



John Moolenaar
Congress 4th District



Ben Frederick
State Rep. 85th District

Huge Voter Turnout Nationwide, Statewide and Locally

by Deb Price

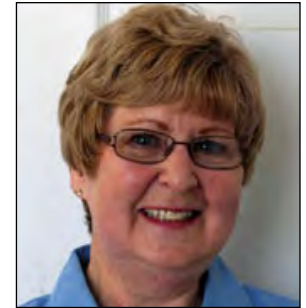
The November 3, 2020 Presidential Election saw historic voter turnout in both absentee and in person voting nationwide. In the Meridian Weekly coverage area 68% to 78% of registered voters cast ballots in Gratiot, Clinton and Shiawassee Counties. Pictured here are some of the candidates who were elected in contested races.

In DuPlain Township, Sandy Frink was elected to the Clerk position. In the Village of Elsie, Todd Carroll, Samuel Frink and Joseph Ondrusek were elected to Trustee positions. In Fairfield Township, Vivian Durling was elected as Treasurer. Elected to the Ashley School Board were, Jim Fabius, Jr., Kurt Densmore, Ann Marie Bradley and Dawn Wirt. Voters elected Dena Judd, Gail Geasler and Marcie Nichols to the Laingsburg City Council.

All ballots proposals passed in the area including the Elsie Library, Middlebury Road Maintenance Renewal and Proposals 20-1 and 20-2 as well as 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone and Dispatch Service funding were passed by a large margin.



Graham Filler
State Rep. 93rd District



Pamela Slee
Woodhull Twp. Supervisor



Kam Washburn
Cl. Co. Comm. 1st District



Tony Spagnuolo
Cl. Co. Prosecuting Atty



Scott Koerner
Shia. Co. Prosecuting Atty



Cindy Garber
Shia. Co. Comm. 6th Dist.



Julie Sorensen
Shia. Co. Treasurer



Brian BeGole
Shiawassee Co. Sheriff



Mary Perrien
Ovid City Council



Eric Starn
Ovid City Council



Larry Ordiway
Ovid City Council



Second Military Display Ready for Viewing

by Deb Price

In observance of Veteran's Day this week, Gayla Ehlert and Mom, Bonnie Ehlert have produced a second window display next to the Post Office in downtown Ovid.

The ladies have gathered photos and information from area former military. Three beautifully lit displays feature servicemen and women's journey and experiences while serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

Take the time to visit the display and learn about our Veteran's experiences and memories. Thank you Gayla and Bonnie for turning an idea into such a beautiful display. A special Thank You to all Veterans and Active Service Members on Wednesday, November 11th.

(Continued page 12.)



Great Gobbler Giveaway

Great Gobbler Giveaway Coming November 15th. Merchants get out your turkeys pails. On Sunday, November 15th, the Meridian Weekly will publish the annual Great Gobbler Giveaway Entry Blanks. Entries will be accepted Monday, November 16th thru Nov. 22nd. Winners will be contacted on Monday, November 23rd.

Thanksgiving Dinners

by Deb Price

The Laingsburg and Ovid Lions Clubs will be hosting Free Thanksgiving Dinners on Thursday, November 26th. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic both events will be available as take-out only. The free dinners will be staged at the American Legion Post 248 in Laingsburg from 1pm-3pm, and at the Lions/VFW Hall in Ovid from 11am-1pm. See next week's Meridian Weekly for details as to how to place your order.

Social

Friends of Hospice to Sell Remembrance Ornaments

submitted by Lyn Freeman

Friends of Hospice are selling Memorial Snowflake Ornaments for the Friends of Hospice Tree. These ornaments are for purchase in remembrance of a loved one and will be displayed on the Friends of Hospice Christmas tree located in the Memorial Healthcare Chapel from December 1 – 20. After December 20th, ornaments may be picked up, by appointment, at Memorial Healthcare, 826 W. King Street, Owosso.

There are two types of ornaments, a Kurt Adler acrylic snowflake ornament for \$25, and two different hand cut birch wood gold painted snowflakes for \$50 each. Each ornament will have a tag with your loved one's name and the name of the donor on it. To order, please call the Memorial Healthcare Foundation at: (989) 729-4675, text ORNAMENT to 243-725 or go to www.bidpal.net/ornament.

The Hospice program provides bereavement follow up and supportive grief counseling to Hospice families for a period of 13 months following a loved one's death. Services include telephone calls, in-home visits, monthly support groups, etc.

At Memorial, Hospice care is provided through an interdisciplinary, medically directed team consisting of compassionate and caring Hospice nurses, home health aides, social workers, a spiritual advisor and Hospice volunteers. Charitable contributions raised through Friends of Hospice provide support services not reimbursed by insurances that improve the quality of care that Hospice provides.

For further information about Memorial Healthcare Foundation or Memorial's Hospice program call (989) 725-2299 or visit www.MemorialHealthcareFoundation.org.

Holiday Letters From Santa Fundraiser

submitted by Lyn Freeman

Wednesday, November 4 (2020) — Owosso, Michigan — The Memorial Healthcare Auxiliary is pleased to offer families the opportunity to have a personalized handwritten letter from Santa Claus mailed to your child or children for \$5 each.

To request a letter, please complete the form located at, (<https://www.memorialhealthcare.org/foundation/special-events/>). Please send the completed form and payment to the Memorial Healthcare Auxiliary, 826 W. King Street, Owosso, MI 48867. If you have questions or would like to pay by credit card, please call: (989) 729-4675 or email: MHCauxiliary@gmail.com. Requests must be postmarked by Saturday, December 5!

