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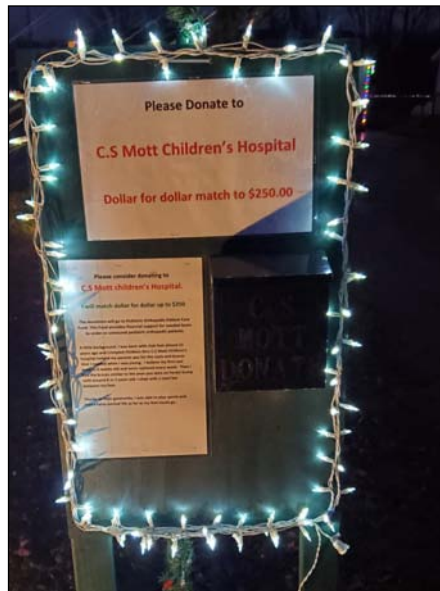
Zell Family Christmas 2021

submitted by Sharon Zell

This year's display I believe will be year 10. This is a true family display. It started with a Nativity display and angels that my dad, David Zell, built around 50 years ago. "Every year my mom, Sharon Zell, spends endless hours going light by light to repair any strings that have quit working. She also spends many hours helping to set up the rest of the display rain, shine or snow. Nicole and I have slowly added more lights and decorations every year," explained Troy Zell.

Most of the displays are homemade, including plywood handpainted cut outs and PVC Christmas trees. There are close to 40,000 LED lights, 42 floodlights and over a mile and a quarter of extension cords in the display. There are almost 100 manhours that go into putting the display together every year.

This year the family decided to raise money for a charity. Troy was born with club feet and Cripple Children's Charity helped his parents pay for his casts and braces during my childhood. Troy contacted Mott Children Hospital and they have a fund named Pediatric Orthopedic Patient Care Fund. It provides support for needed items to under or uninsured orthopedic patients. Troy will match dollar for dollar up to \$250.00 with all money going to Mott. There is a mailbox on the sign on the East side of the driveway to drop any donation off.



Donation box placed in yard.



The Annual Winterfest event was held in Laingsburg on Saturday, December 4th. The popular holiday event featured a business and house decorating contest, parade, holiday market, music and merchant specials and the highlight of the evening, visits with Santa. See pages 4 and 5 for photos.

DuPlain Township Proceedings

by Dawn D Levey

DUPLAIN – DuPlain Township held its last meeting of 2021 Wednesday, December 8, 2021. The evening was highlighted by an update on the property assessing reforms and changes.

Dr. Mark Holley, township assessor, reported that the FTC published the rates for taxable values for Michigan the 3.3% increase is far less than what was anticipated for the 2022 rolls. Holley commented that DuPlain Township is good to go. Starting 2022, due to the assessing reform bill, all maps and studies of property values will be published annually. Officials took action to approve the access of assessor public records policy that will be available and posted March Board of Review.

Bruce Levey, supervisor, discussed the possible use of the American Rescue Act funds. Broad band internet is a high priority. Noting that Clinton County is conducting a study if of the broadband infrastructure needs and costs. He also noted areas where the funds cannot be used. Action was taken to place the American Rescue Funds in a money market account under the township's general fund. A plan for use of the funds will be developed and approved at the January 2022 meeting.

Officials took formal action to approve a new checking and savings account with the title of DuPlain Township Roads, the road millage funds will be deposited in these accounts.

Monthly action was taken to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of Dr. Mark Holley, assessor, and the establishment of an additional bank account for the road millage; approval of the November 10, 2021 minutes; and the monthly financial reports. Officials also approved monthly expenditures in the amount of \$7,757.81 plus \$3,000 to Elsie Fire Department for 6 fires.

Rep. Filler Votes to Boost Resources for Local Police, Public Safety Initiatives

submitted by Christina Doerr

State Rep. Graham Filler of DeWitt recently helped the House approve an expanded plan to support law enforcement and public safety personnel and help them better protect the people they serve.

The measures, approved with bipartisan support, include \$368.5 million in funding and policy reforms to help first responders with recruitment and retention efforts, community outreach and equipment upgrades. In the wake of the tragic school shooting in Oxford, the plan was expended to add even more funding for school resource officers to work proactively with students and families – bringing the total to \$50 million.

"Over the past decade, I have worked very closely with law enforcement as an assistant attorney general, a legislator and chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

"We say we want a safe society and community focused law enforcement. This plan gets to the heart of that," Filler said during a speech in support of the proposal before the House vote. "This is a massive investment in our communities. It shows our local police officers that we hear them, we respect them, and we have their backs."

Filler said the plan demonstrates a commitment to public safety at a time Michigan has nearly 4,000 fewer law enforcement officers than during the 2001 terrorist attacks. There are hundreds of unfilled positions across the state.

Pillars of the House plan include:

Recruitment and retention: The initiative includes \$57.5 million for a 'Move to Michigan' recruitment plan to help local departments hire officers now working in other states.

Public safety personnel who miss work because of COVID-19 quarantine could be reimbursed for lost wages and leave time. An additional \$7.5 million would support mental health assistance for local law enforcement, firefighters, EMS personnel and other public safety officers.

Strengthening bonds in neighborhoods and schools: In addition to the \$50 million for school resource officers, the plan provides \$10 million in grants for community policing initiatives shown to improve relationships between officers and people in the neighborhoods they serve. The mix of community policing and mentorship that make the Police Athletic League so successful in Detroit would be expanded to other communities with a \$15 million investment.



State Rep. Graham Filler speaks in support of the public safety plan before the House voted on the proposal Thursday.

Social

Elsie Historical Society Gifts

submitted by Sue Hardaker

If you are looking for a gift for a person who loves historical tales, the Elsie Historical Society has just the book for you. We have recently obtained a few copies of "Rate" by Donna Dene Stankey. This is a true story of the Setterintong family that lived in Elsie. The book covers the time around 1893, when baby Horatio was born on a farm West of Elsie.

We also have some copies of "Dear Mom and all" by Karen Baese Michalec, and our "Elsie, 1857-2007. One Hundred and Fifty Years in the Life of the Community" book that covers a lot of our Elsie history. We still have the historical Christmas tree ornaments that would be a welcome gift.

We are also looking for old school yearbooks, telephone books and Michigan maps.

Open every Wednesday from 2-5pm. come see all the memorabilia we have on display. Mrs. Georgann Coon's scrapbooks would be fun to show your children. If you were in her class, you are in her books.



Thank you all!!



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Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

submitted by Sue Casler

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at the United Church of Ovid – 131 W. Front St., Ovid on Friday, December 24, 2021 at 8:00 pm

Picture this...candles everywhere...carols singing... special music...a meaningful time with family and friends. There's nothing like this special night. There is no other day like it on our calendar. Join our candle-lighters, musicians, and our pastor as they guide us through this awesome "real" candlelight experience. (Battery operated candles are also available.) Every year we look forward to inviting our extended friends and family, to this genuinely meaningful service for kids of all

For more information about The United Church of Ovid, please feel free to call 989-834-5958.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

submitted by Deb Smith

Ashley, Bannister, Pompeii UMC Charge Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be hosted at the Ashley United

Methodist Church, 112 New St, Ashley on Friday, December 24th at 7PM. All are invited. If you have a compromised immune system, are not vaccinated, or not feeling up to par, in consideration of your health & the health of others, please wear a mask.

