



# THE SPARTAN NATION



▲ **AT THE WALL:** Community members and alumni look over the newly expanded Military Wall of Honor, which recognizes Imlay City graduates who are veterans of the Armed Services.

## New, expanded Wall of Honor remembers those who served

The Imlay City Alumni Association and Imlay City Schools on June 16 unveiled its new, expanded Military Wall of Honor, which will be permanently displayed at Imlay City High School. The unveiling took place during a special program at the high school all-class reunion luncheon.

The wall marks more than a year of work to recognize and honor Imlay City High School alumni who have served in the military.

The Wall of Honor was proposed in 2015 by Imlay City High School student Mitchell Jones. Mitchell generated the original Wall of Honor as an Eagle Scout project. Mitchell hand-crafted the original Wall of Honor. He also researched a list of ICHS alums who served in the military.

Over the following few years, more and more individuals saw the Wall and began to reach out to the school and to the Alumni Association to provide additional names of relatives and friends who qualified. A number of individuals were able to provide information in making the Wall more complete. Alumni and community members suggested ideas such as special designations for Gold Star veterans.

Because the wall was hand-crafted and the names were applied with a permanent paint, corrections or additions were difficult to make and look consistent. As a result,

*See Wall of Honor page 2*

### Inside this issue:

- **PAGE 2:** High school among 'America's Best'
- **PAGE 4, 5:** Graduation events are a success
- **PAGE 6:** Students show off their talents
- **PAGE 8:** Rotary Club members help schools



## Calendar

- **June 25-Aug. 7:** Free Meals for Children at middle school
- **June 27:** Bookmobile Run, 3-6 p.m.
- **July 11:** Bookmobile Run, 3-6 p.m.
- **July 18:** Reading Pop-Up in the Park at Lamb Steele Park, 11 a.m.
- **July 25:** Bookmobile Run, 3-6 p.m.
- **Aug. 1:** Reading and Sports Night at ICS Football Field, 5-7 p.m.
- **Aug. 8:** Bookmobile Run, 3-6 p.m.
- **Aug. 27:** 1st Day of School for students grades 1-12
- **Aug. 31-Sept. 3:** No school
- **Oct. 24:** No school for students

## Wall of Honor

*cont'd from page 1*

the school and the Alumni Association began to consider having the Wall redone.

ICHS alum, and U.S. Army veteran John M. Gonzales (class of 1967), who served in Vietnam, donated money. Marilyn Swihart worked with the school to provide the most comprehensive and complete list of veterans available.

Rob Webb, who works at The Print Shop downtown, is a veteran who was excited about the project. He volunteered his time to work with the district on designs for the Wall and hand-cut the vinyl lettering.

The district plans to set the week of Veterans Day each year to add names.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

# Graduates' successes are also a mark of community success

**As I shook hands with graduates** crossing the stage for their high school diplomas this year, I was reminded of all of the hard work that goes into accomplishing that goal. I was also reminded that arriving at that goal is not simply a result of the work of our students, but also of our faculty and staff. It also reflects the support of our entire school community.

It was rewarding to witness the joy of our students, their families, and our faculty members as we celebrated the accomplishments of our graduates.

Commencement is the most high-profile celebration of success in a school district, but it is only one of a multitude of accomplishments, both large and small, that occur over the course of a school year. In this issue of Spartan Nation, I hope you enjoy reading about many more, including ICHS being recognized as one of "America's Best" high schools, our accomplishments in the arts, our special programs, and projects resulting from our collaboration with the school community.

Thank you for an outstanding school year. Our sights are set on even bigger accomplishments in 2018-2019.



**Dr. Stu Cameron**  
Superintendent

*Stu Cameron*  
Dr. Stu Cameron, Superintendent

## High school again named 'America's Best'



**Imlay City High School is one of "America's Best"** according to US News & World Report. This is the third time in the past 10 years that Imlay City High has been named among the nation's best in these rankings.

"Being named one of America's Best is a great honor not only for Imlay City High School, but also for our entire community," said Superintendent Dr. Stu Cameron.

"Recognition of this type doesn't happen because of the work of a single individual, or even a small group of individuals. He added, "The success that earned this award was generated not only by the work of Imlay City High School staff and students, but also through the support of parents and our community. It is only through the combined efforts of all of the stakeholders of our school that we can achieve this level of sustained success."

