

Reform Wellness Pilates Studio Opens in Laingsburg

by Deb Price

This time of year is described as the “Most Wonderful Time of the Year”, celebrating with family and friends, shopping and eating our favorite foods of the season. This time of year also gives us extra stress with little time to do what we need or want to do. With Christmas in the rear view window, many look to start the New Year out looking to make some personal health changes. Laingsburg’s newest business can definitely help in that area.

Laingsburg resident, Tiffany Wyrembelski has opened Reform Wellness Pilates Studio in downtown Laingsburg and held its Grand Opening on Saturday, December 17th with a ribbon cutting. Tiffany has always wanted to own her own business. Her expertise in the health industry is substantial. She holds an Associate Degree in Business Management from Kirkland Community College and a Bachelors from Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan. She attended Massage School where she earned her Therapeutic Massage license and graduated in 2016 from Baker College in Flint as a Physical Therapist Assistant. She is also a certified STOTT Pilates instructor.

Pilates is a system of exercises using special apparatus, designed to improve physical strength, increase muscular endurance, build core strength & stability, improve posture, increase flexibility, balance & coordination, improve muscular balance & strength and enhance athletic performance. STOTT Pilates incorporates modern exercise principles, including contemporary thinking on spinal rehabilitation, muscle conditioning and athletic performance enhancement. The exercises are designed to restore the natural curves of the spine and rebalance the muscles around the joints. “I love helping people feel better. The studio offers a place to accomplish that,” Tiffany explained.

In addition to Reformer, Barre & Mat Pilates and Massage, Yoga classes are also offered with instructor, Dee Jones. Hours of operation by appointment are Tuesday & Wednesday, 9am-2:30pm and 6pm-7pm, Thursday, 9am-2:30pm, Saturday, 9am-2pm. Yoga classes are held on Monday & Friday at 8:30am and 10am. Pilates Mat classes are held on Thursday mornings at 8:30 & 9:45. Therapeutic, Deep Tissue and Pre-Natal Massage is offered for 30, 60 and 90 minute appointments starting at \$40 for 1/2 hour. Reformer Pilates appointments start at \$25 (the lowest package class price). Mat Pilates & Yoga classes are \$15 per session or 6/\$80. For appointment or more information call Tiffany at (517)258-1364 or by email reformwellness-llc@gmail.com.

Tiffany and her husband, Daniel reside in Laingsburg and have two children, a daughter, Eliza, age 5 and a son, Levi, age 2 1/2.



Coming Together for the Community

The Spiess Family stepped up once again and collected food and toys for the Ovid Basket Project. On Sunday, December 18th, volunteers unloaded this trailer and prepared the Ovid-Lions Hall for the Christmas Basket distribution for local families on December 20th. Also taking part in collecting food, clothing and toys was the United Church, Ovid Public Library, Leonard Elementary and the Meridian Weekly. The community generously donated. The Ovid Carriage Days Committee hosted the Christmas in Ovid event on Friday, December 9th. A Christmas tree was decorated in downtown Ovid, Santa arrived by fire truck and a hall full of kids and adults enjoyed refreshments, visits with Santa and the giving of gifts. See page 12 for more Christmas in Ovid photos.



Merry Christmas From the
Meridian Weekly Family to Yours



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On Saturday, December 17, 2022, a ribbon-cutting was held at Laingsburg’s newest business, Reform Wellness Pilates Studio. Pictured here (l-r) LCBA members, Allison Cummings, John & Rhonda Liskey, Theresa Fadul, Gaye Pizzi-Peters, Tiffany & Daniel Wyrembelski and their children, Eliza and Levi, Amy Goethe and LCBA Members, Andy Wirotek and Roy Liskey. The studio is located at 101 E. Grand River, Laingsburg.

Wishing you and
those you love a
fabulous holiday
and a happy, healthy
and prosperous New Year!

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Social



Luckhurst Celebrate 65th Wedding Anniversary

Donald and MaryJane Luckhurst celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary. They were married on December 14, 1957 at the Burton United Methodist Church.

Their son Daniel and his wife Connie Luckhurst and their three grandchildren, Jessica, Benjamin and Hannah Rose hosted a beautiful anniversary dinner in their honor to celebrate not only this wonderful milestone but also to express their thankfulness and love to their parents and grandparents for showing them love, commitment and Godliness in a marriage and home.

Donald is a retired GM worker and minister. MaryJane is retired from Home Health Care with the State of Michigan. Donald is known for his beautiful lawn and flower gardens. MaryJane is an accomplished seamstress and cake decorator. But above all, they're rooted and grounded in the Word and serve the Lord with their whole hearts and have passed this wisdom and example to their family.

Cards of congratulations can be sent to: 1203 N. Fenner Rd., Owosso, MI 48867.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (60 and Over)

submitted by Becky Zemla

Capital Area Community Services, Inc. is taking applications for the U.S.D.A. Commodity Supplement Food Program. This program provides nutritious food, on a monthly basis to low-income residents of Shiawassee County who are 60 years of age or above.

Persons sixty years of age or older (130% Poverty index guidelines) To qualify, individuals must live in Shiawassee County and meet program guidelines.

Family size 1 - \$17,667; family size 2 - \$23,803; family size 3 - \$29,939. For each additional family member add \$6,136.

Distribution for Shiawassee County will begin January 4, 2023 at Capital Area Community Services, 1845 Corunna Ave., Owosso, MI 48867. 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00pm.

January 4, 2023 will be drive thru only.

If you have any questions, please call 989-723-3115.

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).

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Reverse Raffle

The Ovid-Elsie Sports Boosters in collaboration with Marauder Athletics will be holding a Reverse Raffle on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 5:00p.m. (doors open at 4:00p.m.) at the Elsie American Legion Hall.

Only 300 tickets will be sold1 Raffle tickets are \$60. Each ticket includes one entrance into the raffle and one all you can eat and drink (beer and wine) dinner. Must be 21 to attend.

