



Photos by Deb Price

Barbers and Stylist Back In Action

Barbers and Stylists in Elsie, Laingsburg and Ovid returned to their shops last week after a long almost three months. Collectively, they worked 10-12 hours a day welcoming back their clients who were really glad to sit in the chair and get that long awaited haircut and that wonderful grey-be-gone color treatment. The shop owners made good use of their time off by sprucing up, re-arranging and preparing for their re-opening. Social distancing measures and sanitizing steps were put in place to keep clients and themselves safe. Pictured above (left to right) are shop owners Meri from Country Styles Hair Salon in Elsie, Evelyn from Bud's Barber Shop, Bob from Pivot Point, Patty from Corner Carousel in Ovid and Carolyn from Laingsburg Barber Shop in Laingsburg.



Another Laingsburg Lions Community Project: Earlier this month, the Laingsburg Lions teamed up with Able Concrete to replace the concrete floor at the South Pavilion at Bates Scout Park. "The club is grateful for the assistance that Able contributed towards the project," said Club President, Ed Arthur. The next project will be the addition of a second GaGa Pit for the West end of the Elementary School in Laingsburg.



Ovid Carriage Days Postponed for 2020

The Ovid Carriage Days festival slated for September 11th, 12th and 13th has been postponed for this year. During the Ovid City council meeting on Monday, June 15th, a joint decision was made between the city council and festival committee to not have a festival this year. The decision was made to insure the health and safety of not only those who would enjoy the festival but also those who would be responsible for working the event including police, DPW workers, committee members and volunteers. The festival will return in September 2021.

Meridian Weekly 200 S. Main St., P.O. Box 11, Ovid, MI
989.834.2264 Fax: 834.2066
Deborah Price Owner/Publisher
Free Online access: meridianweekly.com

Ashley UMC Resuming Worship Services

submitted by Cathie Keck

The Ashley United Methodist Church will be resuming worship services on Sunday, July 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday school meets at 9:00 a.m.

The church is taking special precautions and sanitary measures recommended by our Bishop and the Public Health Department.

Please bring your mask and join us on July 5th.



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Elsie Baby Pantry Reopening

Good News! The Elsie Baby Pantry will be resuming their normal schedule beginning on Tuesday, June 23rd. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Covid-19 precautions will be in place to protect our guest and staff.

Building entry will be limited to two adult shoppers at a time.

Sorry, no children allowed inside.**

Please bring your own facemask. Facemask wearing will be required.

**If you prefer curbside service that day, please text Kathleen 989-640-1492 with your child's diaper needs.

Presently, only baby food and formula donations will be accepted. Clothing, toys and equipment donations WILL NOT be allowed at this time.

We look forward to seeing everyone again!



Community Yard Sales & Lions Food Wagon in Elsie

submitted by Richard Easlick

Due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of the 2020 Dairy Festival, the community garage sales will still take place on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, July 9th-10th-11th. Joining in on the event, the Elsie Lions Club will feature their food wagon on Thursday and Friday, July 9 & 10 from 10am-5pm both days. The food wagon will include the same menu items you have enjoyed in past years during the festival. For large take-out orders during the two day event, please call ahead to pre-order, 517-881-0024.

Mark your calendars and make plans to support the Elsie Lions Club as this is their fund raising event for this year.

Ovid Public Library

The Ovid Public Library is currently offering curbside service only. Please call in your requests and you will be given a designated time to pick up your reading materials at the curb in front of the library. This service is part of the library board's reopening policy for the safety and good health of patrons and staff. The CDC recommends 24 hours for the virus to become less dangerous, so the curbside service hours will be Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 – 5:00. Other times may be made by appointment. Please call the library at 989-834-5800.



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Grand Valley Dean's List

submitted by Sherry Bouwman

Grand Valley State University announces the names of students who were placed on the dean's list for the Winter 2020 semester concluding in April. The list includes those students who have maintained a 3.5 grade point average and been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. The honor is noted on the students' official records.

Grand Valley is dedicated to providing a rich learning environment for students, offering a wide range of majors and hands-on research opportunities. Highly credentialed and responsive faculty and individual advisors and mentors promote a liberal arts emphasis that teaches students critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Ashley: Hannah L. Andrews; Laingsburg: Anna L. Barnhart; Sage M. Fahey; Megan J. Hendley; Chloe L. Keener; Samuel J. Laczynski; Emma C. Ludlow; Nathan T. Mentus; Wren W. Miller; Owosso: Selena M. Alvarado; Connor L. Birchmeier; Aubrey L. DeWitt; Richard M. Doyle; Annie K. Gilroy; Jayden G. Guru; Jaden D. Horak; Katelyn L. Kincaid; Benjamin P. Marcotte; Haley A. Rothe; Hannah M. Savage; Ethan J. Wilson; Perry: Miranda F. Crawford; Charles H. Dunn; Zachery J. Frent; Courtney M. Grooms; Michele L. Hannah; Madison A. Lewis; Jamie A. Shaw; Rachel M. Zuzula.