U.S. News & World Report staff members evaluated data from the nearly 30,000 public high schools in America to create its rankings. According to the news and information publisher, being named to the America's Best list indicates a school sets "the very best example of how to prepare students to be successful after graduation."





## Musical students hit all the right notes

A number of Imlay City middle and high school musicians earned honors for their performances during the 2017-18 school year. They are:

- Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) District 3 Honors Band: Angelique Perreault and Josh Hayes (MS); Krissy Davis, Olivia Friedenstab, Nathan Nothelle, Renae Brewer, Ruby Hellebuyck, Brandon Pries, Olivia Moore (HS)
- CMU Honors Band: Nathan Nothelle
- Oakland University Honor Band: Olivia Friedenstab, Nathan Nothelle
- U of M - Flint Honors Band: Olivia Moore, Ruby Hellebuyck, Nathan Nothelle, Renae Brewer, Krissy Davis, Olivia Friedenstab, Reanna Green
- MSBOA District 3 Honors Jazz Band: Frank Fricko, Reanna Green, Adam Dodge, Nathan Nothelle

Michigan Lion's All-State Band: Andrew Dodge, Avery Whitney, Adam Dodge  
 Belle Valley Community Band: Olivia Moore, Reanna Green, Adam Dodge, Megan Tietz, Nathan Nothelle, Nick Hayes, Ruby Hellebuyck, Brandon Pries, Andrew Dodge  
 The marching band season was capped off by a show at the BWAC Marching Band Extravaganza. The Christmas concert was a joint effort of the IC bands and choirs. The finale was a collaboration on themes from *The Polar Express*. The high school had more than 40 events perform for the MSBOA District 3 Solo & Ensemble Festival. At the state Solo & Ensemble Festival, 16 events earned 1st or 2nd Division scores.



▲ MSBOA Honors Band



High School Concert Band ▲

## ICS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Alumnus recommends following your dreams



**Phil Upleger, a 1968 graduate of Imlay City High School**, worked in production at General Motors for 35 years until he retired in 2003. Since retirement, he enjoys vacationing and gardening. He has lived his entire life in Imlay City. His wife, Julie (Louwsma) Upleger, is a 1973 Imlay City graduate. Phil's advice to students is to pursue your education and life dreams.



## Summer program offers free meals

**Imlay City Schools offers a summer meals program** for children. Free meals are available weekdays to children 18 years of age and under and persons over 18 who participate in a public or nonprofit private school program established for mentally or physically handicapped.

Adults over 18 may join their children for meals for \$2.50 for breakfast and \$3.50 for lunch. The meals program operates through Aug. 7. All meals are in the Imlay City Middle School cafeteria, 495 W. First St.

Breakfast is offered from 7:45–9 a.m.; lunch is 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. A late meal is offered from 2–3 p.m.



# Top scholars take stage at graduation

Imlay City High School graduated its **2018 Senior Class** on June 3. Board of Education members Sharon Muir, Greg Dennis, Ashley Whiting, Doug Van Dyk, Kaylee Kaeding, and Jim Preisel conferred the diplomas of 168 graduates.



## Carson Malhado, co-valedictorian

Carson is the son of Tricia and Howard Malhado of Imlay City. He was on the “All A’s Honor Roll” during his high school career. Carson was a member of the National Honor Society and Class Council during his senior year. He played tenor saxophone in the marching band and wind ensemble. Carson was also a member of the Varsity Quiz Bowl for 2017–2018. He was a mentor for Camp Overdrive during the summer and attended the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Camp during his sophomore year. In addition, he worked at McDonald’s as a crew trainer after school. Carson will attend Michigan State University pursuing a major in chemistry and minor in philosophy. He hopes to earn a doctorate in chemistry and become a research scientist. His goal is to help solve environmental problems. His brother, Corey, has been the most influential person in his life. Carson said of Corey, “He inspires me to do my best in every activity I participate in. I wouldn’t be who I am today without him.”



