Council held a special meeting Tuesday night on whether to hire a third-party to investigate harassment claims by Albion Public Safety Chief Scott Kipp against Precinct-3 councilmember Sonya Brown.

During the meeting, Brown countered with her own motion to also investigate how the complaint was leaked to the public via social media. Brown contends that the leak was detrimental to her receiving fair treatment in regard to the harassment allegations and her impending recall election.

Brown also made a statement at the end of the meeting claiming that mayor David Atchison withheld the actual complaint from her for several weeks and told her not to speak publicly about it. She alleged that Atchison withheld the complaint from her and told her not to speak about it so that she could not defend herself before the recall vote.

"You ran on a platform of unity. But your

handling of this situation shows nothing but divisiveness and discrimination," she said in her statement.

Brown faces recall because of texts sent to then-city manager LaTonya Rufus in regards to Kipp. The text used in the recall petition said, "Get rid of him! He's untrustworthy." The recall petition stated that the texts to Rufus violated Sec. 5.8 of the city charter, which states, "council members shall not individually direct the appointment or removal of any administrative officer or employee of the city."

Rufus resigned as city manager five months after taking the job due to embezzlement allegations.

The council voted unanimously to hire a third-party investigation into the harassment allegations. Council also voted 5-2 to approve a third-party investigation into how the complaint was leaked to the public. Atchison and councilmember Shane Williamson (Prec. 6) were the dissenting votes.

During the previous night's regular Albion City Council meeting, council unanimously

voted to waive attorney-client privilege and release to the public the full investigation report of the November 2018 incident between an Albion Public Safety officer and a mentally ill 13-year old boy.

The incident stemmed from a call by the child's grandmother that she could not control her grandson. Body cam footage showed the officer punching the child repeatedly then pepper spray him when he would not pull his feet back into the ADPS SUV. The child was handcuffed with his hands behind his back when the officer punched and sprayed him.

After an investigation, the officer was fired in February 2019 for violating several department policies. No criminal charges were filed against the officer. The incident occurred Nov. 24, 2018. The 13-year old was held for several months in juvenile detention for resisting arrest.

The request to release the report to the public was put on the agenda by Atchison in the interest of transparency.

"Because there was such an interest by the community, they wanted it to be investigated,

and I'm convinced they want to see the report," Atchison told the council.

The city council unanimously agreed to release the results of the investigation.

A public hearing was held regarding zoning ordinance updates. No public comments were heard. Council voted unanimously to approve the changes. Of note, the zoning districts have been pared down from 19 to eight. The zones are now one-family and two-family residential, commercial, downtown, mixed use, college, light industrial and heavy industrial.

Robert Phillips of the Battle Creek Habitat for Humanity spoke to the council about Habitat looking to expand aid in Albion. The group will be rehabbing a home on Terpenning Street for a veteran. Phillips said the biggest concern for Habitat is finding volunteers in the Albion area. They also need to find other homes that can be rehabbed as building new homes is more costly.

Items for future meetings will include results on the grocery store survey and to take action on public park improvements.

Forks Senior Center has a successful first bridge tournament



Tournament players enjoyed delicious homemade snacks and meals.

By SYLVIA BENAVIDEZ
Contributing Writer

The card game bridge has been a popular game in the US for over 60 years. And Saturday's Forks Senior Center Bridge Tournament proved no different. Twenty eight people attending made 14 teams, and they came from as far away as Grand Haven.

"We hope to have this be a semi-annual event, one in the spring and one in the fall and this was our first tournament," said Gloria Fisher, one of the coordinators of the tournament. She said people came from the Detroit Metro Area, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Bath and Dewitt area.

Getting the tournament off the ground required contacting other senior centers who run competitions from the area.

Fisher said that even though this was not a nationally sanctioned event, the response was enthusiastic. From a look around the room, the rate of play reflected that it didn't matter either. Fisher explained that they were playing eight hands per round ending with the seventh round. So each participant should have played 56 hands of bridge. At the end of the day, the top high six teams win the monetary prizes,



Violet Johnson from Clinton Township visited Albion for the first time.

See BRIDGE on page 2

Concord Village: Smash 'n grab ...Crash 'n groan



The Lightning Quick Sunoco station in Concord was hit by nocturnal robbers late Monday or early Tuesday morning.

