



Pictured here (l-r) Brother, Brock, Mom, Dana, Alexis and Dad, Duane. Standing is Madonna University Cross-Country Coach, Patrick Daugherty.

Alexis Spitzley Signs with Madonna University

On Wednesday, December 14, 2022, Alexis Spitzley signed a Letter of Intent to run cross-country at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan.

Alexis Spitzley is a four year cross-country runner. During her time at OE she has won two individual league titles and helped lead the team to two league championships. For the past three years, she has been first-team all-conference in MMAC Conference. Alexis was selected as a member of Division 3, Academic All-State Team by the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Assoc.. After battling back from an ACL injury this year, she qualified for the cross-country state meet. Alexis has molded the character and work ethic of a true Maraduder not only in practice but in the Mat program as a restless worker and leader. "It has been a pleasure watching her not only excel early, but to continue to sustain and push the expectations we had for her. She has been nothing short of exemplary as an athlete, teammate and leader. I wish her good luck at the next level," said Coach Patrick Daugherty.



Back row (l-r) Devon Burzmor (Traveling coach), Felica Gingrich (OE Softball Coach), Grandparents, David & Becky Kebler and Shaelynn Goedtel (Traveling coach). Front row (l-r) Brother Tyler, Dad Jason, Olivia, Mom Leisa.

Olivia Burt Signd With Olivet College

On Wednesday, December 14, 2022, Olivia Burt signed a Letter of Intent to play softball for Olivet College in Olivet, Michigan.

Olivia Burt will continue at the next level playing softball for Olivet College. Some of her career stats include, 41 hits last season, a .471 batting average with 40 hits and 32 RBI's and two home runs. From the mound she pitched 88 innings, faced 444 batters, had 9 wins/5 loses and struck out 88 batters. She has received numerous awards including LSJ All Area recognition, 2nd Team All-Conference and All-District for pitching. "Olivia is an all around great student and athlete, on and off the field. Her academics are strong and she is a determined athlete. She leads by example and is a great role model. She will be a great asset to Olivet, they are lucky to have her," said Coach Gingrich.

Ovid City Council

by Deb Price



Mallory Olger

The Ovid City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 12th. Mallory Olger, the councils newest Trustee, was sworn in by City Clerk, Josie Medina. The agenda for the evening included the normal items, approval of minutes, Treasurers, Police and DPW Reports. Items of note from the police report from Chief Lisa Rousseau included her concern of juvenile activity and the possibility of making parents liable for their kids behavior. She asked if an ordinance might be adopted. She informed the council regarding a grant for \$5,000 she is pursuing for taser purchase. Lastly she asked for permission to contact the City's Attorney directly, which is currently not permitted. Mayor Lasher asked why would you need to call the lawyer? Rousseau responded that in the event of an officer related shooting, she would want the first call to be made to the City Attorney, and she indicated she did not have that information. After much discussion, it was determined that per the City Charter, all department heads have access to the city attorney as needed, Chief Rousseau will be added to that list.

Under new business, the dates were set for council meeting in 2023, the 2023 budget (balanced) was adopted as well as the 2023 salary schedule, which included a 4% cost of living raise for all full-time city employees, with the exception of the Chief of Police, since per her contract she would not be eligible for cost of living raise until 2023 according to Mayor Lasher. Rousseau stated she remembered the topic in negotiations of her contract but did not recall signing anything. Councilwoman, Mary Perrien expressed concern over not giving a cost of living raise to everyone, "I don't like how it looks, everyone should get the cost of living raise," she stated. Rousseau also stated her opinion regarding Officer Bobby Watson, a part-time officer on the force. "He has carried this department on his shoulders for a year while in transition, and you aren't going to give him a raise," she asked. Lastly under new business, there was discussion regarding payment to Mr. Ed Thornton to reimburse him for a performance bond. It was voted on to reimburse him once he provides a receipt to the city showing proof of payment. The last item under new business was discussion on 2023 committee assignments which was tabled until January.

Under old business, Mayor Lasher gave an updates on the Drinking Water Assessment Grant and Lagoon Waste Water Grant. Once again Chief Rousseau took the floor and addressed the council. She had concerns and frustrations she wanted to air. She started by asking what kind of police department do you want? She and her staff have been giving 110% for the city and are frustrated by the treatment of co-workers. She described the work environment as toxic, felt personnel policies were not being followed and that employees were not being held accountable for their behavior. She told the council that she was concerned about losing staff come January. She then asked for direction from the council regarding the scheduling of her staff over the holidays and how they would be paid. It was decided that scheduled officers would receive their regular rate of pay for December 23rd, 26th and Jan. 2nd and double time for December 24th, 25th and 31st as well as January 1st. Other full time employees will get paid for Monday, December 26th as well as Monday, January 2nd. City offices will be closed on December 23, 26, 30 and Jan 2.

Committee Appointed for Superintendent Search

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – The regular meeting of the Ovid-Elsie Board of Education was held Monday, December 12, 2022. Officials began preparation for 2023 by scheduling the Ovid-Elsie Area Schools organizational meeting in January. In addition, a committee was appointed to start the superintendent search process.

Officials recognized and thanked Erin Bancroft for her years of service on the Ovid-Elsie School Board. Bancroft was elected in 2014 and opted not to run for another term.

Building reports included an update from Mrs. Alicia Ormesbee, EE Knight Elementary, reported that students are participating in a STEM project with the mobile Farm Bureau classroom which explains where their food comes from and the importance of agri-business. Currently, SOS is sponsoring a holiday shop for students to purchase gifts for their families. Also, the students have collected 700 personal hygiene items for the Christmas families.

Mr. Tim Ormesbee, Ovid-Elsie Middle School principal, updated officials on the building's happenings. The choir and band had their holiday concert which was well attended. The middle school recently hosted the middle and high school solo assemble. Students are preparing for Spirt Week prior to holiday break.

Next, Mr. Jason Tokar, OE High School, reported that on December 19, 6:30 pm in the Ovid-Elsie High School Auditorium, Jeff Edwards, motivational speaker and chairman of the Board of Directors for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, will present Mental Health and Suicide a Parent's Approach. This is an opportunity for parents and community

continued on page 6

MG's Perx & Pastries 116 N. Ovid St., Elsie

Starting January 1, 2023,
Our New Hours and Days will be
Tuesday through Saturday 7am - 12pm
This is due to Diane's full time job hours
being changed.

We are currently looking to hire a versatile
person who can do counter work,
run the grill, dishes and closing duties.
Hours will be 10am to 12:30pm as needed.
Please call 989-398-1021
or come in to set up a time for interview.
Please bring in 3 references and work history.
Start date would be January 3, 2023.

SUNDAY DINNER SPECIALS

Swiss Steak, Baked Chicken,
Turkey & Dressing



2/\$28
Includes
Dessert

Merry
Christmas

We will be closed December 24th-25th-26th.
Enjoy your time with Family & Friends...

• Gift Certificates Available

Mary's Country Kitchen

M-21 • Ovid • (989) 834-9640

Social

Jeff Edwards to Speak at Ovid-Elsie High School

Motivational Speaker, Jeff Edwards, will present "A Parents Approach" to Mental Health & Suicide Prevention at Ovid-Elsie High School Auditorium, tomorrow, Monday, December 19th from 6:30pm-8:00pm. This opportunity is for parents and community members to come together and learn about how to keep our youth safe. Edwards is Chairman of the Board at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. In 2003, Edwards lost his 12 year old son to suicide. His son was active, well-liked and popular. He has made it a mission in life to go to as many schools as possible to talk to as many kids about mental health, depression and suicide.

Elsie Public Library

submitted by Ann Trierweiler

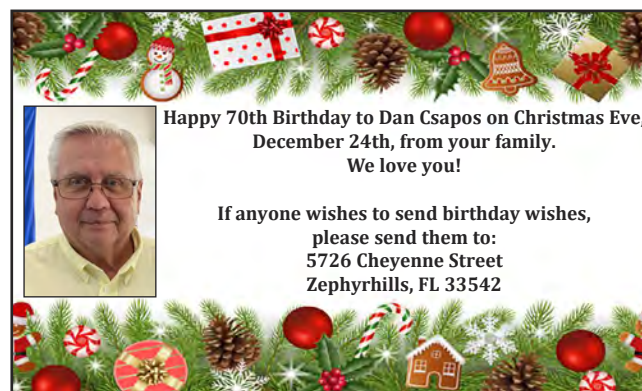
Christmas is fast approaching. Parents are wondering how to keep their kids busy during the winter break from school. Consider a trip to the library.

Monday, December 19th we will have Music and Motion followed by play time. We have paper and pencils for the older kids that would like to write a quick note to Santa Claus. His mail box is prominently displayed near the circulation desk.

For the adults there is always a jigsaw puzzle in progress. Our current puzzle has a Coca-Cola Christmas theme. Oodles of toys in the children's area get lots of attention from our youngest patrons.

No visit would be complete without checking out a book or a free movie from our large selection. Ask our staff to show you where the newest books and DVD's are kept. You will be amazed at what you can find. We hope to see you soon.

Our holiday hours are as follows; The Elsie Public Library will be closed from Dec. 23 until December 28th, 2022 and January 2nd and 3rd, 2023.



Christmas Services



The Elsie First Baptist Church, 163 W Main St, will be holding Christmas Eve Service at 4pm on Saturday Dec. 24th everyone is welcome!

