



## Shiawassee Chamber Celebrates a Century Plus 20

*submitted by Allison Marcelo*

Owosso, Mich. – The first organizational meeting for what would become the modern-day Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce happened in 1902. After 120 years, SRCC is proud to be the longest-standing membership organization in Shiawassee County with 507 members.

A celebration is planned for Dec. 8 from 4 to 6 p.m. at The Armory to kick off the commemoration.

“Our history of connecting leaders and supporting entrepreneurs for the last 120 years is something we’re especially proud of. We’re especially grateful to our hundreds of members who have been part of the legacy the chamber has in the county,” shared Char Hebekeuser, Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce Board Chair and Chief Financial Officer for Tri-Mer Corporation in Owosso. “Our ambassadors will be bartending, member businesses will be supplying appetizers, and there will be raffles and games! This celebration is open to the community and we hope to share our excitement with all who wish to come.”

The kick-off event is sponsored by SRCC’s Board of Directors. Admission is FREE to all. To register, contact the chamber at (989) 723-5149, [customerservice@shiawasseechamber.org](mailto:customerservice@shiawasseechamber.org) or visit [www.shiawasseechamber.org](http://www.shiawasseechamber.org).

The chamber has been known by many names over the years on its way to become a regional organization in 2002, including the Owosso Chamber of Commerce, Owosso Improvement Association and Owosso Corunna-Area Chamber of Commerce. It operated from many locations around Owosso before arriving at its current home in The Armory, which it redeveloped in 2017 and opened in 2018.

Several significant programs and initiatives to “improve the vitality, strength, image and pride” in the area have included: ShiaNet (the first public access to the internet for the community), Leadership Shiawassee (an educational program to help develop new leaders), Small Business Development Center (personalized consulting, education and resources directed to small business start-ups), Shiawassee Human Resource Professionals and several monthly member networking events. Its annual awards dinner recognizes numerous organizations and individuals serving the community.

The 10 longest-standing chamber members are Owosso Argus Press (114 years), CLH Insurance (98), Wolverine Sign Works (95), Indian Trails (84), Storrer’s Clothing (83), Maurer Heating & Cooling (70), Waugh’s Culligan (62), Oakes-Fisher Insurance (61), Consumers Energy (61) and Edwards Sign & Screen Printing (61).

## Ovid Christmas Basket Committee Seeking Volunteers

*submitted by Holly Hibbard*

The Ovid Christmas Basket Committee is planning for the 2022 distribution in Ovid. It takes many volunteers to make this happen each year. We would like to invite you to join us in helping fill the baskets. We are looking for volunteers on Monday, December 19th starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Lions Hall in Ovid as well as Tuesday, December 20th at 8:30 a.m. to help with distribution from 9:00-10:30 a.m.

If any individual, organization, or business would like to donate food, personal products, household goods or clothing we welcome the donations. In Ovid, supplies can be dropped off to the Ovid Meridian Weekly or Ovid Public Library. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 18th. Monetary funds can be left at the Ovid Service Agency or sent to the Ovid Lions Club, P.O. Box 493, Ovid MI 48866 (please indicate the donation is for Ovid Christmas).

Please call or text Holly Hibbard at 989-666-2215 or e-mail [allsmileshkh@aol.com](mailto:allsmileshkh@aol.com) with any questions on donations or volunteering. This program is one of many reasons small town living is so special and involvement is a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas in our community.



**Christmas in Ovid** returns to the Ovid Lions/VFW Hall in downtown Ovid on Friday, December 9th. Also returning to the holiday event is the decorating and tree lighting prior to Santa’s arrival. The tree will be set up at Boyer Park ready for families to add their ornament beginning at 6:30pm (there will be some ornaments available at the site). The light parade will begin at 6:45, those wishing to take part in the parade are asked to be at the top of the hill on Main Street by 6:30pm. Santa will be delivered to Boyer Park where he will then lead children to the hall for visits with Santa, cookies and milk and gifts for kids 12 and under. Donation boxes will also be available for community members to donate non-perishable food, personal products and household goods for the Christmas Basket Program. The Christmas in Ovid event is sponsored by the Ovid Carriage Days Committee.

## Meridian Weekly

Deborah Price Owner/Publisher [meridianweekly.com](http://meridianweekly.com)

200 S. Main St., P.O. Box 11, Ovid, MI  
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## Social

### Ovid Historical Society

The Ovid Historical Society is hosting a Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 11th, 2-4 p.m. at 131 E Williams St., Ovid.



### 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).

### Memorial to Host Annual Employee Holiday Craft Show December 9th

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

Owosso – Memorial Healthcare will be hosting its annual Employee Holiday Craft Show on Friday, December 9 from 7 am to 3 pm. Vendors for this event are current or retired employees of Memorial Healthcare. The craft show is open to the public and will be held in the full auditorium at 826 W. King Street, Owosso. Over 30 Memorial Healthcare vendors will be participating. This is a great opportunity to find unique gifts for family and friends.

For further information about Memorial Healthcare community events, visit MemorialHealthcare.org.



Elsie Lions Club, Lisa Brown from the Elsie United Methodist Church accepting a \$200 check from Lion Robin Wooley for the Elsie Community Christmas.



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Elsie Lion Ike Hunt (left) accepting an Award from Elsie Lions President Rick Jones in Appreciation and Service for the last 33 years to the Elsie Lions Club. Lion Ike recently retired from Green Meadows farm and has moved to Harrison. Ike has been a great member to our club over the years, holding all the offices including Zone Chairman, he will be missed by our club but Harrison's Lions will be getting a great member. The Elsie Lions Club would like to wish Ike and his wife Mary all the best in his retirement.

### Art Explosion & Winter Market Return on the IQhub

submitted by Susan Kadlek

Art Explosion, presented by Mercantile Bank, returns after thousands of visitors enjoyed the unique exhibit in 2021. The event will run through February 23, 2023 with special events each month. Admission to the Art Explosion event is free.

The first special event will be held on Tuesday, December 13th from 3 pm to 8 pm, as the Indoor Winter Market takes over the IQhub/AgroLiquid building. Visits with Santa will take place in the IQhub from 5 pm to 8 pm that evening. Come shop for holiday gifts and treats! There is an amazing line-up of local and regional crafts and artisan goods.

For more information on art entries or being a market vendor, please contact the IQhub at 989-227-3847 or email IQ.hub@agroliquid.com. All entry and vendor form can be downloaded from the IQhub's website at www.iqhubag.org. The IQhub is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to be a free educational center for agricultural history, innovation and exploration.