A total of \$7,100 will be paid out. There are more than 20 payouts of \$100 or more and a grand prize payout of \$2,000.

2nd chance raffle, 50/50 drawings, side boards.

If interested in purchasing tickets or contributing to the raf-
fle call Amy Knickerbocker (989) 992-7797 or Ovid-Elsie High School (989) 834-2271.

OE Baseball Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

Mark your calendar now for the 1st Annual Ovid-Elsie Baseball Chicken Dinner Fundraiser. The event will take place on Saturday, January 14th from 4pm-8pm at the Ovid Lions/VFW Hall in downtown Ovid. Country Kitchen will be making the chicken dinner with all the trimmings, Main Bar will be providing the drinks and Modern Woodmen will be doing a fundraising match with the baseball program. The cost will be \$20 per person (kids 5 and under are free) cash and checks will be accepted at the door. The event will also feature a silent auction. If you are unable to make the fundraising event and would like to support the OE baseball program, donations may be sent to Coach, Brian Young at 1012 S. Hollister, Ovid, MI 48866. For more information call Coach Young at 269-838-1133.

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RESOLUTION #2022-09 CITY OF OVID SCHEDULE MEETING DATES

WHEREAS: at a regular meeting of the City Council for the City of Ovid, held on the 12th, day of December 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., with the following Council Members present:

PRESENT: Mr. Perrien II, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Olger, Ms. Perrien, Mr. Ordiway and Mr. Lasher.

ABSENT: Mr. Starn.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Perrien II, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS; the City of Ovid's Council hereby adopts resolution #2022-09, to set the dates and location(s) for its regular meetings for the year 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meetings of the City Council will be held on every 2nd, Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the location of the meetings will be held at the City Hall located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid

All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are and the same are hereby rescinded.

AYES: Mr. Ordiway, Mr. Perrien II, Mrs. Olger, Mr. Brown, Ms. Perrien and Mr. Lasher.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Starn.

Resolution declared adopted this 12th, day of December, 2022, by the City Council, governing body of the City of Ovid.

Josefina Medina, City Clerk

City of Ovid

SYNOPSIS PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEEETING CITY OF OVID DECEMBER 12, 2022

The Full set of the Minutes for the Public Hearing may be viewed or acquired at the Municipal Building located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid or on line at www.ovidmi.org

Mayor Lasher opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Lasher requested that the Clerk administer the oath of Office to the newly, appointed Trustee Mrs. Mallory Olger.

The Oath was administered and Mayor Lasher requested that the Clerk continue with the roll call.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Perrien II, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Olger, Ms. Perrien, Mr. Ordiway and Mr. Lasher.

ABSENT: Mr. Starn.

EX OFFICIOS: Mr. Rich Simpson- DPW Superintendent, Lisa Rousseau—Chief of Police, Liza Kusnier—Treasurer and Josy Medina - Clerk.

VISITORS: Deb Price and Dawn Parker.

The purpose of the public hearing is to hear any comments or questions on the proposed 2023 Budget.

Mayor Lasher asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked.

Mayor Lasher closed the public hearing at 7:04 pm.

Mayor Lasher continued with opening the regular meeting at 7:04 pm.

AGENDA: Mayor Lasher asked that item 1 under new business be stricken due to in our Charter it states that the Mayor Pro-Tem follows the elected schedule of the mayor so, that term will end in 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, supported by Ms. Perrien to accept the agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES: A motion was made by Mr. Brown, supported by Mr. Perrien II to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held November 14th and the special meeting held November 22, 2022 as printed.

MOTION CARRIED

INVOICE/CHECK REGISTRY: A motion was made by Ms. Perrien, supported by Mr. Ordiway to accept the two additional invoices from Pro-Com & Mr. Hertzler as part of the invoice/check registry as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Lasher asked if there were any public comment. There was none.

TREASURER: Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, supported by Ms. Perrien to approve the budget amendments as presented including to move \$1,390 from the Administrative Travel & Seminar Treasurer line to the Police Maintenance & Repair line.

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, supported by Mr. Perrien II to authorize the mayor to approve any and all budget amendments if needed to balance the year end budget.

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Ordiway, supported by Ms. Perrien to approve the reports from the Treasurer, Police and DPW as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mayor Lasher read resolution #2022-09 titled Schedule meeting dates. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, supported by Mr. Perrien II to adopt resolution #2022-09 as read. The clerk took roll call as follows: YEAS: Mr. Ordiway, Mr. Perrien II, Mrs. Olger, Mr. Brown, Ms. Perrien and Mr. Lasher. NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Starn.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

The resolution will be published in its entirety in the Weekly.

2. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, support by Mr. Perrien II to table the adoption of the Rules of Procedures until the January's meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Discussion was held on the proposed 2023 Budgets and the following motions were made:

a. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Perrien II to adopt the 2023 General Fund Budget as presented. Revenue of \$742,809 & expendi-

tures of \$740,595, with a positive variance of \$2,214.

MOTION CARRIED

b. A motion was made by Ms. Perrien, second by Mr. Ordiway to adopt the 2023 Major Fund Budget as presented. Revenue of \$160,413 & expenditures of \$160413 variance of \$0.

MOTION CARRIED

c. A motion was made by Mr. Perrien II, second by Mr. Brown to adopt the 2023 Local Fund Budget as presented. Revenue of \$99,845 & expenditures of \$98,525 variance of \$1,320.

MOTION CARRIED

d. A motion was made by Mr. Ordiway second by Ms. Perrien to adopt the 2023 Sewer Fund Budget as presented. Revenue of \$208,000 & expenditures of \$206,216 a positive variance of \$1,784.

MOTION CARRIED

e. A motion was made by Mrs. Olger, second by Mr. Brown to adopt the 2023 Water Fund Budget as presented. Revenue of \$235.600 & expenditures of \$230,554 and Water Grant revenue \$115,000 & expenditures of \$115,000 with positive variance of 46.

