



Traditional Graduation Update

Ovid-Elsie has set Wednesday, July 1st as its traditional commencement date. The 7pm ceremony will be held outside as in previous years with the possibility of limited seating (six per graduate) due to social distancing. Thursday, July 2nd is the back-up date with a 7pm start time.

Final details and preparations will be made by June 24. If the date is not allowed under the governor's executive orders, we will push graduation back until a date and time in August.

The date for Laingsburg's traditional graduation is scheduled for Sunday, August 9th. Ashley is still working on a date for their ceremony.

The Meridian Weekly will continue to give updates each week on our front page. With COVID-19 things are changing day-to-day and week-to-week.



(l-r): Owners Sam and Jessica Sivertsen with Ayven Blake, co-owners Beverly and Kevin Caswell with Addison Grace.
Photo by Karen Anderson

Avyan Grace Grand Opening in Laingsburg

by Karen Anderson, Laingsburg Correspondent

LAINGSBURG – Need a great cup of coffee and some good company? Just as the state was restricting travel, due to the pandemic 8 weeks ago, Ayven Grace Studio and Coffee Café was approved to set up a store front to expand their four-year Face Book business. They sell American made clothing and gifts in a boutique adjacent to the café.

Life-long Laingsburg residents and family-run business, Sam and Jessica Sivertsen, along with co-owners Kevin and Beverly Caswell, have renovated the east end of the plaza located at 750 E. Grand River in Laingsburg. The classic style of an open-concept design and professionalism is offering a chic new way to shop and relax at the same location. The coffee counter will be open the same hours as the Studio. 7 – 6 week days and 10-4 on Sat and Sun.

As stated by CEO, J. Sivertsen, “The Grand Opening has been a great success with more customers than we could have hoped...we are grateful for the community support.” After only one week in the new location, customers are traveling from out of state and local customers from area communities for some shopping and great coffee, iced tea, and daily fresh baked cinnamon rolls.

The Coffee beans are supplied by Foster’s Coffee out of Owosso, Michigan. Beverages made to order include Hot Chocolate, Grandma Bev’s iced tea recipes, such as Blood Orange & Mango (this writers favorite) and Specialties that include homemade Russian tea and Affogato (coffee poured over ice cream). Stop in for a cold brew, a white chocolate mocha or an Italian cream soda. The variety offered will satisfy everyone’s taste.

Every item in the Boutique is hand-picked by Jess with customers and quality as a priority. She seeks out American made products. Sivertsen attends annual shows in Chicago, Atlanta, Nashville, and other large cities to buy latest styles from wholesalers to resell at reasonable prices. The family hopes this venture will give other local entrepreneurs ideas as to what they can offer in this growing community of Laingsburg and to know that it is possible.

Join Sivertsen’s LIVE Face Book presentation sharing her latest finds. LIVE schedules are on the web site. Her staff of 12 work diligently to package and ship over 1000 orders per week across the US and Canada. You can also find them on FB or in the studio to shop for products that include jewelry, scarves, bath items, mugs, and t-shirts, along with her stylish clothing and much more.

As stated by J. Sivertsen, she is “happy that our online business and staff has grown to a point where we would need a retail storefront. It is exciting to offer something new to area residents and we will continue our online business at this location.” For more information go to <http://ayvengraceco.com> where you can meet her staff and continue to order products in the comfort of your own home.

When visiting the new location, Jess respectfully request, “Customers to abide by the CDC pandemic warnings and recommendations of continuing to wear a face mask and allow 6 feet between unrelated individuals while we continue to comply to retail and food service guidelines from the State of Michigan.”



Sisters Recognizing Veterans at Putnam Cemetery: The Great-granddaughters of Marilyn Baumgras have continued the tradition of placing flags on veterans graves at Putnam Cemetery since 2012. Maylee Jorae, age 17 (at right) and Cora Jorae, age 12 (at left) are pictured here placing flags prior to Memorial Day.

Meridian Weekly

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Deborah Price Owner/Publisher

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102nd Year Celebration Ola Holiness Camp

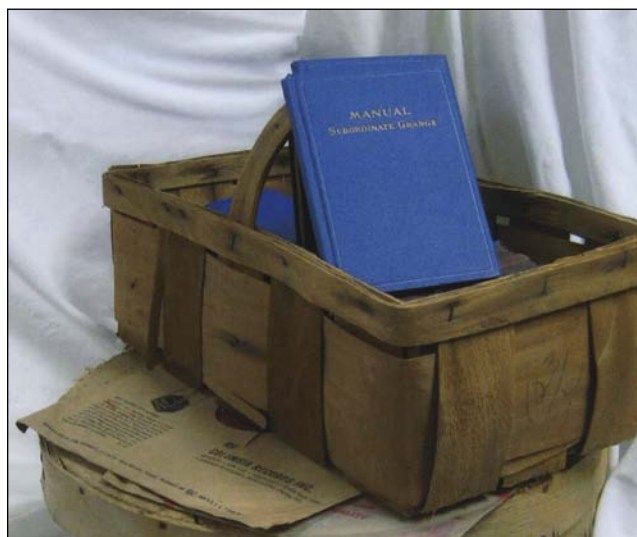
Mark your calendars for the 102nd Ola Holiness Camp celebration starting June 21st thru June 28th.

