

## Recycling Paused by Ovid City Council

by Dawn D Levey

OVID – The monthly meeting of the Ovid City Council was held Monday, February 13, 2023. The meeting was highlighted by the requests made by the Ovid Police Department.

Monthly action was taken to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of appointment of a spokesperson from the city council to contact the city attorney; the minutes of the January 9, 2023 meeting as amended which included the striking of roll call vote for the approval of the January meeting agenda, and financial reports. Officials approved January 11 – February 14, 2023 expenditures totaling \$264,996.67.

Police Chief Lisa Rousseau reported that the department received a \$5,000 grant toward the purchase of tasers; a new electronic report management system is in process of being installed and officers will be trained. In addition, the new vehicle purchased by the department is an asset.

Chief Rousseau presented a list of equipment requests. First, the purchase six Taser 7s at a cost of \$11,000. The cost will be offset by a rebate of \$150 for old models and with the grant. Next the purchase of four body cameras at a cost of approximately \$16,700. The department is seeking a grant to offset the costs of the body cameras. The in-car cameras are up and running however there are issues with the 2020 cameras. She reported that an additional needs for the police department are many.

The chief also requested that city officials consider contracting with Rossow Group to audit the department, the service fee is \$3,500 noting that the regular cost is \$10,000. This audit will bring the department up to the standards necessary to maintain the department up to current police department standards. A template will be developed to be shared with other small departments utilizing Ovid Police Department as the standard.

Chief Rousseau wrapped up her report by discussing the “swatting” calls at individual schools, focusing on active shooter calls that are not true.

Officials took the following action regarding the six Taser #7 purchase at total of \$5,778 after the grant and allocation for turning in the old equipment. Payment for the equipment was discussed in length. The decision was to pay the \$5,000 up front and the balance to be paid over five years from the police department equipment budget.

The second purchase of four body cameras from Taser Axon at a cost of \$16,700, again where will the funds come from was discussed in length. Noting that a grant is going to be applied for to offset the cost of the equipment. There were numerous additional clarifications discussed. Currently Ovid Police Department does not have body cameras, nor do they have a policy to cover body cameras. The city is hoping for a grant however, if that does not happen, then a five-year payment plan could be entered into. City officials approved the purchase to be paid over a five-year period.

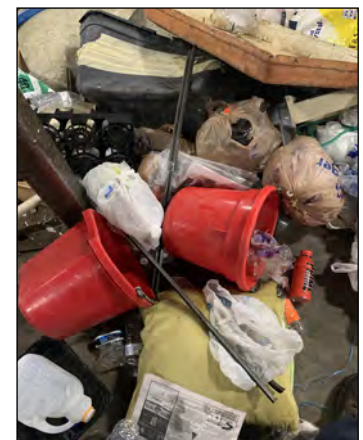
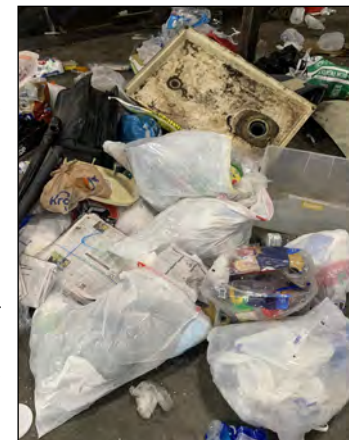
The Rossow Group proposal was addressed. The service would provide an audit of the department, policies, retention, privacy, evidence and interrogation, and policies, industry standards. Funding continues to be a concern, where with this funding come from. After discussion officials took action to approve the service and the money will be found. Time frame 90 days for completion. A long term goal of the department is to have their own building.

It was reported that the Department of Public Works is losing three employees and two positions will be posted. It was noted that one employee is on administrative leave and is under investigation for misconduct.

Under the topic of new business officials were presented a request from the Josie Medina, clerk, requested that a committee be established to review all policies and ordinances. The committee would consist of three members that start with an overview and to then determine if a con-

tracted service is necessary. The members of the committee are: Mary Perrin, Eric Starn and Mallory Olger.

Next, officials addressed the one bid received for citywide garbage pickup. The bid was received from Granger and that the recycling portion could be put on pause. The recycling fees will increase from \$5,000 per year to \$12,000 per year. The major problem is contamination of the recycling containers. Mayor William Lasher recommended that the garbage contract be adopted and the recycling be put on pause. Officials took action to approve the garbage pick-up contract for the next four years and pause recycling for reconsideration at a later date.



*Due to rising recycling bid, misuse of recycling by residents and contamination charges, the Ovid City Council voted to pause recycling service to City of Ovid residents.*

Mary Perrien recommended the appointment of council member to speak on behalf of the entire council, currently it is the mayor and the department heads. This request would add someone to speak on behalf of the council itself. The request was approved and Eric Brown was appointment by the council as the liaison to the city attorney.

Officials reviewed the updates to the 9.8-million-dollar project to update the drinking water system in the City of Ovid. Currently a grant is in progress with the city match being 25% of the total project. On a related topic the lagoon update is in progress, as well.

Officials took action to approve committee recommendations. The police department will change to an 80 hour pay period and the police chief and officers will receive a 4% pay increase.

Officials reviewed and approved the revised city policy regarding credit card purchases. The policy did fall short of stating the consequences for abusing the policy. Finally, officials approved the revised rules and fees for the cemetery. Copies of the policies are available at the City of Ovid business office.

Eric Starn, councilman, voiced the need for additional members from the community for the Planning Commission. Action was taken to accept the resignations of Noah Boise and Lyle Perrien from the Planning Commission.

Dr. Mark Holley, assessor, reported that the Board of Review will be held in March 2023. All property assessments increased by 5%, the increase is established by the federal government. The schedule is as follows: Tuesday March 7, organizational 10:30 am. Public meetings March 13, 3-9pm; and March 16 9 am-3pm. All equalizations numbers for the city passed. This year is an audit year, Holley does not anticipate any problems.



*Spartan Mascot kneels in front of the statue at Michigan State University, paying respects to the three students killed and 5 students injured during a shooting on campus on February 14th.*



*The Laingsburg boys varsity basketball remains unbeaten after defeating PW at home on February 15th. Pictured here is Jacob Essenberg driving against a PW defender.*

*See story on sports pages 7-9.*

*Photo by Burg Sports*



## Social

### Ashley United Methodist Church Soup and Bread Night

The Ashley United Methodist Church, located at 112 New Street in Ashley will be holding a "Soup and Bread" Night. The event is Sunday, February 26, 5-6 p.m. This begins our journey into Lent.

This event is free of charge and is open to the public. All are welcome.



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### Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program Meetings

Are you or your loved ones suffering from DEPRESSION OR ANXIETY? There is hope! The Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program is an evidence based, holistic mental health education program in which you will learn how to identify depression and anxiety and their causes. You will also learn how to deal with loss and trauma. Your energy levels, sleep quality, mood, relationships, and emotional intelligence will be enhanced as you implement lifestyle changes and thinking habits of this program.

Attend one of their FREE introductory DVD presentations;

\* March 9 at the Ovid, Municipal Activity Hall, 114 East Front Street OVID.

\* March 14 and 16 at Caledonian Township Hall, 135 North State Rd, in Owosso.

The Time for all evenings is 6:30pm.

### Exciting Changes to the Shiawassee County Fair

submitted by Carrie Rutkowski

In 2023, Shiawassee County Fair invites out-of-county residents to participate in the still exhibit competition at the Fair! Still exhibits are classified as non-livestock entries, such as painting, photography, baked goods, horticulture, floriculture, Lego displays, canning, quilting, woodworking, welding, crops and more.

