



Talon Parsons placed 2nd at States on April 3rd in Kalamazoo. That puts Talan as the highest placing freshman in Ovid Elsie history. Photo by Marie Spiess

O-E Schools Go Virtual

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

Dear Marauder Families:

This past week our district has had several positive cases of COVID-19 on our school campus.

This coincides with a significant rise in the spread of the virus within our community. The number of positive cases and close contact quarantine students is approaching seven and a half percent of our district population.

The Administration, with support from the Health Department, feels that a pause is necessary to allow time for this surge to pass. Thus, the (in-person) closure will begin on Friday, April 9th, and will remain in effect until Friday, April 16th. Students will return to face-to-face learning on Monday, April 19th. During this time, the Administration and the Board will work with the Health Department to determine whether a safe return may occur or if a more prolonged closure may be necessary.

Please be advised that this closure is for in-person learning only, and the entire District will now be 100% remote. Our teacher(s) are prepared to continue to deliver content and instruction based on the schedules below:

- Elementary Schools Schedule
- Middle School Schedule
- High School Schedule

Your teachers will be reaching out to you directly to provide further information and services for special needs students or English Language Learners.

Lunches will be available at Leonard and E.E. Knight from 11:00 to 12:00 Friday, April 9th through Thursday, April 15th. Friday is a scheduled half-day for students.

We intend to continue with spring sports. With our weekly antigen testing and safety protocols, we can still offer our students some sense of normalcy during this difficult time.

As always, we encourage you to continue to monitor your family for symptoms. If you have a family member who is having symptoms, please consult with your family doctor or get tested.

Stay healthy, and we will see you soon!

Yours in education,

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

Laingsburg City Council April Meeting: Council Approves Site for Rural Permanent Recycling Facility, & Summer Friday Concert Line-Up Announced

by Karen Anderson, Correspondent

LAINGSBURG - The monthly meeting of the Laingsburg City Council met on Monday April 5, 2021 in-person for the first time in over a year. Following CDC guidelines wearing masks and with clear plex dividers, Mayor Michael Culpepper, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call was taken by Paula Willoughby, City Clerk and Treasurer. In attendance were Council members: Alan Ducastel, Brian Fredline, Dave Rhodabeck, Marcie Nickols, Gail Geasler and Dena Judd. There were 4 individual seats in the gallery, spaced 6 feet apart, and several participants on Live-Stream You-Tube.

First on the agenda was Public Comment from Terry Link, representing the Greater Laingsburg Recycling (GLR) committee. A proposal to match Grant funds was approved during the action items of the council business meeting. Link presented the GLR update setting the parameters and goals to establish a permanent Recycling Waste Reduction Facility.

The GLR is a non-profit organization and has received commitments for \$83,000 of the \$140,000 projected cost. Matched grants, private donations, Cook Family Foundation, and a GoFundMe page – [gofundme.com/help-build-our-community-recycling-center?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer](https://www.gofundme.com/help-build-our-community-recycling-center?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer). (open until the end of April) have been the sources of funding to date. Checks can be mailed to Greater Laingsburg Recyclers, PO Box 174 Laingsburg, MI 48848 and donations at the time of your recyclable drop off items.

The projected date is Fall of 2021 for the Recycling plan to be completed, along with the purchase of a bailer, which is necessary to fulfill State compliance directives when processing the waste. The GLR, Laingsburg Community School (LCS) District and City Council is in full support of this endeavor and continues to apply for additional Grant funding. The location of the site is on LCS property in the area near the maintenance garage, west side of Woodbury Rd. "Volunteers and Donations are imperative for this to be a success for the community." As stated by Link in his presentation. An additional \$35,000 will be needed to be raised for the project by the projected date of completion.

Next order of business proceeded with the March 2021 minutes and treasurer's reports, which were unanimously approved, as submitted. Items of business included the approval of appointments for Steve and Brenda Hill to the Laingsburg Cemetery Board. Other approved appointments included Scott Fulford to the Planning Commission, and approval was unanimous for the Assessors Service Contract.

The City Council approved the proposal to prepare a contract for the Capitol-Improvement-Plan (CIP) to evaluate the city streets and sidewalks in assessing priority repairs, under the authority of the Michigan Planning Commission. The approval of the Storm Sewer Proposal, with the recommendation of DPS is to install storm sewers prior to the roads project, and to award the contract to Woodhull Construction Co. was unanimously passed. Longevity of roads and driveway easements significantly increases when completed prior to the road project.

The MDOT bid for approval will cost \$350,000 grant with a matching grant of \$250,000. Once approval from the State is received EJC will provide the Notice to proceed. Under Act 51 which allows a Bond Loan to begin the project in an agreement to pay back the financial institution with promised Stimulus monies, Grants and matches, when the project is completed will be submitted. As explained by Willoughby, "A Bond resolution is awarded via a bid from the financial institution to obtain money up front and cover the Category B grant regulations for repayment of the loan." (It is not a bond for increased taxes or assessments)

It was at this time Mayor Culpepper and Council members recognized Willoughby's tenacious commitment and efforts to obtain and write several State and Federal Grants for the many notable projects in the community. She is solely responsible for the success in obtaining funds and implementing projects utilizing her unique skills in requesting grant proposals.

A Public hearing is scheduled regarding the 2021-2022 Budget prior to the next regular business meeting of the City Council. Next, City Police Chief DeKort presented an update of the Emergency Services Operation Plan. The plan was approved by City Council. Inquires on the details are available for public review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Laingsburg Area Recreation Committee (LARC) - Jody Frank, chairperson reported the committee is meeting later this week to finalize policies approval, which will include no bikes, scooters or skateboards on the grandstand floors. Laingsburg H.S. Drama is using the new amphitheater for their Spring Play in May.

The GRAND OPENING for Amphitheater will be held on Friday, June 18th. Dedication and entertainment are being organized by Jack Clarkson, Gail Gessler and other volunteers for the 2021 summer season. Line up of Music in the Park is scheduled for Friday evenings this year. The Movie in the Park

continued on page 3...



