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Printed on March 1, 2025

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THE BUCHANAN CHRONICLE



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Buchanan's Festive Lights at Night, Winter 2023; Photo by Rebecka Hoyt



The Buchanan Chronicle

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Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

Team Memories from These Three Years

by The Buchanan Chronicle Team

Jen Garry, Publisher

Being Publisher of The Buchanan Chronicle has been such a wonderful experience: meeting new friends and community members, hearing all your heart-warming stories, and discovering the gem that is Buchanan MI! We've had the privilege of attending and covering so many events, interviewing so many amazing people in and around our town, and being a part of the way Buchanan's news is shared with everyone, local and otherwise. What a treat you've all given us by supporting our efforts and reading our publications!! Each memory has a special place in my heart, but here are just a few stand-out highlights:

Local Business – Bebop's Plant Shop



Issue
70 ~

February 24, 2024 Bebop's Plant Shop Brings Nature Into The Hometown & Co. Business Incubator by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor, and Jen Garry, Publisher Step into The Hometown & Co. business incubator on 101 Days Ave in downtown Buchanan, MI, as Bebop's Plant Shop welcomes you with their bright green plants from succulents ...
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Local Business – Blue Paw Pet Spa



Issue
69 ~

February 10, 2024 Blue Paw Pet Spa of Buchanan Expanding Space and Services by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor, and Jen Garry, Publisher Cat grooming? Why yes, at Blue Paw Pet Spa in Buchanan, MI! On Sundays (starting February 4, 2024 as a test day) thanks to their recent expansions, you will now be ...
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Local Clubs – Miss Buchanan 2024 is Hannah Herman



Issue
66 ~

December 16, 2023 Miss Buchanan 2024: The Lucky Girl is Hannah Herman by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor & Photographer, and Jen Garry, Publisher Hannah Herman, crowned Miss Buchanan, at the Miss Buchanan 2024 pageant themed, "Who will the lucky girl be?" was held on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at the six o'clock evening ...
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Local Business – Glendora Bookshop Opens in Buchanan



Issue
66 ~

December 16, 2023 Glendora Bookshop Opens in Buchanan by Heather Foster, Writer After being open for just two weeks, Glendora Bookshop owner, Carla Mayer, couldn't be happier. She had spent a few years wanting to open a store where she could experience the community, bring her cute dog Opal, and talk to ... Continue reading



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Local Business – The Hometown & Co



Issue
65 ~

December 02, 2023 New Business Incubator in Downtown Buchanan MI : The Hometown & Co by Jen Garry, Publisher & Ashley Regal, LiveBuchanan A brand new idea has hatched in Downtown Buchanan that opened Saturday, November 25, just in time for Bucktown Christmas 2023. The Hometown & Co is a mercantile and ... Continue reading



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Local Charity – Scarecrow Invasion in Buchanan 2023



Buchanan Scarecrow Charities' Annual Scarecrow Invasion 2023 Write-Up by Jen Garry, with Photos by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor & Photographer It's a Scarecrow Invasion in Buchanan once again!! This year's crop of scarecrows are up and around Buchanan, ready for you to visit them – see if you can find them all, there are well over ... Continue reading



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The opening of The Hometown & Co Business Incubator and those inside like Bebob's Plant Shop and Goddess of the Moon Leatherworks, the story of Glendora Bookshop opening, The expansion of Blue Paw Pet Spa, volunteering at Thrill on the Hill, interviewing locals like Maya Schuhknecht and Kyle Zelmer, our scarecrow with Buchanan Scarecrow Charities each year, creating ads for local businesses from time to time, our booth at Buchanan Farmers' Market year after year, and there are so so so many more wonderful memories I have from during my time as Publisher! Your readership and support has made these three years volunteering our time and talents a joy and a rewarding experience! Thank you!!

Rebecka Hoyt, Editor

How can I, the Editor & Photographer of The Buchanan Chronicle, pick a favorite article/event for our last issue?! There are so many to pick from that I have really enjoyed during these past three years. I have decided to share a handful of those with you and may these bring back some fond memories as well.

