

## Girls Cross Country Team Captures First Conference Title in School's History



Back row: Ella Powell, Rachel Spitzley, Emily Muller, Alyse Ladiski, Abigail Prewitt, and Hannah Koutz. Front Row: Madison Thornton, Kaia Spiess, Alexis Spitzley, and Piper White.

ST. JOHNS — Ovid-Elsie junior Alexis Spitzley clinched the outright individual MMAC title and the Lady Marauders won their first-ever league crown on October 12.

Spitzley was first in 20:55.54 while Ally Andres of New Lothrop, a freshman, was second in 21:06.07.

Coach Wes Diener's Marauders locked up six of the top nine spots, scoring 21 points for first place. New Lothrop was second (59), followed by Chesaning (68), Byron (103) and Montrose (124). Durand only had three runners and had no team score.

Running third and fourth, respectively, were Ovid-Elsie's Piper White (22:05.81) and Madison Thornton (22:44.88).

Next came Taylor Bailey of Chesaning (23:00.83); Emily Muller (23:24.52) and Samantha Grubaugh (23:31.99), both from Ovid-Elsie; Durand's Logan Zerka (23:38.28); Kaia Spiess of Ovid-Elsie (23:40.08); Chesaning's Makayla Reiber (23:50.45).

Filling the 11th through 15th positions were Chesaning's Eliana Germaine (23:54.25); Juul Haartmans of Byron (23:57.07); New Lothrop's Lindsey Wendling (24:03.18) and Josie Bauman (24:08.78); and Rachel Spitzley of Ovid-Elsie (24:36.91).

-- Tribe boys win MMAC: Chesaning, led by Levi Maier's second-place run of 17 minutes, 32.79 seconds, scored 30 points. New Lothrop raced second with 53 and was followed by Ovid-Elsie (64), Montrose (87) and Otisville Lakeville (134).

Chase Hobson of Montrose won the race in 17:10.45.

New Lothrop's Cole Yaros ran third in 17:50.28. Filling the next three spots were Clay Powell of Ovid-Elsie (18:59.17) and Chesaning's Jaden James (19:03.94) and Corbin Walker (19:04.73). Parker Noonan of New Lothrop was eighth (19:13.81), followed by Chesaning's Mason Struck in ninth (19:16.79) and Dakota Sutter in 10th (19:19.36).

Also in the top 15 were Ovid-Elsie's Ryan Gavenda (11th, 19:27.6) and Austin Smith (12th, 19:47.86); Jason Weber of New Lothrop (13th, 19:55.50); and Caleb Walker of Chesaning (15th, 20:03.58).

## Ovid-Elsie Homecoming Court



Back row L-R:  
Eddy Evans, Tyler Bancroft, Kaden West, Rudy Ramirez, Dylan Taylor, Colin Fluharty  
Front row L-R:  
Jolene Nash, Kendahl Smeltzer, Clarisse Fitzpatrick, Tori Maynard, Kaylee Hall, Lani Kahalehau

## Elsie Fall Festival a Success

submitted by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE — The community came together for the annual Elsie Fall Festival with a common goal, "fill the shelves of the Elsie Area Food Pantry." It was a perfect day for food, fun, activities and entertainment for all ages.

Music throughout the day was provided by James Chapko and a variety of musicians: Ovid-Elsie High School Band, Deacon Earl, Joshua Adams, and James Shurmond. The stage was provided by BNM Trailers.

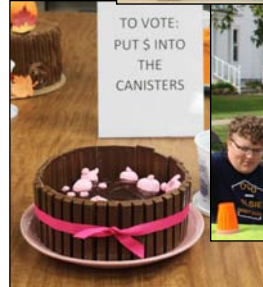
The winners of the first annual cake decorating contest were: 18 and above — 1st Place Jennifer Heyer, 2nd Erin Wilt, and 3rd Danielle Davis. The up to 17 class — 1st Place Tirzah Heyer and 2nd Sierra Snider. After the judging cake was available for all.

Another first for the festival was the antique tractor show. Antique tractor enthusiasts were able to enjoy twenty tractors and to vote for their favorites. And the award winners were: Most Original - Spencer Frink; Best Restored - Nate Hofferbert; Best of Show - John Wilson and due to a voting error, the committee missed Eddie Rademacher as the winner of People's Choice. A special thank-you to Greenstone Farm Credit for providing the medals and John Schiel for organizing the event.

In addition, there were vendors for shopping, rock painting, story time at the Elsie Public Library, children's games and face painting, and food trucks.

487 food items were donated and \$1,553.00 in monetary donations received.

Photos by Chance Mayville



## Elsie Tractor Winners



### Most Original:

1st Spencer Frink  
2nd John Powell  
3rd Brad Hair

### Best Restored:

1st Nate Hofferbert  
2nd Glen Baese  
3rd Eddie Rademacher



### Best of Show

1st John Wilson  
2nd Don Loucks  
3rd Bill Geer

### People's Choice

Eddie Rademacher



# Social

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## Wings Celebrating 68th Anniversary

Joe and Irene Wing, of St Johns will be celebrating their 68th Wedding Anniversary on October 23, 2021. Cards of congratulations can be sent to them at 4600 Findlay Road, St Johns, Michigan 48879.

## Bannister ZCBJ Holiday Bazaar Returns

*submitted by Joanne Fornusek*

After a year's absence due to Covid concerns, the annual ZCBJ Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, October 30th from 9 am until 3 pm at 401 E. Main St., Bannister. A few tables are still available ( 8 foot for \$12). Please contact Donni at 989-862-5290 for information. The lodge will be selling Czech bakery (Kolache, Rohlicky, Nut Rolls and Poppy Seed Rolls) and yeast dumplings, 100th Anniversary cookbooks, Czech garnet jewelry, lodge history books, Czech culture items and baking sheets. Table renters will offer a wide variety of items including needlework, jewelry, Rada cutlery, Tupperware, baked goods, candies, jams and jellies, holiday decorations, Color Street nail polish, greeting cards, and much more.