Social

Clinton County Senior Center

submitted by Brenda Terpening

The Clinton County Senior Center, located at 201 E Walker Street in St. Johns is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 am - 1 pm. During those times individuals can come in to purchase puzzles, books, homemade items and used items from their Gift Shops. They have dozens of puzzles between 300-1000 pieces, most just \$1 and they have hundreds of books, available by donation. Their homemade items include things like hanging towels, table runners (reversible with 2 seasons), pillows (sports and book holder), pet blankets, quilts (baby through queen sizes), scrubbies, crayon book holders/carriers, casserole carriers and more. They also have a Gift Shop that has decorative items, antique glassware, greeting cards and more.

Due to the Pandemic the Senior Center has not been open for normal services like meals since March 2020. Sales of the above mentioned items help pay for the utility bills like gas & electric so the building is still available for use by the Clinton County Meals on Wheels program. If you would like to come into the Senior Center but are unavailable on a Tuesday or Thursday, call Darlene at 989-224-6605 to make other arrangements.



SafeCenter Fundraiser

submitted by Hannah Gottschalk

SafeCenter Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Clinton and Shiawassee Counties has been fully operational since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, providing a variety of services to adult and child survivors. Although the Emergency Shelter has only been able to operate at 50% capacity due to CDC guidelines, individuals in high danger have been motored in a safe location off-site when the Shelter is full. All other available services have continued, either in-person following health and safety guidelines, or virtually since the onset of COVID. SafeCenter has been able to maintain employment, health and safety of all staff and residents throughout the pandemic.

Last year, SafeCenter was unable to hold their usual in-person annual event due to the concerns with COVID-19. Not having what has typically been the biggest fundraiser of the year for the agency, greatly impacted the ability to meet the fund development goal for the year, all while the need for SafeCenter's essential services increased while victims were isolated and quarantined with their abuser(s). With restrictions now lifting and life returning to a more "normal" pace, the calls for assistance continue to increase.

Because of this, and in honor of April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month, SafeCenter is hosting their first ever virtual fundraising event on Thursday, April 22, 2021 from 6:00 – 7:00 pm on their Facebook page (facebook.com/thesafecenter.org). The event is FREE of charge and takes the place of the usual annual in-person dinner event, due to continued restrictions with COVID-19. All are welcome to attend. Those interested in attending can simply log into Facebook and watch live, interacting with organization personnel throughout the event's duration. Donations will be accepted online via their website (www.thesafecenter.org), in-person at the Owosso and St. Johns Office, and/or by mail: PO Box 277, Owosso, MI 48867 before, during, and after the event.

By attending this event and giving to SafeCenter, you partner in the mission to Empower, Advocate, Educate, and Prevent and provide essential services to adults and children who are in dangerous and potentially lethal situations. Your contribution also provides SafeCenter with the ability to partner with other community organizations across the area and hold those who seek to do harm to others accountable for their actions. We can't do this work alone. Take a stand against Domestic and Sexual Violence this April, support SafeCenter, and help make our community a safer place to live, work, and play for all.

Legion Breakfast Returns

Laingsburg American Legion Post 248 has restarted their Sunday morning breakfast. The public is welcome to come enjoy breakfast from 8am-11am every Sunday. The Legion is located at 1240 E. Grand River in Laingsburg.



Mobile Meal Ministry

submitted by Jenny Fleischer

His Cup Runneth Over, a mobile meal ministry, will be starting its 7th season of giving out FREE meals on Tuesday, April 20th. FREE meals will be given out from 11 am to 1 pm at First Congregational Church, 100 Maple Ave., St. Johns. We will be located in the back southwest corner of the parking lot. Everyone is welcome to come and it is free for all who come. For those unable to pick up lunch, please call to arrange for delivery by Monday, April 19th.

His Cup Runneth Over is a 501 (c)3. If you would like to get involved in volunteering or need delivery call or text 517-388-2005 or 989-544-5764.

Spring Collection Event

submitted by

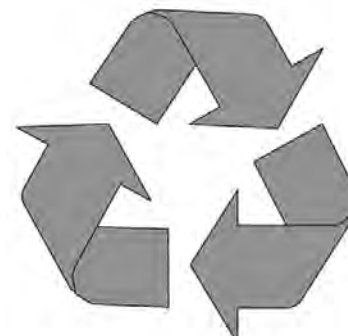
Katherin Neese

A Spring Collection Event will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 8:00am to 2:00pm - An appointment is required to attend!

This event will take place in St Johns and is open to all Clinton County residents. Register online www.clinton-county.org/329/Registration.

Acceptable items include household hazardous waste such as unwanted medications, farm & landscaping chemicals, motor oil & antifreeze, cleaners, yard chemicals, oil based paints & aerosols and household computer equipment & electronics. Most items are accepted free of charge but nominal fees do apply (\$10 a piece for televisions and computer monitors – cash or check only on the day of the event).

More information can be found on our website www.clinton-county.org/196/Waste-Management or by calling our office (989) 224-5186.



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LBG cont' from front page...

plans are pending. The committee is seeking sponsorship. Police and Emergency Report: Chief reported 23 incident reports, 28 traffic reports, 21 for speeding and 26 warnings for speeding. Emergency Services – 35 Fire, 14 Ambulance calls. The ES department has purchased a stair-chair at the cost of \$4,500 and 3 new Chest Compressors for \$16,562 for the ambulances. Four new bullet-proof vests are needed at the cost of \$700 each. Vests need replaced every 5 years. An AED grant has been submitted to make the purchase in February 2022.

The 2020 proposal for State Legislation for Jail Reform has been passed. New protocol will create expedited processing of appearances before a judge.

Planning Commission: Dena Judd reported that due diligence to follow zoning regulations is a topic of priority. Details to follow. The Farmers Market will open on Wednesday June 2nd from 4 – 7 with music at 6:00 on the Grand River sidewalk in front of Twilliger's, serving food and drinks. The Clothesline will also be open on Wednesdays from 3 – 7 and Saturday's from 10:00am – 2:00 pm.

City Library Update: Gail Gessler reported that the Girl Scout troop # 30336 and Becca Allen, troop leader has volunteered to set up some Story-time options via Zoom which will help the scouts earn hours towards the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement in community service. The City Library continues with CDC regulations wearing masks and social distancing with only 5 people at a time in the Library. Limited use of the computers. The library staff has resumed obtaining books via MEL. If you need a book from another Library affiliate, call 517-651-6252.

