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Elsie Area Food Pantry Gets Milk Cooler

The Michigan Dairy Farmers thru the United Dairy Industry have awarded the Elsie Area Food Pantry a dairy cooler as part of the (UDIM) cooler grant program. The program provides local food pantries with a refrigeration unit to help store milk and dairy foods at proper temperatures and build capacity to distribute more dairy.

Dennis Baese nominated the Elsie Area Food Pantry to receive the milk cooler, along with funds for the food pantry to fill the cooler with milk at delivery. Lucille Stephens, Director of the Elsie Food Pantry stated, "We would like to thank Michigan Dairy Farmers for providing us with this cooler. It will help us in meeting the needs of our community."

In Michigan, one in six people and one in five children are food insecure. Especially now, food pantries play an essential role in helping to bridge this hunger gap as families navigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our Michigan dairy farmers understand how important it is to get nutritious dairy foods into the hands of people who need them most, especially now at a time when food insecurity is high," said Sharon Toth, CEO of UDIM. "This milk cooler program ensures dairy foods maintain peak freshness while increasing dairy's availability to families in the community."

Elsie Area Food Pantry has received delivery of a cooler, along with a full supply of milk, to increase the availability of fresh, delicious dairy foods for their customers.



Viewpoint of One Does Not Represent All: In a paid advertisement in our January 17th edition of this publication, a method for contacting the individual, such as a phone number was not included.

The viewpoint of the person does not reflect the viewpoint of myself or my staff. Going forward, this publication WILL NOT allow or publish content of a controversial nature on our Editorial page or as a paid advertisement without identification of the writer.

Deborah Price
Publisher

More Vaccine Arrives in Mid-Michigan

submitted by Leslie Kinnee

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns – Like other Michigan counties, Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm will be receiving a small amount of COVID-19 vaccine this week. All of it is the Moderna vaccine. The total number of doses of COVID-19 vaccine expected to come into our district is 9,550. Out of that, Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) is receiving 1,100 doses and plans to vaccinate certain essential workers in all our counties this weekend with those doses. The remaining 8,450 doses are primarily going to hospitals.

The health department and hospitals are currently vaccinating those in priority group 1B (over 65 and essential workers) and working to finish vaccinating those in priority group 1A (health care). The health department continues to operate clinics for people over age 65, however, only a small number of doses remain, and all the appointments are taken.

The shortfall in vaccinations is disappointing, but significant work is still being done. The National Guard is finishing up vaccinating staff and employees in adult foster care facilities. CVS Pharmacy is also working on vaccinating people in long-term care facilities throughout the jurisdiction. These two efforts will protect many vulnerable adults at serious risk if exposed to COVID-19.

In addition, some area health care providers and pharmacies have vaccine and have begun to reach out to their patients offering vaccinations. Again, they have only a small amount of vaccine and most people will have to wait a few weeks before they can be vaccinated.

Next week MMDHD will order the Pfizer vaccine and if it is received, will schedule more clinics. Be sure to check our website, www.mmdhd.org, regularly to see if we have openings. You can also sign up to receive an emailed notice of when additional clinics are scheduled. Simply go to www.mmdhd.org and look for the "sign up for updates" section. Facilities with essential workers that wish to be notified when vaccine is available can also sign up there. Residents now have more options for getting vaccinated and can find those on our website, including Sparrow Hospital, Spectrum Health and MidMichigan Medical Center-Gratiot.

There were reports in the media we want to follow up on. It was reported that some vaccines delivered to Michigan may have gone out of temperature range. This did not happen to us and those facilities that did have problems have ordered replacement doses. It was also reported that some people in California had unusual reactions associated with a certain lot of Moderna. Upon further investigation it was found that these reactions were normal, and this lot of vaccine did not come to Michigan.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties.

We take action to protect, maintain and improve the health of our community.
Advancing innovative solutions to achieve healthier outcomes.



Our kids are back in school and we look forward to Winter sports happening in Ashley, Laingsburg and Ovid-Elsie. We will be previewing all varsity winter sports teams including boys and girls basketball, wrestling, bowling, swimming and competitive cheer. Questioners have gone out to coaches and as soon as we can get team photos for all Winter sports teams we will introduce all of them to you. In addition to team photos, we will include coaches previews, schedules and information as to any restrictions the season may have involving spectators. Also included will be information including WOES broadcasts and streaming availability.



Meridian Weekly

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Social

Elsie United Methodist Church Open for In-Person Service

by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE – Elsie United Methodist Church located at 160 W Main Street, Elsie is once again offering in-person worship services Sunday morning 9:30 am. Pastor JD Paik and the EUMC family welcome all to attend. Attendees are asked to wear a mask and to social distance.

For individuals who prefer to worship in the comfort and safety of their home virtual access is available on Facebook Live on the Elsie United Methodist Church Facebook page and by tele-conferencing 1-425-436-6364, access code 456-423-1.

EUMC welcomes all to worship.

PUBLIC NOTICE STORAGE WILL BE REMOVED

Storage facility location: 9446 E. M21, Ovid, MI 48866 Unit A22 (20)
Timeline and actions taken
Communication to Tenant:
USPS 70142120000102692300
Notice of non-compliance mail out: 2020-12-14
Notice of non-compliance received: No receipt at destination, unclaimed
Settlement date to resolve non-compliance dispute: 2020-12-29
Public notice of sale or other disposition-FIRST NOTICE: 2021-01-17
Public notice of sale or other disposition-SECOND NOTICE: 2021-01-24
Newspaper contracted to publish notice to the public: The Weekly
Contents of the unit will be removed: 2020-02-01
Description of unit contents: Miscellaneous items with or without personal or familial value. Some items may or may not be in individual containers.
Owner/manager actions: All items will be sold and/or discarded. Upon removal of all items the unit will be restored to a functional, safe condition, making this unit available to other prospective tenants.
This action is pursuant to self-storage facility act 570.521 1986-March-31, State of Michigan.

Ovid Public Library

The Loving Hands Group has been busy this year creating hats, mittens, and scarves. They have so many they want to share them with the community, so they brought them to the Ovid Public Library where they are available without cost for anyone who has a use for them.

Ovid Public Library

Open Hours

Mondays 10:00 – 7:00

Wednesdays 10:00 – 5:00

Fridays 10:00 – 5:00

For further information, please call the library at 989-834-5800 or check our Facebook page.

New Date for SAT, March 13th Still Time to Register Your 8th Grader

submitted by Renee Dotson

Are you a parent of an academically talented 8th grader? If so, there are a few seats remaining for the March 13, 2021 SAT test. The Shiawassee Regional Education Service District and the Cook Family Foundation invites you to register your child before February 11, 2021.

