



(l-r): Curtis Keck, Joe Coleman, Tyler McGeehan, Ashley and Ken Kutzli

Keck-Coleman Funeral Home Has New Owners

by Deb Price

On October 6, 2003, construction began for the new Keck-Coleman Funeral Home in St Johns. A new facility to open by locals from the area with many years of experience in the funeral business. In December of 2020, McGeehan Funeral Homes acquired the Keck-Coleman Funeral Home so its founders, Joe Coleman, Curtis Keck and Patrick Goff could enjoy a much deserved retirement.

Keck-Coleman opened their doors on April 24, 2004 with a commitment to provide compassionate and professional service to families in Mid-Michigan at their most difficult time, in death. "Our strength over the years has been our focus on customer service. From our initial visit with families at their time of need to the people who come to pay their respects, we have met each and every one at our front door," explained Joe Coleman.

Joe, who enjoys the out-of-doors, will probably have a honey-do list waiting for him as he enters retirement. Curtis will stay on for a while in transition as the new owner, Tyler McGeehan and managers, Ken & Ashley Kutzli settle into the St Johns location.

"It has been an exciting experience, starting from the farmland site to the building we built and the entire development on Townsend Road. It is a happy time and a sad time for me to retire, I'm not a kid anymore," explained Coleman.

McGeehan, a Chesaning resident, owns Funeral Homes in Chesaning, New Lothrop, St Charles in addition to his recent purchase of Keck-Coleman in St Johns. He started working in the business alongside his step-father at Nelson-House in Owosso in 2009. Tyler graduated from Pittsburg Institute of Mortuary Science in 2015 and earned his Michigan Mortuary License a few months later. He then moved with his family to Chesaning to manage the Martin Chapel and New Lothrop Chapel. In 2019 the McGeehan family purchased both chapels from Nelson-House and McGeehan Funeral Homes was officially founded.

Tyler and his wife Adrianna, have four young children, Anneliese, Ezekiel, Richard and Elsa. They reside in Chesaning and operate the day-to-day operations of the business there. "We look forward to continuing the tradition of customer service developed by Joe, Curtis and Patrick in St Johns. I have a big heart for the industry and am committed to providing compassionate, caring service to the families in greater St Johns," explained McGeehan.

Ken and Ashley Kutzli, originally from the Milford area will manage the McGeehan Funeral Home, Keck-Coleman Chapel in St Johns. The husband & wife team have been partners in the business for ten years and share a total of 37 years experience, 27 of those as funeral directors. "Ashley and I have devoted their lives to always 'being there' for families when a death occurs, we are honored to continue the mission of Mr. Coleman, Mr Keck and Mr Goff," explained Kutzli.

The McGeehan Funeral Home, Keck-Coleman Chapel is located at 1500 Waterford Parkway in St Johns. For more information call (989)224-4422.

MMDHD Begins Administering COVID-19 Vaccine

submitted by Leslie Kinnear

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) began the monumental task of administering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to priority groups on December 28.

Those priority groups include emergency medical services (EMS), medical first responders, and frontline health care workers not already being vaccinated through their hospital or organization. Staff and residents at skilled nursing facilities will be vaccinated through national pharmacy chains, in coordination with the federal government.

It will take time for MMDHD to work through the priority groups and get to the point where the vaccine will be available to the general public. Until then, residents should continue to wear their face masks, practice social distancing, wash hands often, and follow isolation and quarantine guidelines when appropriate.

Residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm counties who would like to be notified when the vaccine will be available to them should visit www.mmdhd.org/covid-center/ and fill out the "Vaccine Notification" form.

Businesses that would like its employees vaccinated may call MMDHD and request to be added to the notification list. Clinton County businesses should call 989-224-2195, option 2. Gratiot County businesses should call 989-875-3681, option 2. Montcalm County businesses should call 989-831-5237, option 2.

The Moderna vaccine requires two doses, 28 days apart. Individuals should receive both doses to be considered fully protected. There is no out-of-pocket cost to individuals for the vaccine.

The vaccine cannot give someone COVID-19. The vaccine gives your body a code which helps it recognize the virus, so your body can fight it off in the future. After vaccination, it is common to experience some mild side effects, which is a normal sign that your body is building protection from the virus. If side effects are experienced, they last no more than one or two days and may include injection site pain, a low-grade fever, and headache.

Both the Moderna and the Pfizer vaccines have undergone the same rigorous process that was used to create safe and effective vaccines for the flu, polio, measles, whooping cough and more. While the COVID-19 vaccines were developed rather quickly, no steps were skipped in their development. Instead, modifications to the process were made to shorten the timeline without sacrificing safety. These include:

- Overlapping phase I and phase II clinical trials.
- Beginning the manufacturing process during phase III clinical trials.
- Developing vaccine delivery plans prior to approval.

For the latest COVID-19 information, including vaccine distribution and explanation of the priority groups, visit www.mmdhd.org and click on the Coronavirus banner at the top of the page.



Mid-Michigan District Health Department's Health Officer, Marcus Cheatham received his Moderna vaccine from MMDHD Public Health Nurse Becky Stoddard.



Winter Fun: Joel Passmore and his son Dugan of Elsie built this igloo over Christmas break during the first snow of the season Good job guys!

Meridian Weekly

Deborah Price
Owner/Publisher
meridianweekly.com

200 S. Main St., P.O. Box 11, Ovid, MI
989.834.2264 Fax: 834.2066

E-mail - News/General
news@meridianweekly.com

E-mail - Publisher
deb.price@meridianweekly.com

E-mail - Display Advertising
ads@meridianweekly.com

Social

Baby Pantry Information 2021

submitted by Kathleen Washburn

The Elsie Baby Pantry is not just for Elsie! It also serves Clinton County and its' surrounding communities. Proof of need is not required. The Pantry is also not just for babies! We have clothing (up to size 12), books, and toys appropriate for ages up to 12 years old. The Elsie Baby Pantry is located at 150 E. Main, and is open the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. We observe COVID precautions.

Baby items offered free of charge include: diapers, wipes, baby food, formula, bedding and toiletries. In addition, clothing (maternity and children's clothing sizes preemie through 11/12 is available. Feminine products are also provided. Items very each month and are intended to supplement what you need, not to be your primary source for child needs.

If you wish to donated new or clean, slightly-used items that are listed above, they may be delivered during pantry hours. Stay tuned as we will soon have another drop-off site. Monetary gifts help to pay the bills and buy emergency items. (Checks made out to Elsie United Methodist Church, note on memo line: Baby Pantry, and mailed to above church at 160 W. Main, P.O. Box 189, Elsie 48831).

We cannot use adult clothing. Due to liability, our organization cannot accept bassinets, swinging bassinets/crib, bouncers, car seats, table-mounted toddler chairs, stuffed animals, or toys with small parts.

Questions? Please text 989-640-1492.

Free Winter Apparel

The Ovid Public Library has been given many, many coats, hats, scarves and gloves by our very generous patrons. These winter items are available for anyone who needs them. Please come to the library to see what we have. Please feel free to take what you need. Our hours are: Monday 10-7; Wednesday 10-5; Friday 10-5.



Lions Cheese Sale Winding Down

The Ovid Lions Club will be selling cheese thru January or until its gone. All eight varieties are still available including Amish Creamery, Sharp Cheddar, Colby Jack, Pepper Jack, Chipotle and Horseradish for \$8.00, Baby Swiss and the Variety Wheel for \$10. Call Doc O'Bryant at 989-834-2425 or Mary Perrien at 989-251-8517 or pick up at the Meridian Weekly during the following times, Tue & Wed 8:30am-noon and on Thurs from 8:30-4:00.

Support Needed at the Senior Center

submitted by Brenda Terpening

As you may know, the Clinton County Senior Center, located in St. Johns has been closed for many months due to the COVID pandemic, which means they have had no income coming in. Since many expenses have continued, thankfully during the last year many generous people have donated home-made items and things like puzzles and books they can sell in their gift shops. So for the next couple of weeks they will be open on Tuesdays & Thursdays between 10 am - 1 pm so people can come in and support the center by shopping at those gift shops.

In addition to the puzzles (selling for .25 - \$2 each) and books (by donation), they have homemade quilts (baby though queen size), table runners, pet blankets, pillows, book pillows, casserole holders, towels and much more. They also have lots of glassware and decorations (assorted prices) and lots of birthday, all occasion & sympathy cards (only .10 each).

