

New AD at O-E

OVID-ELSIE — The Ovid-Elsie Marauders have a new Athletic Director.

After receiving 200 applications and conducting 14 interviews, Corunna resident, Jesse Johnson, has been hired as Athletic Director at O-E. He replaces, Joel Longstreth who will remain as teacher and coach in the district. Johnson, a 2006 Durand graduate who played football at Michigan State, has worked on various football coaching staffs across the country and was a recruiting coordinator at Central Michigan, amongst other jobs. His career path has now taken him back near his hometown, where he has taken over as the new athletic director at Ovid-Elsie High School.

Johnson's return to the area was reported by the Owosso Argus-Press:

"It was close to home, I knew what type of kids, family and community I'd be working with at Ovid-Elsie," Johnson said. "I remember coming over here when I was in middle school and high school and having very fond memories of the stadium being packed, good people."

Johnson was a standout football player at Durand, graduating as the school's all time leader in tackles and interceptions, according to his MSU biography. He also played basketball, baseball and track and field.

He played 46 games at Michigan State under Mark Dantonio, including all 13 in 2010 when the Spartans won a share of the Big Ten championship with Wisconsin. Johnson earned his bachelor's in history from MSU, then went to Central Michigan to study sports administration, where he earned his Masters Degree.

After graduating from CMU, Dantonio and then-defensive coordinator Pat Narduzzi helped Johnson land a football coaching job at The Citadel in South Carolina in 2012. He came back to the CMU football program in 2013 and 2014, working as a defensive grad assistant for then-head coach Dan Enos.

Johnson spent a year coaching at Syracuse in New York, then returned to CMU a final time to be the school's on-campus recruiting coordinator.

Johnson, while never having been an athletic director at the high school level, believes his various gigs around the country have helped prepare him for the challenge.

"Running (a high school) athletic program and running a football program at the collegiate level I feel are a lot of the same," Johnson said. "The best way to put it is, the things I've seen from good programs and how they're run and how people are treated. I've seen how a bad program is run as far as wins and losses and people not being happy and kind of taking away little things from each one of them. Even for a little bit of a younger guy, I've been around the block in the coaching profession, so it's been good to see different things."

Johnson is facing the additional challenge of taking over an athletic department during a tumultuous time for sports. The COVID-19 pandemic has thrust many sporting events into doubt, and there is no guarantee fall sports will take place currently.

"I think the biggest is just the uncertainty," Johnson said. "I get 20 to 30 calls or text messages a day, somebody contacting me (saying) 'Hey, what are we thinking?' We still don't have definitive answers on everything and I know it worries everybody and I wish I could give people answers."

He said some of his concerns are whether there will be full seasons with full student participation, fans allowed in the stands and protocols for loading buses.

"There's no basis for it," he said. "Nobody has the answers because nobody has ever dealt with something like this."

Johnson said one of his goals in his first year is to get to know the Ovid-Elsie community. While COVID-19 precautions have not allowed him to do much in that regard, he said everything he's experienced so far has been positive.



City of Laingsburg's New Amphitheatre About to Become a Reality

LAINGSBURG -- The city's new public amphitheatre is about to become a reality.

Construction began on the project last week, and after years of discussion and some financial footwork, the city's proposed amphitheater in McClintock Park is underway.

On May 11, the city council unanimously approved a contract with Woodhull Construction to build the entertainment space, with an overall project budget not to exceed \$539,000. The move came just one week after the city council unanimously agreed to allocate up to \$100,000 from its general fund budget to help finance the initiative. There is targeted completion date in September or October.

The amphitheater, which has been a goal among city officials and community members since 2007, was put out for bids in January after the city secured approximately \$472,061 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, as well as \$49,375 in Community Assistance funds from the MEDC — \$521,436 total — to finance the project.

After receiving bids from Woodhull Construction — \$694,046.22 — and Laux Construction — \$721,439.90 — the city found itself in a difficult spot, as each bid was more than \$170,000 over budget. To close the funding gap, the city opted to make several alterations to the original project design, including scrapping the cement seating area and reducing the size of the band shell structure.

Despite those cuts, a \$100,000 funding gap for the project still existed, and during a May 4 council meeting, the city council voted to allocate up to \$100,000 toward the project, with the understanding that the city will continue working on ways to cut the overall cost of the initiative. The city also set a "not-to-exceed" budget of \$539,000 for the amphitheater.

McClintock Park hosts a variety of activities, including a summer concert series and movie screenings, that unfortunately has been canceled this summer due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

City officials have been working for more than 10 years to make widespread improvements to McClintock — once home to a dilapidated playground, combination tennis/basketball court and a softball field.



Laingsburg - Community leaders in attendance for Laingsburg Amphitheater Groundbreaking. At 4:00 pm on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 history was made when the 2 years of planning was finally underway. According to Paula Willoughby, City Clerk who wrote the Grant for funding the structure, "...building progress will depend on the shipping of supplies with some delays due to the limited supplies and workers delayed by Covid-19 regulations. However, we are optimistic and hope to have a completed project in the fall of 2020." Construction is contracted Woodhall Construction of Laingsburg.

L to R: Marci Nichols, Dave Rod, Carrie Hawks, Jody Frank, Mayor Mike Culpepper, Gary Bendall, Lori Strom, Brian Friedline, Dave Castler, Dan DeKorte, Paula Willoughby, Allen DeCastle, Bob Ford, Landscape, Architect and Planners. Mike Smith, Woodhall Construction, Marla Conover, Representative John Mollenkamp office in support of the community project. Justin Horvath, Shiawassee Economic Development, provided the shovels.

Photos by Jody L. Roethle, Laingsburg Photographer

Ovid-Elsie Area Schools Board of Education to Hold Special Meeting

by Dawn D. Levy

ELSIE – The Ovid-Elsie Area Schools Board of Education will hold a virtual special meeting Monday, August 10, 6:30 pm. The link is:

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/sajQQXzHyEw>

Public Comment/Questions: <https://forms.gle/3YjNYRpxzMob5khq6>

The focus of the meeting is to approve the return to school plans for the 2020-2021 school year. Noting that if the region is in phase 4 or 5 there will be a face-to-face component and if we return to phase 3 all classes will be online.