To learn all about Shiawassee Scholars, other gifted and talented programs, and how to register for the SAT go to www.sresd.org, Programs, Shiawassee Scholars, SAT Information or <https://www.sresd.org/District/Department/22-Shiawassee-Scholars/Portal/sat-information>.

The top 50 eighth grade students in the county who achieve at the highest level as determined by their scores on the SAT will be invited to become Shiawassee Scholars! The Shiawassee Scholars program is a collaborative program between the Shiawassee RESD and The Cook Family Foundation. The program recognizes academically talented students early and seeks to encourage these students to continue to pursue academically challenging activities during their high school years. It is the mission of the Shiawassee Scholars program to assist these students through various opportunities, resources, and support to reach their full potential.

If you have any questions, please contact Renee Dotson dotson@sresd.org or 989-743-3471.

Concealed Pistol License Class

submitted by Norm Martin

The Shiawassee Conservation Association, 4247 N. M-52, Owosso, is hosting concealed pistol license classes on Saturday, January 30th and February 27th. Class hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All firearms, ammunition and classroom materials furnished.

Certified Instructors.

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

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





Fish Fry

EVERY FRIDAY 10am - 8pm

COD - WALLEYE - SHRIMP \$10.95

Includes Fries & Cole Slaw

SUNDAY DINNER SPECIALS

Roast Beef - Chicken or Turkey with Dressing \$9.95

Mary's Country Kitchen

M-21 • Ovid • (989) 834-9640

Call for Take-Out

Ashley Sportsman's Club to Host Drive-In Squirrel Tournament

by Dawn D. Levey

BANNISTER – ASC will hold its annual Squirrel Hunt Sunday, January 31, 8554 S Mason Rd, Bannister. Drive through registration will be held from 6:30 am-9:30 am and weigh in 3 pm – 4 pm.

The details are: \$20 for two-person teams and both members must be present at registration; 10 squirrel per team and teams must be in line by 4 pm to be counted. Hunting must take place in Michigan, no hunting on ASC property; hunters must abide by all Michigan hunting regulations; air rifle and/or rim fire rifles only. Payback is dependent on the number of entries and “Mystery Weight” cash prize will be drawn after weigh-in, all cash prizes will be mailed to the winners and winners will be announced on the ASC Facebook page.

For more information, call (517)204-4075 or email ashleysportsmansclub@gmail.com.

Economic Alliance Rebrands as Clinton County Catalyst

submitted by Dru L. Mitchell

DeWitt – The economic and business development agency formerly known as the Clinton County Economic Alliance is officially announcing it has rebranded as Clinton County Catalyst. The Board of Directors recognizes the new name more accurately defines the role the organization plays as a resource to bring about positive change and reinvention throughout Clinton County.

“Clinton County Catalyst is no longer a traditional economic development organization,” said Board Chairman Craig Bishop with TCF Bank. “Our bold efforts aim higher as this organization is a catalyst for Clinton County. A strong economy requires strong leadership. Clinton County Catalyst will lead the county into the future.”

President and CEO Dru L. Mitchell states, “We support continued growth for Clinton County by connecting, constructing, and cultivating success for the communities we serve. We are grateful for the continued support of our members, partners, and friends throughout the region.”

Clinton County Catalyst will continue to act as the lead county-wide economic and business development organization. Clinton County Catalyst provides sustainable and value-added services for business attraction, retention and growth, workforce development, non-traditional agriculture, and next-generation initiatives. Clinton County Catalyst will begin 2021 with a renewed sense of leadership, service, and commitment to the community in Clinton County, Michigan.

For more information, visit www.clintoncountycatalyst.org.



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989-875-0188



The Cook Family Foundation

Cook Family Foundation

submitted by Yvette Collard

As the difficult year of 2020 comes to a close, the Cook Family Foundation is pleased to announce \$90,959 in grants to Shiawassee nonprofit organizations to help them finish the year in the best position to survive and thrive in 2021. These grants were in addition to \$43,042 in COVID-related emergency grants earlier this year.

"It has been a tough year for local nonprofits, just as it has been for our small businesses" said Tom Cook, Executive Director of the Cook Family Foundation. "We knew that helping them out would help out our community. We know many people have given extra to local nonprofits this year, and we wanted to do our part."

The grants, averaging about \$7,000 each, were given to 15 local nonprofits and the Genesee United Way which serves Shiawassee County. The first grants in March and April helped several nonprofits respond to pressing community needs; an additional \$15,000 was provided to the United Way to help address the health and economic emergency. "Several community groups serve those in need, and we wanted to help them provide food, personal protection equipment (PPE), and other support," said Cook. Grants were made to Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee, the Arc of Mid-Michigan, the Downtown Owosso Farmer's Market, and Durand Union Station.

"We were particularly proud to support the initiative of the Durand Union Station," Cook commented in noting how the railroad history center helped organize volunteers to make masks, used their facility as a drop-off site, and worked with others to distribute masks and other PPE to those who could not access them. "This is the kind of commitment and creativity we see from our local nonprofits all the time."

The latest set of grants were designed to help nonprofits make investments that would enable

them to finish out the year strong and prepare to thrive in 2021. Those receiving grants included:

- Arc Mid-Michigan to directly assist students and adults with developmental disabilities;
- DeVries Nature Conservancy to make up for several cancelled fundraising events;
- Friends of the Shiawassee River to expand virtual and online educational offerings for students;
- Girls on the Run to overcome COVID-related difficulties in providing empowerment programs;
- Lebowsky Center for the Performing Arts to make technology upgrades;
- Shiawassee Arts Center to continue their partnership with the Shiawassee Council on Aging to provide art activities for seniors in their residences;
- SafeCenter to help manage the delays and difficult accounting of federal grant programs;
- Shiawassee Family YMCA to serve as a community hub for food distribution and programming;
- Shiawassee Humane Society to draw up plans for facility upgrades;
- Shiawassee Regional Chamber to support memberships for local nonprofits;
- Voices for Children for operating costs and building improvements.

The funding from the Cook Family Foundation is less than what local nonprofit organizations collected on Giving Tuesday. The collaborative Raise Up Shiawassee campaign resulted in donations of more than \$100,000 from individuals and local businesses. Donations can still be made online at www.raiseUPshiawassee.org through the end of the year.

All of the nonprofits receiving grants serve Shiawassee County residents, and many have deep roots in the community. "Our region has a tremendous group of nonprofits with active volunteers and committed board members," observed Tom Cook, "They add greatly to the strength of our community and the quality of life for all of us."

The Cook Family Foundation operates a Nonprofit Capacity Building program which provides consulting advice, technical assistance, training, and strategic planning to Shiawassee-based nonprofits. "I would like to give special recognition to the Executive Directors and other nonprofit staff who have not only survived 2020, but have found ways to advance the mission of their organization in very difficult circumstances."