Downtown Development (DDA): The committee posted a space board for building improvement requests for local businesses. There have been 15 applications with approx. \$40,000 worth of improvements needed. The Girl Scout troop will plant the flowers in the pots around the City again this year.

Department of Public Works (DPW): As reported by Alan DuCastle action items up for approval include Storm Sewers to be installed by Woodhull Construction which will cost approx. \$36,000. The Wireless lock system for the restrooms and amphitheater in McClintock Park was approved by council with the budget of \$2,000. The specialty locks will be purchased from Builders Hardware.

Other general items include a letter of interest to award Rental Rehab project grant monies to construct 2 apartments in the upper level of Cinders. The Grant is for downtown housing for affordable living. Final subject on the agenda is the concern for City Hall office staff. At this time a full time and part-time person is responsible for all of the City Business and calls. A request for another full-time position and an additional part-time during voting and when other part-time support may be needed. City is considering 1 Full time and 2 part-time or 2 full-time employees. The issue is tabled until the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.

The monthly meeting is scheduled the first Monday of each month. If individuals wish to view the live meetings follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzo7JSRnvML18i8u1LKtGg>. Microphones will be muted except during the Public Comment session. If you require action items to be considered, contact the City Hall Clerk to have your topic placed on the agenda. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 3rd at 7:00 pm.



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Editorial



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

As life moves on, it does get busier and more interesting.....especially if you are trying to learn how to work well with others. (I have worked by myself for a good number of years and sharing space with others could be a challenge). Our food truck, "Taste of Michigan" has past the planning stage and we three ladies are planning the launch. Our menu is in place and after final edits this afternoon will be ready to be laminated. Of course free roaming critics are in abundance and their concerns will be addressed.... I do believe that I may have to quit my admin position in order to keep up with the schedule of the trailer. I know change is part of life.

This week is busier than I expected it to be. On Saturday morning, my cousin, John came over and gifted me with a bunch of venison hearts to be pickled....since my freezers are still full I had to act upon it as soon as possible. I thawed them slowly, and then cooked them with fresh onions, cloves, and pink sea salt. After they were fully cooled I transferred them into a container in the refrigerator. This helps them firm up and make them easier to cut into small chunks for pickling. I simmered the pickling liquid while I peeled the membrane from the organs and cut them into chunks, then tossed them into the jars....after doing one quart and four pints I set aside the last three hearts for my neighbor Carl to use for sandwiches. Of course I tasted the contents of my jar last evening and it still needs to absorb more the pickling liquid....but it is headed in the right direction. I now wish that I had used some rice vinegar.

I hope that you all had the time and inclination to spend time with your families on Easter. We no longer have Easter Parades like the early 1900's but it is a time of rebirth and hope. I can think of no better place to be then with my family....they are my greatest blessing. I do take much joy in spending time with them, how else would I learn their views and have the opportunity to discuss life. Our day was filled with much love, affection and laughter.... And very good food (our family is filled with good cooks). That is another blessing.... If you are a Facebook fan you may have seen the 1956 photo of the Empire State building and two others that in deference to it being Easter used their lights to form the crosses that represent the resurrection. (Come to Church Sunday, in Oxnard Press-Courier page 6; it listed the starting times for Easter services on April 1, 1956 for seven of the area Christian churches).

On wards and upwards, I need to get into the office and get caught up with the paper work. Maybe I can get the phone books updated and possibly get the conference paperwork in the mail. Of course some of these issues can only be addressed if everyone has responded to my queries. Just got a call from Barb and she is going to Sam's Club, she is also picking me up some good smooth peanut butter for baking and frosting making. It is nice to have good neighbors.

Speaking of good neighbors, Rolayne and Karen picked me up Monday afternoon so that Karen could have a puppy fix and that Rolayne could meet our first born critter at the homestead. Our first born was a Nigerian dwarf buck, who was born on the first of April. He is an absolute cutie and can fit in your hand. His hair is extremely soft and he is as comical as his cousins the pygmy goats. It is hilarious to watch him bounce and spring around his pasture and pen. Zavior put smiles upon our faces, as did the pups Mia and Milo who at four and a half months now weigh in at forty-five and forty-eight pounds respectively. Those herders could knock me over easily.....and I'm no feather weight.

May your life be filled with many blessings and may your common sense work well for you. God bless and keep you filled with the opportunities to make good memories.

Crystal Mitchell©2021

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NOTICE

Fairfield Township Cemetery Spring clean-up weekend is April 24 and 25th. Families who have decorations, vases, planters, etc must be removed by April 26th, 2021. Anything left on graves after the 26th will be removed by the Fairfield Township Sexton. Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this clean up.

Carolyn Long, Fairfield Township Clerk
Township Website-www.Fairfieldtwp.us

Notice Village of Elsie Residents

The April 13th council meeting will be a combination of regular style and zoom meetings. The council members will be having the meeting at the Duplain twp hall as normal, however, members of the public, vendors, and guests will not be allowed in the meeting due to the lack of space for social distancing.

HOWEVER, members of the public will be able to attend and participate via the Zoom platform link below....

Topic: Village Council Zoom Meeting

Time: Apr 13, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94955117317>

Meeting ID: 949 5511 7317

One tap mobile

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Obituaries

Michael Irvin “Mike” Everts

Michael Irvin “Mike” Everts, 76, of Ovid, MI, passed away Monday, March 29, 2021, at his home surrounded by his family.

Michael was born in London, England on December 4, 1944, to Irvin and Elizabeth (Holley) Everts. He graduated from Ovid High School in 1963. Michael went on to serve in the U.S Army. He played trumpet in the US Army Band while in the Service.

Michael and Dawn Warren were married on August 16 1969 at Grove Bible Church, Clinton County MI. They had three children, Michael, Dustin, and Stacy. Michael worked as a Banker and Court Officer for many years. His hobbies included; hunting, fishing and golfing. Michael was a member of the Ovid Lions Club for many years, and he was a Youth Coach for all sports.