The services will begin nightly at 7pm and feature preaching, music and Fellowship.

Come as you are expecting a blessing. All are welcome.

Directions to the Camp Meetings are: 12 1/2 miles North of St Johns on US-27, 1/2 mile North of M-57 Junction or 7 1/2 miles South of Ithaca on US-27.

For more information call Birt Cooper at (989)224-2875 or Wes Waddington at (989) 465-6176.



Elsie Historical Society

submitted by Sue Hardaker

The Elsie Historical Society is currently not open. But when we do reopen, we have a new display in our museum, which is a cheese box, 78 records, a shopping basket and song-books from The Grange meetings. These were donated by the owners of the Chapin Store before it was torn down.

Also, if you are taking this time of being homebound to clean closets, we would appreciate old telephone books, maps and abstracts.

Hope to see you soon.

Ovid Public Library Offering Curbside Service

Beginning Monday June 8, 2020, the Ovid Public Library will offer 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.

Rep. Frederick Nominated to Serve on Michigan Workforce Development Board

submitted by Christina Guenther

State Rep. Ben Frederick today was nominated by the Speaker of the House to serve on the newly formed Michigan Workforce Development Board.

The board, established by the governor on May 29, will be responsible for the development and continuous improvement of the workforce development system in Michigan. The board will help develop, implement and maintain the four-year state workforce development plan required to continue receiving funds from the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

"I'm incredibly excited to have an opportunity to join together with a group of people who share my passion for helping others gain the skills they need to lead successful careers," said Frederick, of Owosso. "Workforce training programs and educational opportunities help remove barriers and give hard-working Michiganders a chance to improve their lives."

The board also is tasked with helping the governor advance her goal of helping 60% of Michigan's workforce achieve a post-secondary degree or certification by 2030.

Prior to his nomination, Frederick authored the bipartisan ReConnect Initiative to support adult learners seeking degrees and credentials and also served as chairman of the House Workforce and Talent Development Committee.

His Cup Runneth Over

submitted by Jenny Fleischer

We are excited to announce that His Cup Runneth Over has been kicked off their 2020 FREE meal season. All are welcome and FREE for all who come.

Given the current situation with Covid-19, we are going to be having the soup kitchen parked in one spot and be open to serve meals one day a week, at this time, for this season. We will start out doing a drive up style pick up and will offer porch drop delivery for those who don't have transportation to get to us. The serving location will be the west parking lot at First Congregational Church at 100 Maple Ave, St. Johns, (across from the post office) from 11 am to 1 pm every Tuesday thru October. If you are in need of delivery you can call or text 517-388-2005 or 989-544-5764 no later than 11 am each Tuesday.

We feel that this schedule and format for serving, will be a safer option so that the patrons are not gathering near the trailer when coming to get meals. This location and schedule will also allow us to keep our volunteer needs to a minimum given the size restraints in the trailer to maintain safe social distance.

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Laingsburg News

Movies in the Park, Pancake Breakfast are Newest Events 'On Hold' Due to COVID-19

LAINGSBURG — The Laingsburg City Council is taking a “wait and see” approach toward holding the bulk of the city’s summer events.

Monday, June 1, the council voted unanimously to cancel Music and Movies in the Park, as well as the Laingsburg Business and Community Association’s annual pancake breakfast, due to health and safety concerns surrounding COVID-19. The council will re-evaluate the status of each event in August.

“We wanted to cancel now so that the public is clear in the communication, they know that they’re not going to have it (at this point),” council member Brian Fredline said. “If circumstances change in August, at our August meeting we could (certainly) turn it back on again, based on the (Michigan) Department of Health and Human Services and CDC guidelines (at that time).”

The Laingsburg Farmers Market, meanwhile, was given the green light Monday, as council members voted 6-0 to allow it to open along Roosevelt Row June 10, with social distancing measures in place.

Council members cited the ability to easily separate vendors and the Department of Health and Human Services’ current guidelines surrounding markets as reasons for allowing Laingsburg’s operation to move forward.

“I do think our farmers market has struggled,” Laingsburg council member Gail Geasler said, “And if we don’t open it this year, then people are going to start going to other farmers markets.”

Beginning June 10, the Laingsburg Farmers Market will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays along Roosevelt Row, with a tentative final market date of Oct. 21, according to Market Manager Dena Judd.

In a Facebook post Tuesday, Judd outlined a number of safety precautions vendors will be taking to ensure customer safety. “All vendors will be at a safe distance, masked, and sanitizing after each customer,” Judd said in the post. “We will be bagging items for you and may instill the ‘you touch, you buy’ method, if necessary.”

Music and Movies in the Park, a summer series that spans July and August in McClintock Park and was slated to begin July 8, is now on hold, though council members indicated they will reevaluate the possibility of the city holding those events during their Aug. 3 council meeting.

“We could certainly have a quick turnaround if the council decides in August that things are better and we want to do something,” Movies in the Park organizer Jody Frank said.

Geasler, who helps coordinate the music side of things, expressed a similar sentiment.