MOTION CARRIED

f. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Ordiway to adopt the 2023 Park & Rec. Fund Budget as presented. Revenue of \$(0) & expenditures of \$5,606 with a negative variance of \$5,600 from reserves.

MOTION CARRIED

g. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Ordiway to adopt the 2023 EMS Fund Budget as presented. Revenue of \$70,610 & expenditures of \$71,576 with a negative variance of \$966 from reserves.

MOTION CARRIED

h. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Perrien II to adopt the 2023 Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund as a place holder to be amended later in the year.

MOTION CARRIED

4. A motion was made by Mr. Ordiway, supported by Ms. Perrien to adopt 2023 Salary Schedule as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Perrien II, supported by Mr. Brown to adopt the 2023 DPW Step Salary Schedule as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

5. A motion was made by Mr. Ordiway, supported by Ms. Perrien to approve paying the performance bond amount of \$2,247 minus the labor cost of \$65 to Thornton & Sons Inc. and to release check as soon as it is processed.

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Ordiway, supported by Ms. Perrien to approve paying the performance bond amount of \$2,247 minus the labor cost of \$65 to Thornton & Sons Inc. and to release check as soon as it is processed.

MOTION CARRIED

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, supported by Ms. Perrien to extend the meeting until 9:15 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, supported by Ms. Perrien to extend the meeting for an additional 15 more minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Ms. Perrien, supported by Mr. Brown to authorize the Police Chief to set who will work and the hours to work for the upcoming holidays and to pay Officers that work the 23rd,26th and 30th, of December 2022 and 2nd of January 2023 to be paid straight time and if they work the 24th, 25th, 31st, of December 2022 & 1st of January 2023they would be paid double time.

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor closed the meeting closed at 9:36 pm.

*Josefina Medina, Clerk
City of Ovid*

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Obituaries

Michael W. "Mike" Hanley, Sr.

Michael W. "Mike" Hanley, Sr., age 39, of Elsie, MI, passed away Friday, December 16, 2022.

Michael was born in San Antonio, Texas on July 2, 1983, the son of Richard Joseph and Cynthia Marie (Lund) Hanley. He graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School with the class of 2001. On July 15, 2009, Mike married Donna Jean Dysinger in Saginaw, Michigan. They have been married thirteen years.

Mike was a musician and played many instruments. He enjoyed wood working, and playing baseball with his children. He was always ready for taking his family on a random adventure. He liked camping and fishing. He was a German Shepherd lover. Mike had a love of laughter and making others laugh. Most of all he loved his family and spending time with them, caring for them, and embarrassing them as often as possible.

Mike was a carpenter. He was a hard worker who took great pride in his work. He was a perfectionist and never satisfied with "good enough."

He is survived by his wife Donna, four children: Bryanna (Kurk) Harris, Olivia Dysinger, Ryley Hanley, and Michael Hanley Jr.; and grandson Hayden. He is also survived by his father Richard Hanley Sr., mother Cynthia (Bob) Thompson; mother-in-law Elizabeth Dysinger; siblings: Richard Hanley Jr., John (Correy) Hanley, and Melissa (Ron) Wilson; grandmother Agnes Lund, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his grandfather Russell Lund, and one cousin Eric Bruce.

Funeral Services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI, on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, with his brother Pastor John Hanley officiating. Burial has taken place at Ford Cemetery, Elba Township, MI.

Memorials may be made to Smith Family Funeral Homes to assist with funeral expenses - 104 E. Cass St., St. Johns, MI 48879. Online condolences may be made at www.smithfamily-funeralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



Editorial

The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster

theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com



Dear Santa:

A lot has changed since you visited last year. This could be the last Christmas that you may legally be able to leave a youth's first BB gun, rimfire rifle, or shotgun under the tree. While this has been very commonplace in Michigan for you to always do, such presents could soon be outlawed and you could become a FELON for engaging in such activity. I know, I know, I know... educating youth about firearms safety starts at a very young age with supervised ownership and parental involvement. However, some recently elected politicians in Lansing have made it very clear that times are changing and they are in control come January. While their efforts to curb gun violence should be commended, like most politicians often do, they are sure to overstep and their actions will have unintended consequences. Imagine future generations of law abiding citizens unable to enjoy and celebrate Michigan's strong tradition and heritage of target shooting and hunting. Meanwhile criminals and mentally ill individuals will continue to obtain firearms illegally and be a threat to public safety. Maybe you could dig very deep into your bag of presents and leave some wisdom, common sense, and rationality in certain legislator's stockings.

Merry Christmas, The Weekly Sportsman

Legislature Approves Plan to Promote Language Options for Children Who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing

submitted by Christina Doerr

An effort led by state Rep. Ben Frederick to offer additional learning resources for Michigan children who are deaf or hard of hearing will soon advance to the governor for consideration after it received overwhelming bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

Frederick, of Owosso, said the state does not currently have a system to monitor, track and report a child's language benchmarks in American Sign Language. Michigan also lacks a statewide ASL language assessment for children who are deaf or hard of hearing from birth to age 5. The lack of early intervention resources has resulted in a high rate of children who communicate through ASL being deemed "not prepared" for kindergarten.

Frederick said the goal is to give parents access to the proper tools to help their child communicate more effectively and understand how he or she is progressing in the language acquisition.

House Bill 5777 establishes a 15-member advisory committee within the Michigan Department of Education that is made up of parents, educators and advocates who will consult with the department on creating ASL language milestones and assessment tools for children age 5 or younger. The milestones and assessments would be made available to parents to monitor and track their child's expressive and receptive language acquisition and developmental stages toward English literacy using ASL, English or both, and may also be used when developing a child's individualized education plan.

