



## Don Passmore Retires as DPW Supervisor

by Deb Price

Tuesday, December 31, 2019 marks the end of a career for City of Ovid Department of Public Works Superintendent, Don Passmore. In 1981, Don had completed 6 years in the Marine Corp, 4 years active duty and 2 years in the reserves. He then worked for the Department of Public Works in Concord, Michigan for 12 years, and for the past 26 years has collectively worked as Supervisor for the Village of Elsie and City of Ovid.

As Supervisor, his duties included, Department Budgeting and the overseeing of the water and sewer systems, streets, parks and grounds, including the cemetery. He also was responsible for supervising his staff and took part in grant writing projects over the years. "I would like to thank the then Village, now City of Ovid Council for the opportunity of being the head of the department. It has been my pleasure and a joy working with not only the Council but also the office staff over the years," explained Passmore.

Don also explained that there are people in both the Elsie and Ovid communities who have helped him along the way. "There are people who have a wealth of knowledge, either in their heads or on paper, that are crucial to the operations of the Department of Public Works. For example, in Elsie, Jim Dorman had completely mapped out what lay beneath the village streets. In Ovid, Wells Monroe was one of my go to persons if I had a question."

As to what's next for Don, he told me that he and his brother are planning a trip out West on their motorcycles. He also has some projects at home and will continue to be active at the Elsie United Methodist Church where he and his wife, Jayna are members. He may even seek a part-time job down the road. Good luck Don and enjoy your retirement.

## Meridian Weekly

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**Skins in December:** On Thursday, December 26th, the temperature reached nearly 60 degrees. Kids gathered at the United Church parking lot for a game of basketball. Brandon Briggs and Tyson Clingerman posed for this photo on the warm December day.

## Ashley Country Christmas

On November 16, 2019, the Pere Marquette 1225 rolled into the little village of Ashley. The 6 weekends of excitement brought thousands into the transformed Christmas Village. Many experienced the North Pole Express by train, while others drove to experience the holiday destination. Families enjoyed making memories, portraits were taken in front of the 1225, children enjoyed visits with Santa, making crafts and tasting special treats. Ashley has now returned to its quiet village until next season when the 1225 heads to Ashley for the holiday season. See page 12 for more photos.

Photos by Chuck Prikasky





## Social

### Possible One Day Service Delay for the Holidays

This is a friendly reminder that your collection MAY be delayed in observance of New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1.

There will be no residential trash or recycling collection on Wednesday, January 1. Monday and Tuesday collections will not be delayed. Wednesday - Friday collections will be delayed by one day. Normal collection schedules will resume on Monday, January 6.

All Granger offices and operations will be CLOSED on Wednesday, December 25, and Wednesday, January 1.

Granger Disposal Center of Lansing (16500 Wood Road, Lansing), Granger Recycling & Disposal Center of Jackson (2600 Lansing Avenue, Jackson) and Granger Disposal Center of Alma (2355 Michigan Avenue, Alma) will be CLOSED on Wednesday, January 1.

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### ZCBI #225

submitted by Joanne Fornusek

The December meeting was called to order by Pres. Bob Ladiski. Lodge #225 welcomed new members, Kathryn, Thomas, Mary and Daniel Seip III and Phoebe Longmate to the Christmas meeting and program.

A thank you letter was read from Toys for Tots expressing their appreciation for the gifts and financial donations received to help the children of Gratiot County.

A Christmas card and donation were received from Katherine Hucko, who is celebrating her 91st birthday and still attends all lodge meetings and helps with baking at the hall.

Correspondence from the home office discussed qualifications for the lodge grant. Following discussion of the estimate, members voted to have the dance floor sanded and refinished.

It was reported the "Czech Store" at the Ashley Country Christmas is being well received and visitors have been purchasing lodge cookbooks, Czech Culture items, garnet jewelry and bakery.

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the lodge hall on December 26th from 12:45 until 5p.m. Please consider giving the gift of life to someone in need.

The family bowling party is scheduled for December 30th from 1-3p.m. at Redwing Lanes in St. Johns.

Celebrating December birthdays were Katherine Hucko, Kathryn Seip and Tom Bradley.

Cash door prize winners included Tommy Seip, Joe Malek and Bob Ladiski.

Following the meeting, a Christmas dinner and program were held with guests from St. Cyril's Church and special visitors from Iowa - Don, Linda and Tony Nieland.

The program began with the youngest members playing Christmas carols on their rhythm band instruments. Then Svate Mikulas (John Kirby), arrived to tell the story of Christmas. He was accompanied by an angel (Lexie Ladiski) who had apples for good children and a devil (Tony Nieland) who had coal, just in case, but there were no naughty children present!

As the story was told the older children came together on the stage in a live Nativity scene. Mary (Kalyssa Kirby) and Joseph (Jaxon Ladiski) were joined by angels, shepherds and kings as the audience sang Christmas hymns. Then jingling bells announced the arrival of Santa who join Svate to hand out gifts to all the children.

Lodge #225 wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

### Dershey's Will Be Closing at 2p.m. on New Years Eve & Closed on January 1st for the New Year Day

**No Friday Fish Fries**  
**Jan. 3 & 10 they will restart Jan. 17, 2020**

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### Cooking for One Class for Adults

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

Owosso - Memorial Healthcare and the Michigan State University Extension program invite area adults to participate in the Cooking for One program. This 6 week, 2 hours each Thursday class offers adults the opportunity to learn ways to make cooking for one simple and enjoyable. Whether you are living on your own for the first time, a single college student, a hard-working adult, or a senior living on your own, cooking for one can be fun!