“If things change and turn around and we decide we want to do something later this summer, we would (certainly) be able to get a band,” Geasler said. “I would like to look at it again in August. I could see where maybe if things turn around we might be able to have one.”

The Laingsburg Business and Community Association’s annual pancake breakfast — originally scheduled for July 25 — will also be reconsidered by the council Aug. 3. The event generally draws more than 2,000 people downtown, according to City Clerk/Treasurer Paula Willoughby.



Laingsburg Farmers Market Opening

submitted by Karen Anderson

Laingsburg - The Laingsburg Farmers Market will be opening beginning Wednesday, June 10, 2020 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.. It will continue every Wednesday through October 21, 2020.

It is located at Roosevelt Row in Laingsburg

Vendors, please be set up prior to start time. No fee.

Open to the Public.

Customers are required to abide by the HHS and CDC guidelines for social distancing. The spaces will be set up in compliant to the distancing regulations for outdoor markets providing retail and food services. We are requesting customers wear face masks and allow 6 feet between unrelated individuals. Thank you for your cooperation.

For more information contact Deana Judd on 810-444-2805 or check Laingsburg Farmers Market on Face Book for details.



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Obituaries

Rita Marie (Gallt) Hehrer

Rita Marie (Gallt) Hehrer, age 80, of Ovid, MI, passed away Tuesday, June 2, 2020, of natural causes, surrounded by her family at Ovid Healthcare Center.

Rita was born in Owosso, MI on April 7, 1940, the daughter of James Charles and Alice Beatrice (Carpenter) Gallt. Rita graduated from Ovid High School with the class of 1959. She married Glenn Hehrer on January 16, 1960, in Ovid, MI.

Rita loved quilting and enjoyed teaching people how to quilt. She enjoyed camping, fishing, boating, bowling, genealogy, and sewing. She spent many years as a Girl Scout leader, Cub Scout leader and softball coach. Her grandchildren will remember her tea parties she hosted with them and trips to Drummond Island. Most of all she loved her family and treasured time spent with them. She worked at Ovid Elsie Animal Clinic as a receptionist for several years. She was a member of Job's Daughters.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years Glenn Hehrer, her children: Renee Barton, Gwendolyn Hoyle, Joanne and Kevin Kellermann, William and Rhonda Hehrer, sister Diana Jones, brother James Gallt, grandchildren: Camron, Robyn, Michael, Katie, Amanda, Kyle, Whitney, Keith, Ian, and Evan, many great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her fur baby Hector. She was preceded in death by her parents, father and mother-in-law, brother Dennis (Dawn) Gallt, brother-in-law Kurt Jones, grandson Joseph Andrew Hehrer, and great-grandson JR Hehrer.

A Private Family Service will take place at Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid, MI at a later date. Memorials may be made to American Alzheimer's Association or Your local humane society. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI.



Dorothy Jean West

Loving wife, mother and grandmother, Dorothy Jean (Patterson) West, peacefully passed away on May 26, 2020, at the age of 86. Born to Gordon and Lucille (Moulton) Patterson on May 10, 1934, in Elba Township, she was the second of three daughters, born between Joan (Larry) Abrey and Mary Lou (Stan) Plesko.

Dorothy, best known to her family and friends as Jeanie, grew up in Bannister, MI, and lived most of her life in Elsie. She graduated from Elsie High School in 1952, and shortly after graduating, married the love of her life, Phil West, on June 26, 1952. Phil and Jeanie shared 67 precious years of marriage and were the proud parents of three daughters Kathie (David) Dunham of Ovid, Tammy Hall of Elsie, and Susie (Steve) Kirinovic of DeWitt. Jeanie and Phil retired at the lake house in Beaverton in 1987 and returned to Elsie to live closer to family in 1998. Nothing would make Jeanie's blue eyes light up more than when she would speak of her family and share their adventures and accomplishments.

She was especially proud of her seven grandchildren Domenic Sinicropi, Luke Plowman, Ransom Hall, Keifer Hall, Mya Hall, Chandler Kirinovic and Delaney Kirinovic and great grandson Logan Plowman. Jeanie is also survived by her sister, Mary Lou (Stan) Plesko, and sister-in-law, Kay (Norm) Bissell, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Jeanie worked outside of the home at Universal Electric and Motor Products in Owosso but was happiest as a homemaker caring for Phil and the girls. She was avid in the kitchen, known for her homemade macaroni and cheese and delicious cookies. Jeanie was an active member of the Elsie United Methodist Church. Jeanie enjoyed her polkas, popcorn and cappuccino, working in the yard and feeding the birds, going for walks, and long visits. She was very loving, accepting and generous, always quick to lend a helping hand and care for her family, friends and neighbors, and there was always a spot for everyone at the family table.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Phil, on June 1, 2019, her parents Gordon and Lucille, sister and brother-in-law Joan and Larry Abrey, father and mother-in-law Rollie and Cecile West, sister-in-law Myrella Jezewski, brother-in-law Ben Jezewski, brother-in-law Martin Harlow, and future grandson-to-be Phillip Ching.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Elsie United Methodist Church in Jeanie's memory and sent to P.O. Box 189, Elsie, MI. In honoring Jeanie's wishes, her family plans to hold a private graveside service.