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Rites of Summer

The jingle-jingle of the ice cream truck beacons, and generations of treat lovers come flocking. This was the timeless scene on Thursday afternoon in Laingsburg, next to Pine Hills Golf Course.

Laingsburg Public Library is Open for Business, with New Restrictions

LAINGSBURG — The Laingsburg Public Library reopened Monday, June 15, in compliance with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's recommendations.

Following CDC guidelines, there will be less computers available and patrons are encouraged to stay 6 feet apart unless they are from the same household. When in an enclosed public area, staff and patrons are required to wear masks to prevent spreading of the coronavirus.

All are asked to be respectful and allow extra time if necessary, to take care of your requests.

Summer hours will be as follows: Monday 3 to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed Saturday and Sunday.

CDC guidelines will be posted on the outside of the building and can be found on the library Facebook page.

See additional information on <http://www.laingsburg.michlibrary.org>.

SHIAWASSEE ARTS CENTER

Calling All Artists

submitted by Piper Brewer

The Shiawassee Arts Center in Owosso, celebrating SAC's 23rd Annual Member Artists Show, invites current, renewing and new SAC members to participate in this exciting exhibit. The non-juried show will feature the multi-media work of artists across Michigan July 7 - August 30 at the Arts Center. The reception and award ceremony is Sunday, August 30, 1-3pm.

Awards totaling \$500 will be judged by Artist Louis Marinaro, Professor of Art, School of Art & Design, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Each SAC member artist (new members welcome - annual membership is \$40) may submit one piece of original artwork in any medium that must be for sale. The artwork may not have been previously shown at SAC. Exhibit sales commission to artists is 65% (please consider this when pricing artwork).

For more information, print out an application or enter online, visit <https://shiawasseearts.org/artists/2020-member-show/>. Entry fee is \$10. Deadline to submit applications is Friday, June 26.

The Shiawassee Arts Center, located next to Curwood Castle, is open Monday through Friday 12-5pm, weekends 12-4pm. The Arts Center features the artwork of local and statewide artists in eight galleries including the Frieske Gallery and a specialty Gift Shop. The public is welcome and there is no admission charge. SAC, which is celebrating its 48th anniversary in 2020, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage participation and appreciation of the arts. For more information call the Arts Center at 989.723.8354.

St. John's Lions Club Recycling Center Expands Hours

submitted by Roger Dershem

The St. John's Lions Club Recycling Center, 605 N. Swegles St., St. Johns is now OPEN 24 hours Monday thru Friday. No Weekends.

Accepted materials: #1 clear plastic bottles, #2 natural plastic bottles, #2 colored plastic bottles (no other plastic except bottles); cardboard, newspapers, styrofoam and metal. Eye glasses and ink cartilages.

We also accept refrigerators, freezers, washers and dryers. Absolutely NO TVS and NO TRASH.

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THERE WILL BE A BUDGET HEARING FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR FOR ASHLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, ASHLEY, MICHIGAN.

DATE OF MEETING: MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020
PLACE OF MEETING: VIRTUAL MTG - VIA ZOOM
INSTRUCTIONS TO JOIN MTG WILL BE ON
WWW.ASHLEYSCHOOLS.NET
HOUR OF MEETING: 7:00 P.M.
PHONE NUMBER OF PRINCIPLE OFFICE OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION: 989-847-4000

A COPY OF THE BUDGET IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE AT 104 N. NEW STREET, ASHLEY, MI.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

*Cindy Wilson
Secretary, Board of Education*

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Obituaries

Roger L. Wyrick

Roger L. Wyrick died unexpectedly Thursday, June 11, 2020 at the age of 71.

He was born January 27, 1949 in St. Johns, MI the son of W. Madison and Vivian (Wilkie) Wyrick. Roger graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School, Class of 1967 and is a member of Pilgrim United Methodist Church in St. Johns. He is an Army veteran, serving during the Vietnam War and is a member of the American Legion, Post # 153, VFW, Post # 4113 and the DAV. The past several years he enjoyed spending the winter months in Florida. Roger retired from the U.S. Postal Service and was a lifelong farmer operating the Roger Wyrick Orchard just outside of St. Johns. He was a member of the Michigan Farm Bureau and enjoyed hunting and fishing, especially the fishing trips that were made into Canada.

In 1988 he married Pamela Keiser and she survives him.

Also surviving is one son, Brian (Jessica) Wyrick; step-children, Brian (Lisa) Armijo and Robin (Eric) Hess; six grandchildren; two great grandchildren with one on the way; a sister, Kristine Jacobs and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Jerry Mills and brother-in-law, Dr. Allen Jacobs. Following Roger's wishes cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the American Legion, Post # 153 110 E. Walker St. St. Johns or Pilgrim United Methodist Church 2965 W. Parks Rd. St. Johns 48879.

The family was assisted with these arrangements by Keck-Coleman Funeral Home, St. Johns.