Lion Richard Easlick presenting a \$200 check to First Baptist Church Pastor Phillip Rogers (right) also for the Elsie Community Christmas. The Elsie First Baptist Church matches the Lions check of \$200 giving to the Elsie Community Christmas!

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## Christmas is Coming and the Clinton County Historical Museum in St. Johns will be Open to Celebrate

submitted by Judy Hubler

As you are out and about this coming Holiday Season put Paine-Gillam-Scott House on your Christmas to-do list. House volunteers have been busy recreating a quaint Victorian Christmas with all the sights, sounds and tastes that the Holiday season has to offer. Beautiful cedar garland, a fresh Christmas tree and magical candlelight fills the House as we recreate a traditional Victorian Christmas season. Come and browse our cool collection of antique toys and decorations that fill the first floor of the House.



We will be open to the public on Wednesdays from 2 PM to 6 PM and Sundays from 1 PM to 4 PM through December 21, 2022. The House will also be hosting a children's Victorian Christmas event on Wednesday, December 14th from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM complete with a tour of the House, a Victorian Christmas craft, refreshments and a story teller that will share with us a Christmas in the past.

Please make Paine Gillam Scott House part of your Holiday season. You will be amazed by the history we have to share. Feel free to contact us at (989) 224-2894 for more information.

## Friends of Hospice to Sell Ornaments in Remembrance

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

Owosso, Michigan — Friends of Hospice are selling Angel and Snowflake Ornaments for the Friends of Hospice Tree. These ornaments are for purchase in remembrance of a loved one and will be displayed on the Friends of Hospice Christmas tree located in the main lobby at Memorial Healthcare from November 28 - December 23. Ornaments may be picked up from the front desk in the lobby the week of January 2, 2023.

There are two types of ornaments, a snowflake ornament for \$10, and an angel for \$5. Each ornament will have a tag with your loved one's name and the name of the donor on it. To purchase, please visit [www.MemorialHealthcare.org/Foundation](http://www.MemorialHealthcare.org/Foundation).

The Hospice program provides bereavement follow up and supportive grief counseling to Hospice families for a period of 13 months following a loved one's death. Services include telephone calls, in-home visits, monthly support groups, etc.

At Memorial, Hospice care is provided through an interdisciplinary, medically directed team consisting of compassionate and caring Hospice nurses, home health aides, social workers, a spiritual advisor and Hospice volunteers. Charitable contributions raised through Friends of Hospice provide support services not reimbursed by insurances that improve the quality of care that Hospice provides.

For further information about Memorial Healthcare Foundation or Memorial's Hospice program call (989) 725-2299 or visit [www.MemorialHealthcareFoundation.org](http://www.MemorialHealthcareFoundation.org).



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## Recycling in December

submitted by Ellen Link

Calling all recyclers near and far! Mark your calendars for open hours in December at the Greater Laingsburg Recycling Center (7500 Woodbury Rd.). Due to the holidays, there will be one less day to bring all your stuff. Per usual, the facility will be open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (Dec. 6 and 20) and the 2nd Saturday (Dec. 10); the 4th Saturday is Christmas Eve, hence the closure.

A few reminders from last month's announcement: Our trial run of collecting denim (no more than 5% spandex and zippers and metal buttons removed) is still running, so don't miss this opportunity to get rid of those holey jeans—though maybe now they're even more fashionable with the holes! And we continue to add miscellaneous treasures to our freebie shelves by the exit door. Some of the books brought in to be recycled are way too good for that, so we try to pull the best and put them either on the free shelf or in our new tiny library, situated by the road.

Having an eco-conscious holiday is a real challenge, but every little effort helps. You've no doubt heard these tips before, but they bear repeating: Take along reusable bags when shopping. Consider giving gifts like consumables (Fair Trade chocolates!), items made from recycled materials, gift certificates (perhaps one good for your own services), theater or concert tickets, even donations to the recipient's favorite charity. And whenever possible, try to avoid buying and using plastic. Aim for less waste—even as most of us end up with more waist!

The GLR is happy to announce that they will be able to accept Christmas cards, wrapping paper (please try to remove the tape), and defunct Christmas lights! So save those up for January recycling (store them in your car trunk if you have to). As for the rest...

Please make sure your recyclables are clean and separated: Newspaper and phone books; tin and scrap metal, separated from aluminum; corrugated cardboard (include brown paper bags here); boxboard; mixed office paper and junk mail; magazines; books; plastics— #1 bottles and jars, no clamshells (takeout, berries, bakery and salad containers), #2 (milk jugs/cloudy separated from solid colors), and #5 ("tubs", e.g., yogurt, sour cream, etc.); non-corroded household batteries (please separate into regular, rechargeable, lithium and button); glass bottles and jars (all colors); electronics (no televisions; a \$5 fee for flat screen monitors); empty inkjets; and dental care products like toothbrushes, spent toothpaste tubes and floss containers. Please minimize your use of plastic bags and take them back when emptied.

For details on what we accept, visit our Facebook page or website--<https://recyclelaingsburg.wixsite.com/mysite>. Questions? Contact Terry or Ellen Link at (517) 651-2005 or Beth Lange at 651-6437. Wishing you all happy, healthy, green holidays.



### Christmas in Ovid

Friday, December 9th

Light Parade at 6:45pm, Tree Lighting in Boyer Park, Cookie Decorating and Santa after at Ovid Lions/VFW Hall

### 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](http://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](mailto: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.

## Kindergarteners Show Kindness

submitted by Marcy Westenberg

Kindergarten students at Leonard Elementary, in Ovid, painted birdhouses for our local nursing homes as a way to show love and kindness. World Kindness Day was on November 13th and our kindergartners had a blast painting birdhouses for our elderly friends. Local anonymous donors spearheaded the project by building the birdhouses. With the help of some Leonard Volunteers, the birdhouses were sanded to prepare them for paint, and then later on some paint touch ups were done after kindergarteners painted them.

All in all, the Kindergarten Kindness Birdhouse Project completed 115 birdhouses! The birdhouses were delivered to seniors living in The Meadows of Owosso, the Pathway Home in Elsie and the Ovid Health Care Center. These birdhouses were delivered on Monday, November 14th for National Kindness Day and helped our Kindergartners spread love, kindness, and to joy to the seniors who live in our community.

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# Obituaries

## Suzanne Fay Nethaway

Suzanne Faye Nethaway, age 78 of Elsie, MI, passed away Thursday, November 24, 2022, at Memorial Healthcare, Owosso, MI.