Local Business – Evelyn Mae's BBQ Opens Restaurant on Redbud Trail



Evelyn Mae's BBQ Opens Restaurant on Redbud Trail by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor & Photographer and Jen Garry, Publisher Word got around quickly this month that a new owner has taken over at the former Wheatberry Restaurant located at 15212 N Red Bud Trail, which looks over the beautiful St. Joseph River. Mid-December you'll be able ...

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Before we did this article, the former restaurant, The Wheatberry at this location was closed and many people kept asking me, "Do you know what is going on with The Wheatberry restaurant?" Having this position there are quite a few of the same questions I would get asked about which did not surprise me. So, if I didn't have an answer, I would tell them what I did know and I also asked others who I thought would know more than I and they came back with the same answer. However, when the day came that I found out about the new owner of this establishment, I was ecstatic and smiling ear-to-ear. I reached out to the new owner, Anton Lockett that day and within an hour or so, we had an interview scheduled and I believe Jen Garry and I were the first ones to do an interview with him!

Buchanan Sports – Olympian Hannah Roberts

Hometown Hero Brings Home Silver Medal by The Buchanan Chronicle Team Saturday evening (July 31, 2021) at Buchanan Common was hopping, when approximately 1,400 Buchanan citizens came out to watch Olympian Hannah Roberts earn the silver medal at the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics! Most of our team was able to attend and experience this great ...

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Past Event – Meet and Greet with Hannah Roberts

Meet and Greet with Olympian Hannah Roberts at Roti Roti Art Center Photos by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor & Photographer Wednesday, October 12 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm the public had a chance to meet Olympian Hannah Roberts at the Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan. Families and adults chatted with her, some photos were taken, a ...

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The Buchanan Chronicle

While covering both of these events, I was overjoyed by it all. First seeing her win the silver medal at the olympics and then meeting Hannah in person and being able to hold that heavy silver medal is a memory I will remember for a long time. I hope she has inspired other adults and kids during her olympic career and who knows maybe there will be another future olympian from Buchanan! Recently, we were contacted by NBC Sports if they could use some of our photos and/or the live Facebook video during the Olympics to showcase Hannah at the Paris Olympics and we agreed. So be on the lookout for that during the Olympics this summer. Good luck to you Hannah!

Buchanan History – A Vacation to Remember

A Vacation to Remember by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor & Photographer How would you feel if someone told you that where you would be spending your vacation was in a home that you used to live in many, many years ago? Well, for an 80-year-old Florida resident, Larry Rosenquist, this happened to him! His daughter, Janet ... Continue reading



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I received an email in the late spring of 2021 from a lady in Florida who was planning to surprise her dad with a vacation to Clear Lake in Buchanan for his 80th birthday. Turns out, the place she booked was the same home that his family stayed at in the summer when they vacationed there from Chicago and she didn't even know until she showed him the photo of the place! So, this vacation home had a visitor log of those vacationing there and he brought that and pictures of the place along while telling me stories of being there. The family of Larry Rosenquist was very welcoming and pleased to tell me their story and I am glad to have gotten to know them.

Local Royalty – Buchanan's Maya Schuhknecht is Miss Michigan 2023



Maya Schuhknecht is Buchanan's First Miss Michigan 2023 by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor & Photographer Buchanan's Maya Schuhknecht who was Miss Spirit of State at the Miss Michigan Pageant became Miss Michigan on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at the Frauenthal Theatre in downtown Muskegon, MI! The Frauenthal Theatre has been the location for Miss

Michigan since ... Continue reading



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Just two days after Maya Schuhknecht was crowned Miss Michigan 2023, Jen and I got to be the first in-person interview and sat with her in downtown Buchanan, MI in Mill Alley. While talking with her as she had on her crown and sash, others noticed and politely said their greetings and congratulations. It was a great time getting to know her a little bit more and learning about her experience and her stating that "you can do big things even when you're from a small town, (as Hannah Roberts won the silver medal at the Tokyo Summer 2021 Olympics in BMX)," and I completely agreed with her. Thank you Maya for being the talented Miss Michigan artist who paints upside down! I wonder how many others have tried doing this?!