This change applies to both youth and open entries in the Exhibit Building only and does NOT apply to livestock for out-of-county residents. The online entry period for out-of-county still exhibits is June 17 – July 1, 2023. Entries are online only and no late entries will be accepted. Exhibitor Guidebooks will be available at Shiawassee County libraries and at Senior Centers.

All entries and exhibit information will be available through our website [www.ShiawasseeFair.com](http://www.ShiawasseeFair.com). For more information or any questions, contact the Fair office at 989-743-3611 or [ShiaCoFair@gmail.com](mailto:ShiaCoFair@gmail.com).

### BREAK-OUT BAZAAR

March 18th, 10am-4pm

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## Library News

### Ovid Public Library

On Tuesday, February 21 the crafters will be meeting at 1:30. There's plenty of table space for you to come in and work on your craft and socialize with other crafters.

Wednesday, February 22 we will be showing the movie "An American Story" starring Brad Johnson and Kathleen Quinlan. Movie time will be at 1:00.

Friday, February 24 will be the Children's Story Hour. This week's theme will be Freaky Fun Friday. Ms. Shelly will be reading some fun books and our craft will be to make your own goofy goober guy or gal. We are hoping that all the kids will come in dressed up as crazy as they can! This will be a fun day and we are looking forward to seeing you!

### Elsie Public Library

We have an exciting new feature for our library patrons. You now can log into your account from home, and look at your Elsie Public Library account. When you log in to your account you will see four different headings: Your items, Your settings, Your Lists and Search history.

Under Your items you will be able to check and see if an item you requested on hold has come in. You can check on your items ordered through Melcat. Your check out history is available. There you will find the titles you currently have out, the date you checked the books out and the due dates. Best yet, there is a button available if you need to renew a book.

Under Settings you will find your profile. My favorite feature here is the option of getting email alerts when an item is about to be overdue. The search engine in your setting allows you to customize your search preferences. You will be able to see if our library has the book you would like to read next. You can also customize your choice of resources and create a list of your favorite web links. You can create lists of books you would like to read and save that list in your settings profile.

Next time you come in to the library, ask about this new feature. We will walk you through the process. We are sure you will like it as much as we do.

Come see what is happening at 145 W. Main St. in Elsie. We would love to see you here.

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## Elsie Village Council Proceedings

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – The regular meeting of the Elsie Village Council was held Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Prior to the regular meeting the first public hearing regarding the Safety Act, the Motor Carrier Safety Act with a focus on commercial vehicles. Noting that a second public hearing will be held prior to the regular meeting, followed by council action. The earliest the change would go into effect is April 1, 2023.

Officials approved the letter of resignation submitted by Cindy Brzak, village treasurer, effective immediately. The letter was accepted with regrets. The resignation was prompted by a new employment opportunity.

Chief Destinee Bryce presented the January police department highlights. Chief noted the collaboration between departments in Clinton County to assist Ingham County at Michigan State University was phenomenal. There was an incident at EE Knight in January that was handled by the Elsie Police Department appropriately and Ovid-Elsie Area Schools is solid maintaining student and community safety. As a result, there is a healthy police presence at the school that is developing a good relationship with the students and staff. 112 complaints were addressed in January. Also, the department is in the process of establishing a drop box for unneeded and expired medications. Finally, the cat issue in the village is being addressed.

Shane Grinnell, addressed the Department of Public Works report. He reported that samples have been pulled on the test wells and the department is waiting for the results. Also, both dump trucks are back on the road.

Shane Grinnell, village manager, reported on the status of the mower for Riverside Cemetery. The distributor offered an alternative for the Huscavarna mower at a \$1,000 savings. Officials approved the purchase. The Frontier phone system is no longer supported by the provider. Last year the village paid \$10,000 through Frontier. A quote was received from Charter for \$1,800 per year for phone service. The change saves the Village \$8,000 and appears to be better. Grinnell noted that this

is an internet-based service.

Grinnell further reported that Matt Spencer resigned from the Department of Public Works and the position has been filled by Keagan Ormes. The personnel committee noted that Chris Ormes, Department of Works, was not part of the hiring process.

Next, a hot topic is the former Elsie High School which is up for tax sale, again, taxes owed are \$4,700. If sold grants for raising the building are not available. However, if the property is owned by the Village there could be grants available to raise it. The down side is the liability risk. The topic was informational. “It is a horrible decision to buy it, however it is the best horrible decision we could make. And gives the village control,” commented Todd Carroll, trustee. There will be more information to come, for example the ramifications reviewed and officials will error with caution.

Grinnell, presented the first draft of the 2023-2024 budget. The area of discussion the water rates, noting that the village charges 50% less than the state average for a community this size. The committee recommendation is to make 3% increase with the minimum use \$69.75 for water/sewer.

Monthly action was taken to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of a letter of resignation, the minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting, and the financial reports. Expenditures totaling \$86,261.72 were also approved.

Gene Nethaway, War Appreciation Rally, and the possible date for the event. It was suggested that the American Legion collaborate with the Fall Festival.

## New Process for Swine Exhibitors

submitted by Carrie Rutkowski

For the 2023 Shiawassee County Fair, all swine will need to be pre-registered by June 1, 2023. This is in addition to the normal online entry process from May 15 - June 15.

The pre-registration process involves sending hair samples, 840 tag numbers, ear notches, description of the pig(s), pictures of the pig(s), exhibitor name and 4-H club name or FFA chapter, if applicable.

This information is due to the Fair office by June 1, 2023 on the form located at the end of the Swine Department in the Exhibitor’s Guidebook. Ziplock bags and swine check-in forms are available at the Fair office. Swine Early Check-In Forms are also available online at [www.shiawasseeffair.com/forms](http://www.shiawasseeffair.com/forms). Shiawassee County Fair is August 6-12, 2023.

## Free Spaghetti Dinner

The next spaghetti dinner hosted by the Laingbsurg Lions Club in conjunction with the American Legion Post 248, will be held on Tuesday, February 21st from 5pm-7pm. This month’s free dinner will include a special Valentine treat for everyone. Also included will be a free raffle ticket per person good towards the chance for door prizes which will be given away at 5:30, 6:00 and 6:30 that evening. The dinner will include Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Beverage and Dessert. Carry Outs will be available, sorry no deliveries. Bring a friend, bring a neighbor and enjoy a good meal and some good ole fashioned conversation.

### Duplain Township March Board of Review Meeting Dates

Will meet on the following dates:  
Organizational Meeting only  
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.  
(Informational only no appeals may be presented)

Appeals will be heard:  
Monday, March 13, 2023  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Wednesday, March 15, 2023  
3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Appeals may be submitted in writing or email before March 1 at: [mholley4444@gmail.com](mailto:mholley4444@gmail.com)

Duplain Township Hall,  
145 E. Main Street, Elsie, MI 48831  
Any questions Ph. 989-834-5611 (Assessor)  
Protest will be heard for the 2023 assessments

## Mid-Winter Jamboree

submitted by Joanne Fornusek

The public is invited to the annual Mid-Winter Jamboree on Sunday, February 26th at the Bannister ZCBJ Hall. Doors open at 11:30 am and a potluck dinner will begin at noon. Coffee and table service will be provided. Many generous musicians will be sharing their talents for an afternoon of ethnic music and dancing from 1:00-5:00 pm. Admission is free.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Greenbush Township Board will be holding thier anual budget meeting for the 2023-2024 FY.

It will be held Saturday February 25th,2023 10am at the Greenbush Township hall,1883 E.French Rd. St.Johns MI. At this meeting only furture budget items may be discussed. The meeting is open to the publc.

For more info call 989-224-3993 or contact your Township Clerk.