Ovid Public Library Info

Open Hours Are:

Monday: 10:00 – 7:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 5:00

Friday: 10:00 – 5:00

The Ovid Public Library is open to five (5) patrons at a time. Each patron is limited to one hour per day. Masks are required, social distancing will be practiced, hand germicidal is available as you enter. Items may be returned to the container on the floor as you enter. Please do not place materials on the desk. Curbside will still be available. There is a 30-minute time limit per day for using the computer. There are currently no in person programming or other activities. 989-834-5800

Elsie Baby Pantry Information

The Elsie Baby Pantry, located at 150 E. Main, is open the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Covid-19 precautions remain in place. This outreach serves Clinton County and its surrounding areas.

Baby items offered free of charge include: diapers, wipes, baby food, formula, bedding, and toiletries. In addition, clothing (maternity and children's clothing sizes premie through 1/12) is available. Feminine products are also provided free of charge. Items vary each month and are intended to supplement what you need, not to be your primary source for baby needs.

If you wish to donate new or clean slightly-used items that are listed above, they may be delivered during pantry hours. We cannot use adult clothing. Due to liability, this organization will not accept bassinets, swinging bassinets/cradles, bouncers, car seats, table-mounted toddler chairs, stuffed animals, or toys with small parts.

Questions should be directed to Lyla at 989-862-5846.

The Memorial Healthcare Foundation Hosts Show Your True Colors Fundraiser

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

Owosso — The Memorial Healthcare Foundation is hosting a support your "Awareness Campaign". Proudly display your True Colors by purchasing a 40 foot strand of indoor/outdoor changeable LED lights. Each strand can be set to display the awareness color of your choice. Display your lights, Saturday, November 7 – Saturday, November 21 and show your support for medical awareness. Take photos of your lights and post to your social media accounts using the hashtag: #MHFtruecolors.

Each strand can be purchased by texting "truecolor" to 243-725, by visiting www.bidpal.net/truecolors or by calling (989) 729-4675. Pick up your lights on Wednesday, November 4, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm or on Thursday, November 5, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Contact-free pick up is available outside of Memorial Healthcare's Auditorium. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Memorial Healthcare Foundation general grant program.

For additional information, please call the Foundation office at (989) 729-4626.

Elsie Library Adventures "Win A Turkey"

submitted by Ann Trierweiler

Through the month of November until December 12, 2020 all patrons of the Elsie Public Library who update their patron information, or any NEW PATRONS applying for a card, are eligible to sign-up to win a turkey.

There is one sign-up per person. The drawing will be held on December 14th

So, come to the Elsie Public Library and get your free chance to win a turkey... just in time for Christmas.

Please remember to check Facebook for special library virtual programs.

November Homeless Awareness Month

submitted by Becky Zemla

The State of Michigan has designated November as Homeless Awareness Month in Michigan. During this time, the shiawassee County Homeless Coalition makes a concerted effort to raise awareness about homelessness in this County. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic this year, homeless information pertinent to Shiawassee County will be shared with the public through the news media in November.

Please watch for upcoming articles that will be appearing in Shiawassee County newspapers on a weekly basis during the month of November. Thank you for your support and efforts in ending homelessness in Shiawassee County.

GED and Pathways Adult Education Workshop

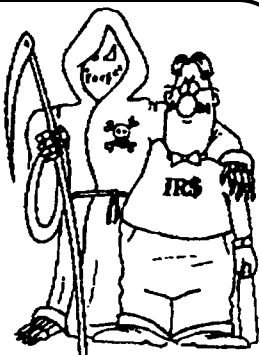
submitted by Karen Wagner

Without a high school diploma or GED, you are likely to be one of the one million Michigan residents that work but earn less than a living wage. Your family is likely to be among the twenty percent of Michigan's families with children that live in poverty. Pathways Adult Education can help you to become a better reader, to be more skilled in math, or complete your high school education. Begin by attending a free workshop that will tell you how to practice for the GED and about the Pathways Adult Education program. They will be held Tuesdays in November 10-11 am. Call today to register!

Baker College has COVID safety procedures in place. You must wear a mask in all Baker buildings. Your temperature will be checked and a colored band will be placed on your wrist.

If you have further questions, please contact Karen Wagner at Karen.wagner@baker.edu or 989-729-3620.

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WatkinsFuneralHomes.com

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Country Styles Hair Studio

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Owner/Stylist Meri Smith
Manicurist/Stylist Erica Nichols
Appointments Suggested

989-862-5848

109 S. Ovid St. Elsie

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Th. 9-5; Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-1;

Closed Tues. & Sun.

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Full line of Hair & Nail Care Products

Matrix, Paul Mitchell, Malibu, Redken, Biolage

Whirlpool Pedicure Spa

Tanning Facilities • Tanning Lotions • Gift Certificates Available.

Call for an appt.

Mon.-Sat. 834-2587





Ovid Christmas Baskets

submitted by Ovid Christmas Basket Program

The Ovid Christmas Basket Committee has no way of knowing what to plan for this coming Christmas season for our Ovid families. These are the things we know for sure. There will be a greater need this year. The committee will NOT be going to collect and give out food, clothing, personal products or household goods.

As a group they are NOT going to meet and put together baskets to give out nor have the usual coming together of families to shop and give out baskets.

The committee can use the mail to give families food certificates to Ovid Food Pride and other gift certificates. So money is needed to buy these food and gift certificates.

How can you give? Funds can be given to the Ovid Lions Club (marking the donation for Christmas). Donations can be left at Ovid Service Agency or sent to % Lions, Box 493, Ovid.

The group will still wrap and deliver Toys for Tots to families who fill out the applications which will be available in November in the schools and village and city halls.

Any questions, please call Carol Bashore, 989-834-2384.