Officials held an online town hall meeting the evening of Tuesday, August 4. Parents had an opportunity to ask questions and offer comments to board officials and school administration. In addition, administration and staff have been meeting and working together to develop a plan for the district that is as safe as possible for students and staff. The plans reflect numerous scenarios that are ever changing in the age of COVID. All are in agreement that this will be a school year like non-other. It should be noted that unlike the emergency education plan that went into effect in mid-March the remote learning in the fall will be far more dynamic and robust.



Social

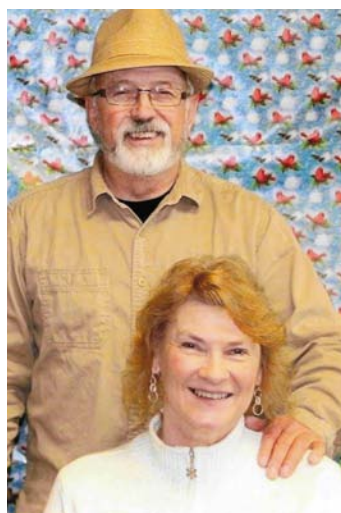
Free for Fall Event Canceled

submitted by Katherine Neese

After much consideration, our October 3rd collection event has been officially canceled due to health and safety reasons.

Residents are encouraged to use our Waste Wizard search tool for disposal options, but please always call before you make the trip as hours and conditions may vary due to COVID 19 restrictions. Our Waste Wizard search tool can be found here <https://www.clinton-county.org/679/Waste-Wizard>.

More information can always be found on our website <https://www.clinton-county.org/196/Waste-Management> or by calling our office (989) 224-5186.



Miller's Celebrating 50th Anniversary

Ken and Shiann met at the Ovid ice skating rink just days after Ken returned home from active duty with the US Navy December 1969. Ken graduated from Ovid High School in 1965. Shiann graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School in 1969.

They were married on August 14, 1970 at the Ovid Baptist Church and reception right after at the Ovid VFW Hall.

Soon after, they moved to Davison, MI working for Western-Southern Life Insurance Co. then back to Ovid in 1976. In 1988 they built their home on Kinley Road and in 1989 opened Miller Realty in Downtown Ovid.

They have two daughters; Corinna Anderson of Midland and daughter Emillie. Lindsey and Daniel Dagnall who have three children: Adrianna, Jonathon and Alexander who reside in Naples, Florida.

In 2005, they moved to Ithaca where Ken opened a new real estate office. They bought and renovated a home in North Star built by his great great grandfather, George Washington Iles in 1869, where they currently live.

If you wish to send cards their address is 3346 S. Baldwin Rd., Ithaca, MI 48847 or you can drop us a email at ovidite@yahoo.com

Seventh-day Adventist Church

submitted by Patsy Towar

The Seventh-day Adventist Church Community Services Center at 1402A S. Oakland Street in St. Johns reopened August 5.

Each Wednesday, 1-4 pm the doors are open to give away nice used clothing and other needed household items.

Any questions call 989-224-3530 during open hours.

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DANIEL BUKOVCIK

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Primary Election Results

by Deb Price

The following are results from Clinton and Shiawassee County representing contested races in the August 4, 2010 Primary. Clinton County had 35.68% of registered voters and Shiawassee had 30.56% of registered voters participating in the election.

In the 4th Congressional District, which includes several counties in Northern and Central Michigan, Democrat, Jerry Hilliard, defeated Anthony Feig, 26,577 to 22,568. Hilliard will face Incumbent, Republican, John Moolenaar in the November General Election.



John Moolenaar



Jerry Hilliard



Mike Herendeen



Maggie Galilei



Pat Hibbard



Arlene Pesik

In Middlebury Township, voters re-elected Supervisor, Mike Herendeen over Carl Chalker, 127 to 77. In the Trustee race, the top two vote getters were Dick Semans, 121 and Jeff Swan, 120. In Ovid Township, two Trustee positions will be filled by newcomer, Pat Hibbard (176) and Arlene Pesik (149). In Woodhull Township, Treasurer race, Maggie Galilei defeated Dawn Warfle, 263-213.

In Clinton County, Tony Spagnuolo will be the new Prosecuting Attorney, he defeated Sarah Huyser 6,279 to 4621. Phil Hanses will retain his position as Drain Commissioner as he defeated Tim Gill 6,012 to 4425. Incumbent, Adam Stacey will retain his seat as Commissioner in District 7. He defeated challenger, Val Veil-Shirey, 945-488.

Proposal Results: Shiawassee County Millage Renewal for Pleasantview passed 770-476. The Laingsburg Community Schools Sinking Fund proposal passed 726-324. The DuPlain Township EMS proposal passed 404-95 and the road millage proposal passed 323-177. In Clinton County, Greenbush Township passed a road improvement proposal 380-257. In Victor Township voters passed a renewal for road improvement 765-259.

City of Ovid EMS proposal passed 155-66.



Tony Spagnuolo



Phil Hanses



Adam Stacey

Potluck Canceled

submitted by Janet Chick

The St. Johns Class of 1963 & 1964 Annual Potluck Picnic has been cancelled for Sunday August 30th, 2020.

The class members are planning one for 2021.

we know life is busy.
that's why we do the
work for you.

simple human sense

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Ovid Public Library

In light of the recent library closings because of the COVID 19 virus, Ovid Public Library will still be offering curbside service only. The staff have been ordering new books and these titles are now ready for sharing. If you would like your name added to the list of any or all of these titles, please call the Ovid Public Library at 989-834-5800 and leave a message or call Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 – 5:00 to speak to a staff member. Feel free to clip this article for future reference.



The Book of Longings, by Sue Monk Kidd

Too Much and Never Enough, by Mary Trump (yes, they printed over 1,000,000 copies of this title)

If It Bleeds, by Stephen King

The Lions of Fifth Avenue, by Fiona Davis (these are the New York Public Library lions)

Outsider, by Linda Castillo

Deadlock, by Catherine Coulter

Half Moon Bay, by Jonathan Kellerman

Daddy's Girl, by Danielle Steel

The Summer House, by James Patterson

Deadly Touch, by Heather Graham

MEA Board of Directors on Safe Return to School

submitted by David Crim

EAST LANSING — At an emergency meeting Tuesday evening, the MEA Board of Directors adopted the following motion regarding the association's stance on a safe return to learning for students and educators this fall amidst the COVID-19 pandemic:

MEA stands with all educators, who must be a part of creating and implementing return to school plans as well as bargaining the health and safety measures for our students and educators.

