



Coldwater set to take on Pennfield in Week 7

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Trees planted to replace those lost in tornadoes



Marvin Pettway, the former University of Michigan campus forester, instructs how to properly plant a tree to ensure the best survival on Oct. 3 in Sherwood Township. DON REID/COLDWATER REPORTER

ReLeaf Michigan volunteers place 20 in Sherwood Township

Don Reid
Coldwater Daily Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

SHERWOOD TWP. – More than two years after tornadoes first devastated Sherwood Township at Arney Road, then Prairie Rose Drive in southern Branch County, community volunteers restored trees lost in the storms on Saturday, Oct. 3.

Sherwood Township, Consumers Energy, ReLeaf Michigan, and local volunteers partnered to plant 20 new trees at Sherwood Cemetery, replacing those destroyed by the May 2024 and March 2026 tornadoes.

Bob Hunt of ReLeaf Michigan said the organization uses a “right tree, right place” approach, considering soil, community goals, and utility locations.

Volunteers planted sugar maples, hackberries, and oaks to create a diverse, site-appropriate mix.

Volunteers planted sugar maples for future syrup production in cooperation with the Sherwood Township Fire Department and Union City Rotary.

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Coldwater woman accused of pointing gun at car

Don Reid
Coldwater Daily Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

KINDERHOOK TWP. – A Coldwater woman was arraigned Monday, Oct. 5, in Branch County District Court on multiple charges after allegedly pointing a handgun at another vehicle during an incident on Southern Road in Kinderhook Township.

Misty Dawn Doenges, 39, faces charges of carrying a concealed weapon, a four-year offense; two counts of felonious assault, a five-year felony; and reckless driving, a 93-day misdemeanor related to an Oct. 4 incident reported to the Branch County Sheriff’s Office.

According to the felony complaint, a couple told investigators they were traveling on East Southern Road behind a Toyota Sienna that was reportedly swerving and nearly struck a mailbox.

The vehicle stopped at the intersection of Southern and South Angola roads. The driver reportedly exited and confronted the occupants of the other vehicle, the complaint states.

The complaint alleges the woman then opened the minivan’s hatch, retrieved a handgun from a red bag or suitcase, and pointed it at the witnesses’ vehicle.

The couple left the area and contacted authorities, providing a photo of the vehicle and license plate.

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Swift’s farm a popular fall destination

Don Reid
Coldwater Daily Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

MATTESON TWP. – Lee and Karen Swift have turned pumpkin season from a small beginning into a popular fall tradition and attraction.

The farm remains open through Oct. 31 at 336 Butz Road, south of M-86, north of Bronson and east of Colon.

They began selling pumpkins at their current location in 1996 with little more than a wheelbarrow.

Today, the farm plants about 17 acres of pumpkins and grows 35 varieties. Lee says this diversity protects the harvest if one variety struggles.

This year’s crop is especially strong on heavier ground, even though the July drought affected some pumpkins in sandy fields.

The Swifts have already picked about 20 tons, with plenty more still in the fields. Reports of pumpkin shortages elsewhere – after flooding in Indiana



The entrance/exit to the 10-acre corn maze at Swift’s Pumpkin and Produce Farm is pictured. DON REID/COLDWATER REPORTER

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