



## The Lights and Sounds of the Christmas Season

*by Deb Price*

The Laingsburg Community & Business Association sponsored a business and home decorating contest held during the annual Winterfest last week. On the evening of Thursday, December 3rd, I drove around that community and took a few photos of the decorated homes. Listed here are the homes who entered the contest:

4119 Leland Road, 7160 Terrell Road, 303 E. Grand River, 403 Haley Court, 513 E. Grand River, 606 Doyle Road, 7955 Walters Drive, 119 Church Street, 113 W. 1st North Street, 607 Hayley Court and 7725 Laingsburg Road. Load up the kids and visit these beautifully decorated homes. The winning entry was chosen on Saturday, December 5th. See next week's edition of the Meridian Weekly for results.

In the Ovid-Elsie community a house decorating contest is also underway. The deadline to enter is December 18th at 4 pm according to organizer Chelsey Goodrich. Voting will be held online from December 19th-December 26th. To enter the contest log onto <https://www.sjlightfest.com/Ovid-Elsie.html>. On that sight you will find all the instructions for entry. One winner from Elsie and one from Ovid will receive a basket full of gifts and other cool things.

As part of the contest, organizers are collecting items for the Elsie Food & Baby Pantry. The baby pantry is in great need of diaper sizes 4-6, baby shampoo, wash and lotion, diaper rash ointment, snippy cups, girl & boy clothing sizes 4T-6x and winter boots. Monetary gifts also will help to pay the bills and buy emergency needed items. To donate, checks can be made out to the Elsie United Church, please memo line note, Elsie Baby Pantry. For more information please email Chelsey Goodrich at [chelseylouhoo@gmail.com](mailto:chelseylouhoo@gmail.com)

In Ovid, you will want to make sure you visit the Troy Zell home located at 8295 W. Simpson Road (top photo). The lights and sounds are truly amazing. I also heard there is another fantastic light show display at the Purcell home located at 6768 Highland Drive at Lake Victoria in Laingsburg.

*See page 7 for more photos of the homes I visited on the evening of December 3rd.*

## A Perfect Time For a Christmas Pep Talk...

*submitted by Emily Klingbeil*

I have a feeling that sometime this Christmas season.. I'm going to need this pep talk. So I figured I'd write it now... when I'm relaxed, in my jammies, and enjoying a warm cup of tea. Please feel free to use this yourself or pass it along to a friend in need of a little encouragement over these next few weeks..

If I'm really honest with myself (and as Papa Charlie says.. We should always be honest.) there is a dangerous train of thought lurking just below the surface, threatening to take over at any moment. It would be really easy to jump on the boo hoo bandwagon and write off this holiday season as a loss before it even gets under way. I can hear the rant now.. It's not the same, we aren't going home for Christmas. But we always go to grandmas. What about the office Christmas party? Heck.. Can Santa even come?? .. I mean talk about a super spreader!?!

For me, Christmas usually means going home to Michigan. My family loves Christmas and they are really serious about celebrating! I usually don't even bother to decorate my own house much because Mom will have hers decked out and then some. She puts up two huge real Christmas trees, has garland and lights everywhere, and every surface is covered with Christmas snowman figurines and decorations. It's magical! My mom, sister and I spend Christmas Eve in the kitchen together preparing a long list of favorite appetizers and then enjoy card games and fun with extended family and friends. My sister even still writes a note to Santa and leaves out a tray of cookies and milk. (By the way.. Santa still writes back!) Now that the little boys are getting older, the added excitement and anticipation of Christmas morning is getting more fun every year.

I'm still hopeful that some form of this can happen this year. Maybe a little downsized, but still all the cozy warmth of being home for Christmas. However it's hard not to acknowledge the looming cloud. One phone call, one close contact, one positive test and the whole glorious food laden, Christmas tree lit dream could shatter like an ornament hitting the floor. Christmas is com-

ing... but I can't hold on too tightly to the Christmas traditions of the past or the "what we always do", otherwise I'm headed for certain disappointment. And worse yet... I'll miss out on an opportunity to make new magic, new memories and new traditions with my sweet tribe of littles.

Okay.. Here comes the pep talk.

So what... So what if we can't do, can't go, can't party, can't, can't, can't.. Are you really going to spend the next 6 weeks lamenting and whining about all the things you can't do? Are you going to go through this entire Christmas season with a furrowed brow or pouty face, stressed out and bitter

*continued on page 9*

## Meridian Weekly

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## Social



### Elsie Lions Club

*submitted by Richard Easlick*

Elsie Lions Member Bob Boyd (left) presenting a \$300 check to Pastor Roger Numerich from the First Baptist Church of Elsie and Lion Robin Wooley presenting a \$300 check to Lisa Brown from the Elsie United Methodist Church. The Elsie Lions Club donated \$300 to The First Baptist Church of Elsie and \$300 to The Elsie United Methodist Church to go Towards the Elsie Community Christmas Project. Both Elsie Churches matched the \$300 for a grand total of \$1,200 to go to the Elsie Community Christmas Project.



