

The interesting history of ‘visiting card’ photos



Jim Moses
Genealogist
Ionia Sentinel-Standard
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Before we get into today’s topic, I thought I should comment on the bankruptcy of DNA giant 23andMe. As you may know, they’ve filed for Chapter 11 protection. Many people are concerned the company will be sold and their DNA sample might go somewhere they don’t want, so they’re pulling out and asking for their sample to be destroyed.

I read a post this morning by Diahn Southard, a renowned DNA specialist. She said bankruptcy usually means a company wants to continue in operation, but needs to reorganize before they can do so. She doesn’t think we need to jump the gun and pull away from 23andMe. I’m uneasy about what’s happening, but I think I’ll hold on for a while to see what happens. If you have an opinion either way, let me know.

Now, onto photographs.
Last time, we were looking at carte de

visite, or “visiting card” prints. CDVs were very popular during the Civil War. They were introduced, according to “Collector’s Guide to Early Photographs” by O. Henry Mace, in 1854. Their peak years were between 1859 and 1866, but their popularity continued until 1905 or so.

Since the photographer could have the front and back of the card pre-printed, there was often advertising. This is good because we can find out where and when the photo was made. In fact, CDVs (and other types of photos) made between August 1864 and August 1866 often had a revenue stamp on the back. These stamps were because of a tax on photographic chemicals in support of the war, and, of course, the tax was passed on to the consumer.

There was no revenue stamp specifically for photos, so the photographer could use any revenue stamp, such as a “playing card” stamp. The denomination of the stamp was supposed to indicate the cost of the photo, such as 2 cents for a picture, up to 25 cents.

With a photographer’s name (and maybe the business address), we can

date when the photo may have been taken. Sometimes the date was even written on the stamp, so we have the exact day.

A reason CDVs were popular is they could be mass-produced and handed out to friends and relatives, a bit like business cards today. Special photograph albums were made to hold these CDVs (as well as certain sizes of tinctypes, and a larger photo called a cabinet card).

I have collected about 1,000 CDVs with revenue stamps on them, and they’re a fascinating portrait of two years in our country’s history because they were cheap, and could be easily made, which allowed people to be dressed in their everyday clothes, doing everyday things, as well as the studio shots that were familiar with tinctypes.

I have several of Civil War soldiers, weddings, and couples or groups posed in various ways. Family bands, people wearing native costumes, entertainers, and even dead babies are subjects I’ve seen.

The dead baby is a very solemn type of photo. Some people would have an

image made of the child because they didn’t have any other pictures of him or her. It isn’t morbid like we might imagine, but a way for them to remember the one who died.

Cabinet cards, as the name implies, were larger than CDVs (they were a paper print mounted on a cardboard piece 4.25 inches-by-6.5 inches). They were introduced in 1863, with their peak between 1870 and 1900, and continuing on to 1920. Since they were around during the Civil War, some also have stamps. Except for their size, they’re the same as CDVs, and albums had places for them, too.

Cabinet cards were often placed in cabinets or on the fireplace mantel, where everyone could easily see Uncle Ted with his favorite livestock, or Aunt Tillie with her fancy dress and hairstyle.

With early photographs, there are few smiles because the exposure time was long, and any movement resulted in a blurry image, but with better equipment, you’ll occasionally see a grin.

— Jim Moses welcomes comments and suggestions at jmoses-gen@gmail.com.

GOP U.S. Rep. James enters race to replace Whitmer

Clara Hendrickson

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. Rep. John James, R-Shelby Township, announced Monday that he’s running to be Michigan’s next governor.



“Our state has suffered long enough. Michigan is strong. Our people are strong. But we are being held back by a lack of strong, competent leadership — leadership with real-world experience in the areas Michiganders need most,” James said in a statement Monday posted to his X account.

James’ entry into the race expands the GOP gubernatorial field, which currently includes Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt, R-Porter Township,

and Anthony Hudson, who describes himself on his campaign website as a Texas native who fell in love with Michigan. Former Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox expressed interest in running late last year. Former GOP gubernatorial candidate Tudor Dixon has said she’s considering running for governor or U.S. Senate.

On the Democratic side, the race features Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II and Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson.

But the race may not be a typical red-blue affair. Longtime Democrat Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan has decided to run as an independent candidate for governor, skipping the primary election.

More candidates could enter the race.

Due to term limits, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer cannot run for her current job again.

Where John James stands

James currently represents Michigan’s 10th Congressional District, which includes parts of Macomb and Oakland counties. He was first elected to Congress in 2022, winning by a very narrow margin. He prevailed again in 2024 in another competitive race, and his decision to run as governor potentially gives Democrats a chance to flip a seat. Previously, James ran unsuccessfully to represent Michigan in the U.S. Senate in 2018 and 2020. President Donald Trump has endorsed James in previous races.