Moolenaar Wins Reelection

submitted by Luke Derheim

Today, Congressman John Moolenaar was re-elected by the residents of Michigan's Fourth Congressional District.

"I want to thank the voters of mid and northern Michigan for trusting me once again to represent them in Washington. I am honored by their support and I will continue my bipartisan work to address the issues facing our nation. There's a lot of work to do and my priorities will be helping Michigan families, defeating the virus, safely re-opening the economy, supporting our farmers, and protecting the Great Lakes." Moolenaar said.

Michigan's Fourth Congressional District includes Clare, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Osceola, Roscommon, Shiawassee and Wexford counties, as well as parts of Montcalm and Saginaw counties.

Memorialize

Your Loved One



in The Weekly

Call
989-834-2264

Email
ads@meridianweekly.com

Obituaries

Loretta Lee Kellogg

Loretta Lee Kellogg, age 84, of Ovid, MI, passed away Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at Welcome Home Assisted Living-Owosso, MI.

Private Funeral Services will be held and burial will take place at Middlebury Township Cemetery, Ovid, MI. For those wishing to watch the funeral service, it will be live streamed on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. on Smith Family Funeral Homes Facebook Page.

Loretta was born in Nitro, West Virginia on January 15, 1936, the daughter of Hugh and Elizabeth Dean (Kilgore) Lunsford. Loretta married Kenneth Eugene Kellogg on April 18, 1953, in Nitro, WV; Kenneth passed away on October 30, 2009.

Loretta graduated from MSU and was an elementary school teacher in Ovid, retiring in 1988. She was a member of the Laingsburg United Methodist Church. Loretta enjoyed traveling, knitting, working in her yard, walking her dog and spending time with her family and friends. For the last year she also enjoyed her time with the loving staff and residents at Welcome Home Assisted Living in Owosso.

She is survived by her children: Pat (Lee) Hibbard of Ovid, MI, Greg (Jane) Kellogg of Hampstead, NC, Jeff (Cindy) Kellogg of Elsie, MI, Ken (Tamara) Kellogg II, of Houston, TX; grandchildren: Heather (Brent) Stinson, Holly Hibbard, Yvette (Jared) Reinart, Rita (David) Romick, Paula Kellogg, Jacob Hadley, Hezekiah and Grace Fowler, and Samantha, Rachel and Kaira Kellogg and great-grandchildren: Emily, Cole, George IV, Blake and Aaron, four great grandchildren: Evra, Eli, Delilah, and Dylan. She is also survived by sisters Mary Igo of Poca, WV, and Victoria Lunsford of Hurricane, WV, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, sister Martha Clendinen, and brother Clyde "Buddy" Lunsford.

Memorials may be made to Toys for Tots, Ovid Lions Club, or Kindred Hospice, Flint, MI. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI.



Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country, and this world.
--Sharon Salzberg

Notice of Drainage Board Meeting

For Determination of Practicability

#140 INTERCOUNTY DRAIN

(Gratiot, Saginaw and Shiawassee Counties)

DATE: November 23, 2020

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84756090596> Password: 660928

312-626-6799, Meeting ID: 847 5609 0596

The #140 Intercounty Drain Drainage Board will meet at the above date, time and location to consider the petition, dated January 22, 2020, for maintenance and improvement of an intercounty drain, located in Chapin Township in Saginaw County, Elba Township in Gratiot County, and Fairfield Township in Shiawassee County, pursuant to Chapter 8 of Public Act 40 of

1956, as amended, to determine the sufficiency of signatures on said petition, to go over the route of the intercounty drain, and to further determine whether the maintenance and improvement of the intercounty drain is practicable.

Proceedings conducted at this public meeting will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. The meeting is being held virtually in order to limit the spread of Covid-19.

Public comment will be received at the meeting from anyone owning lands liable to an assessment, or whose lands will be crossed by the drain, or any municipality affected. Written comments may be submitted prior to the meeting, or additional information may be obtained from the following offices:

Bernard J. Barnes
Gratiot County
Drain Commissioner
904 E. Center St.
Ithaca, Michigan 48847
989-875-5207

Brian J. Wendling
Saginaw County Public
Works Commissioner
111 S. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, Michigan 48602
989-790-5258

Anthony Newman
Shiawassee County
Drain Commissioner
149 Corunna Ave.
Corunna, Michigan 48817
989-743-2398

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner of their County at the number listed above or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Dated: October 29, 2020

Brady Harrington, Deputy

For Gary McDowell, Director

Michigan Department of Agriculture
and Rural Development

IN LOVING MEMORY

OF

ROBERT L. WILBER
2/06/1947 - 11/07/2015



*It will be five years on
Nov. 7th that we lost you.
We think of you always.
We have our memories but
we wish we still had you.
We Love and Miss You
Loving Wife Gloria
and Family*

Healthcare Provider

Starting at \$10.75 per hour

In Assisted Living Facility in Elsie.
Experience with health care and/or caring
for the elderly highly recommended.
Call Karen at: 517-281-2729

In Memory Of Dale Mulder

July 15, 1949 - November 11, 2015



Sadly missed along
life's way
Quietly remembered
everyday.
No longer in our life
to share,
But in our hearts,
you're always there.
Love, Your Family

Ovid Boy Scout Troop 585/114 Pasty Sale

Saturday, Nov. 14th

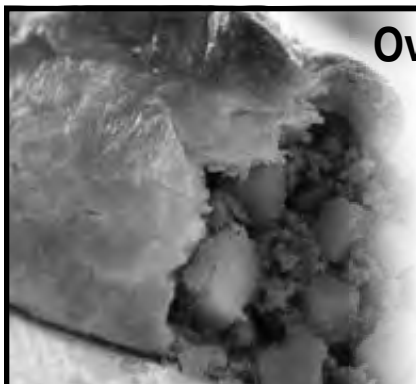
3 - 5 pm

Lions/VFW Hall

Beef Pasties \$5⁰⁰ ea.