Michael was predeceased by his parents Irvin and Elizabeth Everts. He is survived by his wife Dawn Everts, 2 sons: Michael Everts, and Dustin (Nicole) Everts, daughter Stacy (Doug) Dershem, and sister Shirley Sunde of Harrison, MI. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Kyle (Raedene) Everts of St. Johns; Braidon Everts of Fernley, Nevada; Carter, Peyton and Maris Everts of St. Johns; Johnathon Stevens of St. Johns; Dale Stevens of Ovid; Mellissa Harrington of Ovid; Wyatt Dershem of Ovid; great-grandchildren: Blake Stevens of Ovid, and Brailen Bradford of Ovid, and many nieces.



Cremation has taken place and a Family Gathering will be announced at a later date.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI.

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Bruce C. Field

Bruce C. Field, the former owner of Field Pharmacy, passed away unexpectedly, Thursday, April 1, 2021. A Celebration of Life will be held at 12:00 PM on Friday, April 16, 2021 at University Reformed Church, 841 Timberlane St, East Lansing, MI 48823, Pastor Jason Helopoulos will officiate. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the time of service.

Bruce was born on September 5, 1943, to the late LaMott A. and Ingrid (Nelson) Field in Owosso, Michigan. He was a graduate of Laingsburg High School in 1961 and Ferris State University in 1967. He married Ruth A. Poffinbarger on July 1, 1967, in Muskegon, Michigan. Bruce was known throughout Laingsburg and the surrounding area for offering exceptional service to the community. He was the owner and pharmacist of Field Pharmacy for 46 years. He taught First Aid and EMT classes with Larry Sparks and volunteered on the Laingsburg Ambulance Service for 36 years. He was an active supporter of the Laingsburg Band Boosters and the Boy Scouts of America. He was an avid U of M fan, enjoying football but especially the Michigan Marching Band, as well as watching the Detroit Tigers play. He was a member of the Michigan Pharmacists Association serving as Treasurer from 1976-1988. As an active member of the American Pharmacists Association, Bruce served as APhA-APPM President/ APhA Trustee from 2001-2002 and earned the APhA Fellow Award. He was also an Adjunct Professor of Pharmacy at Ferris State University and was inducted into the Golden Eagle Society for 50 years for service in 2017. Locally, he was a member of the Capital Area Pharmacist Association, a past member of the Laingsburg Business Association, and the Laingsburg Lions Club. He was a charter member of the University Reformed Church of East Lansing and served as a former Deacon. Usher, and Sound Technician there. Bruce was known at home as a loving husband, father, and grandfather and he did not take this role lightly. He loved his family and enjoyed every minute of attending all their activities.

Bruce is survived by his wife; Ruth of 53 years, his children; Mary Sieben, Pamela (Thomas) Danckaert, and Kevin Field, his grandchildren; Tyler Sieben, Audrey Sieben, Isabella Danckaert, and Anneliese Danckaert, his brother-in-law; Robert (Sherry) Poffinbarger, his stepsister-in-law; Diana VanOrsdol, stepbrother-in-law; Lyle Brewer, several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Bruce was preceded in death by his parents; LaMott and Ingrid Field, his brother; Keith Field, his stepbrother; Gary VanOrsdol, and stepsister; Jill Brewer.

Memorials are suggested to Laingsburg Band Boosters, 205 S. Woodhull Rd. Laingsburg, MI 48848 or by visiting <http://www.laingsburgbands.com/current-boosters.html>; the Laingsburg Ambulance Service, 7425 Woodbury Rd, Laingsburg, MI; or to University Reformed Church, 841 Timberlane St., East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

The family is being served by Watkins Brothers Funeral Homes, Laingsburg Chapel where online condolences may be shared at www.watkinsfuneralhomes.com.



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Bannister United Methodist Church

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Pastor: Zella Daniel

Sunday Worship 11:15am

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

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Worship Service 10:00am

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Pastor: JD Paik

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Pastor Tiffany Newsom

laingsburgumc@gmail.com

www.laingsburgumc.org

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Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Roger Numerich

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Confession: Sun 11:30am

We Welcome You to Come...

Wanda Sue Vincent

Wanda Sue Vincent, 64, of West Branch, MI, passed away Sunday, April 4, 2021, at Mid-Michigan Hospital, West Branch, MI.

Wanda was born in Manistique, MI on June 23, 1956, the daughter of Charles "Chet" and Irene Marion (Sebeck) Cripps. On December 31, 1978, Wanda married Richard Glenn Vincent in Omer, MI.

The most important thing to Wanda was her family. She loved gardening; especially her flowers, bird watching, and her pack of rambunctious chihuahuas. Wanda was a radiology aide for many years and was a hard working woman always willing to lend a hand wherever there was need.

Wanda is survived by her husband Richard, children: Roger (Nancy) Vincent, Sheryl (Mike) Richardson, Sally Vincent, LeeAnna (John) Kennedy, Arthur "Tommy" Swarthout Jr., Jay (Janaya) Swarthout, Trent Vincent, Sheena (Chad) LePard; and many beloved grandchildren and great grandchildren. She is also survived by her siblings: Fred Cripps, Mel Cripps, Sandy Cripps, Tina Cripps, Denise Fay, Abe Cripps, and Mary Cripps; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, infant daughter Sylvia, son Richie Jr., infant siblings: Mary and Joseph, siblings: Charles Jr., William, Brenda, and Cheryl.

Funeral Services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI, on Friday, April 9, 2021 at 11:00 A.M., with Pastor Andy Croel officiating. Burial has taken place at Middlebury Township Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, 7500 Odawa Cir., Harbor Springs, MI 49740. Online condolences may be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI.

Obituaries

Allison Nemick (nee Fulford)

Allison Nemcik (nee Fulford), Lake Wales, Florida, formerly of Michigan. Beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend passed away on Wednesday, March 31, 2021; at the age of 59 years.

The daughter of Joseph Fulford and Aletha Campbell, Allison was born on June 3, 1961, in Vero Beach, Florida. She graduated from Liberty High School with the class of 1979. Allison married Dennis Luznak, together having three boys. Later in life, on May 1, 2002, Allison married Jim Nemcik, the love of her life. She retired from the healthcare industry after many years of service. She grew up in Liberty, PA; Allison resided in the Elsie area of Michigan for many years, until she retired in Lake Wales, Florida. She cherished the time spent with her loving family; especially singing, playing horseshoes, and entertaining friends for the holidays and events.