If you would like to shop but need to come at a different time, call Darlene at 989-224-6605 to make other arrangements. The Senior Center is located at 201 E Walker Street in St. Johns.

Cancun Mexican Grill

~ Under New Management ~

Buy \$50 Gift Card, Get \$10 Gift Card FREE!

Open for Take-Out Food and Alcohol!

OPEN 7 Days
Mon-Sat: 11-10pm
Sun: 11-9pm



1071 S. US27
Southpoint Mall, St. Johns
989-227-5800

Pioneer Harvest Hero Donates to Local Charity

submitted by Kyle Webb

ELSIE — Pioneer recently announced the grand-prize winners of its #HarvestHeroes contest on social media. While each contestant already is a hometown hero, each grand-prize winner received a \$500 donation to help them make an even bigger difference in their hometowns.

Michelle Washburn of Elsie, Michigan, donated her \$500 to the Elsie Food Pantry. Michelle wrote about the importance of farmers, despite the advancements in technology.

"Those machines are amazing, but they don't run themselves," she wrote. "They need a farmer who will stay awake all night before the rain comes. They need a farmer to fix the broken parts. They need a farmer to buckle up the next generation sitting in the buddy seat."

See the complete list of winners and more at <https://go.pioneer.com/harvesthero>.



January 2021 FOMR Meeting is Cancelled

submitted by Seth Gibson

Happy New Year, certainly no better year than 2021 for a fresh start. To all the FOMR's followers out there, note that the organization is still going and appreciative of the support it has received. Unfortunately, all non-essential organization functions/events have had to be suspended and will continue to be until there is reasonable assurance that functions can start back up safely.

As you are comfortable and able, we encourage you to go about your own way of pursuing the mission of FOMR: share your knowledge/appreciation of the Maple River with others; do a little where you can to keep the watershed clean and healthy and encourage others to do the same; find ways to get out and enjoy the watershed, it's certainly an enjoyable way to go about social distancing. Some of our members have recommended ice fishing, snow shoeing, or just taking a long walk to enjoy the snowy landscape.

We're still hoping to have some type of "meeting" in March, so stay tuned! In the meantime check out our website at www.friendsofthemapleriver.org ##

**B
and
B
TAX**



AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

**Income Tax Service • Electronic Filing
Offering Investments, Insurance
& Complete Range of Retirement Plans**

Drop off hours will be 8 am to 5 pm

Other hours by appointment

Mailing address is P.O. Box 376, Ovid, MI 48866

DANIEL BUKOVCIK

101 N. MAIN ST., OVID

Phone (989)834-2270

Fax (989)834-2279

Fish Fry

CALL FOR TAKE OUT

EVERY FRIDAY 10am - 8pm

COD - WALLEYE - SHRIMP

\$10⁹⁵

Includes Fries & Cole Slaw

SUNDAY DINNER SPECIALS

Roast Beef - Chicken or Turkey with Dressing

\$9⁹⁵

Mary's Country Kitchen

M-21 • Ovid • (989) 834-9640

Call for Take-Out

Obituaries

Casilda "Sill" Mary Ann Meredith

Casilda "Sill" Mary Ann Meredith, age 79, of St. Johns, MI, passed away Thursday, December 31, 2020, at Ashley Care Center, Ashley, Michigan.

Casilda was born in Elsie, Michigan on April 7, 1941, the daughter of Roy and Casilda (Pearce) Flanner. She graduated from Elsie High School with the class of 1959. On November 4, 1961, she married Gary Meredith in Elsie, Michigan. They were blessed with 49 years of marriage; before Gary passed away on July 11, 2001.

Her grandchildren were the light of her life. She was passionate about helping others, and before her illness she was very involved in the Elsie Baby Pantry, the Elsie Food Bank, and the Elsie United Methodist Women serving as president for a time. She worked at H & R Block in Chesaning for 25 years and cherished her time there with her clients and wonderful coworkers who remained dear friends. Many benefited from her kindness and generosity. She was a woman of deep, unwavering faith.

Casilda is survived by her daughter Tracie and Tom Bolton, grandchildren David Alen Bolton and partner Grant Koenigsnecht, and Meredith Kay Bolton, siblings: Charlotte Griffith, Kathleen Hower, Lewis and Zeffy Flanner, Patrick and Sandy Flanner, Helen and Bob Rittenhouse, and in laws Judy Flanner, Bonny Flanner, Bob and Karen Meredith and Margaret Rose. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews who were very special to her. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Gary, sisters: Margery Roy, Nina Sessions, and Alice Hoisington, brothers Roy Flanner Jr, Bob Flanner, Leroy Flanner, Richard Flanner, and George Flanner.

A private family service was held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 1 p.m. for immediate family only at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan. Burial has taken place at Duplain Township Cemetery, St. Johns, Michigan.

Memorials may be made to the Elsie Baby Pantry, 160 W. Main Street, Elsie, Michigan 48831. Online condolences can be left at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



Ronnie Keith Saylor Sr.

Ronnie Keith Saylor Sr., age 79 of Durand, MI formerly of the Ashley area, passed away Wednesday, December 23, 2020, at Covenant Healthcare Center, Saginaw, MI.

Ronnie was born in Elsie, MI on August 24, 1941, the son of Earl K. and Frances E. (Easterling) Saylor. Ronnie served his country in the U.S. Navy. He enjoyed riding motorcycles and watching baseball and football.

He is survived by 2 daughters: Cynthia and Keith Keusch, and Robin and Chuck Davis; 3 sons: Ronnie and Denny Sue Saylor, Randy and Rosanne Saylor, Ricky and Stacie Saylor; 13 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren; 2 sisters: Shirley and Fred Ringle, and Sherry and Larry Stoneman; 1 brother Tommie Saylor; and Ronnie's companion Linda Olin. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Ronnie was predeceased by his parents and his sister-in-law Bessie Saylor.

Funeral Services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes Elsie, MI, on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 with Pastor Dave Perry officiating. Burial has taken place at Riverside Cemetery, Elsie, MI.

Memorials may be made to a Charity of the Donor's Choice. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI.



Jerry Allen Mills

Jerry Allen Mills, 62 of Ovid passed away on December 31, 2020 at UofM in Ann Arbor. He was a Son, Father, Brother and Friend. Jerry was an Ovid-Elsie Class of 1977 graduate. He fathered four children, April Mills, Jerry Mills, Terri Teachout and Stefan Mills with Sandra Mills and Nick Mills with Kim Barnum.

He is the son of Carole Riojas and brother to Jeff Mills, Melissa Bishop, Michele Robinson and Heather Casteel.

Jerry worked at General Motors for 42 years where he was known as Animal. He was a member of UAW Local 602.

He was predeceased by his Father, Gerald Mills.

Jerry loved cars and teasing people. Rest Easy Jerry.

A Memorial Service was held at Watkins Brothers Funeral Home in Owosso.





HERITAGE MONUMENTS

10% off Monuments



We also do custom engraving!
Locally Owned & Operated

511 E. Broad St., Chesaning

(989) 323-2323

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Advertise In Our Church Directory!

Call (989) 834-2264

Middlebury United Methodist Church 8100 W. Hibbard Rd., Ovid 989-834-2573  Worship Service 9:30 a.m.	FAITH FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH Corner of Price & Chandler, St. Johns Pastor: John Jakus Sunday School: 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am 517-651-6210	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 163 W. Main St., Elsie Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. <i>Pastor Roger Numerich</i>
Bannister United Methodist Church 103 Harvey Street Pastor: Zella Daniel Sunday Worship 11:00am	ELSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 160 W. Main St., Elsie (989) 862-5239 Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. <i>Pastor: JD Paik</i>	United Church of Ovid Office Hours: 9-Noon Mon - Fri Sundays am: 10:45 - Hymnsing 11:00 - Worship 131 West Front Street Ovid, MI 48866 • (989) 834-5958 www.unitedchurchofovid.org or on Facebook Pastor Eugene Blair
Duplain Church of Christ 5565 E. Colony Rd. (3 mi. W. of O-E H.S.) Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group Senior Minister: Chuck Emmert Associate Minister: Andrew Goodrich www.duplainchurch.org	LAINGSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 210 CRUM ST. 517-651-5531 <i>Online Service:</i> Sundays at 10am. <i>Facebook or Youtube</i> Pastor Tiffany Newsom laingsburgumc@gmail.com www.laingsburgumc.org	St. Cyril Parish of Bannister Mass: Sun 10:30am, Wed. 9:00am Confession: Sun 11:30am We Welcome You to Come...