Cherry & Apple Pasties \$4⁰⁰ ea.

First Come...First Serve



Editorial



Religious Thoughts

by Chris Hearn
www.letsmeetgod.com

Both the Old and New Testaments have something to say about Christians living in unity.

The main theme of Psalm 133, for example, is the unity of believers. The first verse reads-

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

In the New Testament, Paul writes the following to the church in Corinth-

"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, 'I follow Paul'; another, 'I follow Apollos'; another, 'I follow Cephas [Peter]'; still another, 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?" 1 Corinthians 1:10-13

Today believers are being challenged in new ways to be unified while disagreeing on a number of topics. There are the same theological disagreements, but now added on to these are political differences and differences in regards to how to respond to the Coronavirus. Passions can run pretty strong on these issues, as we've seen in the past few months.

I admit, it's an area that I struggle with as well.

One way to look at it is to see what brings us together. And that is only one thing- Jesus Christ. Without God offering salvation to people and creating His Church, we would have nothing substantial to be unified under. We would only have our various doctrines and beliefs, but no unifying center. No Cornerstone, which is Christ the Lord.

Focusing on Christ compels us to set our disagreements aside and work together for the building of God's Kingdom. We must stay unified for we know that the devil would love to sew factions and divisions in God's local churches. If we do this, then we are serving Satan and not the Lord.

There have been and will be disagreements in the Church, and that can be a good thing. Disagreements mean that people are sharing different ideas, which give us an opportunity to learn from each other. The key is for us to agree to disagree in love and not to split over issues that are not central to Christianity or the Gospel.

COVID-19 Cases On The Rise

submitted by Leslie Kinnear

Cases of COVID-19 have increased dramatically over the past month in Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties. As of Wednesday, November 4, the Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) has reported 2,653 total confirmed cases of COVID-19 since March 2020. Daily new case rates in October were more than double those recorded in September and five times greater than in August.

Like most other health departments in Michigan, MMDHDs staffing resources are strained because of the increase in cases, and a high number of COVID-19 positive cases have numerous close contacts, making contact tracing efforts difficult and time consuming.

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, it may take several days before you receive a call from MMDHD. In the meantime, please:

- Isolate at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms. If you have no symptoms, isolate for 10 days from the date of your positive test.

- Notify your close contacts. Someone with COVID-19 can spread the virus beginning 48 hours (two days) before symptoms start or 48 hours (two days) before testing positive.

Testing locations can be found at www.michigan.gov/coronavirustest or by calling 211.

CACS Thank You to the Community

Letter to the Editor:

Since the advent of Covid-19 into this world, "normal" has just been staying safe and trying to "Figure out how to deliver services to the low-income population in Shiawassee County". It has been a challenge, but progress has been made. COVID-19 has brought organizations, non-profits, for profit businesses, and private citizens together to keep basic needs coming into the this County. It has been amazing to watch all of these different people "come together" to problem solve.

There are so many people and organizations who stepped up and assisted Capital Area Community Services, Inc. in Shiawassee County in so many ways that I don't know where to start. The beginning, I guess.

To start, our Emergency Management Team and Health Department who assisted in so many ways; when we couldn't get food transported here from Lansing, someone from our emergency management office who's brother happens to own his own semi and trailer volunteered to get Lansing and pick the food up. Thank YOU Whitney Ryan, Transport, LLC, of Owosso. A Big Thank YOU to the Shiawassee County Road Commission for uploading all of those pallets of food!

Another month the same thing happened. Sheriff BeGole happened to be here when we found out the food could not be delivered. He made a phone call to Transfleet, owned by Jan Knapp who just happened to have a driver and truck/trailer available, George Parks and little Mia. The food was delivered here within 3 hours. Thank you Jan, George and Mia! Additionally, THANK YOU to Brian BeGole for making that "oh so important phone call" and then loaning us a skidster from the Sheriff's Department to upload that truck. And a big Thanks to Marty Ball, owner of M & M Lawn and Landscaping, LLC who uploaded the truck.

Thank you to Shiawassee County Respite Volunteers and capital Area, Disability Network for their efforts to deliver to seniors across the county who needed food, but could not leave their homes to pick it up.

We had volunteers from many organizations, Shiawassee County Emergency Management, Shiawassee County Health Department, Shiawassee Health and Wellness, the courts, the Youth Center, private citizens, Dan McMaster, County Commissioner, Shiawassee County Road Commission, Sheriff's Department, United Way of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties and I know some were missed. THANK YOU! We could not have given out all of the food without your assistance doing it.

While COVID-19 is still with us, the processes are in place and working. It was due to EVERYONE'S efforts! From the bottom of our hearts at Capital Area Community Services, Thank You All! We couldn't have done it without ALL of you! And isn't it great how this COMMUNITY comes together in a crisis.

Brenda, Karen and Becky
Capital Area Community Services, Inc.



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

I have come to the conclusion that I have greater problems with becoming dehydrated in the cold months. After spending Saturday morning at the Farmer's Market with temperatures hovering around thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit. I was exhausted when I finally made the trek home. I reached the enclosed warmth at 1:50PM and was burrowed into my bed by 2PM...I slept until 4:40 when the phone rang. Then back out into the fresh aggressive air from 5PM until 6PM, when the kids visited the church for Halloween fare. Lots of great costumes and more sweets than needed for the twenty-four young'uns and the fifty some parents that were doing the transporting.