Surviving are her husband: Jim Nemcik; children: Dennis (Heather) Luznak, Jr. (DJ), Brian (Leslie) Luznak, Chad (Julie) Luznak; grandson: Ezekiel; mother: Aletha Campbell; brothers and sister: Greg (Bettina) Fulford, Hank (Kimberly) Campbell, John (Lisa) Campbell, Cheryl Mills. Also surviving are many stepchildren, step-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Allison was preceded in death by her father: Joseph Fulford.

Honoring Allison's wishes, cremation has taken place. Memorial service will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 16, 2021, at Saddlebag Lake Resort beach house, 499 Saddle Bag Rd, Lake Wales, FL 33898. Pastor Tony Latham will officiate. A graveside service will be announced at a later date, Eureka, MI. Due to many family and friends around the country, the memorial will also be broadcasted live, please search Facebook for saddlebag lake community church, or use this link https://www.facebook.com/Saddlebaglakechurch/live_videos

Thomas Anthony VanEtten

Thomas Anthony VanEtten, age 73, of Bannister, MI, passed away Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, MI.

Tom was born in St. Johns, MI on June 5, 1947, the son of Samuel and Mary Ellen (Stambersky) VanEtten. He attended Elsie High School and resided in the Eureka/Bannister area most of his life. Tom proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the VFW Post #5315 in Peacock, MI for many years.

On April 19, 1975, Tom married Sandra Kay Spousta at the First Congregation Church of St. Johns. They were blessed with nearly 46 years of marriage.

Tom was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, trapping, and mushrooming. He loved his classic cars and attending swap meets with good friend Doug Cook and his brother Dan. He enjoyed traveling and always looked forward to his Canadian trips to spend time with his good friends Michel and Juley Dillon. Tom was a story teller and could captivate an audience with his tales.

Tom dearly loved his family. He treasured his times with his children and grandchildren. They spent many hours fishing on his ponds and boats. Tom and Sandy enjoyed their time in Florida fishing and happy hours with good friends.

Tom is survived by his wife Sandra, daughters: Tina (Alan) Bird, and Tomi Ann; grandchildren: Zachary Dick, Ayden Thomas Bird, Lindsey Bird and Christian Bird; and great granddaughter Maeve Taylor. He is also survived by his sisters and brother: Jane Marek, Joy (John) Jelinek, Jo Wheeler, and Dan (Elaine) VanEtten. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral Services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes Elsie, MI, on Friday, April 9, 2021 with his brother Dan VanEtten officiating. Burial followed at Eureka Cemetery, Eureka, MI.

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



Virginia Sylvia Moore

Virginia Sylvia Moore, 74, of Ashley, MI, passed away peacefully with her daughter at her side on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at the Hospice House of Mid Michigan, Lansing, MI.

Virginia was born in Locke Township, Ingham County, MI on May 27, 1946, the daughter of JB and Margaret Marie (Newcomb) Holmes. She attended Morrice Public Schools, Morrice, MI.

On July 25, 1964, Virginia married Richard Allen Moore. They were blessed with nearly 57 years of marriage. Together they owned and operated Town and Country Auto Salvage for over 50 years.

Virginia dearly loved her family, especially her grandchildren. She welcomed many others who claimed her as "Mom". She was a devoted wife who always looked forward to spending time with Richard. Her faith was the foundation of her life and she was actively involved in the Owosso United Missionary Church for many years.

Virginia is survived by her husband Richard, and 5 children: JoAnn (Greg) Parcher of Owosso, Richard L. (Jennifer) Moore of Ashley, Jennifer (Robert) Surdock Jr. of Elsie, Ricky (Melissa) Moore of Ashley and Christina (David) Murdock of Brant. She is also survived by 14 grandchildren: Margaret (Danny), Melissa, Gregory (Nichole), Jesse, Kari (Richard), Robert (Kylie), Debra, Katie (Austin), Alysha (William), Randy (Shy-Ann), Shelly, Kimberly, Nicholas, and Noah; 23 great grandchildren, special friend and sister-in-law Betty (Gordon) Bailey, sister-in-law Brenda Holmes, and many nieces and nephews. Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, 2 grandsons: Michael Whitaker, and Brent Albring; 4 brothers: Harold, Clair (Louise), John (Dorothy), and Randy Holmes; and nephew Robert Holmes.

Funeral Services will be held at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI, on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 11:00 A.M., with her nephew Pastor Terry Bailey officiating. Burial will take place at Ford Cemetery, Gratiot County, MI. Visitation will be held on Sunday, April 11, 2021 from 2-8 P.M. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Owosso United Missionary Church, 1595 N. Hickory St. Owosso, MI. Online condolences may be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI.



Editorial

A Boy on the Drum

Letter to the Editor:

In the mid 1950's a group of young Scouts and their leaders started an Indian Dance Team in Laingsburg.

There were about fifteen of us Scouts that acted as dancers, costume designers, stage hands and program artists.

We all followed "The boy on the drum" once the dancing began. No one moved, danced or acted before the drummer's beat sounded.

That young boy on our drum was Bruce Field. Bruce's father was our troop committee chairman. Bruce was not only our dance team drummer but as a Life Scout he went with us on all out campouts, canoe trips and was a valuable asset to our weekly troop meetings. Bruce attended the 1960 National Boy Scout Jamboree in Colorado Springs where our dance team was highlighted several times.

Bruce played in the school band (chair #1), worked on all our class fundraisers, supported our sports events and quietly labored on our many class activities throughout his years in high school.

Bruce went off to Ferris State University and received his pharmacy diploma following in the steps of his father.

Bruce's "Drum Beat" became ever louder and stronger as he returned to his community and quietly began to serve and give leadership in so many areas of need.

He was that special person that you were always happy to see. Bruce never tried to out shine you but was there to help support, care for and assist you to the very best of his ability.

A beautiful person who's "Drum Beat" started early, continued loud, clear and strong until his last days.

Bye Bruce – we will see you at the next dance.

