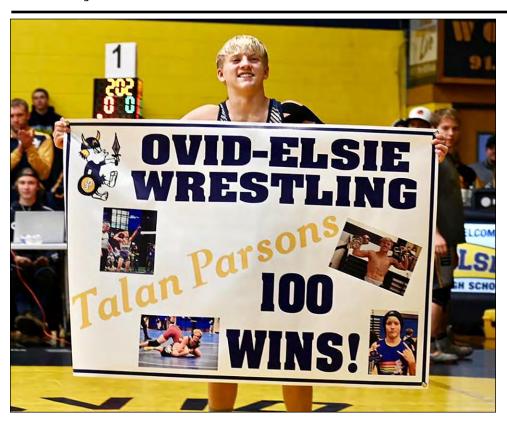
# Meridian Weekly

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February 5, 2023 VOLUME 30 • ISSUE 1667 12 PAGES



Talan Parsons celebrated his 100th win on January 28th during the Ovid-Elsie Invitational! Congratulations Talan! See pages 7, 8 & 9 for sports results. Photo by Marie Spiess

## Moolenaar Office Accepting Summer Internship Applications

The office of Congressman John Moolenaar is currently accepting applications for congressional internships in his Washington, D.C. office for Summer 2023.

The internship program is open to college students and recent graduates who are interested in learning more about the legislative process and working in Congress. Applicants are asked to provide a cover letter, a resume, and a list of any legislative issues they are interested in. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come basis. The deadline to submit applications is February 28th.

College credits are available per school requirements.

For more information and to apply for an internship, visit: Moolenaar.House.Gov/Internships





# **Meridian Weekly**

Deborah Price Owner/Publisher meridianweekly.com

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## O-E Superintendent Search Interviews Scheduled

by Deb Price

The Ovid-Elsie School Board held a special meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2023. Two items were on the agenda, Superintendent Screening Committee Update and Community/Stakeholder Feedback.

Board member Brooke Wooley updated the board on the committee's work. There were 15 applicants who applied for the Superintendent position, four were selected to advance to the interview process. The four selected included: Michael Hugan, Randy Barton, Brian Shaughnesy and Alexis Shaver. Wooley reported that two of the applicants have dropped out of the process for consideration, Shaughnesy and Shaver.

With only two prospective candidates remaining, Board members Mary Thompson and Kevin Nash asked about going back thru the original applicants and replacing the two who dropped from the process. After a discussion which involved opinions from all board members in attendance on the subject, a motion was made to go back thru the applicants to get back to four candidates. The motion failed 4-2, with Brooke Wooley, Michael Schaffer, Dr. Huff and Eric Jones voting no and Mary Thompson and Kevin voting in the affirmative.

Interviews for the two candidates will be held for Michael Hugan on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 5:30 pm and for Randy Barton at 7:00 pm in the high school auditorium. The interview process is open to the public.

The other agenda item included the opportunity for Community/Stakeholder Feedback opportunity for all who are interested in being involved the the selection process of the next Superintendent. It was decided to make an avenue for the public to ask questions and offer dialog on the subject via the schools website, the text mechanism for district parents for information purpose, the Meridian Weekly and Argus Press. The community will be able to ask questions and offer insight prior to the regular board meeting on Tuesday, February 21st. Check the website for the link and watch for more information in the newspaper.

### **Shiawassee Arts Center First Exhibit of 2023**

submitted by Piper Brewer

The Shiawassee Arts Center opens its first exhibit of 2023 featuring the work of artists Andrew Rieder of Owosso, Arthur Johns of Elsie, Anita Brett of East Lansing, Jamie Anthony of South Bend, Indiana, Nanette Mathe of Lansing, and Bobbie Margolis and Melinda Pope, both of Okemos. The exhibit, which runs January 31 through March 12, is generously sponsored by CLH Insurance Agency. The 'Meet the Artist' event is Sunday, February 5, 1- 3pm.

The paintings Andrew Rieder created are intended to be visual metaphors for ongoing human struggles. His initial goal is to produce a pictorial space that contains a somewhat whimsical narrative, but is reflective of a current social condition. Issues surrounding the socio-economic systems of contemporary society inspire him. This stems from his personal work history and a familial heritage of industrial and manual labor. Rieder's sensitivity to the economic struggles and stereotyping of others comes through recognition of his own personal heritage as well as a personal labor history. Rieder wants to convey this empathy and its



Arthur Johns

rationale to his audience through art and raise the viewer's awareness of themselves as citizens of humanity.

Arthur Johns is a sculptor working primarily in forged metals. The pieces exhibited are forged in plate and dimensional steel. These pieces are part of an ongoing series based on his interest in form and function. He stated, "The forms that I've been creating, although purely sculptural, tend to have an implied functional element. My work is often described as having a mechanical "feel" to it".

Anita Brett's new work and techniques developed while pursuing extensive studies in the Impressionist era. Special attention has been paid to the color palette of Monet and brushwork of van Gogh. Of note are the clean colors and shadows used in the tree paintings. The transition of colors is intentionally not blended as in older works of hers as she studies van Gogh's brush work. The cobalt blue, alizarin crimson, (red madder) and viridian of the boats and sheep show Monet's color palette. Finally, she began painting encaustics on a larger scale as has grown more confident in the technique and archival quality of her work. Brett thanks the viewer for enjoying the growth and exploration of the masters she practices and is her passion.

Jamie Anthony, Nanette Mathe, Bobbie Margolis and Melinda Pope have come together to display multi-media artwork in 3-dimension including fiber, photography, mixed media and collage.

The Shiawassee Arts Center, located at 206 Curwood Castle Drive in Owosso, is open to the public Monday through Friday 10-5pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-3pm. The Arts Center features the artwork of local and statewide artists in eight galleries including the Frieseke Gallery and a specialty Gift Shop. The public is welcome and there is no admission charge. SAC, which is celebrating its 51th anniversary in 2023, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage participation and appreciation of the arts. For more information call the Arts Center at 989.723.8354 or visit www.shiawasseearts.org.

## Social

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## Elsie **Historical Society Temporarily Closing**

submitted

Due to illness the Elsie Historical Society history room will be temporarily closed.