If needed, MEA calls on locals to file a demand to bargain about their employer's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response plan to ensure the health and safety of our students and educators.

Facial coverings, social distancing, adequate cleaning, and equitable access to technology for all staff and students must be implemented when in MI Safe Start Plan, Phase 4.

MEA stands with school employees against the outsourcing of any public school employee's work due to the effects of COVID-19.

MEA supports any local associations who choose to take collective action in order to protect the health and safety of their students and staff.

Previously, the MEA Board had adopted "Five Standards That Must Be Met for a Safe Return to School," emphasizing the importance of employee voices in local decision making, collective bargaining, employer-provided protective equipment, equitable access to education, fighting outsourcing of school employee work, adoption of strong safety measures, and the need for adequate funding to prevent cuts and pay for increased COVID-19 costs.

MEA's Board of Directors is comprised of active school employees from across Michigan, as democratically elected by members of MEA's 17 regions. MEA is the state's largest school employee union, representing approximately 120,000 teachers, education support professionals, higher education faculty and staff, school retirees and aspiring educators.

Drive-thru Food Distribution Announced

OWOSSO -- The Greater Lansing Food Bank is distributing fresh and non-perishable food items at a drive-thru mobile food pantry from 9 to 11 a.m. Aug. 22 at the Shiawassee Family YMCA in Owosso.

Shiawassee County residents should stay in their cars to register and bring proof of residency. Food will be placed in vehicle trunks or hatchbacks.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. at the YMCA, 515 W. Main St. For more information, call the Greater Lansing Food Bank at (517) 908-3680.

Rep. Frederick Support for Education, Police and Communities Preserved in Finalized State Budget

submitted by Tim Martin

Rep. Ben Frederick has said a final plan for the current state budget year solves a significant shortfall while preserving financial support for schools, law enforcement and other top shared community priorities.

The plan recently approved by the Michigan Legislature was signed by the governor this week. It addresses a \$2.2 billion budget shortfall caused by COVID-19 and the governor's subsequent orders to shut down many sectors of the economy which dramatically reduced tax revenues for vital services.

"Our top priorities were to preserve funding for education, law enforcement and local communities – and that's exactly what this budget agreement does," said Frederick, of Owosso. "Resolving this budget shortfall required some difficult decisions. But we made them so we could protect funding for our kids, schools and local governments."

The state will use \$350 million from its 'rainy day' budget stabilization fund, which Frederick and the Legislature have built up in recent years to help weather financial emergencies such as the one Michigan faces today. The plan also relies on \$460 million in savings and efficiencies, and the use of already available federal COVID relief funds to ensure budget certainty.

Already available federal COVID-19 relief funds provide more than \$500 million for schools to make up for \$256 million reduction in state revenue. The federal relief provides \$150 million for local governments, outweighing declines in revenue sharing forced by lower tax collections. Increased federal support also largely replaces corresponding state revenue reductions to the Michigan State Police, so the agency can continue its vital role protecting and serving residents.

Frederick noted that many difficult decisions remain ahead connected to the next state budget year, which begins Oct. 1.

Chamber Golf Outing Wednesday, August 26th

submitted by Brenda Terpening

The Clinton County Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual Golf Scramble at the Emerald Golf Course on Wednesday, August 26, 2020. You do not have to be a Chamber member or a business to participate.

The cost for a 4-person team is \$290 and that gets you the golf & carts, continental breakfast, deli lunch, treat bag & contests on the course. If you would be interested in registering your team, you can get the registration form at www.clintoncountychamber.org/events, or you can email the chamber at ccchamber@4wbi.net or call them at 989-224-7248.



Concealed Pistol License Class

submitted by Norm Martin

The Shiawassee Conservation Association, 4247 N. M-52, Owosso, is hosting concealed pistol license classes on Saturday, Saturday, August 29. Class hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

All firearms, ammunition and classroom materials furnished.

N.R.A. Certified Instructors.

Class fee is \$100.00 (15% to support SCA).

Pre-register by calling Norman Martin at 989-834-5628 (home) or 989-277-1002 (cell).



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8100 W. Hibbard Rd., Ovid
989-834-2573



Worship Service
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Rev. Melanie Young

Bannister United Methodist Church
103 Hanvey Street
Pastor: Zella Daniel
Sunday Worship 11:00am

Duplain Church of Christ
5565 E. Colony Rd.
(3 mi. W. of O-E H.S.)
Sunday School
10:00 a.m.

Worship Service
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group
Senior Minister: Chuck Emmert
Associate Minister: Andrew Goodrich
www.duplainchurch.org

FAITH FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH
Corner of Price & Chandler, St. Johns
Pastor: John Jakus
Sunday School: 9:00am
Worship Service 10:00am
517-651-6210

ELSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
160 W. Main St., Elsie (989) 862-5239

Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: Ava Williams

LAINGSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
210 CRUM ST.
517-651-5531
Children's Sunday school: 9am
Adult Sunday school: 9am and 11:45am
Worship: 10am
Pastor Brian West
laingsburgumc@gmail.com

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

163 W. Main St., Elsie
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Roger Numerich

United Church of Ovid

Office Hours: 9-Noon Mon - Fri
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Every 3rd Friday at 9am
Confession:
Sun 11:30am

We Welcome You to Come...


Editorial... cont'd on page 8

Thank You to everyone in Ovid Township for your support on my Re-Election.

It is a pleasure to serve as your Township Trustee.

Special Thanks

Arlene Pesik



“Life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you only spend it once.” — Lillian Dickson

Victor Township, Clinton County, MI

6843 Alward Road Laingsburg, MI

Proposed Board Minutes from July 13, 2020 meeting

The electronic regular meeting of Victor Township was called to order by Supervisor Warren Malkin at 7:04 pm.

Attendance: Paula Willoughby, Mike Wall, Warren Malkin, Julie Townsend, Amanda Conklin

Agenda: Motion by Conklin to add Election under new business and ISO under Old Business. Supported by Wall. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion by Willoughby to approve the minutes from the June 06, 2020 Board Meeting. Supported by Wall. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Conklin to accept the treasurer's report. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call vote. All in Favor. Motion carried.