Suzanne was born in Flint, Michigan on February 10, 1944, the daughter of Anthony and Helen (Holczman) Bocek. She was a graduate of Ovid High School. On February 24, 1962, she married Ronald Nethaway at St. Cyril Catholic Church, Bannister, MI.

She liked to garden and read. Suzanne enjoyed hunting and fishing. She was a clown and performed in the circus in the Lansing area, also performing at parties and special events. Suzanne was very talented as a clown, walking on stilts and riding unicycle. She was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church. Most importantly, her grandchildren were dear to her heart.

She is survived by her husband Ron Nethaway of Elsie, MI; daughter Ronda and Christopher Robinson of Ovid, MI; grandchildren Eric, Justin, Zach, Chris R., Chan, Jess, Alexis, and Krista; sixteen great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; brother Anthony Bocek of Port Huron, MI. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; children: Rachel Nethaway, Jeff Nethaway, and Becky Nethaway; two grandchildren: Chris Nethaway and Kati Nethaway; sisters: Maryanne Hier and Adie Winkler; and one nephew.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Holy Family Catholic Church, Ovid, MI, at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, December 3, 2022, with Rev. Fr. Anthony Brooks presiding. Visitation will be held at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI, on Saturday, December 3, 2022, from 10-11 A.M. at the church.

Memorials may be made to Holy Family Catholic Church. Online condolences can be sent to [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com). The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



## Retha Ann Bancroft

Retha Ann Bancroft, age 80, of Ovid died November 27, 2022, at Grace Haven Assisted Living, St. Johns, MI.

Retha was born on December 26, 1941 in Owosso, MI to Richard and Marie (Moore) Jones. She graduated from Ovid High School with the class of 1960. Retha married Richard Bancroft on June 11, 1960, at her family's home in Ovid and celebrated sixty years together before his passing on January 18, 2021. Retha enjoyed crocheting, bowling, gardening, casino trips and being outdoors.

She is survived by her three children: Rick and Sue Bancroft of Lake Odessa, MI; Debbie and Mark Williams of Haslett, MI; Sue and Mark Horak of Elsie, MI; her grandchildren: Brooke and Ivan Harlow, Alexander and Jennifer Williams, Mychael Horak and Jeff Hickey, Marques and Erika Horak, Macauley Horak and Evan McPherson, Matthew Horak and Michaela Dowling, Ryan Bancroft, Ericka Williams, Madalyn Horak, Sarah Bancroft, and Maverick Horak; five great-grandchildren: Roy and Rylan Harlow, Kalen and Logan Williams, and Cooper Horak. She is also survived by her sister Ruth Coffman, sister-in-law Kay & Bob Gladstone and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, her sisters: Rita Cannon and Diana Crandall, brothers: Dan, Jim and Jerry Jones and an infant son.

Funeral Services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI, on Thursday, December 1, 2022. Burial was at Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid, Michigan.

The family would like to thank the staff at Memorial Healthcare Hospital, Grace Haven Assisted Living Facility, CorsoCare Hospice and Marva Van Pelt for all of your care and support.

Memorials may be made to the Elsie Food Pantry. Online condolences may be made at [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com). The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



## Israel Riojas

Israel Riojas, 85, of Ovid, MI passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on November 16, 2022. Israel was born on March 23, 1937 in Eagle Pass Texas, the son of Pedro Sr. and Brigida.

Israel married Carole Mills on November 1, 1994.

Israel served his country in the U.S. Navy - RMSN Seaman Radioman. Israel retired from Lear Corporation.

Israel enjoyed life, loved singing, loved music and playing his guitar, and loved his boxing. He had such a great sense of humor that will be missed by all.

Israel loved spending time with his family, and friends and enjoyed the opportunities spending time with his grand kids that he loved so dearly.

He will be missed by so many, his children, Mitzi (Bill) Arnold, Marcos (Jennifer) Riojas.

His beloved wife Carole and her children Jeff (Andrea) Mills, Melissa (Ken) Bishop, Michele (James) Robinson, Heather (Dennis) Casteel.

11 Grand kids including Chelsea (Tyler) Peterson, 13 Great Grand kids and many nieces and nephews. His surviving sisters Doralicia Cordova and Norma Gorman - Kimmel, and sister in law Sharon Hoover. Preceded in death by his father Pedro Sr. and Mother Brigida.

His sister Socorra, brothers Juan, Pedro Jr. and Jose Sr.

Celebration of his life to be held on March 25, 2023 at the St. Johns VFW 2497 N (Bus-27) St. Johns, MI at 2:00 PM. Dr. Greg Casto from the Clinton Revival Center in Clinton Township, MI will be officiating.



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# Editorial...cont' on page 10

## Local Weatherby Man Almost Meets Fate

A few weeks ago Angus Arthur from Victor Township was on a hunting trip in Montana and came razor blade thin close to death. If any of the readership personally knows Angus, it goes without saying, his mental and physical strength far exceeds that of normal outdoors people. An olympian trained wrestler, his natural ability to tap body strength and endure pain is incredible but sometimes Mother Nature can even physically and mentally challenge the best of the best. Whether you are a hunter or not, anyone spending time outdoors will benefit from reading this column. While the weather and terrain in Montana may be more severe than in Michigan the principles of preparedness and safety remain the same.

The Weekly Sportsman is uncertain about the specific details of how a mule/whitetail deer hunting trip to Montana was actually planned but it probably originated with an invite from friend Andy who is a local game warden. Andy is a native of Grand Ledge and a Purple Heart decorated Iraq War veteran. He went to school with Angus at Michigan State University and now works for the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Law Enforcement Division. There were supposed to be three in this hunting party, excluding Andy, but one member missed a connecting flight to Missoula and couldn't make the journey. The absence of this third member would eventually prove to be detrimental because of the key gear and supplies allocated to his backpack.



Upon arrival, Angus and Quinton, were advised by friend Andy to contact Dawson Ranch located just southeast of Belt in Cascade County to receive permission to hunt. This ranch participates in the Block Management Area program which is a cooperative effort between Montana FWP, private landowners, and public land management agencies to help landowners manage hunting activities and to provide free hunting access to private and isolated public lands. Landowners benefit from enrolling in the program in the form of licenses, financial incentives, etc. Type 1 BMA's are very similar to Michigan's Hunter Access Program where hunters administer their own permission to hunt a parcel by signing in at a check station or kiosk of some sort. The Dawson Ranch is a Type 2, requiring hunters to receive permission from either a landowner or FWP staff member. Usually

this can be done over the phone but Angus said that the Dawson Ranch is kind of old school in that they require meeting hunters before granting permission. On the way to gain permission in three feet of freshly fallen snow the truck went off the road and it took six hours of digging to get unstuck.