The Cook Family Foundation was established in 1979 by Donald and Florence-etta Cook to serve as both a resource for the Shiawassee region and a catalyst for positive change. The Foundation also invests in educational programs and provides scholarships for area students to attend the University of Michigan.



Giving is not just about making a donation, it's about Making a Difference.

-Kathy Calvin

Michigan Department of Ag and Rural Development Announces Grant Opportunities for County Fairs

submitted by Jennifer Holton

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development announced this year's competitive grant cycle for the state's county fairs to make building and other capital improvements to their fairground facilities. Additionally, grants are available for associations or other organized events hosting fairs or expositions showing livestock and commodities. Both grant proposals must be received by MDARD no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, March 15, 2021.

The capital improvement program provides additional funds for county fair officials to help make needed improvements to their fairground facilities; including but not limited to structural improvements or other renovations to buildings.

The shows and expositions grants provide financial support for awards in the form of premiums or promotional activities of the livestock and commodity expositions, fairs, and festivals.

Proposals will be reviewed by an evaluation committee as part of the competitive grant process.

Eligible applicants include fairs that are incorporated under Act 80 of 1855 or county owned and operated fairs operating under Act 11 of 1929 and that have submitted all required year-end reports for the prior three years.

Livestock expositions hosting expos must meet the required number of exhibitors.

For detailed program information, application form, and submission criteria, please visit www.michigan.gov/mdard-grants or contact Cinda Karluk or 517-290-8114. Proposals must be received via email to KarlukC@michigan.gov by no later than 5 p.m. on March 15, 2021.



The memorial light service held at the OE high school was perfect for honoring Ben. We cannot thank those who organized and helped with the service enough. So many of Bens classmates & friends from OE, AIS and surrounding schools came to honor Ben and we would love to thank each of you for doing so.

Thank You again from the family of Benjermin Adam Humrich, Mark, Leah and Joe Humrich.

Frank Mach Farmland Auction

Washington Twp * Gratiot County

THURSDAY, FEB. 11 *12:00 NOON

200 ACRES
Prime Farmland and Brick Home

Section #15 Washington Twp. Gratiot Co. Cleveland Rd. (M-57)

Section #14 Washington Twp. Gratiot Co. Baldwin Rd. Capo Rd. Roosevelt Rd. Bair Rd.

15 2 14

PARCEL #1

- 118 Acres vacant farmland
- Approx. 110 tillable acres
- Productive Lenawee Clay Loam Soils
- Random tile throughout the farm
- Small woodland on the farm
- Road frontage on 2 sides
- Not enrolled in PA116
- Farm NOT rented for 2021

PARCEL #2

- 80 Acres vacant farmland
- Approx. 55 tillable acres
- Wood lot at back of the farm
- Good Lenawee & Pert clay Loam Soils
- Random tile throughout
- Not enrolled in PA116
- Farm NOT rented for 2021
- Farm located across the road from Parcel #1

PARCEL #3

- Combination of Parcels 1 & 2 together.
- Entire 198 acres sold together as 1 tract

PARCEL #4

- Nice brick ranch home & buildings on 2.0 acres
- 3 bed, 2 bath, separate laundry room w/ sink
- Large open kitchen w/ appliances & breakfast bar
- Nice 4-season sun room w/ many windows
- Brick fireplace, large living room
- Crawl space, HW heat, circuit breakers
- Sparate utility room, propane
- 2+ car vinyl garage w/ openers
- Older outbuildings.
- This parcel WILL NOT be combined with Any of the farmland parcels.

Auction Location:
Sale to be held on site at the Farm at the Home (Parcel #4) 8803 S. Crapo Rd. Ashley, MI. 2 miles east of US-127 on M-57 to Crapo Rd. Turn south 1 mile.

Live Online Bidding also available through proxibid.com.

Property Inspections:
Auctioneer will be on site at the Home on Parcel #4 on for your convenience. Thursday, Jan. 28 & Feb. 4 *11am-1pm Please feel free to walk or inspect the farms at your convenience.

See www.PavlikLLC.com for full sale bill, pictures, aerials, and all information. "Walk them over, talk it over, and then be sure to attend this Pavlik Real Estate Auction!"

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Obituaries

Sheila Ruth Panik

Sheila Ruth Panik, age 67, of Elsie, MI, passed away Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital, Lansing, MI.

Sheila was born in Alma, MI on September 17, 1953, the daughter of Russell and Barbara (Stone) Carrick. On October 1, 2005 she married Bradley Panik at the Henderson Chapel, Henderson, MI.

Sheila retired from Lear Corporation in Elsie and Ithaca after many years of service. She enjoyed gardening and her animals, especially her cats. Sheila and Brad enjoyed camping and road trips to other states. Sheila loved decorating her home for the upcoming season. She had pride for her distant Indian heritage and liked collecting Indian themed decor.

She is survived by her husband Brad Panik of Chapin, MI, mother Barbara Carrick of Mt. Pleasant, MI, sister Sherry and Greg Carlson of California, daughter Michelle Carrick of Ft. Wayne, IN, and special niece Melissa of California. She was preceded in death by her father Russell and many aunts and uncles.

Cremation has taken place and there will be no services.

Memorials may be made to the Humane Society of Michigan. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI.



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

Bannister United Methodist Church
103 Hanvey Street
Pastor: Zella Daniel
Sunday Worship 11:15am

ELSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
160 W. Main St., Elsie (989) 862-5239
 Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: JD Paik

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: Andrew Goodrich
Associate Minister: Matthew Barnum
Children's Minister: Jessica Prieto
www.duplainchurch.org

LAINGSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
210 CRUM ST.
517-651-5531
Online Service:
Sundays at 10am.
Facebook or YouTube
Pastor Tiffany Newsom
laingsburgumc@gmail.com
www.laingsburgumc.org

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

United Church of Ovid
Office Hours: 9-Noon Mon - Fri
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

St. Cyril Parish of Bannister

Mass: Sun 10:30am,
Wed. 9:00am

Confession:
Sun 11:30am

We Welcome You to Come...

Richard A. "Rick" Bancroft

Richard A. "Rick" Bancroft age 83 of Ovid, passed away Monday, January 18, 2021 at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing.

Rick was born in St. Johns, MI on July 27, 1937, the son of Guy F. and Helen M. (Shatto) Bancroft. He graduated from Rodney B. Wilson High School with the class of 1955. Rick married Retha Ann Jones on June 11, 1960 at her family home in Ovid.