We will keep the community updated with any information about reopening in the

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## **Owosso Parkinson Support Group Meeting**

Owosso Parkinson Support Group is to meet on Wednesday, February 8th. at 5:00PM at Shiawassee Council on Aging. 300 N Washington St. Owosso. Phone 989-723-8875.

Owosso Parkinson Support Group meets the second Wednesday of each month.

We have no speaker for the evening. We would like to know what our members would like to learn more about or have speakers they would also like to hear from.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, please join us. We provide information, encouragement, fellowship, and support.

If you would like to learn more about Owosso Parkinson support Group, please contact Karen Prussner, Faciltator, at 989-723-6901.

### Ovid Public Library

There is lots going on this week at the Ovid Public Library. On Tuesday, February 7 the crafters will be here beginning at 1:30. They always enjoy having new people come and craft with them so come on up and join them. On Wednesday February 8 we will be showing the movie, 'Love Me or Leave Me' starring Doris Day and James Cagney. Movie time is 1:00. Come and join us for this classic movie. There are light snacks for everyone to enjoy and room for you to bring a friend.

Friday, February 10 we are having our Childrens Story Hour. This begins at 10:30. Ms. Shelly will be reading some Valentine's Day themed books and we will also be making a valentine craft. We are planning on having a fun activity and also a snack for the kids to enjoy.

Winter has finally decided to make an appearance in Michigan, if you have plans to come to the library and the weather is questionable, please call the library to make sure we are open. Often we delay opening for two hours to give the roads a chance to be cleared before we open to make it safer for our staff and patrons to make their way to the library. If you are looking for books to stock your bookshelves with, we have many many donated books for sale so be sure to stop in and look at our sale books. We also have puzzles available for people to borrow. You can also bring in any puzzles you no longer want for other people to enjoy.

Tax season is upon us and we have a small amount of Michigan tax forms available at the library. If you need forms that we do not have, we can print them off for a small fee.



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#### Soup & Sandwich Supper at Bannister UMC

Please join us for Soup & Sandwich Supper at Bannister United Methodist Church, 103 E. Hanvey St, Bannister, MI on the following dates: Tuesday February 14th & 28th; & March 14th & 28th. Join us for food, fun, & fellowship from 5PM-6:30PM on these dates. Three types of homemade soups, sandwich of the night, & yes-DESSERTS!

In the event of school closings due to the weather, our event will be canceled. We look forward to seeing you!

## **Memorial Healthcare Hosts** Free Lunch and Learn "Healthy Eating for Your Heart'

submitted by Dianna Vsetula

Owosso - Memorial Healthcare will be hosting a FREE community Lunch and Learn presentation on Wednesday, February 15th from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.

The topic of this educational series is "Healthy Eating for Your Heart" and will be presented by Memorial Healthcare registered dietician, Lindsay Fortman, MS, RDN, CDCES.

This presentation will be held in the North Auditorium at Memorial Healthcare, 826 W. King Street, Owosso. Please RSVP to Becky Dahlke, Community Resource Manager at (989)729-4856 or email rdahlke@memorialhealthcare.org. RSVPs are due by Friday, February 10, 2023.

information please visit. For more www.MemorialHealthcare.org

## We're Coming Back

submitted by Cindy Broome

The Holy Family Fish fry dinners are returning, starting on Friday, February 17th, the chefs will be preparing your favorite fish



Menu includes: Cod fish - fried & baked, cheesy potatoes, french fries, baked beans, tropical salad, cole slaw, green beans, corn, dinner roll, pickles, condiments and drink. And this year homemade desserts will be back too! So come join the line, we will be serving you to keep everyone safe!

Dinners will be served on Feb. 17th, March 3rd, March 17th and March 31st, 4:30 til 7 pm. Dine in or order a take out meal.

With rising prices on everything, we have had to make a difficult decision to raise prices of the meal. Adult \$6, children 6 to 12 years old \$8, and kids under 5 eat for free.

Make your plans to join us.



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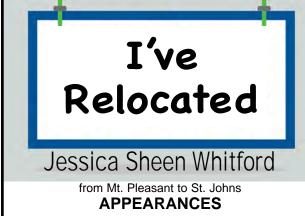
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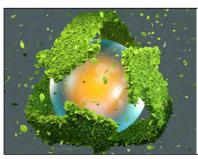
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## **Recycling and Climate Change**

submitted by Ellen Link

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the operating hours at the Greater Laingsburg Recycling Center, 7500 Woodbury Rd.: the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (Feb. 7 and 21), 4-6 p.m., and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays (Feb. 11 and 25), 9 am to 1 pm. You



don't even have to get out of your car; just drive into the building and we'll empty it for you. If you're new—we continue to get new recyclers from all over—we'll happily explain what you need to know to recycle properly.

Can recycling help mitigate climate change? According to the University of Colorado, the answer is a resounding Yes! "Recycling is beneficial to the climate crisis in two main ways: by limiting the amount of raw materials being used and limiting the amount of waste going into landfills. Project Drawdown estimates that recycling between 2020 and 2050 will reduce emissions by 5.5-6.02 gigatons of carbon dioxide (equivalent to taking over 1 billion cars off the streets for one year). That... makes recycling an effective, yet easy change to make to help curb greenhouse gas emissions and help limit the climate crisis." (https://www.colorado.edu/ecenter/2021/03/18/recycling-and-climate-change)

Another great way to fight climate change is to make the move away from fossil fuels and toward electric, which is quickly becoming the "green" energy source for the future. Fortunately, new federal clean energy tax credits (https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal\_tax\_credits) were made available under the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act to help consumers move away from highly polluting furnaces, home appliances and cars in favor of newer, cleaner technology like heat pumps, induction stoves, and electric vehicles. There's no time like the present!

But recycling is a good place to start. Unfortunately, some folks "wish-cycle"—throwing all their waste (or so it seems) into their bins with the hope that it can be made to go away. But where is "away"? At the last recycling drive someone brought in a bin that included a banana peel, a mousetrap and scrap materials along with a mix of otherwise recyclable items. No vendor will take garbage or jumbled materials off our hands because no company can recycle such stuff into new products.

We accept, 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 only (all colors)—no windows, mirror panes or drinking glasses; 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. Help us build a sustainable future in our own backyards.