-- Frank Mallon, classmate

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Home Improvement-Lawn/Garden

Did You Know?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, air currents can carry pesticides that were applied to nearby properties. That means even people who do not apply pesticides in their lawns and gardens can still be at risk of exposure to these potentially harmful chemicals. People concerned by the prospect of being exposed to the pesticides being applied by their neighbors can stay indoors with their children and pets while the substances are being applied. Those who live near fields and parks where pesticides are routinely applied can plant hardy, thick-branched trees to reduce their risk of airborne exposure. The EPA notes that such plants and shrubs can serve as buffers against airborne pesticides, essentially acting as walls around a property that prevent gusty winds from blowing pesticides into yards and gardens.



Adding Plants to Water Features

Water features can make for relaxing and eye-catching additions to outdoor spaces. According to the online gardening resource Garden Know-How, a water feature is any landscape enhancement that uses water and other material to bring tranquility and beauty to a space.

Thanks to their soothing sounds and aesthetic appeal, water features like ponds and fountains are often included in healing gardens. But they can be used in any and all landscapes.

Homeowners can explore various water features, such as waterfalls, koi ponds and even rain bells, which offer soothing chime sounds when it rains. One consideration when installing a water feature is whether or not to incorporate live plants. Certain plants are better suited for water features than others.

Surrounding plants

It is possible to create a miniature ecosystem in a yard by surrounding a water feature with certain plants. Gardening Know-How advises using canna lily or taro at the edge of a pond. These plants thrive with roots in mud and their tops in shallow water. Broadleaf arrowhead is another option, as it can do well in a pond's shallow edges. It's a perennial so it will come back and requires little maintenance.

Floating plants

Many plants can live on the surface of the water and pro-

vide hiding spots for wildlife in a natural water feature setting. Lotus, also called water lily, is a popular and fragrant option. Water hyacinth produces vibrant lavender flowers that pop on stems that can reach three feet in height. This stunning species can be invasive, but it can be managed by planting within a hoop or submerged woven basket, indicates Happy DIY Home. Other free-floating plants to consider are duckweed, fairy moss

and butterfly fern. Floating plants look beautiful and they can help filter water and control algae growth.

Submerged plants

Submerged plants are a necessity in water features that have fish. Submerged plants are grown in weighted pots placed on the bottom of the pond. They provide shelter for fish and help oxygenate the water.



Hornwort, anacharis, water milfoil, and dwarf sagittaria are some examples of submerged plants.

Water features attract wildlife, including potentially pesky insects. Planting pitcher plants in submerged pots can help reduce the presence of unwanted insects in a water feature.

Some water-loving plants are invasive, so it is always best to check with a local agricultural extension or the Department of Environmental Protection to see if certain floating or submerged plants are restricted where you live. For those who want to contain plants, placing pots of cascading greenery and flowers near to fountains, pools and ponds is another way to add appeal without having to dig in the ground.

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Home Improvement-Lawn/Garden



Sod vs. Seed: Which is Your Best Option

A pristine lawn can be the finishing touch to a landscape and add significant value to a home. According to a joint study by the University of Alabama and the University of Texas at Arlington, homes with high curb appeal sell for an average of 7 percent more than similar houses without inviting exteriors.

When it comes to establishing a lawn, homeowners have two key options: starting from seed or installing sod. Each comes with its share of advantages and disadvantages. Which option makes the most sense for a given lawn will boil down to various factors, including homeowners' budgets.

Seed

Seed is the first thing homeowners may think of when planning a lawn. Seed is an inexpensive, easily installed option. Plus, garden centers sell a variety of seeds specific to particular regions and climates. The home improvement resource Fixr says seed will cost an average of 24 cents per square foot installed compared to \$1.29 for sod. That affordability compels many homeowners to turn to seed. However, seed can take up to two years to produce a lush lawn and it requires high maintenance in the initial months to establish the grass.

Seed also requires greater soil preparation, including tilling to loosen soil and keeping the lawn well watered until the grass is hardy. Weeds also may mix in with seed more readily, meaning weed prevention becomes an additional task.

Sod

One of the advantages to sod is that it can produce an instant lawn. When time is of the essence, sod will produce a complete lawn nearly as soon as the sod is laid. Sod can be used to mitigate soil erosion, as it works faster than seed, which needs to establish a root system to keep soil in check. Also, sod does not require as much soil preparation as seed.

The potential disadvantages to sod are its cost and the time it takes to install it, particularly on a large property. In addition, sod will require careful maintenance for at least the first two weeks until the sod takes stronger roots. It can be an expensive mistake if sod doesn't thrive and new pieces need to be installed. The Family Handyman says sod tends to be sun-loving and may not work in shadier areas of a property.

Sod and seed are the two main options for lush lawns. Each has its perks, and homeowners can speak with a local lawn specialist to determine which option is best for their lawn.

Did You Know?

Though new flooring and ceiling tiles might not offer the wow factor of a remodeled kitchen, a 2019 study from researchers at the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University found that replacing floors and ceilings was the most popular home improvement project in the United States in 2017, the most recent year for which data was available at the time of the study. More than five million homeowners replaced carpeting, flooring, paneling, or ceiling tiles in their homes in 2017.

The popularity of such projects may have something to do with the relatively low cost associated with them, as the experts at BobVila.com note that overhauling surfaces underfoot and overhead costs an average of \$3,283. That places floor and ceiling tile replacement projects among the least expensive home improvement projects homeowners can undertake, even though such renovations can immediately and dramatically transform the look of a room.





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Home Improvement-Lawn/Garden

Shade Trees Make Yards More Comfortable

Various factors motivate the decisions homeowners make when designing their landscapes. Some may be motivated by the ways additions will affect the resale value of their homes, while others may be guided by a love for a particular type of plant. Comfort is yet another motivator, and shade trees can make yards more comfortable as the mercury rises. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, the following are some popular shade trees that can add beauty to a landscape and make it more comfortable come the dog days of summer.

- Quaking aspen: The quaking aspen has the widest natural range of any tree in North America, spanning 47 degrees of latitude, 110 degrees of longitude (nine time zones) and elevations from sea level to timberline. That impressive range is no doubt why the United States Forest Service notes that the quaking aspen can grow in greatly diverse regions, environments and communities.

- Northern catalpa: The Arbor Day Foundation notes that the northern catalpa is easily identifiable thanks to its heart-shaped leaves and twisting trunks and branches. Nature enthusiasts, and particularly those who enjoy birdwatching, may be happy to learn that the flowers of the catalpa are frequently visited by hummingbirds.