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Edna Lee Evans

Edna Lee Evans, 83, of Bannister, MI, entered into her heavenly home Tuesday, June 2, 2020, at home surrounded by her family.

Edna was born in Fulton Township, MI on January 11, 1937, the daughter of William Henry and Grace Lee (Lair) Shepherd. Edna graduated from Ithaca High School. On October 12, 1990, Edna married Edward Evans in Ithaca, MI. They were blessed with 29 years of marriage.

Edna was a lifelong caregiver. She dropped out of school to care for her father, and she nursed her daughter Lucinda back to health after a tragic accident. Her caring, loving heart never said no to a person in need, resulting in opening Countyline Inn AFC at her home and caring for many others.

Edna loved to cook and bake; she was well-known for her pies. She was an amazing seamstress and quilter. Edna encouraged her children to be involved in sports and was their softball coach. She was passionate about her faith and raising her children in the church. Her faith and love for her Lord shaped her life. Edna was a member of the Bannister United Methodist Church and an active member of the Ashley Lions' Club.

Edna's unconditional love for her family surrounded them and shaped their lives. Each one was "her favorite" in their own way. She encouraged them to do what was right, get their education, and follow their dreams.

Edna is survived by her husband Edward, 7 children: Pamela (Joseph) Klees of Crystal, Annette Billings of Bannister, Thomas (Olivia) Billings of Alma, Lucinda Sheltrown of Ithaca, Sandra (Jeff) White of Fulton, NY, Deanna (Bradley) Simmet of Ithaca, and William (Caroline) Billings of Elsie; 2 step-daughters: Deena (Ken) Haley of Brighton, and Mary (Mark) Jacobsen of Holt. She is also survived by 22 grandchildren: Brandy, Jason, Andrea, Michelle, Rachel, Ryan, Joshua, Katelyn, Justin, Cody, Brandon, Breenna, Bradley, Jacob, Brady, Veronica, Joseph, Jeri Lyn, Camille, Maeve, Allison, and Madison; 35 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren, and many special nieces and nephews. Edna was preceded in death by her parents, grandson Jeremy Klees, and siblings: Clarence Shepherd, Dean Shepherd, Arden Shepherd, Erma Kochensparger, and Beulah Whaley.

Funeral Services were held at the Smith Family Funeral Homes Elsie, MI, on Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 11:00 A.M., with Pastor Zella Daniel officiating. Memorials may be made to the Bannister United Methodist Church. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI.



Editorial continue on page 9



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

Yesterday was fabulous!!! I got to go visit three of my neighbors and we all had a good confab...I enjoyed our visits immensely and learned more about our human psyche. Each of us brings a different view as we examined our current dilemma caused by the isolation of the coronavirus....of course we all have our own opinion as to what is happening. I find the isolationism to be demeaning.....mostly because it is forced down our necks and not a matter of choice. Just my thoughts.....

The weather was beautiful and the surrounding proliferate lakes have been making their way into our water tables. Hopefully our forecasts are correct and we will be getting warm weather....which should help the asparagus and mushrooms to shoot up quickly. I still need to make a quick survey of the garden to see if the seeds were pounded into the ground by the heavy rains or if I got lucky and the seeds are popping through. Of course I also need to walk the yard again to see if I can mow it without getting the blades submerged in standing water. Yesterday I could have mowed most of it except a patch in the middle of the driveway and the roadside area in the west lawn. I see that there are numerous crawdad piles in the shallow ditch area.....

I did get to show Rolayne the changes that I have made in my home. She approved of the changes that I have made and was surprised when I told her how long I have been here. At times it seems like a few years and not the thirty-eight that this has been my piece of paradise. Not a big holding but a happy home. Rolayne loved the paint job in my kitchen and like Carol thought that it was nifty wallpaper at first.....I explained how I had done it. Carol has already applied the technique to her kitchen dining area and Rolayne is going to apply it to her bathroom. I'm looking forward to viewing the applications. I now need to find me some feather dusters so that I can redo my kitchen after the new window is in place.

Wahoo.....the window is in and has been for a while.....unfortunately the lumberyard was closed until last

Thursday. The forecasted four week wait was extended to a miserable ten week wait.....now I have to wait until my contractor is available to finish up here.....so hopefully the window will be installed before the fall rain showers. The old window leaks....

As you can tell life is moving along.....this afternoon I will be making another trip to the Home Depot to pick up more lumber for the chicken run. Diane sends me pictures so that I can view their progress which has been substantial. I wasn't able to make the trip but lent the pickup to my kids. They had a wonderful time picking up this and that.....all a bit more than originally intended. I believe that they are having the time of their lives.

Dang it, the weather forecast has changed and it will probably rain this evening.....I was hoping that the yard would

be drained and dry so that I could mow tomorrow. So I have changed my intentions and now need to get most of the lawn mowed tonight. The squishy area will go untouched.....I did get a bit excited while looking out over my flower gardens.....the peony plot has some beautiful white five pointed flowers. Must have been planted by passing birds.....at any rate they are a delight. May your common sense fill you with delightful visions and may God bless you daily.