Frederick's measure will also ensure the language milestones and assessment tools are distributed to intermediate school districts, public school academies and the Michigan School for the Deaf.

Frederick noted that the new resources could have an added benefit for Michigan's special needs community by helping students who are non-vocal.

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(3 mi. W. of O-E H.S.)

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

11:00am

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Associate Minister: Matthew Barnum

Children's Minister: Jessica Prieto

www.duplainchurch.org

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We Welcome You to Come...

Editorial

Good morning and I wish that you will have or have had a Merry Christmas filled with family, friends, and good memories. Life is busy and at times doesn't seem to allow us the time to reflect on what is happening. Many of my friends have already had their get togethers and are looking at quieter times with less hassles. Everything changes and so do our views on what is normal for us. I'm still in the process of wrapping packages and delivering them and yet I still don't have my Christmas cards out in the mail box. I was so excited because I had decided on putting crocheted snowflakes in each of the cards for others to hang. I do have my cards and the snowflakes are ready to put into the cards, but that is as far as I have gotten.

I am thrilled because the Ashley Country Christmas finished up on Sunday evening and I was most fortunate that I have a wonderful group of people to work with. All of us managed to get torn down and loaded. The first to go was Andrew because he had a work Christmas Party in Midland to attend. Next I was down and my car was packed. Again I was helped by Kenny and assisted by Tammi, so I was home by 8:50 PM. Guess what, I was too cold to unload the car so I just scooted into the house and got warm. I also slept for about ten hours before I got up on Monday.

So of course, on Monday I had to unload the car before I could follow my intended path. To be truthful I was amazed that I was ready and on time by ten. Two six foot folding tables, two folding chairs, four totes, two tablecloths, and a cushion take up a lot of space in the back of my Ford Focus. They also take up a lot of space in my living room and are still staring me in the face because I haven't decided where to store them. I still have clothes to fold and put away. But my furniture is home and in the living room even though I have totes filled with Christmas decorations to be moved upstairs. Oops, I've been up for fifteen minutes and am not yet dressed for the day.

Yesterday, I was at the shop by 5:05 AM and had the coffee perking, the sausage gravy made, the biscuits baking, and the cinnamon rolls started because Diane was to be held up at work. She was almost released on time so for once we were a head of the game. That is we were until we realized that we were out of home made bread. Grabbed another bowl and got that started. Yesterday was amazing because I put together sausage gravy and biscuits for a customer and even made some waffles for a take out order. Diane had run over to Ovid to the grocery store to pick up a few items. Normally I run, but today was Diane's turn. She made a very chocolate sheet cake for the first time and it was glorious. Of course she had already made the old fashioned cake donuts which were very tasty.

Today we will be making Christmas cut out cookies and decorating them. I will be also getting out pies put together and other special orders filled. Never knew that I would be semi retired. And yet I'm pleased that I am still very functional, Tammi is coming next week to spiff up the house for me. I've been too tired to try for the last six weeks. I'm looking forward to visiting with friends and family and playing some cards and dominoes as I relax.

It will be nice to relax and to get my energy levels up to par. May God bless you all and may you be filled with peace, compassion and contentment. Have a very wonderful Christmas and a New Year filled with opportunities, good health, and many other of God's blessings.

Crystal Mitchell©2022



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

"You're Not Welcome Here"

"...because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7)."

John Hughes wrote a brilliant film that I always fit in this time of year. "Home Alone" (a brat is accidentally left behind on his family's vacation) has a clever scene chocked-full of subtext...a finally repentant Kevin is in church on Christmas Eve and meets his scary neighbor, Old Man Marley, the legendary and unfounded, "South Bend Shovel Slayer."

But Kevin is shocked; Marley is actually nice! He asks the boy if he's "been good." Kevin comes clean and admits he's feeling bad, hence his visit. "I've been kind of a pain lately. I said some things I shouldn't have. I really haven't been too good this year."

Marley then tells Kevin he's there to watch his granddaughter's choir rehearsal because he can't come hear her tonight. "I'm not welcome," he says. A stunned Kevin asks, "At church?" Marley explains his estranged relationship with his son and how they haven't spoken in years, but assures Kevin that "you're always welcome at church." Amen.

The subtext is as deep as the manure in the Bethlehem stall where Jesus ended up after being rejected...Kevin confesses his guilt (just like Marley and his son need to do). That's the "corn-crib to cross" Bethlehem manger story. We're all separated by our Kevin-like rebellion (Isaiah 59:2), and despite our obvious guilt, we don't welcome the Savior's arrival, even when He came to save us. Like the innkeeper, there's no room.

On this Christmas Eve you may feel "not welcome" in church, in God's presence. Your sin and regrets do separate you from your Father. That estrangement is genuine (Isaiah 53:6), but the truth is that His love is unaffected, quite literally...stable. Like Kevin's admission, you'll find empathy and forgiveness if you call on Him (Romans 10:13).

Consider Paul's words in Romans chapter 5: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

God didn't just say He loved us - He demonstrated it. He jumped into our goldfish bowl, and became a goldfish. Filthy water, like Bethlehem's stall (and our own cruddy hearts filled with sin and regrets and steamy crap) didn't matter. Jesus came anyway, died when we were enemies, and shed His blood to save us from what we deserved...God's wrath.

This reconciliation is in the past tense. He already did it. You just need to repent (apologize) and make room in your heart-stall. His Christmas gift is bought and paid for and free. Just receive Him (John 1:12). He loves crappy stalls and dirty goldfish bowls. Now go watch the "Home Alone" ending with Marley and his son. A welcome sight!



Faith Focus

by Phil Hoppersberger
Graham Community Church

DUPLAIN TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Duplain Township shall conduct a public meeting on January 11, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. at Duplain Township Hall at 145 W. Main St, Elsie, MI 48831 for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed draft of the Duplain Township Five Year Recreation Plan.