Approval of bills: Motion by Conklin to pay the June 2020 bills in the amount of \$20,803.08 using checks #27928-27944 and e-checks #498-513. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Motion by Willoughby to disburse payroll and related payroll expenses for June 2020 in the amount of \$6169.90 using checks #12114-12121 and EFT 128. Supported by Conklin. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reports:

Victor Township Planning Commission is moving forward with the land use portion of the Master Plan. The next meeting will be held August 3 2020 at 7:00 pm.

LSW: Minutes and reports were placed on file.

Maintenance: General upgrades to some of the bathroom fixtures needs to be completed to meet ADA requirements. Shawn Smith is collecting quotes and will be forwarding them to the office administrator to present to the Board.

Unfinished Business:

1. Ordinance 19.3: Nothing to report
2. ISO: Willoughby presented the latest updates from ISO to the Board. A link to the International Fire Code will be forwarded to the Board for review. Willoughby will discuss travel distance requirements with ISO and Dave DeKorte.

New Business:

- 1.Custodial: Motion by Wall to appoint Melanie McIntosh as temporary custodian at \$30.00 per hour. Supported by Conklin. Roll call vote. All in Favor. Motion carried. Motion by Conklin to approve the Custodial RFP with deadline of September 9, 2020. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 2.Opening Township Hall: Motion by Willoughby to open outdoor facilities per Governor Whitmer's gathering requirements. Supported by Conklin. Roll Call Vote. All in favor. Motion. Motion by Willoughby to cancel all indoor hall events through August 31, 2020 with exception to Board of Review and August 4, 2020 election. Supported by Conklin. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 3.Sale of HME Fire Engine: Motion by Wall to sell accept the offer of \$80,000.00 for the engine. Supported by Willoughby. Roll Call Vote. One Opposition. Motion carried.
- 4.Election: Motion by Wall to transfer \$2,000.00 from Deputy Clerk to Election Board Wages. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried. Election Commission meeting July 16, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

Extended Public/Board Comment: Board of Review will be meeting in person on July 21, 2020 at 12:00 pm. Motion by Willoughby to remove the current Deputy Clerk from the bank account. Supported by Conklin. Roll call vote. Malkin absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Wall to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm.

Amanda Conklin, Clerk



Religious Thoughts

by Chris Hearn

www.letsmeetgod.com

Psalm 39:4-5 says, “Show me, Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. 5 You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure.”

Sadly, no one is guaranteed a long life. Also, we don't know the day our lives are going to end.

But even when our physical lives end, we will continue to exist.

As Jesus says, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”- John 11:25-26

Jesus here is saying that even if we die physically (v. 25b), by having faith in Him, you can live with God for eternity and never die spiritually (never be separated from God forever in a place of pain and torment).

Salvation isn't automatic. God is waiting for you to make that decision to believe in Him and receive forgiveness of all of your sins.

It's not about what you can do for God, but to believe in what Jesus has done for you on the cross and in His bodily resurrection from the dead. It's to admit before God that you've sinned and need His forgiveness. That your sins have separated you from God but that Jesus Christ was fully God and fully human and that His death on the cross and bodily resurrection from the dead has paid the price in full for all of your sins. When you believe this and ask God for His forgiveness, He will forgive you and bring you into a personal relationship with Himself.

As Jesus Christ says in John 5:24, “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”

Make a decision for Christ today.

As Paul writes, “...I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.”

2 Corinthians 6:2b



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Victor Township

Election Commission Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2020

Copy of Notice:

Notice is hereby given that the Victor Township Election Commission will hold a MEETING on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 5:00 pm. at the Victor Township Hall located at 6843 E. Alward Rd. / Laingsburg, MI 48848.

Public Meeting of Election Commission:

In attendance: Amanda Conklin and Warren Malkin

Absent: Paula Willoughby

Meeting called to order by Warren Malkin at 5:04 pm.

Moved by Malkin to accept the list of Election Inspectors for Election Commission approval with flexibility to add hours as needed and adjust for political parties as needed. Supported by Conklin. Motion carried.

Moved by Malkin to close the meeting, second by Conklin.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Amanda L Conklin,

Clerk Victor Township



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

Another week is quickly drifting by.....I’ve learned a great deal so I must still be functioning on all cylinders. This morning I need to take Prudence up to St Louis to have her groomer improve Pru’s appearance. My pooch is looking very shabby and not so chic. If I’m lucky, I should be back home by eleven then I can start digging holes to plant my trees.

Yesterday my daughter and family took me out to Simpson’s Green House where there was a sale on all trees and shrubs. I picked up a couple of semi dwarf Cortland apple trees and that was easy. It was the Douglas Fir that put a kink in my back. I couldn’t lift the pot so I deferred to my son-in-law who managed it very well. The Douglas Fir is now sitting west of the deck on a wagon, waiting to be transplanted. First dig the hole then the struggle to get the tree lifted and placed in its new space.

I also need to get the dill pickles started.....which means I also need to get them picked again. I will also probably be able to get the sweet pickles started. This means that I will put to good use my pickle rocks that my grandson wants for his room. Zach has a hard time wrapping his head around my need of these rocks and the process that I go through each year to use them. The hot soapy bath, scrub and boiling rinse makes no sense to him.....after all they are just rocks not dishes.

Just a bit disappointed today, my contractor came to install the last window.....you know.....the one that I special ordered back in March then the Covid mania hit and it sat in the lumberyard that was not considered essential to be open. Gretchen’s idea not mine. The lumberyard reopened the end of May andfour days later I picked it up. Problem is that the window wasn’t correctly prepped for shipping and when it was removed from its box today it was warped....and pulling apart. And since the old window was already removed I now have a blank space on the north wall of my kitchen. Lost my view of the backyard and am again waiting for the return of my new correct perfectly formed window. On the upside, Prudence looks phenomenal.....I should have such a great groomer.

I believe that I filled you in on how we acquired another kitten. The little blinger has been named “Tiny Terror”; she rushes through the house like a miniature tornado. She is jet black and seems to have more energy every day. The Tiny Terror has no problem climbing up bare legs or attempting to catch flies, batting at the hanging house plants, and attacking toes. Did I mention that she has an enormous appetite? Her little scrawny self is filling out nicely.