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LAINGSBURG HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION PARADE

Photos by Keith Kingsbury and Clint Hawks



Senior Spotlight

The Tri-County Office on Aging to Offer Online Workshops

submitted by Tammy Lemmer

Lansing - The Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA) has promoted the independence and dignity of older adults for more than 45 years as the Area Agency on Aging for Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. TCOA's priority is to keep all volunteers, staff, clients, and program participants safe while continuing to provide a variety of services such as information and assistance, coordination of in-home supports, and health and wellness workshops. TCOA generally offers five evidence-based programs to meet the needs of older adults, their families and caregivers. The agency is pleased to announce the availability of online workshops for three of its most popular programs.

The five programs usually offered are: Diabetes PATH (Personal Action Toward Health), Chronic Pain PATH, A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls, Powerful Tools for Caregivers and Creating Confident Caregivers®. All programs are provided at no cost to the participant, have trained facilitators, and come with the materials needed to participate. Under Michigan's Stay Home Stay Safe order, and in following advice from public health officials who recommend that people avoid group settings (especially older adults and individuals with chronic health conditions), TCOA temporarily suspended in-person evidence-based programs in mid-March. TCOA's capable and resilient staff were able to shift Diabetes PATH and Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshops to an online format in order to complete the remaining sessions. New sessions of both, plus an added Chronic Pain PATH workshop are now launching for a 100% remote format. All sessions include a pre-workshop orientation to help participants become familiar with the workshop expectations and gain familiarity with the online format.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an interactive workshop designed to help family caregivers take better care of themselves while caring for a family member or friend. This program will give the family caregiver tools to help reduce stress and guilt, communicate effectively, take care of yourself, and much more! This program is not intended for professional caregivers. The session will run on Wednesdays beginning June 17 through July 22, 2020 from 2:30 – 4:00 pm. The Pre-workshop Zoom orientation will be held Wednesday, June 10 at 2:30 pm.

Chronic Pain PATH is designed for individuals with chronic pain. In this virtual workshop, participants are taught effective tools to better self-manage their condition and its impact on their life. A variety of topics are addressed, including fatigue management, dealing with difficult emotions, and pacing & planning. It also includes the Moving Easy Program: safe exercises to improve strength, flexibility, and endurance. The session will run on Wednesdays beginning June 10 through July 15, 2020 from 10:00 am – 12 noon. The Pre-workshop Zoom orientation will be held Wednesday, June 3 at 10:00 am.

Diabetes PATH is designed for people with diabetes or pre-diabetes. The workshop includes diabetes education in an interactive style. Participants are taught effective tools to better self-manage their condition and its impact on their life. The session will run on Mondays beginning July 13 through August 17, 2020 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. The pre-workshop Zoom orientation will be held Monday, July 6 at 1:00 pm.

From a participant who started a Diabetes PATH workshop in person and completed the workshop remotely, "Given the COVID-19 pandemic, I am impressed at the decision to carry on telephonically. The course content remained valid and the slower pace of working from home proved beneficial to applying the principles discussed. More often than not I found myself mindful of my actions and behaviors which improved my blood sugar levels and fell an average of 25 points." From a Powerful Tools participant who transitioned online, "I can't imagine making the class any better! The leaders were incredible in their gentle yet 'real' way of presenting and listening. To find ways to continue our class during the pandemic is remarkable. The class was a 'calm' in the storm—especially as we went into quarantine."

Notes TCOA Executive Director Marion Owen, "I have been proud of all of our staff for their hard work and commitment to meeting the needs of our clients and their families. Christine (Histed) has been proactive and is a leader among her peers in helping to restart these workshops because we know how valuable they are to the participants."

To register, call Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1465. If you have questions about the workshops, please contact Christine Histed, RD, Evidence-based Programs Manager, at 517-887-1450.

Safety Renovations for Senior's Homes

Feeling safe and secure at home is a priority for any homeowner. But safety is of particular concern for aging men and women who are at greater risk of being involved in accidents at home than younger men and women.

As people age, their balance, eyesight and general physical abilities can begin to diminish. Furthermore, a fall or incident that may only bruise a younger individual can cause more serious breaks or damage for seniors, resulting in potentially lengthy recovery times.

Falls: One out of every three seniors aged 65 and older falls at least once a year.

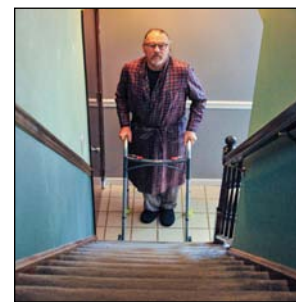
In addition to working with doctors to improve mobility and modify medications that may cause unsteadiness, changes around the home can help. Grab bars placed in bathrooms and high-traffic areas can help seniors get stay more stable when changing from sitting to standing positions.

Potential tripping hazards should be assessed. Area rugs without nonskid backings, clutter on floors, extension cords that extend into walking areas, and uneven flooring pose tripping hazards. Anti-slip coatings can be added to floors to reduce the risk of tripping.