## Brandon Pries, co-valedictorian

Brandon is the son of Collette and Scott Pries of Lapeer. Brandon was a member of the National Honor Society, being historian and head of inductions his junior year and vice president and head of inductions his senior year. He was on the “All A’s Honor Roll” for his high school career. In 2017, Brandon received the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award and the AP Chemistry Award during his junior year. Brandon has played percussion in the marching band, wind ensemble, Mutt Jazz Band, and Belle Valley Community Band. He was a member of the Varsity Quiz Bowl team, and was Captain as a junior and senior. Brandon was also a member of the History Club, Spanish Club, Environmental Club, and the Chemistry Club. He was a four-year member of the varsity cross country and track and field teams, and captain of both. Brandon was Blue Water Area Conference All-Academic all four years in cross-country and track. Brandon will attend Michigan State University, majoring in astrophysics. Brandon hopes to later earn a doctorate at an Ivy League university. Collette, his mother, has been the most influential person in his life. Brandon said, “She has taught me the importance of life skills like time management, organization, and reasoning; as well as teaching me to harness my perfectionism as a benefit, not a burden.”



## Melissa Vaughn, salutatorian

Melissa is the daughter of Stojna and Daryl Vaughn of Lapeer. She was on the “All A’s Honor Roll” throughout high school. Melissa was a member of the National Honor Society and Class Council. She was a two-year member of the varsity girls tennis team and has been a member of the track and field team. Melissa was Blue Water Area Conference All-Academic in tennis. In addition, Melissa was a member of the French Club, Recycling Club, Year Book Club, and Art Society Club. She also volunteers at Camp Lael and Camp Overdrive, mentoring younger students. Melissa loves animals. She plans to attend Ferris State University to major in veterinary medicine. She later hopes to attend Michigan State University to be a veterinary surgeon. Thus far, Melissa said, “The most influential people in my life are my parents and my teachers. They have inspired me to become what I want to be. Mr. Jeff Gartrell is always inspiring.”





## Seniors recognized at Honors Convocation

**Imlay City High School celebrated** its graduating seniors during the 2018 Honors Convocation. The convocation recognizes students for their hard work in earning their diploma. Students with scholarship opportunities also were recognized for their academic successes. The collective amount of local scholarship money awarded to Imlay City seniors was \$89,325. Thanks go to the following scholarship donors:

- Jim and Dianna Nolin (Derek Nolin scholarship)
- ICHS Alumni Association
- Eagles Auxiliary
- American Legion Auxiliary
- Lakestone Bank & Trust
- IC Rotary Club, Rebekah's Lodge #319
- The Four County Community Foundation scholarships of Linda M. Felton, Laurie Lee Educational, Hilda Hill Educational, Murdie Educational, W.K. Kellogg Youth Advisory Committee, Leadership in Philanthropy, Russell W. Ligon Memorial Engineering, Brian Verstrete (Mitch Blonde and Chad Stoldt), Blonde Scholarship (The Blonde Family), and Marie & Howard Dahn
- I.C. American Federation of Teachers
- Daley Acres Agricultural Memorial (Kevin and Deb Daley)
- Grant Muir (Bob Muir)
- Lion's Club (Craig Ferrier)
- Officer Kevin D. Homer Memorial (The Homer Family)
- Brown, Noffert, & Robins Scholarships (Dr. & Mrs. David Noffert)
- Imlay City Medical (Dr. Zelenak, Dr. Clendenan & Dr. Warnars)
- Imlay City Family Practice (Dr. Zelenak)
- Know Your Rights Scholarship by Justice4KC.org
- Tri-County Bank
- Imlay City Chamber of Commerce
- Pinnacle Foods
- Lapeer County Vision Center
- Lapeer Co. EMS-Larry Peplinski Memorial
- Greg Prendergast Memorial Foundation-Leaders & Values/Athletic
- ICHS Student Council
- Knights of Columbus #1987
- NHS-Red Cross
- Tami Gonyea Memorial (Jerry Gonyea)
- Heidebreicht Chevrolet
- The Imlay City Four County scholarships of Floyd West Memorial, Glenn Smith II, Imlay City Educational Endowment, R.A. Grettenberger, and Richard Wheeler
- Imlay City Athletic Boosters
- Dorothy Schonfeld



▲ **Claire Thibodeau receiving the I.C. American Federation of Teachers scholarship from ICHS teacher Mrs. Amy Bosma.**



▲ **Many students receiving the Four County Community Foundation's W. K. Kellogg Youth Advisory Committee scholarship.**

## Summer program keeps kids reading

**The Spartan Bookmobile** will run four days this summer, making stops throughout Imlay City. It offers reading materials suitable for infants, school students and adults.