### Kylie Hollis Joins Chamber Staff

*submitted by Sue Kadlek*

Kylie Hollis of St Johns has joined the staff of the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce as the full-time Member Engagement Specialist. Her primary focus will be membership engagement, event planning, social media and new member recruitment. Kylie brings a diverse skill-set to the chamber including customer service, event planning, marketing, communications, critical thinking, problem solving, and networking. Kylie holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration - Marketing from Davenport University.

"We are excited to add an emerging leader to our staff. Kylie has a passion for interacting with people and cultivating genuine and purposeful connections. She truly wishes to see our member businesses and our region thrive," said Chamber President/CEO Greg Klapko. "She will be a tremendous resource for our Chamber members," said Klapko.

Businesses that would like to learn more about chamber benefits and marketing can contact Kylie at 989-723-5149 or khollis@shiawasseechamber.org.



### Shiawassee County Gearing up for SAT Testing

*submitted by Renee Dotson*

Gifted and Talented students from across Shiawassee County are getting geared up to take the SAT test in their effort to become a Shiawassee Scholar. Shiawassee Scholars is a partnership between the Cook Family Foundation and the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District and is over 20 years old. All students that were scheduled to test at the Owosso Middle School on December 5, 2020 have received an email postponing their registration and payment to the March 13, 2021 test.

If you have not registered yet and would like to register your 8th grader, please find all the details at <https://www.sresd.org/District/Department/22-Shiawassee-Scholars/Portal/sat-information> and register between January 1-February 11, 2021.

If you have further questions, email [Dotson@sresd.org](mailto:Dotson@sresd.org) or 989-743-3471.

### "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

Please remember to check Facebook for special library virtual programs.

### Ovid Historical Society

*submitted by Roger Matthies*

Christmas at the Museum will take place at the Mary Myers Museum on Sunday, December 13TH starting at 2pm. There will be music and holiday refreshments. Please join us. The museum is located at 131 East Williams Street in Ovid.



## Ovid Carriage Days Drive-Through Christmas

# Wave to Santa

**Saturday, December 12, 2020**  
**at 3:00pm - 5:00pm**

**Must Remain in your Car!**

*Gift for 12 years and younger*  
**Bring a letter to give to Santa**

Children must be present to receive a gift

In front of City Hall off of Main Street. Cars will exit towards the East of Town



## Local Blood Drives Announced for December

The American Red Cross and country music star Martina McBride have joined together this holiday season to remind people to take care of one another, sharing comfort and joy with hospital patients through the gift of blood donation.

As the U.S. experiences a new surge in COVID-19 cases, the Red Cross is becoming increasingly concerned about the nation's blood supply — including convalescent plasma. A convalescent plasma donation collects plasma from COVID-19 survivors because antibodies to the disease in their blood may help patients who are currently fighting the virus.

As a thank-you for helping meet the need for blood donations now through Dec. 15, Suburban Propane is offering blood, platelet and plasma donors a chance to win an Outdoor Living Experience, powered by Propane, to enable a lucky winner to enjoy socially distanced celebrations with family and friends this holiday season. The prize includes a propane-powered pizza oven, fire pit, outdoor heater and stipend toward propane.

Eligible individuals are urged to make an appointment to donate blood now to help patients in need. Find a donation opportunity using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or calling (800) 733-2767.

Local blood drives include:

-- From noon to 5:45 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Owosso VFW, 519 S. Chipman St.

-- From 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Dec. 9 at Perry High School, 2555 W. Britton Road.

## Letters to Santa

A Letters to Santa promotion has begun in Ovid. Kids can pick up their letter form at the Ovid Public Library. Once you have filled out your letter, return it to the library and they will scan it and forward to Santa at the North Pole. The letters will then be placed on display in the windows next to the Ovid Post Office thru the month of December. Gayla and Bonnie Ehlert will be at it again, creating window displays for the community to enjoy this Holiday season.



## Laingsburg Girl Scouts “Birthday in a Bag” Food Bank Donations

*submitted by Jody Frank*

The Laingsburg Girl Scouts, Service Unit 321, recently celebrated their founder Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday, October 31, by holding their Investiture/Redecoration Ceremony with a birthday party in her memory. While Covid restrictions required us to hold this outdoors, we had around 60 girls in attendance. We want to thank St. Isidore's for allowing us their space. It was a misty day, but we were able to come together and renew our commitment and dedication to the Girl Scout program.

Again, this year, our community service project was “Birthday in a Bag”. The girls donated pizza kits, cake mixes, frosting, cards, wrapping paper, decorations and other fun birthday items. We were able to donate 60 bags to help the patrons of the food bank celebrate their special day, each bag contained at least a cake mix and frosting. “Birthday Bags” are given out to patrons during their birthday month to help them celebrate their special day.