Julius Paul Remenar

Julius Paul Remenar, Jr., age 77, of Bannister, MI, moved on to eternal life, Friday, June 12, 2020, at Henry Ford Detroit Hospital, Detroit, MI.

He was a very devoted Roman Catholic, member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Knights of Columbus, Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist and a member of St. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Bannister.

Every morning after breakfast, he read about a life of a saint. Julius was very proud of his Slovak heritage and listened to Slovak music every Saturday morning. He graduated from Elsie High School with the class of 1960. He served in the United States Army Reserves and was made a staff sergeant. Julius was employed by a couple of shops and retired (after 18 years) as an Ovid-Elsie bus driver. Julius' true calling was his farming life and was proud of his hard work. He was a kind, generous and loving husband, dad, grandfather, uncle, brother, and brother in law.

Julius was born in Elsie, Michigan on November 17, 1942, the son of Julius John and Ann (Vojvodich) Remenar. On August 25, 1973, Julius married Margaret Militello in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bay City, MI.

He is survived by his wife Margaret Remenar of Bannister, son Paul of Bannister, son Peter (Rachel DeSantis) Remenar of Ovid, daughter Annmarie (Brian) Zalud of Grass Lake, grandchildren: Daniel, Paige, Grace, Henry, George, Carmen, Reagan and Ryan, sisters: Agnes (Malcolm) Smith of Bannister, Annie Mikulka of Bannister, Rosemary (Bruce) Thelen of St. Johns, brothers: Frank Remenar of Hartland, David Remenar, of Bannister, sisters and brother-in-law: Mary (Dan) Shauger, Teresa (Bob) Wyma, Trudy (Lee) Avilla, Fred Militello, Dominic (Cari) Militello, Joseph (Melissa) Militello, Jeanmarie Militello Hagan, Rosemarie (James) Spencer, and Felix (Donna) Militello. He was preceded in death by his parents Julius and Ann Remenar, father and mother-in-law Felix and Marguerite Militello, brother-in-law James F. Militello, and sister-in-law-Jane Remenar.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Cyril's Catholic Church, Bannister, MI, at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, with Rev. Fr. Edwin Dwyer and Rev. Fr. J. Marcel Portelli officiating. Burial will take place at Ford Cemetery, Gratiot County, MI. Visitation will be held on Monday, June 15, 2020 from 3:00-8:00 P.M. at Smith Family Funeral Homes Elsie, MI. A Rosary will be prayed 6:30 P.M. Monday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family requests memorials be sent to or Blessed Solanus Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207 or the Seminarian Endowment Fund of the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw, 5800 Weiss St., Saginaw, MI 48603.

Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



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989-834-2573



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Rev. Melanie Young

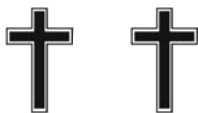
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Editorial con't page 9

A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

How much added work have those windstorms accrued for you? I made twelve double handed trips to my burn pile before I could mow my lawn. Then a few more as I tried to get everything picked up from my willow tree's contribution. The piece of lawn that is strewn with the willow has not been mowed yet.....I just keep collecting the tree's contributions. My burn pile has grown to be a mass over six foot tall and about ten feet in diameter. Maybe by the end of day I will be ready to mow. I do have to call Ferrell's to add a trimming to my tree removals.

Wahoo, next Monday my final new window will be installed in the kitchen. Of course this means that I have the north counter bare to the bones.....I do hope that my contractor measured correctly.....I'm sure that he did. Just having second thoughts on whether or not I will have to have new window trim on the inside.

You know that you are blessed when a neighbor stops by as you are rototilling and then takes over the job.....Bruce stopped by to get the extra red, yellow and orange bell pepper plants that I had. Lucky for me, he was also happy to get some of the cabbage plants. I was thrilled that they were to be used and not wasted. I had experimented with my grow boxes this year and with the soil mixture that I used to help the plants progress and become hardy. It was hot and Bruce still tilled.....I told him that it was enough and he promised to make only one more round.....and kept going. He happily admitted that he had fibbed. I finally walked over to the tiller and shut it off. Of course I thanked him for being so kind and helping me. Then we talked about Epsom salt, plain flour and

transplanting. I sent him home with about five dozen pepper plants and at least two dozen cabbages. Then I called Connie and told her to mention Epsom salt and flour to him when he got home.

That evening I called Larry and Barb to see if he could help me pick up my big rototiller that was at my daughter's home. I figured that he would bring his trailer down.....he didn't. I explained that the Troy-Bilt rototiller was too heavy for us to pick up. He just told me to get into the pickup and we would go take a look at my project. I was amazed that Brent, Larry and I lifted it up onto the tailgate of the truck.....then pushed it forward so that the tailgate could be closed after we lifted the Craftsman push mower in beside it. We took time to visit with Diane and Brent for a few, inspected the young chickens, than headed back to my place where William helped us to unload it. What an amazing day!!!