A luncheon of homemade soups, sloppy joes, sandwiches and pies will also be available. Advance orders for Czech yeast dumplings can be made at 989-862-5591.

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## Ovid Public Library

Just a reminder that Friday October 22 will be our first Preschool Story Hour and Craft. We will be having our very own Ms. Shelly read to the kids. She has picked out a few Halloween/fall books to read. The children are encouraged to come in their costumes. We will also have a craft for the children to do. We are looking forward to seeing you all here on Friday!

## Elsie Food Pantry

*submitted by Dawn D. Levey*

ELSIE – The Elsie Area Food Pantry located at 219 S. Ovid Str., Elsie has updated their hours of operation. The Pantry is open Monday to Wednesday 8-9:30 am weekly and produce days are the first Tuesday and 3rd Thursday 9am monthly. For additional information or urgent needs please call 989-388-8717.

## Ham/Turkey Dinner

Make plans now to attend the Chaplin United Methodist Ham/Turkey dinner on Saturday, November 6th. This event will be a take-out, curb side delivery only event. The menu will consist of Ham & Turkey, Dressing, Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, Roll & Butter and Dessert. The cost is 100% by donation and proceeds from the dinner will go towards building fund projects. The church is located at 19848 S. Chaplin Road, Elsie.

## Call 211 for Free Flu Vaccine Voucher

*submitted by Emily Marrah*

United Way of Genesee County serving Genesee and Shiawassee Counties in partnership with SingleCare (formerly FamilyWise) and Walgreens, offering free electronic flu vaccine vouchers are now available to the uninsured in our community, by calling 2-1-1. To obtain an electronic voucher via email, call 2-1-1 and request a free flu vaccine voucher, redeemable at any Walgreen's through March 15, 2022. There is a limit of one voucher per person, however, a caller may request multiple vouchers for family members using the same email address, by providing each family members name. The voucher(s) will be sent electronically within 2 business days.

If a client does not have a way to receive a voucher electronically or there are no remaining vouchers, direct them to check with a local Walgreen's for a free flu vaccine.

Vaccines are subject to availability; age and health related restrictions may apply.

NOTE: All requests must go through 2-1-1. United Way of Genesee County does not have paper vouchers and will be unable to process requests for vouchers.



## St. Johns Rotary Club Honors Front Line Workers



(L-R) Alan Nelson, Larry Jerue, Diane Simon, Danielle Rodewald, Lynn Weber, Christine Collum, Justin Smith, Jeremy Ritter, Steven Martin, Mark Palmer, David Kirk and Bob Craig. (Photo Courtesy of Tricia Thayer, Pauli Ford).

submitted by Bob Craig

St. Johns, MI – On Tuesday, September 28, 2021, St. Johns Rotary Club President Alan Nelson and other officials honored fourteen First Responders and Heroes in St. Johns who are Frontline workers during COVID-19 Pandemic and in Remembrance of 9-11. (See attached photo # 1)

“They’re being recognized for their outstanding bravery, integrity, service to others and self-sacrifice in the face of danger, thus exemplifying the high ethical standards and ideals of service,” said St. Johns Rotary Club President Alan Nelson.

Lynn Weber, Director, Clinton Area Ambulance Services Authority, was Rotary’s Guest Speaker and congratulated all of the awardees. He also lead a tour of the CAASA facility located at 1005 S. Oakland Street, St. Johns. (See attached photo # 2).

Following is the list of 14 Honorees who each received a Rotary Certificate of Appreciation for their service:

- St. Johns Fire Department: Jordan Whitford, Chief
- St. Johns Wastewater Treatment Plant:  
Jordan Whitford, Supervisor
- St. Johns Police Department:  
David Kirk, Chief
- St. Johns Department of Public Works:  
Jeremy Ritter, Supervisor
- St. Johns Department of Public Services:  
Steven Martin, Director
- St. Johns Water Division:  
Justin Smith, Supervisor
- St. Johns Public Schools:  
Mark Palmer, Superintendent
- Clinton Area Ambulance Service Authority:  
Lynn Weber, Director
- Clinton County 911 Emergency Operations Center: Christine Collum, Director
- Clinton County Sheriff’s Department:  
Larry Jerue, Sheriff
- Mid-Michigan District Health Department:  
Marcus Cheatham, Former Director
- Mid-Michigan District Health Department:  
Megan Schulz, Supervisor
- Sparrow Clinton Hospital Emergency Department: Diane Simon, Manager
- Sparrow Clinton Hospital Pharmacy:  
Danielle Rodewald, Manager

The St. Johns Rotary Club is part of Rotary International with Headquarters in Evanston, IL. It is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise. For more information, media should contact: [rotary.org/mediakit](http://rotary.org/mediakit). Also follow St. Johns Rotary Club on FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-St-Johns-418339574909764>.

## Guess the Weight



Let’s have some Halloween fun by guessing the weight of this pumpkin. Now thru, Saturday, October 30 at the Ovid Public Library, this pumpkin will be placed outside and you can submit your guess inside the library as to the weight including the pallet the pumpkin sits on. The winner closest to the weight will win a gift basket filled with donations from Ovid businesses. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of Trick-or-treat hours on Sunday, October 31st at City Hall in downtown Ovid.