Pictured are Linda Culpepper from the Laingsburg Food Bank. The Girl Scouts are honored to be able to support the Laingsburg Food Bank and all they do for our community. To find out more about Girl Scouting visit [www.gshom.org](http://www.gshom.org).



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## ELBA TOWNSHIP Gratiot County

The December Board of Review will meet Tuesday, December 15th, 2020 at the Elba Township office at 109 Oak St., Ashley, at 6:00 p.m.

Due to COVID-19 Restrictions, Elba Township is moving the December meeting to December 15th at 7:00 p.m.

*Madalin C. Morris*  
*Elba Township Clerk*

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF LAINGSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION December 21st, 7:00 P.M. Meeting held remotely via Zoom.

As a surrounding property owner/occupant within three hundred (300) feet of the property and special land use amendment described below, you are receiving notice of the scheduled hearing per Ordinance regulations. The Planning Commission will be reviewing the following special land use amendment request on December 21st, 2020 at 6:00 PM:

A petition for special land use amendment has been submitted by 120 West LLC c/o John Liskey to allow four (4) signs of various sizes to be utilized for an Adult Use Marijuana Retailer where only one (1) sign was previously permitted. The subject property known as 120 W. Grand River Ave. (Parcel ID# 022-42-003-003-00).

For individuals who wish to give public comment on this issue, the method for providing public comment during this remote-participation meeting is to call the following toll-free numbers:  
**1-646-876-9923 or 1-312-626-6799** (Meeting ID: 5165368664#) Participant ID is not required.

If you are unable to attend but wish to make a public statement, please submit your statement to City Offices (in writing) by 4:00 P.M. on December 21st, 2020. All correspondence received will be given to the chairman to incorporate into the public record.

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact City Offices by phone at 517-651-6101 or in writing addressed to the following:  
Attn: City Clerk  
PO Box 178  
114 N. Woodhull Street  
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Sincerely,  
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October 31, 1924 to December 7, 2004

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Pastor Scott & Debbie Seelhoff & family

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[www.duplainchurch.org](http://www.duplainchurch.org)

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Pastor: JD Paik

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[laingsburgumc@gmail.com](mailto:laingsburgumc@gmail.com)

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Wed. 9:00am

Confession:  
Sun 11:30am

We Welcome You to Come...

Obituaries

Barbara Jean Rewerts

Barbara Jean Rewerts, age 76, of Ovid, MI, passed away Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at Sparrow Health Systems, Lansing, MI.

Barbara was born in St. Johns, MI on August 9, 1944, the daughter of Lawrence and Irene (Ley) Henning.

Barb worked as a cook and waitress at the Hitching Post, Main Street Cafe, Mary's Country Kitchen, the Bannister Bar and Ovid Cafe for many years. She enjoyed baking, puzzles, doing crossword puzzles and collecting angel figurines. She loved time spent with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Barb was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church, Ovid, MI.

She is survived by son Gerald Rewerts and fiancée Jennifer Newman-Bustamante of St. Johns, MI, son Randee and Tanya Rewerts of St. Johns, MI, daughter Ginger and Larry Kusnier of Ovid, MI; grandchildren: Tara (Josh) Rose, Ethan Fair, Taylor Rewerts, Kaitlyn Kusnier, Toree Rewerts, Courtney Kusnier, Collin Rewerts, Jamie Rewerts, and Alexis Kusnier; 3 great-grandchildren: Sophia, Adalynn, and Connor Rose; brother Gale and Donna Henning of St. Johns, MI; sister-in-law Karen Henning of St. Johns, MI; brothers-in-law: Leonard Mitchell of Ovid, MI, Don LePard of Ovid, MI; sisters-in-law: Sandra and Paul Thompson of Charlotte, NC, and Pat Rewerts of St. Johns, MI; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers: Dale (Mary Beth) Henning, Richard Henning, Gerald Henning, sisters: Bernice Mitchell, Joyce (Kenneth) Russell, Madonna LePard, and Beverly Henning. She was also preceded in death by brothers and sisters-in-law: Bill Rewerts, Norm (Rosie) Rewerts, Jerry Rewerts, Ron (Delores) Rewerts, Tommy Rewerts, Dick (Sandy) Rewerts, and Carol Martinez.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Family Catholic Church, Ovid, MI, on Friday, December 4, 2020 with Rev. Fr. Robert C. Bacik officiating. Burial has taken place at Middlebury Township Cemetery, Ovid, MI.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a Charity of the Donor's Choice. Online condolences can be made at [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com) The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI.



Andrew W. Porubsky

Andrew W. Porubsky, age 54, of Ovid, MI, passed away Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at Sparrow Health Systems, Lansing, MI.