Of course this morning is moving along well, I finished picking up the branches on the north lawn under the willow tree. I've already mowed that area and am ready to start transplanting in the garden. The transplanting went well, young Zach was thrilled to be a part until he got hot and was famished even though he had eaten his breakfast two hours earlier. William was very helpful and we transplanted fifty-four red, yellow and orange sweet pepper plants. There are still about twenty orange pepper plants that need to be nestled in the garden soil. Maybe first thing tomorrow morning???

Finally Thursday morning I made my yard and garden tour while the Bunn makes my coffee. First things first, that damned varmint was on the deck last night and it ripped up half my grow boxes and pulled out some of my newest plants. So of course I had to make amends to the varmint's destruction. I believe that I will have to get very serious about eliminating the problem on a permanent basis.

I hate to finish up on a discordant chord but there are always blips on our radar.....fortunately we can meet with the mini-disasters and keep on going. So do remember the

good and the best of times. Embrace our many blessings, God bless you all. Have a phenomenal week and face life armed with your common sense.

Crystal Mitchell ©2020

TEMPORARY OFFICE HOURS: The Meridian Weekly office will be open the following hours for the next few weeks. Monday - Wednesday 8:30am-Noon, Thursday (deadline day) 8:30-4:00. The office will be closed on Friday.

When the office is closed, a locked mailbox will be available at the front door for submissions.

You may also leave a message by calling 989-834-2264 or by email at news@meridianweekly.com or deb.price@meridianweekly.com.





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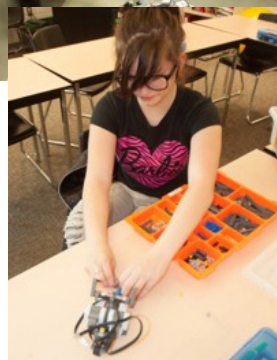
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Car Care

Did You Know?

Improved performance and reliability has increased the life expectancy of many vehicles. As a result, many drivers are keeping their cars and trucks in excess of 10 years. According to an IHS Markit study, the average age of vehicles in the United States is a record 11.6 years, with the average length of ownership at 79.3 months, or nearly seven years. Even after an owner has relinquished his or her new vehicle, that used car or truck can go on to provide many more years of utility for its next owner. Certain models top the charts among the longest kept vehicles, according to iSeeCars, an automotive industry group. These include the Toyota 4Runner, Chevrolet Corvette, Mercedes-Benz SLK, Porsche Boxster, and the Toyota Land Cruiser, which is the longest kept vehicle and also is the automaker's longest-running SUV. This vehicle is held onto for an average 10.6 years after being bought new. To hold on to their vehicles as long as possible, drivers should follow maintenance schedules, keep their cars and trucks clean and make repairs promptly. When it comes time to get a new vehicle, upkeep can go a long way toward improving resale value or getting back more on trade-ins.



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Develop a Vehicle Maintenance Schedule

The oft-sudden expense of vehicle repairs can throw monthly budgets into disarray. Maintaining a routine service schedule is one way for drivers to keep repair costs down.

The online automotive resources Edmunds.com says many car owners do not adequately prepare for scheduled maintenance, and may not give maintenance a thought until it's too late. The first step drivers take upon purchasing a new or preowned vehicle should be to familiarize themselves with the vehicle's owner's manual, which is filled with valuable information and likely includes maintenance interval recommendations.

Next, drivers should learn about their vehicle, which is particularly relevant when buying a pre-owned vehicle. Getting to know how the car or truck rides, as well as any sounds it may make, can provide drivers with a solid foundation they can then use to keep their cars running strong.

Routine service typically includes tire rotation, oil changes and topping off of fluids. So just how long between service appointments can a car go? Here are some generalized estimates.

- **Oil change:** Oil chemistry and engine technology have improved so much that most cars can go well beyond the once-recommended 3,000 mile interval between oil changes. Now many vehicle manufacturers recommend between 5,000 and 10,000 miles between changes, advises Edmunds. Drivers should err on the side of caution if they do a lot of stop-and-go driving and short trips. Other drivers may want to invest in vehicles that have oil change maintenance reminders built in. A light or countdown will come on the dashboard, indicating when the oil has reached the end of its usefulness.

- **Tire rotation:** Rotating tires helps prolong the life of the tires and alleviates uneven tread and wear. During the rotation, each tire is removed and relocated to a different position to ensure that all the tires will wear evenly. Michelin Tires states that tires should be rotated around every six months, or between 6,000 and 8,000 miles.

- **Vehicle fluids:** Your best bet is to see what the manufacturer recommends in regard to fluids such as transmission fluid, differential oil, brake fluids, coolant, etc. Some transmissions need regular maintenance, while others can go 150,000 miles between changes, according to the vehicle information site The Drive. Coolant typically can last 100,000 miles. For these types of changes, it may be best to go to a mechanic or service center familiar with your make and model rather than a quick-lube center, as knowing when to drain and refill can be more complicated.

Service schedules can be designed to adhere to manufacturers' recommendations and drivers' personal preferences.