Ovid Historical Society

submitted by Roger Matthies

The Ovid Historical Society will host our annual Christmas gathering at the Mary Myers Museum. We will meet on Sunday, December 12 at 2:00 pm

The museum will be decorated for the season and we will enjoy music and holiday refreshments.

Please join us! The museum is located at 131 East Williams St. in Ovid.

CITY OF LAINGSBURG SHIAWASSEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF ORDINANCE NO. 02-2021 TO AMENIJ CHAPTER 18- BUSINESSES- ADDING ARTICLE VIII— USE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR OUTDOOR SEATING, SALES, AND SERVICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Laingsburg Council (the "City Council")

has adopted Ordinance No. 02-2021, an Ordinance to authorize and regulate uses within the public right-of-way within portions of the City.

This Ordinance was adopted to encourage and support business while retaining or improving the character of the public spaces downtown. Plazas, sidewalks, and other pedestrian spaces that have a solid tradition of enhancing downtown commercial areas. This policy is intended to enhance and support the vitality of the business community and enhance the quality of life for residents by providing more activities and elements of interest in the downtown area.

This Ordinance amendment was adopted by the City Council on Monday, December 6, 2021, and shall become effective five (5) days following the day of this publication. A complete copy of this Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk and online on the City of Laingsburg's official web site.

Paula Willoughby, City Clerk
(517) 651-5374

Lions Cheese Sale Returns

The cheese is here. The Ovid Lions Club cheese sale is now in progress and will run through the holidays into January. The varieties come in one pound packages and include Amish Creamery, Sharp Cheddar, Colby Jack, Pepper Jack and Horseradish for \$8.00, Baby Swiss and the Variety Wheel are \$10. The cheese is available for purchase at the Meridian Weekly office on Tuesdays until noon and on Wednesdays and Thursdays until 4pm. To order you may also call Mary Perrien at (989)251-8517 or Mike O'Bryant at (989)834-2425.

Ovid businessman, Ed Arthur of Modern Woodmen is offering a matching fund for the Ovid Lions Club for this fundraising event. Proceeds for the project will be used for development at Veterans Park (at the old Ovid High School field).



VICTOR TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING DRAFT MASTER PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended, that a public hearing will be held by the Victor Township Planning Commission at 7:00 p.m., Monday, January 3, 2022. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear and consider comments on the Township's draft Master Plan.

The Meeting will be held at Victor Township Hall located at 6843 E. Alward Road, Laingsburg, Michigan 48848.

An electronic copy of the plan can be reviewed at <https://victortwp.org/departments/planning-commission/>

Questions or written comments on the draft plan can be emailed to Township Master Plan Consultant Chris Khorey at ckhorey@mcka.com until 4:30 p.m. the day of the meeting.

James Conklin, Supervisor

Victor Township, Clinton County, MI 6843 Alward Road Laingsburg, MI Proposed Special Meeting Board Minutes from December 01, 2021

The special meeting was called to order by Supervisor Conklin at 5:31 pm.

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

Public Comment: None

Agenda: Motion by A. Conklin to approve the agenda as printed. Supported by Willoughby. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Agriculture Cannabis Opt In –Connie Sparrow of Sparrow Consulting provided a presentation on medical and recreational marijuana. Discussion regarding medical and recreational marijuana included input from the public, county officials and Victor Township attorney David Revore. Additional meetings will be held to discuss the topic.

- Extended Public/Board Comment: None

Motion by J. Conklin to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call. Motion carried.

Amanda Conklin, Clerk

Michigan Drivers to Get \$400 Refund Checks

submitted by Christina Doerr

State Rep. Graham Filler today of DeWitt said Michigan drivers will soon receive a refund of \$400 per insured vehicle from the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association.

The refund is a direct result of car insurance reforms approved by the Legislature in 2019. "Every single driver who was paying car insurance in Michigan will now be getting a refund check as a direct result of the insurance reforms we approved," Filler said. "There could not be any clearer indication that these reforms are saving people money."

Since the reforms took effect in 2020, only Michigan drivers who select unlimited lifetime personal injury protection (PIP) benefits pay into the MCCA, which was created to cover unlimited lifetime medical benefits for people injured in motor vehicle crashes. The reforms also control costs by preventing hospitals and providers from overcharging for auto-related injuries.

The plan Filler backed required the MCCA to conduct an audit and refund drivers for surpluses when the fund is covering more than 120 percent of its projected liabilities.

After an audit identified a projected surplus of \$5 billion, the MCCA's analysis determined that approximately \$3 billion of the surplus could be returned to policyholders while ensuring continuity of care for auto accident survivors.

The refund plan submitted to Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services Monday by the MCCA will return money to every Michigander with an auto insurance policy in force as of 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 31, 2021. Drivers are expected to receive the checks in the second quarter of 2022.

Moolenaar Votes to Support Military Families with a Pay Raise and More Resources

Congressman John Moolenaar voted in favor of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2022. The legislation includes a pay increase for U.S. servicemembers and extends retention bonuses for those who stay in the military. Additionally, the legislation increases parental leave and provides more support to military families with special needs children.

"I am proud to help support our brave servicemembers with increased pay and more resources for them and their families," said Congressman John Moolenaar. "This legislation will also give them the tools they need to keep the American people safe and meet the rising challenges from Russia, China, and terrorist organizations. Finally, this year's NDAA increases accountability and forces the Biden Administration to outline a plan for bringing home Americans who are still stranded in Afghanistan."

The NDAA also has a number of provisions related to the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, including a requirement for the Administration to brief Congress on how it will get Americans out of Afghanistan. There is also a prohibition on the Defense Department providing financial support to the Taliban and a prohibition on using U.S. aircraft to deliver cash to the Taliban.



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Obituaries

Lois Jean Perry

Lois Jean Perry, age 88, of Ovid, MI, passed away Thursday, December 2, 2021, at The Laurels of Carson City, Carson City, MI.

Lois was born in St Johns, MI on July 17, 1933, the daughter of Harold and Helena M (Bobier) Burk. Lois graduated from Rodney B Wilson with the class of 1951. She married Lawrence L Perry on December 5, 1953 in Angola, IN. Lawrence passed away August 24, 1981.

She enjoyed camping at Houghton Lake during the summer for many years. She also enjoyed playing card games with her family. Lois dedicated her life to her grandchildren and for many years she helped take care of relatives. Lois spent a lot time in Florida helping take care of her mother and father. She was a big fan of country music and had a love for George Jones.

She is survived by daughter Tammy (Michael Rowley) Perry of Laingsburg, MI; grandchildren: Ben Schueller of Ovid, MI; Holly (Scott Sigafosse) Schueller of Ovid, MI; Heather and Brad Torrey of Ovid, MI; 7 great-grandchildren, sister-in-law Marilyn and Leroy Walker of Laingsburg, MI. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, biological father RG, husband, infant son John, sister Patricia Burk, sister-in-laws: Philena Curtis, Katie Miller, Lois Green and granddaughters: Alexis Schueller and Jennifer Schueller.

A Memorial Gathering will be held at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI, at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, with Pastor Tim Dickinson officiating. Burial will take place at Fairfield Township Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 from 12:00 P.M until the time of the service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the wishes of the family. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, Michigan.



Brenda Sue Batora-Hoffman

Brenda Sue Batora-Hoffman, age 56, of Elsie, Michigan, passed away Saturday, December 4, 2021, at her home.