The Ashley United Methodist Church will be holding Christmas Day, December 25th, church services at 10:00 a.m. The church is located at 112 North New Street in Ashley. Please come and experience the magic of our Savior's story. All are welcome.

Duplain Church of Christ, 5565 E. Colony Rd., St. Johns, will be holding their Christmas Eve Service, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is the community are invited.

The Middlebury United Methodist Church will have a special service at noon on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th. This service will replace the regular Sunday service. Rumor has it that Santa will stop by at the end of the service. All are welcome to attend.

Christmas & Christmas Eve Services

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – Christmas Eve services are slated for the Elsie area.

Elsie United Methodist and Shepardsville United Methodist churches will hold a combined service Saturday, December 24, 2022, 6 pm at Shepardsville, 6990 Winfield Rd., Ovid, MI.

A combined Christmas Day service will be held Christmas day at 10 am, Elsie United Methodist Church, 160 W Main Street.

First Baptist Church of Elsie will hold Christmas Eve services Saturday, December 24, 2022, 4 pm, 199 W Main Street, Elsie.

MARR'S Furniture & Mattresses



\$100
OFF

Any Recliner in Stock
Thru December

OPEN
SUNDAY

Thru the Holidays!

- Amish Furniture
- Recliners
- Mattresses

12 Months
Financing
Available

Across from Walmart
Owosso
(989) 723-5436



Don't Forget
to Use Your
Flex Benefits
Before It's
Too Late!!



Let's Help Our Friends & Neighbors!

\$52 Eye
Exam
with a Food or Toy
Donation
Now thru 12-31-22



Laingsburg
Eye Care P.C.
Dr. Marsha Brandon, O.D., 252 E. Grand River, Laingsburg
517-651-6608



All Are Invited

Please join us at Ovid Bible Church Sunday, December 18th as Pastor Robert Magee brings us a special message.

Pastor Magee, with his wife Brenda at his side, served as Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church (now Ovid Bible Church) for 18 years.

Potluck to follow the morning service which will take place at 11:00 a.m.

Laingsburg School Board Meeting

submitted by Krissy Pratt

Laingsburg Community Schools Board of Education will conduct a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 21, 2022. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle 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:

2022-23 Budget Update, Preliminary 2023-24 Budget Discussion, Board Bylaws and Policy Updates, Legislative Update, Personnel, and any other business that may properly come before the board.

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.

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.

Blood Drive at Duplain Church of Christ

Shake up your holiday tradition, Give Blood! Duplain Church of Christ, 5565 E. Colony Rd., St. Johns will be having a blood drive on Tuesday, December 27th from 12:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

For more information visit RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor, code DUPLAINCOC) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Clinton County Adopt a Family for Christmas

submitted by Marie Barks

Caring and Sharing Family Life Services, Inc. and the Clinton County Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect in St. Johns are teaming up to support families this Christmas through the Adopt A Family For Christmas program. This year more families than ever have applied for Christmas help. Families or seniors applying for help are screened to make sure there is no duplication with other agencies or community Christmas programs across the county such as the Salvation Army (serving families in the southern part of the county), Ovid and Elsie community (serving Ovid-Elsie residents), and other churches and agencies.

There are many families that still need adopting for the holidays. We have families of all sizes with younger or older children and seniors. If your agency, business, group, church or family would like to adopt a family please contact us. Adopters have the choice of being anonymous, delivering to the family directly or having us deliver (all contactless and social distancing practices).

Some families have simple things on their Christmas list that most of us take for granted will be on the cupboard shelf at home when we need it, such as toilet paper, shampoo, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items. If anyone out there finds it in their heart to give a little extra this year, this is truly a rewarding project. Please call the Caring & Sharing and CAN Council office at 989-224-1010 or call Amanda at 989-682-0319 (after hours) and ask about adopting a family.





SEAFOOD SALE !!

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY !!
HURRY !!!!
SALE ENDS DECEMBER 31st !!!

STOCK YOUR FREEZER WITH THESE GREAT DEALS

ALASKAN WALLEYE FILLETS <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$50⁰⁰</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">10 LB. BOX</div>	MEDIUM COOKED & CLEANED SHRIMP <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$16⁰⁰</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">(Approx. 120 Shrimp) 2 LB. BAG</div>
SUPER JUMBO SNOW CRAB LEGS <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$19⁹⁹</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">LB.</div>	PREMIUM LOBSTER TAILS <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$16⁰⁰</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">STARTING AT APPROX. EACH & UP</div>

- * JUMBO SHRIMP
- * CHESAPEAKE OYSTERS
- * ORANGE ROUGHY
- * SEA SCALLOPS
- * BLUEGILL FILLETS
- * LANGOSTINO MEAT
- * WILD SALMON
- * SMELT
- * MUSSELS
- * CATFISH FILLETS

- * BREADED SHRIMP
- * ICELANDIC COD
- * KING CRAB LEGS
- * FROG LEGS
- * CRAWFISH
- * GOURMET CRAB CAKES
- * LAKE PERCH
- * ALLIGATOR
- * CALAMARI
- * SMOKED FISH

DONLAN FISH & SEAFOODS



420 W. Howard St. & M-52 • Owosso
 OPEN DAILY 10 AM-5:30 PM * CLOSED SUNDAYS
 * OPEN SATURDAY - CHRISTMAS EVE 10 AM-4 PM
 * OPEN SATURDAY - NEW YEAR'S EVE 10 AM-5:30 PM
989-725-1315



VILLAGE OF ASHLEY NOISE ORDINANCE 2022-01 AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT EXCESSIVE AND UNNECESSARY NOISE

Section 1.

No person shall cause or create any unreasonable or improper noise or disturbance, injurious to the health, peace or quiet of the residents and property owners of the village.

Section 2.

The following noises and disturbances are hereby declared to be a violation of this article; provided, however, that the specifications of the same are not thereby to be construed to exclude other violations of this article not specifically enumerated:

- a) The sounding of any horn or signal device on any automobile, motorcycle, bus, or other vehicle for any purpose other than to avoid an accident or collision.
- b) The playing of any radio, phonograph, or any musical instrument in such a manner or with such volume as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of other persons.
- c) Yelling, shouting, hooting, or singing on the public streets between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., or at any time or place so as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of any person in the vicinity.
- d) The keeping of any animal, bird or fowl which emanates frequent or extended noise which shall disturb the quiet, comfort and repose of any person in the vicinity.
- e) The operation of any automobile, motorcycle, or other vehicle so out of repair, so loaded or constructed as to cause loud or unnecessary grating, rattling, exhausting, or other noise disturbing the quiet, comfort, or repose of other persons.
- f) The operation of any steam whistle attached to a boiler of any type except for the purpose of giving notice of the time to begin or stop work as a warning of fire or other danger, or for other purposes upon danger, or for other purposes upon special permit therefore from the village council.
- g) The discharging outside of any enclosed building of the exhaust of any steam engine, internal combustion engine, motor vehicle, or motorboat engine except through a muffler or other similar device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises resulting therefrom or discharging outside of any enclosed building of any air operated devices, unless inspected and approved by the building inspector.
- h) The erection, excavation, demolition, alteration, or reconstruction of any building or premises in any platted residential district or section of the village, including the streets and highways therein, in such a manner as to create noise or disturbance unreasonably annoying to other persons, other than between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. except in the case of urgent necessity, in the interest of public health and safety, upon receipt of a permit thereof from the building inspector of the county, which permit shall limit the period that the activity may continue.
- i) The emission or creation of any excessive noises on any street which unreasonably interferes with the operation of any school or church.
- j) The creation of any loud or excessive noise, unreasonably disturbing to other person in the vicinity in connection with the loading or unloading of any vehicle, trailer, or other carrier, or in connection with the opening or destruction of bales, boxes, crates, or other containers.
- k) The use of any drum, loudspeaker, or other instrument or device for the purpose of attracting attention to any performance, show, sale or display of merchandise which, by the creation of much noise, shall be unreasonably disturbing to other persons in the vicinity.
- l) The operation of any obstacle course or racetrack for motorcycles, or vehicles of any kind or nature in any area of the village not specially zoned for such an operation and/or where the noise emanating therefrom would be unreasonably disturbing and annoying to other persons in the vicinity.

Section 3.

None of the prohibitions enumerated in subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall apply to any of the following:

- a) Any police vehicle, ambulance, fire engine or emergency vehicle while engaged in necessary emergency activities.
- b) Excavation or repair of bridges, streets, or highway by or on behalf of the county, state, or the county between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. when the public welfare, safety and convenience render it impossible to perform such work during other hours.

Section 4.

The provisions of this section are deemed to be in addition to any other noise regulations set out in the Code

Section 5.

EXCEPTIONS:

UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES DETERMINED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OR THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT TO BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, THEY MAY GRANT EXCEPTIONS FROM ANY PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE.

Section 6.

EFFECTIVE DATE AND ADOPTION

- a) This ordinance shall become effective eight days after its publication as required by law. All ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.
- b) This Ordinance was adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Ashley, Gratiot County, Michigan at the Regular meeting thereof held on December 8, 2022.

