

Emmert Retires from Duplain Church of Christ

submitted by Stephanie Smith

Chuck Emmert, senior minister at Duplain Church of Christ, along with his wife, Amy, will be retiring from the ministry on December 31, 2020, after 45 years of faithfully serving the Lord. The church family at Duplain Church of Christ cordially invites those who would like to give their well wishes to Chuck and Amy to a Drive-By Open House which will take place on Sunday, January 10th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at Duplain Church of Christ, 5565 E. Colony Rd., St. Johns, MI 49979. Due to the corona virus, masks will be required and attendees will be asked to stay in their cars.

Chuck began ministry in 1975 before graduating from Great Lake Christian College (where he met Amy) in Lansing, Michigan. He began his ministry in Livonia, Michigan. In 1986, they moved to Cass City where he became head minister at Novesta Church of Christ. It was here that Chuck and Amy



went through the toughest time of their lives when their daughter, Alison, went to be with the Lord at the tender age of sixteen after heroically battling cancer. Never wavering from their faith in the God they trusted and preached, Chuck and Amy used this hardship to reach out to others and share their love for a risen Savior who cares for His people. Because they have allowed God to use them, many people have come to know the Lord in a personal way.

In 2008, the Emmerts took the call to come minister at Duplain Church of Christ in St. Johns. Over the years, they have not only ministered to their congregation but to many in the community through civic events. Chuck has been involved in Forgotten Men's Prison Ministry, Men's Prayer Breakfast, Right-to Life, is an active member of Go Positive and has treasured sharing his love of fishing at his cabin in Kalkaska with many. Amy boasts a background in education; most recently she was a paraprofessional in the St. Johns Schools before retiring in 2016. Many have been blessed by her beautiful, singing voice. Finding great pleasure in being a hostess, she uses her talents to invite people to her home.

Chuck and Amy Emmert have been "good and faithful" servants of the Lord and an example to countless numbers of individuals. Their plans in retirement are to move to Tennessee to be closer to their son, Craig and his wife, Jordan, and their two children. The Duplain Church of Christ family will dearly miss this wonderful couple.

Remembering A Few of Those We Lost in 2020



Jean Marlene Cook
February 11, 2020
Educator



Robert Dean "Bob" Harden
April 11, 2020
Trucker - Race Fan
Family Man



Maureen Louise (Allen) Beavers
May 9, 2020
Lifelong Laingsburg Resident
Social Worker



Joseph Charles "Joe" Malek
August 12, 2020
Lifelong Farmer
Friend to Seniors



Pastor Eric R. Stanton
August 12, 2020
50 Years in the Ministry
"Keep looking up"



Eldon Noval Baese
August 23, 2020
Elected Official
Coach - Sports Fan



Charles "Chuck" Lee Spiess
November 23, 2020
Family First
Tractor Puller



Eugene "Gene" Carl Schoendorf
December 19, 2020
Businessman
Story Teller - Avid Golfer

Meridian Weekly

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Back Row (l-r) Step-Dad, Dan Lightner, Spring Arbor Coach, Gerry Lobdell, OE Coach, Matt Fabius, OE Athletic Director, Jesse Johnson, Step-Mom, Erin Kelley and Spring Arbor Coach, Rich Bradley. Front Row (l-r) Mom, Susan Lightner, Mikayla Kelley and Dad, Zach Kelley.

Photo by Deb Price

Mikayla Kelley Signs With Spring Arbor University

by Deb Price


On Monday, December 28th, Ovid-Elsie Senior, Mikayla Kelley signed a Letter of Intent with Spring Arbor University at Royal Scot Bowling Alley in Lansing. She will be advancing to the next level in pursuit of higher education and continuing her bowling career. Mikayla was offered two scholarships from Spring Arbor, one for academics and the other for athletics. She carries a 3.6 grade point average and is an accomplished bowler averaging over 180 a game.

She started bowling when she was old enough to pick up a bowling ball at the age of three. She continued throughout the years from youth bowling leagues, high school and now on her way to college. The past two years she qualified for Junior Gold, a Nationals bowling event for kids held in Vegas this year, but due to COVID-19 the event was cancelled.

Mikayla looks to earn a degree in Psychology at Spring Arbor. "I'm very excited to see where this new journey with Spring Arbor takes me. I look forward to furthering my education there as I study Psychology and make new friendships. I'm very grateful for this opportunity to continue my passion for bowling and also attend such an amazing school," she said.

Mikayla is the daughter of Susan (Dan) Lightner of Elsie and Zach (Erin) Kelley of Owosso. Her proud grandparents include Bill and Shar Maynard of DeWitt Township, Elaine and Bing Crosby of Ovid and Jim and Teresa Kelley of Mecosta.

Continued on page 12



Getting it Write...

In the December 27th edition of the *Meridian Weekly* reporting of the Pedestrian/Auto Accident on December 22nd in Ovid, stated that the male driver of the auto was uninsured. It should have said he was un injured. The pedestrian that died in that accident was Joanne Lupnitz, age 73 of Ovid.