Each class focuses on key topics:

- Learn helpful tips and tricks to making healthy choices, like eating well and being active.

- Participate in cooking real recipes for one.

Classes begin Thursday, January 9 and will meet for the next 6 Thursday's from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. This program will be held at the Memorial Healthcare Community Wellness, Nutrition and Diabetes Center in the Woodard Building (North Entrance), 317 S. Elm Street, Ste. 202.

There is no cost for this program, but pre-registration is required. To register or for questions, please call Memorial Healthcare at: (989) 729-4700.

### Shiawassee Council on Aging

submitted by Cynthia Mayhew

Shiawassee Council on Aging is distributing shelf stable meals to seniors in Shiawassee County. These meals are meant to be saved for consuming when there emergencies such as inclement weather, or power outages.

In order to qualify the individual must live in Shiawassee County and be 60 years or older.

Seniors who qualify may pick their shelf stable meal box up at the Shiawassee Council on Aging, 300 N Washington St, Owosso, MI.

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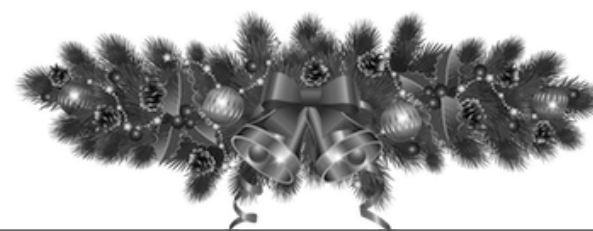


### *A Great Big Thank You to the Ovid Community!*

We wish the Ovid Community a very merry Christmas and want to thank everyone for the outpouring of support for the Ovid Christmas Basket Program.

To see the Ovid business, Ovid Library, area churches, schools, Ovid Lion's Club, and all the many volunteers come together to make Christmas better for seventy-five families is a sight to behold! May your efforts, however big or small, make your Christmas more meaningful!

The Ovid Christmas Basket Program



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Obituaries

Wayne J. “Jody” Purves

Wayne “Jody” Purves, age 87, of Ovid, passed away on Wednesday, December 25, 2019 at his home surrounded by his family after celebrating the holiday. He was born on April 11, 1932 in Owosso, Michigan the son of Joseph L. and Heloise A. (Washburn) Purves. Jody graduated from Ovid High School in 1949. On September 11, 1954 he married Patricia A. Stanton in Ovid. Jody was a dairy farmer his entire life and retired in 1997.

Jody was a member of Burton United Methodist Church and the Ovid Masonic Lodge. He loved spending time with family, working in his orchard, woodworking, snowmobiling, traveling, fishing and gardening. He is survived by his wife, Pat. Daughters, Maurine Homola of Owosso, Lori (David Jr.) Stechschulte of Owosso, Lois (Lynn) Gruesbeck of Laingsburg and Patty (Lloyd) Peck of St. Johns. Grandchildren, Brandon (Nikki) Homola, Jaeson (Christie) Homola, Sarah (Tom) Moore, Amanda (Josh) Atkinson, Meagan (Joe) Merlo, Lindsey (Kevin) Bell, Katie (Joel) Roseberry, Tricia (Ben) Moreno and Tim (Holly) Mead. He is also survived by 14 great grandchildren and step-brother Burt (Sandy) Case of Ovid. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Jim Purves and step-sister Betty Case.

The family will receive friends and relatives at Keck-Coleman Funeral Home on Sunday, December 29, 2019, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Funeral services will be held at the funeral home on Monday, December 30, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Kathy Leydorf-Keck officiating.

Burial will follow at Oak Grove Cemetery in Owosso Township.

Memorials may be given to Memorial Healthcare Hospice, 826 W. King St., Owosso, Michigan 48867 or the charity of the donor’s choice.



James W. “Jim” Peters

James W. "Jim" Peters, age 84, of St. Johns, MI, passed away Friday, December 20, 2019, at his home.

James was born in Rogers City, Michigan on February 25, 1935, the son of Ray W. and Lydia (Simon) Peters. On June 27, 1959, Jim married Joyce Barbara Dennis in Bannister, Michigan. They were blessed with 58 years of marriage prior to her passing on September 10, 2017.

Jim retired from local 324 operating engineers after 50 years of service. He also worked at Culver Construction and Brown Brothers Construction. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and watching western movies. Jim liked tinkering in his garage and with his tractors. He loved his children and grandchildren very much. He was a member of the Faith Fellowship Bible Church, St. Johns, MI.

He is survived his children: Jackie and Richard Edlin of Harrison, MI; James and Tammy Barth-Tyler Peters, Jr. of Terre Haute, IN; Jerry and Roblyn Peters of Seattle, WA; Jody and Pamela Peters of St. Johns, MI; Joe and Lisa Peters of Milton, FL; 10 grandchildren: Jeremy Peters, Jessica and Sam Fruend, Christin and Ben Coleman, Crystal Sklodowski, Colby Peters, Kody Peters, Taylor Peters, Dakota Peters, Skylar Peters, and Robert “Bubba” Peters; 2 step-grandchildren: Dylan and Dawson; 8 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers and sisters: Keith and Mary Peters of Ithaca, MI; Dorothy and John Mitchell of Swartz Creek, MI; Richard Peters of Elsie, MI; Gayle and Dave Green of Henderson, MI; and Barbara Stuckey of Alma, MI. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his wife.