Poorly lit staircases and entryways also can contribute to falls. Consider the installation of motion-activated lighting so that dim areas can be automatically brightened when necessary. A nightlight or LED lights placed near molding can help guide seniors to the bathroom during midnight visits.

Physical limitations: Arthritis can impede seniors' ability to turn on and off appliances, water faucets or handle certain kitchen tools. Kitchen and bathroom modifications can include the installation of ergonomic and user-friendly handles and spigots.

Task lighting can make it easier to prepare meals, and appliances that automatically turn off after a certain period of time can be a safety feature for forgetful individuals. Reorganize kitchen cabinets to make commonly used items as accessible as possible.



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North-South Skirmish Association - Cancelled Competition

by Karen Anderson, Laingsburg Correspondent

LAINGSBURG – The scheduled annual muzzle loader competition for Father's day weekend on Friday, June 19, 2020 - Sunday, June 21, 2020 has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The N-SSA -Lansing Chapter has preserved Americas Civil War heritage by participating in black powder competition since 1950.

The next Laingsburg annual competition has been postponed to July 24, 25 26, 2020. The event is held at 8545 Garrison Rd. Laingsburg. Details will be announced in next month's issue with a schedule of events.

For more information: visit their website at <http://www.n-ssa.org>.

Area Recycling Canceled Again

submitted by Ellen Link

Given the many transitions and uncertainties currently affecting the recycling industry, and the concern felt by all our volunteers that it is not yet safe to resume operations, the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers' will not be holding a recycling drive in June as we had hoped.

If, come July, we are given reason to think it is safe to reopen and we are able to find a vendor for our materials (the broker we have used for the last 7 years can no longer service us), we will hold a July drive. As we've all learned, the future is unpredictable.

These are such puzzling, frustrating times: Finding places to take our recycling materials has become increasingly difficult. We cannot presently take plastic grocery bags back to the stores (a good time to learn to do without them) nor are we allowed to take in our own bags (I take my unbagged groceries to my car in the cart and bag them there). And there's a good chance that, when (if?) this is all over, the new "normal" will be different. The word is out that glass may no longer be accepted for recycling; stay tuned.

What we do know for sure is that we all want to live in a safe environment. That means clean air and water and safe food. It means not having micro plastics or toxic chemicals in our bodies. To that end, we must become ever more aware of how our buying habits and decisions have consequences and decide that, regardless of what corporations or governments do, we can each make a difference in reclaiming the healthy environment we need and want.



Back
In The
Day

Laingsburg Man takes on The Sheik in the Wrestling Ring

LAINGSBURG -- Those of you who have not joined the Laingsburg Historical Page on Facebook are missing some priceless -- sometimes humorous -- history.

Even the Bigford family is getting a chuckle out of a story that appeared on the front page of the 'B' section in the Lansing State Journal on December 27, 1963.

Those of us who grew up in mid-Michigan remember the days of weekend wrestling shows on local TV. Make no mistake: these were the grassroots of what became the mega-millions sports industry that the WWE, WWF, and others wrestling leagues are today.

The personalities and their names are legendary. Bobo Brazil and the Coco-Butt. Killer Tim Brooks. Abdullah The Butcher. Flying Fred Curry. Dick The Bruiser. Haystacks Calhoun. The Stomper. Mighty Igor.

But the most famous around this area was The Sheik.

Sheik Farhat, Sr. was a graduate of St. Mary's High School in Lansing and debuted on the professional wrestling circuit in 1949, wrestling nearly 50 years into the '90s. His signature finishing moves included the Armpit Claw and the Camel Clutch. Famous for his signature Fireball, he spewed fire into the face of opponents, and was also famous for his Gorilla Press Powerslam.

Sheik was respected by his peers as a pioneer of professional wrestling who conceptualized, revolutionized and made popular his hardcore style. He was a NWA United States Heavyweight Champion, WWF United States Champion, WWA World Martial Arts Heavyweight Champion, ICW United States Heavyweight Champion, NWA Americas Heavyweight Champion, a Cauliflower Allen Club Honoree – 1995 and was inducted into the the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2011.

Perhaps his most famous altercation -- at least locally -- was when he went "up against" Laingsburg's Albert Bigford, Sr. at Christmastime, 1963.

Here is how the Lansing State Journal reported the story:

OBJECTS TO SHEIK: WRESTLING FAN HURT AT BOUT

"He was an unwilling participant in an impromptu wrestling bout with Sheik Farhat, a 51-year-old Laingsburg man told Lansing police detectives Thursday night.

"Albert W. Bigford, interviewed by officers as he was being treated at Sparrow Hospital for a cut on his little finger and shoulder bruises, said he received the injuries at the Civic Center while watching the professional wrestling matches.

"(The Sheik), always the villain, had completed his match -- 'in which he was nasty as usual' -- and was walking toward the dressing room, according to the police report.

"Farhat became involved in an argument with some spectators and was swinging his fist at them, Bigford said, adding that the Sheik struck him on the shoulder, knocking him to the floor and causing his injuries.

"The injured man told officers he wanted to press for prosecution against Farhat. Detectives told him to talk to the prosecutor. The prosecutor, Leo A. Farhat, is the wrestler's cousin."