The folks at Dawson Ranch gave advice to plan on going in at least one or two miles before expecting to see any deer as most hunters cling close to the roads. While Angus and his friend were blazing a trail, they encountered some hunters on their way out who were ending their hunt early because the snow was too deep and it was cold and windy. Despite this they pushed on for miles and miles along ridge lines glassing lower areas. After some time they started seeing what looked like ants far below them and the white rear end of the muleys served almost like reflectors when exposed to rays of sunlight. After a long day of glassing and running ridges for nearly nine miles in three feet of snow at an elevation of around 5000 feet a nice 10 point whitetail buck was spotted alongside some does in a valley playing cat and mouse with the local coyote population.

When hunting out West there is always the dilemma of what is an ethical shot when it comes to distance. Unlike in Michigan, where the average distance of deer being shot is around 35-50 yards, distance of shot opportunities increases by hundred yard increments and it is not uncommon to consider shots over 600 yards or more. To do so first requires a quality rifle and cartridge capable of delivering not only accuracy but also required knockdown energy. A couple of years ago Angus made the decision to become a Weatherby man and purchased a 300 Weatherby Magnum rifle with the thought of owning one rifle to hunt any game in North America from varmints to moose and bear. The Weekly Sportsman worked with Angus at that time to mount a scope and sight in his rifle and can attest to the fact the combination is capable of almost single hole accuracy at 200 yards. While Angus is still young in experience when it comes to developing marksmanship confidence and shooting skills, he is still clearly capable of taking long distance shots. There is something to the old adage of being cautious of the man with one rifle as he will likely know how to use it.

With the sun setting, and little thought over the distance traveled, Angus decided to settle in and take a shot at around 500 yards but at the last minute the two hunters decided to drop their packs and descend downward for a closer shot. At just under 300 yards Angus put the sights on the buck and took a rushed shot which resulted in a miss. Racking the bolt he tried again and connected. The shot was not perfect and the buck began a slow death march for almost a half mile and then expired. Standing over the buck Angus realized that the knives and other gear was

left uphill in the packs. With temperatures dropping and darkness setting in, Angus phoned his friend Andy and asked if it was alright to come back in the morning. Given a quick explanation of not only the legal implications of leaving the deer he was told nothing would probably be left at sunrise due to the circle of life. So the hunting party went back to retrieve their packs and then returned to the slain buck to start the hard work of field dressing and quartering the three hundred pound buck which resulted in a deep cut on the hand. Heading back with the quartered deer loaded only in his backpack, Angus quickly realized the load was too much and the decision was made to cut across the valley and seek shelter in an abandoned dwelling discovered earlier in the morning that contained some Bald Eagle nests. Thoughts of personal safety and death began to creep into the minds of both members of the party as snow went from waist deep to chest deep when zigzagging across the valley. Angus was being reminded constantly by his friend that this was how people die. Recognizing that personal survival of not only himself but also Quinton was at stake the decision was made to abandon the packs and rifle and to drop a pin on their onX Hunt app.

Reaching the shelter dehydrated and soaking wet it was clear that hypothermia was setting in as both started to become delirious with uncontrolled shaking. Having no fresh water left nor fire starting/cooking gear they were unable to quickly rehydrate and refuel their bodies. Due to the extreme cold, cell phone batteries had to be warmed up by what little body heat was left in order to call for a search and rescue effort. Angus called his friend Andy and told him they were in serious trouble and needed a search and rescue team to come get them. Angus was humble enough and not afraid to tell his friend he did not want to die on the side of some mountain in Montana. A snowmobile team would be there but it would be at least four hours so the pair did exercises and ate some cold dehydrated food that reminded them of dry dog food. The snowmobiles arrived later than expected due to getting stuck in the snow but help finally arrived. The owners of Dawson Ranch sent a hired hand the next day with a side by side on crawler tracks to retrieve their deer and gear.

When asked what lessons were learned about this hunting adventure Angus was quick to point out that being prepared with fire starting gear and some land navigation skills would have helped immensely. The Weekly Sportsman would like to point out that the greatest lesson learned from their experience is knowing when enough is enough and personal safety of all those hunting overrides any attempt to follow local game laws or ethics about retrieving dead game. Sometimes common sense and the ability to set pride aside far outweighs any piece of survival gear one can carry when afield.

-WS

## NOTICE TO CITY RESIDENTS

The Council for the City of Ovid will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00 pm with the regular meeting to follow for its proposed 2023 budget. The Public Hearing & Regular meeting will take place at City Hall in the Council Chamber's room located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection by contacting the City Clerk. "The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will also be a subject of this hearing."

Josefina Medina, Clerk  
City of Ovid

## NOTICE

The Village of Ashley is calling for a public hearing on December 8, 2022 at 6:45p.m. at the Ashley Community Center located at 110 N. Sterling St.

**TO ESTABLISH ORDINANCE 2022-01. AN ORDINANCE FOR NOISE CONTROL WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF ASHLEY, GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT HEREOF; AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION HEREOF; PURSUANT TO THE ENABLING AUTHORITY THEREFORE PROVIDED BY ACTS 344 (MCL 125.71 ET SEQ.) AND 246 (MCL 41.181 ET SEQ.) OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1945 AS AMENDED.**

The proposed ordinance will be considered for adoption at the December 8, 2022 regular council meeting. The ordinance is available to be viewed in its entirety at the Village Office.

Michelle Fitzpatrick  
Village Clerk

## Victor Township Proposed Special Meeting Minutes of the Victor Township Board November 23, 2022

The **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Victor Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Conklin at 9:00 a.m. at the Victor Township Hall, 6843 Alward Rd., Laingsburg, Mi.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a roll call of board members in attendance:

**Present:** Fickes, Conklin, Townsend, Willoughby, Prange. **Absent:** None

4 Citizens in attendance  
Motion by Townsend, support by Willoughby, to approve the meeting agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

### New Business:

Motion by Fickes, support by Townsend, to rescind extending RFP for tree removal in the Township cemeteries. Motion carried.

Motion by Willoughby, support by Townsend, to open the 2 RFPs for tree removal in the Township cemeteries received by the due date. Motion carried.

Motion by Willoughby, support by Fickes, to accept the bid from J & J Excavation & Tree Removal in the amount of \$10,725.00 with monies to be taken from the contingency fund. The Contractor must provide proof of Liability Insurance by the December 12, 2022 board meeting.