Andrew was born in Owosso, MI on March 26, 1966, the son of Robert Rudolph and Joanne (Griggs) Porubsky. Andrew graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School with the class of 1984. He enjoyed working with the Cub Scouts in Ovid and he loved the Christmas season.

He is survived by his mother Joanne Porubsky, siblings: Eugene Porubsky, Matthew Porubsky, Deb and Mike Coleman, Heidi Wells, nephew Robert, and nieces: Tabitha and Kristy. He was preceded in death by his father.

Funeral Services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI on Saturday, December 5, 2020 with Pastor Mona Kindel officiating. Burial followed at Ford Cemetery, Gratiot County, MI. Memorials may be made to Boy Scouts of America. Online condolences can be made at [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com) The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI.



Herbert J. Bohley

Herbert J. Bohley, age 88 of Saint Johns passed away on Thursday, November 26, 2020 at Hazel Findlay Country Manor.

Herbert was born on February 17, 1932 in Rose City. He married Virginia Hickmott on October 5, 1957; they celebrated 61 years of marriage before she predeceased him in 2018.

Herbert worked as a Production Worker for Oldsmobile for many years. During his earlier years, he enjoyed camping and fishing. Herbert loved spending time with his family and grandchildren, and he always asked his grandkids to "sing me a song". He loved his family more than anything.

Herbert is survived by his daughters, Melissa (Brad) Wilson, Lorie (Todd) Devereaux, and Irene (Jerome) Daniels; 6 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

He is predeceased by his wife, Virginia Bohley; his son, Dean Bohley; and his parents.

A Funeral service was held at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens Mausoleum Chapel. Burial followed. Memorial contributions are suggested to the family.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [McGeehanFH.com](http://McGeehanFH.com).



# Editorial

I need to be thankful, even though, I may be more than a tad bit lame...ish. I still have enough strength to maneuver the day bed... (Which used to sit on my grandparent's enclosed porch) up a dozen stairs and into my bedroom. As a child (over fifty years ago) I was privileged to nap on it whenever my grandparents deemed necessary. I can hear my daughter now telling me that I'm a very stubborn person and should have called to get assistance. I'm pretty sure that she will forgive me.....when the mood strikes "ya gotta move"!!! No doubt my son will also put in his two cents worth.....but he was not accessible at that time.

By the first of December I need to have twelve dozen Christmas cut-out cookies baked. If I focus myself it should be simply a matter of timing. I have seven large cookie sheets and I will have them filled with wreaths, trees, candy canes, bells, stars, snowmen and candles.....once filled, I will stack them until I'm ready for the last empty cookie sheet. That is when I put the first cookie sheet into the oven. The dining room table will be covered with cooling racks and parchment paper and the timer will be set.....I get to redo this again on the fourth of December for the rest of the family to decorate. This year I have decorating bags and new tips...plus lots of sprinkles, everyone should be happy with the choices and the colors that will be made available. It is times like this that I wish that I had a professional oven and a large commercial cooler. Maybe a larger kitchen???

My "to do list" is growing faster than I seem to be addressing each task. I do understand that the road is paved with good intentions....but I am still working at cancelling each item. This morning I'm in the process of pouring ice candles....once that is finished I can finish prepping the kitchen and dining room for the dozens of sugar cookies that need to be baked. I already have the cookie cutters and cookie sheets stacked and ready to fill. I can finally put up my pressure canner and canning supplies until after Christmas. Most of these large pots will be retired to their storage shelter until next year's garden shares its abundance. I will be able to see the color of the countertops again!!!

It is only four in the afternoon and I'm a bit pooped out....just finished baking the double batch of cut out sugar cookies. I believe that I ended up with at least of dozen snowmen, large stars, small stars, bells, Christmas trees, snowflakes, candy canes and gingerbread men...with a few mini bells and snowballs thrown in for good measure. I can envision the youngsters and adults both enjoying their creative endeavors as the cookies get frosted. Just fine old memories in the making.....messes will be forgotten but the amusement and laughter will live on.

And it is already the next day.....the cookie decorating day. I just got home after a three hour stint that was filled with laughter and interesting color combinations. You could even say that the combinations of color, sprinkles, styles, hot cinnamon beads and technique were endearing...a few were a bit outlandish but the proof ended up in their palates'. We started with ten dozen cookies, first dozen were eaten without the frosting, a second dozen was eaten with and the final eight made it onto a plate to share. The old Christmas carols kept us focused and we all had a marvelous time making and sharing memories.

I truly hope that you all will be blessed with the making and sharing of memories, let the light shine upon you daily. Enjoy your family and friends. God bless. Reach out and embrace life.

Crystal Mitchell©2020



## A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

# Obituaries

## Dennis Carl Wortman

Dennis Carl Wortman, age 74, of Gould City, MI, passed away after a battle with cancer Monday, November 30, 2020.