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Car Care

Explaining You Used Car Warranty Options

Purchasing a previously owned vehicle requires a leap of faith. Even after relying on a test drive and a thorough inspection by a mechanic, it's impossible to know how the previous owner drove and maintained the vehicle and the wear and tear it may have endured. Drivers also cannot predict any issues. Develop a vehicle maintenance schedule (442 words, US, UK, CAN)

The oft-sudden expense of vehicle repairs can throw monthly budgets into disarray. Maintaining a routine service schedule is one way for drivers to keep repair costs down.

Drivers should learn about their vehicle, which is particularly relevant when buying a preowned vehicle. Getting to know how the car or truck rides, as well as any sounds it may make, can provide drivers with a solid foundation they can then use to keep their cars running strong.

Routine service typically includes tire rotation, oil changes and topping off of fluids. So just how long between service appointments can a car go? Here are some generalized estimates.

- **Oil change:** Oil chemistry and engine technology have improved so much that most cars can go well beyond the once-recommended 3,000 mile interval between oil changes. Now many vehicle manufacturers recommend between 5,000 and 10,000 miles between changes, advises Edmunds. Drivers should err on the side of caution if they do a lot of stop-and-go driving and short trips. Other drivers may want to invest in vehicles that have oil change maintenance minders built in. A light or countdown will come on the dashboard, indicating when the oil has reached the end of its usefulness.

- **Tire rotation:** Rotating tires helps prolong the life of the tires and alleviates uneven tread and wear. During the rotation, each tire is removed and relocated to a different position to ensure that all the tires will wear evenly. Michelin Tires states that tires should be rotated around every six months, or between 6,000 and 8,000 miles.

- **Vehicle fluids:** Your best bet is to see what the manufacturer recommends in regard to fluids such as transmission fluid, differential oil, brake fluids, coolant, etc. Some transmissions need regular maintenance, while others can go 150,000 miles between changes, according to the vehicle information site The Drive. Coolant typically can last 100,000 miles. For these types of changes, it may be best to go to a mechanic or service center familiar with your make and model rather than a quick-lube center, as knowing when to drain and refill can be more complicated.

Service schedules can be designed to adhere to manufacturers' recommendations and drivers' personal preferences. That may crop up after signing a purchase contract. A certified pre-owned warranty from the dealership, an extended warranty or a different type of aftermarket warranty product can offer some peace of mind.

Navigating these warranties can take some savviness. Certified pre-owned warranties tend to be the smartest bet in the realm of used car warranties. This is because factory warranties are backing the product, and the vehicles that are given the CPO stamp have been properly vetted and are in great shape to be insurable, according to IntelliChoice, a company that develops and distributes consumer automobile ownership data, ratings of vehicles based on their consumer value, leasing cost

data, and Certified Pre-Owned Program analysis. Many car companies conduct small repairs to prepare a vehicle for CPO status, and cars are inspected thoroughly to ensure they are worthy of being backed by the factory warranty. This is a boon to buyers because they know they are likely getting a quality vehicle.

There are mixed reviews by automotive experts on other aftermarket warranties, often billed as "vehicle protection plans" and "service contracts." Some people believe they can save a lot of money. Others feel that they aren't redeemed enough to warrant the out-of-pocket cost, and that paying for repairs alone is more cost-effective.

Drivers should look for an exclusionary (bumper to bumper) warranty, which covers all items except for ones

specifically excluded on a list. This type of warranty is more comprehensive, and there's less of a risk that a claim will be denied. Other warranties include powertrain warranties, which only cover the vehicle's most important and expensive components. A WRAP warranty also may be attractive, as it will extend coverage to the few items that may no longer be covered by the original manufacturer's warranty.

Buyers also can try to negotiate a warranty, if the car is not CPO, into the purchase price as an incentive for buying the vehicle. Individuals can speak with the salesperson to find a deal — and coverage — that works for them.

Warranties are an option that may help buyers feel a little more secure in their purchases.



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Michigan Department of State Launches Online Absentee Voter Application

submitted by Tracy Wimmer

The Michigan Department of State’s Bureau of Elections has launched an online platform to provide voters with another method of digitally submitting their absent voter ballot application at Michigan.gov/Vote.

“The more choices a person has when it comes to exercising their right to vote, the better they are able to make the choice that works best for them” said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. “This tool provides another digital option for voters to safely and conveniently apply to receive their absentee ballot, while also offering clerks an easy, cost efficient way of processing the application securely.”

Voters can already submit applications digitally by scanning and emailing their signed applications to clerks. In order to utilize the new tool to request the absentee ballot online, voters must have a Michigan driver’s license or state ID, and submit the same information required to register to vote digitally, including their driver’s license number and the last four digits of their Social Security number.

When they complete their application, voters can then use the tool to send the handwritten signature they provided for their driver’s license or state ID card, and the completed application, to their local clerk through the state’s Qualified Voter File software. Clerks will be alerted of the request and be able to see the application and signature. After verification, local clerks are then able to mail the ballot to the voter within the appropriate timeframe for the election they’ve requested to vote absentee. Voters will continue to cast ballots the same way. They must still mail back paper ballots to the clerk’s office, deposit them in a drop box or cast a ballot in person with the clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted. Voters must sign the ballot return envelope and the signature must be verified and matched to the voter’s record for the ballot to be counted.