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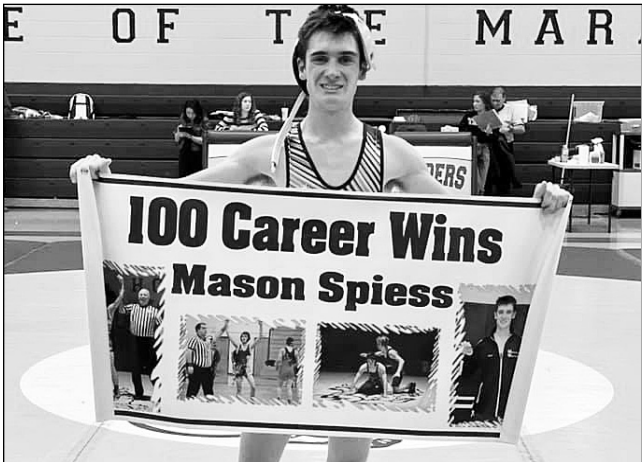
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A Look Back Through 2020

Mason Spiess Wins 100th Match
January 12, 2020



Mason Spiess won his 100th match as an Ovid Elsie Marauder Wednesday January 8th against Montrose.

Rewarding Integrity...Kirby's Rewarded With New Roof
February 2, 2020



Pictured here is Daryl LaClair and crew replacing the Kirby home roof. LaClair found \$43,000 inside a couch he bought and returned to the owners.

Laingsburg Band Receive \$16,000 in Grants and Gifts
February 2, 2020



Laingsburg Band Boosters Treasurer Tina Dafoe accepts a check from fellow band booster Ashlie Helmer, whose employer, TechSmith, recently donated \$500 to the Laingsburg band program.



Signature Auto Group's Angela Falzon presents Laingsburg Band Boosters President Stacey Brewer with \$3,700 at the group's January board meeting.

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LEAF Raffle Winner

March 8, 2020



LEAF Raffle Winner: On Saturday, February 29th, Jill Interante, leaped for joy as she was the \$3,000 reverse raffle winner. She is pictured here (at right), with LEAF Treasurer, Katie Burley (at left).

O'Bryant Receives Milestone Chevron Award

March 22, 2020

(Right) District Governor, Becky Hamilton presented Ovid Lion member Mike O'Bryant, with his 45 year Milestone Chevron during the club's monthly meeting in February.



A "Ready to Rally" benefit for the Cole Family was held at OE high School on February 26th. Members of the OE community as well as surrounding communities joined together to benefit Justin Cole who was diagnosed with B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at age 12. The outpouring of love and support was truly amazing.

Class Pure Class

April 12, 2020



Al Kaline passed away April 6, 2020.

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Proposed Board Minutes from December 14, 2020 meeting

The regular meeting of Victor Township was called to order by Supervisor Jim Conklin at 7:04 pm.

Attendance: Present: Nikki Fickes, Jim Conklin, Julie Townsend, Amanda Conklin and Paula Willoughby

Agenda: Motion by Conklin to amend the agenda. Supported by Townsend. Roll Call. Motion carried. Motion by Willoughby to approve the agenda with amendments. Roll call. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion by Conklin to approve the minutes from the November 09, 2020 Board Meeting. Supported by Townsend. Roll call. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Conklin to accept the treasurer's report. Supported by Townsend. Roll call. Motion carried.

Approval of bills: Motion by Willoughby to pay the bills in the amount of \$21,590.91 using checks #28066-28078 and EFT #560-570. Supported by Conklin. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Motion by Conklin to disburse payroll and related payroll expenses for November 2020 in the amount of \$7,336.61 using checks #12162-12170 and EFT 134 & 135. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call. Motion carried.

Reports:

Victor Township Planning Commission: Forwarded the master plan to the board for review. Draft Masterplan can be viewed at <https://victortwp.org/departments/planning-commission/> There are a few open seats on the PC. The next PC meeting will be held electronically on January 4, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Unfinished Business:

- ISO Update - None
- Janitorial Services - None
- Opening Township Hall - No change
- Master Plan - Covered under PC. Board reviewing.
- Budget Report - 3rd quarter report will be provided at next meeting

New Business:

- ORVIATV - Supervisor Conklin working on this
- Clerk Vacancy - Motion by Willoughby to reappoint Clerk Conklin until March 31, 2021. Supported by Fickes. Roll call. Motion carried.
- Internet Access - Supervisor Conklin and PC member Tammy Ashley working together on this.
- Budget - Board to get changes and input to Supervisor Conklin. Preliminary budget report due to board before next meeting
- Covid 19 Preparedness & Response Plan - Motion by Conklin to approve as amended. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call. Motion carried.
- Planning Commission Terms - Motion by Fickes to appoint David Sell and Thomas Mitchell. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call. Motion carried.
- Contractor Agreements - RFP for all expired and expiring contracts to be drafted with due date of March 01, 2021 by 5:00 pm.
- Meeting Dates - Motion by Conklin to set board meetings for the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call. Motion carried.
- Poverty Resolution - tabled

Extended Public/Board Comment:

Motion by Conklin to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Supported by Supervisor Conklin. Roll call. Motion carried.

