



Two earn all-state honors in cross country. See sports for more.

A community newspaper Exponent

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014

A new way to give

'Irish Hills Community Legacy' begun

By Matt Schepeler

Irish Hills residents, business owners and community-minded individuals now have a new place to invest in the future of the community.

A new organization dedicated to investing in the future of the

Irish Hills recently received its 501(c)(3) status, which will allow people interested in building a fund designed to finance projects in the community to write off their donations.

Community foundations are used to build investment portfo-

lios, then use interest, dividends and other financial benefits to fund projects in the community, as Irish Hills Community Legacy board member Ryan Beal explained.

"The purpose of the organization is to fund new projects that

will essentially improve the community," said Beal. "It is really a very broad mission, whether that means [fostering] economic improvement, community enhancement, recreational improvements or something with historical significance," he said.

The Irish Hills Community Legacy board consists of five members: Beal, Robert Linenfelter, Bill Kerr II, Cindy Hubbell, and attorney Chad Perrine.

One example of how the new organization could benefit the

See *Community Legacy* page 2

Celebrate Veterans!

Free Veterans Day lunch

Jerry's Pub, 650 Egan Hwy., Brooklyn, is hosting a free Veterans Day lunch in honor of Fred Bahlau, Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sportsman Club Veterans Appreciation Day

The Brooklyn Sportsmans Club is hosting a Veterans Appreciation Day Saturday, Nov. 8 to honor our military veterans. Registration is at 8 a.m. and the 50 target fun shoot runs until 2 p.m.

The Brooklyn Sportsmans Club is located 475 Monroe St., Brooklyn. For more information, contact Bob at 517-263-2527.

Veterans Day assembly planned in Brooklyn

Columbia Elementary School is sponsoring its second Veterans Day assembly Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 9 a.m. The students would like to invite and honor those individuals who have served this country. All veterans should arrive at the elementary school cafeteria at 8:30 a.m. to register and enjoy coffee and muffins. The assembly will last approximately one hour. The veterans are encouraged to wear their uniforms or patriotic clothing.

For more information or to pre-register, call the school office at 592-6632.



Halloween meets science at CMS

Columbia Middle School student-teacher Logan Albers creates a scientific brew for students during a spooky science presentation. For more details, see inside.

Hayes-Albion has new buyer, future

By Brad Flory
Brooklyn Exponent
special writer

One stubborn stain of industrial blight near Jackson is being renovated and put to use again, with encouragement from incentives approved Oct. 21 by county commissioners.

The long-vacant Harvard Industries factory – known for most of its working life as Hayes-Albion or Hayes Industries – has a new owner, a new look, and new prospects.

"We needed space for some big new machinery we purchased," said Larry Schultz, president of Great Lakes Industry, which is next door to the Harvard site at 1999 Wildwood Ave. in Blackman Township.

Great Lakes Industry bought the Harvard Industries property in July through an affiliated firm called Fern Ventures LLC. It has already begun using part of the Harvard building for manufacturing of gears.

"We've renovated about 25,000 square feet and are already in there," Schultz said. "People in the area have noticed we painted the building and cut the weeds."

An empty 3-acre parcel once used for Harvard Industries parking is up for sale by Fern Ventures as a building site for industrial or commercial use.

Financial incentives were approved by county government in a "brownfield redevelopment" plan passed unanimously by the Board of Commissioners.

Under the plan, any increase in property taxes resulting from improvements at the site will be "captured" to repay the owners up to \$1.15 million of their cost of meeting environmental testing and clean-up standards.

"The brownfield legislation was created to level the playing field for developing sites with contamination, or perceived contamination," said Amy Torres, executive director of the Jackson County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

"It costs more than developing a new site somewhere else, so that's why the playing field needs to be leveled," she said.

Harvard Industries, which manufactured automotive fans, shut down in 2001. Its 248,000-square-foot building and 19

acres of property then had an assessed market value of \$1.7 million.

The property sold in 2004, but manufacturing never resumed. The plant was used for storage, Schultz said, but otherwise sat vacant and decayed.

Schultz said the building is too big for his company's needs, but Great Lakes can use about a third of the space for manufacturing and storage. Another third of the building is so deteriorated it probably needs to be demolished, Schultz said.

The 3-acre building site, which fronts Wildwood Avenue, is already listed for sale. Schultz is confident it will attract interest.

"Eventually, it would seem, somebody is going to go in there," Schultz said.