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(l-r) Ben Frederick, Associate VP, Advocacy and Government Relations, Memorial Healthcare; State Representative Brian BeGole; Brian Long, FACHE, President/CEO, Memorial Healthcare

**Representative BeGole** toured Memorial Healthcare's new NOW Building with President/CEO Brian Long and Associate VP of Advocacy and Government Relations Ben Frederick.

#### 33rd Annual Walk for Warmth

submitted by Rebecca Zemla



Capital Community Services, Inc., announces its 33rd Annual Walk for Warmth will take on Saturday, place February 25, 2023 at the Owosso Community Center (Shiawassee Council on Aging), 300 N. Washington Street, Registration Owosso. begins at 9:00 a.m., the Walk begins at 9:30 a.m. Walk for Warmth is a

statewide effort to raise public awareness of people experiencing heat-related emergencies. Funds are raised through contributions from individuals, businesses, civic organizations, clubs and church groups and are used to assist area residents with heat-related emergencies. With the rising costs of basic needs which creates an economic hardship currently being experienced by many local residents and the changes in State and Federal funding, the need for heat-related assistance has become far greater than service agencies and churches can resolve without additional resources, such as Walk for Warmth. 100% of the funds raised through the Shiawassee County Walk are used to assist low-income households within Shiawassee

With the high number of local families needing heat-related assistance, the support of area businesses, individuals and civic groups is critical. Please consider assisting by having a group or individual represent your business/organization in the Walk or make a onetime contribution.

Donations may be mailed to: CACS, Shiawassee Access Center, 1845 Corunna Avenue, Owosso, MI 48867.

If you are hesitant or unable to "join" with a group, please feel free to "walk anywhere at anytime". For further information, please contact the office at: 989-723-3115. Pledge sheets are now available.

Thank you for your consideration in helping to keep families warm this winter and prevent homelessness due to home heating related emergencies.

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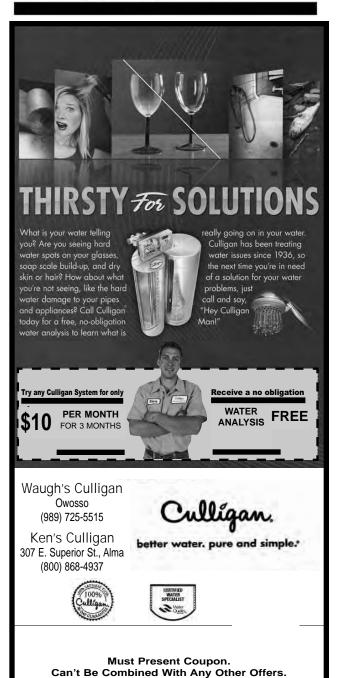


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## Obituaries



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## Sarah Elisabeth Levey

Sarah Elisabeth Levey, age 45, of Honolulu, Hawaii formerly of Elsie, passed away on Monday, January 31, 2023, unexpectedly at her home where she resided with her

husband and soul mate Dameon "Jon" Ricketts.
Sarah was born in Carson City, Michigan, on May 4, 1977, the daughter of Bruce and Dawn Levey. Sarah was a 1995 graduate of Ovid-Elsie High School and in 1997; she graduated from Lansing Community College with an associate's degree as a Para-Legal. In early 2014, Sarah earned her level I sommelier (wine specialist). Currently, she was a student at the University of Arizona studying forensic anthropology. She worked in and managed various wineries, bars, and fine dining establishments. Sarah shared her smile, knowledge and concern with all she came in contact with.

Sarah lived life on her terms and living where the wind took her: Tucson, Arizona, various locations in Virginia. And in 2013, she met the love of her life Damon "Jon" Ricketts; they proceeded to reside in Norfolk, Virginia, Washington D.C.; Southampton, New York; Albuquerque, New Mexico and Honolulu, Hawaii. And when hurricanes hit, did Sarah evacuate as suggested, that would be a no, and she attended a hurricane party instead. She and Jon were free spirits that lived life in an adventurous way.



Sarah enjoyed hiking, running, reading, exploring and sharing her adventures with others. The time spent with Jon and living everyday and planning for their future gave her great joy. Sarah also had a special connection with her family sharing her adventures and encouraging them to live life to the fullest. Her brother, sister, and sister-in-law, and nieces and nephews held

She is survived by her husband Damon "Jon" Ricketts; parents Bruce and Dawn Levey; sister Mary Levey; brother Eric (Stephanie) Levey; nieces: Kayla Levey and Danica Levey; nephews: Walker Levey, Kaden Levey, Matthew Levey, and Caleb Levey; grandmother Edith Reeves; several aunts and uncles. She was preceded in death by her grandparents Dale and Elisabeth Levey and grandfather Dale Reeves and aunt Violet Levey-Papenfuss.

Memorials can be made to Elsie United Methodist Church. Online condolences may be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie Chapel.

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

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

#### **FIRST BAPTIST** CHURCH

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

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#### Linda Darlene Jorae

Linda Darlene Jorae, age 67, of DeWitt, MI, passed away Friday, January 27, 2023, at her home with her husband by her side.

Linda was born in Pearisburg, VA on April 6, 1955, the daughter of Howard L. and Charlotte (Cumbee) Dowdy. She graduated from Owosso High School with the class of 1973. Linda met love of her life, Jody Lee Jorae, at the Sunset. On October 4, 1975, they were married at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Owosso, MI. They were blessed with forty-seven years of marriage.

Linda liked her "pretties" and decorating her house with them. Her heart was in the mountains of Virginia where she was born and always loved driving through them with her brother Timmy. She enjoyed music and dancing. Most of all, Linda loved her family and spending time with her grandson.

Linda is survived by her husband Jody, son Chad (Laura) Jorae of Potterville, MI; grandson Brayden Jorae; mother Charlotte Cumbee; mother-inlaw Nancy Jorae; siblings: Dan, Debbie, Tim, Melissa, Mary Ann, and Howie; sister-in-law Deb (Glen), and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her father Howard Dowdy Sr., and father-in-law Joe Jorae.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Family Catholic Church, Ovid, MI, on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, with Rev. Fr. Anthony Brooks presiding. Private burial will take place at Middlebury Township Cemetery, Ovid, MI.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to American Cancer Society or Ingham County Humane Society. Online condolences may be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Ovid, Michigan.