Rick worked for Federal Mogul for 47 years and retired in 2002. He enjoyed hunting, bowling, gardening, casino trips, watching the Detroit Tigers, and collecting sports memorabilia.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Retha Bancroft of Ovid, MI, children: Rick Bancroft of Lake Odessa, MI, Debbie & Mark Williams of Haslett, MI, and Sue & Mark Horak of Elsie, MI, grandchildren: Brooke & Ivan Harlow of St. Johns, MI, Alexander & Jennifer Williams of Deerfield, IL, Mychael Horak & Jeff Hickey of Ferndale, MI, Marques & Erika Horak of Elsie, MI, Macauley Horak & Evan McPherson of Grand Rapids, MI, Matthew Horak & Michaela Dowling of Leesburg, VA, Ryan Bancroft of East Haven, CT, Ericka Williams & Aaron Munoz of Northville, MI, Madalyn Horak of Elsie, MI, Sarah Bancroft of Grand Ledge, MI, and Maverick Horak of Elsie, MI, 5 great-grandchildren: Roy Harlow, Rylan Harlow, Kalen Williams, Logan Williams and Cooper Horak, sister Kay & Bob Gladstone, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers: Guy "Stub" Bancroft, and Bill Bancroft and infant son.

Private Services will be held with burial at Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid, MI. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to WOES Radio Station. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI.



Edward Joseph "Ed" Ladiski

Edward Joseph "Ed" Ladiski, age 72, of Elsie, MI, passed away Sunday, January 17, 2021, at Sparrow Health Systems, Lansing, MI.

Edward was born in Owosso, MI on September 19, 1948, the son of Frank J. and Jennie M. (Horak) Ladiski. He graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School with the class of 1967. Ed married Theresa Ann Heckman on May 22, 1971, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Pewamo, MI; Theresa passed away on April 13, 2015. Ed married Donna Powell on November 7, 2020 at Holy Family Catholic Church, Ovid, MI.

Ed retired from General Motors in 1998. While working at General Motors and after retirement Ed was a volunteer EMT for Elsie Ambulance, Ovid Ambulance and Clinton Area Ambulance. Ed also worked at Walmart in St. Johns for many years. He enjoyed gardening, bowling, watching the Detroit Tigers, and attending concerts; he always enjoyed attending Ladiski Brothers and Whiskey Diski & the Barrel Boys Shows. He liked watching Law and Order and spent three evenings a week watching wrestling. Ed loved time spent with family, especially his grand girls.

He was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church, Ovid, MI, helping with funeral dinners, serving as an usher and volunteering for other activities. He was also a member of the ZCBJ Lodge, Bannister, MI. Ed proudly served his country in the United States Army stationed in Germany during the Vietnam War.

He is survived by his wife Donna Powell of Elsie, MI, children: Cheryl and Shawn Premo, Jim and Jessi Ladiski, Randy Ladiski and Ana Seqcas, daughter-in-law Heather Ladiski, step-children: Sheila and Patrick Mitchell, Richard Powell Jr., grand girls: Breanna and Brooke Ladiski, Abigail Thomas, and Rachel Ladiski, brothers: Robert Ladiski, Frank and Connie Ladiski, Larry and Pat Ladiski, sister Joanne and Krystyn Gromek and sister-in-law Darla Ladiski. He is also survived by many step grandchildren, step-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, first wife Theresa Ladiski, son Kevin Ladiski, brother Joe Ladiski, infant siblings: Carlita and James and sister-in-law Joanne Ladiski.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Family Catholic Church, Ovid, MI, on Thursday, January 21, 2021 with Rev. Fr. Robert C. Bacik officiating. Burial has taken place at Ford Cemetery, Gratiot County, MI.

Memorials may be made to Elsie Fire and Rescue or Holy Family Catholic Church, Ovid, MI. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI.



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

Obituaries

Eleanor Jean Dennis

Eleanor Jean Dennis, age 84, of Elsie, MI, passed away Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at Memorial Healthcare, Owosso, MI.

Eleanor was born in Owosso, MI on December 10, 1936, the daughter of Roland and Fern (Boardway) Kline. She graduated from Owosso High School with the class of 1955. On December 4, 1965 Eleanor married Leon Dennis at Bennington Methodist Church, Bennington, MI. They were blessed with 55 years of marriage.

Eleanor loved spending time with her grandchildren: Ashley, Michael, Brian, and Victoria. She enjoyed sewing, cooking and baking.

She is survived by her husband Leon Dennis of Elsie, MI, son Steve and Jennifer Dennis of Bannister, MI, daughter Cyndy and Michael Bush of DeWitt, MI, and brother Earl and Irene Kline of Bennington, MI. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A Memorial Visitation will be held at Smith Family Funeral Homes Elsie, MI, on Saturday, January 30, 2021 from 2:00 - 4:00 P.M. Burial will take place at Oak Hill Cemetery, Owosso, MI at a later date.

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



Dear Tamma,
Thank you for sharing your heartfelt perspective.

Readers: President Joe Biden, Jr has been inaugurated as our President of the United States. His number one priority is to eradicate this virus in our country. Pres. Biden has challenged us to wear a mask for the next 100 days when around others and has given us a 100 day promise to vaccinate every person in our country. It is imperative we do our part and schedule our immunizations today. Challenge yourself to spread the word and help others sign up for an appointment. Take the challenge to be part solution of this deadly Coronavirus in the United States. Wear a mask and get your immunization. Together we CAN do it. Ask_Any@aol.com.

Editorial



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

Thus far it has not been a good week....good being a variable. I know that it is good that I'm alive and healthy.....my family members are healthy and active and my bills are paid. I seem to be having more disappointments than normal. A little bit of caution is necessary otherwise we wouldn't notice the warning signs of life. Caution is needed for living a normal life.....look both ways before crossing the street and pay attention to your vehicle warning lights (so that you don't get stranded somewhere). Make sure that you pay your bills so that your heat or electricity isn't shut off. These are minimal but necessary and normal fears. What concerns me the most are those that the media plays on and ones that they ignore? Such as England suspending the covid 19 inoculations because twenty-nine people have died from the shots.....I believe if you check you will find out that fifty-five people have died in United States for the same reason. Check into the CDC site and do a bit of digging. And people are still lining up for the shots.....I think that I will wait until the vaccine is safer.

I have one prescription that I take daily which is not a bad thing. I have only one thyroid gland that works or has worked since I was in my late teens. Funny how one little gland can wreck such havoc if untreated. I get very lethargic at times and can't seem to get into gear. It is okay to coast along at times but not for long. When I get into that coasting situation I'm walking around like a lump of coal and have a very hard time focusing. I believe that I'm one of those folks that the very creative have based their zombie characters upon....without the violent tendencies. Also I don't get much done and don't even have the energy to read a book.....then my blood is tested and the meds are changed. I am fortunate (blessed) to have good medical insurance.

I talked to my daughter last night about Ralph's recovery after being shot in the leg and then having his leg amputated. Ralph is one of my rescue cats that came around here a couple of years ago, after we finally tamed him down, he went up to "Gratiot Animals In Need" and was neutered. Now we know that he is about nine years old and is bouncing back beautifully. He is a light manila color with very long shaggy hair and is maneuvering well after his surgery. Ralph is very friendly now and adores all the attention that he is getting even though he is spending his time moving up the pecking order at Diane and Brent's.