Roll call vote: Townsend: Yes, Willoughby: Yes, Fickes: Yes, Prange: Yes, Conklin: Yes. Motion carried.

### Discussion:

The Township Board will check the Township policies regarding the right to refuse RFPs and policies regarding the handling of RFPs opened prior to board meetings.

Moved by Conklin, support by Willoughby, to adjourn at 9:17 a.m. Motion carried.

Lianne Prange, Clerk  
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## Tri-County Office on Aging Welcomes New Executive Director, Andrea Radel, MBA

submitted by Casey Cooper

GREATER LANSING – The Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA) Consortium Board has named Andrea Radel, MBA as the new Executive Director of TCOA. Radel most recently served as TCOA's Human Resources Director. As the state-designated Area Agency on Aging serving Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties, TCOA has been the leader of assistance, advocacy, and planning for older adults to remain independent in their own homes and communities since 1974.

After an extensive selection process guided by Management Business Solutions and the leadership of the TCOA Consortium Board, Radel was selected to succeed Marion Owen, who retired on November 18, 2022 after 48 years of continuous service in various roles at TCOA. Owen is pleased with the Board's decision, saying, "I am totally confident that Andrea will be an exceptional leader. Her devotion to TCOA, clients and staff is absolute and sincere."

Radel has served as TCOA's Human Resources Director for eight years and brings over 20 total years of insight and experience at the agency to this new role. A lifelong resident of Eaton Rapids, Radel holds a Master of Business degree in Human Resources Management. She has devoted her entire professional career to TCOA, beginning as a member of the Finance Department team and eventually becoming a dedicated and valuable member of TCOA's leadership team. Radel assumed the Executive Director role on November 21, 2022.

## Habits that Affect Cognitive Health

Various changes to appearance and health are associated with aging. Issues such as diminished vision, waning muscle strength and gray hairs are among the more common and noticeable side effects of aging. Cognitive decline is another symptom often associated with aging, even if that needn't be the case.

Certain lifestyle choices can protect against cognitive decline and dementias. While there is no surefire way to prevent dementias, here are some good habits for maintaining cognitive function well into your golden years.

### Exercise frequently

Harvard Health reports that exercise, in addition to the many other benefits it provides, may help improve cognitive function in people who have already experienced memory issues. Exercise may be particularly advantageous to people who carry the APOE4 gene variant, which makes people more susceptible to Alzheimer's. Speak with a doctor about how much exercise is needed and what is safe for your age.

### Enjoy video games

Playing a favorite video game may improve long-term cognitive function. Researchers at Cambridge Brain Sciences found study participants who played non-cognitive-training video games were associated with better performance in several cognitive domains, but only for younger (age 18 to 64) participants. Cognitive training games, on the other hand, were not associated with any cognitive improvement.

### Stay socially engaged

According to a study published in the journal Experimental Aging Research, seniors who have high levels of social engagement also have better cognitive function. Getting together with friends, participating in a club, attending religious studies, and any other activity that gets you out with other people can help with cognitive function.

### Eat a healthy diet

Eating a diverse array of healthy foods is beneficial. Nutritious diets can help reduce the risk for illnesses that may affect cognitive ability. Eating well also helps keep the brain healthy. A Mediterranean diet appears to lower the risk or slow the progression of dementia in people who have the condition.

### Get help for sleep disorders

Lack of sleep can affect memory and learning. By getting help for sleep disorders, you may reduce your risk for cognitive issues.

While it is not possible to prevent or cure cognitive conditions like dementias with lifestyle changes, certain behaviors can lower the risk of developing these illnesses or reduce their severity.

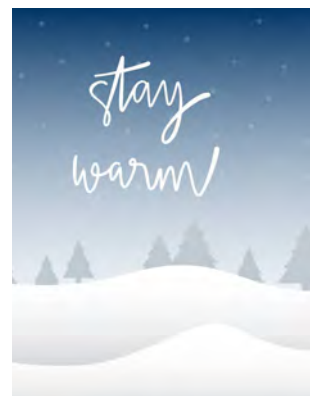
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## Sports

### Ovid-Elsie Girls Open With 10-Point Basketball win Over Ionia

IONIA — Ovid-Elsie took its (hoped-for) championship trip on the road to start the 2022-23 season, and coach Ryan Cunningham's Marauders looked sharp in a 42-32 non-league win over the host Bulldogs.

Braeden Tokar and Evalyn Cole each scored 11 points and Ava Bates scored 10 with eight rebounds and three assists. Cole delivered seven steals and Kiah Longoria dealt four assists for the Marauders.

The Marauder defense held the Bulldogs to single digit in each of the four quarters. "We definitely had the opening night jitters as we never really seemed to get into a great flow offensively," said Cunningham. "We played solid in the first and fourth quarters, but struggled a little in the middle quarters. Ionia was quick and scrappy so I'm happy to come away with the win."

Ovid-Elsie scoring looked like this: Aubrey Kurka 2 0-0 2, Braeden Tokar 3 3-5 11, Evalyn Cole 4 1-2 11, Ellyanna Carman 2 0-0 4, Katie Lorio 1 0-0 2, Hailee Campbell 1 0-1 2, Ava Bates 4 0-0 10.



Ava Bates scored 10 points, had 8 rebounds and 3 assists on November 11th during the season opener against Ionia.

Photo by Denise Burgess

### Wolfpack Girls Open with 20-Points Lead, Dominate Swartz Creek in 2022-23 Opener

LAINGSBURG — The host Wolfpack opened up with a 21-0 run to start their 2022-23 season, and raced to a 49-25 win over Swartz Creek here November 30.

Veteran coach Doug Hurst's Wolves were dominant in the non-league win over the Dragons. They lead 32-4 at halftime. "I thought for being our first game and being a young, inexperienced varsity team we did very well," said Hurst. "Our girls came out and took their first-game jitters and turned it into positive energy."

Ellie Baynes led the Wolves with 13 points, 7 rebounds and 4 steals. Ella Merrell added 10 points and 3 steals; Kyleigh Luna 8 points, 4 rebounds, 4 steals and led LHS with 4 assists; Bella Strieff 6 points; Ashlee Hawes 5 points, 4 rebounds and 3 assists; Mallory Woodbury 4 points and 9 caroms; Callie Clark 3 points and 4 steals in a big team effort.

LHS hit four 3-pointers (Baynes, Merrell, Clark, Hawes) and cashed in on 9-of-12 free throws.