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





#### A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

The year is already shrinking, if the rest of this years moves by as swiftly as January has, I will probably be in a baffled state for the remaining months. If it truly moves this quickly I won't be able to accomplish what I have decided to get done. After all, I do need goals. Currently I'm trying my hand at putting jigsaw puzzles together. Haven't failed yet but it is slow going. I did finish canning the kidney beans but am not too thrilled because I have at least as many black beans to do. I finished up with twenty-three quarts and am now moving them from the kitchen to their respective roosts. That's the good part, unfortunately I need to now go out to the shed to bring in more quart canning jars.

Today, is the first of February, and I believe that it will be a good month. I am in a state of sublime happiness. I got a call to come and get my pickup. I am filled with joy because it now sits in my driveway and is ready to do my bidding. Which of course has to do with its capacity to push through the snow drifts, I do like having four wheel drive and being able to get moving. Of course it doesn't hurt that the Silverado sits much higher then the Focus. One is my carrier and the other is my traveler, they both serve their functions well.

Well, the groundhog had his say today and it is six weeks until spring arrives. Does that mean that it is six weeks before we see the spring flowers burst into bloom or six weeks until we view their leaves making way through the snow? I expect to see the burst of colors but not out in the country where there are open fields surrounding my place. In towns where there is blacktop, paved streets and lots of buildings that have a tendency to hold the warmth of the sunshine and block the wind. I still prefer the country.

Shame on me, I still haven't brought into the house my grow boxes that I need warm and ready to plant seeds into. I get exasperated when I buy tomatoes and/or pepper plants that are supposedly what I wanted but turn out to be other varieties that are either too small or are hot and not what I needed. It does vex me that they are marked wrong or have been had their labels switched innocently? I'm not terribly amused. I believe that I'm turning into a cranky old lady.

Shortly after checking my finances, I will be heading out to the Middleton area to get gas. So far it has proven to be the best price in the area. This also gives Prudence a chance to leave the house to do something other then squat quickly and hustle back inside. Those short legs of hers have a tendency to quickly straighten up in the snow that is higher than her belly.

I see that I also have bananas to mash and get into the freezer. I have picked up a few books to read and haven't made it that far yet. I used to read alarmingly fast but now I just sort of putz through the books. Just starting to slow down a bit. Today as we opened Kathy, Lisa and Lauretta came in for coffee and one of Diane's fried floral shaped pies. Lisa was delivering sausage for us from her and Dave's farm, Wilson Farms has wonderful meat. If you're interested we have some of their business cards on the counter at the shop.

Andy, Stephanie and baby Alison also came in today to meet with the versatile Grandma brigade. These grandmas aren't related but do enjoy holding the baby who is four weeks old. Oh yeah, we had our grandma suits on and thoroughly enjoyed the visit. This could become a monthly visit so that we can keep on top of Alison's progress. Of course big sister, Annabelle may have something to say about that situation. May your lives be filled with honorary positions that are sweet blessings. God bless.

Crystal Mitchell©2023



Editorials are welcome.
250 words or less.
Email to:
news@meridianweekly.com
Must include name.



# **Religious Thoughts**

by Chris Hearn www.letsmeetgod.com

According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website, "Nationwide in Fiscal Year 2020, CBP seized 26,503 shipments containing goods that violated intellectual property rights. The total estimated value of the seized goods, had they been genuine, was nearly \$1.3 billion."

https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-reminds-consumers-beware-counterfeit-goods-when-shopping-holiday

To the church in Corinth, Paul writes the following, "... Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve."

2 Corinthians 11:14-15

In both the Old and New Testaments, God inspired people to write often concerning false believers. These are people who claim to belive in God, but in reality do not. God has warned true believers through His Word that sadly there will be fakers in the church. This is completely different from those who don't believe and say that they don't believe, but would still like to come to church. Such people need to be welcomed with open arms. The group I'm talking about are deliberate hypocrites. They say they believe and probably use Christian terms and sing the right notes, but they deliberately reject God and work against God, His church and His people.

Paul writes that Satan's servants, like Satan himself, "... also masquerade as servants of righteousness." In other words, they don't walk through the church doors announcing themselves saying, "Hello, everyone! I'm a servant of Satan! I'm here to get you to believe a heresy, or I'm going to cause discord and hopefully a church split in the coming year! Great to see you!"

Of course not! This is wolf in sheep's clothing stuff.

This is the introduction of the idea that the church is to be a place where we come to be entertained. It's the subtle whispering that the church should exist to serve its members, rather than be a place where Christians serve each other and primarily where we go out into the world to serve others.

It's the influence of the attitude that we're the only true church around and all the other churches are a bunch of heretics who are going to Hell. It's the casting off of core biblical truths, such as Jesus being the only way to know God, or the adopting of heresies, such as saying that by being a good enough person one can go to Heaven.

These are some of the ways that Satan's servants have worked in churches in the past and do so today.

This is why individual and corporate prayer is so important. This is why knowing the Bible and having discermnent in the church is so important.

# **Income Tax Cut Will Return Millions to Michigan Familes**

submitted by State Rep. Graham Filler

With inflation at a 40-year high and grocery prices that seem to climb higher every time we step foot in the store, many Michigan families are struggling to afford the essentials.

Fortunately, relief could soon be on the way. An income tax cut is expected to take place this year thanks to fiscally conservative practices, a large increase in surplus revenue coming into the state, and a 2015 law that triggers an automatic reduction of the state income tax when general fund revenues increase at a rate greater than inflation.

The House Fiscal Agency issued a report last week forecasting that the rate could drop from the current 4.25% to as low as 4.05% for 2023. Dropping the income tax to 4.05 percent would put about \$500 million back in the pockets of Michigan taxpayers – that's real, immediate relief that families can use to put food on the table and gas in their cars.

While the exact rate of the rollback won't be certain until revenue figures are finalized for the 2022 fiscal year, state budget experts believe an income tax cut of some kind is all but guaranteed.