A Memorial Service will be held at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns, MI, at 1:00 P.M. on Friday, January 3, 2020, with Pastor John Jakus officiating. Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery, Elsie, MI. Visitation will be held on Friday from 12:00 PM until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society.

Online condolences can be sent to [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com). The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns, Michigan.



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Elsie Remus

Elsie Remus, age 89 of St. Johns, Michigan, passed away on December 19, 2019 at Hazel Findlay Country Manor.

Elsie was the daughter of Otto and Gladys Rasmussen and was married to her beloved husband Robert Remus for 50 years.

As a devoted homemaker, Elsie was an example of love for her family. Her joys in sewing, cooking, baking, crocheting and card making blessed many in her life. Elsie's faith and devotion to her Heavenly Father helped guide her strong family values, and compassion for people. She also worked outside the home in the health care field as a Nurse's Aide and Medical Receptionist, also as a Church Secretary. Elsie was loved much and will truly be missed.

She is survived by her daughters, Susanne (Gordon) Barneko of Pottsville, MI, Annie (Alan) Mandigo of Tacoma, WA, and Celia (Dan) Keen of Brodhead, WI, 10 grandchildren and 31 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents Otto and Gladys Rasmussen; her husband, Robert Remus; brothers Ronald and Ernest Rasmussen; and sisters: Margie Huffman, Bertha Steffens, Mary Weismiller, Josephine Smith and Loretta Milekovich.

A Celebration Life will be held at 1:00 pm Saturday, May 16, 2020 at Grove Bible Church, 6990 E. Price Rd. St Johns, MI. Burial to follow in Reed Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers: Memorial gifts may be sent to Hazel Findlay Country Manor Courtyard Garden Fund designated for Elsie Remus memorial, or online to The Gideons International, who place Bibles in many locations locally and worldwide.

Online condolences may be expressed at [watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://watkinsfuneralhomes.com)



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# Editorial



## A Pastor's Perspective

by LARRY SMITH

### "Jig-saw Puzzles and Life"

I hate jig-saw puzzles. I would, on my own, never seek to put a jig-saw puzzle together. It always seemed like such a waste of time. You can spend hours looking at the individual pieces and trying to fit them together. Then after all this effort and you're finally finished – what do you do? You tear it apart and put it back in the box.

Having said that, I have put a few together since God blessed Carol and I with the girls in our lives. There are a few things that I've learned about jig-saw puzzles. First, it really helps if you have a picture to go by; something to show you what it's supposed to look like when it's done. (By the way, I've found from experience it becomes even more confusing if someone put the pieces in the wrong box so that I'm looking at the wrong picture.) Second, I have been known to take pieces that don't quite fit, they almost fit, and seek to force them. I can hammer them into place, and if that doesn't quite do it, then I get a bigger hammer. The problem with forcing them is that as the picture goes along it becomes nothing but a group of random shapes and the picture doesn't make sense; something like abstract art. I become frustrated, confused, and want to give up. The third thing that has been helpful is to have someone working with me, helping me to see how things are supposed to fit. So, I've discovered that if I know what things are supposed to look like, if I don't seek to force them into my preconceived ideas of what's quicker and easier, and if I have someone like the girls who patiently work with me then it takes much of the confusion and frustration out of the process.

I think that in some ways a jig-saw puzzle is analogous to life. The pieces may look like financial problems, relationship problems, illness, loss of a loved one, self-esteem issues, guilt, etc. etc. Sometimes life hands us a piece and if we have no idea what life is supposed to look like, we're confused, frustrated, or discouraged as to what's happening to us. It all seems so pointless, fruitless, confusing. When we can't make sense of it, we tend to want to give up.

Regrettably, many who face these problems and losses become so frustrated and confused about the meaning and purpose of life that they do give up. Some turn to alcohol and drug abuse in their effort to salve the hurts and disappointments. These attempts to find peace tend only to make the situations worse. (Statistics indicate that there were 64,000 Americans who lost their lives through opioid abuse in 2015 alone.) Sadly, too many others make the irreversible choice to purposely end their life. According to the American Psychological Association there were 47,173 suicides during 2017. As further indication of how serious the problem is; it is believed that there are 24 attempted suicides for each one that is successful. This frustration and confusion is even prevalent among our young people. Statistics indicate that suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death of those between 10 and 34 years of age. One report stated that there are 3,041 attempted suicides among high school students each day. We are surrounded by many confused and hurting people! Too many of them are our youth.

I am not seeking to oversimplify a complex problem, but sometimes we need an overview; "The Big Picture" so that we can see how life is supposed to look, what its meaning and purpose are. Sometimes we find we've even been looking at the "wrong picture," and we may need someone to come along side and aid us in seeing what the "true picture" of life is supposed to be. When we get these things right, we reduce the frustration in fitting the pieces of life into place. In the weeks ahead I would like for us to look at the "Big Picture" of life, seeing what it should look like and perhaps why it hasn't fit together for us in the past.