Amanda Conklin, Clerk



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Obituaries

Eloise Ann Bancroft

Eloise Ann Bancroft, age 85, of Ovid, passed away on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at Grace Haven Assisted Living Center.

She was born on May 26, 1935 in New Edinburg, Arkansas the daughter of William and Thelma (Sanders) Jarrett, who predeceased her. On January 30, 1993 she married Joseph N. Bancroft in Lansing, MI.

Eloise worked as a secretary at Millett Bible Baptist Church and was a bus driver for Holt Public & Capital City Christian Schools. She accepted Christ as her Savior as a child & loved her Lord & is present with Him now. Worshipping & singing in God’s choir.

She was preceded in death by spouse Don Volz & 4 siblings.

Survivors are her husband, Joe, children Mary Ann (Dana) Parker of Holt, Linette (John) Ney of Perrinton, Bradley J. (Jacklyn) Volz of Florida, Ed (Karla) Bancroft of Ovid, Luann (Roger) Carlisle of Laingsburg and Troy (Jill) Bancroft of St. Johns. Grandchildren Cara (David) Schafer, Zach (Laura) Lambricht, Jason (Rachel) Phillips, Mike (Erin) Bancroft, Ryan (Dayna) Bancroft, Jarrod (Jen) Thornton, Lora (Jason) McCreery, Nick (Andrea) Bancroft, Albert Bancroft, Gerritt (Molly) Bancroft, John III (Jackie) Ney & Nic (Billi) Ney. Also surviving are 29 great-grandchildren.

Private services will be held. Memorials may be made to Meals on Wheels, 201 E. Walker St., St Johns, MI 48879.



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Eugene “Gene” Carl Schoendorf

Eugene "Gene" Carl Schoendorf, age 94, of Elsie, MI, passed away Saturday, December 19, 2020, at Ovid Healthcare Center, Ovid, MI.

Gene was born in Detroit, MI on June 12, 1926, the son of Leo Joseph and Laura Catherine (Schemansky) Schoendorf.

Gene graduated from St. Johns High School in 1944 and immediately enlisted in the Navy. He served in WWII piloting a landing barge in the Pacific. Gene married Mary Jane Trierweiler on September 7, 1957 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Westphalia, MI.

As a young boy he pedaled papers and as a teen he worked at Andy's IGA in St. Johns. He went on to purchase a store in Elsie in 1964 - Gene's IGA. Gene loved telling stories and visiting with the store patrons. He was a community man and took pride in serving the community through the Lions Club, St. Cyril's K of C in Bannister, American Legion Post 502, and other committees. Gene was instrumental in starting WOES and the Elsie Festival. He took pride in helping those less fortunate and was a giving man. Gene was an avid sports fan. He loved to watch his children and grandchildren play sports. His greatest sport was golf and could be frequently found at the golf course, even on his 90th birthday. When he wasn't at the golf course he could often be found playing cards, fishing and telling one of his many stories. He was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church, Ovid, MI.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years Mary Jane Schoendorf of Elsie, MI, children: Stacy and Tom Doubrava of Elsie, MI, Scott and Cindy Schoendorf of Laingsburg, MI, and Sarah and Ron Maynard of Elsie, MI. He is also survived by 7 grandchildren: Kyle and Bryce Doubrava, Ryan (Amber) Schoendorf, Riley (Jake Hicks) Schoendorf, and Molly, Ben, and Tori Maynard. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Mary Jane Johnson, and brothers: Joseph and Gerald Schoendorf.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will be held at Holy Family Catholic Church, Ovid, MI at a later date. Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery, Elsie, MI.

Memorials may be made to the Elsie Lions Club, Ovid-Elsie Community Fund or to the Elsie Area Food Bank. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI.





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Confession:
Sun 11:30am

We Welcome You to Come...

Frank Kral

On December 28, 2020, Frank Kral (88 years old) passed away at Ashley Care Center of Ashley, Michigan.

Frank was born April 10, 1932, in Bannister, Michigan, to the late Frank and Mary Kral. Frank was the oldest child of 4 children. Frank attended Bannister schools until the 8th Grade. After school, Frank worked on his family farm farming until he started working for General motors in 1964 in Lansing, Michigan.

Frank married Jane Andres on June 14, 1969, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Maple Grove in New Lothrop, Michigan. Frank and Jane bought a home in Bannister, MI and attended St. Cyril's where they were both parishioners for many years. The Kral family even was a part of building the first Bannister Catholic church.

Frank loved spending time hunting, fishing, and having a cold beer with his friends at the Bannister bar. He always tried to crack a joke or make you laugh. He was a dedicated Catholic and was involved in the Knights of Columbus at St. Cyril's. He was a member of the ZCJB Lodge of Bannister.