James in his statement announcing his campaign, reiterated his strong support for Trump, whose backing could prove crucial in a Republican primary. “It’s time to get Michigan’s government out of fantasyland and back to common sense. President Trump and I have been in

each other’s corner through thick and thin for eight years — no reason that will end now. He’s doing his part to Make America Great Again, and I’ll do mine to bring prosperity and sanity back to Michigan,” he said.

James is a businessman and former Army helicopter pilot. He serves on the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce. James is currently the only Black member of Michigan’s congressional delegation. In a speech at the Republican National Convention last year, he spoke of his parents’ encounters with racism but said “it did not define the nation they love.”

Michigan’s gubernatorial election will take place in 2026 and the state’s next governor will take office at the start of 2027.

Contact Clara Hendrickson: chen-dricksen@freepress.com or 313-296-5743.

Cuts

Continued from Page 1A

cuts to programs as long-standing as the National School Lunch Program, which some Republicans have opposed.

USDA grants to school foods

Michigan is one of the most agriculturally diverse states in the country, according to Tsupros. But a lot of produce is exported out, and school nutrition leaders are trying to get some of the food to stay in Michigan, specifically in school cafeterias. That means food service directors need to work on developing recipes, getting the right equipment to prepare food, and planning nutrient-dense, healthful meals.

“School food has gone so much to: processed, heat-up, quick-serve stuff with a very short lunch period for students,” Tsupros said. “Having a real meal that’s cooked from scratch has really for a long time now been the minority when it comes to school food. ... That doesn’t create opportunities for local food. So really, it’s about educating and getting school food service directors to change the direction.”

The USDA plays a major role in the meals public schools serve. It oversees federal funding to public schools of both the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, as well as smaller grants like Local Food for Schools. The Local Food grant is a pandemic-era program.

Gorman said when a local farmer heard the grant was canceled, they called him to ask how it could affect what the district purchases from farms, particularly because the farmer was considering cross-pollinating their apple trees to produce a smaller apple, one perfect for young appetites and short lunch periods.

“That’s the win that we’re really looking for, where the farms are looking to us to find that niche of their business where they can be successful, and do that, and then schools have a great product that can go to our kids,” he said. “When these things get yanked away, it’s just kind of a step back on those things.”

It’s not apparent what will happen to the apples. But programs can and will lean on state funding in this case, because Michigan has its own farm to

school program, 10 Cents a Meal, which provides grant funding to educational institutions with money to buy produce grown in the state. In the 2024-25 school year, lawmakers funded the program with \$4.5 million.

Looming fears about school lunch cuts

The food grown at Partridge Creek Farm in Ishpeming in the Upper Peninsula either goes straight to local school cafeterias or members of the community, many of whom rely on some form of assistance for food, according to Sara Johnson, executive director of the farm. The farm also puts on gardening education programs at local public schools, aimed at helping students grow and prepare their own food.

“This is important because you’re exposing them to fresh local vegetables,” Johnson said. “They’re getting to put their hands in the dirt. They’re getting to understand what it takes to grow that food. They’re creating a relationship and a connection to it so they’re more likely to try it.”

The farm received a USDA Patrick Leahy Farm to School grant in the current cycle, which ends this year. The next cycle of the program has been canceled under the new administration. Johnson said Partridge Creek tries to maintain diverse sources for funding, so it can lean on local and state grant funding instead amid these cuts.

But while a cut to USDA farm to school funding is a blow, the looming idea of even more cuts — to school food programs and to food affordability programs that benefit low-income Americans, including residents in Ishpeming where the median income is three-quarters of the state median — will impact how children interact with food as they grow up, Johnson said.

“If that’s going away, it’s going to affect their choices and their impacts, and that can have cascading effects on health outcomes,” she said.

And to Johnson, that feels shortsighted.

“When you’re purchasing local from local farmers in your community, that’s dollars going into your local economy, but if you’re going elsewhere to get your food, that’s literally dollars leaving the community,” she said.

Contact Lily Altavena: laltavena@freepress.com.

Department of State Elections & Campaign Finance
Administrative Rules for Electronic Return
of Absent Voter Ballots by Eligible Voters

Rule Set 2022-64 ST

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, May 12, 2025 - 9 a.m.

Public Meeting Room A

Delta Charter Township Building, 7710 W. Saginaw Highway,
Lansing, MI 48917

The Department of State will hold a public hearing to receive public comments on proposed changes to the Electronic Return of Absent Voter Ballots by Eligible Voters rule set.

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The proposed rules will take effect immediately after filing with the Secretary of State. The proposed rules are published on the State of Michigan’s website at www.michigan.gov/ARD and in the 5/1/2025 issue of the Michigan Register. Copies of these proposed rules may also be obtained by mail at the address below or electronic mail at the following email address: Elections-PublicComment@Michigan.gov.