I have been thinning out the contents of my unused rooms. I believe that after rearranging my bathroom storage and filtering through the excess stored in my bedroom that I have compiled five boxes of clothes and filled three white garbage bags with a mix of crotchet thread, yarn, and some jewelry. I also have a stack of heavy denim jeans that are one or two sizes smaller than needed. I will hold onto them a bit longer and work at getting into them by this spring. Do you realize that it is almost time to put in my seed order for my garden? It is a good thing that I have made some wire mesh tops for my grow boxes so the seeds will have a chance to become plants before the little hellions get into them. The aluminum foil is helping my spider plants and mother-in-law's tongue but the little varmints are chawing off the new shoots. I wish that I had a spray that didn't hurt either the cats or the plants and wasn't offensive to us humans. It is time to do some more researching....I'm putting some round toothpicks into the pots and hope that they cause enough discomfort and keep the cats out. I wonder if putting hot sauce on the spider plant leaves would work. I also wonder if draping the plants with cheese cloth would help....

May your misfortunes be minor and may your blessings be many. Enjoy the sunrises and sunsets, they can be quite spectacular out here in the country. Be healthy and God bless.

Crystal Mitchell©2021



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Ask
Andy

Take the 100-Day Challenge Wear A Mask

Dear Andy,

I have been wearing PPE equipment 12 hours a day at work and a mask every place I go where others will be present. I am not sure why being considerate to others for the common good is now being mocked by some who are calling it "living in fear" but it needs to stop!!! When I wear a mask over my nose and mouth in public, I want you to know the following:

- I am educated enough to know that I could be asymptomatic and still give you the virus.
- No, I do not "live in fear" of the virus; I just want to be part of the solution, not the problem.

No, I do not feel like the government "controls me." I feel like I am an adult contributing to the security in our society and I want to teach others the same.

If we could all live with the consideration of others in mind, the whole world would be a much better place.

Wearing a mask does not make me look weak, scared, stupid or even "controlled." It makes me look caring and responsible.

When you think about your appearance, discomfort, or other people's opinion of you, imagine a loved one – a child, father, mother, grandparent, aunt, uncle or even a stranger – placed on a ventilator, struggling to breath, alone without you or any family member allowed at their bedside when they die...Ask yourself if you could have helped save their life---just by wearing a mask.

If you think the stats are wrong or the virus is not deadly...think again...please don't wait until you are sick or a family member dies before you believe. I promise you...it is real.

Tamma D. First responder in the Emergency Room

I guess it's necessary to recognize Time each January, but I've never understood making resolutions. Lose weight. Stop smoking. Start exercising. Why? If we're honest, and take the 100-year viewpoint, resolutions to help us live longer, look better, or improve ourselves are all futile attempts to beat Time and its ravages. We need to conquer Death, not delay it, but that's impossible, right?

Well, there's another man with an even more dazzling intellect than Einstein, who was the first to actually swallow up Time and Death. In his letter to the Colossians, the Apostle Paul called Jesus "the invisible God" and "the firstborn from the dead,"

"He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross...."

The mirror proves we're all losing the race with Time. Resolutions are only a stop-gap measure. You can lose weight, but Time will still swallow you up too. Isn't it wiser to make the most of your time by investigating the claims of the only man who conquered Death? Maybe resolve to read just one of the four Gospels this year.

In 2016, I went to Israel on a 2-week writing assignment that required a hundred decisions—flights, expenses, tour guides, hotels, passports, and restaurants. It took weeks of planning. That was a trip I "hoped" to take, but you have a definite April 18th trip that Time silently screams in your ear every New Year's Eve. How ironic to ignore that warning and just hope your permanent departure ends with a reservation. If Jesus is alive, perhaps your resolution should be to make peace with Him and give Jesus "first place in everything." After all, it's about Time...isn't it?



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What Maintenance Schedule Does My Car Need?

Vehicle maintenance schedules vary depending on manufacturer recommendations. In addition, the way a car is driven and the environment it's driven in can dictate if routine maintenance like oil changes needs to occur more frequently or if belts and hoses need to be replaced sooner than manufacturers recommend.

Many people drive in ways that align with routine maintenance schedules. However, drivers who put excessive wear and tear on their vehicles may have to follow a "severe" maintenance schedule. According to the automotive information site Car Gurus, many manufacturers adhere to a 30-60-90 schedule, meaning certain items need to be inspected, changed or replaced at 30,000, 60,000 and 90,000 miles. Certain vehicle parts wear out at predictable intervals, while others, such as rubber gaskets, windshield washer blades and tires, will degrade at irregular intervals.

It is generally recommended to speak with a mechanic and discuss driving habits to ensure vehicles operate efficiently and at peak capacity. The following are some conditions that may necessitate frequent maintenance.

• Urban driving: Stop-and-go traffic in an urban setting can wear cars out more quickly than highway driving. Experts say lubricants found in motor oil break down rapidly under these and other conditions, including especially hot temperatures.



include cargo or passengers.

• Dusty or salty environments: Dust can accumulate in air filters and clog internal engine components. Similarly, living close to the coast and salt water also can cause car parts to rust or degrade quickly.

• Extreme temperature conditions: People who reside in extremely cold or extremely hot climates may find that their vehicles have to work that much harder to operate, reducing the life span of automotive fluids, parts (especially car batteries) and the overall vehicle unless action is taken.

For those who frequently encounter these severe conditions, switching to a severe maintenance schedule with the guidance of an automotive service shop can help. The added cost of more frequent fluid changes and other maintenance can be recuperated by fewer breakdowns and the reduced need for potentially costly repairs.



Car Care Checklist



Oil Change Many motorists believe their cars' oil should be changed every 3,000 miles, however most late-model vehicles now can go 5,000 to 7,000 miles between oil changes. Check your owner's manual and get on a routine to good car care.



Tires Check tire pressures and tread depth. Check the pressure on all the tires—including the spare—with a quality gauge when the tires are cold. Be sure to look for recommended pressure on the driver's door jamb and NOT the tire wall!



Battery Ensure the battery cable connections are tight, and the terminals are free from corrosion. If the battery is more than three years old, it's a good idea to have it tested to determine how much life it has left.



Wiper Blades Wiper blades should completely clear the glass with each swipe. Make sure the windshield washer reservoir is filled.

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Car Care

Stock up on Vehicle Breakdown Supplies

Unforeseen situations can crop up at any time. Anyone who has had a roadside breakdown in their car understands this. A flat tire or an engine malfunction is something



no driver wants to experience, but those with a well-stocked vehicle emergency kit and breakdown strategy can get through most situations rather easily.