Signed by Michelle Fitzpatrick
Ashley Village Clerk/Treasurer
Published December 18, 2022
Effective date December 26, 2022



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Cedar Swamp to Table

As mentioned in previous columns, the Weekly Sportsman has spent a fair amount of time chasing whitetails through the white cedar swamps of Mackinac County in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Fortunate enough to have been guided by brother in law, Don McKay, the Weekly Sportsman has shot several cedar swamp deer including a small eight point that is considered to be the greatest whitetail trophy to date despite the antlers being the smallest in the collection. Sometimes the challenge and experience is the trophy, along with your company, and not just the size of the antlers. Hunting this area of Michigan is challenging due to weather, habitat, lower deer densities, along with many other factors such as having to drag a deer for miles just to reach a two track. During these hunts, Don would often tell stories about his father Angus McKay and Uncle Ford and how their family kept the locals fed year round on locally harvested cedar swamp venison before and after the war.

The other morning the Weekly Sportsman had a few hours to hear the stories again and was able to get some of his very rich family history written down for future generations. In addition, it is important to share these stories of how many Michigan communities have literally survived in the past due to leaning on available natural resources. While Don is now a young 82, and the only living witness to a lot of these events during his childhood, he openly admits that some of this information was told to him from other family members over the years. While his father has taken on an almost legendary Robin Hood status among descendants it is hard not to believe every detail of this family story.

WS: Don, you grew up in the Eastern UP, can you share a little about your family and what life was like before, during, and after the Second World War.

DM: My great grandparents Duncan and Mary McKay were living in Old landing, Lee County, Kentucky when my grandfather John 'Jack' Loren McKay was born in 1888. I'm not sure how but he found his way to Michigan and spent



most of his life in the Upper Peninsula. He married my grandmother Gladys 'Minnie' Murn Gugin on St. Patrick's Day, 1914, in Cedarville and shortly thereafter my father Angus 'Mac' Loren McKay was born. My father Angus spent his entire life in the Upper Peninsula except for a few years when he was stationed in China. He married my mom Izetta Izzard in 1938. I didn't know my father that well because I was born in 1940 and a few years after the war ended he was killed in a horrific accident at Steelys sawmill three miles east of Cedarville. He was known locally for two things; as a musician who played fiddle, banjo, guitar and even a piano if he was drinking enough, and for being a hell of a marksman and local hunter. When he was sixteen he sustained an eye injury from a .22 and walked with my grandmother from Stalwart to Pickford to see a doctor. The trip was nine miles and he did this while holding a hand over his right eye. He didn't lose his right eye, but from then on he could only see shadows so he learned how to shoot left-handed.

When work was available my dad was a sawyer but there was never a lot of work. You have to remember, this area was isolated and the UP might have just as well been considered another state or even country. There was no manufacturing and very little agriculture because the growing season was so short. The limestone quarry in Cedarville didn't open until 1956 and the bridge wasn't built until 1957. There was some tourism but not much. There weren't any jobs let alone good paying year round jobs. It was desperation living. Gardening wasn't a hobby... more of a necessity. You grew vegetables in the summer so you had them to eat in the winter.

And meat of course was venison.

WS: Tell me about the local harvesting of venison.

DM: Well, it was a year round effort. Come to think of it, I never really remember my dad hunting during the legal season. Salt blocks were used to lure the deer from the cedar swamps and apple trees and small orchards were often magnets. As a matter of fact, one of the salt blocks was directly across the dirt road we lived on which is now M-129. Speaking of apples.... the apple doesn't fall far from the tree as my Grandma Minnie was a bit of an outlaw herself. She liked to sit on a large rock that overlooked a cemetery and the deer liked to eat the grass and flowers and she was never in short supply of meat. Some years her opening day buck was hanging and frozen solid by sunrise. My dad kept the Eastern UP from starving by shooting over 50 deer every year and some years almost a hundred.

WS: He clearly couldn't have done this all by himself. Who else was in on this operation? DM: We lived two miles straight north of Cedarville next door to "Uncle" Ford and Annebelle Izzard. My mom Izetta was an Izzard and a cousin or something to Ford. They had a detached

garage that had a false floor with stairs leading down to the processing kitchen and storage pantry for venison. All the deer were cut up down there and stored in ice and sawdust or cubed and canned. Of course, some was for us but most if it was given away to locals. My mother and Annebelle did most of the processing. There was no place to buy processed or packaged food back then. It was a tight knit community and everyone kept quiet. Even the local conservation officer turned a blind eye. Once the State Police pulled dad and Uncle Ford over for running with no tail lights on a truck with a dump box. They were hauling six deer but the police never looked in the box or if they did they didn't say anything. Like I said earlier....before, during, and after the war it was desperation living.

WS: What tools of the trade did your dad and uncle Ford use besides the dump box truck and salt blocks?

VICTOR TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING VICTOR TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION PLAN 2023-2027

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 9, 2023. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear and consider comments on the Township's draft Park and Recreation Plan.

The public is requested to provide written comments regarding the draft plan to Lianne Prange, Victor Township Clerk at: clerk@victortwp.org 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/>

Lianne Prange, Victor Township Clerk

Editorial

DM: They used mostly 30-30 rifles. I remember an 1894 Winchester that Uncle Ford and later his son Fred carried. It was so worn that the action was sloppy and the safety didn't work. I don't know what happened to that rifle or my dad's .220 Swift. A gun shop owner from Detroit was up there for some reason and let my dad try it out. He shot a deer between the eyes at ¼ mile using a lantern with that rifle and then the rifle soon became his. The rifle that is still owned by someone in the family is a Winchester 55 made in 1928 also chambered in 30-30. It was ordered out of the Sears & Roebuck catalog. Dad and Uncle Ford wired up some kind of a very bright light under the dash board. Similar to today's concept of a shiner light plugging into a cigarette socket or cell phone outlet adapter.

WS: How was the venison prepared when you were growing up?

DM: Unless it was fresh, we were served canned cubed venison over mashed potatoes with gravy. Lots of turnips and rutabagas because, just like potatoes, they were cool season root crops that could be grown up there and easily stored for the winter in a cellar. Unlike others, I have very good memories of eating venison when I was little.

The Weekly Sportsman does not condone poaching or the wasteful destruction of protected wildlife but this is an important story to share. Under certain circumstances, it becomes necessary for those with skills to help others in need. Sometimes this calls for putting game laws and conservation management practices laws aside for the common good and the literal survival of a community during desperate times. There are several generations of Angus McKay's descendants scattered all over this area (Elsie, Ovid, Lennon, St. Johns, Owosso, Swartz Creek, and Durand) who should take great pride in their ancestor's effort and resourcefulness to help keep a whole Eastern UP community fed with venison many, many decades ago.

-WS

Thank You

Letter to the Editor:

We would like to express our appreciation to the staff and students at Leonard and EE Knight Elementary's for the celebration in Elsie on Veterans Day. Thank you also to Jim Hyland for including us in flag raising during the Dedication of the Heroes Park in downtown Elsie, also held on Veterans Day. Lastly, thank you to the Ovid-Elsie girls basketball team for recognizing veterans during the home opener game.

Elsie American Legion Post 502

PUBLIC NOTICE

30-Day Public Review Period - Draft 2023 Park and Recreation Plan
Public Hearing – January 24, 2023 - Draft 2023 Park and Recreation Plan
Township of Victor

Victor Township is releasing the draft of the 2023 Victor Township Parks & Recreation Plan ("Plan") for a thirty (30) day public review. The review is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources ("MDNR") as part of the Plan review process.

A draft of the Plan will be available for public review on December 19, 2022 at the following locations during their normal office hours:

Victor Township Hall, 6843 E. Alward Rd., Laingsburg
Laingsburg Public Library, 255 Grand River Rd., Laingsburg

The draft plan will also be available on the Victor Township website www.victortwp.org

Any persons wishing to comment on the Plan may submit their comments in writing by January 23rd, 2023 via email to clerk@victortwp.org, mail or drop off at the address below, there is a drop box for 24/7 access:

Victor Township Attn: Clerk
6843 Alward Road
Laingsburg MI 48848

The following advertised meetings will be held at 6843 Alward Rd., Laingsburg and have the draft plan on their agenda and will accept comments on the draft Plan:

7pm - January 3, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting
7pm - January 10, 2023 Victor Township Board Meeting
5:45pm – January 24, 2023 Victor Township Special Board Meeting

Public Hearing will be held to hear comments on the draft plan
Lianne Prange
Victor Township Clerk

Clinton County, Michigan PUBLIC NOTICE VICTOR TOWNSHIP BOARD 2023 REGULAR MEETING DATES

TO the residents and property owners of the Township of Victor, Clinton County, Michigan and any other interested persons.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Victor Township Board will meet on the following dates for 2022. All meetings will take place at the Victor Township Hall, 6843 E. Alward Rd., Laingsburg, MI, and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

DATE	DAY	July 11	Tuesday
January 10	Tuesday	August 8	Tuesday
February 14	Tuesday	September 12	Tuesday
March 14	Tuesday	October 10	Tuesday
April 11	Tuesday	November 14	Tuesday
May 9	Tuesday	December 12	Tuesday
June 13	Tuesday		

* Meetings may be cancelled, rescheduled, and additional special meetings may be scheduled, as needed, on 18 hour notice as permitted by Section 5(4) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.265(4).
Agendas for all regular and special meetings will be posted on 24 hour notice. A posted agenda is subject to amendment.