### Planning pays in retirement



#### Personal savings are key to living comfortably

Michael doesn't see himself living on the beach when he retires, but he'd like to vacation there with his wife. He worries he isn't saving enough in the 401(k) account he has at work, but he isn't sure what more he can manage with two kids, a mortgage and credit cards.

Michael faces two dilemmas: Saving enough money for a comfortable retirement, and making those savings last his lifetime. Like most Americans, having money in retirement may depend on part-time jobs, personal savings and tax-advantaged retirement savings accounts.

A financial representative can help people like Michael understand their options, such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans, annuities, and individual retirement accounts (IRAs).

The key is to set goals and get started. The longer you wait to start saving, the more you will have to save to reach those goals.

#### Let's start the conversation.



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## Ley, Wittenberg Head Marauder Post-Season Football Honorees

OVID-ELSIE — Two Marauder football players were named All-Region — and a score were selected to the 2022 Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) honor team in voting released by the league coaches recently.

Senior DL Kevin Ley, a 4-year starter at RG and DT, and senior LB Clay Wittenberg, a 3-year starter at LB and TE, were both named Team Captains and to the Leadership Council on the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association (MHSFCA) All-Region contingent.

Ley registered 62 tackles, 12 tackles for loss and 9 sacks for an O-E defense that only gave up 603 yards rushing this year in conference play.

Wittenberg was also a big part of that defense with 113 tackles, 3 sacks, 18 tackles for loss, four pass break-ups and two interceptions. Also a starter at TE, he garnered 26 receptions for 454 yds. and six TDs.

Wittenberg and Ley also topped the list of Marauders named to the All-MMAC squad, as 1st Team selections. Other first-teamers for coach Travis Long's Marauders were:

DB Braxton Stenger, a senior, usually matched up with the opponent's best receiver. He registered 41 tackles, one tackle for loss, five pass break-ups and six interceptions. On offense, Stenger nabbed 10 catches for 126 yards and a TD.

OL Kole Middleton, a senior, was a two-year start at right tackle and anchored an offensive line that helped produce 2,555 rushing yards, 988 passing yards and 3,243 yards of total offense.

Honored as 2nd Team All-MMAC were:

DE Justin Cole, a senior and a first-year starter at DE / DT, logged 28 tackles, 7 sacks, four tackles for loss and one pass break-up. He was also named a Team Captain and to the Leadership Council.

DB Cohen Tyler, a junior, was in on 30 tackles, four pass break-ups and two interceptions. As an offensive back, he averaged 6.9 yards per carry on 30 rushes and scored a touchdown.

RB Logan Thompson, a senior, was a four-year starter at RB and DB for the Marauders. He was also named a Team Captain and on the Leadership Council. Thompson rushed 70 times for 332 yards, caught nine passes for 212 yards and scored three TDs while amassing 642 all-purpose yards. As a defender, he registered 60 tackles, a sack, five tackles for loss, six pass break-ups and an interception.

RB Jamison Custer, a junior, started at the wing / flanker position for coach Long. He gained 380 yards on 70 rushes, scored four TDs, and caught five passes for 126 yards. Also named to the Leadership Council, on defense Custer made 41 tackles, one tackle for loss and boasted four pass break-ups.

OL Hayden Pontack, a senior, was a multi-purpose player on the line, starting at several OL positions. His versatility helped the Marauders amass 3,243 yards of total offense in 2022.

Honorable Mention picks for Ovid-Elsie were:

DE Beau Price, a senior and first-year starter on defense. Price logged 60 tackles, four tackles for loss, 8 sacks and six pass break-ups. Outstanding on the edge, he started as a receiver on offense as well, noted for his blocking ability, and caught 3 passes for 43 yards.

OLB Perrien Rasch, a senior, excelled at flat defender and roll-up DE for the Marauders. Another Team Captain honored on the Leadership Council, Rasch made 48 tackles, one sack, 7 tackles for loss, one pass break-up and three interceptions.

DL Cole Workman, a junior, was named all-conference in his first year of HS football. Workman started at NG where he made 23 tackles, two sacks and 8 tackles for loss.

LB Landon Stoneman, a senior, was a three-year defensive starter and in 2022 registered 73 tackles, 9 sacks, 18 tackles for loss, two fumble recoveries and added an interception.



Kevin Ley  
All-Conference  
All Region



Clay Wittenberg  
All-Conference  
All Region



Braxton Stenger



Kole Middleton



Justin Cole



Cohen Tyler



Logan Thompson



Jamison Custer



Hayden Pontack



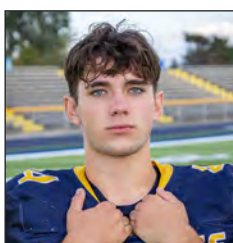
Beau Price



Perrien Rasch



Cole Workman



Landon Stoneman

## Sports

### Wolfpack's Randall Leads Football Contingent on All-CMAC Honor Team

LAINGSBURG — Talk about a bright future.

After winning its first-ever Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) football championship, coach Brian Borgman's Laingsburg Wolfpack has dominated the post-season all-league voting — with several of the LHS honorees being underclassmen.

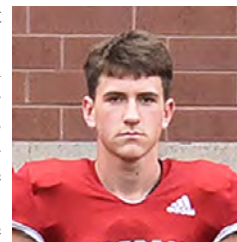
Junior quarterback Ty Randall leads the Honor Team as Offensive Team Captain, and the Wolves landed a whopping 14 other selections on the 1st, 2nd and Honorable Mention sections of the All-CMAC, as voted on by the league's coaches.

To be sure, Wolfpack seniors also had a lot to say about the final makeup of the all-star squad. They led Laingsburg to another 6-3 season, 5-1 in the CMAC, where they reeled off five-straight wins to claim Laingsburg's first league title since the Central Michigan Athletic Conference was formed in 1966.

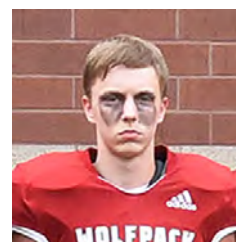
Randall, a junior, was joined by Pewamo-Westphalia linebacker Gavin Nurenberg as captains of the team. Randall was named 1st Team QB, joining fellow Wolfpack honorees WR Connor Hullibarger (12th grade), OL James Nixon (12), DB Kyle Thelen (12), DB Hayden Johnston (12), LB Mikey Brooks (12) and LB Seth Sivak (11) on the #1 Team.