### Middlebury Township March Board of Review Meeting Dates

Will meet on the following dates:  
Organizational Meeting only  
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.  
(Informational only no appeals may be presented)

Appeals will be heard:  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Thursday, March 16, 2023  
3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Appeals may be submitted in writing or email before March 1 at: [mholley4444@gmail.com](mailto:mholley4444@gmail.com)

Middlebury Township Hall,  
7627 W. M-21. Ovid, MI 48866  
Any questions Ph. 989-834-5611 (Assessor)  
Protests will be heard for the 2023 assessments

### Notice of Public Hearing City of Laingsburg, City Council 219 W Grand River Special Assessment March 6th, 2023 at 7:00pm, at City Hall Council Chambers

To the owner of the following described property:

Parcel #022-40-001-005-00, more commonly known as 219 W Grand River, Laingsburg, MI 48848.

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Laingsburg City Council intends to assess expenses incurred by the city to the above listed parcel, for the amount of \$1743.00.

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** the Laingsburg City Council will meet at the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 114 N. Woodhull Street at 7:00 p.m., on Monday March 6th, 2023, to review the special assessment roll prepared by the City Assessor and hear complaints by any person to be affected by the incurred charges. The special assessment roll is available for public viewing at the City Clerk’s Office located at 114 N. Woodhull Street, Laingsburg, Michigan during normal office hours.

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that appearance and protest at the hearing in the special assessment proceedings is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the state tax tribunal, and that an owner or party in interest, or their agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment or may file their appearance or protest by letter and their personal appearance shall not be required. The owner or any party having an interest in the real property may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the state tax tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll if that special assessment was protested at the hearing held for the purpose of confirming the roll. Laingsburg City Hall is barrier free. Individuals needing assistance should contact the City Clerk at (517) 651-5374 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Paula Willoughby

### City of Ovid March Board of Review Meeting Dates

Will meet on the following dates:  
Organizational Meeting only  
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 10:30 p.m.  
(Informational only no appeals may be presented)

Appeals will be heard:  
Monday, March 13, 2023  
3:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Thursday, March 16, 2023  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Appeals may be submitted in writing or email before March 1 at: [mholley4444@gmail.com](mailto:mholley4444@gmail.com)

Ovid City Hall, 114 E Front Street  
Ovid, MI 48866  
Any questions Ph. 989-834-5611 (Assessor)  
Protests will be heard for the 2023 assessments

### Ovid Township March Board of Review Meeting Dates

Will meet on the following dates:  
Organizational Meeting only  
Tuesday March 7, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.  
(Informational only no appeals may be presented)

Appeals will be heard:  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023  
3:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Friday, March 17, 2023  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Appeals may be submitted in writing or email before March 1 at: [mholley4444@gmail.com](mailto:mholley4444@gmail.com)

Ovid Township Hall,  
1015 Baese Court, Ovid, MI 48866  
Any questions Ph. 989-834-5611 (Assessor)  
Protests will be heard for th 2023 assessments



# Joanne A. Sisco

Joanne A. Sisco, age 93, of Elsie, MI, passed away Sunday, February 12, 2023, at her sons home.

Joanne was born in Duplain Township, Michigan on April 16, 1929, the daughter of George J. and Mamie G. (Burnham) Pope. Joanne was the youngest of 6 and was orphaned at the age of 7. She was taken in by the Fitzgerald family from Westphalia and they raised her until her 17th birthday. After she turned 17 her sister Eva took her in and she lived with her until she was able to be out on her own.

Joanne married Lawrence Riley Sisco on November 26, 1965, in Lake George, Michigan. They renewed their vows on October 18, 2001, at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Owosso, Michigan. They were blessed with forty-six years of marriage, prior to his passing on November 5, 2012.

Joanne worked various jobs throughout her life: selling Tupperware, Avon, Tops and Toys, and Woodard in Owosso. She was a wonderful homemaker, always cooking & baking for her family. Joanne was an avid seamstress, enjoyed scrap booking and photography. She loved doing crafts of all kinds with her grandchildren. Above all, her family was most important to her. She was a member of St. Cyril's Catholic Church Bannister, MI 48807.

She is survived by her sons: Lawrence and Holly Sisco of Lansing, MI; Peter Welter, III of Ovid, MI; daughters: Lori Jones of Elsie, MI; Faith and Jerome Waterous of Beaverton, MI; Paula Welter of Carland, MI; and Carolyn Welter of Elsie, MI. She is also survived by grandchildren: Amy, Leslie, Andy, Ryan, Genna, Krissy, Jon, Terezia, and Dylan; great-grandchildren: Gina, Carson, Ava, Grace, Karly, Jace, Tyrus, Ryland, Bryson, Kayden, Gregory, and Lauren; and many step-children and step-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Lawrence, son John, her siblings: Vena, Terezia, George Jr., Victor, Eva and two infant sisters.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Cyril's Catholic Church, Bannister, MI, at 12:00 P.M. on Friday, February 17, 2023, with Fr. Raj Bandaru presiding. Burial has taken place at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens Owosso, MI.

Memorials may be made to Residential Hospice. 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.

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# Obituaries

## William Archie "Bill" Dush

William Archie "Bill" Dush, age 95, of Ashley, MI, passed away Thursday, February 9, 2023, at MyMichigan Medical Center - Midland, MI.

William was born in Elsie, Michigan on October 6, 1927, the son of Elzy and Gladys (Sevy) Dush. He graduated from Maple Rapids Schools. He married Mildred Rose Vostrirancy on November 8, 1947, in St. Johns, Michigan. They were blessed with fifty-five years of marriage; prior to her passing on October 18, 2003.

Bill retired from General Motors after twenty-five years of service as a fixture repairman. He was a lifelong farmer. He resided for eighty-five years on his family's centennial farm that began in 1854. Bill raised, showed and bred percheron draft horses and livestock. He loved reading and collecting farm related antiques. He proudly served his country in the United States Army as a medic.

He is survived by his daughter Peggy and Denny Walker of Eau Claire, MI; sons: Ronnie Dush of St. Johns, MI; John and Amy Dush of Elsie, MI; Jerry and Dawn Dush of Elsie, MI; Tim and Dionne Dush of Diamondale, MI; Philip Dush and fiancé Sandy of Elsie, MI; special friend Andrea Ackels of Ashley, MI; former son-in-law Jon Thelen of St. Johns, MI. He is also survived by eighteen grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Mildred, daughter Sally Malatinsky, grandsons: Jason Dush and Michael Malatinsky, brother Wayne Dush and sister Marietta Larson.

Memorial Service will be held at Smith Family Funeral Homes Elsie, MI, at 3:00 P.M. on Sunday, February 19, 2023, with Pastor Kathy Leydorf- Keck officiating. Visitation will be held from 1:00 P.M. until the time of the service at the funeral home. Burial will take place at Eureka Cemetery, Eureka, MI, at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Percheron Horse Association of Michigan. 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.



## Helen Neva (Valencourt) Lundquist

Helen Neva (Valencourt) Lundquist, 87, passed away peacefully at home on February 10, 2023, just 23 days after her husband, Don. Helen was born August 28, 1935, in Harlan, Michigan, to Frederick and Doris (Porter) Valencourt. She attended Harlen Schools through the seventh grade and then went to Mesick High School, graduating as Valedictorian for the class of 1953. She then went on to Central Michigan College obtaining a teaching degree in 1957. She was hired on the spot during a job fair on the college campus for a teaching position at Ovid-Elsie Area Schools. She taught her entire career at O-E, retiring in 1988. She mainly taught 8th grade math.