Once again, thank you to Buchanan, MI and others in the surrounding communities for allowing us to showcase this great city that has great people with many interesting stories to tell. Everyone has a story that can be shared and I am thankful for all of those who have shared! I leave this last paragraph some words of advice that I hope you take to heart with the lyrics from the song, Be A Light by Thomas Rhett with Reba McEntire & Chris Tomlin on YouTube: "In a world full of hate be a light," ([Music video by Thomas Rhett performing Be A Light \(Lyric Video\)](#)). © 2023 Big Machine Label Group, LLC). Also, don't forget to take pictures to capture those memories and write names and dates on the back of them whether they are family or not, and especially get photos of the photographer who normally does not have many photos of themselves. Thank you for the memories Buchanan and I will see you around town.

Miranda Barger, Writer

In quiet reflection of my time writing for The Buchanan Chronicle, I can't help but fondly recall the tales of my favorite rediscoveries that have graced the pages.

From the charming delights of The Sweet Shop Italian restaurant and café to the heartwarming stories of Little Bucks Daycare Center nurturing the town's youngest residents, and not to forget the fabulous downtown – you have left an indelible mark on my soul. Alongside these cherished thoughts are the lifelong friendships forged with the remarkable team.

Local Business – Childcare at Redbud Fitness



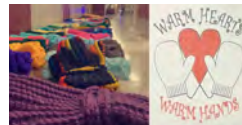
Childcare is Back at Redbud Fitness by Miranda Barger, Writer The goal of our hometown gym Grandma is to complement and support programs already offered by the

Redbud Fitness and Lifestyle Center. Miss Debbie has a passion for the care of children and parents alike. She understands the support that parents need to raise healthy ... Continue reading



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Past Event – Warm Hearts Warm Hands



Warm Hearts, Warm Hands at Ottawa 2022 Submitted by Wendie Stephenson of Warm Hearts, Warm Hands In 2021 a group of women initiated a group called Warm Hearts,

Warm Hands with a goal of providing a pair of warm, handmade mittens (that are connected with a cord to help prevent loss) to each child in ... Continue reading



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As we close this chapter of our current collaboration, I extend my heartfelt wishes for success and happiness to all while embracing Taylor Swift's penchant for subtle allusions as to what or who currently inspires me. And to the wonderful town of Buchanan, thank you for embracing our words and stories, for indulging in our humor, the challenge of puzzles, and the beauty of captivating photos. Though my path leads me back to Sister Lakes, Buchanan will always hold a piece of my heart weaving itself into the eternal fabric of my memories with every visit.

Heather Foster, Writer

Even though my time with The Buchanan Chronicle has been short, I've been honored to be a part of the team. Joining this group of amazing people who puts so much time and energy into the success of the paper has truly been inspiring.

Over the course of the last few months I've been able to see a different side to the City of Buchanan that I won't forget. My favorite memory was joining the Buchanan Police Department at their holiday shopping session with kids from different schools: [Shop With a Cop 2023](#). I was honored to be able to witness some truly wonderful spirits right before the holidays.

Past Event – Shop With A Cop 2023



Shop With A Cop : A Holiday to Remember by Heather Foster, Writer Happiness, excitement, and heartwarming feelings filled up the Niles Walmart during the “Shop with A Cop” event. This event has been happening for over 20 years and police chief Harvey Burnett said, “we’re able to do what we were called to do, ... Continue reading



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I've also brought around some awareness to bullying in our area. Originally I started out as a guest writer to try to bring forth the issues myself and many parents were facing: our children being bullied in our local schools. The more I wrote, the more I found I loved writing about this and researching it in many different ways. I've met some great people, heard some awful stories, and have found some hope in partnership with our local district. I've also become an advocate for other parents throughout the Berrien County area. My first article, [Bullying In Buchanan](#) began paving a new path for me and for the future of my writing.

Local Opinion – Bullying in Buchanan



Bullying in Buchanan Submitted by Heather Foster Bullying has been a persistent issue in schools and communities for many years. Despite the best efforts of parents and educators, the problem continues to plague our society. The detrimental impact of bullying on victims can have profound and last effects on their mental health, causing

emotional distress ... Continue reading



The Buchanan Chronicle

I'm forever thankful to The Buchanan Chronicle for believing in my writing as well as for introducing me to this wonderful team. I will miss the opportunities I had these past few months and look forward to the future, whatever it may bring.