Brenda was born in St. Johns, Michigan on July 4, 1965, the daughter of Edward Richard and Delores Kay (Miros) Batora. She graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School with the class 1983.

She enjoyed, cooking, gardening, going to the lake and swimming. Brenda also enjoyed going to farmers markets and attending festivals. Brenda had a compassionate and thoughtful soul. She could find the beauty in a cloudy rainy day.

She is survived by her two children: Lauren Hoffman and James Storey, and Lucas Hoffman; her mother Delores Batora; four siblings: Theresa Batora; Brian Batora; Michelle Batora; Cheryl and Mark McHallam; one grandson Calvin Storey; sister-in-law Karen Densmore. She is also survived by nieces and nephews: Michael, Kristine and Leah Batora, Claudia and Jack Price, Adam and Abigail Halm, Mya McHallam. She was preceded in death by her father Ed, one brother Rick Batora and her grandparents: Joseph and Rose Batora, Joseph and Antoinette Miros.

Funeral Services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes Elsie, Michigan at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, with Deacon Gary Edington officiating. Burial will take place at Ford Cemetery, Elsie, Michigan.

Memorials may be made to Charity of the donor's choice in her memory. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.





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Leann Marie (Watters) Parker

Leann Marie (Watters) Parker, age 51, of New Lothrop, MI, passed away Friday, December 3, 2021, at her home.

Leann was born in St. Johns, MI, on February 9, 1970, the daughter James Watters and Leone (Cornelius) Watters. She graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School with the class of 1988.

Leann worked at New Lothrop High School as a secretary for 24 years. She loved her dog Annie and watching NASCAR. Leann liked taking vacations and trips to her family cabin in Curtis. She loved time with her kids and grandson Jaxtyn.

She is survived by her son Christopher (Victoria) Parker of Ovid, MI; daughter Makenzie and Gavin Barnhill of Elsie, MI; one grandson Jaxtyn Barnhill; father Jim and Jane Watters of Vernon, MI; mother Leone Humphrey of St. Louis, MI; siblings: Kim and Mike Fabus of Elsie, MI; Doug and Fawn Watters of Montana; father of her children Jeff Parker of Ovid, MI; and nieces: Katie Jaroslowski, Michaela Fabus and Drika Watters, Larissa Watters, and Jeremiah Watters. She was preceded in death by her brother Danny Watters and step father Dorsey Humphrey.

Memorial Service was held on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI.

Memorials may be made to the wishes of the family. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes – Houghton Chapel, Ovid, Michigan.





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Confession: Sun 11:30am

We Welcome You to Come...

Joyce Ann Laverty

Joyce Ann Laverty, age 66, of Elsie, MI, passed away Monday, December 6, 2021, at her home.

Joyce was born in Owosso, Michigan on February 16, 1955, the daughter of Francis Freeman and Sarah (Durgan) Freeman. Joyce married Jack Laverty on February 3, 1973, in Owosso, MI.

Joyce was primarily a homemaker caring for her family and she also worked a brief period of time at a factory in Owosso. She enjoyed hunting and fishing with her husband Jack, collecting lighthouses, drinking coffee, and smoking cigarettes. Joyce loved her family and she found happiness in spending time with her grandchildren and spoiling them.

She is survived by her husband Jack Laverty, daughter Jackie Laverty, son Jerry Laverty, grandchildren: Jessica Hagaman, Leeda Hagaman, Alexis Sanchez, Gregory Sanchez, 5 great-grandchildren and her siblings: Judy Hier, Janice Lester, Jane Hepfner, John Freeman, Jim Freeman and JoAnn Sage. She was preceded in death by her parents, daughter Jodie Laverty and one brother Joe Freeman.

Funeral Services was held at Smith Family Funeral Homes Elsie, MI, at 1:00 P.M. on Friday, December 10, 2021.

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



Obituaries

Barbara Ann Klarich

Barbara Ann Klarich, age 88, of Elsie, MI, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Sunday, December 5, 2021 after a short stay at McLaren Flint. Barb was a talented and fun-loving individual who had a good life. Barb never met a stranger and was a friend to everyone.

Barb was born in Flint, Michigan on February 19, 1933, the daughter of Luther N. and Virginia A. (Heideman) Waggoner. While Barb grew up in Flint, Michigan, as a child she spent her summers in Elsie, Michigan working on her grandparent's farm.

During her senior year at Flint Central High School, Barb met the love of her life, Charles F. Klarich (Chuck), when he sat on her lap the first day of class and proclaimed that he was going to marry her one day. They ended up eloping on December 9, 1950.

Barb and Chuck built their first home in the Berry Patch (Flint) where they also met many life-long friends. While raising 3 children, Barb and Chuck started building [by hand] a retirement home on Rush Lake in Atlanta, Michigan. Building the home was a family affair, with the children and family pitching in.

Barb enjoyed living on the lake and spent hours each day fishing on her pontoon boat; a skill she learned from her father. She, in turn, taught her children and grandchildren the sport. The couple lived in Atlanta for many years and Barb met many very nice people whom she added to her list of life-long friends.

Barb longed to be reunited with her brother, Jack Waggoner and her sister-in-law Barb, and her many cousins, great-nieces and nephews in Elsie, Michigan. Barb and Chuck built a home in Elsie and moved there for the remainder of their retirement years. They had a wonderful life in Elsie, enjoying the company of their family and friends, eating breakfast and dinner at Cooters Bar almost every day, and participating in the local events.

Barb had a delightful sense of humor. She often told people from out of town that she spent her day at the Bar, just to watch the look on their face. Barb had essential tremors and used them as a way to make new friends. She would find jokes related to shaking and laughed while she told them to make everyone around her more comfortable with her condition.

Barb was a giver. She won almost daily on scratch off tickets or the lottery. If she won, she bought breakfast for the gang at Cooters. If she thought someone needed the money more than her, she would hand it to them, or stuff it in their purse or coat pocket. If you visited her home and admired something, she would say, "Take it. Take it now so you don't have to wait until I die to enjoy it!" She also enjoyed knitting mittens and would carry several sized pair in her large purse to give them away to people she saw without gloves or mittens, while she wore mismatched colors and sized mittens herself. She got her first computer at age 60 and was quite technically savvy. She would make personalized address labels and print out pictures



and surprise friends and family with them.

Barb was in tune with nature. She loved all the animals around her homes and made sure her "little critters" were fed. She spent time waiting for her furry or feathered friends to show up at the feeders so she could capture their image. Barb had the gift of being able to use a divining rod and was successful at helping people, free of charge, find water on their properties before they drilled their wells.

Barb was a rebel. She wore her blue jeans and sweatshirts even to formal events. She spent years riding her motorcycle around what she called "The North Country" with her husband, both parents, brother, and her children riding by her side. She also loved riding her 4-wheeler around their properties and taught her grandchildren to ride.

Barb liked to have fun. Barb and her sister-in-law, Barb Waggoner, loved to frequent the casino, and just like a couple of teenagers, would laugh and giggle the whole way; sometimes even getting pulled over by the police for driving too slow on the back roads late at night. Once when an officer asked if they were drinking, Barb laughed and said, "We're not drunk, we're just old."

Barb was a writer of children's stories that included her 'little critters' and her grand-children, humorous short stories, and newspaper articles. Unbeknownst to many, she spent years performing clerical work on behalf of the Masons and the Township.