On January 31, 1958, she married the love of her life, Donald "Hot Dog" Lundquist. They enjoyed almost 65 years of marriage with Don passing away on January 18, 2023. In 1990, they moved "back home" as they always referred to Northern Michigan where they both grew up.

Helen loved to sew and make quilts. She also loved to read. She also liked to go to the casino, shopping and especially craft shows to get new ideas for things to make.

Helen is survived by: two daughters, Nancy of Frankfort and Sherry of Bear Lake; three sisters, Inez Crosby, Thelma Frees, and Lucille (Wallace) Humphrey; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. She is also survived by her very dear friend, Wanda Potter, and special caregiver, Karen Nugent.

The family would like to thank Munson Hospice, especially Angie, Kim and Lori, for their wonderful care.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life for both Helen and Don will be held in the spring in Bear Lake, and then a grave side service in Ovid at Middlebury Cemetery at another time.

The Terwilliger Funeral Home, in Kaleva, is in charge of arrangements. [www.terwilligerfuneralhome.com](http://www.terwilligerfuneralhome.com)




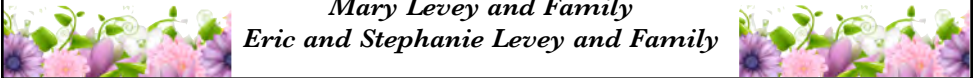
*The family of Sarah Elisabeth Levey would like to express a heart felt Thank-You for all of the words of encouragement, prayers and love given; the cards, the flowers and gifts, hugs and meals provided during this time of loss.*

*This community is so amazing and giving the support truly helps us adjust to our life without Sarah.*

*Again, thank-you.*

*In Christian Love.*  
*Bruce and Dawn Levey*  
*Mary Levey and Family*  
*Eric and Stephanie Levey and Family*





# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Evening Service - 6:00 p.m.  
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Pastor Scott Seelhoff

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Worship Service 10:00am  
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# Obituaries

## Onalee Jean Austin (Baese)

Onalee Jean Austin (Baese) 93, passed away peacefully on February 9th, 2023.

Onalee was born on August 6, 1929 in Elsie Michigan to Onas and Thelma (Doten) Baese. She was lucky number 5 out of 12 siblings, some in the area might know of the famous Baese family. Onalee loved her siblings deeply and even help raise some of the younger ones. The stories she would tell of growing up in a three-bedroom house, with a house full would make you smile and laugh.

Onalee knew of the man she would eventually marry; his name was Jerry Austin. He lived one town over in Ovid, and he knew the moment he saw her he would marry her. One of the fondest stories Onalee would tell was how Jerry showed up to her family's house and told her that he was going to take her on a date, and of course Onalee didn't believe it and brushed him off. Well sure enough he did. They dated and then soon married.

On October 30th, 1955 at the Ovid Methodist Church, Onalee Jean Baese married Jerry Brian Austin. They moved to Kalamazoo, MI where Jerry was still in college and started their life together as any other happily married couples do. They started a family together with Barbara and Brian then came Beth and Bryce. The children were all named with the letter "B" in honor of her maiden name: Baese. Onalee would always say with the age differences of the kids "They just couldn't stop at one, the other needed one to grow up with and play with". Onalee and Jerry would raise their kids in Otsego MI, and later move to Lansing MI.

Other than having children, Onalee's other passion was having grandchildren. She has 14 Grandchildren and 19 Great-Grandchildren and 5 Great-Great Grandchildren. Her traits of being compassionate, nurturing, creative, loving, warm, stern when needed, and a great singing voice where all the ingredients needed to be a wonderful grandmother; which she was. No matter what stage of life you were in, Onalee was always there with coffee, stories, hands to wipe tears away or just to be there with you. Onalee was very creative; she could make simple things magical. Onalee at age 93 lived such a rich, loving and long life. She was reunited with her greatest love; her "big guy" Jerry finally and her family that has long passed. We all can just imagine right now she is sitting at the table with Jerry and a cup of coffee and they are just enjoying themselves once again.

"So long, and God bless the Baeses', wherever they may be." - Onalee Austin, Memories of My Family.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

Surviving are her children, Barbara (Dave) Blanchard; Brian (Sheryl) Austin; Beth (Alan) Charles; Bryce (Toni) Austin. Also surviving are her siblings, Mary Lou Hanold; Gale (Marcy) Baese; Merle (Carol) Baese; Richard (Linda) Baese; Diane (Dick) Bates. Surviving sister-in-law's Shirley Baese; Dorothy Baese and Diane Baese. Preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 50 years Jerry, brothers; Versil Baese; Robert (Shirley) Baese; Eldon (Jean) Baese; Lewis Baese; Raymond Baese; Owen Baese and Bryce Kevin Baese, also brother-in-law Ed Hanold.

A "Celebration of Life Memorial" will be taking place on May 20th, 2023 2-6pm at Barb and Dave Blanchard, 1256 12th St. Martin, MI 49070. In Lieu of flowers, Onalee's children request if you would like to donate, please do so to Wings of Hope Hospice - Allegan or Allegan County Medical Care Community. Messages of condolence may be posted at [www.WinkelFuneralHome.com](http://www.WinkelFuneralHome.com).





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### LET'S GO OUT FOR DINNER, DEAR

Dear Andy,

My wife and I have been married for 52 years and we eat out at restaurants about 8 – 10 times a week. Often for dinner we order one meal and share it. We are older and most of the time it is easier to eat out. Usually, we share a meal because it is too big for our smaller appetites and of course it saves money so we can eat out more often. The problem is, I am a little miffed at the \$3 and \$5 extra charge for a second plate at some restaurants. Does it really cost that much to wash an extra dish?

Not Cheap; Just Sensible

Dear Mr. Sensible,

First of all...Congratulations on 52 years of marriage. Cooking at home can be fun, even for two...but it can often be more affordable to eat out and share the meal. After cooking for a family and the same man for over 50 years, I am sure your wife appreciates going to restaurants. Sometimes it is a challenge to decide what to make for dinner.

As for being charged to share a meal at some of the restaurants you frequent, especially up scale, you need to understand, it's the same number of trips for the wait staff and the same amount of cleaning up. Your wife could carry her own plate in her purse but that is a little tacky and would likely be a health code violation. You are not just paying for the food; you are paying for service, convenience and sometimes atmosphere AND most of all, so you do not have to do it yourself.... Hum: I just do not see a big problem here. When my spouse and I share a meal, we are always glad we did. Like you said the food portions are ridiculously large and we are not into left-overs. So, continue to share...it's worth it. More healthy options, less food waste and fewer calories. We always leave full!

You didn't ask but.... Now for some restaurant protocol -- When you order one meal for two people, did you know you need to tip for the price of two meals? Oh yes. Some places not only charge for the extra plate but will help figure in the appropriate tip. So, when your bill is \$21.00, you need to tip on \$42.00. Which at 20% the tip would be \$8.40... Might as well round up to \$10.00; especially if they treated you nicely and took good care of you.

A restaurant server is often a college student, a mom on a limited budget, and almost always a good waitress or waiter because they like their job and typically are good at their job. Also, did you know, most do not make minimum wage at most restaurants and are required to share part of their tip with the bar server for beverages and drinks. So be nice to your servers and TIP BIG! After all, you don't have to go shopping, cook, clean up or do dishes. Sounds like a great plan to me.... see you at the restaurant. [Askandyforadvice@gmail.com](mailto:Askandyforadvice@gmail.com) or [ask-andy@aol.com](mailto:ask-andy@aol.com)

P.S. Check with your local churches, Service organizations, the VFW and American Legion Halls for special days of Free to low cost donations for lunches or suppers. It also give you an opportunity to meet other Seniors in your community. Do you have a Senior Center in your town? If not, ask your chamber or attend a city or township council meeting to request consideration for a Senior Center, often run by volunteers.