To fill out an online application, registered voters can visit Michigan.gov/Vote and click “Apply for an Absent Voter Ballot Online.”

“You must bear losses like a soldier, the voice told me, bravely and without complaint, and just when the day seems lost, grab your shield for another stand, another thrust forward. That is the juncture that separates heroes from the merely strong.”

— Margaret George, *The Memoirs of Cleopatra*



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Work Has Begun on Laingsburg Bond Projects

LAINGSBURG — In the fall of 2017, the Laingsburg Community Schools Board of Education conducted a retreat for strategic planning, and it was during that session that board members discussed adding a new performing arts center and an auxiliary gym to the high school campus.

May 26, the district moved one step closer to that reality when construction under its \$17.8-million bond — approved by district voters in May 2019 — began.

TowerPinkster, the district’s chief architectural firm, and Christman Company, in charge of construction management for the project, have been working with officials since the bond passed in May 2019.

In an effort to secure contractors for the work, the bond improvements — which include upgrades to the district’s Early Childhood Center, elementary school, middle school and high school — were split into two bid packages, according to TowerPinkster Design Architect Matthew Murphy.

Package one will encompass the addition of secure vestibules to the Early Childhood Center, the elementary school, the middle school and the high school. The measure will also provide air conditioning throughout the elementary school, as well as cover the cost of reconfiguring the high school’s main entrance, removing the “skeletonized steel” overhang, according to Murphy.

With the addition of secure vestibules in each building, students, parents and other guests who need to enter the building during school hours will require authorization from the main office. Individuals will be funneled directly into the main office, rather than having access to the main hallway as they do now.

Package two of the project will include a 650-seat auditorium at the high school constructed on the building’s northeast side near the student parking lot. The auditorium space will have two separate dressing rooms as well as a designated storage space for props and scenery.

Package two will also add an auxiliary gym — constructed adjacent to the existing high school gym — and will create a larger space to accommodate the high school band.

Under the design, the current band room, large group meeting room, and existing auditorium space will be renovated into a larger band room — which will feature increased space for instrument storage and practice rooms — as well as a new mat room, to be used by the wrestling and cheerleading teams.

Construction for both packages began on May 26.

The secure vestibules and air conditioning at the elementary school are set to be completed by mid-August, according to Clark, while the concrete foundations of both the auditorium and the auxiliary gym will be laid in mid-July, followed by the addition of precast concrete in September/October and structural steel in October/November.

Both structures are set to be enclosed in December.

Interior work at the high school campus will begin in January and run through August 2021, while work on the existing interior renovations (band room, mat room) won’t start until June 2021.



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Editorial con't page 10



Religious Thoughts

by Phil Hoppersberger
Graham Community Church

“Myopic or Himopic”

“...take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry (Luke 12:16-21).”

In the 80’s, Steve Taylor sang ‘What is the Measure of Your Success?’ Most base success on stuff that doesn’t transfer into eternity...home, possessions, income, savings, education, looks, job, spouse, car, fame, personality, strength, title, family, talent, or intellect. We quietly boast in these, but it all stays when we leave.

Jesus warned that this “success” is shortsighted, even foolish. True success involves God and souls. “Then He said to them, ‘Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.’”

“And He told them a parable, saying, ‘The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.’”

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’ So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Jeremiah described true success, something worth bragging about (chapter 9): “*Thus says the Lord, ‘Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,’ declares the Lord.*”

Getting to know a person starts with learning what they think. Have you ever seriously read the Bible to see what God thinks? It says that He loves you (John 3:1-21), but your sin separates you from Him (Isaiah 59:2) and your good deeds stink (Isaiah 64:6). We’re so infected with sin that we can’t be near Him (Habakkuk 1:13), and we’re criminals (Romans 3:9-23) awaiting His justice (Nahum 1:3). So until your sin is removed, you cannot know and understand Him (Ephesians 2:1). Sadly, because of sin we’re fixated on ourselves, shortsighted, My-opic, but we should be Him-opic, focused on Him. But how?

You’ve probably never heard of Steve Taylor, but knowing of Steve Taylor is not the same as knowing him, personally. Knowing of Jesus isn’t the same as knowing Him either, but reading the Bible is how to know Him and His solution (2 Corinthians chapter 5). Stuff stays, but a soul transfers into eternity, so redeeming a soul is true success, being rich toward God. So let’s start there...with your soul. Are you sure you know Jesus? If not, I’d love to introduce you.

ASHLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCIES

There will be four vacant positions on the Ashley Community Schools Board of Education to be filled on November 03, 2020.

• All vacancies are four-year terms.

Petitions may be picked up at the Gratiot County Clerk’s office located at 214 E. Center Street in Ithaca.

Deadline for candidates to file is July 21, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. at the Gratiot County Clerk’s Office.