Barb was a huge fan of Rock and Roll and Elvis Presley. Barb and Chuck loved to dance the jitterbug and Barb could often be seen snapping her fingers and dancing from one end of her home to the other to Elvis music.

Barb is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Connie and Gary Sovey, granddaughters: Andrea and Josh Havener, Erica Sovey and Matt Vaughn, daughter-in-law Vickie Klarich, grandchildren Kelly and Carl Sharkey, Luke and Tiffinie Klarich, 5 great-grandchildren Kourtney and C.J. Sharkey, Ella and Josie Klarich, Sullivan Havener, and her beloved brother Jack Waggoner. She is also survived by many wonderful cousins and great nieces and nephews who are from the Elsie area. She was preceded in death by her much-loved husband Charles F. Klarich, sons: Charles L. Klarich and Steven R. Klarich, and sister-in-law Barbara Waggoner.

Per Barb's request, cremation in her blue jeans and sweatshirt has taken place, and in lieu of a service, a private family party will be held in celebration of her life.

Barb requested her family and friends make contributions to their favorite charity, a family or person in need, or to the Elsie Area Food Bank, P.O. Box 311, Elsie, MI 48831.

Barb's family would like to thank the doctors, nurses and staff at McLaren Flint for their care and thoughtfulness during her short stay. Online condolences can be sent to www.smith-familyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes.

Iva Holton

Iva Holton, 94 of Ovid, Michigan, passed away on November 26, 2021, at her home surrounded by love.

Iva was a bus driver for Ovid-Elsie Schools for many years, a farmer's wife, a homemaker and one of the best Mom's ever!

She is survived by 7 children, Sandra Conklin (Doug); Lela Foytik (Chuck); Rickey Holton (Charlene); Cheryl Holton (Russell); Debra Williams (Scott); Rochelle Bishop (Eric); and Timothy Holton.

And leaving a great legacy of 30 grandchildren, 71 great grandchildren and 14 great-great grandchildren. A very special sister Francis Nethaway and brother-in-law Millard Holton (Phyllis).

She was predeceased by her husband of 74 years Ward O. Holton; 2 sisters June Hautamaki and Betty Saxton; 3 brothers Clifford Romesburg, Paul Romesburg and Rex Romesburg and her parents Benjamin and Lela Romesburg.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date.

Helping people was near and dear to Iva's heart. Should someone to honor her by helping a child in need in her name, our family would be greatly honored.



2021 Regulations and Restrictions of Ford Cemetery Located in Elba Township, Gratiot County.

The cost of one grave as of October 1, 2021 is \$300 with \$50.00 of this going towards permanent care.

The charge for a grave opening in the summer is \$420.00 and \$675.00 in the winter. Winter pricing is from December 1st to March 31st. Sunday and holiday burials are \$200.00 extra. Burials performed at 3:00pm and after are \$200.00 extra. Cremations and baby burials are \$150.00 in the summer and \$550.00 in the winter.

All burials must go through the township clerk or the funeral home.

All foundations and maintenance will be done by cemetery employees.

All grave markers will have firm concrete foundations to be installed by the cemetery employees only.

All grave markers will be in a straight line at the head of the graves.

Urns must be lined with the grave markers. Urns that are not used or become unsightly will be removed.

There will be no planting in front of the markers (west). Planting in back of markers (east) will be within 12 inches of markers.

There will be no shrubs, bushes, or trees.

Rose bushes of any description are not allowed.

There will be no mounding of graves.

There will be no crushed stone or flower bed borders.

All planting or placement will be subject to approval of and maybe removed by order of the Elba Township Board.

All winter grave blankets, stakes and all artificial arrangements must be removed by March 15. All of the above not removed by the designated date will be moved to the dumpster and hauled away. New arrangements may be placed starting April 1.

Any perennials such as iris or peonies that are not kept weeded will be mowed over.

When roots of any tree or shrub cause a marker to move or tilt that tree or shrub will be removed.

No wooden borders may be installed. Only the two already placed in the cemetery years ago may remain.

Graves may be transferred to another party only through the township clerk.

No more than two burials per grave site will be allowed. (1 or both a cremation or baby).

There will be no exchanges of graves from Blocks 1-2-3-4-5 to graves in any other section.

All rules are subject to change by the Elba Township Board.

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Laingsburg Wolfpack



Laingsburg Boys Varsity Basketball

Top row (l-r): Coach Daniel Morrill, Connor Hulliberger, Ty Randall, Luke Snyder, Ethan West, Eli Woodruff, Assistant Coach Ryan Powell. Middle row (l-r): Jack Byrnes, Alex Brown, Miguel Fajardo, DayShawn Bowman, Zander Woodruff, Jacob Essenberg. Bottom row (l-r): Noah Hagarty, Brayden Thomas.

Not Pictured: Assistant Coach Jordan McGee and player Cooper Wilson

Depth, Speed, Shooters Give Wolfpack an Edge Heading into 2021 Cage Season

LAINGSBURG -- No fewer than nine returning varsity players dot the Wolfpack's 14-man roster as coach Dan Morrill's team tips off the 2021-22 boys varsity basketball season.

"Our strengths will be depth, speed and shooting ability," says coach Morrill, as LHS hopes to improve on a 4-4 CMAC season, 4-5 overall, that was disrupted -- and how -- by the Covid pandemic in 2020-21.

The 'Pack returns Eli Woodruff, Jack Byrnes, Ethan West, Dayshawn Bowman, Cooper Wilson, Miguel Fajardo, Noah Hagerty, Alex Brown and Brayden Thomas to a squad just a year-and-a-half removed from a Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) championship.

Then came ... well ... Covid, and talk about a monkey wrench. All MHSAA teams are looking to get back to a normal schedule, and a normal day-to-day routine.

Newcomers to the tradition-rich Wolfpack varsity are Jacob Essenberg, Luke Snyder, Connor Hulliberger, Zander Woodruff and Ty Randall.

Morrill will be assisted by Jordan McGee and Ryan Powell. The coaching staff is optimistic.

"It should be a very competitive CMAC race with Pewamo-Westphalia, Potterville, Fulton-Middleton and Laingsburg all projected toward the top," Morrill says.



Laingsburg Girls Varsity Basketball

Front row (l-r): Kyleigh Luna, (Ella Merrell holding ball) Julia Starr. Middle row (l-r): Erica Wade, Brooke Putnam, Grace Borgman, Ashley Hawes. Back row (l-r): Asst. Coach Eric Wade, Lorna Strieff, Ellie Baynes, Bella Strieff, Head coach Doug Hurst.

Lady Wolfpack Returns Four Veterans to Young Roster for 2021-22 Cage Season

LAINGSBURG — Veteran coach Doug Hurst is looking for his team to "step up" as the Wolfpack girls varsity basketball looks to continued success in 2021-22.

The Wolves finished 6-2 in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC), 8-4 overall in a Covid-shortened 2020 season. Hurst returns four players from that squad, "and we'll rely on the game experience and skills they bring," he explains.

He's talking about seniors Julia Starr, Lorna Strieff and Erica Wade, and junior Ellie Baynes. They'll be joined by senior newcomers Grace Borgman and Brooke Putnam; sophomores Ashlee Hawes, Ella Merrell and Bella Strieff; and freshman Kyleigh Luna.

"We're young overall by experience," says Hurst. "That being said, I believe they're capable to step up and help this season."

"Our goal is to grow each game and by mid-season to be very competitive."