Bon Appetit to our senior friends. If you know of anyone in need for meals, call around for them. Meals on Wheels and other local places may be able to provide food, if you just ask.

# Editorial

## A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell



Just walked in, I've spent a bit of time skidding around on the icy roads. It would have been wonderful if the weather had stayed free of ice pellets. Unfortunately it didn't and south eastern part of Gratiot County hasn't been salted yet. It is already darned awfully dark for being three in the afternoon. I need to go over by Lowe to pickup the hog that has been processed. Pru is looking forward to a change of pace for her and I have put some fresh cinnamon rolls to drop off. I was amazed at the traffic that I encountered as I drove to Wilson's Farm. I was very happy that I drove cautiously and didn't hit any of the really slick spots on the tarmac. I made it over safely, and Prudence was fascinated at the differing scenery. Dropped off the cinnamon rolls and stopped at the coffee shop to deliver the sausage. I was glad to see that the roads were salted by the time that I got back home. Pru was a bit put out because I carried a box of pork out to the shed and put into the upright freezer. She wanted immediate entrance to the coziness of the house.

Have you ever noticed how your house can make unusual noises at times? I hate to say that it took me more time than you'd expect when I heard this loud creaking sound. I walked through the downstairs and looked for the unusual and at first didn't see anything strange. Then I backtracked to the utility room where the doors on two of the wall cabinets were ajar. That is when I realized that said cabinets were no longer hugging the back wall. The east one was pulling harder than the west one. Of course I did a bit of investigating and recognized what had caused the problem. There were five one gallon paint cans sitting on top of the cabinets, and I thought that they were filled with a smidgen of paint. Wrong, two of them had never been open and were sitting on the front edge. They had been sitting that way for about fifteen years and did a good job of pulling down their roost. Fortunately nothing fell out of or down from their perch.

A couple of days ago when it was fifty degree weather, I strolled around my yard when I got home. I was tickled pink with purple polka dots at how well the garlic bed was looking. No doubt, I would have been ecstatic if something hadn't dug up some of the garlic cloves. I haven't figured out what type of critter would have done the deed. Garlic doesn't endear itself to most critters. So I'm at a loss as to what happened. Perhaps squirrels or rabbits but I believe that the cats would have kept them at bay. I have never seen a squirrel here and it has been several years since I saw a rabbit out west of the garden.

Just got my electric and propane bills for the past month. They were horrendous and I don't know how folks manage to get them paid. I will pay mine on time but they will be putting quite a dent into my savings. Of course, I believe that I will be shutting off the upstairs next winter to maybe avoid some of these charges and I will probably do some more insulating also. I do count my blessings because I have the savings to back me up. Hopefully those bitter cold and windy days are gone until next winter.

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day. MG's Perx & Pastries was decorated and turned out well for the day. The specials were both eye appealing and tummy pleasing. The cookies and cupcakes that Diane designed were beyond pretty and especially tasty. There was only one cookie left by eleven and that one managed to get out the door. I believe that we had five of the four dozen cupcakes left and still have some home made fudge on hand. It was a good day and our friend Sally brought me a darling little service dog to hug as needed. Aren't friends grand?

Count your blessings and appreciate what you have. Be a good friend and God bless.

Crystal Mitchell©2023



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## Laingsburg School District Seeking Applications for School Board Vacant Position

*submitted by Kelly Zemla*

The Laingsburg Community School District is seeking applications for the current vacant position on the board of education. An individual will be appointed to fill the vacant position through December 31, 2024 and will be replaced by the individual elected to the position (based upon the November 2024 election results) on January 1, 2025.

Interested persons must submit a letter expressing interest in the board position and their qualifications for the position to the district office no later than 12:00 p.m. on February 24, 2023. Following a review of the submitted materials, the board will schedule interviews with selected candidates. Not all candidates for the board vacancy will be interviewed. If you have any questions concerning the role of the board of education and the responsibilities of a board member, please contact Matt Shastal, Superintendent of Schools, at Laingsburg Community School.

## Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner

*submitted by Carrie Rathbun Hawks*

Laingsburg, Mich. – A pancake dinner fundraiser to celebrate Fat Tuesday is scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. February 21 at Laingsburg United Methodist Church. All proceeds will benefit the Readers to Leaders program.

Fresh homemade pancakes, maple syrup, a variety of toppings and sausage will be served, as well as beverages. Donations will be accepted. Takeout available.

Readers to Leaders is an initiative to provide funds and reading curriculum to students in disadvantaged areas of Michigan and Liberia so that they have the skills to become more empowered leaders as they grow. Each United Methodist Church in the state is being asked to raise at least \$600.

The church is located at 210 Crum Street in Laingsburg. For more information, call the church office between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at 517-651-5531, or email youthgroupthecore@gmail.com.

## Memorial Healthcare Achieves Acute Stroke Ready Hospital Re-Certification

*submitted by Melissa Neuhaus*

OWOSSO – Memorial Healthcare has once again earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's (AHA/ASA) Heart-Check mark for Acute Stroke Ready Hospital Certification.

Memorial Healthcare's stroke ready program underwent a rigorous, onsite review. During the visit, a team of Joint Commission reviewers evaluated compliance with related certification standards and addressing its entire continuum of care for stroke patients—including important areas such as dispatch, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), emergency department, radiology staff, laboratory, inpatients units and rehabilitation specialists. The reviewers also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

"This re-certification recognizes Memorial Healthcare's commitment to fostering continuous improvement in patient safety and quality of care," said Deborah Ryan, MS, RN, interim executive vice president, Accreditation and Certification Operations, The Joint Commission. "We commend Memorial Healthcare for using certification to reduce variation in its clinical processes and to strengthen its program structure and management framework for stroke patients."

"The Acute Stroke Ready Hospital certification obtained through The Joint Commission is recognition of the outstanding professional teamwork that is exhibited at all levels of Memorial Healthcare and demonstrates our commitment for excellence to the community we serve," said Rebekah Hackenberg, BSN, RN, Stroke Program Manager.

"We congratulate Memorial Healthcare for this outstanding achievement," said Nancy Brown, CEO, the American Stroke Association. "This re-certification reflects Memorial Healthcare's commitment to providing the highest quality of care for stroke patients."

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# Sports

## Ovid-Elsie Girls Show Grit, Earn 2nd-Straight MMAC Title at Durand

DURAND — With just a few seconds remaining in the game, junior Ava Bates knocked down a long jumper as Ovid-Elsie nipped Durand, 43-41, and helped the Lady Marauders earn their second straight MMAC title.

Bates finished with 5 points on the night to go along with 11 rebounds and 4 steals.

"I gotta give Durand a lot of credit. They put in a 1-3-1 defense to keep us from getting to the middle and to try and keep Bates from hurting them," said Marauder head coach Ryan Cunningham. "But we found ways to make plays when we needed to and we're just happy to come away with the win. Durand was well-prepared and it is always a tough environment there."

After a tight first quarter which saw Durand cling to a 12-11 lead, Ovid-Elsie would turn things up defensively and outscore the Railroaders 11-6. But Durand would answer with a 13-9 third-quarter run before Ovid-Elsie finished with a 12-10 run to close out the game.

"We got up as many as seven points," noted Cunningham, "but they just kept battling back. They hit some big threes and never really allowed us to get into a flow on offense."

Evalyn Cole had a game-high 21 points to go along with 7 rebounds and 5 steals while Braeden Tokar added 7 points and 4 assists. Hailee Campbell added 5 points and 6 rebounds while Rylee Lewis and Kiah Longoria (3 rebounds) each scored three points.