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GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE CITY OF OVID

In the upcoming General Election on November 3, 2020, the City of Ovid has four seats open for the positions of City Council. The positions are; City Mayor and three for City Council. They are all a four-year term from 2020 to 2024.

If you are interested in filing a petition you may pick up a petition at your Clerk's office located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid, or Please call the City Clerk's office to have the Affidavit and Petition sent to you.

AFFIDAVITS MUST BE COMPLETED CORRECTLY AND NOTARIZED BEFORE BRINGING IN WITH PETITIONS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL 989-834-5550.

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City of Ovid



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The logo for King Concrete features the word 'King' in a large, bold, yellow font with a crown on top, and 'ENTERPRISE' in a smaller font below it. To the right, a list of services is provided: 'Concrete Flatwork', '4' Foundations', 'Driveways & Sidewalks', 'Stamped Patios', and 'Pole Barns'. Below the list, the word 'CONCRETE' is written in a large, bold, white font. At the bottom, the phone number '989-666-1839' is displayed in a bold, black font.

989-666-1839

Owner Doug Hall Owosso, MI

Editorial



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

Pray for Peace on Earth

Dear Andy,

I am missing going to church so much, I am thinking about it all the time. I miss my friends and learning God's lessons. What can I do until we can go back to church while waiting for this pandemic to be over. I do not have much family living near me so I don't get many visitors and I know I do not have the virus. My daughter brings me my groceries and I am doing ok by keeping busy watching TV, working in my yard and I knit and get by taking care of myself. Any ideas?

Norma B.

Dear Norma B,

I was so happy to hear from you and I am glad you contacted me. I hope you have been doing Daily Devotional readings in your booklets you get from church. I would recommend reading a Chapter in your Bible every day. Start with the Book of John. It is easy to understand and there is so much joy in knowing the works of Jesus during his life on earth. The last verse in the last chapter of John, it is said that the miracles and ministries he completed could hold volumes of information, if they had written it all down. That is wonderful news. I just let my imagination wonder about the many blessings that were bestowed upon his followers during his life on Earth.

You can pray for Peace on Earth and for the happiness of others. And a cure for this virus. Lots to pray is needed at this sad time in history.

Even though churches have not received guidance for safe distancing at church services, you can have your own gathering. Invite some ladies over for cake and coffee and tell them to bring their Bible to have a spiritual conversation. The State is allowing citizens to have small groups on our porch or in the yard. People can wear a mask to keep safe and healthy by sitting in chairs a few feet apart.

It is a strange virus with no immunization or cure at this time so we all are at risk. We need to be careful and if we are having flu symptoms, call the doctor. Sit a safe distance apart and enjoy a conversation and company. Ask for Gods protection and guidance for the gathering in His name. It does not have to be at a church. God will bless you. Call your friends and set up a time today. Maybe they are feeling the same way you are feeling.

Have a Blessed day.

Andy

Laingsburg Library Reopens

by: Karen Anderson, Laingsburg Correspondent

LAINGSBURG - The Laingsburg staff is excited to announce they will be reopening the City Library on Monday, June 8, 2020. In compliance to the Governor Whitmore's recommendations to ensure safety for patrons and staff from exposure to a 2nd[O1] [O2] [O3] wave of COVID 19 Coronavirus.

Following the 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 virus in compliant with the regulations to prevent the spread of novel 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 3:00 – 8:00pm; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00am to 6:00pm. Friday, 9:00 -5:00pm. Closed Saturday and Sunday. CDC guidelines will be posted on the outside of the building and can be found on the Library FB page.

The staff is looking forward to offering library services again. Let's rock this summer and show our appreciation of this outstanding community service called The City Library.

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



PUBLIC NOTICE STORAGE WILL BE REMOVED

Storage facility location: 300 W. Main Street Elsie, MI 48831 Unit #2
 Timeline and actions taken
 Communication to Tenant:
 USPS 70142120000102691372
 Notice of non-compliance mail out: 2020-04-25
 Notice of non-compliance received: 2020-04-27
 Settlement date to resolve non-compliance dispute: 2020-05-09
 Public notice of sale or other disposition- FIRST NOTICE: 2020-05-31
 Public notice of sale or other disposition- SECOND NOTICE: 2020-06-07
 Newspaper contracted to publish notice to the public: The Weekly
 Contents of the unit will be removed: 2020-06-15
 Description of unit contents: Miscellaneous items with or without personal or familial value. Some items may or may not be in individual containers.
 Owner/manager actions: All items will be sold and/or discarded. Upon removal of all items the unit will be restored to a functional, safe condition, making this unit available to other prospective tenants.
 This action is pursuant to self-storage facility act 570.521 1986-March-31, State of Michigan.

Elsie Food Bank

The Elsie Area Food Bank has experienced double to triple activity since the COVID-19 outbreak.

Distribution days are Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8am til 9:30am or until all have been served. Free produce days are the first Tuesday and 3rd Thursday of each month. Food for the Elsie Area Food Bank mainly comes from the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

To make a donation to the Elsie Area Food Bank, please send a check or money order to them at PO Box 311, Elsie MI 48831. The food bank is located at 225 N. Ovid Street in Elsie (across the street from the Elsie American Legion Post 502). For more information call (989)388-8717.