Frank is survived by his wife Jane; and his siblings: MaryAnn Delaney, Joanne (Larry) Scollon, and Rosemary (Rick) DeSantis; nieces and nephews: Suzanne (Ty) Krauss, MaryLynn Scollon, Larry (Jill) Scollon, Holly Scollon, Rachel (Peter) DeSantis, Randi (Brian) DeSantis, and Renae (Sonny) DeSantis. He is preceded in death by his parents Frank and Mary Kral, brother-in-law Max Delaney and his niece Rebecca Scollon-Butts.

A small private family gathering will be St. Cyril's Catholic Church. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 from 4:00-7:00 P.M. at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI. Burial will take place at Ford Cemetery, Gratiot County, MI at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please send stories and memories in card form to Jane Kral. Any financial contributions can be made to St Cyril's Catholic Church in Frank's Name. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



In Loving Memory

Memorialize your loved one in the Weekly 989-834-2264

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Obituaries

Judy Ann Payne (Patrick)

Judy Ann Payne (Patrick), age 77 of Ovid, passed away at Shiawassee County Hospice House on December 28, 2020.

She was born on March 4, 1943 to daughter of Curtis and Irene Patrick. She attended Mancelona High School and graduated in 1961. She worked for Ovid Elsie Area Schools as a Head Cook for 26 years. She loved baking and cooking. Her favorite thing to make was her fudge. She loved crossword puzzles, bowling, and Bingo. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughter, Ginger. Grandchildren Natalie (Kevin) McCorvie, Matthew DeLong, and Carol Szalla (Kyle), and great grandson, Julian. Siblings Jim (Sheila) Patrick, Helen (Skip) Newman, Midge (Mike) Osborne, Richard Patrick, and Susie Mathis. She left behind friends, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death her son, Andrew, daughter Cheryl, Siblings Kathy, Jerry, Patricia, and Hod. Per her request, cremation and no service.

Arrangements by Keck-Coleman Funeral Home, St. Johns, MI



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

Have you ever felt as if you got out of bed on the wrong side? Everything seems to be slightly off key and something must have happened to “run smoothly”..... If I didn’t know better I would think that the Grinch has been messing in my business. Either that or my social blinders are out of focus and I can’t see past my nose. It is an unusual spot to find oneself in....and I don’t like it. Mom used to accuse me of looking at the world through rose colored glasses and maybe she was correct. I prefer to see the best in others and do try to be well behaved myself. It doesn’t always work out as expected.

I do hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas spent with family and friends. I hope that the joy of the season and the reason both blessed you well. I believe that we had a marvelous time even though my sister couldn’t make it. It got a little loud at times and my nephew Jake was very entertained with Isabella’s antics. I do believe that he laughed more that evening then he had all week long. Poor boy is allergic to dogs and guess who the dogs adored.....Poor Isabella had to wait for the adults to finish with their dinner before the gifts could be addressed. Of course Great Uncle William couldn’t resist egging her on.....he kept taking one more piece of turkey until she was standing beside him and pointing out the errors of his ways to him. Most of us had a hard time not laughing.

I’ve lazed around for a few days and am facing a quandary. I’ve been waiting around for a couple of articles by others to be written and I’m at a bit of a loss when there is a possibility that they will be no shows. It is a bit hard to take because this is a time of hope and anticipation...maybe my expectations are too great? Who knows maybe I should fold and walk away....just a thought but one that has been nagging at me for quite a while.

I spent the morning at the office and seemed to be on the phone most of that time. It was a great way to collect needed information and to double check the facts. Of course I also had to make numerous copies of various documents, punch them and then distribute them as needed. Correspondingly I had to make a quick delivery, all and all it was a good and productive day at the office.

I then made a call to my cousins to see if I could pick up the hutch this afternoon. No problem there, it took two trips but I managed to get it home....then realized that when I was told the width I heard four foot....not four foot four inches. So now I need to move the bookshelf on the south wall of the living room to the east wall so that there would be room for the hutch. Now I need to unload the bookshelf to get it moved. Currently the hutch is sitting in the dining room and seems to be giving a disdainful look at its new eclectic surroundings.

And yes, I do talk to myself at times. Besides that I have been known to attribute conversation and thoughts to inanimate objects. Creativity can be quite amusing and my muse seems to spark ideas at the most awkward of times.

This year has been different and has not shown itself well. I truly hope that this coming New Year (2021) is filled with good health, peace and prosperity for all of us. I also pray that we are blessed with a very healthy dose of common sense that has only a pinch of liberal inanities. I believe that the majority of us were raised on the boot strap method.....stay focused, work hard, be responsible and remember to keep God in our daily lives. God bless.

Crystal Mitchell ©2020

Editorial



Have a Question for Andy?

Submit them to:
ask_andy@aol.com

You can also mail or drop questions off to: Meridian Weekly
P.O. Box 11, Ovid, MI 48866

Happy New Year Readers

Dear Andy,

My final Christmas purchase was \$20.20. I cannot seem to shake it. My banking account has a 2020, my vision is 2020 and my address is 2020. The number has come up so many times this year and not just on the calendar. I know it is just a number, but I feel like the Universe is trying to tell me something after this challenging year of 2020. Do you have any numerical trivia or know of any significance the number 2020?