The Plan evaluates existing recreation opportunities, review's public opinion regarding recreation, establishes recreational goals, and proposes a five-year schedule of improvements and other related items that the Township wishes to pursue. The Township is especially interested in receiving input from people with disabilities. A PDF copy of the Plan is available for review online at www.duplaintwp.com or in person at the Duplain Township Hall during regular office hours.

If you are interested in submitting comments regarding the Draft Plan, please send written comments to Dawn Levey, 145 W. Main St, PO box 70, Elsie, MI 48831 no later than January 11, 2023. All comments, written and oral, will be noted for the record.



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Elsie Lions Club 27th Annual Wild Game Dinner

submitted by Lion Richard Easlick

Please mark your calendars, Monday January 9, 2023, for the Elsie Lions Club 27th Annual Wild Game Dinner.

This will be held at the Elsie American Legion Hall, in Elsie, MI., starting at 6pm. Please bring a Wild Game Dish to pass or tame and your place setting. Drinks will be provided.

Guest Speaker this year will be Chad Krumnauer from the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife division, out of Rose Lake Field Office. Chad will be giving a summary of the 2022 Deer Season along with a questions and answer session. Chad plan on bringing a Conservation Officer with him for additional questions.

A Raffle will also be held! Bring a friend!
 If you have questions call 517-881-0024



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Bannister ZCJB Lodge and St. Cyril's Knights of Columbus Christmas Dinner

submitted by Joanne Fornusek

The annual Christmas dinner and program, sponsored by the Bannister ZCJB Lodge and St. Cyril's Knights of Columbus was held on Sunday, Dec. 4th. The program began with the youngest children playing Christmas carols on their rhythm band instruments. Svate Mikulas (Tom Bradley) accompanied by an Angel and the Devil, arrived to tell the story of Christmas. As the story unfolded, the older children and young adults came together on the stage to form a live Nativity scene. Svate and the Angel distributed apples to all who had been good this year and the Devil had some pieces of coal just in case there had been any naughty ones in the audience. Then Santa (Roger Reha) arrived to help Svate hand out gifts to all the children. Lodge Michigan wishes everyone a blessed holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.



Blood Drive at ZCJB in Bannister

This is the time of the year when blood is desperately needed. ZCJB Hall in Bannister will be having a blood drive on Wednesday, December 28th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

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

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Elsie Masonic Lodge Officers Installed

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – Elsie Masonic Lodge F & AM #238 held an open installation of officers Saturday, December 10 with nine officers installed. Rodney Ridgeway will serve a second term as Worshipful Master. Additional officers are: Stephen Parker, Colby Putnam, Richard Bates, Eric Levey, Clare Applebee, Jeffery Zampaloni, Bruce Levey, and William Archer.

Ridgeway was honored to have the following as his installing staff: Corey Curtiss, Past Master; Christopher Potts, Past Master; Ryan Binkley, Past Master, DDI District 35; and Robert Johns, Past Master, DDI 13.

Prior to the installation a dinner was held at the Masonic Community Center and following the installation desserts and coffee were served.

The Elsie Masonic Lodge will host the monthly pancake breakfast, Saturday, December 31, 9 am-Noon. All donations will be given to the Elsie Baby Pantry. To date Elsie Masonic Lodge has raised and donated \$1,200 from the monthly pancake breakfasts.

Rep. Filler Vows to Keep Fighting to Restore Balance in Evictions Proceedings

submitted by Christina Doerr

State Rep. Graham Filler today vowed to continue fighting to restore balance to the court process for settling evictions in Michigan as the State Court Administrative Office seeks to make permanent some of the temporary rules adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Filler said the temporary rules for landlord and tenant proceedings have created chaos in Michigan courts – resulting in unequal, inconsistent access to justice across the state and exacerbating the housing crisis.

In early November, Filler introduced House Bill 6497 to restore balance to the rights of property owners and tenants by ending the temporary rules put in place during the pandemic.

“While we ran out of time at the end of the year before we could get this legislation across the finish line, this issue is still a priority,” Filler said. “I will continue to stand up for property rights and fight for fair court processes when the next legislative session begins in January.”



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Santa Story Time

On Christmas Eve (Dec. 24th) at 7pm, our Santa's Story Time will begin! Santa will say “hello” to the children, read them a special bedtime story, and then say “good-night to all” the children who joined our Sun & Moon Photography's Annual event.

Upon joining the online event, you will be put in a waiting room until we open the event doors. Please be patient as this could take a few moments. We do ask everyone to sign in early to avoid a long delay.

Unfortunately, due to past circumstances, we had to make this a private event, with only a selected number of people attending by invitation. Therefore, if you or someone you know, has a child or children that may want to attend, please have them contact us ASAP. This way we can get them an invitation in time to receive the event link and a passcode to enter. We are now limited to 100 participant links/passcodes, and have had more than that join in the past years of our event.

You can RSVP by sending us your name and email address, along with your child/children's first name and age. This will help us know how many will be attending and who to send the event link to.

Remember to add us to your email list so you are able to receive your event link and personal passcode. We will be online, using Zoom, so be sure to download the free app if you haven't already.

This is a free annual event we do every Christmas Eve for our clients, community, and the surrounding areas children. We do this and other events to help keep spirits bright and happiness growing throughout the different seasons. Please consider liking Sun & Moon Photography's social media pages to spread awareness of our business and follow us for updates on our events!