The only thing that could block it from happening is if the

Editorial

Democrats who are now in control of the Legislature choose to repeal the Republican-enacted law that triggers the cut. That would be hard to justify, given the fact that the state is sitting on billions of dollars in surplus revenue.

The rising cost of living is hurting everyone. People need relief now, and an income tax cut will put more money in people's pockets immediately. Blocking this much-needed relief would be a huge mistake. Unfortunately, it's also not out of the question.

Last year, I voted for two separate tax relief measures that would have taken some of the billions of dollars in surplus tax revenue that state government is sitting on and returned it to the taxpayers. Despite bipartisan support in the Legislature, the governor vetoed both proposals. I'm worried she will try to block this tax cut too.

I will do everything in my power to protect the impending income tax cut and make sure Michigan families get the relief they've been promised. I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will do the same.



## Have a Question for Andy?

Submit them to: ask\_andy@aol.com

u can also mail or drop question off to: Meridian Weekly

## Get out of Debt and Shop Wisely

Dear Andy,

Recently, I read a report on Credit Debt in America. I don't remember the statistics, but it was alarming, and I was part of the debt crisis. I made up my mind I was going to get out of debt and get rid of my 4 credit cards. I did not buy anything on credit for 2 years and I paid extra every month for a year and a half. I now have no credit cards and my balances are at zero except for my checking and savings accounts.

I now only have house payment and car payment, insurances, electric, cell phone and cable. I cut my grocery budget in half and did not buy anything new for myself or the house. I cut my movie trips in half and watched more Netflixs. I popped my own popcorn and had a fire in the fireplace. I have created cost-saving recipes and we have limited our eating at restaurants for special occasions, splitting meals and using coupons and customer appreciation offers.

I shop for reasonably priced gifts for holidays, weddings, baby showers and everyone appreciated their gifts without me breaking the bank. Now, I am so happy to have a savings. In fact, I am planning a ski trip for my family this winter and a Spring Break vacation to Florida. I can afford it. Happy with what we have. Freedom, Fun and No Debt

Dear Freedom,

Thank you for celebrating with our readers. I remember how my stress level dropped when I paid off my last credit card. I still have one, just for medical or family emergencies and will only use it when I can pay it off within the month to avoid fees and worry. If I can't afford to pay cash or debit for it, then I cannot afford it and probably do not need it!

I feel so much healthier. You will too. Congratulations! You should be proud of yourself. It's amazing how much you can put into savings when you are not paying on high interest credit cards. Readers, be patient and faithful with the payments and purchases. If you are in extreme debt, see a credit counselor to set up your repayment plans. It may seem expensive, but most credit unions and some banks will pay your monthly fee to an accredited financial planning agency.

Have fun on your well-deserved vacations!
Andy anything @ ask\_andy@aol.com

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February water bills are incorrect. Please disregard those bills when they arrive in your mail. We will be printing and mailing new water bills with correct amounts and dates. New bills will state that the bill is corrected and to disregard previous bill.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the City of Ovid at 989-834-5550. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

# Senior Spotlight



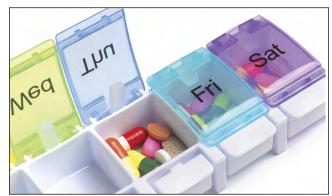


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#### Did You Know?

The burden on health care costs in retirement could be a significant hurdle for retirees without a sizable nest egg or effective strategy to cover such expenses. According to the Fidelity Retiree Health Care Cost Estimate, an average retired couple aged 65 in 2022 could need around \$315,000 after taxes to cover their health care expenses in retirement. Thought traditional retirement goals like financing travel or relocating to a warmer climate are worthy pursuits, it's vital that individuals of all ages, including those on the cusp of retirement, recognize the importance of saving for health care expenses as well. Such expenses, which include medication costs, are easy to take for granted when individuals are still working. However, Fidelity notes that generics, branded drugs and specialty drugs account for roughly 17 percent of retirement health care expenses. That equates to around \$53,500 that might be needed to pay for medication alone.



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## What Seniors Can do to Safeguard Their Mental Health

No one is immune to issues that can adversely affect their mental health, including men and women nearing retirement age and those who are already retired. Though the term "golden years" suggests life in retirement is one sunny day after another, many individuals 60 and older are dealing with mental health issues.

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 15 percent of the world's adults aged 60 and over suffer from a mental disorder. What makes that statistic even more troubling is that the WHO acknowledges it likely doesn't paint the most accurate picture of seniors and mental health, as depression is often undiagnosed among older men and women and untreated because it co-occurs with other issues affecting seniors.

In the past, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has acknowledged that late-life anxiety was not readily understood. However, much progress has been made in recent years thanks to a heightened awareness of the problem of seniors and mental health. That means seniors now have ample resources they can look to as they seek to learn what they can do to safeguard their mental health.

Recognizing warning signs

The National Institute of Mental Health notes that recognizing the signs of mental health issues is the first step to getting treatment. Mental health issues vary, and individuals with anxiety will likely experience different symptoms than those with depression. But the NIMH notes that the following are some of the warning signs of mental health issues.

- Noticeable changes in mood, energy level, or appetite
- Feeling flat or having trouble feeling positive emotions
- Difficulty sleeping or sleeping too much
- Difficulty concentrating, feeling restless, or on edge
- Increased worry or feeling stressed
- · Anger, irritability, or aggressiveness
- Ongoing headaches, digestive issues, or pain
- Misuse of alcohol or drugs
- Sadness or hopelessness
- Suicidal thoughts
- Engaging in high-risk activities
- Obsessive thinking or compulsive behavior
- Thoughts or behaviors that interfere with work, family, or social life
- Engaging in thinking or behavior that is concerning to others
- Seeing, hearing, and feeling things that other people do not see, hear, or feel

As noted, a growing awareness of mental health issues and how they affect seniors has translated to more available resources for aging men and women who need help. Within the United States, seniors can visit the NIMH Help for Mental Illnesses webpage (https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/find-help) to access contact information for various groups that help people in times of mental health crises. In Canada, individuals can visit the Canadian Mental Health Association at https://cmha.ca/find-help/find-cmha-in-your-area/ for contact information for various groups across the country.