The Lady Marauders held a 30-26 rebound advantage over Durand and collected 12 steals on 19 Railroader turnovers. Ovid-Elsie also handed out 10 assists on 16 made baskets.

### Martian girls climb to 18-1 with 9-point win at Ovid-Elsie

OVID-ELSIE — On Valentine's Night, the Ovid-Elsie Lady Marauders welcomed the #9-ranked team in MHSAA Division 2, the Goodrich Martians, to town for a non-conference battle that proved to be a great high school basketball game.

Goodrich would eventually come away with a 52-43 win and improve to 18-1 on the season while Ovid-Elsie dropped to 16-4.

"This was another dogfight tonight and another game that we needed to help us get ready for tournament play," said O-E veteran coach Ryan Cunningham. "Goodrich has one of the best programs in the state (in the division above us) and we knew that it was going to be a challenge. I'm super proud of our

effort tonight even though we came up short. Again, we scheduled these games for a reason — our non-conference opponents have over 110 combined wins this year."

After a slow start in the first quarter which saw Goodrich take a 12-6 lead, Ovid-Elsie would turn things up in the second but still trailed after a 13-14 effort, 26-19 at the half.

"We just felt that we missed some opportunities basket and making two points. and if we could clean a few things up, we could make a run back at them," noted Cunningham.

The third quarter was a draw at 13-13 and with the Marauders down in the 4th, Ovid-Elsie would have to foul to stop the clock. Goodrich converted on 6 of their 8 free throws in the 4th to win the quarter 13-11.

Cunningham added, "It was a pretty physical game, but they shot more free throws in the 4th quarter than we did in the entire game. You could sense the frustration in our kids when things seemed one-sided. But we cut it to 5 with about two and a half minutes to go and were right there. We just ran out of time."

Goodrich would make good on 8 of 11 free throws on the night while Ovid-Elsie would hit just 4 of 7 with two of those free throws coming in the closing seconds.

Ava Bates had a team-high 17 points to go along with 7 rebounds while Evalyn Cole added 12 points, 5 assists, and 7 steals. Braeden Tokar chipped in with 7 points while Rylee Lewis added 3, Kiah Longoria (3 assists), and Ellyanna Carman had 2 points each.

Returning to MMAC action, if Ovid-Elsie defeated either Chesaning on February 17, or later vs. Lakeville they would earn the conference championship outright.



#14 Evalyn Cole catching an offensive rebound and adding to her 21 game high points for the night.

Photo by Denise Burgess



#33 Ava Bates with her eye on the basket and making two points.

Photo by Denise Burgess

## Ashley Boys Basketball

by Ashleigh Shaw

The Bears traveled to Montabella to take on the Mustangs last week. Montabella sits atop of the MSAC and has a very athletic team this year. Ashley came out slow and had trouble stopping the quick, long athletes of Montabella, who came out scoring quickly going up fast. Montabella took the win 65-22. Logan Drummond scored 15 points and had 4 rebounds while, Carson Litwiller scored 5 points and had 6 rebounds.

Ashley also faced Carson City in a league game where once again Logan Drummond lead the team, this time with 20 points, Carson Litwiller scored 9 and had 4 rebounds and Robert Kral scored 7 points. The Bears loss the game 60-37.

## Ashley Lady Bear Basketball

by Ashleigh Shaw

The Lady Bears also took on Carson City in a conference matchup last week, Ashely fought all night, but had trouble scoring against the Eagle defense. "Carson City has a strong team, especially defensively. We put a much better effort together against them than we did the first time around" stated Coach Shaw. The Eagles took the game 56-20.

**Coaches remember to submit your results each week so the Meridian Weekly can include them in our publication!**

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# Sports

## Wolfpack Inches Nearer CMAC Championship with St. Pats Romp

LAINGSBURG — Zander Woodruff led with 21 points and the Wolfpack boys varsity basketball team was supported by Luke Snyder and Jacob Essenberg, each with 10 points here February 10 as Laingsburg inched closer to a Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) championship.

Coach Daniel Morrill's Wolfpack won in another league blowout, 75-38, over Portland St. Patrick.

Ty Randall chipped in with 9 points as the host red-and-white moved to 16-0 overall, 9-0 in the CMAC.

Charlie Thelen had 14 points for St. Pats.

### Wolfpack Cagers Take Another Big Step Towards CMAC Title, 65-55 Over P-W

LAINGSBURG — Jacob Essenberg scored on a couple of lay-ins in the opening moments, Laingsburg never relinquished that early 4-0 lead, and the boys basketball Wolfpack remained unbeaten here February 15.

A tough 65-55 victory over Pewamo-Westphalia gave coach Don Morrill's LHS cagers a rare season sweep over the Pirates. Laingsburg kept its unbeaten record intact at 16-0, 10-0 in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference — with a tough stretch of four-straight conference games on the docket as the regular season neared its end.

The Pirates stood 11-4 overall, 8-2 in the CMAC with the loss.

P-W had its' 30-game home winning streak broken on January 5 with a 64-46 loss to LHS. The Pirates were bent on revenge on Laingsburg's home floor and stayed close, fighting back after several Wolfpack runs. Senior center Jamison Eklund was particularly impressive inside, scoring and rebounding, leading all scorers with 25 points.

The Wolves clung to a 15-14 lead after one quarter as P-W found its outside shooting touch. By the third quarter, the hosts built the cushion to 8-10 points ... but could never really pulled away from scrappy P-W.

"I felt like the flow of the game was disrupted midway through the first quarter as we started to pick up some foul trouble. As a result, limited minutes from some guys led to some different rotations for us and less Eli Woodruff defending Eklund", explained coach Morrill. "P-W played physical basketball and we were unable at times to use positioning to balance out the foul trouble."

"They are a tough team and we wouldn't expect to win against them by any particular margin, especially twice so we are pleased with the victory."

Zander Woodruff had 18 points, Eli Woodruff scored 14, and Ty Randall and Essenberg each added 11 to a balanced Wolfpack attack. Every time the Pirates focused on shutting down one Wolf, another seemed to pick up the banner.

Laingsburg will now close its CMAC season vs. Bath, Dansville, Pottersville and Saranac in succession, before hosting the non-league Clio Mustangs in the regular season finale on March 2.



Wolfpack point guard, #44, Brayden Thomas drives to bucket against a PW defender.  
Photo by Burg Sports

## MMAC Heavyweights do Battle Ovid-Elsie Boys Prevail at Durand

DURAND — In a game of surges, Ovid-Elsie's 4th quarter rally carried the night in a clash of MMAC basketball heavyweights here February 10.

Tryce Tokar contributed a season-high 17 points, 5 rebounds and 2 assists and Clay Wittenberg 10 points, 10 rebounds, 2 assists and the Marauders avenged an earlier loss to Durand — on the Railroaders' home floor this time out. The final score was 49-47 — and it was even closer than that final count indicates.

Coach Josh Latz's Marauders moved to 14-2 overall, while the host Railroad Men suffered just their third loss in 17 games.

"What a great high school basketball atmosphere," said coach Latz. "The game was a seesaw battle for the whole 32 minutes ... we were fortunate to have the ball on the last possession ... and got a big basket by Clay with :02 seconds left to win. We couldn't be more proud of our guys coming on the road, and getting it done tonight in a hostile environment."

Hunter Bates came up big for O-E with 8 points, 15 rebounds, 2 steals and 2 blocks; Logan Thompson 7 points and 2 assists; and Braxton Stenger 4 points, 3 rebs, 3 assists in the win, which moved Ovid-Elsie closer to a Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) championship.