A 2017 survey from AAA found that 40 percent of drivers in the United States are not ready to handle a typical roadside emergency breakdown. The organization estimates it helps some seven million motorists get back on the road each summer. A well-equipped roadside emergency kit may help drivers get their vehicles back on the road on their own.

- First aid kit: The first aid kit will celebrate its 133rd birthday in 2021. The Johnson & Johnson company began commercializing first aid kits in 1888. Having a first aid kit in the car to treat minor injuries can be helpful in the event of an accident or even after injuring oneself during a breakdown.

- Fire extinguisher: Cars are full of various mechanical parts and are susceptible to catching on fire. The National Fire Protection Association says vehicle fire extinguishers need to be rated for Class B and C fires.

- Jumper cables: A weak or dead battery is often the culprit in breakdowns. Jumper cables enable drivers to get a charge from another motorist, and may help get a person back on the road quickly. If possible, get a set of cables that also comes with safety gloves and heavy duty clamps, offers Defensive Driving Online, a defensive driving course.

- Mobile phone/charger: A mobile phone is essential for calling for assistance, but the phone is only useful if it's charged.

- Blanket: Keep a blanket in the trunk or another storage area. Should the vehicle die in cold weather, that blanket can help keep passengers warm until assistance arrives.

- Basic tools: Tools like a screwdriver, ratchet set and wrench may enable drivers to complete minor repairs. Tools also should include tire-changing gear, such as a jack and lug nut remover.

- Traction aid: Non-clumping kitty litter or sand can provide the traction needed to get off of a slippery area of roadway.

- Flashlight: A flashlight can help keep you visible and able to see your surroundings in dark conditions.

- Flares: Should a breakdown occur in the dark, flares can alert other drivers.

- Snacks and water: Water and food that stores well, such as emergency rations, granola bars or trail mix, can quell hunger pangs and provide an energy boost while waiting for help.

- Rope/bungee cords/tarp: These items can be used in various situations to secure a vehicle.

While drivers can gather these items separately, many companies offer all-in-one vehicle emergency kits. A safety kit is essential for all drivers.

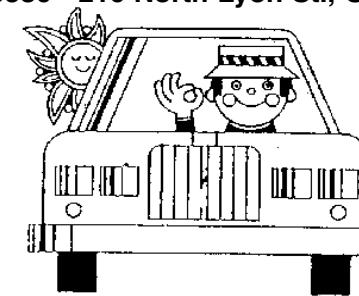


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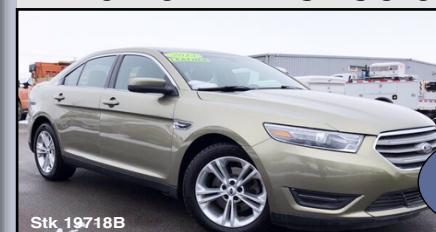
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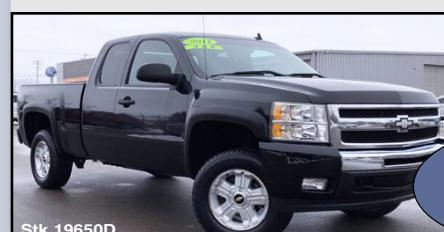
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Laingsburg Area Food Bank Thankful for Community Support

submitted by Linda Culpepper

From the awesome people who stop on Monday afternoons or Thursday nights and hand us cash for the Food Bank, to the Laingsburg United Methodist Church which houses the LAFB, we are thankful for all of you who have helped us get over some hurdles this year.

Volunteers who comprise the LAFB Executive Board would like to sincerely thank all of our supporters. For your generous cash donations, for food donations from individuals and Laingsburg Business & Community Association members, for your support over the holiday season, for your support today.

At the end of 2019, we weren't sure how we were going to make ends meet. And then we asked for your help. Not only did you give in January, February, March, and April, you are still giving today! We are so thankful for you!!!

In 2020, with your help, we fed 2,118 individuals which equaled a total of 273 families! We also saw 15 new families served. Total meals for the year were 44,381. We distributed 5,686 Personal Care items plus anything that was donated for our clients like the turkeys and hams we received for Christmas and the big good cereals brought in every month by an individual.

With your support we were able to help so many people last year. Thank you so much!

Our Mission: "We seek to bring a measure of love and peace through sharing the blessings of food with those who are in need. We see in our neighbors the face of God and act with resolve to ensure that basic needs of life are met. We do this through an efficient food acquisition and distribution system, and community outreach according to God's provisions."

MSU Dean's List

Riley Quinn Gugel of Laingsburg has been named to the Fall MSU Dean's List in Social Science, Psychology.



Mooooo Over Snowman: Charlie Green of Elsie built this Snow Cow for his Mom Grace Green. The Snow Cow sculpture was built just outside her window at Welcome Home in Owosso for her to enjoy. Charlie's sculpture talents also include working with sand as he has built Sand Cows at Marco Island.

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Sierra Price is Area Student of the Week - Eyes Medical Career Ahead

LAINGSBURG — Sierra Price, Laingsburg High School senior, has been honored as a Shiawassee area "Student of the Week."

The honor is bestowed by the Owosso Argus-Press, and Argus staff writer Greyson Steele reported the story.

Growing up, Sierra witnessed her grandfather's trials and tribulations with mantle cell lymphoma and lung cancer, a nearly two-decade battle he ultimately lost in March 2020.

Her grandfather's resilience, and the care and attention provided by hospital staff throughout his fight, has stuck with the now-18-year-old, leading her to pursue a career of her own in the medical field. Price will enroll in the nursing program at Northern Michigan University this fall.

"I just loved how, not only were the doctors there for him, but the nurses, the nurses were always there, especially in hospice," Price said. "They were there for not only him, but for the family, for us. I am really interested in caring for other people and I feel like that's the best way to do it."

At Laingsburg High School, Price maintains a robust schedule, tackling advanced placement courses in calculus and literature, and college-level independent study courses in psychology and chemistry, while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. The 18-year-old also participates in Laingsburg High School's marching, concert and jazz bands, competes on the girls cross country and soccer teams, and works part-time at Tammy's Bakery and Cafe.

And while the coronavirus pandemic has altered Price's senior year, with classes switching back-and-forth from in-person to online, she remains upbeat. If anything, the experience will serve her well in future years, she said.

"I feel like there are some unique benefits (this year), like I'm starting to learn time management for myself and that's definitely something that I'm going to need in college," Price said, adding "communication with teachers is definitely way more important this year," another exercise she believes will benefit her in the long term.

Price isn't solely focused on her own progress at LHS, however; during her sophomore year, she helped launch a free tutoring program for students in need of assistance.

"I started to become more aware of my peers around me, and that some of my classmates, and even my friends, were struggling in classes that I was excelling in," Price said. "This really, really bothered me; I didn't think it was fair that my peers were trying so hard in their classes and that they had no opportunity to reach out for help."