*"For last year's words belong to last year's language And next year's words await another voice."*

— T.S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*



### Have a Question for Andy?

Submit them to:  
ask\_andy@aol.com

You can also mail or drop questions  
off to: Meridian Weekly  
P.O. Box 11, Ovid, MI 48866

## No New Years Resolutions this Year!

Dear Andy,

Year after year I make resolutions to get organized, lose weight, spend more time with aging relatives, clean my closets, exercise more, eat less, get in shape, find a new job, build my relationships with friends and of course save money. Seems like good ideas but every year it turns out about the same. Gained weight, missed birthdays, stuff everywhere, never enough money to get through a vacation or holidays without going into debt. How can I make this a better year? What can I do to feel more accomplished? I am so frustrated of not keeping my resolutions!

Patricia Procrastinator

Dear Patricia P.,

The Webster's paraphrased definition of Resolution is... 'making a firm decision with a promise of being determined about changing a behavior or situation.' 'or Something that we perceive as not acceptable as is, or not good enough.' Most resolutions are enormous or unrealistic, we set ourselves up for being unsuccessful or feeling like a failure.

My recommendation is to NOT make 'Resolutions', but to 'Set Goals.' Achievable goals. When first setting new goals, it is imperative to acknowledge, reward or recognize previous accomplishments. Congratulate yourself. List your achievements at home and at work. I bet you will find something in every category you listed. Write it down and don't say you didn't accomplish anything....plezzzzz, give yourself a little credit.

Did you plan a special birthday party for grandma? Did you go for a bike ride? Did you count the 4 pounds you lost when you cut out ice cream for 2 months? Did you count the credit card you got paid off? Did you count the meals you put on the table? Did you count how many times you cut the grass? Did you count how many times you helped a neighbor with a project? Count your blessing, then you will be ready to make 2020 goals.

Instead of Resolution's – I recommend to "Set Goals"... First step in setting goals is to determine if they are short term or long term. Then, write down your goals... writing makes you more accountable. It also is a good way to know when you have achieved them. Shouting them into the Universe at midnight on New Year's Eve might help; but write them down. Remember Alice in Wonderland when the Cheshire cat told her, "If you knew where you were going, you will know when you got there." However, he also told her, "If you don't know where you are going, every road will take you there." Think about direction...ie Goals.

Next, achievable goals need a plan of action. Write it down! Lose weight: Give yourself an exact time frame. Instead of a resolution to lose weight, set a goal to lose 4 pounds a month, that is only 1 pound per week and 52 for a year. Sounds achievable. Right? Check with your doctor if you need a specific plan or accommodations, but definitely - exercising 2 times a week or walking for 15 minutes 3 times a week could help achieve the weight loss goals. I challenge you to increase your time by a few minutes every week. I have challenge myself...I will get back with you in 6 months. My goal is to lose 1 pound a week by June 10, 2020. 26 weeks away. This scares me a little, but I think I can do it... how about you?

Making positive changes can be a challenge but recognizing changes will improve your confidence and perception of your accomplishments. Many of us fail to reach our dreams or goals, due to our misguided perceptions and self-negativity. I must confess, I am guilty of what I coined as a "procrastination-perfectionisms." We need to accept that it's ok not to be perfect and it's ok to succeed. Get rid of the feeling that "this

could be better" or that "it's not good enough"; As a writer I have posted to my lap top... "The worst words your ever write are better than the best words you never write." That quote could apply to anything.

Set your goals, write them down; when you meet your goal, highlight with your favorite marker to still be able to view what you accomplished. View it daily, post where you can see them. Try daily goals or monthly goals. Make it a to-do list if that works better for you. My list includes walking 15 minutes a day, doing an act of kindness every day, keep a box in the closet for goodwill, purge monthly. On the 1st when I pay my bills, list all the birthday's I want to remember. It can cost less than a dollar to bring someone joy on their birthday.

Finally, NEVER GIVE UP! Keep trying. Change your goals or add new ones as needed. Be realistic about your goals and what you want. Did I say write them down? I would say good luck in 2020 but it just takes self-confidence and courage. Be a lion and bring in the New Year with a roar...Andy

Note to all our readers: Goodbye to loved ones we have lost; Blessings of health and abundance for each you; Treat your neighbors with kindness and love; Give to others; Express gratitude. Seek Joy. Make this your best year ever. Happy 2020 New Year to our wonderful community.

From Andy @ ask\_andy@aol.com

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submitted by Linda Gronda  
The Mid-Michigan District Health Department's Family Planning Clinics provide confidential care to men and women in need of contraception and reproductive health services. Charges for services and supplies are based on income. The Family Planning Clinics are scheduled as follows:

Mid-Michigan District Health Department, 1307 E. Townsend Road, St. Johns.  
January 7: 8 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. January 14: 8 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. January 21: 8 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. January 28: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.





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Our everyday thoughts that we think become the endless chatter, that for many, seems to never quiet down. It's the daily thought to thought process we have, the issues we analyze, the different worries that we dwell on, and those random ideas, which eventually begins spinning out of control in our minds. It's that continuous chatter in our heads that's known as the Monkey Mind. It's the reason many people have difficulty sleeping.

Most people believe they can't stop their thoughts or clear their mind in order to meditate, therefore they believe they can't meditate at all. Well that's a misunderstood concept of what is done for meditation.

It's sometimes hard to explain what something is or how it's done because it's more about an experience than the thing itself, so people simplify it by saying things like "you just let it go", "you just clear your mind" or "you just quiet your brain". But that's not really what happens in meditation, although it is how things are misunderstood.