I’ve been shredding carrots and zucchini.....lots of them. And no, I did not manage to get my new trees planted. So I will have to do them tomorrow. Zach did move the apple trees twice because the wind kept tipping them over. Oh, my traffic patterns in the house have changed. For some darn reason the front door unlocks with the key but stays locked. The dining room side is permanently locked, the exterior can be opened with the key.....the knob will turn until I remove the key.....then the knob goes into lockdown mode. Good thing that I have a slider and a backdoor. Poor Prudence is taking exception to the problem.....she still stands at the front door when she needs to empty her bladder and even goes to the front door to get back in the house. So I have to call her to either the slider or the backdoor. She is a bit confused by the change in venue.

Change, like everything else can be managed....even without a mask. Viruses are smaller than a pin prick.....what mask could stop one? Enjoy the fresh air and count your blessings. God bless.

Crystal Mitchell©2020

Count your Blessings...

ULG Watershed Grant Awarded to SCD

submitted by Donna Kanan

A Nonpoint Source Pollution Control grant for the Looking Glass River Watershed Project was awarded to the Shiawassee Conservation District through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Nonpoint Source Program. EGLE's Nonpoint Source Program assists local units of government, non-profits, and many other partners reduce nonpoint source pollution statewide. The basis of this program is watershed management, and the program works with stakeholders to develop and implement plans to protect Michigan's water.

Clean water is vital to our health, communities, and economy. Our valued way of life depends on clean water. Healthy ecosystems provide wildlife habitat and places to fish, paddle, surf, and swim. Our economy also relies on clean water. Manufacturing, farming, tourism, recreation, energy production, and other economic sectors all need clean water to function and flourish.

The Clean Michigan Initiative Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Fund was created with the goal of helping restore waters that are impacted by nonpoint source pollution and protect Michigan's high-quality waters from degradation. Nonpoint sources of pollution can't be attributed to a single identifiable source. These include runoff, which can carry pollutants from yards, farm fields, roads, and parking lots.

Technical and financial assistance allocated through the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Fund helps local agencies address nonpoint source pollution. This is achieved through education and monitoring at the local level. Conservation Districts are the forerunners of local watershed programs. Districts assist landowners in putting conservation on the ground, which helps improve water quality. Districts also help decision-making bodies create plans to improve water quality.

The Shiawassee Conservation District will use this grant to assist agricultural producers and landowners in the Looking Glass River Watershed improve water quality through voluntary programs. Producers can receive technical and financial assistance to incorporate conservation into their operations.

"We look forward to working with the Conservation District in helping to restore the Looking Glass River Watershed," says Shiawassee County Drain Commissioner Anthony Newman. "Our headwaters contribute a great deal to the Looking Glass River and efforts in this grant will not only help landowners but make a great difference to water quality in the Great Lakes."

Water in the Looking Glass River Watershed flows to the Grand River and which ends up in Lake Michigan. Concerns include issues with agricultural, urban, and rural sources of sediment, nutrients, bacteria, and polluted runoff. We all live downstream. The actions involved in this project will not only have long lasting impacts on water quality, but also foster stewardship and positively change behavior to protect the entire watershed.

This project has been funded by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy under the Clean Michigan Initiative Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Fund and Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act. For more information on the Looking Glass River Watershed, Clean Michigan Initiative Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Fund, or the voluntary programs available through this project, contact the Shiawassee Conservation District at (989) 723-8263, ext. 3.

Rep. Frederick Fights to give Michigan Health Workers COVID-19 Legal Protection

submitted by Christina Guenther

State Rep. Ben Frederick has said health care workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic in Michigan deserve the legal protections provided in a plan recently approved by the Legislature.

Frederick, of Owosso, said health care professionals have been forced to make incredibly difficult decisions while caring for patients under strained circumstances due to the coronavirus. The Legislature's plan protects them from unwarranted COVID-19 lawsuits, ensuring they can focus their time and energy on providing the best care possible to patients. Cases of willful misconduct, gross negligence or intentional infliction of harm would still be actionable for litigation.

"During this pandemic and every day, our health care heroes make incredible sacrifices to save the lives of others," Frederick said. "Doctors, nurses and other medical workers should be commended for stepping forward to take on a tremendously challenging task during this public health crisis. We can have their backs by ensuring no provider is targeted with a lawsuit for doing their job to the best of their ability."

Frederick noted the proposal approved by the House closely reflects the medical liability protections the governor previously included in her executive order, which she rescinded last month. If enacted, Senate Bill 899 will ensure health care workers are protected until the pandemic is over. It also covers workers for actions they took at the beginning of the crisis before the governor first issued the order offering the liability protection.

Frederick urged the governor to sign the measure into law. "I'm hopeful the governor will partner with the Legislature to extend these protections to our health care professionals who are doing their best to treat people under extraordinary circumstances," Frederick said. "Without this, health professionals and hospitals could face years of costly and emotionally draining lawsuits, even bankruptcy. It simply wouldn't be right."



Laingsburg Movie Series Cancellation to Continue

LAINGSBURG — With coronavirus cases back on the rise locally, the city has opted to cancel its Movies in the Park series — which never began — for the remainder of 2020.

In a 6-0 vote on August 3, the Laingsburg City Council voted to continue the cancellation of the summer series, traditionally hosted Wednesday evenings throughout July and August in McClintock Park.

The council previously voted to cancel Movies in the Park in June, with the caveat that the city would reevaluate the status of the event in August. During Monday's meeting, Movies in the Park organizer Jody Frank recommended the council not try to start the weekly event, noting it generally draws more than 100 attendees each week — well above Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's current restrictions on outdoor gatherings.

Despite Monday's cancellation, the city's Michigan All-Star Concert Series is set to continue Friday nights through Aug. 14 at Pine Hills Golf Course, 6603 Woodbury Road.

All shows are free and open to the public. They will begin at 7 p.m. with social distancing measures in place.