I was in bed at 8:30PM and woke up at midnight with a vicious Charlie horse on the top of my left foot. William zipped downstairs to get me a quart of water after applying Tei-Fu oil to my foot. Yes, it did stop the Charlie horse, but I needed the water to replenish my dehydrated self. I drank a quart of water at midnight, another at 3:30 AM and finally a pint at 7AM. It took me awhile to comprehend that I was apparently in "freeze dry mode".....must be that I'm more prone to recognizing the summer sweating method....but not the winter method. I finally got up at 9AM which means that between the 'fall back' and exhaustion that I slept for over thirteen hours....after sleeping two hours and forty minutes in the afternoon. Weird!!!

I worked on Monday and finally had the Parable ready to mail out on Tuesday morning after I went to the polls to vote. Got there at 8 AM and was the fifty-second one to vote....and still had to wait outside a few minutes until there was room to vote. It was in a small town and had a good turnout for so early in the day.....looking forward to having definitive results and I did enjoy visiting with my neighbors that chose the same time to vote. Tomorrow morning I hope to see what I want to see as results from legitimate voters.....I also plan on taking my youngest granddaughter out for breakfast.....it will be a good day.

The not so Tiny Terror invaded the bathroom facility early this morning. The ever curious Paws tried being a welcome host.....immediately he was beneath TT's paw of control. Tiger tried to alleviate the distress level and ended up running for cover. After TT let Paws escape and hide behind the hamper out swaggered Rambo who seemed to be viewing TT with admiration. So of course the Tiny Terror started a rough and tumble with her. Rambo didn't seem to mind and just sauntered off when she had had enough of the rough stuff. Rambo doesn't like us humans and barely tolerates our touching her gently but seems to enjoy the workout that TT gave her this morning. Personally I believe that that little critter is a bit daft, but then what do I know?

While out and about this morning with Noah, I found another air pump to carry around in the truck. I actually bout two, one for my son-in-law, and one for me; I needed to replace his because it quit working while I had custody of the mini-machine. Now I can get the mower's tire pumped up and finish cutting down the weed bed that was once my vegetable garden. Noah and I also made a stop at our favorite thrift store in St Johns. She was thrilled because of the selection of Christmas ornaments, now she can decorate her apartment this Yuletide season. Of course I added a few red and silver tree ornaments and a limited number of light bulbs to help the glow grow.

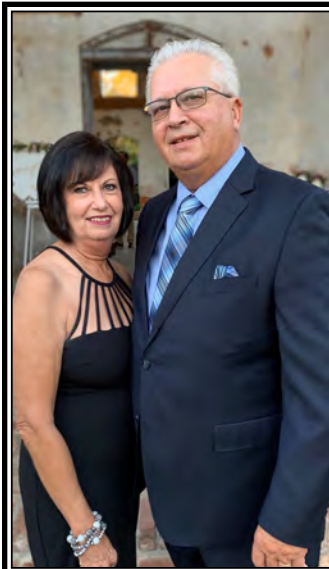
It has been an eventful week, and I hope that many are praying for the polls to reflect what is truly best for our great country. May God bless us all.

Crystal Mitchell©2020



Laingsburg Lions Club

The Laingsburg Lions Club are hosting a Beef Raffle. Proceeds from this fund raiser will go towards new playground equipment at Scout Bates Park. First Prize thru 4th prize is 1/4 of Angus Beef, 5th place is \$200. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00 and are available at Leonard Hardware, Sage Market or from any Lion member and at the Weekly office in downtown Ovid. Tickets can also be purchased directly thru the Laingsburg Lions Pay Pal account. The drawing will be held on Thanksgiving Day at the Lions Annual Thanksgiving Dinner (take-out only this year) between 3:30pm and 4:00pm.



Happy 50th Anniversary Mom and Dad!

Richard & Raelene Easlick
November 7, 1970

We love you!

Victor, Nichole,
Dominic and Ava

Brent, Jodie, and Evan

Jeff, Mandy, Clayton
and Claire

Senior Center Holds Craft & Garage Sale

On Fri & Sat, Nov 13 & 14 the Clinton County Senior Center, located at 201 E Walker Street in St. Johns will be holding a Craft, Garage & Bake Sale from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm each day. They will have lots of quilts, table runners, pillows, face masks, pet blankets and other home made items and many great sale items like decorations, books, nic nacs and much more. For collectors they will have dozens of cook books. There will also be a homemade Bake Sale with all proceeds going to the Senior Center. The Senior Center requires that everyone entering wear a face mask and disposable gloves will also be available.

“Be Kind to Your Mind”

submitted by Bob Wheaton

LANSING – Mental health experts at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) are launching a statewide media campaign this week urging residents to seek relief from COVID-19-related emotional distress by talking to a trained crisis counselor and learning about other help available.

The “Be Kind to Your Mind” campaign promotes the use of Michigan’s free, confidential Stay Well counseling line, and aims to combat stigma associated with seeking help for feelings of depression, anxiety, anger or loss – all common during a disaster like COVID-19.

“Many of us are having a hard time right now,” said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon. “There should be zero shame and zero stigma – just honesty that can help each of us find our own inner strength. ‘Be Kind to Your Mind’ says you can talk about the strain from COVID with trained counselors who are available for free if you call 888-535-6136 and press 8, or visit Michigan.gov/StayWell.”

“Stay Well counselors help people understand their feelings and reactions during a disaster like the COVID-19 pandemic,” said psychiatrist Dr. Debra Pinals, MDHHS’ medical director for behavioral health. “While they are not licensed mental health professionals, they have undergone training provided by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration on how to help people mentally rebound from disasters.”

Pinals said the Stay Well counselors are taught to listen, not judge, and help callers develop coping strategies, review their options and connect with agencies that may help them.