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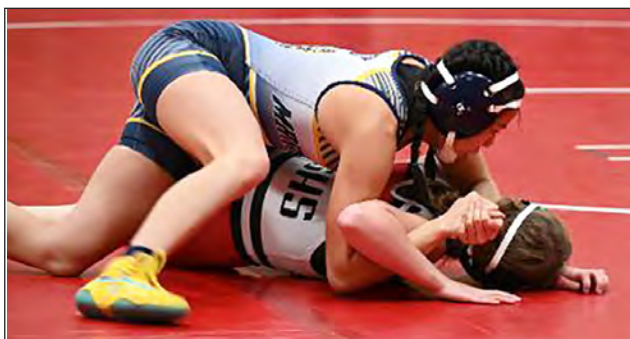
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Sports



Kaia Spiess pinned both her opponents at the Brothers Brawl in Perry on December 14th. Photo by Marie Spiess

Brothers Brawl: O-E Tops Perry in Prep Wrestling Family Showdown

PERRY — The December 14 prep wrestling matchup at Perry High School had an interesting plot twist at the Rambler (early season) Quad.

It was the "Brothers Brawl," with Ovid-Elsie head coach Kyle Spiess squaring off versus his sibling, Jason Spiess' Perry Rambler contingent.

There were more plot twists, as the Marauders maneuvered to a 41-36 victory.

Both of the Spiess brothers are former wrestling standouts at Ovid-Elsie, coached by legendary mentor Jim Maidlow.

"This was a close matchup and could have went either way," explained Kyle Spiess. "One more win by a Perry wrestler and they would have won the meet."

Scoring critical victories for the Marauders over the Ramblers were:

- 106 lbs. Ava Juhas with her second pin of the night
- 113 lbs. Kaia Spiess with her second pin of the night
- 120 lbs. Talan Parsons with a pin, second win
- 138 lbs. Clayton Juhas with a pin
- 144 lbs. Cole Workman with technical fall for his second win of the night.
- 150 lbs. Hunter Hufnagel won by void
- 157 lbs. Trace Taylor won by void, for his second win of the evening.

Clinton Girls/JV Tournament Includes Strong Showing by Wolfpack Grapplers

CLINTON — Jay Montgomery's 1st place showing racked up 28 team points for Laingsburg, leading the way at the Red Wolves Girls / Jr. Varsity tournament at Clinton High School.

The event is a showcase for young wrestling talent from throughout Michigan. Montgomery wrestled at 215 lbs. and joined Zach Grandy (150 lbs.) as 1st place finishers for coach Shawn Baynes' Wolfpack. Alex Grandy also wrestled at 106 lbs. for LHS.

Team scorers included:

120 lbs. Felix Ramirez 4th. 126 lbs. Jacen Smakal. 144 lbs. Garrett Matthews 3rd. 150 lbs. Tucker Nethaway. 157 lbs. Jacob Slider. 157 lbs. Troy Matthews 3rd. 165 lbs. Brad Dedic 4th. 215 lbs. Wyatt Stanfield 2nd. 285 lbs. Riley Kiffer.

Ovid-Elsie Bowling

submitted by Matt Fabus

The OE Varsity Keglers were back in action at Galaxy Lanes on December 17th. Both teams were on the winning side against Mt. Morris.

The girls finished 30-0. High games were; Kloe Bigelow 121, Olivia Burt 149, 140; Ashland Particka 143, 177; Gracie Schultz 128, 223.

The boys finished 24-6. High scores were: Devyn Pugsley 260, 202; Hunter Maxa 142, 144; Tobin Clark 140, 155; Gunnar Barrett 131, 122 and Landyn Adkins 120.

Bowlers will be on holiday break until January 8, 2023/ Happy Holidays from the O-E Bowlers



Aden Baynes milestone 100th win

Wolfpack Mat Team Travels to Sand Creek, Wins 14-Team Invite

SAND CREEK — 138-pounder Aden Baynes hit the century mark in wins for the Laingsburg varsity wrestling team, helping the Wolfpack bring home first place honors at the Sand Creek Holiday Invitational.

Coach Shawn Baynes' Wolves racked up 263 team points to easily outdistance the 14-team field. Jackson was 2nd with 146, followed by Battle Creek Lakeview 135, Blissfield 122, Riverview 80, Michigan Center 76, Hillsdale 75, Grass Lake 62, the host Aggies 61, Onsted 48, Concord 47, Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard 28, Morenci 12.5 and Camden-Frontier 9.

Aden scored 26 team points over the course of the invite and earned his 100th career victory — but he wasn't Laingsburg's top scorer on the day. That honor went to Sean Divine at 215 lbs., a 1st place standing with 30 team points. Other scores for the champion Wolves:

106 lbs. Ethan Schneederger 2nd place. 113 lbs. Sebastian Ruff 5th place. 120 lbs. Dustin Ninas 3rd place. 126 lbs. Marlon Graham 1st place. 144 lbs. Bryce Smith 4th place, 13 team points. 150 lbs. Kyle Boettcher 2nd place. 157 lbs. Jack Borgman 1st place. 165 lbs. Seth Sivak 2nd place. 175 lbs. Caleb Boettcher 2nd place. 190 lbs. Mikey Brooks 1st place. 285 lbs. Carter Schlaack 2nd place.

Wolfpack grapplers storm to decisive wins over Leslie, Dansville

LAINGSBURG — The host Wolfpack's depth led to filling all weight classes and that — along with some outstanding individual performances — propelled Laingsburg to a couple of lopsided wins.

Shawn Baynes' Wolves whitewashed Dansville, 81-0, and hammered Leslie, 78-6. How's that for decisive?

Opposite the Dansville Aggies, Logan Robinson at 120 lbs., Marlon Graham at 126, Bryce Smith at 138, Sean Divine at 190 and Mikey Brooks at 215 racked up 30 team points when they won unopposed.

At 113, the Wolves' Sebastian Ruff scored a 5-3 decision over Rowan Bartlett. After that, it was all 6-point wins in each weight class for LHS:

At 106, Ethan Schneederger by fall over Aubrey Mayr. Dustin Winans by fall over Mckenzie Herrick at 132. Aden Baynes by fall over Hayden Anderson at 144. Kyle Boettcher by fall over Logan Stoney at 150. Jack Borgman by fall over Anthony Uribe Molina at 157. Seth Sivak by fall over Kian Daane at 165. Caleb Boettcher by fall over Brodie O'Berry at 175. At 285, Carter Schlaack by fall over Logan Root. In the exhibition matches, Zach Grandy won by fall over Gavin Video at 150 (:47); Tucker Nethaway won by fall over Uribe Molina (1:59); Aaron Willoughby won by fall (1:03 at 157, and Riley Kiffer won by fall over Aiden Whipple at 285 (:09).