Behaviors that can be beneficial

The National Institute on Aging notes that most cases of depression cannot be prevented. However, the NIA also notes that healthy lifestyle changes can have long-term benefits of seniors' mental health. Such changes include:

- · Being physically active
- Eating a healthy diet that can reduce risk for diseases that can bring on disability and depression
  - Getting adequate sleep, which for seniors is between seven to nine hours per night
    Remaining socially active, including regular contact with friends and family

  - Participating in activities you enjoy
  - Sharing mental issues or concerns with friends, family members and your physician

Research indicates that seniors are vulnerable to mental health issues. More information about how to combat and overcome such issues is available at nimh.nih.gov.



## Sports

## **Laingsburg Places Four First** at Lakewood Invite; **Baynes is MVP**

LAKE ODESSA Laingsburg wrestled to a second-place team finish at Saturday's 14-school Lakewood Invitational here January 28.

Coach Shawn Baynes' Wolfpack, getting weight-class champifrom onships Aden Baynes (138), Seth Sivak (165), Mikey Brooks (190) and Carter Schlaack (285), scored 136 points in the team standings. Lakewood was first with 146. Aden Baynes was honored as MVP for the

Baynes improved to 33-1 as a senior. He downed Cole Riedel of St. Laingsburg.

Aden Baynes was MVP of the Lakewood Invitational for Laingsburg.



Sivak, 29-5 as a junior, posted a 31-second pin over Nathan Clute of Ionia in the finals. Brooks, a 26-1 senior, won in 41 seconds over Bryan Aguilera of Lakewood. Schlaack, 25-9 and another senior, posted a 9-7 decision win over Tyler Frick of Wyoming. Placing fourth for the Wolfpack were Ethan Schneeberger (106), Kyle Boettcher (150) and Caleb Boetccher

Other weight finishes for LHS:

120 lbs. Dustin Winans (23-12) scored 7.0 team points. 126 lbs. Marlon Graham (26-9) scored 4.0 team points.

144 lbs. Bryce Smith (23-11) was injured in his quarterfinal match and did not score.

157 lbs. Jack Borgman (24-10) scored 4.0 team points. 175 lbs. Caleb Boettcher (26-11) scored 10.0 team points.

#### Ovid-Elsie Bowling

The OE Varsity Keglers were at Richfield Lanes going up against New Lothrop,, both teams were on the losing side of the

The girls went 8-22 with high scores of Olivia Burt 147, 130; Ashland Particka 132; Gracie Schultz 167, 156.

The bow lost 1-29 with high scores of Hunter Maxa 157, 152; Devyn Pugsley 166, 212.

Next up February 4th against Bendle at Richfield Lanes.

## **O-E Swimmers Plaudit Seniors this Tuesday Eve**

OVID-ELSIE — The Ovid-Elsie swim team will honors its 2022-23 seniors this Tuesday evening at annual Senior Night festivities at the O-E pool.

Coach Karl Dahlke's Marauders will be hosting the Owosso

The meet gets underway at 6 p.m. O-E's last regular season meet is set for February 16 at Chesaning.

## Wolfpack Girls Run Out Fast, Saranac Basketball Gals Fall

LAINGSBURG — Ellie Baynes was strong in the middle with 11 points and five rebounds, and the host Wolfpack ran out to a 12-6 first-quarter advantage that stood up in a 32-27 CMAC girls basketball victory here January 26.

'Our last 4 games we've played better basketball, seeing improvement, and going in the right direction, but I believe we're capable of being better," said veteran coach Doug Hurst. "We will continue to work hard. This was one of those ugly wins that the girls had to figure out how to finish. All part of the experience of becoming a good team."

LHS bolted to a 12-6 lead, then closed things out with an 11-7 fourth quarter after  $S\mbox{\it in}$  and a hung tough.

Also contributing to the Wolves' tally was Ashlee Hawes with 10 points and 7 rebounds; Bella Strieff 5 pts, 9 rebs.; Ella

Merrell 4 pts.; and Kyleigh Luna 2 pts , 4 steals.

The Lady Wolfpack improved to 8-6 overall and 4-4 in

## The Weekly Sportsman

Editorial

by Dan McMaster theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

#### Governor's Plan for Gun Safety (Control)

In case you missed Governor Whitmer's State of the State speech given last week she showed her hand and announced a three thronged approach to gun safety. This package

of reforms hasn't been introduced yet and will likely follow or run concurrent to a package of school safety bills. The gun safety bills will focus on universal background checks, storage, and red flag repossession. The Governor has stressed that these laws will not

prevent law abiding citizens from gun ownership and activities like hunting but of course the devil is in the details. As mentioned earlier, legislation often has unintended and unforeseen consequences and it is important to stay informed and involved. Please keep reading this column as in the near future there will be a call to action asking you to contact your state legislators.

-WS

#### NOTICE

The Village of Ashley will be accepting bid proposal for the Village of Ashley Solid Waste Collection and Disposal. Bids will be accepted through February 7, 2023 and can be received at the Ashley Village Office, P.O. Box 158, Ashley, MI 48806 or request by email to villageclerk@ashlevvillage.net.

The Village of Ashley reserves the right to accept and/or reject any and all proposals, and to make the award in the best interest of the Village

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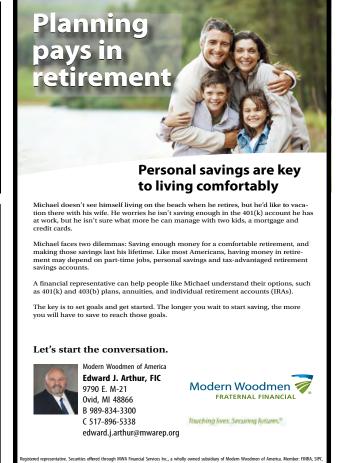
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# Sports

## **Marauder Boys Basketeers Move to 9-1 in** MMAC with Big Win at Mt. Morris

MT. MORRIS — Logan Thompson scored 25 points with two steals and two assists and Clay Wittenberg and Tryce Tokar also reached double figures as Ovid-Elsie downed Mt. Morris, 71-56, on January 27.

Wittenberg scored 14 points with 12 rebounds, six assists and three steals while Tokar had 12 points, five steals and four rebounds. The Marauders (11-1 overall, 9-1 MMAC) stayed in a three-way tie for first with Chesaning and Durand in the MMAC. Braxton Stenger had six points, six rebounds and six steals.