Obituaries

Marlene Ann Call (Meyer)

Marlene Ann Call (Meyer), age 84, of Owosso, peacefully passed away on Thursday, December 31, 2020.

Marlene was born February 25, 1936 in Huntington, Indiana, the daughter of Carl P. and Rosa (Karst) Meyer. She joined siblings Kenneth (Mary) Meyer; Harold (Phyllis) Meyer and Jane (Eddie) DeWitt. She graduated from Huntington Catholic School in Huntington, Indiana, class of 1953.

She met and later married the love of her life, Walter Henry Call (Charlie and Laura Call) on July 11, 1953. In 1963, following employment, they packed up their four children and moved to Owosso, Michigan. Marlene and Walter lead an active life, they square danced, were members of bowling leagues, they camped, traveling to 48 states together throughout their years, tended an extensive annual garden, canning the fruits of their labor. After Walters' passing in 2002, Marlene continued to camp with family. She enjoyed reading and crocheting. Throughout her life, Marlene had various careers retiring from GTE. Marlene was a volunteer of Respite of Shiawassee County and was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Morrice.

Marlene, a faithful woman, her family's prayer warrior, is survived by her children Janice Thelen, Jeanine (Scott) Honke and Jodene Call; daughter-in-law Pamela Call; grandchildren Andrea (Steve) Zeilinski, Audrie (Don) Kirk, Jim (Amanda) Call, Megan Call (Scot Harig), Ashley (Shareil) Nariman, Jessica (Bryan) Galecka, Sarah (Wesley) Zemla and Jason (Celina) Call; 11 great-grandchildren Santiago, Lorelai, Joey, Andy, Mason, Kyle, Joel, Parker, Dominic, Drake, Liliana with one more due in 2021, as well as many loving family and friends. Marlene's children would often tease her about her posse of friends and their various activities.

She was predeceased by her husband, her brothers and sister, son James D. Call and son-in-law Dave Thelen. Mom was proud of her independence, of maintaining her beautiful home, until due to Dementia/Alzheimer she no longer could. Mom moved into Whispering River Adult Foster Care in DeWitt, where Shannon May and staff welcomed mom and lovingly cared for her through her passing. This horrible disease robbed mom of her memories and robbed her family and friends of the remarkable, classy-sassy woman that Marlene was. She was game for anything, rarely turning down an opportunity for fun and mischief. She enjoyed taking shots with her children and grandchildren, laughing all the way. She was fiercely proud of her children and grandchildren, and enjoyed loving her "greats".

A Mass of Christian burial was held at 11:00am Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Morrice, Michigan, with Monsignor George C. Michalek officiating. Burial followed at the Bethany Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions, in Marlene's name, are suggested to St Mary's Altar Society; Respite of Shiawassee County, 710 W King St, Owosso, MI., 48867 or Sparrow Home Hospice, 1210 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI., 48915 or charity of donor's choice.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at Nelson-House.com.



A Note from the Superintendent

Dr. Ryan Cunningham

Ovid-Elsie Area Schools Honors School Board Members for Annual Recognition Month

Ovid-Elsie Area Schools is joining 544 local and 57 intermediate school districts across Michigan to celebrate January as School Board Recognition Month.

"In a year full of challenges for public education not seen in recent history, our school board members persevered through the adversity of 2020 to provide the best possible education for our students," said Superintendent Dr. Ryan Cunningham. "Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one of the very small ways to express appreciation for all they do."

School board members represent the views and priorities of their community in the complex system of maintaining and running a district's public schools, Cunningham said. They also reinforce the principle of local control over public education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Michigan.

"Too often, the efforts of school board members go unrecognized," Cunningham said.

The school board's main goals are to support student achievement and create a safe environment for our students, Cunningham added.

"Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round effort on their part,"

Cunningham said. "No matter what challenges lie ahead for our district in 2021, our school board members will continue to govern to improve student achievement and provide an exceptional education for all our community's children."

The individuals serving Ovid-Elsie Area Schools include Mrs. Dayna Bancroft, Mrs. Erin Bancroft, Dr. David Huff, Mr. Eric Jones, Mr. Josh Miller, Mr. Mike Schiffer, and Mrs. Brooke Wooley. We would also like to recognize Mrs. Stacie Rulison who just completed more than a decade of service as a school board member.

Yours In Education,

Dr. Ryan L. Cunningham, Superintendent, Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

#MaskUp #MarauderUp



Happy Holidays Elsie!

Letter to the Editor:

Thank you for the amazing outpouring of support, donations, and thoughtfulness to those in need in our community! The Elsie Community Christmas project was extremely blessed in 2020, allowing us to help 18 families and 18 adults in need during this holiday season. Thank you to Elsie United Methodist Church, Heartland Church of Ovid, and the Elsie Area Food Bank for being an important part of our project! We are excited to have kept many of your donations within in the community to also support local businesses. Thank you for your support and for being a part of our "small town, big heart" project!

The Elsie Community Christmas Committee

Editorial



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

The first full week of the New Year is coming to a close...this week has been busy and at times I feel myself grasping for a brake to slow the ride. As you all know may know, I'm retired, and should have plenty of time to spend as I wish. On Wednesday, Diane and I took the Tiny Terror, Maxi, and Rambo to be neutered at the Capital Area Humane Society on the south side of Lansing. Just a mere forty-five miles from home, and we had to be there to drop off the little ladies at 7:30 in the morning. We managed to arrive at our destination at seven in the morning, so we had a thirty minute wait.

I finally got my daughter to take the kitten carriers out of her vehicle and get into line. Yes, we were the first in line and just stood there talking for about ten minutes before other folks started to arrive. The first vehicle had two carriers but decided to wait in his vehicle until 7:30AM the check in time; he also changed his mind when three more cars appeared. I believe that he became seventh or eighth in line. After we identified our furry friends and paid for their procedures we were told that we need to pick them up at 3:00 PM. As we walked back to the car, I counted the line which now was strung out across the length of the sidewalk; I believe that there were still twenty folks waiting to be checked into the clinic.

Since few restaurants are open we could only think of a few other ways to amuse ourselves. Such as shopping at Horrock's which was a wonderful experience. We sauntered throughout the store and sharply eradicated our cash flow. Of course we found some great deals, Diane was thrilled with the blackberries and I was happy for the lettuce price and then we meandered throughout the store. We both picked up shelled almonds, and summer sausage and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves as we explored the ambiance. It was great having the store to ourselves and not being crowded as we meandered. Our cart was full before we made it to the register.

After Horrock's we decided to head back home because it was too early for either Barnes and Nobles or JC Penney to be open. We tried contacting the granddaughters but didn't get a response so we headed home. First we stopped so that I could do a bit of banking and then got back to Diane's for coffee and breakfast. We laughed and talked for quite a bit as we discussed life. I also managed to crack a couple of pounds of mixed nuts as we sat there and yakked. I had found an old fashioned squirrel nutcracker and picked it up as a house gift. It reminded me of the one at my grandparent's when I was a youngster. It also worked as well as the oldie and made me decide that I should get one for me.

Finally we headed back to Lansing to pick up our little critters. All was well and Tiny Terror, Rambo and Maxi were resting. We made it home safely and released them from their carriers; all they wanted to do was play with their litter mates. Surgery didn't dampen their spirits or their antics. They bounded all over the house, managing to flip over a couple of plants and that had just been watered. They left a mess.

May your messes be simple and may your common sense keep you focused. Enjoy the meander and take in the sites, simple pleasures are really little treasures. God bless you all.

Crystal Mitchell©2021



Memorialize your loved one in
the Weekly 989-834-2264
ads@meridianweekly.com

"Writing is the painting
of the voice."

markamoment.com



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

Attitude of Gratitude in the New Year

Dear Andy,

Our family, as with most, did not do all the shopping we typically do during the holidays. We didn't host or attend parties. Packages were delivered by the mailman, UPS, FedEx, Amazon, department store door pickup, but not Santa this year. Our neighborhood was full of delivery trucks. They all worked hard even in the days following Christmas with returns, exchanges, and late packages. My family was so happy with just the 4 of us together. We called others on video chats, singing, and laughing while donned in our matching Snoopy sweats. We had the privilege to call grandma in Assisted Living on Christmas eve. We felt closer as a family, without any stress or extra expectations. We had our traditional foods and ate like royalty for days. We made wise decisions to stay safe and appreciated the situation with a grateful heart. I hope we can find our way through the next year with safe and healthy choices. Barb W.