### Notice of Public Hearing Washington Township Planning Commission Meeting Oct 26th, 2021 at 7:00pm Washington Township Hall 8989 S Baldwin Rd., Ashley MI

For the purpose of considering the adoption of text amendments to the Zoning ordinance In Reference to Special Land Use Permit procedures. Comments will be heard at the public hearing. Written comments will be received concerning this request by delivering such written comments prior to the public hearing date to the Washington Township Clerk,  
7338 S Crapo rd, Ashley MI 48806

To View the proposed amendment or for questions please contact  
Howard Whaley, Supervisor, at 989-388-8455

## FARMLAND AUCTION

80 Acres Farmland w/home \* Elba Twp. \* Gratiot Co.

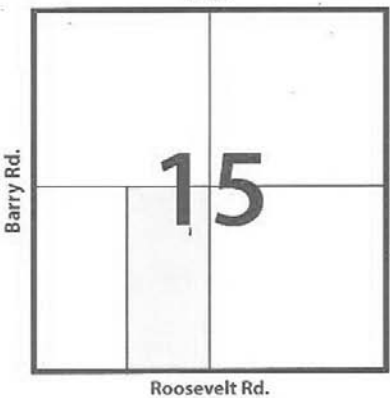
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22 \*12:00 NOON\*

(Sale held on site)

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- \*Approx. 68 tillable acres
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- \*Road frontage on 2 sides
- \*Farm includes nice 2-story home w/ outbuildings.
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M-57



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## Response to Laingsburg’s Foodbank Need

by Karen Anderson, Laingsburg Correspondent  
LAINGSBURG - A successful venture to “Stuff the Van for the Laingsburg Food Bank” with personal and hygiene items challenge was met with the community coming together with open hearts.  
The Laingsburg Dairy Den challenged the community to bring items when they stopped by the ice cream store and took a ride in the Big Banana Car. Last



weekend was a beautiful time to take a fun ride around town in a Big Banana Car, drink a banana milk shake and donate to the Food Bank.

Steve Braithwaite, with his authentic Ausi-accent, wearing a tattered racing cap told stories of how much fun he has had over the years sharing his Banana Car with communities all over the United States. He decided he wanted to do something completely different and maybe a little ridiculous. He succeeded and has traveled all over the United States giving rides for donations.

Braithwaite spent over 2 years working on weekends to transform a 1993 Pickup truck by taking off the cab, bed, and hood. Then Braithwaite and friends made the skeleton shape of a banana out of metal, covered it in chicken wire, sprayed it with foam, sculptured the foam into a banana shape and put fiberglass over the top. It is a convertible, street safe with seatbelts and a waterproof trunk. Two tanks for gas and a 302 ci V8 engine. Getting 14 mpg and no roof. And yes, sometimes he gets soaked with rain or caught in a storm.

Crazy, fun Steve, the Banana car man gave rides for 2 full days in Laingsburg. He was hosted by the Kribb’s family, owners of Dairy Den. The silly and funny Steve B. wrote a book entitled “The Weird, Wonderful and Sometimes Bizarre True Stories of Ridiculous Steve and the Big Banana Car.” He has donated an autographed copy to the Laingsburg Public Library. Be sure to add it to your reading list to check out his crazy adventures. Ages from 2 to 92 will enjoy his book.

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When the World’s first Banananaut was saying his good-byes to Laingsburg, he stated what a “wonderful, kind, and loving community Laingsburg has...” and reached into his pocket to give back all the donations given to him for the Big Banana Car rides. He requested the money be donated the Food Bank and said he would be back one day. Steve collected \$550.

The owner of Dairy Den, Wendi Kribbs gave \$50.00 to each of her employees to go locally shopping for items to add to the Food Bank and buy some special purchases needed for local families. Along with the already piles of donations...the van is full! Wendi and the Dairy Den hosted another great adventure for the community. What could be next?



## Editorial



### Religious Thoughts

by Chris Hearn  
[www.letsmeetgod.com](http://www.letsmeetgod.com)

The partaking of Communion is a beautiful remembrance of Jesus' death on the cross for our sins. It also reminds us of His bodily resurrection from the grave, freeing all who believe in Him from the power of sin and death.

Paul describes how the Church in Corinth was having their Communion meal in 1 Corinthians chapter 11. He has to correct some sinful behavior in the church in regards to Communion and in the middle of doing so, he writes the following, “So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep [have died].”

There is a question among Christians as to what Paul is referring to when he says that “For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.” (v. 29). Some say that Paul means that people in the church are acting selfishly during the Communion meal, not sharing food with others and even getting drunk. Other believers feel that Paul is writing about those who are not recognizing what the bread and cup represent- Jesus' death on the cross for our sins.

I believe that the first view is correct, because it fits with the context of the passage. But either view you happen to take, one thing that I would like to say is that in verses 27-28, taking Communion in an unworthy manner and examining oneself does not refer directly to one's lifestyle.

It may well be a good idea to have a time of self-reflection and if need be confession before the taking of Communion. Just as long as one takes Communion. It would be wrong for someone to refuse to take Communion because they felt that they were not “worthy” enough to do so. We are all unworthy of taking Communion. No one is worthy of having Jesus die for them. But praise God, Jesus nonetheless calls all believers to the table to remember His sacrifice for us and for all humanity.

As Romans 5:8 says, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

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**We miss you Dad  
Rod, Lori, Sheri, Tracey  
and family.**

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**In Loving Memory  
“Mr. Ed”  
Edward Young  
8-28-1932  
10-20-2019**

**It is sad to walk the  
road alone,  
instead of side by side.  
But to all there comes  
a moment,  
When the ways of life divide.  
You gave me years  
of happiness,  
Then came sorrow and tears.  
But you left me beautiful  
memories, I will treasure  
through the years.**

**Love,  
Your Berta  
& Families**

# Editorial

## The Maple Grille & Microbrewery

Located on M-46 just a few miles west of M-52 sits a farm to table operation named The Maple for over ten years by restaurateur and Chef Josh Schaeding and is appropriately named as it once served as a sugar bush for the family's maple syrup production. Originally started as a seasonal restaurant it has grown to become one of central Michigan's most popular dining destinations.