“COVID-19 has impacted most everyone’s mental health in one way or another, and we are here to help.”

To access other mental health resources for coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, visit Michigan.gov/StayWell.

Art Has No Barriers

submitted by Michelle Carlson

Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center in collaboration with All Faith Ministry for disABILITIES and Mid-Michigan Autism Association have restarted the Gallery’s Art Has No Barriers program. Due to the ongoing pandemic we are not able to offer in person sessions and people are looking for ways to engage and be creative. With this new iteration of the program we will be offering monthly Art Ability Bags. Each Art Ability Bag will contain all the needed supplies for one person to complete a simple art project from the safety of their home. November’s theme is “Give Thanks”. The Art Ability Bags are free to pre-registered participants, supplies are limited. To learn more about Art Has No Barriers Art Ability Bags and to register please visit: <https://lansingartgallery.org/community-collaborations/>

Art Has No Barriers is an art-based learning experience that engages people of all abilities to be imaginative, creative and confident, while focusing on visual arts education and appreciation. This program was developed, in partnership with a professional educator, Catherine Tanning-Popowich, after recognizing that there was a lack of arts education opportunities available for individuals with disabilities living in Mid-Michigan. For individuals with disabilities, there can be barriers to communication and understanding within their community. The process of creating art can literally give a voice to people who cannot communicate their thoughts and emotions in other ways, allowing them to narrate their life journey in their own way. The program furthers the Lansing Art Gallery’s mission in promoting accessibility to ALL people, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age and ability.

Art Ability Bags will be available once a month for curbside/contactless pick-up from the Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center. Registration is required, supplies are limited.



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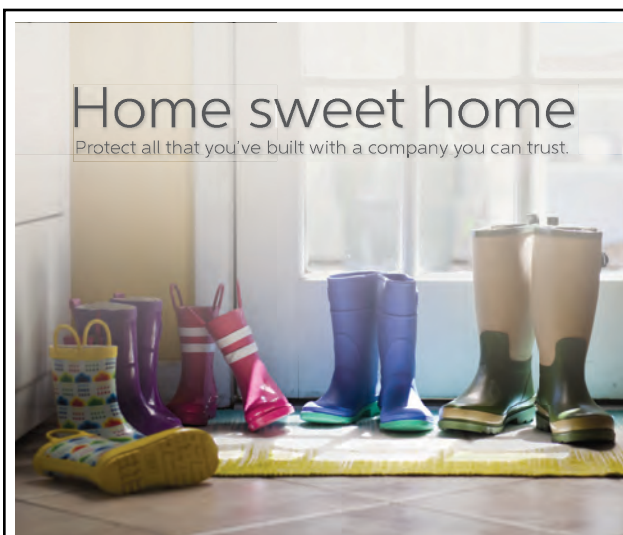
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Holiday Gifts to Spark Home Improvement Ideas

People have spent more time at home in 2020 than they likely have in years past. This has provided homeowners with plenty of time to ponder potential upgrades to their homes. After taking inventory of their lifestyles, surroundings and furnishings, people have embarked on construction projects or home interior design renovations in record numbers.

Holiday gifts that cater to projects around the house are likely to be highly valued this holiday season. Here are some ideas for home improvement-related gifts.

- Home improvement retailer gift card: Home improvement centers are one-stop shopping for do-it-yourselfers. To help offset the cost of supplies, gift-givers can give a gift card to a neighborhood hardware store.
- Magazine subscription: There are plenty of ideas on the internet, but a subscription to a home remodeling or interior design magazine puts inspiration right in homeowners' hands. Pages can be marked or cut out and used on idea boards.
- Tools and supplies: Homeowners just starting out may benefit from the basics. Stores often sell starter tool kits that can be used in home improvement-themed baskets. Experienced DIYers may have a special tool in mind that is outside their budget right now, like a chop saw or cordless power drill. Purchasing one of these items can help projects move along more smoothly.
- Expert consultation: Who can't use a little help with their home remodeling efforts? Give the gift of a consultation from an interior designer or professional contractor to help complete plans that may be a little out of reach for the average DIYer.
- Big-ticket item: Some friends and family members may want to pool their resources and offer loved ones an over-the-top gift. This can include a backyard playset for children, a storage shed, a pool installation, or even a new appliance package. Gift ideas are endless and only limited by budget.
- Room re-do: All it may take is some new linens or accents to transform a room. From throw pillows to curtains to wall art, give the gift of an easy room makeover.

Riding the momentum of increased home improvement projects from the past several months, holiday shoppers can choose home-related gift ideas to keep the projects and ideas flowing.

Steps for Hanging Holiday Lights Outdoors

It begins to look a lot like Christmas when twinkling lights brighten up homes inside and out. Few things liven up the season more than holiday decorations, particularly clear and colored lights. It's important to note that there are right and wrong ways to hang holiday lights:

- Measure the area. Use a measuring tape to roughly measure the width and height of eaves or other areas of the home where you plan to hang light strands. Calculate how much overall footage you will need so you can purchase all of the lights in one shopping trip.
- Test the lights first. Plug in the lights to be sure all strands are operational.
- Begin where the lights will be plugged in. Start where the lights will be plugged in and then work your way around the house.
- Add to shrubs and trees. Lights also can adorn shrubs and trees. Lowes Home Improvement says a good rule of thumb is 100 lights for every 1 1/2-feet of tree or shrub to cover. A 6-foot evergreen needs at least 400 lights for a basic level of lighting.
- Exercise extreme caution. Accidents can happen when stringing lights. While many professionals use harnesses, homeowners are not always so cautious. Utilize a spotter to hold the ladder and make sure things are safe. Never set foot on a wet or icy roof. Do not attempt to string lights in inclement weather.
- Know the wattage. Each outlet can generally hold about 17 amps or 1,870 watts if the lights are not sharing a circuit with another outlet, says Parrish. Plan accordingly to ensure you have enough power to handle your lights.
- Use plastic clips. Plastic light clips hang strands along eaves and gables. They're specially designed for hanging lights over the gutters. Some slip under the edges of roof shingles. Lights can be hung without staples or nails, which can damage exterior surfaces. Plastic zip-ties or deck clips also can attach lights along a handrail.
- Use only outdoor extension cords. Be sure the extension cords you use are designed specifically for outdoor use.
- Use a timer. Timers can make sure the lights turn on and off even if homeowners forget.

