

ELECTROLYTE SUPPLEMENTS CAN BE FOUND EVERYWHERE

Health, A3



12-year-old killed in Cass County tornado

United Way working with Red Cross in response to storms

By HP STAFF

EDWARDSBURG — A 12-year-old boy was killed during severe weather late last week in Cass County, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Department.

At about 3:12 p.m. Friday, the sheriff's department received information indicating a possible tornado touched down in the 68000 block of Conrad Road north of U.S. 12. The caller ad-

vised police they could not find their son.

Upon arrival of first responders, it was determined he had been found and his parents were providing first aid.

Silas Anderson, 12, was taken to South Bend Memorial Hospital where he died from his injuries. Silas was surrounded by family at the time of his passing.

Sheriff Clinton Roach asked area residents to respect the family's privacy as they try to comprehend and deal with this tragedy.

A united response

In response to the devas-

Inside

■ Tornado victims, advocates turn to fundraisers for help
PAGE A2

tating tornadoes that struck Cass, St. Joseph and Branch counties on Friday, the United Way of Southwest Michigan has activated the Southwest Michigan Cares Fund to support recovery efforts across the impacted region.

United Way of Southwest Michigan specifically serves Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties, but often works with neighboring United Way agencies in

Cass County emergency personnel are working to clear debris and provide support to those affected by a tornado that touched down near Edwardsburg on Friday.

Photo provided / Cass County

disaster relief efforts where necessary. Dollars raised from Cares Fund donations will go back to the United Way organizations serving the hardest hit areas including Three Rivers, served by St. Joseph County United Way; Union City, served by Branch County United Way; and Edwardsburg, served by United Way of Southwest Michigan.



The storms killed four people, injured at least a dozen others, and left a trail of destruction through

communities including Edwardsburg, Three Rivers

See **TORNADO**, page A5

A shift in response

Montgomery shares goals as promoted SHAES fire captain

By JULIE NEWELL
Paxton Media Group

SOUTH HAVEN — For 30 years, the South Haven Area Emergency Services has grown and expanded.

One of the most recent expansions was adding a third shift and promoting Brian Montgomery to captain. Born and raised in South Haven, Montgomery has been a member of the department for 17 years.

Montgomery recently sat down with South Haven Tribune Editor Julie Newell to discuss his life and goals as the new captain.

When did you start working at the fire department?

(In) 2008. Right out of high school, graduated '07, and then went to the fire academy right after that and then started here — paid-on-call.

Did you always want to go into this career?

No. I had a friend who was in the department and was like, that seems kind of cool, so that's why I joined.

What has been your career journey up to this point?

I went to EMT school and from there went to medic school. After medic school, I finished that like early 2011, and then started here in June of 2011 full time.

What would you say is the most rewarding part of the job?



Julie Newell / Paxton Media Group

Captain Brian Montgomery, who was recently promoted after South Haven Area Emergency Services added a third shift, has worked at SHAES for 17 years.

The people you work with, for sure.

What is the most difficult part of the job?

That's a tough one, because that's changed over time.

Right now, the schedule. Like the season of life I'm in, with young kids and stuff, gone for 24 hours at a time. Yeah, Erica's running the household a lot, you know, because I'm gone for, realistically 26 hours at a time. So she might have two, three, four days in a row where she's got to take care of getting kids to school, she gets them home, she's doing all the baths, all the meals, everything. Then the next day, all over again.

Because I might not be home in time to take the kids to school or I might have meet-

Q & A BRIAN MONTGOMERY

ings or training or something here. The schedule right now is the toughest.

What kind of calls do you most often go out on?

Most often it's EMS calls. You know, that's the bulk of our runs. Lift assist, which we classify that as a fire call, not an EMS call. EMS is the most generic type of thing, uses the ambulance.

How do you feel about being promoted to captain?

It's exciting. It's a lot easier to get promoted than it is to do the job. Once you get

there's so much more than just running the day, as far as, like calls. People know what apparatus needs to go to what call. They know who needs to respond; that's a still alarm, that's a general alarm, they know that stuff. If they don't, then I haven't done my job teaching them appropriately how we respond. So, they shouldn't know all that stuff, but it's so much deeper than that because you need to know your people to see, you know, are they doing OK when they come in to shift, because the mental challenges of this job and stuff.

Are you mentally good for shift? Are there things at work that's affecting you?

See **MONTGOMERY**, page A5

Buchanan to host Lucky Ducky Kids Festival

By HP STAFF

BUCHANAN — Downtown Buchanan is gearing up to spread St. Patrick's Day cheer this weekend.

The Buchanan Business Boosters is preparing to host the Lucky Ducky Kids Festival on Saturday, featuring the McCoy Creek Duck Race.

Designed to bring children and families downtown for a playful and engaging morning, the Lucky Ducky Kids Festival centers around a rubber duck race down McCoy Creek, beginning at 11:15 a.m. Saturday.

The race will start at Hilltop Creekside Café and serve as a highlight of a full slate of activities hosted by local businesses throughout the morning.

From 9 a.m. to noon, families can explore downtown Buchanan while enjoying a variety of kid-focused activities and specials, including a Lucky Duck photo opportunity provided by APEX Integrated Solutions, cookie decorating at Hilltop Creekside Café, themed temporary tattoos at Bucktown Parlor, kids crafts with Skye's the Limit and a vendor market hosted by Stroud Realtors. Kids can sing karaoke at The Loading Dock from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

The Buchanan District Library will offer seeds from its Seed Library, while Union Coffee hosts a farmers market and special spring menu items

See **DUCKY**, page A5

Lawmakers shaped by combat after 9/11 now grappling with a new Mideast war

By STEPHEN GROVES
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As Congress responds to President Donald Trump's attack on Iran, lawmakers who served on the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan are making their voices heard in a war debate that has taken on intensely personal meaning.

Many admit mixed feelings, taking satisfaction in

seeing vengeance taken on the leadership of an Iranian regime that has targeted U.S. service members for decades, yet fearful that another generation of soldiers could soon face the same combat experiences that they did.

"Do I take gratification? You know there's the Marine side of me: Yeah, of course," said Arizona Democratic Sen. Ruben Gallego, whose company suffered

some of the heaviest losses on the U.S. side during the Iraq War. "I know they killed a lot of American soldiers, American Marines. But do I also understand that I have a responsibility not to let my lust for revenge drive my country into another war?"

Experiences in the post 9/11 wars are also coloring the decisions of the Trump administration, given that top officials, including Vice President JD Vance

and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, were once deployed to Iraq.

Gallego, like others on Capitol Hill, leaned heavily on his firsthand experience of fighting in the wars after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks as he assessed the Iran conflict. Lawmakers wore bracelets etched with the names of friends killed in battle, told stories of coming under

See **CONGRESS**, page A6



J. Scott Applewhite / AP

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., joined from left by Rep. Lisa McClain, R-Mich., Majority Whip Tom Emmer, R-Minn., Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., and Rep. Brian Mast, R-Fla., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, talk about the war against Iran, during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington on March 4.