Dear Barb,

Thank for sharing your holiday reflection. You and your family certainly have a great "attitude of gratitude." We must always remember the lessons we have learned during this past difficult year. I was beginning to feel like it was way in the past we were celebrating the holidays, with so much happening in the news and wrapping up the mess. It was only a week and a half ago. I also received a note last week from an Elsie resident, in Florida for the winter who shared the following poem with me and gave me permission to share it with our readers:

"THE NATIVITY ON THE SHELF"

As I was putting my decorations away, I packed and cleaned most of the day.

And while I wrapped them carefully, I had a thought come over me.

Christmas is a special time of year, when all our loved ones gather near.

I wanted the house to look exactly right with pretty balls and bows, it was quite a sight!

And tucked upon the shelf for all to see is my favorite scene, the Nativity.

I picked it up and pondered awhile, then on my face there came a smile!

The Wise men and the Shepherds are here and the lambs so dear.

The camels and the cattle too, have come to adorn the room for you.

Then tucked up on the little shelf is Mary and Joseph, and Jesus himself!

They have come to join our family to sit in the Nativity.

Now when you put your thing away, maybe Jesus would like to stay.

So, invite him into your heart and home, and you will never be alone!

by Edie Gleason Frye

Happy New Year my friends and readers. I hope you find some joy in these 2 holiday reflections. It is time to pack away the decorations, but I think I will keep my Nativity Scene up a little longer, just to remind me to the reason for my beliefs and keeping hope and love in my heart. Peace on Earth and Hope for all. Send me your concerns and share your feelings at ask_andy@aol.com.



The Weekly Sportsman
 by Dan McMaster
 theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Chamber Adapters

The new trend for firearms owners these days is to acquire chamber adapters to prepare for ammo shortages, the zombie apocalypse, and other potential end of the world survival situations. In older days they were often referred to as sub-caliber adapters that used pistol cartridges. Basically for all practical purposes they replicated squib handloads which were often used to shoot small game with low powered loads out of a big bore hunting rifle.

Before the proliferation of so many new and different cartridges introduced every year there were some standard .30 caliber cartridges like the .30-30, .308 and the .30-06. Steel or aluminum made adapters were easily made and purchased to shoot lower power cartridges like the .30 carbine and numerous .30 and .32 caliber pistol rounds. A deer or elk hunter could easily carry a few adapters loaded with .32 ACP in the shirt pocket to take a random rabbit, squirrel, or even a bird while sitting on stand with a rifle. It seems that currently if any rifle cartridge has a matching caliber in rimfire or pistol round then adapters are being made. This allows cheap practice in the backyard with a high power rifle because of decreased velocity, reduced noise and less recoil for sensitive shooters but also causes less strain on the bank account. Usually a box of 50 cartridges of pistol ammo runs about the same as a box of 20 rifle cartridges.

Now if the reader owns a 12 gauge shotgun the world opens up with the ability to shoot almost all pistol and rimfire cartridges along with smaller gauge shotgun shells with an adapter. Even the .410 can be adapted to shoot some pistol and rimfire cartridges. Consider purchasing your child a 12 gauge shotgun with adapters and work their way up with .410, 28 and the 20 shells.

During ammo shortage times like right now a 12 gauge with numerous shotgun and pistol adapters increases options when shopping for ammunition or to use what you already have stockpiled. The Weekly Sportsman knows that it sounds crazy but just try going to the store right now as all you will find is empty shelves.

There are three chamber adapter applications that the Weekly Sportsman really likes. The first is the ability to shoot .30 carbine in any .30 caliber deer or big game rifle making it an ideal varmint rifle for chucks, crow, yotes, etc. Secondly, a pair of .22 LR adapters inserted into a sxs .410 and loaded with .22 CCI birdshot is just the right medicine for summer evening bats in your backyard. The last application also pertains to the .410 but involves a .410 adapter in a 32 gauge shotgun. Both shells are almost ballistic identical twins except the .410 has a smaller bore that causes vertical stringing. This is ok if your quarry is sitting still but when running or flushing the 32 gauge provide a larger shot pattern. The .410 runs a few bucks cheaper per box and until recently was always able to be purchased at a retail store compared to ordering the 32 gauge on the internet. If you like the .410 then you are sure to love shooting a 32 gauge with a .410 shell in the chamber.

Unfortunately there can be some downsides with using adapters such as stuck adapters and cases and sometimes decreased accuracy. The biggest shame is that the new 350 Legend and 450 Bushmaster have too narrow of a casehead which prevents the manufacture of an adapter for 9mm and .45 pistol rounds.

-WS

Editorial



Religious Thoughts

by Chris Hearn
 www.letsmeetgod.com

At this time of year the days get generally colder and we see more snow on the ground. There are a lot of cloudy days, too. This can affect our moods and even our relationships with God and with each other. Granted, now is just the beginning of winter, but in February especially, we can be in need of some revival.

Whether in January or in the spring, summer or fall, there are times when we need to be revived by God. Or when we need to perhaps rededicate our lives, our very selves to the Lord.

Psalm 80:18-19 says, "...revive us, and we will call on your name. Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved."

If we are to be truly saved, not only spiritually, but from our physical (other) problems as well, we need the Lord. We need the Lord to turn His face to us.

To have God's face shine on us means for us to experience not only His blessings but His peace and presence as well.

"Make your face shine on us." Those words sound extra good on a cold, winter's day, don't they? Perhaps that part of the meaning. When God shines His face upon us, it feels good. Like when the warmth of the sun spreads across your face. And that's true whether there's snow on the ground or not.

This is what God does for our souls. When we feel His presence in our lives, we are warmed. There is His warming presence in our hearts and lives.

It's a new year. In 2021, let's take that warmth, that fire, and spread it to others.

In a way, it's like what Paul told Timothy, *"I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands."*

-2 Timothy 1:6

CITY OF OVID SYNOPSIS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING VIA: ZOOM DECEMBER 29, 2020

You may acquire a copy of the full set of minutes at the Municipal Building located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid.

Mayor Lasher, explained that due to the pandemic and the Stay Safe order by the Governor we once again will be conducting the Special Council meeting, via ZOOM

Mayor Lasher opened the special meeting at 3:01p.m. He dispensed with the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Lasher asked that the Clerk take roll call.

PRESENT: Ms. Perrien, Mr. Starn, Mr. Lasher and Mr. Williams.

ABSENT: Mr. Ordiway, Miss Hibbard and Mr. Brown,

EXOFFIOS: Liza Kusnier – Treasurer and Josefina Medina - Clerk

VISITORS: There were no attendees that logged on.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Williams, second by Ms. Perrien to amend the following amendments in the water fund. To increase the Utility line by \$1,000 & the Maintenance & repair line by \$1,500 all from the Health insurance line. Roll call was taken as follows: Yeas: Ms. Perrien, Mr. Williams, Mr. Starn, Mr. Lasher. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Ordiway, Mr. Brown and Miss Hibbard.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Starn, second by Mr. Williams to authorize the Mayor to sign the MERS Agreement. Roll call was taken as follows: Yeas: Mr. Starn, Ms. Perrien, Mr. Williams and Mr. Lasher. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Ordiway, Mr. Brown and Miss Hibbard.

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Lasher asked if anyone had any questions. No questions were asked.

Mayor Lasher closed the Special Meeting at 3:07 pm.

Josefina Medina, Clerk
 City of Ovid

MILLER'S SOFT WATER
 For Clean, Rust-Free Water.
 Save on Soaps & Detergents
WE RENT OR SELL
 TruSoft Fully Automatic Water
 Softening Service
 We Service All Makes. (Salt Sales & Deliveries)
9450 E. M-21, Ovid • 989-834-5012

ELBA TOWNSHIP
 Gratiot County

**Due to COVID restrictions, Elba Township is
 moving the January meeting to
 January 19th at 7:00 p.m.**

Madalin C. Morris
 Elba Township Clerk



Is a Valentine's Day Proposal Right for You?

Valentine's Day is a special day when thoughts turn to love and romance. Couples contemplating tying the knot may feel like Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to pop the question and begin their journeys toward marriage.

Even though Valentine's Day is a very popular day to propose, it's tricky to keep such a proposal from becoming a cliché. By considering some dos and don'ts, Valentine's Day proposals can be unique.