The Weekly Sportsman really likes a farm to table dining experiences for several reasons. The first is that local restaurants are buying from local farmers and vendors. Not only does this help with the local economy but it cuts out several distribution levels which results in fresher products on the table. Secondly, when a restaurant strives to purchase local then expect constant menu changes due to seasonal availability of items. Thus new choices to order on each return visit.

Lastly, it just makes sense to know where your food comes from whether its butter, honey, maple syrup, eggs, fruit, vegetables, and meat. If the chef or staff can't tell you where their ingredients are from then you better think twice if you are concerned about food safety. This style of dining is not just a hippy dippie dining fad, it is called being a responsible local consumer.

The last time the Weekly Sportsman visited this establishment was probably six to seven years ago. If memory serves right the menu consisted mostly of free range roasted chickens and the experience was only decent. The other day seemed right to give this place another try but on facebook there was a photo of a sign written in chalk that said closed for hunting. Of course to the Weekly Sportsman that says a lot. So on October 6th they reopened and it seemed like a good night for a drive and dinner. Upon entering the parking lot it was clear that things have definitely changed. A nice sized herb and vegetable garden greets customers and inside the lobby area is now full of awards, reviews, and photos. One feels very welcome and at home when entering this place.



Unlike most restaurants the host stand allows you to not only place your food order from chalkboard menus on the wall but also pay the bill at the same time. While deciding drink and food choices you also get a view of the wood fired pizza oven and the entire open kitchen. It quickly becomes quite obvious that Chef Josh not only runs the kitchen but at the same time is always watching over the large dining room. It isn't very often when you can freely converse with the owner/operator/chef/manager before, during and after the meal. The Weekly Sportsman was not only able to talk about the evening's meal selection but also the out of season rhubarb ale. Not to mention his recent deer hunting trip to Iowa with a longbow. Without a doubt this guy is the real deal and shares similar values and ideas about agriculture, hunting, and conservation.

The Weekly Sportsman was going to opt for a wood fired pizza but pineapple was not an available locally sourced topping and pizza is not pizza without pineapple. However, a beef burger and a lamb burger were ordered with sides of potato salad and butternut squash. A blueberry ale made from

local Hemlock blueberries was selected along with chestnuts roasted on an open fire and a bowl of butternut squash bisque.

Before the burger entree plates arrived two pieces of cornbread and maple syrup were delivered to the table. The pairing was a very nice appetizer to start the meal. Both burgers were absolutely incredible with unbelievably fresh lettuce toppings and tasty dressings. The sides were plentiful but the white potato salad and butternut squash were a bit on the bland side. In fairness the Weekly Sportsman is a bit of a potato and squash connoisseur and Chef Josh probably uses readily sourced ingredients and uses what the majority of patrons would like to taste. The butternut bisque couldn't have been any closer to perfect. Neither too bland nor overdone it tasted like it should have. Too many chefs over do squash soups with too much liquer and spices such as ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg, etc. The Weekly Sportsman should have ordered a bowl to go. Now for the highlight of the meal.... Blueberry Ale and roasted chestnuts.

Best blueberry beer ever! Hands down and nothing will ever compare. As for the twenty some chestnuts that were too hot to handle at first, let them cool down and enjoy a special treat. Save some to take home and try after they have been refrigerated overnight. The flavor intensifies and makes a nice addition to any breakfast.

The Weekly Sportsman gives the Maple Grille a five out of five antler rating for not only quality of food but also value and purpose/mission. The only disappointment was that the rhubarb ale was out of season and there wasn't any goat cheese on the menu. It seems that there would be some local dairy goat farmers looking for an outlet for their product. In addition to serving food and drink they have a store where many local farm products such as eggs and syrup may be purchased. Once again, too bad there isn't some goat cheese for purchase.

As mentioned earlier, Chef Josh has spent over a decade perfecting this farm to table operation and has created an experience worth driving just a little north to enjoy. No matter what you are looking for, whether a fire roasted pizza, burgers and beer, or a nice steak this is the place to go.

Make sure to check facebook prior to your visit as the menu changes daily. Feel good about the food you eat and also the local farmers you are supporting!

-WS



## The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster

theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

## Elsie Village Council Proceedings

by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE - The Elsie Village Council met Tuesday, October 12, 7 pm at the DuPlain Township Hall. Officials took action to approve a digital data base system to maintain important Village records and maps, and took action to change the internet provider.

Tim Bresnaham, Silver Smith Data, presented an impressive demonstration of the uses and possibilities of the digital data program with photo references. Access to the GPS based program is possible through most devices: cell phones, tablet and lap top. The program can be utilized to map out the hydrants and water lines, sidewalks and areas that need repaired, blight problems, map the water mains and breaks with incident dates; cemetery records; just to name a number of applications. This will be a program that is utilized by multiple departments. The most time consuming transition to the program will be the input of data which will be all backed up in the cloud. Silver Smith Data is utilized by Ovid, and Eagle.

After a question and answer period officials took action to purchase the program at a cost of \$6,350 initially and then \$1,850 annually. Noting that training is included.

Next, officials were notified that Mutual Data the internet provider will discontinue service as of November 1, 2021. Officials discussed a number of options to insure that there is not lapse in service for the Village departments, Elsie Area Fire Department and Elsie Public Library.

Perry Wright, Invisalink Representative, presented information on the service Invisalink could provide with access to the Village tower. Noting that Mutual Data had utilized both water towers and provided service for the municipal offices and residents. After further discussion officials approved entering into a contract with Invisalink after reviewed by Shane Grinnell, manager and Tom Frink, president and copies will be forwarded to officials. The goal will be to get the Village of Elsie business office and departments access as soon as possible followed by residential access.