Meditation is a fantastic way to slow down and feel the peacefulness of a quiet moment in time. However, it does take practice to achieve a mastery skill level of this wonderful self-healing process but anyone can do it. Yes, even you.

Meditation takes an understanding and a breakdown of the process itself. By accomplishing these tasks, meditation sessions will become easier to do and more enjoyable as the practice increases step by step.

One of the main understandings and breakdowns are the slight differences between thinking a thought and being aware of the thought. Knowing this is an important step to understanding the process of what most people call quieting the mind.

An example of the two will be helpful to figure out and understand the subtle differences.

Being aware of thoughts would go like this;  
(I call them running thoughts)  
- the oil in the vehicle needs changed - my child has practice tonight - did I turn off the coffee pot -

A structure of thoughts like this is an awareness of thoughts. Thoughts that simply run by. Now let's use those same thoughts as thinking thoughts;  
(I call them dwelling thoughts)  
- the oil in the vehicle needs changed, oh I'll have to get money from the bank to pay for it because I don't have my checkbook and don't have enough cash on me... - my child has practice tonight, I'll need to wash their uniform and pack a snack... - did I turn off the coffee pot? Oh yeah, I remember putting my cup next to the pot when I flipped the switch so I know I shut it off... -

Those are thinking of thoughts. Thoughts that are dwelled upon. But do you see the slight changes or differences in each?

Awareness of a thought is basically acknowledging that a particular thought came to surface and then it floats off as the next thought appears. Whereas the thinking of a thought stops at that particular thought and begins to dwell on it by turning it into a thinking process.

There is definitely more to meditation than sitting on a pillow and clearing your mind. This is only one aspect of meditation but it is a good start on trying to meditate. Practice this and see how well you do. It does take time to achieve it fully so don't get discouraged. Just keep practicing and before you know it, you'll be ready for the next stage in meditating.

There are also guided meditation classes you can find to take. These sessions are very helpful for many people as there are so many different types of meditation available to do.

Remember the benefits are substantial and meditation is recommended by doctors and specialists all over, to decrease stress, anxiety, sleeping issues and much more.

So, let's start the new year out right and get meditating!  
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## Meeting Dates and Times

**City of Ovid** - Meets the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held January 13th at 7pm at City Hall, 114 E. Front St., Ovid.

**Fairfield Township** - Meets the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 2nd at 7pm at the Township Hall.

**City of Laingsburg** - Meets the first Monday of each month. The next meeting will be Monday, January 6th at 7pm at 114 Woodhull St. Laingsburg.

**Woodhull Township** - Meets the first Wednesday of each month. Because of the New Year Holiday the next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 8th at 7pm at 7315 W. Beard Rd., Shaftsbury.

**Sciota Township** - Meets the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held January 13th at 7pm at the township hall located at 3990 Leland Rd., Laingsburg.

**Victor Township** - Now Meets the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held January 13th at 7pm at 6843 Alward Rd., Laingsburg.

**Village of Elsie** - Meets the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be held January 14th at 7pm at 145 W. Main St., Elsie.

**Go Positive** - Meets January 14th at 6:45 a.m. at Agro Liquid in St. Johns. 3055 W. M-21.

**Duplain Township** - Meets the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held January 8th at 7pm, at 145 W. Main St., Elsie.

**Middlebury Township** - Meets the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held January 8th at 7pm at 7627 W. M-21, Ovid.

**Village of Ashley** - Meets the second Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held January 9th at 7pm at 110 N. Sterling, Ashley.

**Ovid Township** - Meets the second Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held January 9th at 7pm. at 1015 Baese Court, Ovid.



We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called opportunity and its first chapter is New Years Day.

~ Edith Pierce

## Ovid's Time Capsule



Join us Monday, December 30th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall to view the contents being added to Ovid's time capsule. The capsule will be sealed for another 50 years, to be opened in 2069.

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# Sports



(l-r): Max Spiess, Eric Perry and Mason Spiess 1st place finishes at the Concord Invite.

## Ovid-Elsie Wrestling

*submitted by Kyle Spiess*

The Ovid-Elsie wrestling Team finished 3rd while voiding 3 weight classes at the Concord Invitational on December 14th.

Three wrestlers finished in 1st place Max Spiess at 119lbs., Eric Perry at 160lbs. and Mason Spiess at 103lbs.

"I'm so proud of the huge accomplishments by our team as a whole and especially the rookies. We learned lots and even picked up a few wins for our first year wrestlers," stated Coach Spiess.

### Ovid Elsie Wrestling Christmas Quad on Dec. 18th

OE 37 vs Ionia 30

"As a team we wrestled pretty good. It took the whole team to defeat Ionia as it came down to the last match to decide the meet. We were leading 31-30 going into that final match. Gavyn Perry pulled out a pin to seal the win," Coach Spiess stated.

OE 57 vs Hemlock 30

"OE vs Hemlock was a lot closer match than the score showed. Both team had 3 pins each and the rest was decided by voids. OE had more wrestlers receive voids so we got the win," said Coach Spiess.

OE wrestling is now 2-0 on the year.

The OE matmen will be on the road again Saturday, December 28th traveling to the Ionia Invitational.

## Lady Marauders Steam Past Railroaders 48-37

*by Tim Zwick*

ELSIE – The Lady Marauders got back to their winning ways with a 48-37 win over Durand in a game played here on December 20th. The victory moves O-E to 4-3 overall and 1-2 in MMAC league play.