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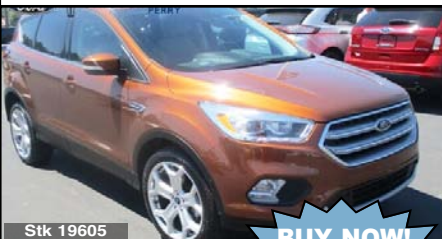
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WIC Makes a Difference

submitted by Leslie Kinnee

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- Each month, more than 200,000 moms, babies and children less than five years of age receive much needed assistance from the Michigan Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

This Federally-funded program serves low and moderate income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Participants receive an electronic benefits card (EBT) for purchasing nutritious foods, such as milk, cheese, eggs, fortified cereal, peanut butter, whole grain breads and tortillas, fruit and vegetable juices, fresh fruits and vegetables, and formula at approved retail grocery stores and pharmacies. Participants also receive breastfeeding support, nutrition education, healthcare referrals, health counseling and immunizations. WIC also provides coupons to purchase locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets through the Project Fresh program.

WIC has a proven track record of demonstrating a positive effect on pregnancy outcomes, and child growth and development. Research shows that the earlier a pregnant woman receives nutritional benefits from WIC, the more likely she is to seek prenatal care and deliver a normal weight infant. For every dollar spent by this program, more than three dollars in subsequent health care costs are saved.

Additional benefits of the program include:

- Higher immunization rates against childhood diseases.
- Lower rate of anemia among children between the ages of six months and five years old.
- Significant improvement in children's dietary intake of vitamins and nutrients.
- Significant increase in the number of women receiving adequate prenatal care.
- Dramatic decrease in the infant mortality among Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Improvement in weight gain and dietary intake in pregnant and postpartum women.
- Decrease in low birth weight and pre-term births.

To find out if you qualify for WIC, visit www.mmdhd.org or call:

Clinton County branch office: 989-224-2195

Gratiot County branch office: 989-875-3681

Montcalm County branch office: 989-831-5237

Rep. Frederick Support for Education, Police and Communities Preserved in Finalized State Budget

submitted by Tim Martin

Rep. Ben Frederick has said a final plan for the current state budget year solves a significant shortfall while preserving financial support for schools, law enforcement and other top shared community priorities.

The plan recently approved by the Michigan Legislature was signed by the governor this week. It addresses a \$2.2 billion budget shortfall caused by COVID-19 and the governor's subsequent orders to shut down many sectors of the economy which dramatically reduced tax revenues for vital services.

"Our top priorities were to preserve funding for education, law enforcement and local communities – and that's exactly what this budget agreement does," said Frederick, of Owosso. "Resolving this budget shortfall required some difficult decisions. But we made them so we could protect funding for our kids, schools and local governments."

The state will use \$350 million from its 'rainy day' budget stabilization fund, which Frederick and the Legislature have built up in recent years to help weather financial emergencies such as the one Michigan faces today. The plan also relies on \$460 million in savings and efficiencies, and the use of already available federal COVID relief funds to ensure budget certainty.

Already available federal COVID-19 relief funds provide more than \$500 million for schools to make up for \$256 million reduction in state revenue. The federal relief provides \$150 million for local governments, outweighing declines in revenue sharing forced by lower tax collections. Increased federal support also largely replaces corresponding state revenue reductions to the Michigan State Police, so the agency can continue its vital role protecting and serving residents.

Frederick noted that many difficult decisions remain ahead connected to the next state budget year, which begins Oct. 1.



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Ovid-Elsie Area Schools is accepting applications for School of Choice students for the 2020-21 school year. Applications are due through September 11, 2020. For more information or an application please contact Crystal Loynes in the Administration Office at (989) 834-2271 ext, 1000 or crystal.loynes@ovidelsie.org.



MHSAA Gives OK to 'Low Risk' Sports; Punts Others to August 20th

EAST LANSING — The MHSAA Representative Council gave the green light for "low risk" sports to begin playing on their traditional start dates in August, but put off making a decision on football, volleyball and boys soccer games.

Girls golf, boys tennis, cross country and girls swimming can begin practice Aug. 12 and start competition on Aug. 19 and 21, the MHSAA said in a press release Wednesday.

However, a decision about when volleyball, football and boys soccer can start playing games will be made by Aug. 20, the MHSAA said. First football games are scheduled for Aug. 27. Volleyball and soccer are set to play first games Aug. 21.

Volleyball and boys soccer may begin practice Aug. 12. Football must delay start of practice with full pads until Aug. 17, the second week of practice; traditionally, full pads are phased in by the end of the first week.

The week of Aug. 10, football practice sessions may include "conditioning, physical training and skill work with no other player equipment except helmets.

"The council, reflecting on the positive impact on their athletes this summer from taking part in offseason training, feels it's of utmost importance to continue athletic activity moving forward," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "If we take a month off, our students will find opportunities to compete through non-school entities that may not be as focused on safety. Our athletic directors and coaches can provide the safest-possible environment to return to sports, and this phased-in approach to competition will help schools continue building on progress already made.

"The council chose to make these adjustments to help ensure our athletes have a safe regular season this fall. As we continue to solidify the regular season, we can then turn our attention to building a safe postseason for our athletes."

The MHSAA Representative Council approved a return to play plan July 17, voting to keep its traditional fall, winter and spring seasons in tact. The MHSAA also released protocols at that time that outlined the governing body's plans if COVID-19 forced any postponements.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer had previously recommended swapping sports where social distancing was not possible to the spring. Whitmer reimposed restrictions Wednesday due to a recent uptick in COVID-19 cases in the state, closing indoor bar service where alcohol accounts for 70% of sales and limiting indoor gatherings to 10 people.

The state health department Wednesday reported two virus-related deaths and nearly 1,000 additional cases. About 300 were older results due to a backlog from a commercial lab.

COVID-19 Let's Work Together to end the Stigma

submitted by Leslie Kinnee

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- The prolonged uncertainty of when the COVID-19 pandemic might come to a close has us all on edge and feeling many emotions, including fear and anxiety.

The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) is asking the public to not let these emotions turn into social stigma by labeling or stereotyping those who are either connected to the pandemic in some way or believed to be connected.

Social stigma and discrimination can occur when people link a disease, such as COVID-19, with a certain population, community, or nationality.

Groups who may experience stigma during the COVID-19 pandemic include:

- People who tested positive for COVID-19, have recovered from being sick with COVID-19, or were released from isolation or quarantine;
- Certain racial and ethnic minority groups;
- People who have disabilities or developmental or behavioral disorders who may have difficulty following recommendations;
- People who have underlying health conditions that cause a cough;
- People living in group settings, such as people experiencing homelessness.