Thomas Hoyt, Writer

One of my favorite memories during these three years together happened at our Team Christmas Party for The Buchanan Chronicle back in 2021. We did a gift exchange game where if you rolled a 1 with the die you had to do this or that, and so on and so forth. The team went around the room taking turns trading and selecting their white elephant gifts. Then when we got to the unwrapping part of the game once everyone's gift was chosen, our Publisher, Jen, ends up with this big box – what could it be? We didn't know but soon found out it was wrapped up as a prank gift, one that just keeps unwrapping, going and going, box inside box, layer after layer. When she got to the second to last box she found inside it a Starbucks gift card, but there was yet one more box to open. Turns out the very last inner box had a note inside that read, “You went too far, go back one box.” which was also filled with tiny styrofoam balls that spilled out all over the living room floor, adding to the crazy mess of wrappings, fillings, confetti, and paper. Not fun to clean, but hilarious to witness the chaos as this creative “gift” unfolded!

Now That's Funny! – 2021 Team Christmas Party

by Julie Hoyt So Sunday (December 19, 2021) we had our Team Christmas Party for The Buchanan Chronicle. We did a gift exchange game where if you rolled a 1 with the die you had to do this or that and so on and so forth. So when we get to the unwrapping part of ... Continue reading



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Jill McDonald, Writer

As The Buchanan Chronicle comes to a close, it's definitely bittersweet. Great memories have been created and will be cherished.

It's been such a joy to share my love of nature and travel with readers, through my Nature Notes column and Travel Journal articles. Upon recalling favorite articles I've written, here's sharing my top two nature and top two travel ones:

Nature:

Nature Notes – Spring 2024



Issue 71 ~ March 09, 2024 Phenomenal Nature Events This Spring by Jill K. McDonald Get ready to mark your calendars! You won't want to miss some phenomenal events in the great outdoors this spring! Some events may be once in a lifetime and others once a decade or so. However, other notable events are ... Continue reading



The Buchanan Chronicle

I absolutely love sharing the simple joys found in nature each season! I could write a book. May you enjoy discovering the great outdoors! The above link will help guide you into spring.

Nature Notes – Affordable Fun in Michigan



Affordable Fun in Michigan by Jill K. McDonald Are you looking for some fun ideas to enjoy the summer? Perhaps you'd like to enjoy time with a friend, a solo afternoon excursion, or an outing with your kids. Are you getting the itch to explore somewhere new, but it needs to be budget-friendly? Well I ... Continue reading



The Buchanan Chronicle

Travel and exploring can be affordable! Your library card can help you gain access to discounted and free opportunities. Check out my article to learn more.

Travel:

Representing The Buchanan Chronicle at two large international events was an absolute honor and privilege! Enjoy reading about them at the links below.

Travel Journal – Hot Air Balloon Fiesta



Hot Air Balloons Take Flight at Balloon Fiesta by Jill McDonald, Writer & Photographer Have you ever looked up at the sky and watched a hot air balloon float by? It seems so peaceful

and magical to see the world from a bird's eye view! Have you ever seen a hot air balloon up-close glowing ... Continue reading



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Travel Journal – Oshkosh Air Show 2023



EAA AirVenture Oshkosh Air Show 2023 by Jill K. McDonald, with Photos by Eric Lovett Celebrating its 70th anniversary and making aviation history, "The World's Greatest Aviation

Celebration®" took place in Oshkosh, Wisconsin at the annual EAA AirVenture air show the last week of July. "Whether you're an aviation enthusiast or an aviation novice, AirVenture ... Continue reading



The Buchanan Chronicle

Being part of The Buchanan Chronicle Team has been so rewarding! Editor Rebecka Hoyt and Publisher Jen Garry have wonderfully led our team. It's been an absolute pleasure to get to know them and their families, as well as the other team members. Friendships have been created and will continue, and for that I'm very grateful.

Thank you Buchanan for allowing me to share my words and articles with you. I hope they've inspired you. Cheers to the next great chapter!

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR THE MEMORIES!!!