Bookmobile runs are 3–6 p.m. July 11, July 25, and Aug. 8.

Bookmobile stops are:

- **3:05–3:30 p.m.**, Maple Grove entrance (front of the park)
- **3:35–3:50 p.m.**, Hickory Square clubhouse-playground
- **3:55–4:10 p.m.**, Colonial Apartments (School House Drive/Weston St.)
- **4:15–4:30 p.m.**, Belle River Road/W. 5th Street
- **4:35–5:10 p.m.**, route through downtown Imlay City (W. 5th St.-Handley St.; Handley St.-W. 6th St.; W. 6th St.-N. Almont Ave.; N. Almont Ave.-E. 5th St.; E. 5th St.-N. Main St.; N. Main St.-Grove Ave.; Grove Ave.-Bancroft St.; Bancroft St.-E. 4th St.; E. 4th St.-N. Almont Ave.)
- **5:15–5:30 p.m.**, Townsend Manor play area
- **5:35–5:45 p.m.** Sanctuary at Maple Vista

### Summer Reading Series:

- **Wednesday, July 18:** Pop-Up in the Park lets visitors listen to teachers read stories in the Imlay City Lamb Steele Park. 11 a.m.
- **Wednesday, Aug. 1:** Reading and Sports Night lets guests join teachers, coaches and athletes in reading about sports, and participating in a sports skills clinic. 5–7 p.m.





# Students show no shortage of talent

**Twenty-five student acts** ranging from dancing to guitar playing highlighted the Imlay City Schools' first talent show. The May 3 event was directed by Alan Demski, vocal music teacher at the middle and high schools. Judges were Margaret DeLuca, Dan Campbell and Jill Campbell.

Winners and prizes won:

- 1st (\$250): 12th grader **Jacob Swartz**, piano solo
- 2nd (\$150): 7th grader **Tonya Barragan**, ukulele and singing solo
- 3rd (\$50): 7th grader **Lilly Czapiewski**, lyrical dance solo

Judges also identified two crowd favorites, each receiving \$50: 12th grader **Frank Fricko** with a monologue from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and 11th grader **Dan Logan** with a guitar and singing solo.



▲ Jacob Swartz (12th grade) won First Place with his piano solo.



▲ Judges Dan Campbell, Jill Campbell, and Margaret DeLuca.



▲ Dan Logan (11th grade) playing guitar and singing solo.



▲ Tanya Barragan (7th grade) won Second Place with her ukulele and singing solo.



▲ Liliana Czapiewski (7th grade) performing a lyrical dance solo.

▼ Gabrielle Gray (8th grade) and Amanda Barth (7th grade) singing a duet.







## Weston Beginnergarten students have STEAM

### In Weston's Beginnergarten

**classrooms**, students engage in daily STEAM work. STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. These concepts are integrated into each Beginnergarten and kindergarten classroom at Weston. STEAM is an inquiry-based learning program that fosters children's natural curiosity and prepares them to grow problem-solving skills. With STEAM-focused plans, children are engaged in learning in ways that can hold their attention and encourage a hands-on approach.

For the STEAM session pictured, students learned how to observe and describe objects. Students focused on how they could observe the size of an object. Important descriptive words such as shorter, taller and longer were used to explain size. This led to a discussion of tools that can be used to measure objects, such as rulers and tape measures. Children were then given the opportunity to explore items in and around their classroom.



▲ Nolan and Marisela exploring measuring strategies.



### BLUE AND GOLD ZONE

## Spring sports mark milestones

A number of track and field school records were broken in 2017–18. They are:

- Junior, **Robin LeFevere** – Long Jump 17' 3.75"
- Freshman, **Jessica Denver**–800m run 2:24.91
- Junior, **Ryan Johnson**–Discus 148'3"

A number of Imlay City High School athletes will continue playing their sport in college. They are:

- **Alison Harper**, softball, Walsh University
- **Noah Galbraith**, basketball, Ohio Northern University
- **Zach Hellebuyck**, wrestling, Adrian College
- **Paris Houghten**, wrestling, Adrian College
- **Eric Pawlaczyk**, wrestling, Olivet College



▲ Students Cameron Vaubel and Carson Malhado building their fuel cell car.