Am I Crazy?

Dear Crazy,

No, you are not crazy. “Numerology” is not all that bizarre or crazy; it is intriguing and not a new concept. In fact, some find it fascinating and even scientific. As for me, one of the significant mathematical notations I observed was that $20+20=40$. The number 40 is a sign of “transition and significant changes,” according to Biblical theologians. For example: In Judaism, the Hebrew Bible 40 is often used to separate two distinct Epochs (time periods). In the Old testament the reported flood in Noah’s time it rained 40 days and 40 nights. (Gen7:4)

Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights on two separate occasions to receive Gods Laws and the 10 commandments. (Exodus 24:18; 34: 1 -28) The Children of Israel wandered in the Wilderness for 40 years before they were led into the Promised land of Israel. Written recordings had documented Judges and Kings serving 40 years in their positions ruling Israel. Most interesting to me is that the Bible was written by $20+20=40$ writers over it original creation.

Many Christian faithful’s will fast for 40 days or give up a pleasure for 40 days for Lent to profess their faith to emulate the self-discipline and trials of Christ during His 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, as described by Luke, one His disciples, in the 4th chapter of Mathew, the first book in the new Testament. 40 days was the period of time after the resurrection of Jesus and the ascension of Jesus into the heaven as recorded in Acts 1:3.

The number 40 is mentioned 146 times in the Scriptures. Each time it symbolized trials, periods of testing faith, and the recording of many significant narratives in Scripture. There are so many interesting and detailed events over the last 2000 years. If you find it bizarre or fascinating, do some research. It is informative and enlightening.

As for our 2020 this past year, it took 40 days before action was seriously taken regarding the COVID- 19 pandemic, our first Stay at Home order lasted 40 days. We can find many Biblical and modern times where the number 40 is significant. My eyes have been opened to a 2020 vision in situations where we will be tested and transitional changes will occur into this next 40 days, 40 years.

I agree with you my dear, the Universe is trying to tell all of us something. We need to open our eyes and our hearts to have clear 2020 Vision. As for me I am looking forward to transitions and changes as we grow spiritually as a nation and peacefully as a world. Send me an email anytime. I will answer you within a week.

Happy 2021 New Year. ask_andy@aol.com

Editorial



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Ammunition Shortage Update

Last week’s column about the ongoing ammunition shortage in our country contained an error and the Weekly Sportsman always gets frustrated when facts and figures are falsely reported and not corrected when they should be. The column stated that in the United States there were 5 million new gun owners in 2020. Recently updated figures actually exceed 7million new gun owners. An extra 2 million people purchasing at least a couple 20 or 50 round boxes of ammo certainly adds to the supply and demand conundrum.

A few days ago the Ammunition President for Vista Outdoors, Jason Vanderbrink, posted a video on Youtube to set the record straight on the current production of Federal, CCI, Speer, and Remington lines of ammunition. He couldn’t have been any clearer that their facilities are producing more ammunition than ever before and that the demand simply exceeds the supply.

He went on to ask for the hate mail to stop and for unwelcome visitors to stop showing up at production facilities. As for the rumors of secret warehouses and sales to only select vendors he emphatically denied such claims. In fact, Vanderbrink mentioned the hiring of several hundred new employees to help assist with production. In closing, he simply asked for patience as they are doing their best to bring an American product made by American workers to the market as quickly as they can.

The Weekly Sportsman still recommends buying what you can find and trading with friends for desired ammunition. Remember there is a difference between hoarding and being prepared.

Next week we will look at chamber adapters and their usefulness during ammunition shortages.

-WS

Meridian Weekly

Deborah Price
Owner/Publisher
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Senior Spotlight



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Kimberly Bowen, RN, BSN

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP for Seniors)

submitted by Rebecca Zemla

Applications for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (Senior CSFP) are currently being taken by phone. This program provides nutritious food, on a monthly basis, to low-income residents of Shiawassee County who are 60 years of age or above.

Persons 60 years of age or older must meet the 130% Poverty index. Family size 1 - \$16,588; family size 2 - \$22,412; family size 3 - \$28,236. For each additional family member add - \$5,824.

Distribution for Shiawassee County will begin January 5 through the 27th, 2021.

The Procedure will be drive through the First Day Only.

If you do not already have someone designated to pick up your food, you may call the CACS office at 989-723-3115 and let us know who you are designating to pick it up If you are not registered, please call the office at 989-723-3115 to pre-register.

Available hours are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

NOTE: Beginning on January 6, 2021 TEFAP (Quarterly food will also be available for those that did not receive it in November or December 2020).

Signs of Unsafe Driving in Older Drivers

A license to drive has long been symbolic of independence. Teenage drivers long for the day they earn their licenses and can take to the road without mom or dad riding shotgun, while aging drivers want to keep driving as long as possible so they can come and go as they please in their golden years.