Comments on these proposed rules may be made at the hearing, by mail, or by electronic mail at the following addresses until 5 p.m. on May 12, 2025.

Bureau of Elections

P.O. Box 20126, Lansing, MI 48901-0726
Elections-PublicComment@Michigan.gov

The public hearing will be conducted in compliance with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Since the hearing will be held at a physical location, the building will be accessible with handicap parking available. Anyone needing assistance to take part in the hearing due to disability may call 517-335-3234 to make arrangements.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION



1642 Yosemite Dr., Lansing, MI 48917
517.372.2424 solutions@mediaplacementone.com



Advertiser: Michigan Dept of State

Date of order: April 7, 2025

This is to certify that the Public Notice scheduled to run in the newspaper listed ran as the placement details below and proof of publication is attached.

Newspaper Name: Ionia Sentinel-Standard

Run Date	Ad Size	Caption/Position/Special Instructions
4/11/2025	1/4 Page	Public Notice

Signed by *Diana Davis* (MP1/MANSI Representative)
April 11 2025

Notary Public:
Signed by *James R. Tarrant* (Notary Public)
April 11, 2025

JAMES R. TARRANT
NOTARY PUBLIC – STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
My commission expires April 12, 2029
Acting in the County of Ingham

State/Nation/World



Palestinians mourn over the bodies of their relatives who were killed in an Israeli airstrike in Shijaiyah neighborhood, as they brought to the Baptist Hospital in Gaza City on Wednesday. (AP photo)

Israel's army says it will fire air force reservists who condemned the war

By SAM MEDNICK
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israel's military said Friday it will fire air force reservists who signed a letter condemning the war in Gaza and claiming it only serves political interests instead of bringing the hostages home.

In a statement to The Associated Press, an army official said there was no room for any body or individual, including reservists in active duty, "to exploit their military status while simultaneously participating in the fighting," calling it a breach of trust between commanders and subordinates.

The army said it decided that any active reservist who signed the letter will not be able to continue serving. It did not specify how many people that included or if the firings had begun.

Nearly 1,000 Israeli Air Force reservists and retirees signed a letter, published in Israeli media Thursday, demanding the immediate return of the hostages, even at the cost of ending the fighting.

The letter comes as Israel ramps up its offensive in Gaza, trying to pressure Hamas to agree to free hostages, 59 of whom are still being held, more than half of which are dead. Israel's imposed a blockade on food, fuel and humanitarian aid that has left civilians facing acute shortages as supplies dwindle. It has pledged to seize large parts of the Palestinian territory and establish a new security corridor through it.

While the soldiers who signed the letter didn't refuse to keep serving, it's part of a growing number of Israeli soldiers speaking out against the 18-month conflict, some saying they saw or did things that crossed ethical lines.

"It's completely illogical and irresponsible on behalf of the Israeli policy makers ... risking the lives of the hostages, risking the lives of more soldiers and risking lives of many many more innocent Palestinians, while it had a very clear alternative," Guy Poran, a retired Israeli Air Force pilot who spearhead the letter told The AP.

He said he's not aware of anyone who signed the letter being fired, and since it was published, it has gained dozens more signatures.

Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu down-

played the letter on Friday, saying it was written by a "small handful of weeds, operated by foreign-funded NGOs whose sole goal is to overthrow the right-wing government." He said anyone who encourages refusal will be immediately dismissed.

Soldiers are required to steer clear of politics, and they rarely speak out against the army. After Hamas stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, Israel quickly united behind the war launched against the militant group. Divisions here have grown as the war progresses, but most criticism has focused on the mounting number of soldiers killed and the failure to bring home hostages, not actions in Gaza.

Advocates for hostage return keep up the pressure. Freed hostages and their families are doing what they can to keep attention on their plight, and urge the government to get everyone out.

For Holocaust Remembrance Day this year, Agam Berger, a military spotter who was taken hostage and freed in January, will perform at a March of the Living Ceremony in Poland — a yearly memorial march at the site of Auschwitz that honors the 6 million Jews killed by Nazi Germany and celebrates the state of Israel.

Berger will play a 130-year-old violin that sur-

vived the Holocaust and was brought to Israel, at the main ceremony in the Birkenau concentration camp. She'll be accompanied by singer, Daniel Weiss, a resident of Kibbutz Be'eri whose parents were killed on Oct. 7.

Still, the war in Gaza shows no signs of slowing.

Since Israel ended an eight-week ceasefire last month, it said it will push further into Gaza until Hamas releases the hostages. More than 1,000 people have been killed in Gaza since the ceasefire collapsed, according to the United Nations.