Dennis was born in Owosso, MI on April 5, 1946, the son of John and Leoraine (Howard) Wortman. He graduated from Owosso High School with the class of 1966. He worked for Midland-Ross in Owosso as head of Shipping and Receiving and then was Personnel Manager at the Benzonia location.

On December 6, 2016 Dennis married April Joy Wortman in St. Ignace, MI. They enjoyed their home in Gould City and traveling all around the U.P.

Dennis loved fishing and hunting, especially with his girls when they were young. He enjoyed traveling and playing Blackjack at the casino, even playing in many tournaments. He loved his family with all of his heart and always enjoyed spending time with them. Dennis had a great sense of humor, always able to bring a smile or tell a joke.

Dennis is survived by his wife April, 2 daughters: Keli (Andy) Roth of St. Louis, MO and Edie (John) Billingsley of St. Charles, MO. He is also survived by 3 grandchildren: Keya (Steenz Stewart) Matanagh, Theodore (Meagan) Billingsley, and Julia (Christian) Hohensee; great granddaughter Brigitta Noel Billingsley and 2 sisters: Beverly Lawrence and Chris (Joe) Call. Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, brother Richard Wortman and brother-in-law Robert Lawrence.

A Memorial Service will be held at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI, on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 1:00 P.M. For those unable to attend, visit Smith Family Funeral Homes Facebook page to view the service live stream. The family will receive visitors beginning at 11:00 A.M. on the day of the service.

The family request donations be made to the wishes of the family. Online condolences can be made at [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com). The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI.



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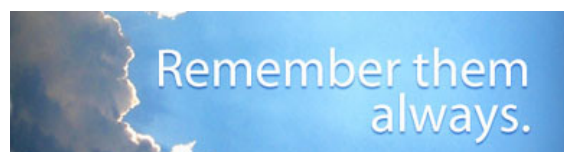
## Important Notice

Duplain Township Residents, due to an error with the L-4029 for the Elsie Public Library's new millage, new winter taxes bills will be sent out.

The new bills will be on colorful paper, different than the tax bills originally received. You should be receiving your new tax bills the week of December 7th.

All parties involved apologize for the inconvenience.

Please contact the Duplain Township Treasurer if you have any questions.



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# Senior Spotlight

## Social Security Questions

*submitted by Vonda Van Til*

Question: I want to sign up for a Medicare Part C and D plan, but I'm not sure which plan I want. Is there a resource to help me find a plan?

Answer: Yes. Medicare.gov has an online plan finder and instructions available on how to use this tool. To access the Medicare Plan Finder, please visit [www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/home.aspx](http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/home.aspx).



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Question: I have medical coverage through my employer. Do I have to take Medicare Part B?

Answer: You are not required to take Medicare Part B if you are covered by a group healthcare plan based on either your employment or the employment of a spouse. When your coverage ends, you may contact Social Security to request a special enrollment for Medicare Part B. We will need to verify your coverage through your employer in order for you to be eligible for a special enrollment. For more information, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

For more information, read Medicare at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs), or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

## Social Security Benefits Increase in 2021

*submitted by Vonda Van Til*

Nearly 70 million Americans will see a 1.3 percent increase in their Social Security benefits and SSI payments in 2021. Federal benefit rates increase when the cost-of-living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI-W).

The CPI-W rises when inflation increases, leading to a higher cost-of-living. This change means prices for goods and services, on average, are a little more expensive, so the COLA helps to offset these costs.

January 2021 marks other changes that will happen based on the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax in 2021 will be higher. The retirement earnings test exempt amount will also change in 2021. You can read our press release for more information at [www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2021.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2021.pdf).

We will mail COLA notices throughout the month of December to retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries, SSI recipients, and representative payees. Want to know your new benefit amount sooner? You can securely view and save the Social Security COLA notice online via the Message Center inside my Social Security in early December without waiting for the mailed notice.

If you don't have an account yet, you will have to create your account by November 18, 2020 to receive the COLA notice online this year. my Social Security account holders can opt out of receiving a mailed COLA notice and other paper notices that are available online. You can choose text or email alerts when there is a notice in Message Center by updating your Preferences at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount/opt-out.html](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/opt-out.html) so you always know when we have something important for you.

Be the first to know! Sign up for or log in to your personal account today at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Choose email or text under "Message Center Preferences" to receive courtesy notifications. This way you won't miss your online COLA notice!

You can find more information about the 2021 COLA at [www.ssa.gov/cola](http://www.ssa.gov/cola).