In the rout over Leslie, Schneederger, Ruff, Robinson, Graham, Winans, Baynes, Smith, Kyle Boettcher, Borgman, Sivak, Caleb Boettcher, Divine and Brooks all scored 6-point victories. The Blackhawks broke through for their lone victory at 285 lbs.

Lady Marauders Score 23-Point Win Over Durand, Remain Unbeaten in MMAC

OVID-ELSIE — The host Lady Marauders remained unbeaten in the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) as they downed Durand, 54-31.

Ovid-Elsie improved to 4-2 (3-0 MMAC) while Durand dropped to 4-4 (1-3 MMAC).

Ava Bates recorded a double-double with 20 points and 10 rebounds while notching 3 blocked shots and 3 assists.

Hailee Campbell chipped in with 9 points, 4 rebounds and 3 assists while Evalyn Cole added 8 points, 4 rebounds and 5 steals. Braeden Tokar (5 rebounds) and Ellyanna Carman (6 rebounds) each added 5 points while Katie Lorio knocked down a three-pointer and Kiah Longoria and Aubrey Kurka each added a bucket.

"We've been a little banged up and sick for the past week," said Marauder head coach Ryan Cunningham. "We weren't even able to practice for a week. So to come out with this kind of energy and intensity, especially on the defensive side, was thoroughly impressive. I'm super proud of these girls and you have to give Loynes, Longoria and Cole a ton of credit for the job they did on their guards."

Ovid-Elsie took a commanding 15-4 lead after the first stanza and then followed it up with a 13-5 effort in the second quarter to lead 28-9 at half. The Railroaders were able to keep it within two in each of the final two quarters, 16-14 and 10-8 respectively, but Ovid-Elsie would lead by as many as 25 points.

The Lady Marauders out rebounded Durand 38-29 and collected 14 steals on 25 Railroaders turnovers. Ovid-Elsie also handed out 15 assists on 21 made baskets.

O-E made a quick turn around for another MMAC matchup against Chesaning last Thursday evening. The game was a make up game from the previous week that was postponed.



Evalyn Cole added 8 points, 4 rebounds and 5 steals during the game against Durand on December 20th.

Photo by Keith Kingsbury

The remaining team photos for Laingsburg will be published as soon as we receive the information!

**Coaches remember to send your results
Tom Turek at
tomturek20032003@yahoo.com**

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Sports

Ashley Girls fall to Merrill, Vestaburg and Breckenridge

by Ashleigh Shaw

Against Merrill the Lady Bears struggled to score and faltered under the defensive pressure of the vandals making them turn the ball over too many times. "We have to take care of the ball better, get more shot attempts, and do a much better job rebounding" said Coach Shaw. Savanna Denman scored 6 points against Merrill.

The Wolverines applied pressure to the Bears causing turnovers and made it tough for them to score. Ashley was able to move the ball better in the second half and got some better looks at the basket. Ellie Drummond led the Bears with 7 points, 9 rebounds and 2 steals, followed by Savanna Denman with 4 points.

The Bears fell to Breckenridge but was short handed playing only with five players for the entirety of the game. The Huskies did a nice job of forcing some early turnovers that led to easy points for them and the Bears just couldn't recover. Denman once again led the team with 5 points and 7 rebounds.

Ashley vs Akron

Ashley hosted Akron in a nonconference game last week. Ashley got off to a fast start going up 10-0 but then struggled to score for a few quarters letting Akron get back in to the game. The Lady Bears pulled off the win though winning 26-21. "We came out and went up quickly, but then struggled to score missing some layups and free throws. We used a strong 11-1 quarter to come back and seal the win" said Coach Shaw.

The Bears were led by Ellie Drummond who had 14 points and grabbed a whopping 20 rebounds, also adding 7 steals and 3 assists. Alexyss McAllister added 6 points and 7 rebounds, Savanna Denman had 8 rebounds and Savannah Beebe had 7 rebounds.



Savanna Denman



Alexyss McAllister

Railroaders Ends 14-Year Skid, Stun Ovid-Elsie League Leaders 58-52

OVID-ELSIE — Brayden Joslin scored 16 points to lead Durand's balanced attack and the visiting Railroaders stunned league-leading Ovid-Elsie in MMAC boys basketball action here December 20.

The win was the Railroaders' first over O-E since 2008. They got it done with clutch shooting down the stretch, taking full advantage of Marauder miscues.

O-E turned the ball over 23 times during the course of the game. They missed critical one-on-one free throws, coughing up a chance to stay in the contest in the final minutes.

Coach Josh Latz's Marauders fell to 3-1 overall, 2-1 in league play. Durand served notice to the MMAC by moving to 4-0 in conference play, 5-0 overall.

Clay Wittenberg led O-E with a double-double: 18 points and 15 rebounds. Logan Thompson scored 16, Tryce Tokar 8 and Beau Price 4. Braxton Stenger added 7 assists and 5 rebounds, and Price 7 boards.



Logan Thompson scored 16 points during the match up against Durand on December 20th.

Photo by Keith Kingsburg

Ashley Boys Basketball Lose to Merrill

by Ashleigh Shaw

The Ashley Boys basketball team took a loss to neighboring Merrill in a conference match-up. The Bears were led by Logan Drummond who scored 9 points had 3 assists and 5 rebounds.