Victor Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities upon (5) days notice to the Victor Township Clerk by contacting the Victor Township Hall at tel. (517) 651-2094, email info@victortwp.org, or in writing to the address below. This public notice is posted in compliance with: A 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a (2)(3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Obituaries

Robert (Bob) Clair Bigford

Robert (Bob) Clair Bigford, age 85, most recently of Copperas Cove, TX, formerly of Laingsburg, passed away the morning of December 7, 2022, in his home.

Robert was born March 13, 1937 to Albert Clair Wallace Bigford and Esther Emily (nee Johnson) Bigford in Jackson, Michigan. The oldest of nine children and growing up in a poor family during the depression did not stop Robert from seeking every opportunity to educate himself and better his life. Robert graduated from Olivet High School in 1956 and six days later joined the United States Air Force as a fighter aircraft mechanic. He was a 55-year member of the Freemasons and decades long member of the Scottish Rite. A year after joining the military Robert married his high school sweetheart, Judy Ellen Stewart, in 1957. They had three sons (Stewart, Scott, and Steven) and had a long, happy, and exciting 50-year marriage.

Robert spent 21 years in the United States Air Force, including two tours in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, retired in 1977 as a Master Sergeant, and worked a number of jobs in the following years including grocery store manager, Security Officer, Department of Defense Police Officer, and Orange County (Florida) Police Officer. Robert loved being around his family and friends anytime & anywhere, and always had a story or two to tell.

Robert is survived by his three sons and their wives (Stewart & Patricia, Scott & Marylee, and Steven & Hope), 10 Grandchildren (Paula, Kyle, Sarah, Robert II, Brandon, Travis, Shaun, Nicole, Christina, and Sabrina), 15 Great-Grandchildren, and five siblings (Raymond, David, Marilyn (Jan) VanTassell, Shirley (Tom) Mahoney, Albert). He was preceded in death by his wife, parents, two brothers and a sister.

Per Robert's request there is no service nor visitation at this time. However, in the spring of next year the family is planning a memorial service and celebration of his life for family and friends which will take place in Michigan, followed by his interment at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan.

Friends and family wishing to honor Robert's lifelong commitment to family, community, and especially children can make donations to the Shriners Children's Hospital Charities at <https://www.shrinerschildrens.org/en/giving>.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.crawfordbowerscopperascove.com for the Bigford family.



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

*The Family of Gilbert Cross
Would Like to Thank
Everyone that Expressed
Sympathy and Kindness in
Our Time of Loss and
Sorrow.*



*Sincerely
Jean Cross and Family*

"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

— Hamilton Wright Mabie

Rebecca Lyn Bush

Rebecca Lyn Bush, age 53, of Anabel, MO passed away peacefully to be with the Lord, surrounded by family on November 11th, 2022, at the University of Missouri Hospital in Columbia, MO after a brave and courageous battle with cancer.

Rebecca was born on March 16, 1969, in Carson City, MI, the daughter of Dennis Lawrence Moore of St. Johns, MI and Terry Lyn (Farrier) Moore of Elsie, MI. She united in marriage to the love of her life Douglas Bush on April 29, 1989, in Eureka, MI. He survives.

She is also survived by her three children, Lyndsey Bush McVeigh (Joshua) of Shelby, MO, Ashley Bush (Chad Coram) of Macon, MO, and Ryan Bush of Anabel, MO; four grandchildren Jase and Jaxson McVeigh of Shelby, MO, and Thea and BecLyn Coram of Macon, MO; Mother-in-law Julie (Schrays) Bush of Rosebush, MI; three sisters, Wendy Moore (Steven Harrington) of St. John's, MI, Kelly Loria (Henry) of Salt Lake City, UT, and Barbara Bush of Farwell, MI; three brothers, Dennis Moore of St. Johns, MI, John Bush (Candy) of Ovid, MI, and Mark Bush (Brenda) of Ovid, MI; seven nieces Amber Bush, Shelby Bush, Kara Dibble, Aiyanna Pipes, Makel Bush, Mia Loria, and Molly Loria; seven nephews Drew Pipes, Lucas Fleming, William Smith, Brandon Bush, Allen Pipes, Hunter Harrington, and Jordan Harrington; three great nieces Kinsley, Bella, and Abilene.

Becky was preceded in death by her father-in-law Wesley Bush of Rosebush, MI, Her grandparents Wesley and Geraldine (Gardner) Farrier of Maple Rapids, MI and Lawrence and Mary Geraldine (Mueller) Moore of St. Johns, MI, Wesley and Margaret Bush, of Eureka, MI and Paul and Jean Schray of Laingsburg, MI.

Becky enjoyed making jewelry, shopping and traveling. She enjoyed spreading happiness and joy to those around her, while having a smile on her face the entire time. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family, especially her grand kids.

Memorial services will be held December 30th, at the Hope Bible Baptist church in Maple Rapids, MI at 11 a.m. Services will be provided by Robert Farrier. Donations can be made to the American Cancer Society in Becky's name and cards can be mailed to Douglas Bush at 26121 Orbit Rd. Anabel, MO 63431.



**We are lighting a candle in
each of our funeral homes...**

Since Christmas is a time for remembering, we are lighting a candle in our funeral homes for all the families we have served the past year.

As you enjoy this Christmas season, we hope this gesture will serve to remind you of Holidays past and the importance of family.

May the quiet peace of Christmas fill your heart and home.

*Samuel and Carol Smith
& Family*



Smith Family Funeral Homes

"Our Family Serving Yours"

Elsie: (989) 862-4311
St. Johns: (989) 224-2365
Ovid (989) 834-2233

Ithaca: (989) 875-3511
St. Louis: (989) 681-2181
Fowler (989) 224-2365

Obituaries

Irene Belle Mercer

Irene Belle Mercer, age 86, of Elsie, MI, passed away Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at Hospice House of Mid-Michigan, Lansing, MI.

Irene was born in Remus, Michigan on December 17, 1935, the daughter of Hugh Fountain and Lucille (Esch) Fountain. Irene married Howard Lee Mercer on October 24, 1953, in Remus, MI. Howard passed away on September 13, 2019.

Irene enjoyed cooking, baking and hosting family dinners. She loved helping people anyway she could. She liked spending time with her coworkers, friends and playing cards. Irene loved her grandchildren and her siblings very much. She was a member of the Elsie United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her son Mark (Mary) Mercer of St. Johns, MI; grandchildren: Ricky Mercer, Amy Mercer, April (Sean) Nobach, and Marc (Andrea) Mercer; great-grandchildren: Robin, Kyle, Chelsea, Bailey, Logan, and Chloe, sister Judy (Bill) Kennedy of Mt. Pleasant, MI; and sister-in-law Gloria Fountain of Cadillac, MI, and brother-in-law Duane Mercer of Farwell, MI. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Howard, son Ricky Leroy, and her siblings: Marion (Ward) Leiter, Connie (Max) Clyde, Jack Fountain, and brother-in-law Roger Flachs.

Funeral Services for Irene will be private and burial will take place at Ford Cemetery, Elba Township, MI.

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



Memorialize your loved one in The Weekly

989-834-2264

ads@meridianweekly.com

CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Advertise In Our
Church Directory!**

**Call
(989) 834-2264**

Middlebury United Methodist Church

8100 W. Hibbard Rd., Ovid
989-834-2573



Minister:
Rev. Joyce Wallace
Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

Bannister United Methodist Church

103 Hanvey Street
Pastor: Zella Daniel
Sunday Worship 11:15am

Duplain Church of Christ

5565 E. Colony Rd.
(3 mi. W. of O-E H.S.)
Sunday School
9:30 a.m.
Worship Service
11:00am
Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group
Senior Minister: Andrew Goodrich
Associate Minister: Matthew Barnum
Children's Minister: Jessica Prieto
www.duplainchurch.org

MOUNT HOPE CHURCH

1043 S. US-27, St. Johns
Southpoint Mall

Sundays - 11:00 a.m.

Pastors Ric & Renee Shaull
MountHopeStJohns.com

OVID BIBLE CHURCH

8915 East M-21
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Morning Service - 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Prayer - 7:00 p.m.
Pastor Scott Seelhoff

FAITH FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

Corner of Price & Chandler, St. Johns
Pastor: John Jakus
Sunday School: 9:00am
Worship Service 10:00am
517-651-6210

ELSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

160 W. Main St., Elsie (989) 862-5239

Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: JD Paik

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

163 W. Main St., Elsie
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Watch Sunday Service on
YouTube at elsiebaptist.com
Pastor Phillip Rogers

United Church of Ovid

Office Hours: 9-1 Mon - Tue - Wed
9-Noon Thur • Closed Fri

Sundays am: 10:45 - Hymnsing
11:00 - Worship

131 West Front Street
Ovid, MI 48866 • (989) 834-5958
www.unitedchurchofovid.org
or on Facebook
Pastor Eugene Blair

St. Cyril Parish of Bannister

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

517 E. Main St.
Bannister

We Welcome You to Come...

Committee...continued from front

members to come together and learn how to keep our youth safe. The administration and staff are focusing on the soci/mental health of students.

Next, Tokar, reported that the Central Michigan Athletic Conference is looking for an eighth team for football and a tenth for basketball. Central Michigan Athletic Conference is reaching out to districts and asking them to consider applying. Tokar requested that the Board consider a change and explained that there are pros and cons when a change is made. If OE applied and the application was approved the change would not take place until 2024. One factor to consider is Ovid-Elsie's projected decline in enrollment. "There are ebbs and flows in each league," further commented Jason Tokar.