Once lights have been safely strung, sit back and enjoy the splendor of a well-decorated house.



The Secrets to Cold Weather Entertaining

Upon the arrival of cold weather, people tend to move indoors and limit their time spent in the elements. For those who live in places where there are restrictions placed on indoor entertaining and gatherings, it may be challenging to find ways to spend time safely together as temperatures drop.

The COVID-19 virus as well as other respiratory viruses are spread from person to person through respiratory droplets released into the air while coughing, talking or sneezing, states the Mayo Clinic. A person is more likely to inhale these droplets from an infected person while indoors, especially when they're in close contact with that person. When outdoors, there is a lower risk of contraction.

The following are some solutions that can help people stay warm and have fun outside.

Invest in fire pits

Fire pits are an affordable way to heat a patio or another outdoor area. They can be great places for friends and family to gather around and enjoy special occasions. They're readily available from garden centers and home improvement retailers at a variety of price points.

Permanent fire pits can be built by a homeowner or professionally built by masonry experts.

Install an outdoor fireplace

A step up from a fire pit, outdoor fireplaces not only add warmth, but also improve the ambiance and value of an outdoor entertaining area. Set up outdoor furniture right next to an outdoor fireplace and you have a cozy alternative living room where everyone can gather.

Explore outdoor heating systems

Few things are more effective at warming up outdoor entertaining areas than patio heaters and infrared heaters. These devices are far more effective than average fire pits or fireplaces. One or two heaters will be enough to keep a large entertaining area warm.

Keep cozy options available

Guests should dress warmly, but having a basket of throw blankets, scarves and parkas available for extra warmth while mingling is helpful. Use outdoor rugs to insulate from the cold from the ground up.

Serve hearty foods and beverages

Stews, chilis, soups, and other hot foods can help guests warm themselves up from the inside out. Warmed cider, hot chocolate and mulled wines also can be served to help people stay warm.

Get moving

Incorporate activities that encourage guests to move around and stay warm. Beanbag tosses, dancing and even sports like flag football can keep guests' blood flowing.



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MDARD Announces Grant Opportunties for Counties and Townships

submitted by Jessy Sielski

LANSING—The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and the Agricultural Preservation Fund Board (APFB) have announced a grant opportunity for 24 of Michigan’s counties and townships with qualified farmland preservation programs. Funds may be used by the local unit of government to purchase development rights from landowners who agree to place their farmland into a permanent conservation easement. All grant applications require a 25 percent fund match minimum. The maximum amount paid from the Agricultural Preservation Fund toward the purchase price of the farmland development rights is \$7,500 per acre.

Applications from qualified farmland preservation programs must be submitted via email to MDARD-PDR@michigan.gov by 4:00 p.m. (EST), Monday, December 28, 2020. If you do not receive a confirmation reply email within three days of submission, please call 517-284-5663 to confirm receipt. Grant awards will be announced by March 2021.

To qualify for an Agricultural Preservation Fund grant, a county or township must have zoning authority and be covered under a master plan that includes farmland preservation. Counties and townships interested in becoming qualified for future Agricultural Preservation Fund Board grants should contact Elizabeth Brost at 517-243-7949.

Qualified county and township programs interested in applying should visit Michigan.gov/farmland to view the application, eligibility criteria, and the scoring system.

The APFB is a seven-member, governor-appointed board that oversees the fund and was established to develop grant selection criteria and award grants to local units of government for the purchase of development rights on farmland.

MDARD Announces Block Grant

LANSING—The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development today announced a public input opportunity for the Michigan Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The deadline for comments is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020.

The MDARD Specialty Crop Block Grant Program awards funds to projects to enhance the competitiveness of Michigan specialty crops. Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

Last year, funding priorities were focused on the following:

- Market enhancement to promote specialty crops
- Market expansion, availability, and access to specialty crops
- Farm to institution
- Research and development relevant to specialty crops
- Plant health and pest management
- Farm sustainability
- Training and education addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers
- Enhancing food safety
- Environmental sustainability

Comments regarding the 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant priorities must be emailed to mda-grants@michigan.gov by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020. Comments received will be considered when developing final program priorities for 2021. The 2021 grant round will be announced in January 2021.

For more information about Michigan’s Specialty Crop Block Grants, visit www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants.

Essential Services Provided to Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence Through COVID-19

submitted by Emily Marrah

SafeCenter Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Clinton and Shiawassee Counties has been in full operation since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. As individuals (adults and children) have been isolated and quarantined with their abuser(s), the number of those experiencing domestic violence by an intimate partner has increased since March 2020.

SafeCenter is an “essential service” that has managed to maintain all services and programming, including but not limited to emergency shelter, 24/7 crisis intervention and emergency response, advocacy and counseling, legal advocacy, safety planning, basic needs, information and referral. Following CDC guidelines, SafeCenter has been operating the Shelter at 50% capacity, but had community support dollars to assist with moteling survivors who screened in as “high danger” when Shelter was full.