The red-and-white kept rolling with 2nd Team selections: RB Jack Borgman (11th grade), WR Eli Woodruff (12), OL Elliot Wilsey (11), DB Eli Woodruff (12) and DL James Nixon (12) — Nixon as the Wolves' lone two-way all-star.

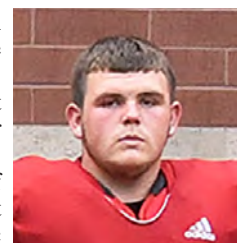
Borgman's Wolves then added OL Tommy Gousetis, DL Wilsey, LB Borgman and WR Johnston to the Honorable Mention picks.



Ty Randall



Connor Hullibarger



James Nixon



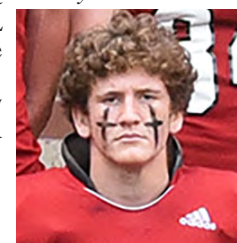
Kyle Thelen



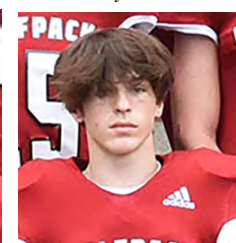
Hayden Johnston



Mikey Brooks



Seth Sivak



Jack Borgman



Eli Woodruff



Elliot Wilsey



Tommy Gousetis

### NCTL 8 Man Football All League

by Ashleigh Shaw

These boys from the Ashley football team made all league for this fall season. Offensively first team: Logan Drummond from the tight end position, honorable mention Bailey Long and Will Long. Defensively first team Logan Drummond for defensive back, second team: Gavin Malek for defensive line, Bailey Long for linebacker and Logan Drummond punter. Honorable mention defense was Heath Powelson.



Will Long



Gavin Malek



Logan Drummond



Bailey Long



Heath Powelson



# Sports

## Outstanding Wolfpack Boys Soccer Season Ends with Multiple Team Award

LAINGSBURG — Veteran coach Natalie Elkins welcomed a large contingent, and doled out several post-season awards at the Wolfpack’s annual boys soccer night Awards Night recently.

Standout scorer Dylan Hulliberger led the Wolves as an All-State and All-District honoree, joining Brayden Thomas, Paul Pageot, Alex George, Aaron Willoughby and goalie Luke Snyder on the District plaudit squad.

All-Area players were Hulliberger, Thomas and Pageot, with Snyder as an Honorable Mention All-Area selection.

1st team All-Conference honors went to Hulliberger and Thomas, 2nd team Alex George and Aaron Willoughby, and Honorable Mention Luke Snyder.

Team awards went to Jacob Essenberg as Most Improved Player; Hulliberger MVP; Playmaker award to Thomas; and the Wolfpack award to Snyder.

In addition, JV team awards were handed out to Alex Myers as Most Improved; Jake Rivet as MVP; and the Wolfpack award to Evan LeFevre.



Dylan Hulliberger



Brayden Thomas



Alex George



Aaron Willoughby



Luke Snyder



Paul Pageot



**GRIDIRON GURUS**  
by Tom Turek  
sports@meridianweekly.com

**1st place Alex Arnst 11-1; 2nd place Dan Culpepper 9-3 (won by tie-breaker), 3rd place Leanne Arnst 9-3.**

So the Guru has to ask: who saw that 4th quarter coming for the Maize and Blue in Columbus? Huh?

That, fearless forecasters, was an ol’ fashioned stunner. So for those of you who voted against the Blue ... check. That’s a demerit. A Big Blue loss, as it were, as we’re down to the nitty-gritty in our season-long race to determine the Greatest Guru of ’22.

As the college slate focused on several rivalry games, the Guru steered away from several of them. Instead, it was in the NFL that Guruific tripped up most of our fearless forecasters. Most notably, the Browns win over Tampa Bay, and the Bengals win in Tennessee.

In The Weekly staff race, Wolfie (8-4 last week) opened (probably) an insurmountable lead over Duffy (6-6) with a .625 to .569% lead. The Duff will have to pull out some big-time stuff to make a run at the crown ... we don’t think he’s up to it.

Make sure your entry gets to The Weekly before each Thursday at 5 pm. Don’t forget to fill in the tiebreaker as this will decide any and all ties. Entries are accepted in person at The Weekly’s offices at 200 S. Main in Ovid, by e-mail at [HYPERLINK](mailto:HYPERLINK) "mailto:sports@meridianweekly.com" (sports@meridianweekly.com) or via USPS delivery.

For those of you that get your Weekly fix on line at the paper’s website - MeridianWeekly.com, just click the Sports link in the left navigation menu column. Enter your picks and with a few clicks you can play.

Each week the top three winners will receive a coupon for redemption at the sponsor of their choice; 1st place (Pizza), 2nd place (Sub) and 3rd place (Breadsticks) will be awarded.

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 coupons at The Weekly.

This is the final slate to pick, so don’t miss out! We have 14 players in the running for the season-long prize, so their entries are critical.



## GRIDIRON GURUS

WEEK THIRTEEN- DECEMBER 11th - FINAL WEEK!

Form must be at The Weekly office no later than Thursday, December 8th at 4pm

Put a check next to the team you think will win!  
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JETS	JETS ___ BILLS ___	BILLS
VIKINGS	VIKINGS ___ LIONS ___	LIONS
EAGLES	EAGLES ___ GIANTS ___	GIANTS
RAVENS	RAVENS ___ STEELERS ___	RAVENS
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## The Friends of the Maple River (FOMR) December Meeting

submitted by Jon Morrison

The group is getting back together during the holidays. Join the Friends of the Maple River on Wednesday, December 7th in the First Floor Conference Room of the Clinton County Courthouse, 100 E. State Street, St. Johns, Michigan. The meeting is scheduled to start at 6:30. Please access the building via the south/rear entrance nearest the parking lot. If you have difficulties getting entrance to the building call or text Jon Morrison at 989-534-1132.

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## Editorial...cont' on page 12

### OE School Board Members

#### Letter to the Editor:

We are hopeful the school board is following their own policies when it comes to hiring a new superintendent. The school board works for the community NOT the administration. Hiring a new Superintendent is the most important job of the school board. We believe they owe it to the community and students to seek the best qualified candidate. We cannot continue to hold students more accountable than the professionals, when it comes to policies. The students are not allowed to skip steps in a process, neither should the board of education. We encourage the community to educate themselves on the oath the board members have taken and the policies they have vowed to uphold. All school board policies can be found at <https://go.boarddocs.com/mi/oeas/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies>

Here is the policy related to hiring a new Superintendent.