Officials took action to approve Trick-or-Treating hours for Halloween 2021. Halloween is on a Sunday so officials set the hours for 4-6 pm followed by the annual Halloween Party at the Emergency Services Building and games at the Elsie American Legion.

Shane Grinnell, Village Manager, presented his monthly report. Grinnell attended training on the new radio system that will be implemented in Clinton County effect November 1, 2021. The County will be accessing the State Police system which improve reception and expand the systems capabilities. The Elsie Area Fire Department will make the switch in January 2022.

In preparation for the possibility of receiving monies from the American Rescue Act an engineering study will be done to update to the Department of Public Works building. Grinnell updated officials on the USDA grant. The original proposal was for \$150,000 which included an excavator, trailer of and a frontend loader. Due to the timing grants will be awarded in increments of \$50,000, so the grant request will be divided and resubmitted.

Monthly action was taken to approve the meeting agenda, the minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting, and financial reports. Expenditures were approved totaling \$86,807.70.

## Laingsburg Community Schools

Laingsburg Community Schools Board of Education will conduct a regular board meeting on Wednesday, October 20, 2021. The meeting will begin at 7:00p.m. in the Middle School Media Center, please see our website at [www.laingsburg.k12.mi.us](http://www.laingsburg.k12.mi.us) for up to date information.

The major tentative agenda items for this meeting include the following: Lewis & Knopf-District Audit Report presentation, Pupil Count Day, 2021-22 budget update and amendment, legislative update, building reports, personnel, Superintendent Evaluation, Wall of Fame, and any other business that may properly come before the board.

Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in this meeting.

## American Legion Laingsburg

submitted by Kerri Smith

American Legion Post 248 – The Auxiliary is hosting a Wine and Canvas event on November 5th 2021. Come and join us for a community gathering for a Holiday Painting. The event is at the Laingsburg American Legion post 248 from 7-9 pm. The Auxiliary will provide snacks and there will be soft drinks and beverages to purchase. \$30 per person.

Pay at the American Legion Post 248 in Laingsburg MI. Sign up is in the Dugout. Cash or Checks only: Checks made out to: American Legion Auxiliary. Please sign up and pay by 10/29/21.

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# Home Improvement

## Budget-friendly Dining Room Renovation Ideas



Dining rooms can get lost in the home renovation shuffle, as many homeowners tend to focus on renovating kitchens and bathrooms instead. Homeowners do not have to invest a lot of money in renovations to give their dining spaces awe-inspiring makeovers. Here's how to do so on a budget.

- Lighten and brighten. Dining rooms were once very formal spaces. Dark woods, large pieces of furniture, over-the-top chandeliers, and other details could be found in many homes. But now that houses are being built with open floor plans, dining rooms can blend with other spaces, which have moved to lighter colored walls, flooring and furniture. A fresh coat of vibrant paint can work wonders and it doesn't cost much. If you can't remove a floor, cover it with a brightly colored area rug.

- Switch things up with slipcovers. Slipcovers can be changed each season to dramatically alter the look of a dining room for little investment. Slip covers also protect chairs and can be easily laundered after spills.

- Clear out the clutter. It might be time to say "so long" to that large curio cabinet and the knickknacks within it. Curio and china cabinets used to be de rigueur, but plenty of people now prefer more open and airy dining rooms. For those who want to keep the cabinet, try decluttering inside to only include the very best display pieces and see if the cabinet can be refinished with paint or a lightly colored stain.

- Improve lighting. Make the chandelier the statement piece of the space. Go for a bold color or an innovative design. Then add accessories throughout the space that coordinate with the chandelier.

- Add bench seating. Those who need additional seating may not have to get entirely new furniture. Swap out some chairs for benches, which can fit a couple more guests than chairs.

- Create depth with color. HGTV says that using various shades of the same color in a space can add depth. Coordinate drapes, walls, seat fabrics, and accessories for a cohesive design.

## Reduce Kitchen Risks

According to Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE®), a food allergy reaction sends someone to the emergency room every three minutes.

- Avoid cross-contamination. The Food Standards Agency in the United Kingdom notes that cross-contamination occurs when bacteria or other microorganisms are unintentionally transferred from one object to another. The FSA notes that the most common example of cross-contamination occurs when bacteria is transferred between raw and cooked food. Cross-contamination poses a threat when cooking for people with food allergies and people without such allergies. In such instances, cooks must make sure foods never touch and that cooking surfaces are thoroughly cleaned before preparing and cooking for people with food allergies. Prepare meals for people with food allergies first as an extra precaution.



- Designate certain utensils and dishes for people with food allergies. Another way to reduce the risk for allergic reactions in the kitchen is to designate certain utensils and dishes exclusively for people with food allergies. This can reduce the likelihood of allergic reactions and serve as a safety net if dishes aren't thoroughly cleaned.

- Don't invite too many cooks into the kitchen. Having too many people in the kitchen at one time can increase the chances that people with food allergies will eat food or touch a contaminated surface that could make them sick. This is especially so for children with food allergies, as kids may not be aware of all the foods they should avoid.

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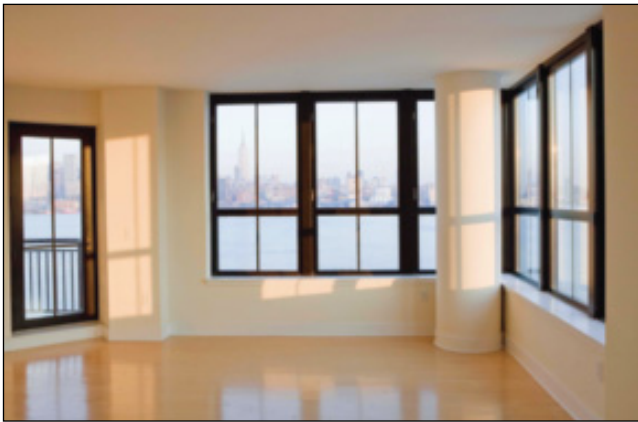
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## Window Replacement Tips



Drafts from doors, poorly protected attics and basements and aging windows may force heating systems to work extra hard to maintain interior temperatures.