Mt. Morris fell to 6-6 and 4-6 in league

"We shot the ball pretty well from the outside tonight, which was much needed as we struggled a bit around the hoop," said veteran O-E coach Josh Latz. "Logan Thompson points against Mt. Morris on Jan. 27th. played his best game of the season, Tryce

Tokon Clay With the season of the season, Tryce

Tokon Clay With the season of the season, Tryce Tokar, Clay Wittenberg, and Braxton Stenger



#25 Logan Thompson layup for 2 of his 25 Photo by Denise Burgess

were solid and steady as well. Overall this was a good league road win vs. a well coached team." The host Panthers evened their record at 6-6 with the MMAC loss.

#### 13-0 Wolfpack Toughs Out 52-40 Victory at Ovid-Elsie

OVID-ELSIE — When things aren't clicking offensively, good teams know they can lean on other parts of their game — particularly defense — to get through tough times.

Two excellent local boys basketball teams met here January 31, and when the shots weren't falling, a highly-touted contest evolved into a defensive slugfest.

Unbeaten Laingsburg limited the host Marauders to 20 points through the first three quarters, keeping their perfect record intact at 13-0 with a 52-40 non-league victory.

Coach Josh Latz's Marauders lost for just the second time in 13 games with the setback.

"We defended well for most of the game," said Wolfpack coach Dan Morrill. weren't as sharp as we typically are in some other areas, so our defending of exchanges and working to the help line showed up big for

Playing without star big man Eli Woodruff, LHS junior Ty Randall showed up big on both ends of the floor. Drilling a trio of three-pointers in the second half, Randall led all scorers with 13 points. Zander Woodruff added 10 and Jacob Essenberg 10 for the visitors, who gradually built a 35-20 through In a defensive slugest, Ovid-Elsie's Braxton

three quarters. thawed in the final stanza, hitting their first charge in the Wolfpack's 52-40 victory.

three-point attempt after six misses. Beau Price and Logan Thompson each

Laingsburg salted 11-of-14 free throws in the final period, however, to keep the Marauders at bay. Season-leading scorer Zander Woodruff drilled  $\hat{6}$ -of-6 charity tosses down the stretch to ice the contest for LHS.

'We battled tonight through some adversity and we are really proud of our effort versus a

great Laingsburg team," said Coach Latz. "We struggled offensively vs their defense, and took a half to settle in a bit and be able to score. We played pretty well on the defensive end, we've

just got to continue to work to execute a bit better against good Tryce Tokar added 7 points and Clay Wittenberg 6 points for O-E. Hunter Bates was impressive in the middle all night with 6

points and 11 rebounds. WOLFPACK SCORING: Zander Woodruff 2 6-7 10, Luke Snyder 2 3-4 7, Brayden Thomas 2 4-7 9, Jacob Essenberg 4 0-0 10, Ty Randall 5 0-0 13, Cam Ballard 1 0-0 3.

MARAUDER SCORING: Clay Wittenberg 2 2-4 6, Beau Price 4 0-0 9, Hunter Bates 3 0-3 6, Logan Thompson 3 2-3 9. Tryce Tokar 3 1-2 7, Bruce Thornton 0 2-2 2, Braxton Stenger 0



Stenger drives the lane for a shot while The Marauders' ice-cold shooting finally Laingsburg's Jacob Essenberg looks to draw a

finished with 9 points, as the hosts cut the gap to seven points midway through the 4th quarter.

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## **Special Season Continues for Wolves in 79-44 Boys Basketball Win at Saranac**

SARANAC — Laingsburg's boys varsity Wolfpack stayed undefeated in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) and moved to 12-0 with a win at

Saranac on January 27.

Laingsburg's 79-44 victory was led by Zander Woodruff with 32 points. Luke Snyder added 12, Jacob Essenberg added 10 and Ty Randall had 8 points.

For Saranac, Sam Sterzick had 14 and Isaiah Morgan added 13.





Zander Woodruff

Luke Snyder

#### Ashley Boys Basketball

by Ashleigh Shaw

The Ashley Bears took on Bay City All Saints in a nonconference matchup losing to the All Saints 73-36. Caden Passmore lead the way with 10 points and 6 rebounds, while Logan Drummond added 8

Ashley also played the Pirates from Fulton where they loss 63-26. Logan Drummond scored 9 points and had 2 rebounds. Drummond also lead the way for the Bears in their game against the Comets from Coleman. Drummond scores 14 points on the night and had 4 rebounds, Carson Litwiller chipped in 9 points and grabbed 6 rebounds.





Caden Passmore

Logan Drummond

Merrill also hosted the Ashley, with Merrill winning the game 57-26. Robert Kral lead the game with 7 points and had 3 steals. Drummond added 5 points and 4 rebounds.

## Ashley Lady Bears Basketball

by Ashleigh Shaw

The Lady Bears took on Fulton in a conference matchup, they came out slow in the first half struggling to score giving up 35 points in the first half. Fulton also did a good job of forcing some early turnovers. Ashley lost the game 52-28. Marissa Brady had 12 points and 7 rebounds, Ellie Drummond had 7 points and 4 steals and Karissa Brady had 6 points and 6 rebounds.

Ashley also played the All Saints from Bay City where they took the loss 38-19. M. Brady lead the Bears again with 11 points, 6 rebounds and 3 steals. Drummond chipped in 5 points, grabbed 8 rebounds and 4 steals.

Coleman was also traveled to Ashley to play the Bears winning the game 48-19, M. Brady had 8 points, 11 rebounds and 6 steals, while Drummond had 5 points and 5 rebounds and K. Brady had 4 points, 11 rebounds and 3 steals.

The Bears also played Merrill losing 53-23 where Drummond scored 12 points and ripped down 14 rebounds, M. Brady had 5 points and 7 rebounds and K. Brady had 5 points and 7 rebounds. "We got off to a very slow start again tonight offensively and that made it very tough for us to get back into the game" stated Coach Shaw.