#20 Tryce Tokar making some more points to add to his season high of 17.  
Photo by Denise Burgess

### Ovid-Elsie boys start big basketball week with win over Corunna Cavs, 50-33

OVID-ELSIE — Coach Josh Latz's boys basketball Marauders opened a huge late-season week — opposite multiple ranked opponents — with a convincing 50-33 victory over non-league Corunna.

Clay Wittenberg paced O-E with 13 points, 6 rebounds and 2 steals as the Marauders won for the 15th time in 17 games. The Cavs fell to 13-4 overall.

"What a great team win over a really good Corunna team tonight," said Latz. "We got great contributions from many guys, and really got after it on the defensive end of the floor. We're really proud of the execution on that side of the ball, as well as how we took care of it and got some great looks especially in the second half."

Ovid-Elsie leaders also included Hunter Bates 9 points, 9 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals; Bruce Thornton 8 pts, 2 assists; Logan Thompson 7 pts, 2 steals, 2 assists; Tryce Tokar 7 pts, 2 steals; and Braxton Stenget 6 pts, 5 rebs, 6 steals, 4 assists.

The big win helped set the stage for a Mid-Michigan Activities Conference showdown between top teams at Chesaning on February 17.



#24 Clay Wittenberg adding two more points to the scoreboard  
Photo by Denise Burgess

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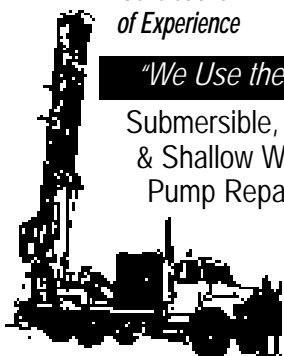
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## Sports



Ovid-Elsie Junior Talan Parsons won his third consecutive individual district wrestling championship on Feb. 11th in Freeland. Photo by Marie Spiess

### Ovid-Elsie's Parsons Continues in Quest for 2nd-Straight Title

FREELAND — The Ovid-Elsie wrestling team sent out its congratulations to Talan Parsons on winning his 3rd individual district title last weekend at Freeland High School.

Defending his state title, Parsons was set to hit the mat at the MHSAA Regionals on February 18 in at Belding High School.

### LHS Grapplers Cruise to MHSAA District Title

WILLIAMSTON — Laingsburg's powerhouse, state-ranked wrestling team cruised to a MHSAA Team District wrestling championship here February 9.

Coach Shawn Baynes' Wolves romped past two quality programs — Eaton Rapids 42-27 and the host Hornets 45-33 — to advance to the MHSAA Team Regionals.

Jack Borgman at 157 lbs., Caleb Boettcher at 175, Mikey Brooks at 190, Dano Winans at 132, Aden Baynes at 138 and Kyle Boettcher at 150 all scored 6-0 victories vs. Eaton Rapids to pace the 15-point victory. Carter Schlaack at 285 and Marlon Graham at 126 completed the Wolfpack victory with 3-0 wins over their Greyhound opponents.

Moving past Williamston for the District title, LHS struggled in the lower weight classes after Ethan Schneeburger scored a 6-0 fall at 106 lbs. Then, Graham broke through for a 6-0 victory at 126. What followed was domination: Winans 6-0 win at 132, Noah Genther 6-0 at 144, Seth Sivak 6-0 at 165, Brooks 6-0 at 190, and Wyatt Stanfield 6-0 at 215. Aden Baynes added a 3-0 decision (8-3) at 138 to wrap up the Wolfpack team win.

### Team Regionals Over For LHS Wolfpack Mat Team

NAPOLEON — State-ranked Clinton defeated Laingsburg, 63-18, in a Division 3 team regional semifinal February 15 at Napoleon High School.

Clinton went on to capture the regional championship by defeating Napoleon, 65-10.

Coach Shawn Baynes' Wolfpack had won its third consecutive team district title before being sidelined by Clinton.

The MHSAA Individual Wrestling tournament now continues for several LHS grapplers.



High school sports: where lessons of life are still being learned, and where athletes still compete for the love of the game and their teammates.

— Michael Powers —

MICHAEL POWER

AZ QUOTES

### AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program Begins Annual Free Tax Return Assistance

submitted by Casey Cooper

GREATER LANSING — The Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA) and the AARP Foundation are partnering once again to provide free tax return assistance and preparation through the AARP Tax-Aide Program beginning January 30 through April 13, 2023. The Tax-Aide program is available to anyone, with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50 or have low to moderate income. You do not need to be an AARP member to receive an appointment.

TCOA will set appointments and provide office space for the Tax-Aide Program. Your taxes will be completed and filed at this appointment. Please note that appointments are required and may be made by calling TCOA at 517-887-1440. Appointments will be available Monday through Thursday at the TCOA office located at 5303 S. Cedar St., Building 1, Lansing, MI 48911.

Some tax returns are outside the scope of the Tax-Aide Program. If you have rental property, farmland, run a small business, receive a Schedule K-1, or have multiple transactions on an investment account, Tax-Aide may not be able to assist you with filing your tax return. For those tax situations, it is best to contact an alternative tax service.

There are Tax-Aide locations across the country. In the tri-county area, you may choose to have your taxes done at the following locations in addition to TCOA:

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Dewitt Township Community Center  
16101 Brook Road  
Lansing, MI 48906  
517-668-0270 (Appointment required)  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
NorthWest Initiative  
510 West Ottawa Street  
Lansing, MI 48933  
517-999-2894 (Appointment required)  
Mondays and Tuesdays  
Windsor Township  
300 West Jefferson Street  
Dimondale, Michigan 48821  
517-646-0772 (Appointment required)  
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About Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA)  
TCOA is the Area Agency on Aging serving Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties and the cities of Lansing and East Lansing. Funded by the Older Americans Act of 1965, Medicaid, and other resources, it administers programs directly and through a network of over 200 service provider agencies and partners. Serving Michigan's Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties and the Cities of Lansing and East Lansing through programs like Meals on Wheels and Congregate Dining sites; Project Choices; in-home services; Information and Assistance; caregiver supports; the Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP); Evidence-based health and wellness classes; and more to help older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers to live independently and remain safe, healthy and active in their own homes and communities.



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### Shiawassee Arts Center Hosting Mini Watercolor Workshop

submitted by Linda Ruehle

Join us for this 2 day workshop with award winning Michigan artist, Lisabeth Curnow.

This workshop will focus on color and texture as we explore the subject of pets and animals – Fins, Fur, and Feathers! This class is for anyone who has used watercolor in the past and would like to start again, experienced artists who are looking to improve their skills, or if you just want to have some fun while painting with other artists. (Experienced beginners to Intermediate level artists) Bring your favorite watercolor supplies, paper, and 2 (yes two) water containers. Pre-registration and payment required.

Also offered will be a beginner workshop with Lisabeth Curnow, for those new to watercolor.

2 Day "Mini Watercolor Workshop - Introduction to Watercolor" Thursday, March 23rd & 30th 12N - 4PM

Join us for this 2 day workshop with Michigan watercolor artist, Lisabeth Curnow.

This workshop is for beginning artists, who are interested in learning about the tools and techniques of watercolor painting. We will cover ALL the basics - supplies & tools for painting, water and brush control, glazes, creating texture, color mixing, and more.

If you have been wanting to try watercolor or you are a beginner who has been frustrated with the medium and would like some simple instructions and help getting to the next level - this class is for YOU! Pre-registration and payment required.

Call the Arts Center at (989) 723-8354. Supply list is on the web site at [shiawasseearts.org](http://shiawasseearts.org) The Shiawassee Arts Center is located at 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. The classrooms are handicap accessible.