- Red sunset maple: Its name alone makes many people think of lazy summer days spent lounging in the yard. The red sunset maple provides ample shade and comes with the added benefit of producing an awe-inspiring blend of red and orange leaves come the fall. Red sunset maples can survive in a range of habitats and their adaptable roots means they can thrive in various soil types.

- Northern red oak: The state tree of New Jersey, the northern red oak is, according to the Arbor Day Foundation, both beloved for its aesthetic appeal and valued for its adaptability and usefulness. Northern red oaks can tolerate urban conditions, but they do not do well in hot climates.

- Sawtooth oak: Another tree that produces some awe-inspiring color, the sawtooth oak is a durable, adaptable shade tree. Golden yellow leaves in the spring will give way to dark green in summer, only to turn yellow and golden brown in the fall. The Tree Center Plant Supply Co. notes that the sawtooth oak can thrive in warmer climates where shade trees that can coexist with high temperatures can be hard to find.



Exterior Lighting can Add Ambiance to a Property

The value of the right lighting in a home is undeniable. Lighting can instantly transform a room and create the ambiance homeowners are looking to establish. Though it might be mostly seen as a way to create mood inside a home, lighting also can do much for lawns and gardens.

Backyards have come a long way over the last several decades. Once reserved as play areas for children and stomping grounds for the family dog, backyards have become oases for homeowners and their families. Outdoor living areas are wildly popular, and no such area is complete without exterior lighting. In fact, a recent report from the National Association of Home Builders found that 85 percent of home buyers want exterior lighting, making it the second most desired outdoor feature (patios topped that list).

Exterior lighting can have a dramatic effect on landscaping, and estimates from the online financial resource Kiplinger.com suggest such lighting is inexpensive, with installation averaging roughly \$67 per fixture.

When installing exterior lighting around their landscapes, homeowners can keep various tips in mind to create a relaxing, awe-inspiring mood on their properties at night.

- Consider uplights. Uplights are installed in the ground and direct light up at a tree, focusing on its trunk or canopy. This creates a dramatic effect that makes it possible to enjoy majestic trees at night just like you might when spending time in the yard during the day.

- Focus on trees. Many homeowners already have exterior lighting lining their walkways and patios, but focusing on trees can create an entirely different look. Though it's possible to install exterior tree lighting on your own, landscaping professionals with lighting experience know which fixtures will pair most effectively with the trees around your property and how to arrange them for maximum effect.

- Opt for warm light. Warm white light creates an inviting feel around the property. The exterior lighting experts at Utah Lights acknowledge that choice of lighting is up to homeowners but also note that, in situations with lower levels of ambient light, such as in exterior lights around a property, people typically prefer warmer light. That's because warm light tends to be easier on the eyes and directs attention to the features of the landscape, which is many homeowners' goal when installing exterior lighting in their yards.

- Utilize a timer. Modern exterior lighting timers make it easier than ever to control the lights outside a home. Many such timers even adjust for the changing seasons and the shifting hours of daylight. That means homeowners shouldn't have to tinker with the timer once it's set.

Exterior lighting can add significant appeal to a property without breaking the bank.



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Sports

Ovid-Elsie Boys Individual State Finals

submitted by Kyle Spiess

April 2, 2021 was the 2021 Boys Individual State finals at Wings Event center in Kalamazoo Michigan. All divisions had their own location and date to reduce Covid exposures. Talan Parsons, Freshman at 103lbs, entered the meet 24-0 on the season. Cole Workman, also a freshman but at 112lbs, entered the state meet with a 19-6 record. "This is the first time that I know or could find that OE has taken 2 freshman to the state meet. That fact alone made this a successful season for both of these young men, said coach Spiess".

Cole Workman's first match was against a 2nd place regional winner Jordan Simpson from Dowagiac Jr (23-5). Cole won with a takedown in overtime 5-3 to advance to the quarterfinals. That win was noted on Michigan Grappler as one of the big upsets of the Tournament. Next match for Cole was against Gavyn Merchant Fr (29-1) from Kingsley. Cole lost 1-5 in a close match to drop him to the consolation bracket. The next match was critical as at the state meet you need to win 2 before you lose 2 matches in-order-to place in the top eight and be considered all state. Brendan Yob Jr (22-9) Napoleon was Coles final match and it was a close battle up until Cole got caught on his back in a scramble and pinned at 4:51 into the match. That loss ended Coles season (20-8) but gained him a lot of big match experience as a freshman.

Talan Parson's first match was against 4th place regional placer Noah Bacon Fr (8-7) from Mt Morris. Talan pinned him at the end of the first period to move on to the quarterfinal round. Ronaldo Vergara So (22-4) was up next from South Haven. Talan dominated the entire match and won 12-6. Semifinal match was a rematch from OE's first meet of the year against ranked Noah Graham Fr (25-4) where Talan won both meetings, this time 9-2 to advance to the finals. Kade Kluce Fr (21-2) from Dundee was his opponent in the finals. Kluce jumped out to an early lead in the match with a takedown and Talan fought to catch up the rest of the match. Talan lost his first match of the season 3-7 putting him in 2nd place in the state and finishing up his season 27-1. That puts Talan as the highest placing freshman in Ovid Elsie history.

Congrats to our outstanding Ovid Elsie freshman wrestlers. Thanks for the great season!



Cole Workman helping up his opponent after an overtime win that was noted as one of the biggest upsets of the tournament.



Talon Parsons dominated in semi-final match to move on to the finals.



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

West Virginia Pepperoni Rolls

A few days ago the Weekly Sportsman received a text from his Aunt Karen letting him know that the West Virginia legislature has been voting to make the pepperoni roll the official food of their state. Aunt Karen knew this would be of interest because until about ten years ago the Weekly Sportsman always thought she had invented this snack food. She was always bringing ziploc bags full of these tasty little rolls to family gatherings in Michigan or had them ready for guests when they travelled to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains to visit her family at their house in Marietta, Ohio. Truth be told, the pepperoni roll was actually created on the other side of the Ohio River in 1927 and about 75 miles straight east of Marietta in the Clarksburg/Fairmont region of West Virginia.