DO ensure that you're both on the same page. It's one thing for couples who have already been talking about marriage to build on the romance of Valentine's Day with a proposal. But it's quite another if this is a push to wow him or her and you don't have the same goals; it may not go according to plan. Couples are urged to have honest conversations about key topics (i.e., children, compatibility, finances, living arrangements) to see if marriage is a desire they both share.

DON'T overlook the element of surprise for the proposal. Sure it is easy to have a waiter bring the ring after a meal at a favorite restaurant, but it can be even more special to catch your sweetheart off guard. Why not propose before you get to the restaurant, such as in front of where you first met, and then you can enjoy your meal without butterflies?

DO consider your sweetheart's personality before the proposal. A shy person may not like the attention of a crowd. However, someone who loves to be the center of attention may feel that more is merrier.

DON'T go overboard with the details. One or two big surprises is all it takes. The more details, the more things that can potentially go wrong, which can adversely affect the overall proposal.

DO get input from friends and family, but do not feel pressured to do it exactly as they say. A close friend can help select a ring or contribute to the surprise by keeping the special someone unaware of the plans at hand. Having a helper can make the proposal go more smoothly.

DON'T feel pressured to propose on Valentine's Day or a birthday, Christmas, or other big holiday because it's "what you're supposed to do." A proposal and a marriage are unique to each couple, and individuals should abide by their preferences when making such important decisions. Only propose when it feels completely right.

Music Maker DJ's

Event Planning Service

"We Put The Beat In Your Feet"

Music Makers Kevin and Tracy...

One of the BEST DJ

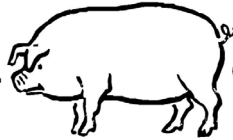
Services Around!

Call Kevin Somers at (989) 661-2348

McAllister's

Bacon Ridge Farm

16212 Ridge Rd. Oakley, MI



FREEZER PORK • FEEDER PIGS • HOG ROASTING

Jeremy McAllister - 989-666-0206 - Amber McAllister

Country Spice
catering



5556 E. M-21, St. Johns (between Ovid & St. Johns)

The Difference Is Delicious

Book Your Event In Our
Banquet Hall Today!

- Graduation
- Open Houses
- Bridal/Baby Shower
- Birthday Party, Etc.

Ask About Our
Catering Options!

TUESDAY: Big Bomb Burrito 4-7pm
FRIDAY: Fish Fry 4-7pm
SUNDAY: Broasted Chicken,
or Meatloaf Dinner 11am - 2pm
All above is

10.95 per person

www.countryspicecatering.com

Call today!

989-723-7001 or 1-877-723-7001



We'll Make it Fit...

Alterations - Alterations - Alterations



- Bridal • Prom/Formals
- Work Clothes
- Zippers
- Hems



2011 S. Warren Rd. • Ovid
989-834-5694

Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5. Nights and weekends by appointment.

How to Avoid Wedding Reception Seating Mistakes

Weddings are great opportunities for people to gather and celebrate the melding of two families into one. Weddings are a melting pot, and while the ultimate goal is for all guests invited to mingle and have a good time, preexisting relationships may cause some wedding-day interactions to be strained. However, with careful planning and some best behavior on the parts of all involved, getting hitched can go off without a hitch.

It's possible for guests who may have tumultuous pasts to keep the peace, but this also can be ensured through careful seating arrangements. This is just one factor couples need to consider when deciding where guests will sit and dine at receptions. It's important to avoid some common mistakes.

Mistake #1: Not having a seating plan. Let guests sit where they want and chaos may ensue. People may think they're entitled to certain seats, may hop into seats vacated by someone getting up to use the restroom or any number of other scenarios. Seating arrangements also ensure everyone is accounted for across the room.

Mistake #2: Seating families separately. Unless there are rifts between certain family members, it's best to seat parents and children at the same tables.

Mistake #3: Trying to force new friendships. Avoid trying to figure out who will get along by creating a potpourri table. A cousin in a band will not necessarily want to sit next to your coworker who plays guitar simply because they have a shared love of music. A wedding is not the time to try to create new friendships. If it's meant to be, they'll connect in a more organic way.

Mistake #4: The dreaded kids' table. Young children can probably get away with sitting at a dedicated kids' table, although it may mean their parents have to interrupt their experiences by checking on their kids throughout the night. A bigger faux pas is to sit teenagers or twentysomethings at the kids table even if they seem like youngsters to you. Set a strict cut-off age for a children's table.

Mistake #5: Being too strict in seating. It's one thing to direct couples or singletons to specific tables, quite another to assign specific seats. Do not dictate exactly where at the table a guest should sit. Some people arrive early, others late, and it is up to them to work out how to arrange themselves at the table.

Mistake #6: Failing to get family feedback. Always check with your parents and future in-laws as resources about how to seat certain guests. They'll likely know who will make the best table-mates, especially if couples are not familiar with everyone on the guest list.

Mistake #7: Not being aware of disabilities or needs. Be conscious of guests' needs. An elderly relative may not be comfortable in front of the DJ table. A person in a wheelchair may need easy access to and from the reception room. It's important to be mindful of these special needs.

A seating plan for wedding receptions is an important consideration so that every guest can feel comfortable.



Precious Memories Bridal Shoppe

Personal Service Is Our Specialty

- Bridal Gowns • Bridesmaids
- Mother's Gowns • Prom Gowns • Tuxedos

(989)

875-2255

Mon.-Fri.
10 am-5 pm
Sat. 10 am-2 pm

115 E. Center St.
Downtown Ithaca



Questions to Ask Before Booking a Photographer

Various components combine to make weddings beautiful and memorable. Couples rely on photographers to capture the smiles and moments that helped make their events unique and to ensure the big day is remembered for years to come.

The trusted wedding resource The Knot notes that an internal study found that, among 27,000 couples who got married in 2019, an average of \$2,400 was spent on a wedding photographer to document their big day.

Couples who want to find the best photographer for their wedding day can ask several questions before making their final decision.

What style do you specialize in?

Photographers may be able to shoot various styles of photos, but may specialize in a specific type. For example, some photographers specialize in photojournalism, while others may excel at portraiture. Going with a photographer who has the most expertise shooting the style you prefer will help produce the desired results.

Who will be shooting my wedding?

Certain photography studios have several photographers working under one roof. Just because you meet with one does not necessarily mean that photographer will be on site, unless it is specified in the contract.

Have you ever worked at my venue before?

Photographers may be familiar with several local wedding venues and houses of worship. A photographer who has experience working in the locations where couples will tie the knot and subsequently celebrate might produce the best results, but lack of experience with particular venues need not exclude other professionals.

Can we see a full gallery of a recent wedding?

According to Brides magazine, unlike an album or a highlight gallery, a full gallery provides a better sense of a photographer's style and attention to detail.

Will photos be color balanced and retouched?

Skilled photographers are capable of capturing winning photos. But photos can be enhanced further in the studio with retouching software to bring out specific effects. Some photographers will polish all proofs, while others only will work on the images ultimately ordered. Confirm retouching details before signing the contract.

What's included in the photo packages?

A detailed price list helps you compare one photographer to another and decide which elements are covered. Additional prints, having a photographer's assistant, ordering albums for the parents, or ordering a large framed print can alter costs significantly. Explore all prices to ensure you're getting the best value. In addition, consider how many hours of event coverage are included in the price.

What is the payment timeline?

Photographers may accept deposits for their services but expect a different timeline of payment. Some may require payment in full before the wedding, while others may offer a payment plan that includes a final payment when picking up proofs or albums.

Wedding photography is one of the essential elements of a wedding and helps tell the story of couples' special day. Asking key questions can help couples find a photographer who will produce the desired results.



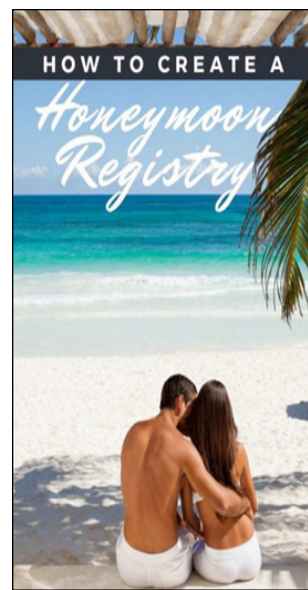
Honeymoon Registry

Many couples who are planning to get married have lived together during the engagement period or even longer. A Pew Research Center study found that about two-thirds of married adults who lived with their spouses before they were married say they saw cohabitation as a step toward marriage.