Stigmatized individuals may experience isolation, avoidance, rejection, depression, anxiety, public embarrassment, verbal abuse and even physical violence. These actions can negatively affect the emotional, mental, and physical health of stigmatized groups, as well as their family, friends, caregivers and the communities they live in.

Stigma hurts everyone in the community by creating more fear or anger toward ordinary people instead of focusing on the disease that is causing the problem. Stigma can also make people more likely to hide symptoms or illness, keep them from seeking health care, and prevent individuals from adopting healthy behaviors. This means that stigma can make it more difficult to control the spread of the outbreak.

Stopping stigma is important to making our communities safer and healthier. Everyone can help stop stigma related to COVID-19 by knowing the facts and sharing them with others.



Maple Rapids and Lowe Churchs Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner

submitted by Pastor Kathy Leydorf-Keck

We hope and trust all is well with you and your family. Many of you have participated in the past by attending our Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner.

This year, due to the corona virus we will be unable to serve you dinner or honor you in person at the Lowe Church. We sincerely regret this and do not want Veterans Day to pass without showing appreciation to each of you.

This year we are offering to record you on video. You would be asked just a few questions, such as: where you served our country; the number of years you served; and any experience you wish to share. Everyone who has served in any branch of the military is most welcome and encouraged to be a part of this video.

Artis White will be doing the taping and will create a video of all the veterans to be displayed on Veterans Day, November 11th. If you are a participant, you will receive your own personal copy on DVD.

If you are willing to participate, please call the church office [989] 224-4460 and leave a message, or contact Artis White directly at [517] 749-8351 to schedule an appointment. We hope to hear from you! If you are unable to travel but would like to participate we will accomodate you in whatever ways are helpful. Please know we are so very grateful for the service you have given to our country!

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Editorial... cont'd from page 4

Ashley Sportsman's Club to Hold Courses

submitted by Dawn D. Levey

BANNISTER - Ashley Sportsman's Club is hosting two courses Michigan Concealed Pistol Certification Saturday, August 15 and ammo reloading Sunday, August 16, 2020.

The CPL course will be held 8am-5 pm at a cost of \$125.00. The class is limited to ten participants, once individuals are enrolled materials for the class will be forwarded. ASC is located at 8554 Mason Rd, Bannister, Michigan.

The reloading class will also be held at ASC, 8554 Mason Rd., Bannister, Michigan from 8 am-5 pm. on Sunday at a cost of \$125.00. Note class is limited to ten participants.

For more information or to enroll call 517-927-6258. Both classes are limited to 10 participants, social distancing and masks will be enforced.



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Time for the Summer Blues

It's that time right now to enjoy the summer blues... blueberries that is. Nothing says summer like fresh plump berries in a fruit salad or used as a dessert topping. Take it one step further and make a blueberry bbq sauce or glaze for venison or bear meat. And of course, this summer crop is also meant to be put away for winter use.

It's hard to beat the dense nutritional value blueberries provide as they are low in calories but rich in vitamin C and K along with manganese and dietary fiber. Perfect for diabetics they are a sweet and tart fruit low in sugar but contain antioxidants known for fighting cancer. Prep time is relatively short as the berries usually break down within five minutes or less when heat is applied. By adding different sugars, spices, and hot peppers the berry becomes quite versatile when paired with cooked wild game.

Currently the Weekly Sportsman's favorite mid season variety "Blue Crop" can be sourced locally at Felzke Farms in DeWitt for \$26.50 per 10 pound box. Remember to buy a little extra to throw in the freezer. Prepare by washing and lightly pat down with a paper towel to remove excess moisture. Spread berries on a cookie sheet and place in the freezer. Once frozen dump the individually frozen berries in a ziploc freezer baggie. This will allow you to pour out the desired amount of frozen berries without having a frozen clump to wrestle with. Enjoy the summertime blues!

-WS



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

Back to School? Is it too Soon?

Dear Andy,

Looks like the schools are reopening...and, I have a few questions: If a teacher test positive for COVID-19 will they be required to quarantine for 2 weeks? Does their sick leave cover their pay loss? If that teacher has 5 classes a day with 30 students each, do all 150 of the students need to stay home to quarantine for 14 days after being exposed? Do all 150 students now need to get tested? Who pays for the tests? Are tests going to be administered at school? How are the parents being notified? Does everyone in each of those kids' families need to get tested? Who pays for that? If a sick bus driver tests positive and he operates a school bus that serves more than one campus? Will all those who ride that bus be quarantined? Who sanitizes the bus several times a day? Do the students need to wear a mask on the bus? Is their room to sit 6 feet apart?

What if someone who lives in the same household as a teacher tests positive? Does the teacher take 14 days off to quarantine? Is that time off covered? Paid? Where is the district going to find a substitute teacher who will work in a class-

room full of exposed, possibly infected students for substitute pay? How is a substitute teacher with no benefits compensated?

What if a student in your child's class tests positive? What if your child test positive? Do all the other students and teacher need to be quarantined? Do we get notified who is infected and when? Or because of HIPAA regulations are parents and teachers just going to get a mysterious "may have been in contact" email all semester long?

What is the stress going to do to our teachers? How will it affect their health and well-being? How will it affect the quality of education? How are they going to handle "Disciplining" students who do not comply to the social distancing or wearing of masks? Are their long-term affects of them all being stressed?

Why should they go back to school when there is no vaccine or cure for the Coronavirus? How will it affect students and faculty when the first teacher in their school dies from this? Or, the parent or grandparent who dies from their child's exposure? Or, when the FIRST STUDENT dies of COVID-19? How many more people will die, that otherwise might not have died if they all stayed home a few more months or until a vaccine is developed?

Thirty percent of teachers in the United States are over 50 years old. Approximately 42% of total deaths in the U.S. are people between the ages of 45 - 65 years of age. Are we really choosing to put our teachers and STUDENTS in danger? How many more must die before we make better decisions?

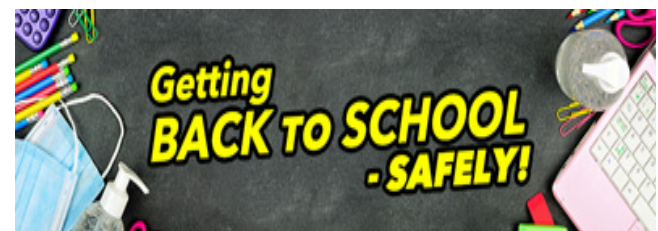
Connie B., a Retired Teacher, Thank goodness!