Ashley vs Breckenridge

The Ashley Boys Basketball team played two games last week and took two tough losses. The first loss was at the hands of the Huskies from Breckenridge where the Bears struggled to score against the Huskies tough defense and ended up taking the loss. Leading the team was Chase Kral with 5 points and 3 rebounds and Gibby Jason with 4 points and 3 rebounds.

The second loss was to Akron. This game was a little more back and forth as the Bears led at the end of the first quarter, but then had difficulty stopping Akron from scoring in the second quarter. The game continued to be a battle in the second half with the Bears coming up short by 4 points and losing 44-40. Logan Drummond had 10 points and 2 steals, Caden Passmore had 9 points and 10 rebounds while Kral chipped in 7 points.



Logan Drummond



Caden Passmore

5th-Year Standout Wilsey Named Horizon League Player of the Year

OAKLAND — Sophie Wilsey, a fifth-year player for Oakland University, has been a stalwart cog in a Golden Bears' defense that allowed just four goals through eight games to start the 2022 season.

Oakland went 3-1-4 to open the campaign.

Wilsey, a Laingsburg HS alum, logged 547 minutes in that span, playing the full 90 in five games — including ties vs. Michigan State, 0-0, and Western Michigan, 1-1.

In was an impressive 2022 for Sophie:

- Started in 18 games.
- Put up three goals to contribute to a four-game winning streak for the Golden Grizzlies.
- Accumulated six points for the season.
- Contributed to the teams NCAA ranked GAA as a forward.
- Horizon League All-League First Team selection.
- Horizon League Defender of the Year selection.
- Named Horizon League Player of the Year.

Sophie is the daughter of Troy and Michelle Wilsey of Laingsburg.



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Proposed Board Minutes from December 12, 2022

The regular meeting of Victor Township was called to order by Supervisor Conklin at 7:00 pm and the pledge to the flag was given. **Attendance:** Present: Willoughby, Townsend, Prange, Fickes, Conklin. Absent: None

Public Comment: Tammy Ashley spoke regarding the township's budget and had questions regarding our proposed projects and how the township money is spent. The board will hold special budget workshop meetings open to the public.

Melissa Holmquist asked for a road study to be done at the corners of Price and Shepardsville Roads due to the number of vehicular accidents occurring at that intersection. The board will look into this with the County Road Commission and County Commissioner.

Agenda: Request by Fickes to add Parks and Recreation Plan and Road projects to the agenda. Motion by Fickes to approve the agenda with additions. Supported by Willoughby. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Willoughby to approve the November 14, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Supported by Prange. Motion carried.

Motion by Willoughby to approve the November 23, 2022 special meeting minutes. Supported by Fickes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Fickes to accept the treasurer's report. Supported by Prange. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of bills: Motion by Willoughby to disburse November 2022 payroll and related payroll expenses. Supported by Conklin. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks# 12406-12413

Motion by Willoughby to pay the November 2022 bills. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried.

Checks# 28678-28705

County Officials:

Clinton County Commissioner Elect, Val Vail-Shirey was present. The board discussed the Price/Shepardsville Road issue with her and also requested her to research Victor Township and the allowing of side-by-side vehicles on township roads.

Victor Township Planning Commission: The draft Parks and Recreation plan hearing notices to be placed in The Weekly, at the Laingsburg Public Library, at the Victor Township Hall, and on the Township website. The 2023 Meeting Dates will be published in The Weekly, at the Township Hall, and on the Township website. The meetings will be on the first **TUESDAY** of every month except for July 4. That meeting will be held on June 27. The 2023 Road projects were also discussed. LSW: Townsend attended meeting. LSW will be installing a sign in front of the township fire hall. There were no objections.

Maintenance & Facilities: Various projects are ongoing and some were completed.

Unfinished Business:

• **Broadband:** The Clinton County broadband RFP deadline has been extended to January 2023.

• **Hazard Mitigation:** The VTPC will begin looking at the goals.

• **Zoom Renewal:** The Zoom contract was not renewed.

• **Custodial Update:** Prange to get cost of wax removal and reapplication for the large meeting room.

• **2023 Meeting Dates:** Motion by Willoughby, supported by Fickes, to hold the following 2023 meeting dates of the township board. Motion carried. The board will meet on the second **TUESDAY** of each month at 7:00 pm, at the Township Hall, 6843 Alward Rd., Laingsburg. The dates will be published in the Weekly, at the Township Hall, and on the Township website.

• Parks and Recreation Plan:

Posting to be placed in paper, on website and Facebook page. Public hearing to be scheduled to hear public comment regarding the draft plan.

• January 3, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Planning Commission Meeting

• January 10, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Township Board Meeting

• January 24, 2023 at 5:45 pm. Victor Township Special Board Meeting

New Business:

• Motion by Prange, supported by Willoughby, to hold the regular or special board meetings in either the small or large meeting room depending on the anticipated size of attendance or special circumstances due to the health climate. Motion carried

• Motion by Willoughby, supported by Prange, to adopt the resolution for federal guidelines for poverty exemptions to be implemented by the Board of Review. Roll call vote: 5- "Ayes" 0- "Nay" Motion carried.

• Motion by Willoughby, supported by Fickes, to appoint Donald Arthur, Don Bracke, and Ben Potter to the Victor Township Board of Review from January 2023-December 2024. Motion carried.

• **2023 Budget:** Motion by The Township Board will discuss the 2023 preliminary Township budget at special meetings on January 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. and January 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The dates will be posted in the Weekly, at the Township Hall and on the Township website.

• Motion by Fickes, supported by Willoughby, to approve A Resolution of Appreciation for and Acknowledgement of the Service, Dedication and Work of Amanda L. Conklin's service as Victor Township Clerk. Roll Call of Board Members: All in favor. Motion carried.

• Motion by Fickes, supported by Willoughby to gather information from the Clinton County Road Commission regarding 2023 road projects. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Conklin to adjourn at 8:18 pm. Supported by Fickes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Lianne Prange, Clerk

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