*Vonda Van Til is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at [vonda.vantil@ssa.gov](mailto:vonda.vantil@ssa.gov).*



## 9 SIMPLE HOMEMADE GIFT IDEAS

## Need a Homemade Gift for the Holidays?

*submitted by Brenda Terpening*

Then come and shop at the Clinton County Senior Center. They have everything from quilts (adult & baby), reversible table runners (a different holiday on each side), pillows (lots of MSU, Michigan and other teams), pet blankets, book pillows, kitchen towels, baby bib & burp cloth sets, coloring book/crayon holders, casserole carriers, plastic bag holders and much more. Since the Senior Center is currently closed due to the new COVID-19 orders, call Darlene at 989-224-6605 to set up a time to look through everything. The center also has a gift shop with lots of glassware, Christmas Cards for a dime and hundreds of paperback and hardcover books. The Senior Center is located at 201 E Walker Street in St. Johns.

## House Passes Bill to Make National Parks Free for Disabled Veterans

*submitted by David Russell*

The House of Representatives unanimously passed the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act. The legislation allows free, lifetime entry into the National Parks and federal recreational lands for veterans who were wounded serving our country.

"Many of our veterans enjoy America's outdoor heritage and this legislation will help them visit our National Parks and recreation areas," said Congressman John Moolenaar. "We are forever grateful for their service to our nation and the sacrifices they made to keep us safe. My office and I have helped veterans throughout the Fourth District this year, and I encourage any veteran who is having an issue with a federal agency to contact my office in Midland for assistance."

The Wounded Veterans Recreation Act passed the Senate earlier this year and the legislation now goes to the president.

Congressman Moolenaar's office regularly helps veterans who are experiencing issues with the VA, including disability claims. Veterans in need of assistance can call his office at 989-631-2552.



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Pictured here are more of the homes entered in the Laingsburg and OE house decorating contest. The following addresses are entered: 3658 E. Maple Rapids Road, Elsie, the home of Ed Daggett (top two photos). The patriotic entry includes 30,000 lights with a NEW 40 foot completely lit train. The display can be viewed every night from 5pm-11pm now thru December 25th. Other great displays can be seen in Elsie at 340 W. Main, 228 W. Pine and 2156 N. Hollister Road. In Ovid: 130 E. Oak Street, 202 E. Clinton Street, 131 E. Clinton Street, 122 W. Front Street and 219 W. High Street. Pack up the family and enjoy the sights and sounds of this holiday season. Photos by Deb Price

See next weeks for  
Laingsburgs  
Winterfest  
House  
Decorating  
Winners and Photos.

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# SPORTS

## MHSAA Sets Prep Football Playoff Times

EAST LANSING — If all goes according to plan, it will be Tuesday Night Football for New Lothrop when the high school postseason resumes.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association announced dates and times for the resumption of the football playoffs this week. New Lothrop is set to play Detroit Loyola at 7 p.m. Dec. 15 — an unusual Tuesday night contest.

The semifinals and finals would also be early-weekday contests. The semifinals are currently scheduled for Dec. 21-22, with the finals Dec. 28 and 29 at Ford Field. All four dates are Mondays or Tuesdays.

The season was paused by a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services emergency order Nov. 18 in response to rising cases of COVID-19 in the state. The order put a three-week pause on in-person learning at high schools and colleges, certain business operations, and amateur sports below the college level.

The order is set to expire Dec. 9, though the MDHHS could extend it.

## Ovid-Elsie Cross County MMAC All-Conference



*Alexis Spitzley  
1st Team*



*Kaia Spiess  
2nd Team*



*Rachel Spitzley  
Honorable  
Mention*



*Sam Grubaugh  
Honorable  
Mention*



*Coleten Towsley  
2nd Team*



*Gavyn Leavitt  
Honorable  
Mention*



*Ryan Gavenda  
Honorable  
Mention*



*Cole Workman  
Honorable  
Mention*



*Sophie Dittrich  
Laingsburg*



*Jordan Langdon  
Laingsburg*



*Kalista Bancroft  
Ovid-Elsie*



*Braylen Byrnes  
Ovid-Elsie*



*Madison  
Cunningham  
Ovid-Elsie*

## Wolfpack's Dittrich and Langdon, O-E's Bancroft, Brynes, Cunningham Honored on All-Shiawassee Volleyball Team

OWOSSO -- Five local players have been honored on the All-Shiawassee Area Volleyball Team, as named by the Owosso Argus-Press.

Laingsburg's Sophie Dittrich and Jordan Langdon joined Ovid-Elsie's Kalista Bancroft, Braylen Byrnes and Madison Cunningham on the elite net team.

Dittrich was a Second Team honoree for the Wolfpack. The senior outside hitter had 142 kills with 210 digs, 42 aces and 10 blocks this season. She was voted a first-team selection in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference.

The complete All-Area Team included:

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Ellie Toney, Corunna

The junior was doubly impressive with 166 kills and 265 assists this season as a middle blocker/setter for the 15-7 Cavaliers. The three-time all-region and three-time unanimous all-leaguer also led the Cavaliers in aces (37), points (214), fewest serve receive errors (1) and kills per set (2.8).