Dear Connie B.,

You certainly have posed some questions for some serious thought. We typically trust those in power to make a return-to-school decision in the best interest of our faculty and students' safety. This probably should have been a letter to the Editor, but I appreciate you sending it to me for consideration. Many are waiting for a vaccine prior to full return to the "normal".

In the early 50's we had the Polio scare. Children went to school and when the vaccine was available it was administered by the school nurse. I remember exactly where I was standing in the 2nd grade when that needle hit my arm and again in 7th grade getting the sugar cube. We have had a nation-wide scares of Polio, Scarlet Fever and Measles epidemics. Each generation has had a disease to conquer or overcome. We are a strong people, we will survive.

As for students or parents who do not want their children to attend Public School, there are outstanding Michigan online schools and other Homeschool options. It takes just as much self-motivation and parent support, guidance and fortitude and commitment, as public school. People will need to do what they believe is best for their children. It may only be temporary. From the research I have read...the COVID-19 will be eradicated and disappear as quickly as it arrived. Ask_Andy@aol.com



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

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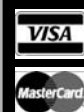
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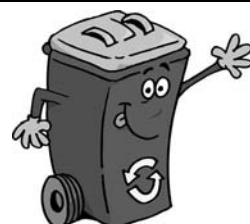


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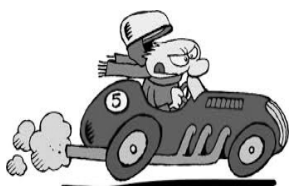


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SERVICE DIRECTORY

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

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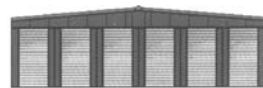
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Laingsburg 2020 Graduating Class

Seth Bader
Vincent Barberio
Jarred Bird
Ava Brewer
Tyler Brunette
Mariah Byrnes
Zakary Casler
Taylor Chadwick
Jacob Christie
Anne Claus
Jacob Dafoe
Myia Danek
Victoria Dedie
Kindi Dietz
Bryson Eakin
Adrian Eggleston
Claire Elfring
David Englert
Ethan Fleming
Christopher Freels

Parker Gregg
Gavin Grinstern
Adriana Gruhn
Joshua Guenther
Jesse Gugel
Kaitlynn Haase
Logan Hagerty
Lauren Hannah
Gabriel Hawes
Brady Hawks
Jacob Hummel
Camille Joblonski
Bailee Keener
Cassandra Kellogg
Jarrod King
Ethan Klumpp
Grace Koenig
Makayla Koenig
Emily Konieczny
Calvin Koonter

Lydia Kowaleski
Elena Kozachik
Nathanael Lalonde
Kaetlyn LePard
Paris Losey
Anna Ludlow
Alyssa Magyar
Kara Mahoney
Makayla Marrison
Samuel Marshall
Brooke Martin
Morgan Messer
Caleb Morr
Benjamin Morrill
Mitchell Morrill
Gregory Olmstead
Savannah Olmstead
Dylan Olsen
Ryan Poole
Isabella Ramirez

Austin Randall
Emily Schaaf
Bree Schlaack
Logan Sewell
Olivia Sivak
Allisyn Smith
Anastasia Smith
Aidan Soeltner
Ellie Thelen
Connor Thomas
Morgan Velderman
Samantha Walker
Konnor Wicke
Jackson Wilson
Colt Wurm
Harley Yoder
Mallory Young

Sage
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Graduates!



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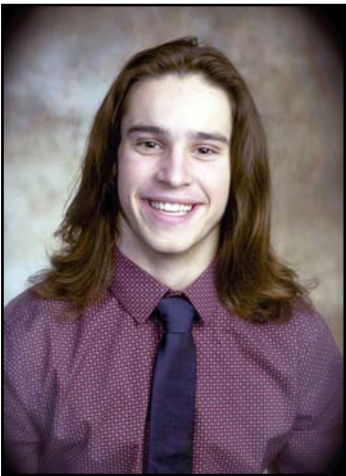
Laingsburg ~ Class of 2020 Top Ten



Anna Claus
Co-Valedictorian
GPA 4.0
Robert and Tracy Claus
University of Michigan



Samuel Marshall
Co-Valedictorian
GPA 4.0
Stanley and Jaymie Marshall
Cedarville University



Adrian Eggleston
Co-Salutatorian
GPA 3.986
Andrew and Bethanie Eggleston
Mississippi State University



Anna Ludlow
Co-Salutatorian
GPA 3.986
Kevin and Cara Ludlow
MSU or Kalamazoo College



Jesse Gugel
GPA - 3.979
Mark and Amy Gugel
Trine University



Ellie Thelen
GPA - 3.973
Mike and Nicole Thelen
Grand Valley State University



Ava Brwer
GPA - 3.971
Todd and Kathryn Brewer
Central Michigan University



Emily Schaaf
GPA - 3.933
Kurt and Kayla Schaaf
Michigan State University



Bree Schlaack
GPA - 3.912
Marvin and Kim Balcarcel
LCC then Central Michigan
University



Vincent Barberio
GPA - 3.894
Dan and Sally Barberio
Michigan Technology University

Congratulations and Good Luck Class of 2020

 Congrats Seniors! NEW LOCATION DOWNTOWN LAINGSBURG Phone (517) 651-1777 Fax (517) 651-1779	Tammy's Bakery & Cafe 232 E. Grand River, Laingsburg - At the top of the hill (517) 651-1989 Take Out Only	Twilliger's Tavern Congrats Seniors! 116 E. Grand River Laingsburg (517) 651-9911	Leonard Hardware Congrats Wolfpack Seniors! Downtown Laingsburg	ALL TECH AUTOMOTIVE Congratulations Graduates! 9865 E. ROUND LAKE LAINGSBURG (517) 651-5043	Class Motto: "Together, we experience life. Separately, we will pursue our dreams. Forever, our memories will remain." Class Song: "Old Friends - by Ben Rector Class Flower: Lilac Class Colors - Lilac and Turquoise
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