After further discussion officials took action to approve the completion of the application for the CMAC. Noting, that the application does not commit the district to the league. The deadline for the application January 9, 2023.

In other actions, officials set the organizational meeting for Monday, January 16, 6:30 pm.

Next, a contract was offered to Marsha Duckert, 6th grade English Language Arts teacher effective December 1, 2022. Ms. Duckert fills a vacancy caused by a recent resignation.

Final action was taken to approve the appointment of a superintendent search/screening committee. The committee members are Brooke Wooley, Josh Miller, and Mary Thompson.

Monthly action was taken to approve the consent agenda which included: approval of the minutes of the regular November 21, 2022 meeting and the special meeting December 8, 2022; approval of expenditures and financial reports. In addition, the request for the annual Snow Sculpture field trip and a grievance settlement.

Notice of Public Hearing

City of Laingsburg, City Council Notice of Special Assessment January 9, 2023 at 7:00pm, at City Hall Council Chambers. To the owner of the following described property: Parcel #022-40-001-005-00, more commonly known as 219 W Grand River, Laingsburg, MI 48848.

TAKE NOTICE that the Laingsburg City Council intends to assess expenses incurred by the city to the above listed parcel, for the amount of \$1743.00. **TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the City Assessor has prepared a Special Assessment Roll and is currently available for public viewing at the City Clerk's Office located at 114 N. Woodhull Street, Laingsburg, Michigan during normal office hours. **TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** the Laingsburg City Council will meet at the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 114 N. Woodhull Street at 7:00 p.m., on Monday January 9, 2023, to review the roll and hear complaints by any person to be affected by the incurred charges.

Laingsburg City Hall is barrier free. Individuals needing assistance should contact the City Clerk at (517) 651-5374 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Paula Willoughby Laingsburg City Clerk



HERITAGE MONUMENTS

Winter Sale



We also do custom engraving!
Locally Owned & Operated

511 E. Broad St., Chesaning
(989) 323-2323

Celebrate

Christmas

at Heartland

6 pm Christmas Eve candlelight service
12 pm Christmas Day service

8440 M-21 • Ovid, MI
(Between Owosso and St. Johns)
(989) 787-2007



At the recent Elsie Lions Club Christmas Dinner five Lion Club Members were honored with Years of Service Pins totaling 175 YEARS of SERVICE.

Pictured left to right are Lion Dennis Long 30 yrs, Lion Richard Easlick 30 years, Elsie Lion President Rick Jones, presenting pins and Lion Roger Weyersburg 45 yrs. Missing from the picture with 35 years each were Lions Kam Washburn and Charles Green. Thanks to each of them for serving our community!



The Ovid - Elsie Lioness Branch Club Meeting a new Lioness member was installed, pictured left to right Lioness President Raelene Easlick installing member Lioness Pam Dunham with her sponsor Lioness Sue Peterson.



The Knights of Columbus Bannister donated to the Elsie Community Christmas Project, helping families in need during the holiday season. A \$300 check was presented to Lisa Brown at Elsie United Methodist Church by Knight Robin Wooley.

New Committee Structure for the Fair

The cancellation of the 2020 Shiawassee County Fair brought to light many issues. Those issues created a need to re-evaluate how certain aspects of the Fair are handled and managed.



Going forward, the Shiawassee County Fair will institute a "Livestock Auction Committee." This Committee will be responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Directors for Sweepstakes, and the Large and Small Animal Auctions.

Shiawassee County Fair appreciates and values the volunteerism provided by the MSU Extension groups, Junior Livestock and Small Animal Association. The Fair, however, will no longer partner with them for fundraising for the fair. 4-H will be recognized as an independent organization. The long-standing partnership between 4-H and Shiawassee County Fair is valued. However, with the changes made within MSU Extension and how their club/committee inventories now belong to MSU Extension and not the fairgrounds (which was the original intent), that type of relationship can no longer be supported. It was never the intent of the forefathers and foremothers of Junior Livestock and Small Animal Associations to support an outside organization such as MSU. The intent was to support the Fair and to assist in maintaining the property and with equipment purchases/donations which were to be the property of the Shiawassee County Fair. With the new livestock auction committee structure, all proceeds generated from the arena signs and equipment purchased will remain the property of the Shiawassee County Fair.

As the Fair has evolved over the years, this change is just one more evolution to sustain the legacy and growth of the Shiawassee County Fair. It ensures that monies generated from the sales of signs, donations and gifts made to the Fair stay at the Shiawassee County Fairgrounds and create opportunities for our youth.



During the Elsie Lions Club Christmas Dinner a new Lions Member was installed into our Club. Pictured left to right is new member Lion Greg Snider, Elsie Lions President Rick Jones and Sponsor Lion Doug Sturgis. Congratulations to Lion Greg.

SLOAN'S
Family Owned & Operated Since 1965
Septic Tank Service
• Portable Restrooms • Commercial/Residential
• Septic Tank Cleaning • Drain Cleaning
Licensed & Insured
Call (989) 845-6280 • Chesaning

PINE CREEK RENTALS
(989) 236-5346
Rte. 57 Middleton (look for signs on M-57)
• Bobcats (with many attachments) • Backhoes/Loaders
• Concrete Tools • Contractors Tools • Dozers • Excavator • Tree Chippers • Floor Sanders • Log Splitters • Post Hole Diggers
• Pressure Washers • Scaffolding • Trenchers • Tree Spade
Hour, Day, Week & 4 Week Rates!

GA Hunt Excavating & Septic St. Johns
Sewer and Water Line
Installation, Repair & Replacement
Storm sewer
Installation, Repair & Replacement
Drain Field Replacement & Repairs
Septic Tank Pumping
Septic Tank Replacement
Pump Repair & Replacement
G.A. Hunt Excavating & Septic Services
1220 E. Taft Road • St. Johns, MI
P: 989-227-1222 • F 989-224-1828
gahuntseptic.com

TYLER
HEATING & COOLING
Licensed and Insured
Laingsburg ~ 517-282-4347 ~ 517-651-2233

T&J Builders and Excavating
Joe Huff • (989) 666-6529
• Roofing
• Metal Roofing
• Concrete
• Demolition
• Masonry
• Rough Framing

Venetian Blind Co. of Mid-Michigan
Everything for your windows except the view!
Eric Brown
Certified Professional Installer
208 W. High St.
Ovid, MI 48866
989-666-0445
VenetianBlindLLC@yahoo.com
10% OFF ANY ORDER with this coupon

Hall Well Drilling
Three Generations of Experience
• Rock Wells • Gravel Wells
• Plastic Well Screens
"We Use the Finest Quality Materials"
Submersible, Jet & Shallow Well Pump Repair
Jake Hall (989) 723-1104
Rod Hall (989) 627-4719
2517 W. Dewey Rd., Owosso
FREE ESTIMATES

Sports

Ovid-Elsie Cagers Score 16-point Win at Montrose

MONTROSE — Ovid-Elsie's varsity boys basketball team opened its defense of the MMAC title with a 16-point win at Montrose.

Coach Josh Latz's Marauders moved to 2-0 overall, 1-0 in the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) with a 59-43 victory over the Rams.

Logan Thompson contributed 16 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals; Clay Wittenberg 12 points, 4 rebounds; and Braxton Stenger 8 points, 7 steals, 5 rebounds, and 7 assists to the winning cause for O-E.

Marauder male cagers move to 3-0, stay perfect in MMAC race

OVID-ELSIE — Coach Josh Latz's Marauder boys basketball team remained unbeaten, scoring a crucial early-season victory over a top MMAC contender here December 13.

Clay Wittenberg scored 23 points with seven rebounds as Ovid-Elsie defeated New Lothrop, 52-42. Latz's team climbed to 2-0 in the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC), 3-0 overall with the win.

The Hornets were still winless at 0-2 overall, 0-2 in the conference.

Logan Thompson scored 15 points for the Marauders. Gunner McCreery sank three 3-pointers for nine points and Braxton Stenger had five rebounds, four assists and three steals. Wittenberg scored 15 of his points in the second half.

The Marauders led 22-19 at halftime and 35-30 after three quarters.

Beau Price added 2 points, Stenger 2, and Hunter Bates one for the victors. Greg Henderson led the Hornets with 13.



Clay Wittenberg scored 12 points against Montrose on Dec. 9th.

Photo by Denise Burgess

Marauder Girls Run Record to Perfect 2-0 on MMAC Hardwood

OVID-ELSIE — The Lady Marauders limited MMAC title contender New Lothrop to just 16 points and kept their perfect conference record intact here in girls basketball action.

Evalyn Cole and Ava Bates each scored nine points and Braeden Tokar added eight points as coach Ryan Cunningham's O-E cagers improved to 3-2 overall, and first place in the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC), with a 30-16 victory.

The visiting Hornets fell to 2-2 overall with their first MMAC loss.

"I was really proud of our defensive effort tonight," said coach Ryan Cunningham. "Our defensive focus and energy has been there all year but we need to help ourselves out offensively by hitting our bunnies. Our energy seems to flow with our scoring."

Bates added seven rebounds, three blocks and three steals for a stifling Marauder defense.

Izzy Loynes contributed 2 points, Ellyana Carman one and Hailee Campbell one to the O-E scoring ledger.

O-E girls get big game from Bates, cruise past Rams 54-40

MONTROSE — Junior Ava Bates erupted for 25 points as the Ovid-Elsie Lady Marauders cruised past Montrose, 54-40 in MMAC girls basketball play.