The LHS coach will again be assisted by Eric Wade and Tim Beebe. Former Wolfpack stand-out Julia Angst heads up the JV program.

In the ultra-competitive CMAC, look for Fowler, Portland St. Patrick and Danville in the top three, followed by Laingsburg, Pewamo-Westphalia and Bath — but maybe not necessarily in that order.

"Really after the top three it's a melting pot for who ends up where," Hurst explains.

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Laingsburg Wolfpack



Laingsburg Varsity Wrestling

Front row (l-r): Alex Forcier, Jacen Smakel, Dano Winans, Garret Mathews, Miguel Ramirez, Mikey Brooks. Second row (l-r): Jay Montgomery, Martin Meyers, Sean Divine, Kyle Boettcher, Wyatt Standfield, Lorenze Stuckey, Dakota Allen, Troy Mathews. Third row (l-r): Hudson Yates, Marlon Graham, Gabby Motz, Sebatian Ruff, Falk Schroeder, Aden Baynes, Dustin Winans, Desire Knoblauch. Top row (l-r): Jack Borgman, Caleb Boettcher, Charlie Porubsky, Carter Schlack, Zach Grandy, Seth Sivak, Noah Gentner, Tyler Flynn-Lacy, Coach Shawn Baynes

Young Wolfpack Wrestling Team Moves to Improve on Last Season’s League, MHSAA District Championship Season

LAINGSBURG -- The Wolfpack wrestling team ended a Covid-marred 2020-21 season on a lofty high note. Coach Shawn Baynes' Wolves are moving to build on that momentum as they look forward to 2021-22. Capturing league and MHSAA District championships last March, the red-and-white boast "depth and numbers," says coach Baynes. Just look at the list of returning grapplers: Gabby Motz, Aden Baynes, Martin Meyers, Noah Gentner, Kyle Boettcher, Caleb Boettcher, Seth Sivak, Mikey Brooks, Sean Divine, Lorenzo Stuckey, Alex Forcier, Jack Borgman, Desiree Knoblauch, Brice Smith, Blake Goetschy, Zach Grandy, Wyatt Stanfield, Troy Mathews and Garrett Mathews. Think that makes for some interesting practice sessions in their new digs at Laingsburg High School? Newcomers Dustin Winans, Miguel Ramirez, Marlon Graham, Hudson Yates, Falk Schroder, Jacen Smakal, Sebastian Ruff, Devin Terry, Dakota Allen, Jay Montgomery, Tyler Flynn-Lacy and Dano Winans prepare to prosper with such a wealth of knowledge and experience behind them. "We graduated one state qualifier, Dakota Dysinger, and he will be tough to replace," says the coach. LHS Wrestling joins a new league this winter in the Greater Lansing Athletic Conference (GLAC). Says coach Baynes, "I hope to be in the Top Three." Wolfpack wrestling fans are banking on it.

Laingsburg Wrestling 2021-2022

12/17/21	5:00 pm vs Leslie A	1/22/22	9:00 am vs Fowlerville A
12/18/21	9:00 am Coleman Invite A	1/28/22	5:00 pm vs O-E Girls Meet A
1/6/21	5:00 pm vs Olivet A	1/29/22	9:00 am vs Grass Lake A
1/8/21	8:30 am vs Perry A	2/2/22	6:00 pm vs Carson City-Crystal A
1/13/22	5:00 pm vs Bath H	2/5/22	TBS vs Olivet A
1/15/22	9:00 am vs Carson City-Crystal A		
1/19/22	5:30 pm vs Whitmore Lake H		



Laingsburg Boys Freshman Basketball

Front row (l-r): Alex Grandy, Hudson Yates. Middle row (l-r): Max Powers, Dominic Garcia, Colin Hart, James Pratt, Dylan Witgen, Emilio Garcia. Back row (l-r): Andrew Park, Jayden Stahl, Coach Brian Borgman, Logan Holm, Greg Stewart

See Next weeks Meridian Weekly for Ashley Winter Sports photos and previews. The remainder of Ovid-Elsie Winter Sports photos will be published after photos are taken on January 3rd.

Coaches please remember to send in your game results every week so we can include them in the Meridian Weekly! news@meridianweekly.com

Good Luck Wolfpack Athletes!

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Laingsburg Wolfpack



Laingsburg Boys JV Basketball

Top Left to Right- Coach Dillon Bates, Elliot Wilsey, Austin Wright, Aiden Maddaloni, Mitchell George, Jayce Grettenberger, Alejandro Antequera Guitian. Middle Left to Right- Jackson Audretsch, Vance Klont, Rocco Keilen, Lucas Matthews, Adam Essenberg, Cam Ballard. Bottom Left to Right- Lucas Dafoe, Jacob Agueros, Clayton Bergey, Brayden Jodway



Laingsburg Girls JV Basketball

Front row (l-r): Addison Elkins, Addison Rusz. Second row (-r): Samantha Knoblauch, Callie Clark, Evelyn Logghe. Third row (l-r): Addyson Buchin, Maria Moya, Justine Miller. Back row (l-r): Head coach Julia Angst, Sophia Mikko, Maris Brown, Brenna Highfield, Asst. Coach Troy Hill. Missing: Brooklyn Miller and Ashlee Hawes.

Laingsburg Boys Varsity Basketball 2021-2022

12/14/21	7:00 pm	Perry	A	1/28/22	7:00 pm	Dansville	A
12/16/21	7:00 pm	Bath	H	2/2/22	7:00 pm	Bath	A
1/4/22	7:00 pm	P-W	H	2/4/22	7:00 pm	Olivet	A
1/6/22	7:00 pm	Potterville	A	2/11/22	7:00 pm	P-W	A
1/11/21	7:00 pm	Saranac	A	2/16/22	7:00 pm	Potterville	H
1/13/22	7:00 pm	Portland St. Patrick	H	2/18/22	7:00 pm	Saranac	H
1/21/22	7:00 pm	Fowler	A	2/21/22	7:00 pm	Leslie	A
1/26.22	7:00 pm	Fulton	H	2/23/22	7:00 pm	Fowler	H
				2/25/22	7:00 pm	Fulton	A

Laingsburg Girls Varsity Basketball 2020-2021

12/17/21	7:00 pm	Bath	A	2/1/22	7:00 pm	Bath	H
1/5/22	7:00 pm	P-W	A	2/3/22	7:00 pm	Olivet	A
1/7/22	7:00 pm	Potterville	H	2/4/22	5:30 pm	Olivet	A
1/12/22	7:00 pm	Saranac	H	2/10/22	7:00 pm	P-W	H
1/14/22	7:00 pm	Portland St. Patrick	A	2/15/22	7:00 pm	Potterville	A
1/20/22	7:00 pm	Fowler	H	2/18/22	7:00 pm	Saranac	A
1/25/22	7:00 pm	Fulton	A	2/22/22	7:00 pm	Fowler	A
1/27/22	7:00 pm	Dansville	H	2/24/22	7:00 pm	Fulton	H

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Ovid-Elsie Marauders



Ovid-Elsie Boys Varsity Basketball

Front row (l-r): Braxton Stenger, Alex Eichenburg, Axel Newell, Jacob Tomasek, Adam Barton, Gunnar McCreery, Beau Price. Second row (l-r): Student Manager Dylan Taylor, Colin Fluharty, Clay Wittenberg, Alex Eichenberg, Dylan Carman, Logan Thompson, Coach Josh Latz, Perrien Rasch, Brayden Phillips, Kole Middleton, Bruce Thornton, Student Manager Tyler Bancroft.