County commissioners also approved a second brownfield plan for the former Acme Industries site at Ganson and Mechanic streets. In that case, no actual development has started.

"This (Acme) plan is a little more of what you might call speculative," Torres said. "We don't have a developer in place."

To weigh potential interest, the Enterprise Group of Jackson issued a "request for information" from developers Oct. 20. Responses are due Dec. 12.

Acme Industries, which manufactured refrigeration equipment, was founded in 1919 and, after several ownership changes, left

See *Hayes building* . . . page 2

Downtown Tecumseh's
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- ◆ Elf Makeovers & Crafts (Saturday)

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Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors

Nature belongs to everyone



Author Parrish Stahl is shown on a special all terrain vehicle that helps disabled individuals, including former soldiers injured in war, to hunt in Michigan woods through the Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors program. We encourage hunters or outdoor enthusiasts with health challenges or medical circumstances to learn more about the program at Michigan.gov/dnr.

By Parrish L. Stahl

Long before daylight on a brisk fall morning, 24-year-old Chad Trumble, with the assistance of Tom Jones from the Department of Natural Resources, helped his middle-aged, overweight uncle, born with cerebral palsy, into an "extremely special all-terrain

wheelchair."

Their mission is to harvest a deer if the opportunity presents itself, but most importantly, to realize the dream of being deep in the Michigan bush together.

No words are necessary, and everyone is smiling in the dim light, as the powerful chair easily traverses ruts, holes, mud and

anything else in its path as they head for one of the DNR's public ground blinds. The fully handicapped-accessible camouflaged blinds are a marvel, with eight sliding flip-up ports, great for hunting, but also for just being in nature in an unobtrusive way.

They can also serve as a welcome respite from the elements with fully carpeted interiors.

Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors is a program that would not be possible without many partners, including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Camp Liberty, Zero-Day, Eisenhower Center, Brain Injury Association of Michigan, Disabled American Veterans and several more. Its mission is to provide improved outdoor recreation opportunities for wounded veterans and individuals with health challenges and to coordinate a support network that facilitates their recovery through connecting with nature.

Hunters with disabilities from all over Michigan joined Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors on Oct. 16-19 for the inaugural Independence Hunt Event at Sharonville State Game Area in Jackson County. This firearm deer hunt was for wounded veterans and others with disabilities.

Anyone interested in reconnecting with Michigan's natural resources and getting back outdoors is encouraged to contact program coordinator Tom Jones at 734-612-6677 or tjones@zero-day.us, who can get people connected with helpful resources and recreational opportunities on an individual basis.

Oh, by the way, the gentleman being helped by his nephew at the beginning of this story happens to be the author, who did not get a deer with his crossbow. I may still get one with a gun, but it does not really matter, does it?

Being with people we love, living dreams and creating memories that last a lifetime will always be the greatest of gifts.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

I saw it in
The Exponent!
 592-2122

Hayes building . . . from page 1

Jackson in 1984.

The Enterprise Group of Jackson owns the property because the former Acme factory was once slated to be renovated into the Armory Arts Village apartments, a project spearheaded by the Enterprise Group.

During that project, contamination was discovered that made residential construction impossible, although the site can be used for commercial construction.

Armory Arts Village was con-

structed slightly to the north at a renovated prison cellblock, and in 2010 the Enterprise Group demolished the main Acme building.

The brownfield plan approved by county government offers up to \$1.2 million in tax-captured incentives to developers, and the site is promoted as the entrance to Armory Arts Village.

"This culturally and historically significant neighborhood is a unique revitalization of historic buildings and has created a 'place' in Jackson where people

live, work, and play," the plan says.

"Revitalization of the former Acme site provides a key opportunity to create a gateway to this area-wide redevelopment."

Two specific development ideas are suggested.

One suggestion is construction of two new buildings each 10,000 square feet in size and "rehabilitation of one existing historic structure" for retail space, restaurants, or offices.

The second suggestion is complete clearing and site preparation to make a "clean slate" for new construction.

If a developer comes along with significantly different ideas, the brownfield plan can be amended, Torres said. The idea, she said, is to demonstrate that the community is committed to supporting redevelopment of the site.

The Harvard Industries factory already looks better and has a useful life again.

"That's the idea behind a brownfield," Schultz said. "What can we do to encourage someone to use a contaminated, decrepit piece of property, instead of letting it deteriorate?"

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