Ovid-Elsie trailed 22-19 at the intermission before putting up a furious 15-2 third quarter performance to take control of the game. The Marauders defense took over the game, holding Durand to just 15 second half points.

Lauren Barton posted a double-double to pace O-E with 15 points and 13 rebounds. Sophomore Caitlyn Walter added 13 points while freshman point guard Kiah Longoria chipped in with nine points and three assists.

"We made a couple of defensive adjustments at the half and then (Kaylee) Hall opened with a big three to get our offense going," said Marauders head coach Ryan Cunningham. "Once we got going, we relaxed a bit and our shots started falling."

Ovid-Elsie is off for the holiday break before returning to MMAC action on January 7th. They hit the road to Otisville to take on Lakeville High – tip-off is set for 5:30 p.m.



#11 Caitlyn Walter scored 11pts. against Durand on Dec. 20th.

*Photo by Chuck Prikasky*



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*Kellie Brown  
Honorable Mention*



*Isabele Kremer  
Honorable Mention*



*Jimmy Fabus  
1st Team All League  
Offense & Defense*



*Aaron Drummond  
1st Team All League  
Offense & Defense*



*Korvin Bradley  
2nd Team Quarterback  
& Denfense All League*



*Brennen Felton  
Honorable Mention Quarterback  
& 1st Team Denfense  
All League*

## Ashley Fall Sports Honors

*by Ashleigh Shaw*

Ashley had some athletes who were honored for their play during the fall seasons of volleyball and football.

Kellie Brown and Isabele Kremer both seniors made the Honorable Mention team for the Mid-State Activities Conference.

The NCTL 8 Man Football Red Division League also honored some Ashley football players for their performance this fall. Making first team all-league offense was Juniors Jimmy Fabus (RB) and Aaron Drummond (OL). Korvin Bradley, a senior, was selected to the second team as quarterback, while Seniors Brennan Felton received Honorable Mention honors also.

On the all defense first team was Brennen Felton (DL), Jimmy Fabus(LB) and Aaron Drummond (LB), and making second team was Korvin Bradley(DB).

We would like to congratulate these athletes on their fantastic fall performances and wish them well in their future.

## O-E Boys Basketball Knocks off Durand 60-33

*by Tim Zwick*

ELSIE – The Marauders boys basketball team made if four straight wins with a convincing 60-33 victory over Durand in a Mid-Michigan Activities Conference match-up played here on December 20th. O-E now stands 4-0 overall and 3-0 in league play.

The Ovid-Elsie defense was smothering once again, holding the Railroaders to single digit scoring in each of the first three quarters while also building their lead to as many as 31 points. The hosts held a 32-21 rebounding advantage while also forcing their foes into 23 turnovers.

The Marauders trio of seniors paved the way to the win. Shayne Loynes was the top scorer with 17 points while adding three assists. Justin Moore tallied 15 points, 10 rebounds, four steals and a pair of blocks plus Aaron Hurst chipped in with 10 points, including three long range bombs.

"We started off a little slow offensively, but once again our defense really set the tone for us," noted Marauders mentor Josh Latz. "We have really done a nice job buying into what we want to accomplish on the defensive end, and it has paid off for us early on this season."

Adam Barton finished with eight points while Jackson Thornton added four more. Cal Byrnes, Kyren Henning and Dylan Carman all added a bucket to round out the Blue & Gold's scoring for the night.

"We got it going a little bit in the 2nd quarter offensively, and were able to get some real separation in the 3rd," added Latz. "We are looking forward to an exciting 2020 now, as we try to continue to play well."

The Marauders are off for the Christmas break and return to the hardwood on January 7th when they travel to Otisville to take on the Lakeville Falcons in a MMAC tilt. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.



#15 Justin Moore goes up for 2 of his 15pts. against Durand on Dec. 20th.

*Photo by Chuck Prikasky*



## Wolfpack, Marauder Boys Soccer Stars Honored on All-Shiawassee Area Team

OWOSSO -- Byron High School forward Matt Williams was a little surprised when he heard that he was named The 2019 Argus-Press All-Area Soccer Player of the Year. "(Being named player of the year) is really cool," said Williams. "I didn't think I was going to get it."

Williams leads a group of star players from around the Shiawassee Area, named to the 2019 All-Area Boys Soccer Team, as announced by the Owosso-Argus Press.

Byron's Williams scored on every team in the MMAC, twice against Ovid-Elsie, three times against Durand and six times against Montrose, which included a four-goal half against the Rams. Williams finished the season with 32 goals and nine assists on the year.

Not to be left out, the honor team includes several local players from both Ovid-Elsie and Laingsburg high schools:

### MARAUDERS

-- Calen Byrnes, Striker, Ovid-Elsie. Byrnes was named to the All-District team and first team All-Conference in a season in which he lead the Marauders in scoring. He finished with 18 goals and eight assists on the year.

-- Colin Fluharty, Center Defense, Ovid Elsie and Jackson Thornton, Center Defense, Ovid Elsie: Fluharty and Thornton were both crucial components to Ovid-Elsie's defense. The pair had over 30 non-goalie saves between the two of them and both earned first team All-Conference and first team All-District honors.