Replacing old windows can make a home quieter by blocking out exterior noises. Consumer Reports also notes that new windows are often easier to clean and maintain than older varieties.

Many homeowners are interested in replacing their windows, but may not know where to start. These guidelines can help the process along.

1. Get several estimates. Ask for recommendations from neighbors or other people in your area on which companies they used to install their replacement windows. When you interview the prospects, ask several questions about how they go about installing the windows. Questions can include:

- How long will the project take?
- Will I need to remain home during the process?
- Do you discard of old debris?
- What is the protocol for installation during inclement weather?

2. Research permits. Most home renovation projects need to be approved by the local municipality. Go to the permit office and find out the requirements. Some window contractors will include securing permits in the cost of the project. After the project is completed, an inspector will come by and ensure the work was done according to code.

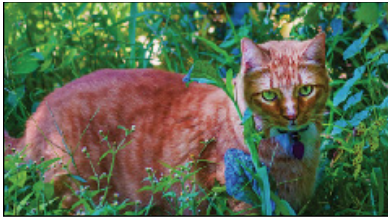
3. Change up the appearance. Look at the type of hardware you have around the home and other fixtures. Choose windows that have locks or latches that can match those features for continuity of style. Think about choosing a different style or frame color of the window, or a different type of window to improve efficiency and function.

4. Research top window manufacturers. It's tempting to purchase windows based on price alone, but replacement windows are often a decision that only has to be made once or twice for the life of the home. Invest in durable windows that will have staying power.

5. Prepare for installation. Clear pathways, remove window treatments and disconnect window alarm systems. Plan for one to two days of installation, advises Andersen Windows and Doors. Keep pets and children away from work areas.

Replacement windows can be a smart investment. New windows can improve the look of a home, reduce heating costs and can keep interior spaces comfortable.

## Threats to Outside Pets



The online health resource Healthcare for Pets says responsible pet ownership necessitates certain precautions to keep pets safe when they venture out of the home.

• Pesticides and poisons: Common lawn and garden products, including insecticides and pesticides, may cause anything from mild irritations to toxic poisoning.

• Weather: A fur coat does not offer complete protection from conditions like extreme weather. Pets can experience hypothermia or heat stroke if they are exposed to extreme weather for prolonged periods of time.

• Automobiles: Dogs and cats that wander can ingest potentially harmful substances leaking from cars or trucks. Automotive coolant (antifreeze) is often sweet and brightly colored, which attracts curious pets. Ethylene glycol is fatal to dogs and cats if ingested. Outdoor cats may hide or seek warmth in car engines, putting them at risk for injury.

• Exposure to illnesses: Young animals should not spend prolonged periods of time outdoors before they are vaccinated.

• Parasites: Bugs and parasites may be lurking outdoors. Parasitic worm larvae, fleas, mosquitoes, and ticks can be harmful to pets. Ask your vet about year-round flea/tick/heartworm preventatives if a pet spends time outdoors.

• Other animals: Wild animals pose a risk to domesticated pets. They can pass illnesses on to pets.

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# Sports

## Ashley Sportsman's Club Holding October Woods Walk



*submitted by Dawn D. Levey*

**BANNISTER** - Ashley Sportsman's Club located at 8554 South Mason Road, Bannister, Michigan is hosting a muzzle loader woods walk on Saturday October 23rd, 2021. Competitors are required to provide their own safety items. Competition is open to all. Any traditional flint or percussion gun allowed. Any type sight; open, peep or scope. Black powder or black powder substitute only, maximum load allowed by powder or rifle manufacturer. No smokeless powder. 15 stations standing, off hand. 15 to 40 yards. Optional blanket shoot, so bring a worthy prize for the blanket if you like. Some targeting will be silhouette and some will be breakable.

Soft drinks and snacks are available for purchase. Period dress appreciated, but not necessary. 9:00- 10:00 is registration. Try your luck at the Brian Haack 3 round challenge for \$2, 3 hits free admission, and 2 hits \$4 admission. Woods walk \$8. Tomahawk and knife matches free. Flint and steel event free.

See you there. Let's have some FUN. Saturday, October 23rd, 2021.

## Ovid Elsie remains in MMAC first place tie

**OVID-ELSIE** — Ovid-Elsie's varsity football team improved to 5-1 in the MMAC -- good for a tie for first place - while not taking the field October 8.

Athletic director Jesse Johnson announced that coach Travis Long's 5-1 Marauders (5-2 overall) were forced out of action due to a COVID-19 outbreak at Mount Morris High School.

Yes, the Covid panemic continues to wreak havoc on local athletics; the Panthers were forced to forfeit the contest. Mt. Morris also had to call off its game October 1 against Montrose.

Johnson had said previously the school was trying to find a replacement opponent. No opponent could be found.

The Marauders were scheduled to wrap up MMAC action for 2021 on Friday, October 15, hosting the Byron Eagles. O-E closes its season on October 22 opposite long-time rival Corunna.

## A White Out in Support of the Lady Marauders

On Tuesday, October 19th, the undefeated OE Lady Marauder volleyball team will host the Mt Morris volleyball team who are also undefeated. The match will begin at 6pm. In the main gym. Please wear your white in support of the team.

## Lake Trout Limits on Lake Huron

*submitted by Bob Holzhei*

Lake Trout were targeted on this fishing trip; it wasn't long before the first fish was boated, and caught on a Monkey Fish lure. Then another and another until our limit was met!