According to Brandon Gaille Small Business & Marketing Advice, 65 percent of couples who get married live together at some point before their weddings. Individuals who live together must outfit their homes with furniture and other essentials, including kitchen supplies. That means that couples may already own traditional wedding registry gifts like kitchen and bath items and accessories.

Brides- and grooms-to-be can think creatively when registering for gifts if they already have many of the items found on traditional registries.

Target has partnered with HoneyFund, a free honeymoon registry and cash wedding gift registry, to allow couples to register for honeymoon travel and other experiences. Honeymoon registries can be great ways for couples who already own household items to simplify the process of gift-giving for their wedding guests.



ST. JOHNS K of C RENTAL PROGRAM

AIR CONDITIONED HALLS

\$500 or \$300 for 1/2 Hall

Canopies: 10x20 - \$65; 20x20 \$85;

20x30 - \$95; 20x40 - \$110

Tables 32'x8' - \$5, Round Tables - \$9, Plastic

Chairs 60¢, Outdoor Sign \$10, Ice Trays \$10,

Drink Coolers \$10, Roasters \$10

Hall has new "comfy" chairs!



RENTAL AGENT, ROGER DERSHAM

3701 N. DEWITT ROAD

(989) 224-4072 - (989) 227-2233

(989) 640-1313

Your One Stop Shop!



- Larger Selection of Styles & Colors
- Fit Options Ultra Slim to Modern

- Personalized Service
- Great Value & Lower Prices

J's TUX & BRIDAL BOUTIQUE

New Convenient Location!

113 E. Main Street, Owosso (989) 723-5889
Mon & Thu 10-6, Tue-Wed-Fri 10-5:30, Sat 11-3

Welcome to our Country Charm

Ask About Our VIP Service. Bridal Suites Available.
 Relax, Enjoy Yourself.

Surprise Your Special One With A Get-Away Close to Home!
 ~ Perfect for Any Special Event ~ Business Trips
 ~ Guests Coming to Town ~

Whirlpool Suites • Waterbeds Available • Cable TV & HBO
 North City Limits • 1212 N. US-27 • St. Johns, MI 48879
 (989) 224-2321

LOOKING FOR A HALL RENTAL?



American Legion Hall Post 502, Elsie

Looking for a site for your next event?

Rental of the American Legion Hall includes: tables, chairs, and kitchen. Handicap Accessible

**For Rental Information, please contact:
Scott Hall at (989) 494-6987**

We Rent Our Hall FOR ANY OCCASION

**Ovid Lions/VFW Hall
214 S. Main St., Ovid**

For more information
Call (989) 834-2551



~ ZCBJ Hall ~

401 E. Main St., Bannister

- Weddings
- Showers
- Open Houses



For information call Ann at (989) 534-1862

AFTER THE WEDDING... BRING THE PARTY HERE...

Hall Rental for Receptions,
Parties, or Any Special Occasion

Call Chuck at (517)
490-8181 for information



**Laingsburg American Legion
1240 W. Grand River, Laingsburg**



Savings Strategies for Weddings

The question was popped; the engagement ring presented. What's the next step on the road to the wedding? Saving should definitely be on couples' minds.

A wedding is likely the most costly party couples will ever throw. According to The Knot's 2019 Real Weddings Study, the average cost of a wedding in 2019 was \$33,900. There are many different costs associated with weddings. Some are predictable, while others are unexpected.

Investopedia says the vast majority of couples budget too little for their weddings and also end up spending more than they had planned. Various strategies can make it easier to save for a wedding and avoid a post-wedding financial hangover.

Get informed

It's impossible to budget for a wedding and ultimately save without knowledge of what services and items cost in the region where you live. A wedding in New York City will be expensive, while a wedding in Mississippi will cost a lot less, indicates SuperMoney's guide to wedding costs.

Conduct some research and find out what photographers, florists, transportation providers, reception halls, and wedding wardrobe vendors charge for common services. This will paint a vivid picture of what a wedding may cost in your area.

Flesh out the budget

Once you have gathered estimates, you can then figure out a financial goal. This also is when you can determine where to rein in spending and where you might want to splurge. If having a video memory of the wedding is not a top priority, you



can skip videography services. If you have a special flower that you like, you may want to budget more for that bloom even if it isn't in season.

Set up a dedicated savings account

One of the easiest ways to save for big-ticket items like a wedding, home purchase or other financial goals is to use an automatic savings account that may be available through your bank or employer. An automatic savings plan will pull a set amount from a personal checking account into a savings account through auto-

draft. The bride and groom can link individual checking accounts to one savings account to contribute jointly.

Avoid overspending

An analysis of your spending habits will likely reveal areas where you can scale back so you can devote more funds to wedding savings. Do you need a takeout coffee in the morning or can you brew a pot at home? Might you be able to scale back on streaming services? Do you feel comfortable buying less expensive store brand groceries over name brands? Small cost savings can quickly add up.

Add up gifts

Factor in deduction of expenses that other people will commit to covering for wedding expenses, but only if you have concrete confirmation. A parent may host the rehearsal dinner. One's relative may offer to pass down an antique wedding gown to wear. But rather than simply removing these gifts from your savings calculations, keep them as a safety net to put toward unforeseen expenses.

Saving for a wedding can be challenging. But various strategies can help couples plan their dream weddings without breaking the bank.

Weddings and Special Occasions



City of Corunna

Historical McCurdy Park

Old German Lutheran Church seats 100, Air cond.,

Small Pavilion for outdoor wedding

1904 Webster Davis-Kribs House

for Pre-ceremony prep. for wedding party

New Haven Township Hall for small receptions

Call Margaret at (810) 610-0796

Community Center
Casino seats 250-450/Kitchen
Stu Coutts Pavilion,
North side of river/bathrooms
Seats 300 plus,
JC and Eagle Scott Pavilion in Park
Also 3 smaller Gazebos

**Call Corunna City Hall
for information 989-743-3650**



GETTING MARRIED?

Need a secure place
for your cards at
your reception?



Rent this locked
mailbox for \$20!

Call the Weekly
989-834-2264 or email
deb.price@meridianweekly.com

A Look Back Through 2020

Local Festivals Cancelled In Laingsburg and Elsie

April 26, 2020



Elsie Dairy Festival above left photo and Laingsburg Springfest above right photo were cancelled in 2020

Laingsburg’s Dennis Farm Receives Centennial Certification

November 1, 2020



The Dennis farm, 8715 Alward Road, just west of the Shiawassee County border in Clinton County, has officially become a centennial farm.

Athletes Advance to Next Level

May 3 & 10, 2020



Gabe Hawes, Laingsburg will play Basketball at Saginaw Valley State University



Brady Hawks, Laingsburg will be on Purdue's Track Team



Josie Nash, Ovid-Elsie will play Soccer at Northwood

Class of 2020 Bricks

December 13, 2020



The Class of 2020, as we know, was cheated out of many things due to the pandemic. We were supposed to go to Chicago for our senior trip. The kids and parents raised money since the summer of 2016 and through the years for the kids to take this trip. The pandemic stopped that. The money raised went into a tribute to the class in the form of a brick memorial. It has every single student represented with his/her own personal brick.

Shiawassee County Fair Cancelled

May 24, 2020



The Shiawassee County Board of Directors has voted to cancel the 2020 fair due to the coronavirus pandemic

Carriage Days Postponed

June 21, 2020



During the Ovid City council meeting on Monday, June 15th, a joint decision was made between the city council and festival committee to not have a festival this year.

Ashley Country Christmas Cancelled

July 12, 2020



The Ashley Village Council and the Ashley Country Christmas planning Committee are heartbroken to announce that there will not be a Village of Ashley Country Christmas this year.

Laingsburg’s New Amphitheatre Groundbreaking

August 9, 2020



Laingsburg's City Official and Community Members lend a helping hand at New Amphitheatre Groundbreaking

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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

Bills HEATING & COOLING
Sales & Service

204 S. Main Street,
P.O. Box 463, Ovid, MI
48866

(989) 834-6288

www.billsheatingcooling.com

Fireplaces

Licensed and Insured

CONCRETE

Floors - Sidewalks - Driveways - Pole Barn
Garages - Foundations

ROOFS

Residential - Commercial

989-834-2997

Brand Builders

Jerry Orweller

Thornton & Sons Construction & Design Inc.