## Environmental Science students study fuel cells

### Students in Jeff Gartrell's AP

**Environmental Science class** built saltwater fuel cell cars. The premise behind the exercise was that supplies of gasoline may dwindle in the next few decades. In addition to being a bit like batteries that are powered by hydrogen gas, fuel cells are silent and among the cleanest power sources developed. As they worked on building their fuel cell cars, students answered questions such as; What is a redox reaction? What is the cathode of a galvanic cell? What is the anode of a galvanic cell? What is the purpose of the salt water in the car fuel cell? What are some current

uses of fuel cells as sources of energy today? They also discussed the pros and cons of fuel cells over other conventional power sources.



### Brian Tresnak is the new varsity football coach.

Tresnak lives in the Imlay City school district with his wife and two children and is familiar with the area's sports heritage,

said Athletic Director Don Gauthier. High school Principal Brian Eddy said of interviewing Tresnak, "It became clear that the Imlay City football program would be in great hands under Coach Tresnak's leadership. In addition to his knowledge of football, he also spoke of discipline and building a positive, hard-working culture."

Imlay City Schools Board of Education

Sharon Muir, President

Greg Dennis, Vice-President

Jim Preisel, Treasurer

Doug Van Dyk, Trustee

Kaylee Kaeding, Trustee

Ashley Whiting, Trustee

Marcel Allen Lamb, Trustee

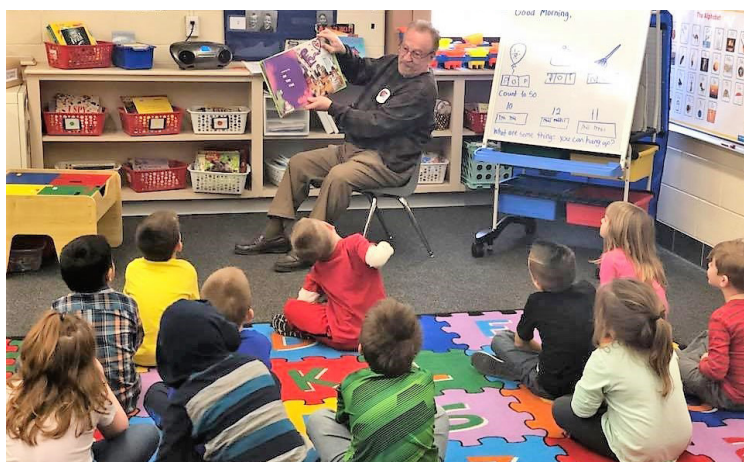
Paid for by Imlay City Schools



▲ Bike winners from left: Josephine Dudek, Madison Kaeding, Savannah Waterman, Martin Alvarez, Gavin Nasouri and Connor Takacs.

## Weston SPARTY winners ride off with prizes

**Weston Elementary implements a Positive Behavior Intervention Support program: “Be a SPARTY!”** SPARTY stands for Safe, Positive, Achiever, Respectful, Teamwork, and You. As part of this program, students are regularly instructed on maintaining positive behaviors in school, including the classroom, playground, lunchroom, hallways, bathrooms, and on the bus. Positive behavior is recognized and reinforced on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. At the end of the year, Weston draws six names of students who have displayed SPARTY behavior all year. Those students win a new bicycle. This year’s give-a-way would not be possible without donations from On the Avenue Salon, Arvid Martin, Realtor at Coulter Real Estate and two anonymous donors.



### Rotary Club partners with school district to benefit students

Imlay City Rotary Club members visited Weston Elementary and read to every class, preschool through 2nd grade. In addition to reading, the Rotary Club also purchased a book for every student at Weston. The Rotary Club supports the district in numerous ways, including donating coats to students and providing scholarship opportunities.

◀ Rotary member Ray Champion reading to Mrs. Debbs’ Beginnergarten children