Marauder Varsity Boys are Unselfish--and Hungry--Entering 2021-22 Hardcourt Season

OVID-ELSIE -- Veteran coach Josh Latz has plenty of depth and athleticism, he says, in welcoming back his Marauder boys varsity basketball team this winter.

Just as important, "We've got great chemistry. This team is very unselfish and hungry," the coach says.

Ovid-Elsie has several players who have played a lot of varsity minutes on the hardcourt. Returning players are three-year seniors Dylan Carman (All-MMAC last year) and Adam Barton; seniors Colin Fluharty, Alex Eichenberg, Jacob Tomasek and Brandon Phillips; and juniors Logan Thompson and Clay Wittenberg. The Marauders feature 10 players 6-feet or taller, with incoming freshman Axel Newell and senior Eichenberg standing in at 6'4."

Joining Newell as incoming players are juniors Perrien Rasch, Kole Middleton, Beau Price and Braxton Stenger; and sophomores Gunnar McCreery and Bruce Thornton.

"We're feel confident playing anyone on our roster in key moments of the game," says coach Latz, who will be assisted this year by Mike Loynes and Austen Jones. "If we have any deficiencies, it will be our small size at the #4 and #5 spots -- how well can we rebound and defend consistently?"

The Marauders are coming off a solid 4-1 finish in the MMAC, 7-4 overall in a Covid-shortened 2121 season. "We feel if we play to our potential we will be in the MMAC championship picture," Latz explains. "That is one of our goals every year. Chesaning, New Lothrop and Durand should also be contenders.

"We were bitten by the Covid bug and quarantines at the end of two years in a row. We are hungry and feel like we have some unfinished business."



Coach Josh Latz



Ovid-Elsie Girls Varsity Basketball

Front row (l-r): Braeden Tokar, Ava Bates, Caitlyn Walter, Kaylee Hall, Braylon Byrnes, Evalyn Cole, Hailee Campbell. Back row (l-r): Izzy Loynes, Kiah Longoria, Murphy Alexa, Asst. Coach Chris Parker, Asst. Coach Jason Tokar, Katie Lorio, Kadley Bukantis, Raylee Lewis.

Four Returning All-Leaguers Will Lead Lady Marauders into 2021-22 Season

OVID-ELSIE -- All Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) players Caitlyn Walter, Kiah Longoria, Ava Bates and Evalyn Cole will lead Ovid-Elsie's girls basketball team into the 2021-22 season -- with high expectations.

Seniors Kaylee Hall, Braylon Byrnes; juniors Rylee Lewis, Murphy Alexa, Katie Lorio, Izzy Loynes, Hadley Bukantis; and sophomores Hailee Campbell and Braeden Tokar join the team as coach Ryan Cunningham's cagers gun for the MMAC championship ... and maybe trophies beyond.

Coming off a 12-5 overall, 6-1 league finish last season, coach Cunningham says, "We return a solid foundation from last year's team. We gained a lot of experience over the summer and we have several players that can handle multiple positions. We have great depth and great team chemistry. We are fast and athletic and should be able to play an up-tempo, full court game."

Cunningham will be assisted by Chris Parker, Jason Tokar, Erin Witt on the bench. As a coaching team, they'll look to improve what are seen as weaknesses on the O-E side. "We play in a strong conference and typically a strong district. We have beefed up our non-conference schedule and look forward to playing quality competition. We don't have that typical "big man" to bang around inside the post. We also have some players coming off of injuries so it may take a while for us to figure out the proper line up and rotations," says Cunningham.

He continues, "Chesaning, New Lothrop, and Durand all have strong returning teams. Montrose also has several good returning players and some young talent to mix in. We should contend for a spot at the top.

"We are looking forward to a great year. We are excited to be back to normal and hope that we can get through this season together without injury, sickness or any kind of shutdown. This is a team that truly cares for one another and we all just hope for some normalcy."



Coach Ryan Cunningham



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Ovid-Elsie Marauders



Kneeling (l): Brandon Grieder; seated Coach Matt Fabus, kneeling (r): Austin Smith; Back row (l-r): Gunnar Barrett, Tobin Clark, Hunter Maxa and Clay Wenzlick.



Kneeling (l): Olivia Burt, seated Coach Matt Fabus, kneeling (r): Karina Custer; Back row (l-r): Kloe Bigelow, Morgan Douglass, Ashland Particka and Gracie Schultz.

Marauder Bowling Teams Look to Build on Recent Successes in 2021-22

OVID-ELSIE -- Coming off a pair of unbeaten seasons -- boys and girls' -- the Marauder bowling team is looking to build on a string of recent successes as coach Matt Fabus' teams roll out their 2021-22 contingent.

Morgan Douglass, Gracie Schultz and Ashland Particka return for the Lady Marauders, while Clay Wenzlick will lead the O-E boys team into the coming campaign.

Both teams won conference titles last year, with the boys also picking up 1st place laurels at the State Regional tournament.

"Last year there were no in-season tournaments due to Covid, and this year -- so far -- we have tournaments scheduled so we'll pick up more bowling experience as the season goes along."

Newcomers for the girls team are Olivia Burt, Karina Custer and Kloe Bigelow, while the boys welcome Hunter Maxa, Tobin Clark, Austin Smith, Gunnar Barrett and Brandon Grieder. "We have solid returners coming back with leadership to help out the newcomers," coach Fabus explains.

This is a program that has grown to the point where it's turning out collegiate-caliber kegling talent. Look for more of the same on 2021-22.

Ovid-Elsie Bowling

submitted by Matt Fabus

Ovid-Else Bowlers back at the lanes for another season!

Both boys and girls started the season with wins. The teams would go against Mt. Morris.

The girls won 17 1/2 - 12 1/2. High games included: Olivia Burt 142, Morgan Douglass 123, 171, Gracie Schultz 124, 153.

The boys won 30-0. High games were Matt Vanderhook 128, Brandon Grieder 134, 150, Gunner Barrett 128, 144 and tobin Clark 133.

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Sports

Lady Bears Open Season with a Loss

by Ashleigh Shaw

The Ashley Lady Bears traveled to Bay City to take on the All Saints in non-conference match up to open the new season. The team played a good first quarter trailing 8-5, but then struggled to score and ended up taking a tough loss 50-16.

"We opened up our season on the road against a solid Bay City All Saints squad. We went through stretches where we struggled to make baskets and our limited depth makes it difficult to keep payers fresh on the courts, which affects the pressure we are able to put on teams defensively" said Coach Shaw.

Jenna Wirt led the team with 9 points, 8 rebounds, 3 steals and 2 assists. Ashleigh Jelinek added 4 points and 3 rebounds, Allyson Emmendorfer chipped in a 2-point bucket while Alexyss McAllister put in a free throw and grabbed 3 rebounds.

Lady Bears Lose to Neighboring Breckenridge

Ashley took traveled to Breckenridge in the first MSAC match-up of the young season. Once again, the team struggled to score and took the loss 60-12. "We struggled against Breckenridge's pressure in the half court as we turned the ball over way too much. We need to find a way to score some points early in the game to remain competitive before the game gets away from us" commented Coach Shaw.

Jenna Wirt led the team scoring 9 points and 4 rebounds, Ashleigh Jelinek scored a 2-point bucket and Alexyss McAllister made a free throw.