-- Nate Reser, Goalie, Ovid-Elsie. Reser's save percentage of 89.74 earned him MMAC All-Conference honors. Over the course of the season, Reser only allowed 11 goals.

### WOLFPACK

-- Cam Salas, Forward, Laingsburg. In his senior season Salas led Laingsburg in scoring and was named honorable mention on the All-State team. He finished the year with seven goals and two assists.

-- Kade Clone, Midfielder, Laingsburg. Clone earned All-District honors in his junior season. He finished the year with five goals and two assists.

### Honorable Mention

Joshua Swender, wing, Ovid-Elsie; Vince Barberio, forward, Laingsburg; Ethan Byrnes, attacking mid, Ovid-Elsie; Jackson Wilson, defender, Laingsburg.



Calen Byrnes



Colin Fluharty



Nate Reser



Cam Salas



Kade Clone



Joshua Swender



Vince Barberio



Ethan Byrnes



Jackson Wilson

## Ovid-Elsie, Wolfpack Gridders Lead Local Contingent on 2019 All-Shiawassee Area Football Team

Football players from the Ovid-Elsie Marauders and Laingsburg Wolfpack led the local contingent on the All-Shiawassee Area Football Team for 2019, as named by the Owosso Argus-Press.

New Lothrop's Avery Moore led the Hornet to the Division 7 state football championship in 2018, and while the Hornets fell short of a repeat, Moore still had a spectacular 2019, passing for 1,508 yards and 25 TDs against just one interception, and has been named The Shiawassee All-Area Football Player of the Year for the second straight season.

New Lothrop's dreams of a second straight state championship were ended by Pewamo-Westphalia in the Division 7 regional championship game. Representing the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC), of which Laingsburg is a charter member from 1959, the Pirates brought home the state title with a 14-0 victory over Jackson Lumen Christi.

New Lothrop defeated the Wolfpack, 49-3, in the opening round of the post-season at NLHS.

The local representatives on the Shiawassee Honor Team included:

### MARAUDERS

-- Justin Moore, Ovid-Elsie, 1st Team DL. Moore was a first-teamer in the MMAC. The defensive end had 52 tackles, including six sacks and 11 tackles for losses. He had one pass break-up.

-- Cooper Beard, Ovid-Elsie, 2nd Team RB. Beard rushed for 832 yards and 12 touchdowns. He averaged 5.3 yards per carry.

-- Colton Sutliff, Ovid-Elsie, 2nd Team LB. Sutliff registered 56 tackles — including six for losses and two sacks. The first-team all-MMAC selection added two interceptions and one pass break-up.

-- Shayne Loynes, Ovid-Elsie, 2nd Team DB. Loynes, a senior strong safety, supplied 54 tackles, including seven for losses. He added two pass break-ups.

### WOLFPACK

-- Zach Hawes, Laingsburg, 1st Team WR. Hawes captured first-team all-Central Michigan Athletic Conference honors, snaring 29 passes for 497 yards and six TDs.

-- Jacob Hummel, Laingsburg, 1st Team OL. The senior tackle was named to the CMAC first team and was a key block-

er for the Wolfpack in passing and running situations.

-- Parker Gregg, Laingsburg, 1st Team LB. The senior middle linebacker racked up 82 tackles to lead the Wolfpack in that category.

-- Zach Hawes, Laingsburg, 1st Team DB. Hawes was a first-team all-CMAC defensive back. He had 32 tackles, eight pass break-ups and one interception.

-- Doug Matthews, Laingsburg, 2nd Team QB. A Perry transfer, Matthews completed 71 of 120 passes for 1,167 yards and 14 touchdowns before being injured in Week 8. Matthews was intercepted just four times and also rushed for three TDs.

-- Austin Randall, Laingsburg, 2nd Team WR. Randall, a senior, had 25 catches for 425 yards and three TDs at wideout. He was a second-team selection in the CMAC.



Justin Moore



Cooper Beard



Colton Sutliff



Shayne Loynes



Zach Hawes



Jacob Hummel



Parker Gregg



Doug Matthews



Austin Randall

## Sports



Grace Graham



Lorna Strieff



Kara Mahoney

## Lady Pirates Gain Upperhand in CMAC Race with 40-17 Win Over Wolves

PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA — Pewamo-Westphalia downed Laingsburg, 40-17, in a battle of CMAC girls basketball unbeaten on December 20.

The defending state champion Pirates held the Wolfpack to just one point in the second half. P-W led 24-16 at halftime.

"Our defense played well," Laingsburg coach Doug Hurst said. "We obviously laid a huge egg offensively in the second half."

Grace Graham scored nine points for Laingsburg (5-2, 2-1 CMAC). Lorna Strieff had eight rebounds and joined Kara Mahoney with three points.

Ellie Droste scored 14 points for P-W (3-0 CMAC). Hannah Spitzley scored 11 points.

The rematch is set for February 6 at Laingsburg High School.



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**Santa & The Grinch Stop at Ovid Elevator:** On Saturday, December 21st, Santa and the Grinch teamed up to visit kids at Ovid Elevator Co. Macyn Orth, age 4, tells Santa what she is hoping for on Christmas. The kids also enjoyed cookies and candy. Photo by Deb Price

## Editorial

### Mother Nature's Son

If American singer-songwriter John Denver were still alive today he'd be celebrating a 76th birthday this New Year's Eve. Born an U.S. Air Force brat in Roswell, New Mexico, John Deutschendor Jr. arrived 3.5 years prior to the arrival of tiny green men and both have shared similar worldwide notoriety and fame that continues to this day. The early childhood years for Denver were often challenged with constant moves and a shy introvert personality; but solace was found in exploring nature, working on his grandparents Oklahoma wheat farm, and of course learning to sing and play the guitar. Little did his grandmother know that gifting her Gibson archtop guitar, made around 1910 and played in her childhood, would eventually help develop one of the best folk singers the world would ever come to know.