Notice of Public Hearing on Increasing Property Taxes

The Council of the City of Ovid will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.3838 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2020.

The hearing will be held on Monday, June 15th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 114 E. Front St., Ovid, MI 48866.

The date of the location of the meeting to take action on the proposed additional millage will be announced at this public meeting.

If adopted the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues ad valorem property taxes 2.33% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved the operating revenue will increase by 3.81% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

This notice is published by:
City of Ovid
114 E. Front st.
Ovid, MI 48866
(989)834-5550

**PUBLIC NOTICE
STORAGE WILL BE REMOVED**

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 Notice of non-compliance received: 2020-04-29
 Settlement date to resolve non-compliance dispute: 2020-05-11
 Public notice of sale or other disposition- FIRST NOTICE: 2020-05-31
 Public notice of sale or other disposition- SECOND NOTICE: 2020-06-07
 Newspaper contracted to publish notice to the public: The Weekly
 Contents of the unit will be removed: 2020-06-15
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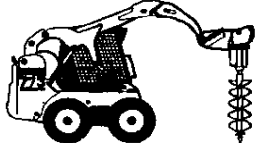
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Editorial

Mulberry Squirrels

May and June are the months for hunting Mulberry Squirrels but not here in Michigan. Being so far north our climatic conditions and the breeding and gestational cycles of squirrels just don't line up right to provide this early season. In the south, May and June provide a spike in squirrel population as the first litters have been born and weaned off and the next breeding season is months away unlike in Michigan when the cycles are almost back to back.



Most squirrels will have already consumed their buried fall harvests of acorns and other nuts and thus will be consuming a lot of soft mass, especially ripening mulberries. Unlike in the north, mulberry trees are a valued hardwood for fence posts and other uses and are cut down at a young age. Thus, a mature mulberry tree tucked away in a lowland producing fruit is somewhat of a rarity and serves as a mega-magnet for squirrels. Find a mulberry tree and leave all your calls at home because Mother Nature will do the calling for you.

Camo is not necessary but a lighter shade of camo will work better than darker patterns used in the fall. Fresh green foliage will conceal far away squirrels so bring along your favorite scattergun for close shots on the ground or around trunks of trees. Or, if you insist on a hunting with a .22, consider a light handling pump or semi-auto loaded with .22 short hollow points. Also, prepare for dealing with annoying mosquitos, black flies, and ticks.

If you are looking for some spring squirrel hunting plan to travel at least six hours because Kentucky is the closest state allowing a season. Other states include; Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, Oklahoma, Kansas, and parts of eastern Texas. Some are stand alone seasons for a few weeks and others are the beginning of very long seasons stretching into late February. Plan your squirrel expedition right and possibly bag an out of state turkey or sample some local fishing holes. Spend some time on the internet and visit each game and fish department's website for the above mentioned southern states.

-WS

Dr. Roger J Green from Gordon College wrote, "Until their conversions the Wesleys, [John and his brother Charles], had what John described as "a fair summer religion." They were both ordained. They both preached, taught, wrote, composed hymns, and even gave themselves to missionary work—all to no avail. They had not Christ...They lived by good works, but not by faith."

What do you really believe about God?

When it comes to Jesus Christ, what do you really believe about Him?

I don't ask to insult anyone, but I don't want to make any assumptions either. People can go to church for various reasons and sometimes we can get locked into a false sense of security, which can be a spiritual killer.

We say the right things, do the right things- more or less- and we know the verses and songs and Christian lingo. But, like the Wesley's, who lived without God for many years while living "Christian" lives, we don't actually have Christ in our hearts. We don't really believe in the gospel. We don't really believe in Jesus Christ to save us from our sins and bring us into a personal relationship with the living God.

The Bible says that we are either covered by Christ's righteousness or by our own sin.

What are you covered with today?

Are you covered by your own sin? Or has God removed your sin from you and covered you with the righteousness of Jesus Christ? The righteousness that He supplies.

These are our only 2 options.

Today you have the opportunity to both come clean before the Lord and let Him clean you.

Remember that God will never turn you away. As Psalm 86:5 says, "You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you."

Psalm 103:12 says, "as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."

1 Corinthians 1:30 says that, "Christ Jesus...has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."

The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
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Headline your email as grocery pickup.

Please drive to the front of the store and park at one of the parking spots with the white x. You can alert us that you have arrived by calling 989-834-2220. We will then deliver the order to your vehicle. Payment will be made at this time.

We accept cash, check, debit, credit or EBT cards.

Unlike some home delivery services you will not be charged for this service nor will there be an up charge on selected items. Please understand that this is a new service that we are offering due to the current health situation, and there will most certainly be some unforeseen hiccups. Please be assured we will constantly strive to make this service as seamless as possible.

To introduce this new service, we are offering a free gallon of milk of your choosing (not including chocolate) for any pick up order of \$50.00 or more between June 8-June 14.

****Please note that our Wednesday only curbside pickup between 8am-11am will continue for seniors.**

Thank you for supporting your local business one trip at a time!!

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