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

Happy Father’s Day, Dad

Dear Andy,

I was wondering how did Father’s Day come about? And, what to you give a guy who seems to have everything he needs? I would like to do something special, but I can’t think of anything. Any ideas. My 5 older sisters always have thoughtful and clever gifts to give him and he is so happy to have me for his son. I would like to do something special, but I can’t think of anything. Help.

Sonny

Dear Sonny,

Help is right! Five older sisters, you must be a joy of celebration to your family. First of all, don’t put so much pressure on yourself. Ask you sisters for advice. I do have a few ideas but to answer your first question...

I found some history of Father’s Day back in the middle ages in the 1200’s when the Catholic church celebrated St Joseph Day (Earthly Father of Jesus). In American there are two stories of when the first Father’s Day was celebrated.

According to some accounts, the first Father’s Day was celebrated in Washington state on June 19, 1910. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd came up with the idea of honoring and celebrating her father, William Smart, a veteran of the Civil war. Her mother died in childbirth with her 6th child and her Dad raised all of them by himself in a small farm in Washington State.

The other story of the first Father’s Day in America occurred on the opposite side of the country in West Virginia on July 5, 1908. Grace Golden Clayton suggested to the minister of the local Methodist church that they hold services to celebrate fathers after a deadly mine explosion killed 361 men.

Both celebrations took place, but it was in 1924, U.S. President Calvin Coolidge recommended that Father’s Day become a national holiday. But no official action was taken. An executive order was approved in 1966 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, who designated the third Sunday in June as the official day to celebrate Father’s Day. However, it was not until 1972 when President Nixon officially recognized Father’s Day as a national holiday.

Sonny, as for a gift, looks like he already got it...5 daughters and one wonderful son who is concerned about it being a special day for your dad. According to Amazon.com the # one gift for fathers is a new wallet. Nice, but I bet there is not very many dads who get money in the wallet. So here are some meaningful ideas:

You can make him breakfast, play yard games, a hike on a trail in the woods, help with a project, and go fishing. If you buy him a new wallet, leave an inspirational note in the wallet. Write him a letter and tell him how much you love and appreciate him.

There are hundreds of inspirational sayings on the internet. Here are two of my favorites:

John Steinbeck, Cup of Gold "Why do men like me want sons?" he wondered. 'It must be because they hope in their poor beaten souls that these new men, who are their blood, will do the things they were not strong enough nor wise enough nor brave enough to do. It is rather like another chance at life; like a new bag of coins at a table of luck after your fortune is gone.' Always be a good example to your son.

“When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant, I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I turned 21, I was astonished at how much the old man learned in 7 years.” Mark Twine

Thank you for your email. Ask_andy@aol.com

. “Life doesn’t get easier or more forgiving, we get stronger and more resilient.”

— Steve Maraboli, *Life, the Truth, and Being Free*

MDHHS Invites Public Comment on Title V Block Grant Application

submitted by Lynn Sutfin

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) invites the public to comment on the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant application.

Title V of the Social Security Act of 1935, as amended, provides funding to states to improve the health of mothers, infants and children, including children with special health care needs. Michigan’s Title V application is for services from Oct. 1, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021 and includes a report on activities and services provided in fiscal year (FY) 2019.

Per federal requirements, a five-year needs assessment was completed in 2020. Based on the assessment, state priority needs for Title V were established. State action plans were created to address the following areas for FY 2021-2025 to improve the health of the MCH population in Michigan:

- Low-risk Cesarean Delivery
- Breastfeeding
- Infant Safe Sleep
- Bullying
- Transition for Youth with Special Health Care Needs to Adult Health Care
- Preventive Dental Visits for Women and Children
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Immunizations for Children and Adolescents
- Medical Care and Treatment for Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Intended Pregnancy
- Developmental, Behavioral and Mental Health Services

These MCH priorities address needs across five federally identified population domains: women/maternal health, perinatal/infant health, child health, adolescent health, and children with special health care needs.

The Title V draft application and annual report are available online. MDHHS welcomes comments on the application by 5 p.m. on June 26. Comments can be submitted to MDHHS-MCHBlockGrant@michigan.gov.



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CITY OF LAINGSBURG NOTICE OF ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING FOR THE STATE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD FRIDAY, June 26, 2020

An Election Commission Meeting for the State Primary Election to be held Tuesday, August 4, 2020, will be conducted on Friday, June 26, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 114 N. Woodhull Street, Laingsburg, Michigan.

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Editorial

The Classic Hornets

Alfalfa fields are quickly being mowed right now exposing woodchucks and their dens. In most parts of Clinton and Shiawassee counties a safe and reasonable range to shoot these little buggers is probably 150-200 yards or so. Probably the safest and most comfortable cartridge to shoot at this range continues to be the .22 Hornet. Developed and perfected in the 1920's & 1930's by Grosvenor Wotkins and Townsend Whelen this cartridge was one of America's first dedicated varmint cartridges. Early versions used a smaller diameter bullet to shoot out of .22 long rifle barrels but the cartridge was eventually standardized to use .224 bullets. While this rimmed cartridge has only a slight neck and is almost miniature in size for a centerfire it is still very useful for whacking 'chucks.