Enlisting the help of a few friends who felt the same way, Price set to work on boosting her peers academically. Even with instruction transitioning online at times, tutors have continued to meet with students via Zoom, she said.

"We have helped grades rise from a 'D' to an 'A,' and test scores from 50 percent to 90 percent," Price said. "We meet with the students as much as they need, usually once or twice a week. This year is definitely different, but students are still encouraged to reach out to our school counselor to be assigned a tutor."

For her academic and extracurricular efforts, Price received a full-ride academic scholarship to Northern Michigan University. Price said she was drawn to NMU "not only because of the amazing academics and nursing program," but also because of the "pure beauty" of the Upper Peninsula.

"I love that I can still have that downtown feel while also having so much nature close by," she said. "I'm really looking forward to hiking, hammocking, fishing and spending more time outdoors."

After working for a while as a registered nurse, Price said she intends to go back to school to obtain her master's degree, with the goal of becoming a women's health nurse practitioner.

Michelle Cousineau, a math and science teacher who's had Price in class throughout her four years at Laingsburg High School, believes the teen is well-prepared for whatever lies ahead.

"Sierra has great attention to detail, and always produces thoughtful work," Cousineau said. "She is very caring and supportive of her friends and family, and is willing to help out in any situation, whether that is explaining a concept to classmates, tutoring fellow students, leading her section in band, or supporting her teammates. Sierra is a genuine, honest, intelligent leader, and these qualities will continue to benefit her in the future."

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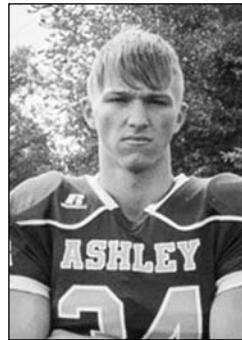
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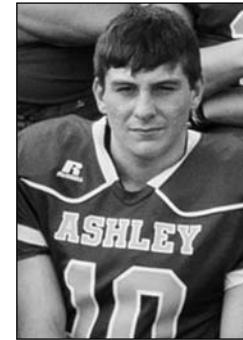
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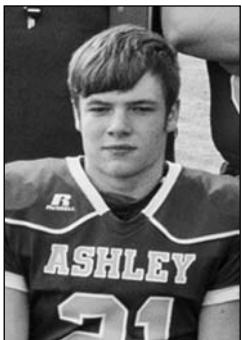
Aaron Drummond



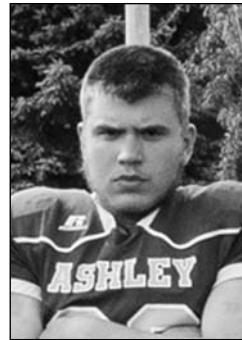
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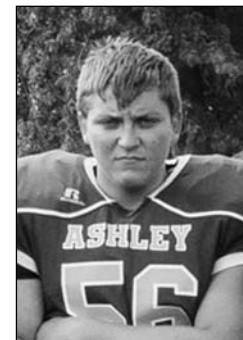
Logan Drummond



Bailey Long



Dillon Beebe



Heath Powelson

Drummonds, Fabus, Long, Beebe, Powelson Lead Bear Gridders on All-NCTL Football Team

ASHLEY — Head football coaches from across the North Central Thumb League have selected the All-League squads from the area.

The Ashley Bears compete in the Stripes Division, where Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart led all teams with 17 overall selections. North Huron had 15 overall selections, including six players — Tyler Moore, Noah Koth, Joe Weiss, Will Case, Christian Brown and Ryan Schornak — eight first-team honors. Six AHS players were feted on the Stripes Division honor contingent — Aaron Drummond, Jimmy Fabus, Logan Drummond, Bailey Long, Dillon Beebe and Heath Powelson.

In the Stars Division, Mayville led all teams with 18 overall selections. Deckerville was close behind with 11, with four players — Ethan Bowerman, Traiten Colesa, Jacan Cishke, Carson Benjey — earning six first-team honors.

First Team All-League Offense — Stripes: Aaron Drummond, offensive lineman, senior, Ashley

Second Team All-League Offense — Stripes: Jimmy Fabus, running back, senior, Ashley; Dillon Beebe, tight end, junior, Ashley

Honorable Mention All-League Offense — Stripes: Heath Powelson, Ashley

First Team All-League Defense — Stripes: Aaron Drummond, linebacker, senior, Ashley; Jimmy Fabus, linebacker, senior, Ashley

Second Team All-League Defense — Stripes: Logan Drummond, defensive back, sophomore, Ashley

Honorable Mention All-League Defense — Stripes: Bailey Long, Ashley; Dillon Beebe, Ashley

Rep. Frederick: Governor's Vetoes of Nursing Home Measures Hurt Michigan's Most Vulnerable Residents

submitted by Christine Guenthner

State Rep. Ben Frederick of Owosso today expressed deep disappointment in the governor's decision to issue pocket vetoes of two measures that would have helped address staffing shortages in Michigan nursing homes and better protect the vulnerable people who live in the facilities.

Frederick said he led the Legislature in approving House Bill 4098 to help combat the health-care worker shortage and improve medication error rates. Frederick's legislation would have allowed specialized aides to provide regular medications to nursing home patients under the supervision of trained nursing staff, as is done in numerous other states. The measure was actively supported by the statewide association representing nursing home providers.

Frederick also backed Senate Bill 77, which would have allowed nursing home residents the option to install cameras or other electronic monitoring devices in their own rooms to help protect against abuse and neglect. The governor chose not to sign either bill into law within the 14-day deadline, resulting in pocket vetoes of both measures. No explanation as to the reason for the vetoes were provided.

Editorial

White Squirrels

If you are in the Michigan woods and confronted by a white squirrel there is a lot to ponder about this little anomaly of a bird seed thief. First of all the mere chance of sighting a white squirrel is about 1 in 100,000 and those odds are only that low if a gray squirrel population is present and the habitat is suburbia. The squirrel like spotted is a morph which is a gray squirrel with some genetic coding that is primarily white skinned with some black pigmentation around the face including the eyes. Sometimes the squirrel may even have a piebald appearance. Now if you are looking at a squirrel with pink eyes and it is a true albino then you are witnessing a 1 in 500,000 sighting as albinos comprise about 20 percent of the white squirrel population.

So why are white squirrels so rare to spot? First the genetic odds are always working against the odds but such white born mammals also become predatory targets as they have no natural camouflage unless they can make it to snowfall but of course that is only seasonal. However, they seem to be spotted and survive in suburban environments due to reduced predatory pressure and possibly be protected by ordinances that restrict urban hunting. If you happen to see a white squirrel it is believed to bring good luck that day but also be a sign of things to come and that you should prepare for change. While there are no specific colonies or municipalities in Michigan filled with white squirrels there are often sightings in the following counties; Wayne, Oakland, Monroe, Washtenaw, Macomb, Ingham, and Livingston. If you are looking for road trips to communities claiming to be white squirrel attraction of the world then consider Exeter, Ont., Olney, Ill., Kenton, TN., Marionville, MO., and Brevard, NC.