#### 1220 - EMPLOYMENT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Board of Education vests the primary responsibility for administration of this District in the Superintendent of Schools. The appointment of that officer is, therefore, one of the most important functions the Board can perform.

Whenever the position of Superintendent shall be vacant, the Board shall appoint a Superintendent of Schools as chief executive officer and fix his/her salary and term of office which shall be no more than five (5) years.

The Board shall actively seek the best qualified and most capable candidate for the position of District Superintendent.

It may be aided in this task by:

A: committee of Board members;

B: the services of professional consultants;

C: the counsel of the out-going Superintendent;

D: the participation of members of the community.

Recruitment procedures may be prepared in advance of the search and may include:

A: preparation of a written job specification for the position of Superintendent;

B: preparation of written specifications of qualification in addition to proper State certification;

C: preparation of informative material describing this District and its educational goals;

D: where feasible, the opportunity for applicants to visit the schools of this District;

E: the requirement that each selected candidate for the position be interviewed by Board members in a format that encourages him/her to express his/her educational philosophy;

F: solicitation of applications from a wide geographical area;

G: consideration of all applicants fairly without discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, ethnic background, disability, or other condition unrelated to the position of Superintendent.

All interviews of applicants by the Board or a committee of the Board shall be done in open meetings. At the time of application, the Board shall ensure that each applicant has been informed that Michigan law may not permit the Board to protect his/her application from disclosure, and any interview must be open to the public.

A person who is employed as Superintendent by this Board is not required to have a school administrator's certificate issued by the Department of Education but must confirm that s/he has met or is in the process of fulfilling the educational requirements for school administrators established by the State Board of Education and meet NCA certification requirements.

The Superintendent must submit to a criminal history record check from the Michigan State Police. See Policy 3121.

A person who is employed as Superintendent by this Board who was a school administrator in Michigan prior to January 4, 2010, is not required to have a school administrator's certificate issued by the Department of Education but must confirm that s/he meets the continuing educational requirements for school administrators established by the State Board of Education. All others must either have a valid school administrator's certificate or be enrolled or become enrolled, within six (6) months of beginning the position, in a program leading to certification as a school administrator. Certification must be completed within three (3) years, or the person may not continue to be employed as the Superintendent.

Such contract shall include:

A: the term for which employment is contracted, including beginning and ending dates;

B: that tenure in a position shall not be granted;

C: the salary which the Superintendent shall be paid and the intervals at which s/he shall be paid;

D: the benefits to which s/he is entitled;

E: such other matters as may be necessary to a full and complete understanding of the employment contract.

The Superintendent so appointed shall devote himself/herself to the duties of his/her office.

Any candidate's intentional misstatement of fact material to his/her qualification for employment or the determination of his/her salary shall be considered by this Board to constitute grounds for his/her dismissal.

The person selected for the position of Superintendent may be required to undergo a physical examination and a psychiatric examination reasonably related to the duties s/he will be required to perform, the cost of which shall be borne by the District.

Revised 6/12/06

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## Fifty Years of Title IX

*Letter to the Editor:*

On June 23, 1972, the Education Amendments were passed and enacted by the 92nd United States Congress. Included in the amendments was Title IX, which states "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." I have always felt that I was blessed to be able to play sports in both High School and College. I am grateful for the opportunities I have had. Sports have taken me places I'd never been able to afford, paid for my college diploma and greatly influenced me to be the person I am today. Had I been born ten years earlier, my story may be much different.

The 80's were good compared to what the girls of the 70's went through, but it was no picnic. The inequities were very visible. Girls' sports were seen as a distraction. I started playing basketball in the fall of 1981 and graduated in June of 1985. I was coached by trailblazing legend Mary Hudecek and was always reminded of those who paved the way, paid the price and made



Mary Hudecek



Mary Nutter

it possible for me to play. She got a quick dose of reality in high school when she wanted to play on the baseball team. She could hit, throw, and catch as good or better than the boys, but was not allowed to even try out because she was a girl. That was just how it was in the mid 1950's. She did, however, show up for the tryout with glove in hand only to be told to go home. She, like my mom and many other females up until 1972, were members of the Girls Athletic Association. Athletic contests were played between local schools in basketball and softball, but not as a varsity sport.

Fast forward to 1982. Coach Hudecek had four seasons under her belt as the girls' varsity basketball coach. In August she addressed the Ovid-Elsie Board of Education in a letter asking for equal pay for those that coach girls' sports. She wrote, "I would like to bring to your attention the inequity in pay of coaches of girls' sports compared to coaches of boys' sports in our system. The situation has existed for years and probably originated when the girls' seasons were shorter than the boys' seasons. For several years, however, the girls' practices, length of seasons, and number of games have been equal to those of boys' sports. Therefore, those coaching girls' sports should be paid at the same percentage as their male counterparts." She pointed out that in every instance the coaching pay was 1 to 3% less than what coaches were paid to coach boys. She closed with, "I trust you will review these inequities and adjust the percentages accordingly." I cannot say for certain what the outcome was, but what I can tell you is the letter hangs in my office as a reminder of the hills climbed and the battles fought. It is an inspiration showing that change can happen if just one person has the courage to stand up. Mary Hudecek had the courage, and before her was another courageous woman, Mary Nutter. I have heard many stories about Mary Nutter but regret that I never had a chance to meet her. She was the trailblazer of the 70's, who like Hudecek, was a talented athlete who never got a chance to play. They both were instrumental in the lives of countless female student athletes in a time that they had to fight for equality. The girls in the 80's were told they couldn't use the weight room because they would be a distraction to the boys. A coach, with bolt cutters in hand prepared to cut the lock off the door, changed that. I am thankful that these women and many others had the courage to fight for equality.

Fast forward to 2022. The inequity in high school sports is almost unrecognizable. Title IX has been the driving force and the reason it is so much better. It could not have happened without people like Mary Hudecek and Mary Nutter making sure the rules were enforced. They have been my inspiration to make sure women get a fair shot in the world. I live in a world where a few men are still living in 1970. Since I started on Ovid City Council five years ago, I have been screamed at, gaslit, lied to, bullied, threatened, had my name written in concrete, and called the "b" word in an open meeting...and that is just from the males employees of the City. I have been known to give my ideas to the men to use in meetings so the idea will be heard. It is sad. We still have a long way to go. Men with ideas are called trend setters, women with ideas are called nosy B@\$%\$. Game on. It is well past the time for me to stand up.

If you have anything to say about how Title IX has impacted your life, send it to Deb Price at the Weekly. She is another one of my Trailblazing inspirations.

Mary Perrien, Ovid Elsie '85

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