Lady Bear Grab First Win of 21-22 Season

The Lady Bears of Ashley traveled to Akron Fairgrove in a nonconference match-up this week. The first half was very competitive as Ashley held a 17-14 lead at half time. Akron battled back and took a 20-19 lead going into the fourth quarter. The Bears amped up their defense in the fourth quarter and were able to outscore Akron 18-5 in the fourth quarter to pull out the win 37-25.

"We put together a good defensive effort tonight, especially in the second half, we also did a good job of limiting our turnovers and when it came to the fourth quarter we were able to get many stops on defense that led to fast break layups. The girls battled all night and were able to come out on top.

Jenna Wirt again led the team with a double double scoring 23 points and grabbing 15 rebounds also nabbing three steals. Ashleigh Jelinek who was in foul trouble most of the night played a key role in the win coming in and grabbing some key steals that lead to buckets in the fourth quarter. Jelinek scored 9 points and had 4 steals. Alexyss McAllister scored 4 points, had 4 rebounds and 3 steals and Savannah Beebe scored a free throw.

Marauder Girls Stay Unbeaten with 50-29 Blasting of Bath

OVID-ELSIE — Ovid-Elsie rose to 2-0 by defeating Bath 50-29 here December 3.

Sophomore Braeden Tokar, shooting 5-for-11 from the floor, scored a team-high 14 points with three rebounds for the Marauders. Caitlyn Walter added nine points, two steals and two assists while Kiah Longoria had eight points, seven rebounds, four steals and two assists.

Ava Bates had 10 rebounds and Evalyn Cole and Hailee Campbell each had four steals.

Coach Ryan Cunningham's Marauders led 22-14 at halftime and stretched the lead to 41-21 entering the fourth quarter.

"It was a good game for us overall but give Bath a lot of credit," Ovid-Elsie coach Ryan Cunningham said. "They never backed down and kept closing the gap with some tough play. I think our full court pressure had a lot of effect on them — especially for their first game."

O-E had 20 steals, forcing Bath into 31 turnovers.

OVID-ELSIE SCORING: Braeden Tokar 5 4-6 14, Kaylee Hall 1 0-0 3, Kiah Longoria 3 2-3 8, Caitlyn Walter 4 0-2 9, Braylon Byrnes 1 3-6 5, Evalyn Cole 1 0-0 2, Katie Lorio 0 1-2 1, Hailee Campbell 1 0-0 2, Murphy Alexa 1 0-0 2, Ava Bates 1 2-2 4. Totals 18 12-21 50.

Ovid-Elsie girls remain unbeaten, 56-22 over Eastern

OVID-ELSIE — The Ovid-Elsie Lady Marauders improved to 3-0 on the year, defeating Lansing Eastern, 56-22 on December 8.

O-E's Caitlyn Walter led all scorers with 12 points including two 3-pointers, 2 assists and 3 steals. Braeden Tokar added 10 points and 5 rebounds, while Braylon Byrnes added 9 points and 3 steals.

Coach Ryan Cunningham's Marauders were able to rack up 20 steals on the night and handed out 16 assists on 23 made baskets.

Rounding out the scoring for O-E included 6 points from Ava Bates (5 rebounds), 5 points from Hailee Campbell, and Kiah Longoria, Evalyn Cole (4 assists), and Murphy Alexa with 4 points each, and Izzy Loynes 2.

Ovid-Elsie opened up MMAC play on Friday night, hosting Durand.

Ovid-Elsie Boys Score Road Victory Over Bath Bees 56-52

BATH — Ovid-Elsie fended off a pesky Bath team, 56-52, in season-opening, non-league boys basketball action.

"This was a really nice road win over a solid Bath team, and great way to start the season," Marauder coach Josh Latz said. "(Axel) Newell and (Logan) Thompson did a nice job pacing us tonight, but many guys made plays when we needed them to be made.

"Dylan Carman also stepped up big late in the game and went 4/4 from the free-throw line to ice the game."

Stat leaders for O-E were Newell with 12 pts., 8 rebs., and 2 assists; Thompson 12 pts, 6 rebs, 2 assists; Carman 9 pts and 3 assists; and Adam Barton 8 pts. and 8 rebounds.

It was also the 2021-22 season lid-lifter for the host Bees, who fell to 0-1.

Marauder Grapplers Fall Twice at Alma Tri-Meet

ALMA — Ovid-Elsie dropped matches to Clare, 42-37, and Alma, 77 to minus-1, in season-opening action here December 8.

The Marauders featured pinfall winners Clayton Juhas (130 pounds), Max Spiess (135), Gavyn Perry (140) and Talan Parsons (112) against the Clare Pioneers.

O-E's Josh Everden (171) and Cole Workman (125) won by decisions.



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Editorial...Cont' on page 16

This is one of those marvelously weird days. I tried to switch my keyboard and screen from my old computer to my new one... All I got for the effort was a message telling me that I needed to press any key to reboot. That didn't work and I felt as if I was an idiot...until the same message came up when my son the computer wizard hooked it up. He of course knew what matters needed to be addressed and fixed the problem. Surprise, surprise, I had actually hooked up the computer correctly and just didn't know what other mechanization to follow. Wahoo, must be the dumb pill didn't work today.



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

I have been telling you about the new vendors at the Village of Ashley Country Christmas, today I wanted to take a minute or two to tell you about "Penny Lane" that sits on the northwest corner of Sterling and south of the grocery store. This little shop is charming and offers a plethora of unique items. You can find some beautiful home décor or maybe laser cut wooden earrings are more to your taste. Also you will find woolen mittens that have been recycled from woolen sweaters, crocheted hats and scarves, handmade Christmas ornaments, candles and air fresheners. And of course beautiful handmade cards occasional and Christmas. I believe that you might have the same fascination that I have with the Christmas ornaments that are made from electric insulators. Having grown up on a farm I would never have for seen porcelain insulators put to this use. This shop is worth the time and effort of viewing, it is definitely one of those hidden gems.

Today I have been messing up my beautifully clean kitchen again. Barb, my nut lady, had given me bits and pieces of cashews to make into cookies. Today, I whipped together what I hope is a winning recipe. So far, anyone tasting them has been pleased with their taste, texture and appearance. So I will finish baking them in the morning and get them packaged for Saturday and Sunday. I have some cute windowed boxes that will be a perfect setting for these cookies. I also need to make a bit more fudge and some banana nut or hummingbird bread. Nor do I dare to forget making the lemon blueberry bread which has become a hit.

On Cyber Monday I ordered a pair of floor lamps for my living room which is a bit dark during the winter months. I was surprised when they arrived four days ahead of schedule and are heavier then I expected. I have the first one put together but haven't attempted the second one yet. I was in town on Tuesday and planned on getting a couple of three way bulbs for them and I forgot. So today I called the local Dollar General to see if they carried them. I ended up calling them twice because the gent that I spoke with the first time acted as if I was trying to pull a fast one, I called back to ask again and he at least went to take a look at the light bulbs. Apparently these light bulbs are rather archaic and one needs to be at least fifty or more to believe in their existence.

I spent Tuesday evening at the Winter Market in St Johns. I didn't sell much but did have a wonderful time chatting with folks. I was surrounded with 'wanna buys' and managed not to spend much because I had to make some money before I could start spending it. Though it does appear that I may get involved with direct sales again. I need to stay interested in what life has to offer. To be honest I'm getting a bit tired of baking and need to see if I still have any of my other skills. Or it could be that I just need to gain some new skills. I was speaking to Linda today and she told me about a rug that she had braided and sewn together, she did this twenty years ago and it is holding up beautifully today. Now that is a skill that I would like to acquire.