There is one last thing the Weekly Sportsman would like to ponder with readers. The Annual Laingsburg Rabbit Squirrel Derby all red fox or grey squirrels are worth one ticket, black (grey) squirrels earn two tickets, but then what about white squirrels if they are entered?

-WS



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster

theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Clinton County Economic Alliance Announces 2021 Executive Board

submitted by Dru Mitchell

DeWitt — The Clinton County Economic Alliance (CCEA) is pleased to announce the 2021 officers elected by the Board of Director and the Executive Committee members who will serve through December 31, 2021. They are:

•Craig Bishop, Chairman of the Board. Mr. Bishop is Market President/Middle Market Commercial Lending with TCF Bank;

•David Kudwa, Vice Chairman. Mr. Kudwa is Deputy City Manager/Community Development Director of the City of St. Johns;

•Nicholas Bancroft, Treasurer. Mr. Bancroft is CEO of AgroLiquid;

•Rounding out the Executive Committee are Mike Bills, principal with MB Strategies LLC, Allen Blower, partner with Clark Construction Co., Beth Daugherty, MPH, President of Sparrow Clinton Hospital, and Dr. Wayne Petroelje, superintendent of Clinton County RESA. President and CEO Dru L. Mitchell will continue as Secretary to the Board.

“CCEA would like to thank outgoing Board Chairman Kathryn Burkholder of Consumers Energy for her dedicated service to the organization and leadership as board chairman the past two years,” said CCEA Chairman Bishop.

Additional members of the 2021 Board are: Patricia Barnas — First National Bank of Michigan, Jessica Chant-Smith — Bingham Township, Dan Coss - City of DeWitt, Bruce DeLong - Clinton County Board of Commissioners, Kurt Hanus — Mercantile Bank; Charles Hauser — Granger Waste Services, Brian Holland — DTN Management, Shawn Middleton — Spicer Group, Inc., David North — MWC LLC, Charles ‘Rusti’ Owens — C2AE, Travis Roberts — Tri-Area Trucking School, James Rundell — Sam Eyde Co., Kaylan Kennel — Michigan Milk Producers Association, Nicholas Tafelsky — Bath Charter Township, James Tedder — ITC Michigan, Jessica Tramontana — Consumers Energy, and Brett Wittenberg — DeWitt Charter Township.

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The Village of Elsie is accepting bids until Feb 1st for the Riverside Cemetery lawn care starting spring of 2021. To download a bid packet go to <http://elsie.org/Departments/Riverside-Cemetery>

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Wharton Center Presents Live Virtual Concert - Morgan James: Magnetic Soul

submitted by Tara Peplowski

EAST LANSING, MI — Join Morgan James and her husband, guitarist Doug Wamble, for a virtual performance on Friday, February 12, 2021 at 8pm. The duo will perform live from their home studio as they celebrate the one-year anniversary of her album "Memphis Magnetic." They will play some of their favorite songs off the album as well as classic covers.

Tickets to the virtual concert are on sale now and will be processed through Wharton Center's live-stream partner, Eventbrite.com. To purchase tickets, visit <https://tinyurl.com/wcmorganjames> or the Wharton Center website at www.whartoncenter.com.

Morgan James is a classically trained vocalist, Broadway veteran and recording artist. Recently, Ms. James premiered a song cycle for voice and orchestra entitled Song Of The River, written for her by frequent collaborator and conductor Teddy Abrams, with the Louisville Orchestra.

As a recording artist, James has released seven albums of music including her newest album of original soul music entitled Memphis Magnetic. Her videos with Postmodern Jukebox and her own YouTube channel have garnered over 200 million views.



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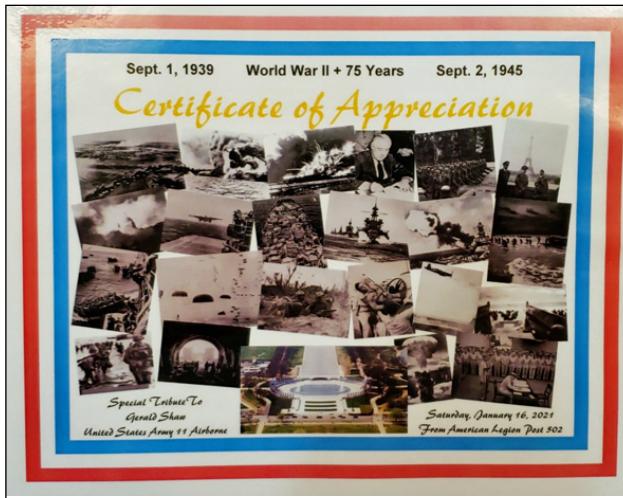
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Big Brothers Big Sisters Asks Us All to Make the BIG Resolution

submitted by Persis Sopariwala

LANSING — Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region this week announced January is National Mentoring Month.

The group is recognizing the volunteers who are serving as mentors ("bigs") to community children ("littles"). In addition, the group is encouraging Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Ionia and Shiawassee County residents to make a resolution, and consider volunteering as a Big in the new year.

"Our youths' needs have not dissipated," Big Brothers Big Sisters Program Director Jamie Griggs said. "A pandemic doesn't remove the barriers that our youth face on a daily basis; it actually compounds the current barriers. The call for mentors for our youth is greater than it's ever been. Our youth needs you. Big Brothers Big Sisters needs you."

Within Big Brothers Big Sisters' five-county service area, there are approximately 90 children who have completed the application process for the program, and are waiting to be matched with a big brother or big sister.

In order to help them stay connected and supported, more adult volunteers are needed.

"Bigs are personally and thoughtfully matched with a Little in their community, and can share the kinds of activities they already like to do," Griggs said. "Bigs and Littles are currently meeting virtually two to four times per month, and are provided with regular match support from the Big Brothers Big Sisters staff."

Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, and Shiawassee County residents can get involved during National Mentoring Month by contacting Big Brothers Big Sisters via email at 0196inquiries@bbbsmcr.org or phone (517) 372-0160.

For more information, visit bbbsmcr.org.



Local Schools See Continued COVID-19 Cases

LAINGSBURG — Local schools continue to report cases of since in-school learning returned on January 11.

Laingsburg Community Schools on Jan. 12 reported a high school student tested positive.

Chesaning, Ovid-Elsie, Morrice, Perry, Laingsburg and Owosso all resumed at least some in-person learning Jan. 11. Durand schools resumed classes last Monday.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services said Shiawassee County now has had 3,236 COVID-19 cases and 64 deaths.



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