Licensed Builder
Lead Certified Renovator
Veterans Affairs Approved

• Remodeling Specialists • Kitchens • Bathrooms
• Wood Basements • New Homes • Architectural Design

Phone: 989-862-4889

24 HOUR TOWING

**MATT'S TOWING &
ROAD SERVICE**
(989) 640-7381
Auto Repair (989) 834-5511
9055 E. M-21 • Ovid

Holes - N - More - LLC

6 in. 12 in. 18 in. 24 in. 30 in. Holes

Bobcat Service of All Types



"Your Hole is Our Goal!"
Insured

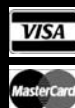
Concrete Tear-Out and Replace
New Concrete Flat Work
Preparation for Concrete

Ron Keck

Cell 517-896-5261

Miller/Bartz

Septic
2 Locations
Ovid



834-2733

Owosso

743-5055

200 ft. of hose

Advertise Your Business Here

only **\$22**
per week!

For More Info:
989-834-2264

FERRALL'S TREE

Tree Trimming & Removal, Inc.

"Old Fashioned Service with Modern Technology"

3 ISA CERTIFIED ARBORISTS ON STAFF



Experienced • Equipped • Insured

Stump Removal

989-862-4453 ~ 989-666-0561

CURBSIDE GARBAGE SERVICE

We beat all LOCAL competitors rates **GUARANTEED!**



SPECIALTY SALVAGE

Buying all scrap metals:
Autos & Junk Equipment.
One stop for all your
recycling & waste needs.

Owosso: **989-725-8062**

FREE Curb Cart Rental For Seniors
Serving Clinton • Gratiot • Saginaw Counties.



• Full Service
Auto Repair

9779 M-21, Ovid
(989) 834-5031

Advertise weekly at the low, low rate of \$22 for a single directory or \$32 for a double directory, will buy your space in The Weekly Service Directory with a circulation of 11,000 papers! Run your ad weekly, and change it as needed!

Sports

Juhas is Ashley Selection on All-MSAC Girls Cross-Country Team

ASHLEY -- Sharla Juhas has been honored on the 2020 All-Mid State Athletic Conference Girls Cross-Country Team.

Sharla was the Bears' lone representative. League champion Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart dominated the honor contingent.

As voted by the league's coaches, here is the complete All-MSAC squad:

Girls First Team

Melanie Symons, Jr., St. Charles

Lily Deja, So., Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

Olivia Ervin, So., Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

Riley Hacker, Jr., Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

Anna Plum, So., Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

Delaney Scully, Jr., Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

Abby Spencer, Jr., Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

Second Team

Kiera Goward, Sr., Breckenridge

Megan Goward, Fr., Breckenridge

Alivia Talcott, Fr., Vestaburg

Kaylee Aultman, So., Coleman

Molly Dailey, Sr., Carson City-Crystal

Paige Ewalt, Jr., Carson City-Crystal

Katie McDonald, Jr., Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

Olivia Middleton, So., Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

Honorable Mention

Sharla Juhas, Jr., Ashley

Julie Becker, So., Breckenridge

Mary Beth Hyatt, Fr., Carson City-Crystal

Ashley Plum, Sr., Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

Jacqueline Morton, Fr., Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart



Sharla Juhas

CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

AMISH FURNITURE

AN AMISH LOG HEAD-BOARD AND Queen Pillow Top Mattress Set. Brand new-never used, sell all for \$375. Call anytime. 989-923-1278. CPM

AMISH LOG BEDS Dressers, Rustic Table and Chairs, Mattresses for Cabin or Home. Lowest price in Michigan! dandanthemattressman.com 989-923-1278 CPM

MEDICAL

VIAGRA & CIALIS USER! 100 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-835-7273. Hablamos Espanol CPM

OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: 855-970-1066 CPM

MISCELLANEOUS

HIGH SPEED INTERNET: We instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99/month! Quickly compare offers from top providers. 1-844-290-4041 CPM

FREE AUTO INSURANCE QUOTES for uninsured and insured drivers. Let us show you how much you can save! Call 888-330-4197. CPM

AUCTIONS

ONLINE AUCTIONS Jan. 21-25 Various Locations NOW ACCEPTING ITEMS. Sell from your yard or ours. Tractors, Farm Equipment, Construction Equipment, Tools, Power Sports Machines. 810.266.6474 N a r h i A U C T I O N S . c o m CPM

MATTRESSES

ADJUSTABLE Bed Brand New with Imcomfort gel memory foam mattress. Retail Cost \$3,995.00, sacrifice for \$875.00 Call for showing or delivery: 989-615-2951. CPM

MISCELLANEOUS

CASH FOR CARS: We buy any condition vehicle, 2002 and Newer. Competitive offer! Nationwide FREE pick up! Call now for a free quote! 888-366-5659. CPM

AMISH BUILT mini cabins or storage sheds delivered to your site anywhere in Michigan! Starting at \$2,750.00. mynextbarn.com 989-832-1866 CPM

BECOME A PUBLISHED AUTHOR: Publications sold at all major secular & specialty Christian bookstores. CALL Christian Faith Publishing for your FREE author submission kit. 1-866-945-3813 CPM

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY: Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 855-413-9672 CPM

BUSINESS SERVICE

METAL ROOFING regular and shingle style. HALF OFF ON SPECIAL COLORS! Also, lifetime asphalt shingles available. Licensed and insured builders. Quality work for 40 years! 517-575-3695. CPM

EMPLOYMENT

ATTENTION EMPLOYERS!!! Reach across the state with a Michigan MegaMarket Statewide Classified Newwork EMPLOYMENT classified ad. Reach 1.9 million households within highly-read, local home-delivered newspapers and shopping guides each week! A 25-word ad is just \$249.00, \$10 for additional words per-week! Buy 3 ads, receive each 4th ad FREE! Call 1-800-783-0267 today. CPM

MISCELLANEOUS

DISH Network \$59.99 For 190 Channels! Add High Speed Internet for ONLY \$19.95/month. Call Today for \$100 Gift Card! Best Value & Technology. FREE Installation. Call 1-866-950-6757 (some restrictions apply) CPM

GENERAC Standby Generators. The weather is increasingly unpredictable. Be prepared for power outages. FREE 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!) Schedule your FREE in-home assessment today. Call 1-855-922-0420 Special financing for qualified customers. CPM

CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

SERVICES
HANDYMAN: Fall Clean-Up. Leaves, eavestrough cleaning, general painting. Call today to schedule snow removal, residential including sidewalks. Call Jim 517-881-9977.
1545tf

FERRALL'S FIREWOOD:
Good quality hardwood. \$50/face cord plus delivery. Family owned & operated since 1978. (989) 862-4453; (989) 666-0561 1534tf

FOR SALE
HAY FOR SALE: 2nd and 3rd cutting. Small square bales. Also straw for sale. Phone 989-834-5969. 1559+2

HELP WANTED
OFFICE ASSISTANT IN OVID: 10-12 hours a week (2 hours per day). Experience with computers & accounts receivable. Send resume to P.O. Box 506, Ovid, MI 48866. 1559tf

FARM
WE INSTALL: Steel roofs on high barns. Free estimates. Ask for John 616-527-3635. 1525tf

LAND WANTED
WANTED: Farm land wanted to rent for 2020 & beyond. Also farm land to purchase on land contract. Contact Don Cuthbert at (517) 881-1724, or e-mail don.cuthbert@yahoo.com. 1450tf

J & M WELL DRILLING & Service, Inc. Emergency Service. Perry 517-675-5956 Owosso 989-743-5626 Point of Sale Work, 5" PVC Well Drilling, Well Repairs, Pumps and Tanks, Chlorinating and Testing. www.waterhelpnow.com. TF



Maple Rapids
LUMBER MILL INC
— est 1973 —
ST. JOHNS, MI

Farm Lumber Sawn To Order
BUYERS OF STANDING TIMBER
Bark & Chips Available


6366 N. Forest Hill Rd.
989-682-4225
Evenings: 989-875-4565



Shop LOCAL!

Small Businesses are the backbone of the local community!

Our Classifieds Get Results!



The Weekly
989-834-2264



Family Owned & Operated Since 1965

Septic Tank Service

- Portable Restrooms • Commercial/Residential
- Septic Tank Cleaning • Drain Cleaning

Licensed & Insured

Call (989) 845-6280 • Chesaning

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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

Scharnweber Well Drilling

517-651-2211

Family Owned Business
Serving the Laingsburg & Surrounding Communities for Over 20 Years.