The Weekly Sportsman is very fond of the .22 Hornet for many reasons including its low recoil and noise. It can be found chambered in single shots, bolt actions, and combination guns. Sometimes a rifleman gets lucky and finds a used rifle at a cheap price that shoots incredibly well with factory ammunition. In this case, the Weekly Sportsman's New England Firearms all weather bull barrel handi-rifle is such an example. Sporting a Weaver T-24x scope and fed Hornady's 35 grain v-max ammunition it is hard to miss out to 250 yards. No need to hand-load ammo as you can't get any better when single hole groups are obtainable. With velocity in the neighborhood of 3300 fps this combination is a winner and suitable for chucks, coyotes, and feral cats. Some use a 45 grain bullet for turkey in Texas and small deer in the south but the Weekly Sportsman does not advocate such practices.

Not long after its introduction wildcatters such as P.O. Ackley started tinkering with the .22 Hornet and necked it down to use .17 caliber bullets. The .17 Ackley Hornet and variations are rarely seen chambered in commercial rifles but this changed recently when Hornady introduced their version of a .17 Hornet. This cartridge sends a 20 grain v-max bullet downrange at over 3600 fps. What this means is a similar trajectory as a .223 with a 55 grain bullet with the recoil of a .22 Magnum. Efficiency is the advantage of this cartridge with less fouling, barrel wear, and less powder per shot and pressure when compared to other .17 caliber centerfires. Mated with a Savage 25 walking varmint rifle this is the perfect mid-range rifle for a woodchuck safari.

Last but not least is the seldom heard of .19 Calhoon Hornet which has a cult like following among some varmint hunters. James Calhoon Manufacturing in Havre, Montana sells complete CZ 527 rifles along with rebarreling kits, reloading equipment, and ammunition. This cartridge launches 27 grain bullets at 3600 fps and 32 grain bullets at 3400 fps giving it 150 yards more capability than the original .22 Hornet. Unless you are skilled at forming brass and swaging .19 caliber bullets plan on being hooked on a single ammunition and reloading component supplier from Montana.

If you want to go old school and still be adept at hitting chucks across a hayfield then you can't go wrong with the .22 Hornet in a single shot or bolt action. For uniqueness opt for a .19 Calhoon chambered to a CZ 527 or maybe even a Cooper. Now, if you want cutting edge technology and personally desire to be a modern chuck hunter then go for the .17 Hornet. No matter your choice all three will always be classic woodchuck cartridges with plenty of sting!

-WS

Worship

God is to be worshiped by all people on earth and He is worthy of our worship. But how should we worship Him?

In short, we should worship God with all of our lives. While meeting with other Christians in a "worship service" is one way that we worship God in our lives, it is only one of many.

In the article, "Joe McKeever Asks: What's the Point of a Worship Service?" he says, "The essence of worshiping is giving. We give the glory and praise to the Lord, give Him ourselves, our time, our offerings, our prayers, our faithful obedience. We 'present ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice' (Romans 12:1)."

This means that as believers we worship God by focusing on God, pointing others to God and living lives that are honoring to God.

This is true at a church worship service, on the job, at home, or spending time with relatives or friends. We worship God wherever we are, whatever we are doing.

As Paul writes, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."- 1 Corinthians 10:31

Psalms 34:1 says, "I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips."



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Religious Thoughts



by Chris Hearn
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GARAGE SALE: Thurs., June 25th; Fri., June 26th, 9am-5pm; Sat., June 27th, 9am-3pm. 8069 Krouse Rd., Ovid. Household items, movies, books, CD's, toys, jewelry, Victoria Secret, mens & womens clothing. "New" still in the box, 18,500 BTU air conditioner, holiday items, furniture, dishes, large variety of items, many are new with tags.

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GARAGE SALE: June 26th and 27th. 9am-5pm. 5700 Meridian Road. Woodard wrought iron table, 4 chairs with umbrella. Porter cable drill, books, household items, knick knacks, kids toys, girls clothes up to size 5, teen-adult clothes, lots of misc.

1530

ESTATE SALE

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY Estate of Verna Daley. 421 S. Ovid St., Elsie. June 24 to June 27; 10am-5pm. Call 989-862-5228 to schedule appointment. Glassware, dishware, salt pepper shakers, knick knacks, books, puzzles, milk glass items, lamps (kerosene, gas), glass milk bottles, ink pen nibs, repro dome radios, small wood print set, Sears sewing machine in cabinet, cookie jars, crochet books (thread, needles), small china cabinet (no other furniture, no appliances), stori viewers, view-masters (slides, projectors), milk cans (large, small), antique bed warmers, WOAP mike radio, Watling Scale Co penny scale, Bucko hole punch gambling game, street lamp-post acorn shade, antiques, collectibles.

1530

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1450tf

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1526t2

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1528t2

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