There’s no formula drivers and their families can employ to determine when it’s time to take the car keys away from senior citizens. Thankfully, fatal collisions involving older drivers have declined considerably in recent decades. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, collision-related fatalities among drivers ages 70 and older declined by 15 percent between 1997 and 2018. A host of factors have no doubt contributed to that decline, including lane-assist technology and forward collision warning systems that have become standard offerings on many modern vehicles.

As much as technology has helped make driving safer for everyone, aging drivers should still keep an eye out for certain signs that may indicate their skills behind the wheel are diminishing and potentially compromising their ability to drive safely. According to AARP, the following are warning signs of unsafe driving.

- Delayed response to unexpected situations: Frequent close calls and narrowly avoiding collisions when other drivers stop suddenly indicate reduced response time that can put aging drivers at an elevated risk of being involved in an accident.
- Becoming easily distracted while driving: Distracted driving has become a significant concern in recent decades, but it’s often associated with young drivers. However, aging drivers who are easily distracted also pose a safety risk to themselves and other motorists.
- Decrease in confidence while driving: Only drivers will know if they feel confident enough to drive safely, and it’s vital that aging drivers be honest with themselves when assessing how they feel when driving.





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- Having difficulty moving into or maintaining the correct lane of traffic: Lane-assist technology can help drivers recognize how often they’re staying in the correct lane of traffic. When the warning bell goes off frequently, it might be time for older drivers to reconsider if it’s safe for them to be behind the wheel.
- Hitting curbs when making right turns or backing up: Hitting curbs when turning or backing up indicates drivers may be having difficulty controlling their vehicles and/or seeing the road, both of which indicate it’s no longer safe for drivers to get behind the wheel.
- Getting scrapes or dents on car, garage or mailbox: These signs also indicate drivers are having trouble controlling their vehicles.
- Driving too fast or too slow for road conditions: This indicates drivers are not as alert to their surroundings as they need to be to stay safe on the road.

It’s not easy for aging drivers to relinquish their drivers’ licenses. Learning to recognize potential warning signs of unsafe driving can help aging drivers make the safest decisions for themselves, their passengers and their fellow motorists.

Senior Spotlight

COVID-19 Vaccinations in Michigan Skilled Nursing Home Facilities

submitted by Bob Wheaton

LANSING - Skilled nursing home residents and staff began receiving the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine made by Moderna today through the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program.

The pharmacy partnership is a national initiative to provide COVID-19 vaccine to the Phase 1A priority groups of long-term care facility residents and staff. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is partnering with CVS and Walgreens through the program to manage and facilitate safe vaccination of this patient population, while reducing burden on long-term care facilities and local health departments.

"We know the residents of these facilities are at high-risk for severe illness and death from the virus, and early vaccination of both residents and those caring for them is critical to help protect this population," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy for health. "We are pleased that more than 5,000 long-term care facilities – including more than 400 skilled nursing facilities – have been enrolled in the program in Michigan to receive the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine."

There are about 91,000 people including residents and staff at nursing facilities, and it is expected to take about three weeks to complete vaccinations. Additional eligible facilities will soon begin receiving vaccinations including assisted living, personal care homes, residential care, adult family home, adult foster home, HUD supportive housing for the elderly and veterans' homes. The list of sites enrolled in the program is available at Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine.

To ensure the safety of residents and staff, vaccinators are required to adhere to all applicable Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services COVID-19 testing requirements for long-term care facility staff. In addition, the pharmacists themselves will be vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine as part of this program.

"Nursing facility providers are eager to begin the process of vaccinating residents and staff," said Health Care Association of Michigan President/CEO Melissa Samuel. "The coronavirus has been most unmerciful to the residents we care for. We are very hopeful this vaccine will not only be a lifesaver for residents and staff, but also expedite the reopening of our facilities to family members and loved ones."

"We want all our residents and staff vaccinated," Samuel said. "Until we reach those levels, we will all need to remain vigilant in our efforts to mitigate further spread of the virus. I want to thank everyone that has made this day possible."

MDHHS is following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for prioritization of distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines. CDC recommendations are based on input from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the federal advisory committee made up of medical and public health experts who develop recommendations on the use of vaccines in the United States. Phase 1A includes paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings

who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home as well as residents in long-term care facilities. Additional information on the state's vaccination phases is available in the prioritization guidance.

Vaccine prioritizations may change as more information on vaccine effectiveness and additional vaccination products become available. MDHHS has provided additional prioritization guidance within these categories. It is important to note that vaccination in one phase may not be complete before vaccination in another phase begins. There may be vaccination of individuals in different phases that occur simultaneously. The timing of the start of vaccination in a phase is dependent on the supply of vaccine from the manufacturer, how vaccine is allocated from the federal level to Michigan and the capacity to administer the vaccine to populations. Decisions on moving to the next phase will be made at the state level.

Even with COVID-19 vaccinations starting in Michigan and worldwide, Khaldun urges everyone to continue to practice preventative measures such as properly wearing masks, social distancing and frequent handwashing to reduce the spread of the virus until the vast majority of people have been vaccinated.