Bates added 6 rebounds and

"It was the kind of night we have been waiting for from Ava," said Head Coach Ryan Cunningham. "She is more than capable and tonight she was hitting on all cylinders."

Montrose came out swinging and took a slight 15-13 advantage after the first quarter but O-E stormed back with a 22-8 second stanza, in part because of Bates's 17 first half points.

"We were a little slow getting out of the gate," Cunningham said. "We made some adjustments in our press and I think we were a little off in our assignments. But in that second quarter, we got things worked out and built a nice lead. It was a great win and it was great to see every kid get into the game and contribute in some fashion."

The Lady Marauders continued their high scoring affair with a 15-8 third quarter before relinquishing a 9-4 fourth quarter to the Rams.

Evalyn Cole hit double digits once again with 13 points to go along with 5 rebounds, 4 steals and 4 assists while Ellyanna Carman chipped in with 5 points and 4 rebounds and Hailee Campbell 4 points and 3 rebounds. Kiah Longoria added 3 points, 4 assists and 2 steals with Aubrey Kurka and Braeden Tokar (3 assists and 3 steals) rounding out the Marauder scoring with 2 points each.

Ovid-Elsie handed out 13 assists on 20 made baskets and collected 16 steals off of 32 Montrose turnovers. In the rebound category, the Marauders and Rams were dead even at 28 cars each.



Kiah Longoria stops a drive by New Lothrop player.

Photo by Denise Burgess



Happy Holidays

Sending you wishes for a happy and peaceful season! Thanks for your support.

MAIN STREET PIZZA
132 S. Main St.
Ovid
989-834-2295

Open Christmas Eve
11 am - 7 pm
Closed Christmas Day
Open New Year's Eve
11am-11pm
& New Year's Day
11am - 10 pm



We at the Main Bar Wish Everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

We will be Closed on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

New Years Celebration!
Prime Rib Special 12 oz.
\$18⁹⁹

MAIN BAR & GRILL
Downtown Ovid • (989) 834-5389

PUBLIC NOTICE STORAGE WILL BE REMOVED

Storage facility location: 9446 E. M21 Ovid, Michigan 48866
Unit #B21-44
Timeline and actions taken
Communication to Tenant:
USPS 70201290000108190215
Notice of non-compliance mail out: 2022-12-21
Notice of non-compliance received: 2022-11-28 no recipient available
Settlement date to resolve non-compliance dispute: 2022-12-05
Public notice of sale or other disposition- FIRST NOTICE: 2022-12-11
Public notice of sale or other disposition- SECOND NOTICE: 2022-12-18
Newspaper contracted to publish notice to the public: The Weekly
Contents of the unit will be removed: 2022-12-26
Description of unit contents: Miscellaneous items with or without personal or familial value. Some items may or may not be in individual containers.
Owner/manager actions: All items will be sold and/or discarded. Upon removal of all items the unit will be restored to a functional, safe condition, making this unit available to other prospective tenants.
This action is pursuant to self-storage facility act 570.521 1986-March-31, State of Michigan.



GRIDIRON

GURUS

by Tom Turek
sports@meridianweekly.com

#14 weekly winners Dustin Alcaraz 1st place, Cathy Coe 2nd place, with Rick Trout and Mercedes Grieder tying for 3rd place, based on the tie-breaker

All hail Dan Culpepper of Bath, \$100 winner, as the Gridiron Guru of all Gridiron Gurus in 2022.

Culpepper outdistanced the field by a full six wins (.690) to take home this season's crown.

We have a tie at runner-up: both Edith Lagunas of Ovid and Kevin Madsen of rural Owosso, each winning \$50, log-jammed at .654% in our pigskin version of the Run For The Roses.

The final week of our football funfest ended with a quartet of NFL games stumping our field.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: anyone who tells you they bet on the NFL and win consistently are fibbing. These games are just too close to call ... as they say, on Any Given Sunday.

This time out, it was the Panthers winning in Seattle, the Chargers downing the "high-flying" Dolphins, Baker Mayfield's improbable comeback to lead the Rams over the Raiders, and Trevor Lawrence big again with the Jags clobbering the Titans.

Our #14 weekly winners were Dustin Alcaraz 1st place, Cathy Coe 2nd place, with Rick Trout and Mercedes Grieder tying for 3rd place, based on the tie-breaker (33 points, Bengals vs. Browns).

We always thank our gracious sponsors, Foo-G's Pizza in Elsie, Main Street Pizza in Ovid and Twilliger's Tavern in Laingsburg. All winners can pick-up their prizes at The Weekly office in Ovid.



Dan
Culpepper



Edith
Lagunas



Kevin
Madsen

Beauty and Barbershop Directory

If you would like to place your ad in our directory, please call us today at: (989) 834-2264

Country Styles Hair Studio

Hair Care!
Owner/Stylist Meri Smith
Manicurist/Stylist Erica Nichols
Appointments Suggested
989-862-5848
109 S. Ovid St. Elsie
NEW HOURS:
Mon & Wed 9-8 ; Closed Tues
Thur 9-5; Fri 8-5; Sat 8-1
Handicap Accessible

Corner Carousel

133 S. Main St. Ovid

Stylists: Patty Coleson, Colleen Pennell,
Grace Ruckle

Full line of Hair & Nail Care Products

Matrix, Paul Mitchell, Malibu, Redken, Biolage

Whirlpool Pedicure Spa
Tanning Facilities • Tanning Lotions • Gift Certificates Available.
Call for an appt.
Mon.-Sat. 834-2587



Wolfpack Wrestling Team Impresses at Lansing Eastern, Howell Tournaments

LAINGSBURG — The Wolfpack wrestling team sent grapplers to two different tournaments, with some outstanding results.

At Lansing Eastern, coach Shawn Baynes' Wolves turned in an impressive day, finishing 2nd out of 16 teams.

Individual results were:

157: Jack Borgman (3-2) placed 3rd. 165: Seth Sivak (4-1) placed 5th. 175: Caleb Boettcher (3-2) placed 4th. 190: Mikey Brooks (5-0) placed 1st. 215: Sean Divine (3-2) placed 2nd.

285: Carter Schlaak (4-2) placed 4th. 106: Ethan Schneederger (3-2) placed 3rd. 113: Sebastian Ruff (2-3) placed 4th. 126: Marlon Graham (4-1) placed 1st in the consolation bracket. 138: Aden Baynes (5-0) placed 1st. 144: Brice Smith (3-3) placed 6th. 150: Kyle Boettcher (3-2) placed 2nd.

At Howell HS, Lorenzo Stuckey, Dano Winans and Jay Montgomery all won their weight classes. "The student athletes that went to Howell did great individually with most winning some matches and placing in the individual tournament," said coach Baynes. Results from Howell are as follows:

Wyatt Stanfield placed 6th in the varsity division. Alex Grandy placed 3rd. Felix Ramierz's placed 4th. Logan Robinson finished 4th. Gauge Ream placed 3rd. Dano Winans placed 1st. Dillion Soldon placed 2nd. Cade Fuller placed 3rd. Sawyer Shastal finished 4th. Tucker Nethaway placed 3rd. Dylan Koenig's finished 3rd. Jacob Slider placed 4th. Brad Dedic placed 2nd. Charlie Porubsky finished 3rd. Jay Montgomery finished 1st. Kyresse Demps placed 4th. Lorenzo Stuckey took 1st place.

Ovid-Elsie Varsity Bowling

submitted by Matt Fabus

The OE Varsity bowlers started the season at Fenton lanes on December 3rd against Chesaning.

The girls won 29-1 with high scores of, Olivia Burt 132; Ashland Particka 153, 163 and Gracie Schultz 169, 144.

The boys lost 2-28 with high scores of Landyn Adkins 143; Tobin Clark 159, 190; Hunter Maxa 132; Devyn Pugsley 135, 185.

December 10th the teams were at Grand Blanc Lanes against Lakeville.

The boys won 16-14 with high scores of Austin Smith 150; Tobin Clark 160, 138; Hunter Maxa 169, 173; Devyn Pugsley 164, 171.

The girls lost 10-20 with high scores of Olivia Burt 120, 126; Ashland Particka 129, 139.



MILLER'S SOFT WATER SERVICE

Sales - Rentals - Service - Salt Delivery

DURACUBE salt

9450 E. M21 Ovid

989-834-5012

Sports

Wolfpack Boys Stay Perfect at 2-0 with Home Win Over Perry

LAINGSBURG — Junior guard Zander Woodruff led all scorers with 28 points as the LHS boys varsity basketball team improved to 2-0 here December 12.

Laingsburg's 84-30 non-league win improved coach Daniel Morrill's Wolves to 2-0 overall.

Jacob Essenberg added 13 points for LHS. Brayden Thomas and Luke Snyder each scored 10 for the Wolfpack.

The Ramblers were led by Jylon Peek with 9.

Woodruff drops 23 on Fowler, Wolfpack improves to 3-and-0

FOWLER

Coach Dan Morrill's Wolfpack boys basketball team traveled to always-tough Fowler and won a key CMAC (Central Michigan Athletic Conference) battle Thursday night.

Laingsburg moved to 3-0 and 1-0 in the league with a convincing 58-39 victory over the host Eagles.

Zander Woodruff led the Pack with 23 points. Luke Snyder chipped in 15.