**FIRST TEAM**

Maddie Davis, Byron

Carley Martin, New Lothrop

Karissa Ferry, Chesaning

Pearl Schmidt, Byron

Ally Colthorp, Morrice

Neele'ge' Sims, Corunna

**SECOND TEAM**

Kendall Ihm, Owosso

Marissa Rombach, New Lothrop

Alivia Gilson, Durand

Paige Bigelow, Perry

Sophie Dittrich, Laingsburg

Emma Valentine, Morrice

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Jordan Langdon, Laingsburg, Sr., L

Mackenzie Pancheck, Durand, Sr., MH

Goldyn Graham, Durand, Sr., S

Allison Glass, Byron, Sr., MH

Madison Wendling, New Lothrop, Soph, L

Avery Krupp, New Lothrop, Soph., D/S/OH

Josalyn Stratton, Corunna, Jr., OH

Brielle Sovis, Owosso, Soph., L

Reese Thayer, Owosso, Fr., S

Kalista Bancroft, Ovid-Elsie, Jr., MH

Meghan Florian, Chesaning, Sr., DS/OH

Braylon Byrnes, Ovid-Elsie, S

Madison Cunningham, Ovid-Elsie, Sr.

Elaine Fisher, Perry, Sr., L

JaiLia Campos, Corunna, Sr., L

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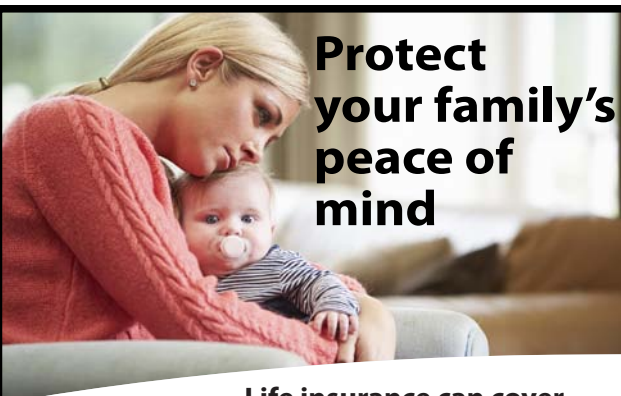
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**Let's start the conversation.**



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# Editorial



## The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster  
[theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com](mailto:theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com)

### The Late Season

The 2020 Michigan Regular Firearms Deer Season was less than productive for the Weekly Sportsman. Due to weather, work schedule, family time, and other responsibilities not much time was spent afield. When was the last time hunters experienced a thunder and lightning storm opening morning? High winds and falling trees became commonplace over the two weeks which caused deer to just stay bedded down and wait for their overloaded and super sensitive auditory systems to recover and adjust.

There was one night when the snow started around 4:00 p.m. and it made the evening hunt almost magical or mystical as deer seemed to appear everywhere and from out of almost nowhere. The Weekly Sportsman sat in an Ameristep Outhouse blind while many bucks and does meandered around and were oblivious that the year round placed blind was occupied. For once, the Weekly Sportsman never lifted the .44 magnum rifle and just watched the show play out as twilight quickly approached. Then it happened... a very, very large bodied buck was running full tilt toward the blind on a deer run that could eventually put him merely a few feet away. Large dark stained antlers were visible as this was probably the second largest buck ever witnessed by the Weekly Sportsman on the family farm. In a smooth almost natural movement, much like a scene from *The Last of the Mohicans*, the rifle was raised and the hammer cocked simultaneously. Unfortunately the agitated buck heard the cocking of the hammer and put the brakes on hard and bolted sideways. It all happened so quickly. The buck stopped at about 175 yards and looked over his shoulder back down the hill toward the blind and then slowly walked over the ridge. Clearly this wasn't his first rodeo.

Alas, the "Late Season" is upon us in December as Muzzleloader Season runs from December 4th-13th. Redemption is possible for the Weekly Sportsman and many others and according to the DNR you can use a shotgun or straight walled pistol cartridge rifle during this period. If you still haven't filled a buck tag, combo license, or doe tag then plan to hunt the late doe season from December 14th through January 1st. Your unused buck tags can be used on does. Deer behavior changes in December and while there sometimes is a faint second rut most deer are now focused on locating food sources and not reproductive practices. As the days grow shorter and usually colder, along with the increased chance of snow, deer start to be out and about more in the midday period. Sleep in and bring a sack lunch to any stand that overlooks an unharvested cornfield along with green fields of alfalfa, wheat, or rye. If you happened to plant a brassica food plot now is when the plants begin to sweeten. Deer are moving around to stay warm and trying to fuel their internal furnaces and build last minute reserves.

Also, there is no excuse for not having a valid tag with you as the DNR reports their vendor's licensing system is back up and running after experiencing some computer quirks opening weekend.

-WS

### Pep Talk con't from front...

about all the things that aren't happening, or things you aren't doing?

What if instead.. We focus on what we CAN do?