Many readers probably know of Denver's music accomplishments as a crossover artist who dominated both the country and pop rock charts for decades with songs like; Take Me Home Country Roads, Rocky Mountain High, Thank God I'm a Country Boy, Annie's Song, Leaving on a Jet Plane, and the list goes on and on. During his musical career there were 300 songs recorded of which 200 were self composed. Television specials were commonplace and he often appeared alongside America's beloved muppet friends like Kermit, Miss Piggy and Fozzie Bear. His folksy laid back appearance and country charm made people feel relaxed when they listened to him entertain with songs about simple yet complex concepts like love and nature. His last song written and recorded was Yellow Stone Coming Home and was composed following a family trip rafting the mighty Colorado River.

John Denver received numerous awards for his musical work in the mid seventies and many considered this the peak or highpoint of his career but he continued to write, record, and perform. Two Grammys were awarded posthumously for his work on a children's album and a song being entered into the Hall of Fame. Even two states, Colorado and West Virginia, have adopted his songs as state anthems. But Denver's legacy is not the music nor awards received but instead efforts in politics and conservation. Some would claim that Denver was the first true political activist who used his celebrity status to fight for the environment and world peace. The Weekly Sportsman doesn't particularly care for the word activist as it often provokes the image of an unruly, irrational, and uninformed zealot. Denver may have leaned to the left a little and fought to end poverty, AIDS, hunger, destruction to nature, and the nuclear arms race but he did so with civility and grace. Not one to just speak out he also worked hard to raise awareness and funds by participating in many different benefit performances such as Farm Aid and the Wildlife Concert. Although Denver openly criticized some of President Reagan's policies he was still able to work with the administration to help establish the "Citizen in Space" program along with being awarded the Presidential World Without Hunger Award in 1987.

Denver worked hard to share his love of nature with the world and wasn't afraid to speak of his conservation minded approach. Often seen fly fishing or singing about hunting and farming he was never afraid to illustrate the wise and responsible use of natural resources. Denver even founded an organization in the mid 1970's to educate people on sustainable living. Clearly way ahead of his time. It took a special gifted artist like Denver to sing songs about people loving nature and actually getting high on experiencing Mother Nature herself. When Tipper Gore and politicians wanted to censor his song "Rocky Mountain High" he went straight to Washington to testify and set them straight about his music and what the lyrics meant.

Like most high profile celebrities, Denver was not immune to substance abuse, depression, domestic violence, and failed marriages. Amazingly enough, none of these issues cut his life short but instead it was his love of flying. On October 12, 1997 Denver perished when his small experimental aircraft crashed in Monterey Bay due to a fuel and mechanical failure. With his untimely death the world lost a great musician and conservation advocate way too soon. When you are celebrating the coming of the New Year take a few minutes to honor Denver on his birthday by playing a few songs and singing along.

"Born a poor young country boy, Mother Nature's son  
All day long I'm sitting singing songs for everyone..."  
-WS

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**Happy 2020 New Year**

*"As the year comes to a close, it is a time for reflection - a time to release old thoughts and beliefs and forgive old hurts. Whatever has happened in the past year, the New Year brings fresh beginnings. Exciting new experiences and relationships await. Let us be thankful for the blessings of the past and the promise of the future."*

—Peggy Toney Horton

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The Weekly Service Directory...Where People Find What They're Looking For! 2

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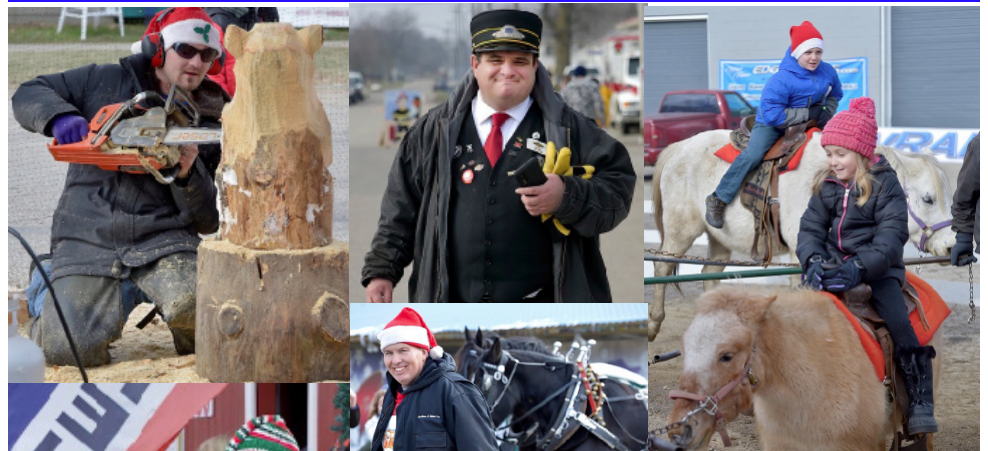


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