Fowler was led by Nolan Stump with 11.



Zander Woodruff led all scorers with 28 point Dec. 12 against Perry.

Photo by Burg Sports

we care about your
community. because
it's our community too.

simple human sense

Ovid Service Agency

Ovid • (989) 834-2288

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Elsie Village Council Proceedings

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – The last 2022 regular meeting of the Elsie Village Council was held Tuesday, December 14, 2022. Preparations were made for 2023 by setting the council meeting calendar and the recycling schedule.

The 2023 meetings were scheduled, the regular meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm, Duplain Township Hall, 145 W, Main Street. In addition, the 2023 recycling schedule is available at the Village business office.

Police Department, Chief Destinee Bryce and Officer Grinnell participated in Shop with a Cop at Walmart, a very positive experience.

Chief Bryce is looking toward the future to maintain a productive police department for the

Village of Elsie. This involves being fiscally responsible. Looking toward the future Chief and Grinnell were contacted by Republic Leasing regarding an alternative to purchasing a patrol vehicle. Republic offers a better interest rate than Ford Motor Company. Bryce explained the need for a newer vehicle the cost issues are not the vehicle but equipping the patrol vehicle. The culture has created the need for a dash/body cam. Republic will roll the vehicle and equipment into one loan, which huge. This is something to consider in the future and the Department is not asking for approval now. Grants are very limited. The goal is to retain both Explorers and update the equipment, then to sell the Charger. The 2013 Explorer has 111,000 miles. It was further noted that new vehicles are 30 months out, the anticipated cost would be \$13,000 per year. The purchase could be addressed in the current budget and affordable.

Currently Elsie Police Department is dealing with a multiple jurisdictional case. The Department is gaining respect and bridging the gap between the community and the Elsie Police Department. Officials are pleased with the growth and changes in the current department.

Shane Grinnell, Village Manager, presented the manager's report. The SPARKS Grant, overseen by the MDNR was a topic of discussion at the recent manager's meeting. To apply would cost approximately \$12,500. Engineers have been contacting the Village offering their services. At the manager's meeting there was a lot of discussion regarding the grants. Officials discussed grants and that many are fifty-fifty grants, and most come with complicated criteria. The report was Informational.

Chris Ormes, Department of Public Works, was congratulated on passing his recent certification testing. Ormes reported that there are thirty-seven valves at the lagoon, 15 are not functional. Two have been ordered – at a cost \$3,300, the most expensive and are needed to discharge in the spring. The process of replacement is being developed. The process was further explained.

Next, there was discussion regarding the "boil notice" and the complaints. It was noted that it was sent out via social media networks. Pressure was lost and then air got in the lines, thus the department was required to implement a boil notice. Many officials and the manager were contacted by residents and businesses.

Ormes further reported that well nine has been replaced and is up and running. The plan is to replace well eight in 2023. Additional updates were also discussed. Currently the department has a part time DPW position vacancy.

Monthly action was taken to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of 401 E Main Str rezoning request under public comment, approval of the November 8, 2022 minutes and the financial reports. In addition, action was taken to approve the expenditures totaling \$99,866.49.



NOTICE OF REVIEW Duplain Township DRAFT FIVE YEAR RECREATION MASTER PLAN December 1, 2022

Duplain Township has developed an update to its Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Plan evaluates existing recreation opportunities, review's public opinion regarding recreation, establishes recreation goals, and proposes a five-year schedule of improvements and other related items that the Township wishes to pursue. A copy of the Draft Plan is available for review at www.duplaintwp.com and can also be reviewed at the Duplain township Hall at 145 W Main Street, Elsie, MI 48831 during regular office hours or by appointment, 517-927-6258.

If you are interested in submitting comments regarding the Draft Plan, please send written comments to Dawn Levey, PO Box 75, Elsie, MI 48831 or duplaintwpclerk@gmail.com.

A public meeting to take input on the Draft Plan will be held Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at the Duplain Township HLL AT 7:15 PM.

PUBLIC NOTICE STORAGE WILL BE REMOVED

Storage facility location: 9446 E. M21 Ovid, Michigan 48866 Unit #B09-50
Timeline and actions taken
Communication to Tenant:
USPS 7017304000063493960
Notice of non-compliance mail out: 2022-12-21
Notice of non-compliance received: 2022-11-22
Settlement date to resolve non-compliance dispute: 2022-12-05
Public notice of sale or other disposition- FIRST NOTICE: 2022-12-11
Public notice of sale or other disposition- SECOND NOTICE: 2022-12-18
Newspaper contracted to publish notice to the public: **The Weekly**
Contents of the unit will be removed: 2022-12-26
Description of unit contents: Miscellaneous items with or without personal or familial value. Some items may or may not be in individual containers.
Owner/manager actions: All items will be sold and/or discarded. Upon removal of all items the unit will be restored to a functional, safe condition, making this unit available to other prospective tenants.
This action is pursuant to self-storage facility act 570.521 1986-March-31, State of Michigan.

PUBLIC NOTICE STORAGE WILL BE REMOVED

Storage facility location: 9446 E. M21 Ovid, Michigan 48866 Unit #A16-23
Timeline and actions taken
Communication to Tenant:
USPS 7017304000063493960
Notice of non-compliance mail out: 2022-12-21
Notice of non-compliance received: 2022-12-23
Settlement date to resolve non-compliance dispute: 2022-12-05
Public notice of sale or other disposition- FIRST NOTICE: 2022-12-11
Public notice of sale or other disposition- SECOND NOTICE: 2022-12-18
Newspaper contracted to publish notice to the public: **The Weekly**
Contents of the unit will be removed: 2022-12-26
Description of unit contents: Miscellaneous items with or without personal or familial value. Some items may or may not be in individual containers.
Owner/manager actions: All items will be sold and/or discarded. Upon removal of all items the unit will be restored to a functional, safe condition, making this unit available to other prospective tenants.
This action is pursuant to self-storage facility act 570.521 1986-March-31, State of Michigan.

PUBLIC NOTICE STORAGE WILL BE REMOVED

Storage facility location: 9446 E. M21 Ovid, Michigan 48866 Unit #A03-2
Timeline and actions taken
Communication to Tenant:
USPS 7017304000063493922
Notice of non-compliance mail out: 2022-11-21
Notice of non-compliance received: 2022-11-28 non-deliverable
Settlement date to resolve non-compliance dispute: 2022-12-05
Public notice of sale or other disposition- FIRST NOTICE: 2022-12-11
Public notice of sale or other disposition- SECOND NOTICE: 2022-12-18
Newspaper contracted to publish notice to the public: **The Weekly**
Contents of the unit will be removed: 2022-12-26
Description of unit contents: Miscellaneous items with or without personal or familial value. Some items may or may not be in individual containers.
Owner/manager actions: All items will be sold and/or discarded. Upon removal of all items the unit will be restored to a functional, safe condition, making this unit available to other prospective tenants.
This action is pursuant to self-storage facility act 570.521 1986-March-31, State of Michigan.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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

SELECT CUT FARM LOG & MORE, LLC

PURCHASE

- Standing Timber • Produced Timber
- Farms • Lots • Wooded Property

STANDING TIMBER APPRAISALS

- Firewood Logs and Blocks only
- Farm Hedge Row Trimming
- Thinning and Removal

The Tree Guy

Cell: (989) 289-2329

1cruzetrod@gmail.com

Thornton & Sons Construction & Design Inc.

Licensed Builder
Lead Certified Renovator
Veterans Affairs Approved

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

Phone: 989-862-4889

WET BASEMENT?



**BASEMENT
WATERPROOFING**
FOUNDATION REPAIR
CRAWL SPACE

517-327-3446 - OVID

1-800-STAY-DRY
782-9379

email - info@staydryinc.com
staydrywaterproofing.com

Advertise Your Business Here

only **\$22**
per week!

For More Info:
989-834-2264

Miller/Bartz Septic

2 Locations
Ovid



834-2733



Owosso

743-5055

200 ft. of hose

FERRALL'S TREE

Tree Trimming & Removal, Inc. In Business

"Old Fashioned Service with Modern Technology"



3 ISA CERTIFIED ARBORISTS ON STAFF

Experienced • Equipped • Insured
Stump Removal

989-862-4453 ~ 989-666-0561

D&D Construction

989-307-3156

Licensed Builder

All your residential building needs
Concrete, Siding, Roofing, Remodeling

Donnie Orweller



• Full Service
Auto Repair

9779 M-21, Ovid

(989) 834-5031

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

CLASSIFIEDS DIRECTORY

AUCTION

Multiple Estate Online Auction. Many vintage collectibles, Food Grinder, Food Slicer, Ice Auger, Furniture, Tools, more.
Bid.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com
Reserve your 2023 auction date.
For you live or online auction, call 1-800-835-0495.
Merry Christmas. CPM

BUSINESS SERVICES

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

MATTRESSES

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

POLE BARN

WE BUILD ALL WINTER LONG. BEST BUILT BARNS Best Quality, Best Service, NOW IN OUR 25th YEAR! OVER 4,000 BUILDINGS IN MID MICHIGAN. Call for QUOTES. License/Insured 9 8 9 - 2 0 5 - 2 5 3 4 . CPM

FOR SALE

DAN'S FIREARMS & AMMO - Price Reduced Mossberg 500, 20GA combo, 2 scopes, sling, two 2.1 boxes of 20GA 2 3/4 Sabot slugs, paid \$850, all this for \$500.
Call 989-640-0932 1660