Similar to the connection of Michigan's pasties and mining in the U.P., the pepperoni roll was created by a West Virginia Italian immigrant coal miner by the name of Giuseppe Argiro. After watching fellow miners trying to eat and fumble bread, pepperoni sticks, and drinks of water with only two hands he started baking rolls with pepperoni sticks inside of the roll. This created a snack that would stay fresh for days as the pepperoni would not spoil and the oil and spices became infused into a roll that was easy to eat on the go and freed up a hand to drink much needed water. Different recipes and variations have been created over the years to almost make the roll a mini calzone with sauce, cheese, and green peppers. But the greatness of the original style of just pepperoni is far superior due to its simplicity and lack of need for refrigeration. Just take any dinner roll recipe or store bought dough for rolls, biscuits, or croissants and add small sticks or slices of pepperoni and bake.

Now you may ask why is this topic being written about by the Weekly Sportsman? Well, consider this cheap snack an option as trail food this spring when turkey hunting, fishing, or foraging the woods for mushrooms. Easily packed and lightweight this snack can be kept warm when wrapped in tin foil or just enjoyed out of a ziploc baggie. These tasty little rolls can be munched on with no preparation and can be consumed, just like the coal miners, by using one hand. Give them a try and don't be surprised if you start humming or singing that all too familiar John Denver tune, "Almost heaven, West Virginia..."

Aunt Karen is still waiting for an invitation to a ceremonial bill signing and hoping for maybe a river border signing event as she has been making these for over 50 years. Perhaps she has been overlooked by the Mountaineers from across the river due to her wide distribution efforts across Ohio and northward into Michigan.

-WS



Cole Workman in control of match in first round at States on Saturday, April 3rd.

Ovid-Elsie Soccer Girls Mercy Bath in 1st half, 8-0

BATH -- The Marauders' girls varsity soccer team got two goals apiece from Hailee Campbell and Caitlyn Walter, and tacked on four more -- all in the first half -- in a runaway 8-0 victory over Bath.

"We are a very young team with extremely limited playing experience. However, I was pleased to see some new and young faces step up in a huge way," said O-E coach Craig Thelen. "Newcomer Kiah Longoriah played extremely well in a defensive role for us and freshman Hailee Campbell looked very fluid and comfortable going forward with the ball. I am happy with the result, and pleased with our physical effort, I am excited to see how much this team can learn and grow together. We have the potential for greatness.

"Everyone on the team was able to contribute in a positive way."

Scoring for O-E went like this: Hailee Campbell, assisted by Madison Cunningham; Tristin Ziola, assisted by Kendhal Smeltzer; Kalista Bancroft, assisted by Haylee Palus; Hailee Campbell, assisted by Rian Kirby; Caitlyn Walter, assisted by Tristin Ziola; Caitlyn Walter, assisted by Tristin Ziola; Haylee Palus, assisted by Taylor Stinson; and Taylor Stinson, assisted by Aubrey Arnett.

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Editorial

Wasting Food is a Worldwide Problem

Dear Andy,

My family waste so much of our food, it is unbelievable. The kids do not clean up their plates and we are putting food in the trash every day. I cannot imagine what is happening to our planet due to all our garbage. When I clean out the refrigerator each week, the day before trash day, I throw away at least 15 pounds of leftovers, uneaten food, and takeout boxes of food. I know we live in a throw-away society and that change takes time but what can we do to eliminate so much waste of food and stuff? Trashy Family

Dear Trashy Family,

At least you recognize the problem, and it is a major environmental concern. Did you know the world wastes more than 1 billion tons of food every year?

According to a recent United Nations report, 17% of food available for consumption could be packed in millions of semi-trucks and circle the Earth seven times. It is a sad point too, that over 700 million people worldwide go hungry, every day. Distribution of food is a political import and export nightmare. If properly handled with appropriate legislation for distribution, there should be food equity for everyone on the earth. Make your position known to your powers that be in Congress.

The 2 biggest wasters of food are China and the United States. A Research study at William & Mary College revealed that every American waste \$3.50 every day. For a family of 4

that is \$728 per year. I confess, my family waste more than that I am sure the statics are understated. Not to mention the resources used to raise animals and grow plants - water and labor; and have you witnessed the food waste at restaurants and retail grocery stores? The report I recently read, indicated that over 60% of waste occurs from individual home and that 628 million tons of food is thrown out. Over 40% of food in the United States all ends up in the garbage, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

What can we do? We can learn how to store fruits and veggies to have a longer shelf life. Most produce can be cooked when it is past its' prime for raw eating. Buy less and make less. Make exact amounts when preparing meals. And have healthy snacks like cheese sticks and veggies and fruit to fill them up.

It is ok to not make them clean up their plate until it is gone. You do not want them to become over eaters like my generation. I have struggled with weight all my life. I do not like waste, so it all goes to my waist. My own and everyone else's leftovers! Not good! Kids do not eat as much as you might think, just be prepared for growth spurts when they eat you out of house and home.

When at restaurants, challenge siblings and partners to share a meal. Take turns selecting your meals. Serving sizes are ridiculously large; It will eliminate waste and save money. You can also order smaller portions at most eateries; you just need to ask. The FDA has set a goal of cutting food waste in half by 2030. Be a part of the vision.

We can do our part by composting. Start with a small quart-sized plastic container with a sealed lid on your kitchen counter. Place scrapes in them to begin the composing process. Find a larger container if you need to transport your garbage to a recycling center. If you have a back yard, build a small corner along your property line or in an inconspicuous location. Be in compliance with your local regulations. You may be able to share a space with a neighbor and create awareness in your block. Composting might sound gross and stinky but eventually it deteriorates into the earth to make richer soil and properly dispose garbage.

Anything we do to make our earth better is going to grow into a better situation. It starts with one person, then one family, one neighborhood and one community and then one state and so forth. Give your children an example so they can grow up to be a part of saving our earth. Be a part of the FDA 2030 goal by starting composting, today. Thanks for asking Andy @ ask_andy@aol.com

P.S. As far as "Stuff" goes...we all have too much stuff. That is another subject another day. Buy less "stuff." Recycle and reuse. Don't just trash stuff.



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