By KEN WYATT
Contributing Writer

You know it's a slow week in the village of Concord when all the news comes from the police beat, to wit:

Deputy Larry Jacobson, Jackson County Sheriff's Department, is Concord's contractual officer. His report is normally small-town stuff - traffic stops, citations, verbal warnings, property and vacation checks, personal welfare checks. But two major incidents topped his report this week.

The first was what Jacobson called a "smash 'n grab" robbery at Concord's Lightning Quick station. It happened sometime within the two hours after the station closed at 11 p.m. Monday. The robbers smashed a window, let themselves in the station and proceeded to scarf up several things - lottery tickets, cigarettes, and the station's heavy safe.

The safe proved impregnable. Apparently, the thieves tried to pry open the door, but not being accomplished safe-crackers, they failed. They tried to haul the safe away, but either got frustrated and dumped it, or it fell from their vehicle - near the Main Street intersection with M-60.

As for the lottery tickets, they might have stolen a winner. But alas, the theft was reported to the Lottery Commission, and so they'll find themselves police bait if they try to use any of the tickets.

See SMASH on page 2

So far, EEE virus doesn't seem to be affecting Albion

By MICHELLE MUELLER
Contributing Writer

Last Thursday and Friday evenings, portions of Battle Creek (no further east than 11 Mile Rd.) were sprayed with an aerial insecticide to combat the spread of Eastern equine encephalitis, or as it's more commonly known, the EEE virus. A small area south of Concord, from Behling Rd. south to Howard Rd., was sprayed over the weekend as well. That, says Kristin M. McDermott MEd, Health Educator for the Calhoun County Public Health Department, completes the aerial treatment for EEE planned for Calhoun County.

"The state's response team selected zones focusing on areas where there have been confirmed cases or current probable cases (meaning cases that have not yet been confirmed at time of scheduled treatment) of EEE in humans and animals. This allowed them to target the populations of mosquitoes we know are carrying the virus," McDermott explained. "Albion had no confirmed or probable cases, so it was excluded from the treatment list." An aerial treatment map and county-level treatment maps with road labels are available at michigan.gov/EEE.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services made the decision to spray last week based on the large number of Eastern

equine encephalitis cases and the geographic distribution of the potentially fatal virus; this has been the largest outbreak of Eastern equine encephalitis in the state's history. The virus has infected nine people and 33 animals across 15 counties. Four people have died, including one in Calhoun county, a 79-year old Battle Creek man, Stan Zalner. There are also two confirmed animal cases in Calhoun County, both Mexican gray wolf pups at Binder Park Zoo. To date, more than 300,000 acres in southwest Michigan have been sprayed.

According to McDermott, the county, like the state, used aerial sprays with the pesticide Merus 3.0 to reduce the number of infected mosquitoes. A low concentration of the insecticide is dispensed as fine aerosol droplets that kill adult mosquitoes on contact. Once released into the environment, the spray begins to break down within hours. The insecticide has been used to treat outbreaks of Eastern equine encephalitis in other states and has a success rate between 85% and 90%. Health officials say that the treatment is safe, with no expected health effects for people, pets, or livestock, and is rated to be used over residential areas. Aerial spraying is not expected to have any impact on surface water or ground water, and the application was done at night when mosquitoes are most active and to reduce the risk to pollinators like bees and but-

terflies.

Despite assurances from health officials that the spraying was safe and important to minimize the risk of the virus, many people opted out of the treatment. In fact, spraying in Kalamazoo County was cancelled because the number of people opting out in Kalamazoo and Portage was so high that health officials said the treatment wouldn't be effective.

In Albion, Dr. Dale Kennedy, a biology professor at Albion College, was just one person who chose to opt out, based on warning information she had received from Michigan Audubon which stated that they were "opposed to the aerial application of pesticides in response to EEE in the state of Michigan because of the damaging effects this pesticide has on the ecosystem, including native bees and pollinators, migratory and resident birds, wildlife, and humans."

After reading the Michigan Audubon warning, "I contacted [the county] to not spray my area," says Kennedy.

The risk of Eastern equine encephalitis is expected to continue until the first hard frost. To protect themselves, residents in affected areas are encouraged to limit their activity outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active, wear long-sleeved clothing, and wear bug spray with DEET.



Calvin Butler, 18, an employee at Albion's Family Fare store, ties up their shelf of insect repellants containing DEET, the type recommended to discourage possible contact with EEE virus-infected mosquitoes. Butler says that at his home, the family has taken action to reduce the risk of contracting the mosquito-borne illness. "We keep all the windows and doors closed, and I go out and bring my little brother in early."