MISCELLANEOUS

The GENERAC PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request at a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-855-476-9698. CPM

Trouble Hearing your TV? Try TV EAR's Voice Clarifying Wireless TV Speaker. Better than a soundbar and/or turning the TV volume way up. Special, limited time \$50 off offer. Call TV Ears, Use cod MBSP50. Call 1-844-532-0612. CPM

LAND WANTED

WANTED: Farm Land wanted to rent for 2021 and beyond. Also farm land to purchase on land contract. Contact Don Cuthbert at (517) 881-1724 or email 1don.cuthbert@gmail.com 1604tf

FARM

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

MEDICAL

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-835-7273 Hablamos Espanol. CPM

MISCELLANEOUS

AMISH BUILT storage sheds and mini cabins delivered to your site anywhere in Michigan! Starting at \$2,500.00. mynextbarn.com 989-832-1866 CPM

FOR RENT

3 BEDROOM HOME Lake Victoria Area. No Pets. \$1,400 plus utilities. 517-651-5957. 1659tf

Meridian Weekly

989-834-2264 Fax: 989-834-2066
ads@meridianweekly.com news@meridianweekly.com
deb.price@meridianweekly.com

SERVICES

FERRALL'S FIREWOOD: Good quality hardwood. Family owned & operated since 1978. (989) 862-4453; (989) 666-0561 1534tf

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

BONGAS PRESSURE WASHING SERVICES on Facebook: Powerwashing, staining and booking now for interior painting services. Residential homes and decks. Fully insured. Free Estimates. Erik Bonga, 1-989-287-3094. 1619tf

HANDYMAN: Leaf removal, eavestrough cleaning, power washing (houses & decks). Call to schedule snow removal (residential & business), painting (exterior & interior). Call Jim today 517-881-9977. 1654tf



22010 Peet Rd., Bannister OE Schools. Cozy 2 bedroom home on 2 private acres with 2 car garage. Immediate possession. Appliances Included. Call Carol 989-529-8017 for more information. **\$85,000**



Carol Perry
989-529-8017



135 S Saginaw,
Chesaning, MI 48616



Lori Austerberry
989-845-6000

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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



204 S. Main • Ovid • Phone: (989) 834-6288

Scharnweber Well Drilling

517-651-2211

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



Applebee Oil & Propane

108 N. Mill St.,
Ovid

989-834-2828 or
800-882-0876

PERU Landscaping & Handyman

Now Scheduling Small Indoor Projects
Bathrooms • Flooring • Kitchens

Ray Peru
(989) 251- 8531

Competitive Rates
Quality Work

K.B.S. & TOWING

KEVIN'S BODY SHOP & TOWING

"YOUR ONE STOP AUTO SHOP"

Body Work • Auto Repair • Towing • Mufflers • Tires • Alignments
Brakes • Diagnostics • Tune Ups • Engine Work • Suspensions • Air
Conditioning • Lube & Oil • Performance & Stock Mufflers • Custom
Pipe Bending • Interstate Batteries • Rims • Courtesy Cars



(989) 862-5026
7575 N. Hollister Rd., Elsie

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-5
After Hours By Appt.

MICHIGAN LIVESTOCK SERVICE

Serving the Farm Community



989-834-2661

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

• Agriculture • Welding • Construction

FRAKER FARM SERVICE, LLC

• In Shop Repair • Mobile Repair and Welding
• Multiple Heavy Equipment Certifications on Various Makes

Zach Fraker

Saint Johns, MI

989-534-1251

FrakerFarmSvc@gmail.com

MIDSTATE SALES AND SERVICE

Outdoor Power Equipment



Ingersoll



HONDA
Power
Equipment



POWER TOOLS

3251 W. M-21
St. Johns, MI 48879

(989) 224-2711
(800) 582-8152

(989) 224-1781 Fax
email:mehney@frontier.com



www.midstatesalesandservice.com

Advertise Your Business Here

only \$22
per week!

For More Info:
989-834-2264

**Roughly
48" x 48"
Great
for
Storage
\$10
Each**



**COMPOSITE
PALLET
FOR SALE**
Available at
The Weekly
(989) 834-2264

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

Laingsburg Middle School's Robotics Team Brings Unique STEM Extracurricular to Students

The cheers of "Blue Alliance" echo throughout the gym at Mason High School as middle school students across four Michigan counties compete with, and against, teams in an effort to secure a spot to the Michigan State Championship. No, this is not basketball, volleyball, or even swimming. It is FIRST Tech Challenge, an extracurricular program designed for grades 6-8 in which teams build a robot to complete a series of challenges. And students of Laingsburg's FIRST Tech Challenge team, Sneaky Suspicion #21537, were able to experience this unique opportunity first hand in their league tournament Saturday, December 3rd.

More than 7,600 teams and 77,000 students across the globe learn of their game (which changes annually) and its challenges in early September. Following the reveal, teams have six short weeks to design, build, prototype, program, and troubleshoot a robot that can achieve the game's objective. In addition to building a functioning robot, teams keep meticulous notes in an engineering notebook, prepare a portfolio, and practice a 5-minute speech that is given to a panel of judges.

For Laingsburg's rookie team, this meant learning many new skills in a short amount of time. Paul Garrett, Laingsburg's FIRST district liaison, was a strong proponent of expanding FIRST

Robotics from a single high school team to a current count of seven teams across all buildings. "FIRST Tech Challenge and other younger robotics programs were developed in Laingsburg in a push to integrate a robust hands-on STEM learning experience for students. The performance of our FTC team at their league tournament was impressive and encouraged our hopes for the future of robotics in Laingsburg," says Garrett. Sneaky Suspicion is a mixture of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, who for many, encountered building a competition robot for the first time. The students learned how to use shop equipment such as power drills, vertical band saws, and sanders as well as software such as Java coding, Adobe Photoshop and OnShape, a 3D modeling program.

They also learned how to utilize the workshop's 3D printers to print their own robot parts as well as a Cricut so they could complete their poster board! In addition to technical hands-on opportunities, Laingsburg's middle school team partnered with the high school robotics team, Red Thunder Robotics #7166, to learn how to Stop the Bleed with McLaren Hospital.

This year's game challenge was to design a robot that could pick up cones 5" tall with a 4" diameter base and place them on poles of different heights called junctions. Taller junctions were worth more points, with floor level junctions worth only two points. The first 30 seconds of each match is called an autonomous period, in which the robot must work solely from a programming code. Sneaky Suspicion's programmers learned how to write code which made the robot move without human controls, read a randomized color using a sensor, and move the robot to a space depending upon that color. The next 90 seconds of each match is driver controlled. Match play is two-on-two and the objective of each match is to score more points than your opponents.

Sneaky Suspicion is a member of Michigan South Central Robotics League (www.msctl.org), a consortium of 35 teams from Ingham, Jackson, Washtenaw, and Shiawassee counties. Meets were held to allow teams to meet one another, compete, and refine their robots before their league tournament. Sneaky Suspicion was ranked tenth entering the qualifying tournament, an admirable position for a first-year team. "I could not be more proud for this team. After each meet, the team returned with ideas about how to make their robot more effective. Their willingness to try an idea, although it may not work, is the basis for many things: school, work, life. Their persistence to not give up, even when things were not going our way demonstrates the type of resilience necessary for success" says Melissa Kramer, mentor for Sneaky Suspicion.

FIRST Robotics (www.firstinspires.org) believes in the mantra "More than Robots", and Laingsburg's rookie team embraced this philosophy. Their presentation and ability to thoroughly describe their four robot design changes caught the judges' attention and the team was recognized with a Judge's Choice award, while also earning second place in the Design Award category. "The hard work the mentors put in to have students record their design process, explain their thinking, and take control of their team was honored with the Judge's Choice award.



Laingsburg students at Mason STEM competition.

Sparrow Medical Group St. Johns Primary Care



Kay McLaughlin, D.O.
Internal Medicine



Gregory Holzhei, D.O.
Family Medicine



Katie Ryan, M.D.
Family Medicine

Now offering same-day care with your physician.

From stuffy noses to specialty services, look to SMG St. Johns. We are here for you!

Monday-Friday | 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.


New patients welcome.

Call SMG St. Johns to schedule an appointment today, **989.224.2338**.



Sparrow Clinton Professional Building
901 S. Oakland St., St. Johns, MI

Sparrow.org/Clinton



In Loving Memory of Joe J. Fabus Jr.
December 6, 1954 – December 19, 2003

19 years ago you were so young when God took you from us. Not fair for you, not fair for all of us you left behind. You were such a loving husband, dad, PaPa; its so hard for us to let you go. We still ask God, why you? Why so young? Guess he had other plans for you. You've missed out in so much of our lives, but we know you were there in spirit & in our hearts. Not a day goes by that we don't think of you, or shed a tear or think of a cherished memory. How do we let go? How do we go on without you? So many unanswered questions in our lives. Our hearts ache for you. I don't think they'll ever heal. Fall was one of your favorite times of the year – when you got to harvest the crops & go deer hunting. Another year without you to share it with. This year was the 27th year for the Buck Pole you started. 4 of your grandkids got bucks this year. Wish you were here to share these memories with them. We cherish our memories of you & our love for you will remain strong & true forever. We will always go on loving you... Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas in Heaven Love & miss you. Robin, Joey, Jason & families