May your days be filled with wonder and anticipation, and your life be filled with blessings. Enjoy whatever and whenever some unique and unusual comes your way. Enjoy and use your common sense. God bless you.

Crystal Mitchell©2021

Sports

Laingsburg Girls Get First Win 42-15 OverWebberville Spartans

WEBBERVILLE — Eight players scored here December 3 for Laingsburg en route to a 42-15 victory at Webberville.

Erica Wade and Ellie Baynes each scored nine points. Baynes pulled down 12 rebounds with six steals. Lorna Strieff had seven points, seven rebounds and five steals and Julia Starr had six points.

Coach Doug Hurst's Wolfpack, which had lost its season-opener 57-16 to defending state champion Portland, evened its record at 1-1.

"Obviously coming off our season-opening loss to Portland, we played much better tonight," coach Hurst said. "Everyone played much better defensively."

LAINGSBURG SCORING: Lorna Strieff 3 1-2 7, Grace Borgman 2 0-0 4, Ashlee Hawes 1 1-2 3, Erica Wade 4 1-2 9, Brooke Putnam 0 0-1 0, Bella Strieff 1 0-0 2, Ella Merrill 1 0-0 2, Julia Starr 2 2-3 6, Ellie Baynes 4 0-2 9. Totals 18 5-12 42.

St. Patrick Girls Open CMAC Cage Season, Crushing pack 64-35

LAINGSBURG -- Portland St. Patrick came to LHS on December 8 and showed why they're picked as one of the teams to fight for the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) title.

The Lady Shamrocks outscored the host Wolfpack 22-2 in the opening quarter and rolled to a 64-35 victory in the CMAC opener for both teams.

Coach Doug Hurst's Wolves were led by Ellie Baynes (10 pts, 7 rebs), Lorna Strieff (8 pts, 16 rebs, 4 steals), Erica Wade, Julia Starr, Ella Merrell all with 5 pts., and Kyleigh Luna 2 pts.

"We started out slow and stayed that way the 1st half," coach Hurst said. "We regrouped and played a better 2nd half. We're still learning and growing each game. As long as we continue to learn from our game experience will get better as a team.

Laingsburg moved to 1-2 overall.

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Ovid Healthcare

by Deb Price

It's Christmas Time, a happy time for most, but for some without family around, Christmas can be just another day. In an effort to make the holiday season just a little brighter, Ovid Healthcare has a way for you to make the holidays fun for their residents. Pictured here are Activity Aides, Whitney Parmenter (at left) and Paige Conley. They are standing next to a decorated Mailbox designed for people to drop off Christmas Cards, small gifts and letters. You can address the cards directly to a resident you know that is there or simply put the name "Resident". A similar promotion was done for Valentine's Day and the response was terrific. Stop by and send a card, letter or maybe leave some candy or cookies for someone at Ovid Healthcare this Holiday season now thru Christmas Day.

Laingsburg School Board of Education Meeting

Laingsburg Community Schools Board of Education will conduct a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. The meeting will begin at 7:00p.m. in the High School media center. Please visit our website at www.laingsburg.k12.mi.us for up to date meeting information.

The major tentative agenda items for this meeting include the following:

2021-22 Budget Update, Preliminary 2022-23 Budget Discussion, Policy Updates, Legislative Update, Personnel, and any other business that may properly come before the board.

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

MSBOA District V Band Teacher of the Year

Congratulations on Mrs. Jeanine Ignash's nomination from the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association for the 2021-2022 District V Band Teacher of the Year. She was presented with a plaque for her accomplishment at Ovid-Elsie's Band and Choir Concert on Tuesday, December 7th. She is one of three candidates in the running for the State Band Teacher of the Year award. Good luck and congratulations to Ovid-Elsie's Director of Bands, Mrs. Ignash.



Senior Center Seeking Donations

submitted by Brenda Terpening

The Clinton County Senior Center, located at 201 E Walker Street in St. Johns is seeking donations for their various programs.

They are looking for puzzles (300-1000 pieces), fabric, batting and yarn. They are also accepting items for Bingo prizes their members can win. Things like canned fruit (green beans are not needed), peanut butter, jelly, hot chocolate, paper towels and bagged candy are items the members enjoy receiving but are seldom donated.

Donations can be dropped off on Monday's, Tuesday's or Friday's between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. If you need things picked up you can call them at 989-224-4257.



Senior Center Seeks Volunteers

submitted by Brenda Terpening

At the Clinton County Senior Center they have two Gift Shops that are open for their members and the general public to shop in. One gift shop has glassware, decorations, cards, etc and the other is full of homemade sewn items.

The center is looking for someone that would volunteer their time to make dish scrunchies. The center would provide the netting.

If you would be interested in helping the Senior Center, please call them at 989-224-4257. Please leave a message if no one answers and they will get back to you.

Editorial

Faith Focus

by Phil Hoppersberger
Graham Community Church



"The Christmas Psalm"

"And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities (Psalm 130:8)."

How does Psalm 130 relate to celebrating the story of a Jewish baby's birth in Israel over 2,000 years ago? Good question. Let's look at a few choice words to see God's plot.

The Hebrew word here for "redeem" is *padah*, which means to ransom or release, what we would define as "an outsider intervening to free someone from a bad situation." We've all seen the movie, the rich parent gives up millions to get their kidnapped child back. That's Hollywood, but God's Christmas storyline is much more real, and personal.

From beyond Eternity, viewing Earth from God's perspective, you are that child, being held captive by unseen chains, and God is dropping off a bagful of cash. At this time of year, a favorite Christmas carol comes to mind when we talk about a "ransom."

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel...and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appears," a desperate plea for God to come and rescue us, but from what? "Long lay the world in sin and error pining." Our own sin and judgment.

This baby is God Himself, disguised in flesh and blood, who pierced Time and Space, for one purpose...our reclamation, an old Dickens-like word defined as "the process of claiming something back, or of reasserting a right," like saving Ebenezer Scrooge's soul.

Jesus did just that...He came in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies to rescue Israel, to take back His own who were in exile, held captive by sin, powerless to stop a horrible outcome—a righteous judgment on our sin. Thankfully, God loves not only Israel, but all of us too. This is the Christmas story, a story of a helpless child being held captive and then rescued by another Child who dies for us. Psalm 130 lays it all out.

Read it for yourself, and then consider His Christmas gift to redeem your own soul.

- A desperate, nowhere to turn cry for help (verses 1-2).
- Our chains of sin binding us, and preventing us from even standing up (verse 3).
- But God is listening, more than ready to help, to forgive us (verse 4).
- His Word, His faithful promises, are our only hope for rescue (verse 5).
- We strain to see His arrival through our darkness (verse 6).
- We hope in His great love and His overwhelming desire to save us (verse 7).
- He will save us, He promised to come, and then He did come...to Bethlehem (verse 8).

The problem in this story is the ending—the captive is unwilling to be saved. That's the part you play, be willing to be rescued, to repent (change your mind about running away from your Rescuer). You have to give up, surrender, and believe in Jesus' payment for your sins on the cross is enough, that His resurrection proved His bagful of cash was sufficient to bring you home to a heartbroken Father. And that's how Psalm 130 relates.



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