The Israeli military on Friday issued an urgent warning to residents in several neighborhoods in northern Gaza, calling on them to evacuate immediately. At least 26 people have been killed and more than 100 others wounded in the last 24 hours, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants.

Brazil pushes for the release of body of teen who died in Israeli custody

Also this week, Brazil's Embassy in the West Bank said it had requested the immediate release of the body of a 17-year-old Palestinian prisoner who died in Israeli custody.

A representative from Brazil's office in Ramallah, told the AP it was helping the family speed up the process

Pronouns in some reporters' email signatures get a stony response from Trump administration

By DEEPTI
HAJELA
Associated Press

NEW YORK — You know those email signatures at the end of messages? The ones that include a range of information about the senders — phone numbers, addresses, social media handles. And in recent years, pronouns — letting the recipient know that the sender goes by "she," "he," "they" or something else, a digital acknowledgement that people claim a range of gender identities.

Among those who don't agree with that are President Donald Trump and members of his administration. They have taken aim at what he calls "gender ideology" with measures like an executive order requiring the United States to recognize only two biological sexes, male and female. Federal employees were told to take any references to their pronouns out of their email signatures.

That stance seems to have spread beyond those who work for the government to those covering it. According to some journalists' accounts, officials in the administration have refused to engage with reporters who have pronouns listed in their signatures.

The New York Times reported Tuesday that two of its journalists and one at another outlet had received responses from administration officials to email queries that declined to engage with them over the presence of the pronouns. In one case, a reporter asking about the closure of a research observatory received an email reply from Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, saying, "As a matter of policy, we do not respond to reporters with pronouns in their bios."

It was unclear if this has become a formal policy of the administration. Leavitt did not respond to a request for comment.

In a statement to other news outlets, Leavitt said that "Any reporter who chooses to put their preferred pronouns in their bio clearly does not care about biological reality or truth and therefore cannot be trusted to write an honest story."

Email signatures as a

point of contention

In its statement, The Times said, "Evading tough questions certainly runs counter to transparent engagement with free and independent press reporting. But refusing to answer a straightforward request to explain the administration's policies because of the formatting of an email signature is both a concerning and baffling choice, especially from the highest press office in the U.S. government."

That even the words in email signatures could become yet another point of ideological contention is actually not surprising. Language — the words we use, the words we don't, what we think we can and can't say to others and they to us — represents a kind of "social signaling," says Lauren Hall-Lew, professor of sociolinguistics at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

"The extent to which conversations around language and language policing are stronger and more politically bifurcated now would only be a reflection of the actual politics on the ground," Hall-Lew says. "That's what all of language is — it's to communicate. But because we're communicating between people, because people are messy, then all language becomes political."

Pronoun identifiers in email signatures are no exception, she says. There was "a time when if you had pronouns in your sig files, assume that you were transgender. And we have come a long way in the sense that that is no longer the assumption for a lot of people. It's more to do with your political positionality relative to transgender issues. And that was kind of the goal, actually, in trying to get cisgender people to put their pronouns in."

The Associated Press has been involved in its own dispute with White House officials that includes issues of language. It sued Leavitt and two other White House officials on First Amendment grounds over being excluded from White House events after the news agency had decided not to follow Trump's executive order renaming the Gulf of Mexico.

Department of State Elections & Campaign Finance Administrative Rules for Electronic Return of Absent Voter Ballots by Eligible Voters Rule Set 2022-64 ST

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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Public Meeting Room A
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Lansing, MI 48917

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Date of order: April 7, 2025

This is to certify that the Public Notice scheduled to run in the newspaper listed ran as the placement details below and proof of publication is attached.

Newspaper Name: Marquette Mining Journal

Run Date	Ad Size	Caption/Position/Special Instructions
4/12/2025	3 Col. x 8"	Public Notice

Signed by *Diana Davis* (MP1/MANSI Representative)
April 12, 2025

Notary Public:
Signed by *James R. Tarrant* (Notary Public)
April 12, 2025

JAMES R. TARRANT
NOTARY PUBLIC – STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
My commission expires April 12, 2029
Acting in the County of Ingham

MCCC Searching for Members of 1975 Nursing Graduating Class



Monroe County Community College is searching for members of its first Registered Nursing program graduating class – the **Class of 1975**. We are interested in honoring them at upcoming college festivities as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of this class.

If you were a member of the **1975 MCCC Nursing program graduating class** – or know how to contact someone who was – please e-mail Joe Verkennes, director of marketing and communication, at jverkennes@monroecc.edu. You can also call him at (734) 384-4207.



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April 13, 2025

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April 13, 2025

JAMES R. TARRANT
NOTARY PUBLIC – STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
My commission expires April 12, 2029
Acting in the County of Ingham