### Rep. Filler Votes to Repeal Michigan's Pension Tax

submitted by Christina Doerr

State Rep. Graham Filler on Thursday voted for a measure that will cut taxes for Michigan retirees.

Filler, of Clinton County, said providing tax relief for seniors is a priority.

"Many Michigan seniors worked their entire lives with the promise of a tax-free pension, only to have the tables turned on them by the state in 2011," Filler said. "I'm keeping my promise to eliminate that pension tax and reduce taxes for retirees across our state. These cuts will give our seniors some breathing room in their budgets as costs for groceries, gas, and essential medications continue to rise."

The plan approved by the House this week, House Bill 4001, will eliminate the pension tax and cut taxes for seniors with other forms of retirement income.

The measure now advances to the Senate for further consideration. Filler said he will continue working to make the legislation even better by pushing for faster and more expansive relief for all seniors.



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## RFQ/RFP to Provide Professional Services for Victor Township

Victor Township is seeking qualified consultants to provide engineering services associated with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) SPARK Grant. Qualification statements will be accepted until March 06, 2023 at 3:00 pm. Questions regarding the RFQ and RFP should be directed to Paula Willoughby by email at [treasurer@victortwp.org](mailto:treasurer@victortwp.org). All questions shall be submitted via e-mail on or before 2:00 pm on February 28th 2023. Proposals will be opened at 5:30 pm on March 7th 2023 at Victor Township Hall located at 6843 Alward Road, Laingsburg, MI 48848. Detailed information is provided on our website at [victortwp.org](http://victortwp.org)

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## St. Patrick's Day 5K Returns to Downtown Owosso

submitted by Carrie Rathbun Hawks

Owosso – Grab your running or walking shoes and join the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce for the Second Annual St. Patrick's Day 5k at 10:30 a.m. on March 18 in Owosso. The event will start and end at Fitness Coliseum at 210 S. Water St. Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome.

It can be a fun family activity, according to event organizer and chamber representative Erin Huska. Participants will head southeast on the Shiawassee River Trail, following an out-and-back route starting on the south

side of the river, crossing the Oakwood Street bridge to the north side of the river toward the Owosso Airport and back. There will be a medal ceremony at the end.

After the event, there will be a beer tent and March Madness Watch Party, presented in partnership with Fitness Coliseum. Participants and spectators are encouraged to stay and enjoy the festivities until 2 p.m. There will be televisions, tables and beverages for guests to enjoy the basketball games, as well as corn hole boards. The party could be inside or outside depending on weather conditions.

Pre-event registration deadline is March 10. Cost before this date is \$40. Refer a friend and save \$5! Long-sleeved shirts will be provided. Race shirts are not guaranteed after March 10. People may still register onsite and online, but will only receive shirts if there are extra, according to organizers.

Event sponsors include Tri-Mer Corporation, CLH Insurance, Dort Federal Credit Union, Baker College of Owosso, SERVPRO, Cline, Cline & Griffin, Wakeland Oil and Elite Party Rental. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3ecdwham> or call the chamber at 989-723-5149.



A participant in the 2022 St. Patrick's Day 5K triumphantly crosses the finish line. Registration is open for the 2023 event on March 18.

## Volunteers Needed for Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee

submitted by Helen Howard

Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee is seeking persons to consider volunteering with the nonprofit, which serves Shiawassee County residents.

The program serves adults who have ongoing health and medical challenges, and is based on availability of volunteers for each community. The largest need is for volunteers willing to try out being matched with and serve adults with ongoing health needs, and their caregiving families, and especially persons who are frail, elderly, and living alone. Volunteers are matched with one person to visit usually about weekly, but sometimes a couple times a month.

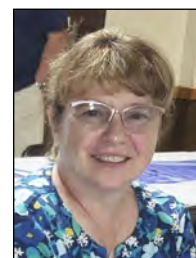
Respite volunteers typically spend one to three hours a week of time with the person they are matched with in their own community, and help as needed depending on each person and family caregiving situation. The volunteers provide friendly visiting, play cards or board games, help the person with hobbies, and provide respite to the family caregivers who may need to grocery shop, or go to their own physician appointments or get together with a friend.

The next Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee Volunteer Training Workshop will be Wed. March 1st from 10 am to 12 noon at the Perry Church of the Nazarene. The training is an opportunity to learn more about the program, and volunteer opportunities that are available. There are multiple volunteer opportunities; volunteering for a person with health/medical challenges in the volunteer's own community, providing respite for the family caregiver, helping at the office in Owosso, helping with events, helping with special projects.

If this day, time date, or location is not convenient for someone interested in participating, a mutually convenient time and location can be set up. Persons who are interested in attending the workshop are asked to register in advance office@respitevolunteers.org or 989-725-1127, or stop by the office.

Adults with health and medical challenges, and their family caregivers may also contact Respite Volunteers to request an evaluation to receive services. Area Employers wanting to provide information to their employees, who are also family caregivers may also call to schedule presentations, and individual meetings for their employees.

The office of Respite Volunteers is at 710 W. King St. Owosso, the historic brick home just east of Memorial Healthcare hospital, please use the main entrance, which is on the parking lot side (north side). Interested persons, can request to meet with the Respite Volunteer staff prior to the workshop. The office is usually open M-F 8 am -4 pm.



Carol Soule



Theresa Pickler



Dan Montes

## Shiawassee Regional Chamber Welcomes New Staff and Board Members

submitted by Carrie Rathbun Hawks

Owosso – Carol Soule has joined the Shiawassee Regional Chamber as administrative assistant/accountant.

Soule previously served as Shiawassee Community Foundation Executive Director for 16 years, and spent 25 years prior to that in administrative, marketing and loan department positions in the banking industry.

This is not Soule's first time at the chamber. It was one of the jobs she had in high school and helped her decide that working in an office was the best choice for her professional career.

"Being at the foundation also gave me the opportunity to become more familiar with the people in our county and improved my accounting and administrative skills," she explained. "I've missed this environment and look forward to being at the chamber."

Two new board members joined SRCC in January: Theresa Pickler, owner of Theresa Kay's A Time for Flowers in Corunna, and Dan Montes, vice president of commercial banking for First National Bank of Michigan. Each brings a wealth of business knowledge to the group. Montes already serves as a chamber ambassador.

"Theresa and Dan are a perfect fit with the board, adding to the diverse leadership that guides our organization. They have a vision for serving the business community and bringing value to our members. The staff and other board members are looking forward to working with them," said Interim Executive Director Ruthann Liagre.

The chamber is currently seeking a full-time member development coordinator to round out its team. This person should have sales and community relations experience and be a creative collaborator full of initiative and enthusiasm. He or she will be responsible for all activities related to membership growth and retention, including assisting with special events and marketing campaigns and managing the membership budget.

For more information or to apply, contact the chamber at 989-723-5149 or submit resume and cover letter to [rliaigre@shiawasseechamber.org](mailto:rliaigre@shiawasseechamber.org).

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## Painting Event to be Held at Ashley Sportsman's Club

by Dawn D Levey

BANNISTER – Ashley Sportsman's Club, 8554 S Mason Rd., Bannister will host a painting event that is open to the public. The event is slated for Saturday, February 25, 2 pm. The cost is \$30.00 and includes all materials, and light refreshments.

The theme of the day is holiday gnomes. Participants will complete two paintings, selecting two holidays and they will also leave with a small easel to display their paintings. Seating is limited, make reservations by calling 517-204-4075 or email [ashleysportsmanclub@gmail.com](mailto:ashleysportsmanclub@gmail.com).

Come and join us for a fun-filled day.