DAVE'S GENERAL REPAIR

HEATING • COOLING • PLUMBING
Sales & Service
989-834-5554

DAVE BENO
Ovid, MI
Cell # 989-798-7052

Furnace Technician
Answering Service Available

Ovid Lions/VFW Hall



214 S. Main St., Ovid
Available for rental.
(989) 834-2551



Applebee Oil & Propane

108 N. Mill St., Ovid
989-834-2828 or 800-882-0876

PERU Landscaping & Handyman

Now Scheduling Small Indoor Projects
Bathrooms • Flooring • Kitchens

Ray Peru
(989) 251- 8531

Competitive Rates
Quality Work

The Weekly Classified Ad Form

\$16 for 1st 20 words. 25¢ each addt'l word. Contact us today!
Deadline Thursday at 4pm.

phone: 989-834-2264 • email: ads@meridianweekly.com

BNM TRAILER SALES, INC.

7577 N. Hollister Rd. Elsie
We Do Sandblasting



Custom Trailers
Enclosed • Utility • Lawn • Construction

989-862-5252

Ovid-Elsie Animal Clinic

3900 N. Hollister Rd.
Ovid, MI
989-834-5333

MICHIGAN LIVESTOCK SERVICE
Serving the Farm Community



989-834-2661
110 N. Main St., Ovid
M-F 9:30-3:30pm; Sat. 9:30-12:30pm



Storage Solutions
Self-Storage Units

9596 E. M-21, Ovid

Open Units Available
• 4 Sizes Available

989-862-4102

Doody Well Drilling

New Wells (Steel & Plastic) • Clean Water Systems
• Certified Pump Repair • Well Replacement & Repair



Name Brand Pumps & Tanks

State of Michigan #1616 Full Insured
517-651-5914
5624 W. Grand River Rd. LAINGSBURG

Advertise weekly at the low, low rate of \$22 for a single directory or \$32 for a double directory, will buy your space in The Weekly Service Directory with a circulation of 11,000 papers! Run your ad weekly, and change it as needed!

Ovid-Elsie House Decorating Contest

submitted by Chelsey Goodrich

Thank you all for the incredible work that was put into our Ovid-Elsie House Decorating Contest! The amount of holiday spirit and support you all carried during these times completely blows me away. It turned out to be an enjoyable and successful few week's!

I would like to publicly thank all the generous local businesses within Ovid-Elsie for the awesome donations that were added into the winner's basket. 2020 House Decorating Contest Right: Winner out of Ovid, MI goes to... 8295 Simpson Rd, Ovid MI

130 E Oak St – Ovid, MI

244 S Warren Rd – Ovid, MI

2020 House Decorating Contest Winner out of Elsie, MI goes to... 8550 N St. Clair Rd – Elsie, MI

We might be a small little town, but we sure do have one big heart! I hope to make this an annual event that will bring the community together for the holiday spirit, your participation means a lot. I thank all that participated, the



Ovid Winner

feedback that was given was great and many hope to see this carry on throughout the years.

I personally want to thank New Look Computer & Data out of Saint Johns, MI for creating and providing Ovid-Elsie an interactive map for the residence to join in on the Christmas fun!

See you all next year!



Elsie Winner

TYLER
HEATING & COOLING

REBATES and TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE

Licensed & Insured

Laingsburg ~ 517-282-4347 ~ 517-651-2233

Home sweet home

Protect all that you've built with a company you can trust.



THE BEST LOCAL
INSURANCE AGENCY

Ovid Service Agency

Ovid • (989) 834-2288

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Social Security Questions

Question:

Is it true that a person can own a home and still be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits?

Answer:

Yes. A person who owns a home and lives in that home can be eligible for SSI benefits. Although there is an asset limit for people to qualify for SSI, some things don't count toward that limit, such as a house, a vehicle, and some funds set aside for burial expenses. To learn more about SSI and the eligibility requirements, browse our booklet, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11000.html.

Looking to Buy or Sell? Call Me Today!



CENTURY 21
Looking Glass

CAROLYN LONG
REALTOR®

Cell: 989.277.4826

Direct: 989.403.5004

Email: carolyn.long@century21.com

1501 Glastonbury
Saint Johns, MI 48879



Each office is Independently Owned and Operated

Sports

Jackson a Multi-Sport Star for Marauders, Recently Featured as 'Athlete of the Week'

OVID-ELSIE -- How talented is Jackson Thornton as a multi-sport star for the Ovid-Elsie Marauders?

Enough that he has been named an Athlete of the Week by the Owosso Argus-Press. Our thanks to Argus-Press sports writer Jerome Murphy for reporting the story.

Thornton has starred in both boys soccer and football so far this school year for the Marauders.

The 6-foot-5 senior has also plays basketball and baseball, all while maintaining a 3.93 GPA in the classroom.

This fall, Thornton juggled two sports at the same time. He was recently named a first teamer in the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference for the soccer team. The striker scored a team-high 14 goals with two assists, leading the Marauders to an outright MMAC championship.

Thornton has been on the varsity team since he was a freshman and was a three-year starter.

"As a soccer player, Jackson has a natural ability to just control the ball with ease," Ovid-Elsie soccer coach Justin Fluharty said. "And on the field, he is — I don't know if gentle giant is appropriate — but he's a big guy, but he's really graceful on the soccer field with the ball. And he played soccer and football at the same time."

Thornton also doubled as a defensive end/kicker for the Ovid-Elsie football team. Playing two sports at the same time is a challenge, Thornton said, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic going on.

"It definitely was a challenge this year, especially with everything going on and just how exhausting it is to begin with, too," Thornton said.

He also had to overcome an injury this past fall.

"I partially tore my quad," Thornton said. "It stemmed from both (sports) because I'm a kicker for football and then I play soccer, so it puts a lot of stress on my leg."

Thornton said Ovid-Elsie and Byron engaged in a pair of memorable soccer contests this season. The first produced a 2-2 tie, with Thornton scoring twice in the first half. However, Byron rallied to score twice in the second half.

However, in the second meeting, Ovid-Elsie won 1-0 as Ian Heher scored the lone goal. The Marauders finished the league campaign first with a 7-0-1 record, while Byron finished second at 6-1-1.

"Those games were our most intense games," Thornton said.

The Marauders finished 9-3-1 overall following a 6-0 loss to Williamston in the Division 3 district semifinals at Lansing Catholic.

In football — though he did some kicking and punting — Thornton's biggest contribution came as a defensive end. Thornton had 24 tackles, including two sacks and two tackles for a loss. Ovid-Elsie finished 3-4 overall and 3-3 in the MMAC.

"He was a good player for us and he played defensive end mostly for us," O-E coach Travis Long said. "He played really well and had a big punt block against Chesaning and that kind of turned the tide in that game. He was a big player for us, athletic. He played soccer and that helped us, having quick feet."

Ovid-Elsie defeated the Indians, 34-20, and Thornton's punt block came in the first half on a rush from the edge.

Chesaning took a 7-0 lead on Matt Warby's 79-yard fumble return for a touchdown. But Thornton's block was a big special teams play that put the Marauders over the top.

"They scored early on us and then we got stopped again and we punted it down there and got the good field position," Thornton said. "We stopped them, I blocked it and I think we scored on them. From then on, we just took it to them."

Thornton also helped the Ovid-Elsie boys basketball team capture the outright MMAC last winter during a 20-2 campaign. The Marauders earned a berth in the district championship game against Perry before the season was canceled due to COVID-19.

Thornton said the Marauders were looking forward to that clash against the Ramblers, who had defeated Ovid-Elsie 59-55 to close the regular season. Ovid-Elsie began districts with two wins — 60-35 over Durand and 51-46 over Corunna.

"Definitely the Corunna game (was a highlight)," Thornton said. "We were so excited to be playing Perry again because Perry had beaten us earlier in the season. But we never got the chance."

While players such as Shayne Loynes and Justin Moore, both first-team All-Area players, gained many headlines for the Marauders, Thornton was the second-leading rebounder on the squad with 5.5 per night. He added 4.4 points per game.

Thornton plays third base and pitcher in baseball. As a sophomore, he compiled a 2-1 record with two saves and a 3.57 ERA over 15 2/3 innings. Spring sports were canceled entirely last spring due to COVID-19.

Thornton said his current future plans are to attend Michigan State University and major in the medical field.