Michigan health officials have set a goal of vaccinating 70% of Michiganders over age 16, about 5.6 million people, by the end of 2021. There will be no out-of-pocket costs to individuals for the vaccine, however, healthcare providers may bill insurance for administrative costs. The COVID-19 vaccine will require two doses, separated by three or four weeks depending on the manufacturer. Michiganders should receive both doses in order to have full protection from the virus. Individuals who receive the vaccine may experience mild side effects such as low-grade fever, sore arm and general discomfort, which indicate that the vaccine is working. There is a robust state and national process for tracking vaccines and reporting side effects.

Michigan residents seeking more information about the COVID-19 vaccine can visit Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine.



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HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Although No One Can Go Back And Make A Brand New Start,
Anyone Can Start From Now And Make A Brand New Ending.**

As we say goodbye or more appropriately, good riddance to 2020, it is my wish that 2021 brings everyone a better year. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for the support of our loyal advertisers, readers, friends and family during this past year.

The pandemic has had an adverse impact on virtually everyone.

**The Ashley, Laingsburg and Ovid-Elsie communities are resilient. As long as we continue to support each other, we will be able to put 2020 in the rear view mirror. May 2021 bring you and your families,
Peace, Prosperity and Happiness...**

Deb Price

A Look Back Through 2020



Postponed

March 29, 2020

Due to COVID-19, the word "POSTPONED" became the word of the year. Many community events would be cancelled or postponed in 2020. The first was the 2020 Home & Garden Business Expo in Shiawassee County in March. Following would be the Ashley Trading Days, Laingsburg's Springtime Festival, Elsie Dairy Festival and Ovid Carriage Days. County and State fairs were cancelled, High School Graduations were altered to adhere to Governor's orders. In recap, if it did not happen, it was because of COVID-19.

Serving Others in the Time of COVID-19

April 19, 2020



Masked-Up and ready to serve: Country Kitchen staff (l-r) Chelsae Brush, Randy Elwood, Suzanne Grubaugh and Chara Johnson. Country Kitchen served 460 take-out meals for Easter in joint effort with Duplain Church of Christ.

Laingsburg Lions Elects 1st Female Cindy Arthur President

June 28, 2020



Lions District Governor, Becky Hamilton, swore in newly elected President Arthur and officially handed her the meeting gavel.

Sports

Five Marauders, Four From Wolfpack Honored on All-Shiawassee Area Football Team for 2020

OWOSSO -- Both Ovid-Elsie and Laingsburg showcased some young talent -- and some veteran leadership, too -- in carrying their respective football teams to the 2020 post-season.

Local football fans -- and media -- took notice.

Five players from coach Travis Long's Marauders, and four from coach Brian Borgman's Wolfpack, have been honored on the 2020 All-Shiawassee Area Football Team, as named by the Owosso Argus-Press.

The O-E honor contingent included Eddy Evans, Keighan Ormes, Landon Stoneman, Kevin Ley and Max Spiess.

Laingsburg's honorees were Doug Matthews, Zach Hawes, DayShawn Bowman and Taylor Zdenahlik.

The Shiawassee Area Player of the Year is Cam Orr, quarterback for the New Lothrop Hornets. The senior led the Hornets to an 8-0 record entering a regional matchup with Detroit Loyola. Orr, to date, has passed for 1,529 yards and 22 touchdowns with only two interceptions. He has also rushed for 450 yards and 14 TDs while averaging 8.5 yards per carry and completed just over 76 percent of his passes. Orr has also been a standout at defensive end, delivering 41 tackles with nine sacks, 14 tackles for loss and several forced fumbles. He plans to play football at Ferris State University, which recruited him as a defensive player.

The remainder of the team includes:

First Team Offense

Receivers

Zach Hawes, Laingsburg

The senior hauled in 22 receptions for 517 yards and six TDs. The first team All-CMAC player averaged 23.5 yards per catch. "He is the best player I've had the opportunity to coach since I arrived in Laingsburg in 2002," Wolfpack head coach Brian Borgman said.

Punter/Kicker

Taylor Zdenahlik, Laingsburg

Zdenahlik, a senior, averaged 36.2 yards per punt on 19 attempts for 687 yards.

First Team Defense

Defensive Backs

Eddy Evans, Ovid-Elsie

The junior was the best cover back for the Marauders this season, hauling in five interceptions. He also recovered two fumbles and had 12 tackles, one going for a loss. Evans was named a first-team all-MMAC defensive back.

Second Team OFFENSE

Quarterback

Doug Matthews, Laingsburg

Matthews completed 51.6 percent of his passes (49 of 95) while throwing for 856 yards and 11 touchdowns with four interceptions. He also ran for 130 yards on 20 carries while averaging 6.5 yards per tote. A CMAC second-teamer, Matthews played in only five games due to injuries.

Running Backs

Eddy Evans, Ovid-Elsie

Evans led the Marauders in rushing this season with 620 yards on 97 carries. He scored six rushing TDs.