Gaylord, Michigan was the selected conference site for the annual Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW). Journalists, corporate members along with radio and television personalities are part of the trilogy which consists of the membership from across the United States.

The morning departure from Treetops Resort began at 8:00 A.M., arriving at the Alpena City Marina an hour later. Our destination was a "honey hole," 13 miles out from the port. Eight lines were set at various depths ranging from 40 feet down to bottom.

"Lake Huron has an amazing lake trout fishery," stated Kevin Drummond, our captain.

I fished with David Gladkowski, a staff writer with the National Turkey Federation and Brady Laudon, Assistant Director and Sales Manager for Visit Bemidji, Minnesota. Each year three locations are chosen by AGLOW to present a conference bid, to host a future conference.

"I've never done any fishing like that, being a South Carolina boy. Of course, I'll be back. I was thrilled!" stated Gladkowski.

This was the first time Loudon fished Lake Huron.

"Our fishing party limited out on Lake Trout. I couldn't believe how the honey holes produced so many fish," added Laudon.

In addition, to a yearly conference, AGLOW along with corporate sponsors offers "Communicator Camps," which consist of 6-10 outdoor journalists. Members apply for a spot and are selected by the tourism bureau. The Communicator Camps provide opportunities for CVB's to gain additional exposure.

The excitement throughout the morning and afternoon continued and soon there were three lake trout in a battle to free themselves at the same time. The anglers had to slow down the pace at bringing the fish in.

The fishermen on our boat took turns landing the fish, allowing time to rest from the strenuous battles.

Shimano rods and reels spooled with 20-pound test line were the tools used to reach our limit of lake trout, a couple steelhead and a salmon.

Lake Huron is also a "world class Atlantic salmon fishery; perhaps the world's largest land locked Atlantic salmon and the finest angling," according to Jim Johnson, a retired fisheries biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

I fished aboard a 21-foot Voyager, named Depth Charge with Kevin Drummond, who set the lines 13 miles out from the Alpena city marina. We began fishing in a "honey hole," in 110-120 feet of water and the lines covered the depth which ranged from 30 feet to the 120-foot depth.

"I began fishing as a kid at 16 years old, and only lived a block from the lake. I get pleasure from watching people catch fish," stated Drummond.

The morning departure from Treetops Resort began at 8:00 A.M. arriving at the Alpena City Marina an hour later. Our destination was 13 miles out in Lake Huron, trolling out to 20 miles from shore during the afternoon. and the 12 lines were lures set beginning at 30 feet down to the 100 foot plus depth. The twenty-minute battles continued and finally a "big fish" was on, as the battle continued until the Lake Trout cut the line, apparently "with its teeth," according to Drummond.

Drummond spoke highly of the success with the Shimano Tekota reels and Talora Shimano rods. Twenty-pound test line was used.

Lake Superior State University faculty and students have been stocking 20,000 to 35,000 Atlantic Salmon in



*Bob Holzhei and Justin Grubaugh admire the size of a lake trout.*

Lake Huron annually since the late 1980's, added Johnson.

A major difference between Atlantic's and chinook salmon is that the chinooks die after spawning, while the Atlantic's can spawn multiple time and live longer.

The Atlantic's have been marked by removing the adipose fin and implanting a tiny coded wire tag in each fishes' head. The tag provides information about the stocking date and location which assists the DNR measure the stocking success. Anglers are asked to forward the heads to the area DNR office.

As we boated ashore, the rich memories of this fishing trip would resurface until I returned to fish with Drummond again!

For more information contact: Gaylord Area Convention & Tourism Bureau 1 800 345-8621 [www.gaylordmichigan.net](http://www.gaylordmichigan.net) and Alpena Convention & Visitor's Bureau 989 354-4181 [www.info@visitalpena.com](mailto:www.info@visitalpena.com)



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# Sports

## Fowler Runs to Thunder-Struck 27-7 CMAC Football Win at Laingsburg

LAINGSBURG — Lightning flashed on the western horizon mid-way through the second quarter.

On the football field at LHS, Fowler was creating the perfect storm.

Big up front and fast in the backfield, the Eagles rolled to a thundering 27-7 Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) football win here October 8, handing the host Wolfpack just its second loss of the season. In a contest delayed by lightning overnight and resumed Saturday at 1 p.m., the Wolves fell to 4-2 in the CMAC overall, while the Eagles leap-frogged LHS into second place in the league at 4-1, 4-3 for all games.

A tipped pass, intercepted by Fowler's Carson Sillman, started the Wolves' descent. Eagle QB Chase Pung appeared to be dazed following a crunching hit by Wolf LB Mike Brooks, but shook it off and scored a minute later on a 5-yard, fake-delay QB keeper at 6:37 of the first quarter. The PAT failed after a bad snap.

Brian Borgman's Wolves looked to even things up on their next possession, but Dayshawn Bowman's 45-yard TD sprint was called back due to a holding penalty.

Pung then put Fowler in complete control with a 5-yard scamper early in the 2nd quarter. Peyton Follick booted the PAT and the Eagles led 13-0.

The Pack looked to be back in business on the ensuing kick return, Eli Woodruff nearly breaking it all the way before being stopped at the Eagle 21. From there, though, the drive stalled and the lightning took over. Officials ordered both teams to the locker rooms inside LHS, and finally postponed the contest for good late into the evening.

The combatants returned Saturday at 1:00, when FHS put the finishing touches on a dominant victory. Pung found Treagan O'Rourke with a 20-yard scoring toss at 5:28 of the third quarter, and the Birds advanced the lead to 27-0 early in the final period on Pung's 8-yard run to pay dirt. Follick was true on both PAT kicks.

Laingsburg finally got on the board with only 4:45 to play, on Bowman's 4-yard run. Addison Goff completed the scoring with his PAT kick.