While SafeCenter has had our doors open and services available, however, the number of donations from our community members has dramatically decreased during the pandemic. Because of the continued uncertainties with COVID-19 and an increased number of survivors needing help during this challenging time, SafeCenter needs our community’s support more than ever!

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and now is the perfect time to partner with SafeCenter to further their mission in both counties! SafeCenter’s fundraising goal for this year is to raise \$60,000 that will assist with the sustainability of programs and services, beyond what our current grant dollars can fund. The United Way of Genesee County Serving Shiawassee County has graciously provided SafeCenter with the first \$500 donation toward this goal. SafeCenter is looking for community members who will match this donation and help us reach \$60,000.

Will you join us in ending domestic violence and sexual assault in Clinton and Shiawassee Counties? Thank you, in advance, for your support and contribution!

Sports

Almont Ends Marauder Football Season with 28-0 Playoff Shutout



Colin Fluharty



Logan Thompson

ALMONT — For a football season that was never supposed to happen, chalk 2020 up in the "win" column for Ovid-Elsie.

Coach Travis Long's youthful Marauders finished 3-4, and grew through experience that most teams never get -- including a post-season matchup due to uniqueness of this crazy, Covid-19 pandemic-influenced campaign.

After all, when's the last time you saw a 3-3 team in the MHSAA playoffs?

This year, for the first time, all Michigan HS teams qualified for the post-season, and the Almont Raiders made the

most of their first game in the MHSAA's Division 5 post-season, shutting out O-E by a 28-0 count. Both teams entered the contest at 3-3; the Raiders had previously scored victories over the likes of Algonac, Richmond and Clio.



Eddy Evans #8, had 12 carries for 55 yards against Almont.

Mason Smith. The PAT kick failed. Lulgjuraj followed that at 2:51 of the 1st with a 16 yard scamper, and Almont converted the 2-point run by Blake Bunch to go up 14-0.

The Raiders put the finishing touches on the playoff win with a Brock Conger-to-Charlie Koenig 14 TD pass, and a TD run by Measel in the third quarter. PK Brandon Hunsaker was true on his PAT kicks after the final two Almont touchdowns.

Ovid-Elsie -- with several sophomores getting their first taste of playoff action -- was held to 144 yards of total offense. Eddy Evans ran for 55 yards on 12 carries for the Marauders, while Dylan Carman completed 4 of 12 passes for 61 yards and an interception. Alex Eichenberg caught two passes for 47 yards. Cal Brynes returned two kicks for a solid 27 yard average.

On defense, Logan Thompson recorded seven tackles and Colin Fluharty had a sack. Cal Brynes was credited with 6 stops, Max Spiess 5, Fluharty 4, Jackson Thornton 6, Jacob Schaub 4, Landon Stoneman 4, Clay Wittenberg 4, Evans 3, Alex Eichenberg one, Jacob Tomasek one, Kevin Ley one, Tyler Bancroft one, Rudy Morales one and Dylan Taylor one tackle.

Final conclusion? The football future looks bright in Marauder Land.

Laingsburg advances in MHSAA volleyball district

BATH — Laingsburg downed Pottsville in four sets November 2 to open the Division 3 district volleyball tournament at Bath.

The Wolfpack advanced to the November 4 semifinals against Perry.

In the other quarterfinal action, Dansville beat Byron in four sets, 25-16, 12-25, 25-22, 25-16. Byron's season ended with a 16-7-2 record.

Dansville played Bath on November 4.

Ashley Football Ends Season with a Tough Playoff Loss

The Bears started their game against Peck with eight players because of some ineligibilities. The game began with Peck taking a kickoff for a touchdown on the first play of the game. They then recovered and onside kick, it a receiver for a long pass that resulted in a touchdown and just like that the Bears were down 14-0 with only 30 seconds off the clock.

Jimmy Fabus went out of the game with a kneed injury with about four minutes to play in the half. The coaches decided that they did not want to put anyone else at risk and continue the game with seven players, even though the team wanted to push on. The game was ended at half-time with a score 30-0 Peck.

"All in all, very proud of these young men. It was a tough year for everyone and with low numbers again this year they were able to scrap out a 500 season and make it to the playoffs for the first time in 10 years. Not the ending we were hoping for, but some memories made that will last a lifetime" exclaimed Coach Saylor.

Fabus lead the way offensively for the Bears with 14 carries for 41 yards. Logan Drummond had 3 carries for 3 yards and Dillon Beebe had one reception for 10 yards. The Ashley defense was led by Aaron Drummond with 11 tackles and 2 assists, Logan Drummond had 8 solo tackles and 1 assist while Fabus added 3 solo tackles.



Logan Drummond



Jimmy Fabus



Aaron Drummond

Wolfpack volleyballers earn shot at District title

BATH — Laingsburg's volleyball team downed Perry in three sets on November 4.

The Wolfpack earned the right to face Bath at BHS in the Division 3 district 84 championship match at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Bath swept Dansville in three sets, also on November 4.



Alex Eichenberg #7 caught two passes for 47 yards on the night. Cal Brynes #2 clears the way for Alex, he also returned two kicks for 27 yards.

Photos by Jody Thornton

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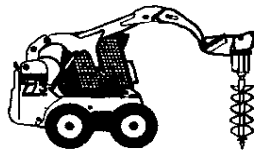
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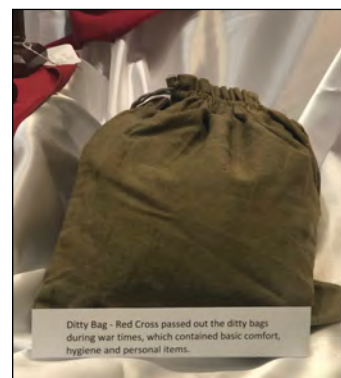
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