Offensive Line

Keigan Ormes, Ovid-Elsie

Named to the all-MMAC second team, Ormes, a senior captain, has started on the offensive line the past two seasons and the center helped the Marauders' offense rack up 1,580 yards in 2020.

Second Team Defense

Defensive Backs

Zach Hawes, Laingsburg

The first-team CMAC player had 35 tackles and one interception.

Honorable Mention Offense

DayShawn Bowman, Laingsburg, WR

Honorable Mention Defense

Kevin Ley, Ovid-Elsie, DT

Max Spiess, Ovid-Elsie, NG

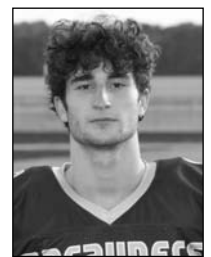
Landon Stoneman, Ovid-Elsie, LB



Zach Hawes
Laingsburg
1st Team Offense
2nd Team Defense
All Area



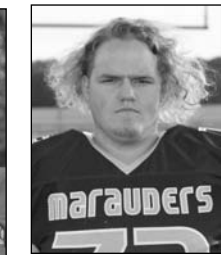
Taylor Zdenahlik
Laingsburg
1st Team Offense
All Area



Eddy Evans
Ovid-Elsie
1st Team Defense
2nd Team Offense
All Area



Doug Matthews
Laingsburg
2nd Team Offense
All Area



Keigan Ormes
Ovid-Elsie
2nd Team Offense
All Area



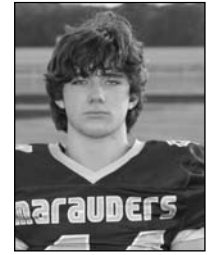
DayShawn
Bowman
Laingsburg
All Area Offense
Honorable
Mention



Kevin Ley
Ovid-Elsie
All Area Defense
Honorable
Mention



Max Spiess
Ovid-Elsie
All Area Defense
Honorable
Mention



Landon Stoneman
Ovid-Elsie
All Area Defense
Honorable
Mention

MHSAA Announces Latest Plan for Fall Sports

LANSING — The Michigan High School Athletic Association postseason tournaments in football, girls volleyball and girls swimming and diving will be completed in January, the MHSAA announced via press release Saturday.

Football teams may begin two days of outdoor, non-contact conditioning and drills, wearing helmets and shoulder pads with physical distancing, Monday.

The first round of coronavirus testing is Wednesday in accordance with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services rapid testing pilot program.

Schools will test players, coaches and other team personnel, with full-contact practice then allowed after a first round of negative results.

For football, 11-Player regional finals and 8-Player semi-finals will be Jan. 9. New Lothrop (8-0) is set to face Loyola (8-1) at Madison Heights Bishop Foley. A kickoff time has yet to be announced.

The 8-Player finals and 11-Player semifinals will be Jan. 16; and 11-Player finals will be the weekend of Jan. 22-23.

Volleyball competition will restart with quarterfinals, and Lower Peninsula girls swimming and diving has advanced to its finals. The championship events in both sports would be completed no later than Jan. 30.

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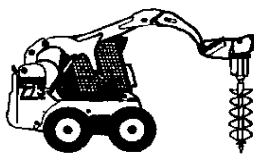
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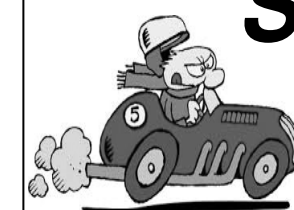
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Kids Donate Candy to Troops

The annual candy buy back program hosted by Laingsburg Eye Care each year around Halloween collected 31 pounds of candy. Pictured here is Angela Hawkins from the Michigan National Guard who took the candy that was donated along with the \$1.00 per pound offered by Laingsburg Eye to the kids making the candy donation. The candy donations came mostly from the local youth group from Laingsburg Methodist Church. It was their desire to donate the money they received from the candy donations back to the troops along with the candy.

Signing cont' from front page



Ovid-Elsie Senior Mikayla Kelley is shown signing her Letter of Intent with Spring Arbor University on December 29th at Royal Scot Bowling Lanes while her parents Susan Lightner and Zach Kelley look on. Photo by Deb Price

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OE Bowling Coach Matt Fabus was named MMAC Bowling Coach of the Year for 2020. Before the teams could have their annual banquet the pandemic shut down schools. Team members present at the signing presented Fabus with his plaque. Front (l-r): Chloe Taylor, Coach Matt Fabus, Mikayla Kelley, Jocelyn Holton-Pugh. Back (l-r): Corbin Kelley and Ian Hehrer. Photo by Deb Price

Saving for the American dreams

Roth IRA can help you save for retirement and your children's education

Chris and Heather want to help their young son go to college someday. They also want to retire when they're 65 – but they don't know how they can save for both dreams.

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Save for the future while maintaining some flexibility for college expenses. A Modern Woodmen of America financial representative can help you determine if a Roth IRA could help you achieve your dreams.

Let's start the conversation.



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