Bowman led the Wolfpack offense with 14 carries for 68 yards. Sophomore QB Ty Randall, returning from injury, completed 12-of-22 passes for 97 yards.

Woodruff was on the receiving of three of those aerals, good for 40 yards. Connor Hulliberger hauled in for catches for 23 yards, and Hayden Johnston a pair for 18 yards. Brooks and Bowman also caught Randall passes.

The Eagle defense intercepted Randall twice. Pung ruled the day, leading both teams with 117 yards on 21 carries, and three TDs.

Brooks paced the Wolfpack defenders with 12 tackles, 7 solo, and a tackle for loss. Kyle Thelen registered 11 stops, 9 solos; Hulliberger 6 tackles, Thomas Gousetis 5, Tyler Flynn-Lacey 4, Elliott Wilsey 3, Sean Divine 3 and Matt Freels 3 stops.



Wolfpack quarterback, Tyler Randall, #12 completed 12/22 passes for 97 yards against Fowler. Photos from Burg Sports



Dayshawn Bowman, #7 had 68 yards on 14 carries for the Wolfpack.



Kyle Thelen, #4 had 11 tackles, 9 of which were solo against Fowler.

## Laingsburg Girls 7th at X-Country Event at Uncle Johns

ST. JOHNS — The Laingsburg girls cross-country team finished seventh out of eight teams competing in the Large School Division of the Apples to Apples Cross Country Invitational.

The event was held at Uncle John's Cider Mill on October 7.

Coach Shawn Baynes' Lady Wolves were led by Emily Rathka (20th, 21 minutes, 26.5 seconds) and Evelyn Logghe (24th, 21:57.3). Laingsburg scored 147 points.

Emma Kribs (22:57.7) was 35th for LHS while Dakota Ballard (22:58.3) was 36th for the Wolfpack.

In the boys competition, Nolan Gregg ran 20th in 18:17.9 for the Wolfpack. The Wolves finished ninth with 215 points. Felix Ramirez finished 44th in 19:24.3.



(l-r): Mike Mowen, Teri Harger, Cindy Mowen

## Shepardsville UMC Donates

submitted by Mike Mowen

The Shepardsville United Methodist Church donated several backpacks, school supplies, pretzels, animal crackers and disinfectant wipes to Ovid-Elsie Leonard Elementary teacher Terri Harger.

## Ovid Public Library

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1

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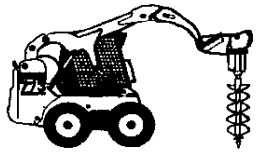
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# CLASSIFIEDS DIRECTORY

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**RUMMAGE SALE** First United Methodist Church, 1500 N. Water St., Owosso Thur., Oct. 21 9am-7pm; Fri., Oct 22 9am-12pm. Friday \$3 per bag-clothes. Please wear mask. 1599

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Need a secure place for your cards  
at your reception?

**Rent this locked mailbox for \$20!**  
**Call the Weekly**  
**989-834-2264 or email**  
**deb.price@meridianweekly.com**



## Calling 8th Graders to Become Scholars

*submitted by Renee Dotson*

Are you a parent of an academically talented 8th grader? The Shiawassee Regional Education Service District and Cook Family Foundation are inviting all gifted and talented 8th graders to take this above grade level test with the opportunity to become a Shiawassee Scholar. Learn all about SAT testing, Shiawassee Scholars, and how to register for the SAT test held on December 4, 2021 at Owosso Middle School, 765 E North St., Owosso MI 48867 (NOTE: New Location) at the Shiawassee RESD website, [www.sresd.org](http://www.sresd.org), Career and College, SAT Info. The SAT test to qualify for Shiawassee Scholars must be taken on or before December 4, 2021.

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 has been in existence for over 20 years and 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.

Q & A Zoom to be held on Monday, October 18 at 7:00 P.M. Details on website.



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Contact Central Scheduling at **1.800.554.1468**



**Goal for Team Larry Exceeded:** On Sunday, October 3rd, Martin family and friends gathered for a walk on the trail in Memory of Larry Martin as part of the Michigan Chapter of the ALS's Association walk to defeat ALS. The walk started at the trail near the home of Allan Martin and continued to Hollister where walkers paused to see the newest bench placed on the Fred Meier CIS Trail that was placed on Larry's memory. To date, contributions exceeded the Team Larry goal of \$3,000. Donations can be made online at <http://web.also.org/go/to/teamlarry-martin> or by mail to Team Larry, PO Box 481, Ovid, MI 48866.

## Annual Fall Barn Dance & Fundraiser



Jack & Tess Clarkson will be hosting the Annual Fall Barn Dance & Fundraiser at their barn located at 10845 S. Hollister Road, Laingbsurg (2 miles south of Round Lake Road) on Saturday, October 23rd from 6pm-9pm. The proceeds from the event will go to Laingbsurg Connection Tutor Center. A cover charge of \$10 per person (kids are free) will be collected. Advance group tickets can be purchased with a credit or debit card by calling (517)282-9222. Advance cash only tickets are available at the Meridian Weekly in Ovid on Wednesday or Thursday from 8:30am-4:00pm, the Laingbsurg Farmers Market on Wednesday from 3pm-6pm, The Clothesline on Wednesday from 3pm-6pm and Saturday from 10am-1pm and at Sage Market on Saturday and Sunday from 1pm-3pm. Tickets are also available at the gate on Saturday, October 23rd.

Hot dogs, chips and soda will be available for \$3.00 with family deals too. Dairy Den food truck will also be onsite that day. Bring your lawn chair and join in for an evening of family fun, great music while raising funds for a good cause. Event will be cancelled if inclement weather (Rain or Snow). For more information see Laingbsurg Facebook page or call (517)282-9222.



**See Next Week's  
Weekly for Local  
Trick or Treat Hours!**