Firstly.. We CAN remember the reason for the season and spend time celebrating Jesus with our family. (What are your favorite ways to do this? Share your ideas please!)

We CAN decorate our home, get the kids involved, and make it a fun Christmas wonderland.

We CAN bake and cook and share Christmas treats with loved ones near and far. (Bring on the Christmas care packages!)

We CAN worship God in word and deed and be an encouragement to our neighbors and community.

We CAN serve each other, make blankets to donate, shovel a neighbor's driveway or ????

We CAN be joyful in our community, share a smile, a kind word, a phone call, a card or a video chat.

We CAN, We CAN, We CAN!!!

Maybe we focus on BEING Christmas instead of doing Christmas this year.

I'm not saying I'm going to be perfect at this.. If I call you in tears, please remind me of all the things mentioned above. But I have to trust that this Christmas will be a special opportunity to love, give and serve. I don't want to miss it!!

A Call to Persevere: Hebrews 10:23-25

And let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful, And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### Puzzles Wanted

submitted by Brenda Terpening

With the winter looming, many senior citizens are looking for puzzles to work on throughout the long days. The Clinton County Senior Center will accept any new or used puzzles they can pass along to seniors. You can drop off new or used puzzles to the Senior Center on Mondays between 9 am and Noon. Please leave them outside on the black bench in a bag or box and they will be picked up as quickly as possible. The Senior Center is located at 201 E Walker Street in St. Johns.



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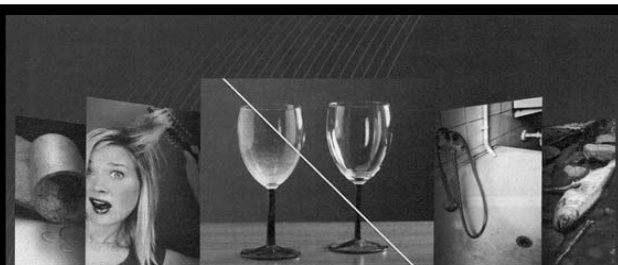
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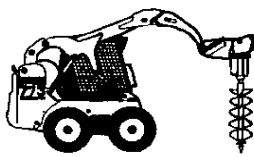
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**Collector Dolls, Toys and Antique Glassware Online Only Estate Auction.** Bidding open now, closes beginning at 7:00 p.m. December 13, 2020. Complete listing, photos, details register to bid a www.FurloAuction.com. 989-987-1581. CPM

**Trains, Vintage Beer Cans & More Online Auction.** Bidding open December 8 through 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 15, 2020. Details, complete listings, photos and register to bid at: www.EstateSaleExperts.com 248-987-0030. CPM

**Jewelry, Gifts and More Online Auction:** Bid now through 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Many pieces new in box! Turquoise; Silver; 14K; Seiko! Details, photos, register to bid: www.EstateSaleExperts.com 248-987-0030. CPM

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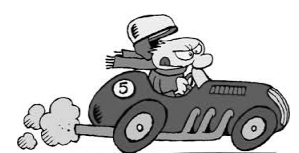
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### Toys For Tots Still Happening in the Ovid-Elsie Area

submitted by Cmdr. Gene Nethaway

Members of our American Legion Post 502 along with businesses and people in the Ovid-Elsie area have been buying and donating new gifts and putting them in our TOYS-FOR-TOTS BOXES that are located in the Dollar General stores in Ovid and Elsie. They also have money cans that will be used to collect money that they will be turning in to Christmas gifts for the youth here in the Ovid-Elsie area. This is our 5th year since the Ovid-Elsie Schools asked us to become the primary lead in this area to collect toys and gifts for the needy boys and girls in this area. We are still collecting toys and gifts that will be given out this holiday season. Some of the Gas Stations in both towns are collecting monies in Toys-for-Tots Money Cans that later will be turned in to toys and gifts at the Dollar Generals and then will be given out to needy youth from our area.

Do you remember, “Wily Wonka and the Chocolate Factory” movie and the “GOLDEN TICKET” and what it looked like. Our Golden Ticket will be given to families of the youth who are in need this holiday season. This ticket has all the information as to when and where recipients can go and redeem the Golden Ticket.

Due to the Pandemic, many families are struggling this year and the need is greater than ever in our communities. If you can spare some money or donate toys that would be great. ALL donations will stay in our own Bannister, Elaine and Ovid communities.

Toys can be put in the collection boxes at both Dollar Generals in Ovid and Elsie. There are also toy collection boxes at Journey Credit Union and Ovid Healthcare. Money canisters have been placed also at Dollar General, Valero Gas Station, Burton Corners and Elsie Town Tub.

The deadline to donate money is December 17th, toy donations need to be in by December 21st. For more information, call Gene Nethaway at (989)834-2438.

*“The Joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others’ burdens, easing each other’s loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of the holidays.” – W. C. Jones*

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