## Sports

## Big Weekend of Wrestling at Ovid-Elsie, **Local Champions Crowned**

OVID-ELSIE -Several local wrestlers hit significant career marks at the annual Ovid-Elsie Individual the weekend of January 27-28, with the Marauders' Talan Parsons and Cole Workman providing highlights.

O-E hosted its Girls Tournament on Friday, January 27, while the boys competition opened the following day.

champion, improved to 37-0 on Nickerson on Jan. 28th.

Elsie on Jan. 27th.

the season with his 100th

career victory. Seconds after pinning Rowan Bartlett of Dansville in 28 seconds, he was presented his 100th win banner from head coach Kyle Spiess.

Cole Workman won at 132 lbs. He pinned Chase Nickerson of Vassar in 3:18 for his 33rd win of the season against three losses.

OE placed 5th out of boys 18 teams, getting the most from only 6 scoring wrestlers. Cavan Mortinsen placed 5th at 126 lbs. with a 3-1 record; Luke Follett 3rd at 190 lbs. (2-1); and Trey

Milner 2nd at heavyweight (3-In team scoring, Flushing

was first overall with 206.5 and Milford finished second with 195.5 Fowlerville was fourth (91). The Marauders scored 78 team points.

Friday's Girls Individual Tournament had 145 girls this year, up from 87 competitors in 2022. There were 30 high schools in attendance.

Girls competing for O-E were Katelyn Wright 100 lbs.,

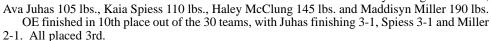


Photo by Marie Spiess

Whittemore-Prescott was the girls' team champion.

Kaia Spiess finished 3-1 during the All -girl meet at Ovid-

"Our home tournaments were a success," said coach Spiess. "Thank you to everyone for all the help

#### Marauder grapplers fashion 1-1 record at Ovid-Elsie Quad Meet

OVID-ELSIE — O-E's varsity wrestling team closed out the 2022-23 dual meet season with a win over Byron and a loss to Chesaning.

Coach Kyle Spiess' Marauders dominated Byron's Eagles, 60-6, and dropping a tight 46-36 nod to the CHS Indians. "Byron had a really small team so we knew we would win," said coach Spiess. "Chesaning was a one- match swing meet where if we pinned (instead of getting pinned) we would have won. This is important because we are paired up with Chesaning in the first round of Team Districts this Wednesday in Chesaning."

O-E's top wrestlers on the night were Dawson Taylor at 215 lbs., 2-0 with a pair of pins;

Trey Milner at heavyweight 2-0; Clayton Juhas at 132 lbs. 2-0; Talan Parsons at 120 lbs. 2-0; and Kaia Spiess at 113 lbs. 2-0.



Cole Workman shown here in championship round against Parsons, a defending state Chase Nickerson of Vassar. Workman went on to pin Photo by Marie Spiess

## Ovid-Elsie Girls Win Local Showdown at LHS, 53-31

LAINGSBURG — The Ovid-Elsie Lady Marauders continued their winning ways here January 31, defeating Laingsburg, 53-31.

The Lady Marauders led by as many as 29 points during the contest and never trailed through-

The win lifted the Marauders to 13-2 overall, while the host Wolfpack fell to 8-6.

"I was a little concerned with how we would come out and play tonight since we haven't been in the gym for a week due to cancellations. We literally hadn't been together since (before this game)," said O-E coach Ryan Cunningham. "I'm glad we came out with some energy and knocked the rust off a bit."

Izzy Loynes got the Marauders going as she scored six out of OE's first eight points but then it was the Evalyn Cole show. The junior point guard amassed 17 points and 3 steals while Ava Bates chipped in with 8 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, and 2 blocked shots.

Braeden Tokar finished with 7 points while Ellyanna Carman added 5 points, Hailee Campbell 4 points and Rylee Lewis and Tava Kvalevog each knocked down a triple.

The Lady Marauders jumped out to a 17-8 first quarter lead and followed it up with a 15-4 surge in the 2nd quarter to lead 32-12 at the half. A 13-7 third quarter kept the Wolfpack at bay before surrendering the 4th quarter 8-12.

O-E shot 51% on the night, including 5 of 13 from behind the arc, and a solid 71% from the foul

line. Ovid-Elsie collected 13 steals on 22 Laingsburg turnovers.



#23 Junior Hailee Campbell going for the layup and 2. Laingsburgs #21 Bella Strieff awaits the rebound.

Photo by Denise Burgess

Doug Hurst's Wolfpack held a 25-19 rebound advantage. "We're still trying to figure out how to play a full four quarters," said Hurst, whose team re-enters league play at 4-4 as the season winds down.

Ellie Baynes led LHS with 9 points. Bella Strieff contributed 6 points, 6 rebounds and 5 steals; Kyleigh Luna 5 points; Callie Clark 4; Mallory Woodbury 3; Ashley Hawes 2 and 8

rebounds; and Ella Merrell 2 points. #21 Sophomore Ellyanna Carman



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driving to the hoop as Laingsburg #32 Ellie Baynes applies defensive pressure. Photo by Denise Burgess



Dawson Taylor had a pair of pins on Feb. 1st at the Byron quad meet. Photo by Marie Spiess





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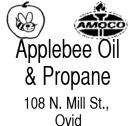


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## Rep. BeGole Welcomes **Shiwassee County Administrator for State** to the State Address

submitted by Denny Schwarze

State Rep. Brian BeGole (right), of Antrim Township, welcomed Shiawassee County Coordinator Dr. Brian Boggs (center) as his guest on Wednesday, Jan. 25 for the 2023 State of the State Address at the state Capitol building in Lansing. The two were joined by House Republican Leader Matt Hall prior to the







## **Holy Family Quilting Group**

submitted by Cindy Broome
It all started with two ladies talking about how to help others. Out of that conversation Holy Family Catholic Church started a quilting group. The idea was to make quilts to donate as a comfort quilt or giving to local charities. Without any funding from the church, donations of material were asked of the parishioners. And donate they did! We started with a few pieces of material, some sewing machines thread and an overwhelming desire to sew!

The first year, we had 7 "regular" volunteers and several who came when the could. Our group has changed through the years. We have joined forces with St. Isidore and added quilters from that church. Some of our members have passed away, others have moved from the area, and still others have joined our little group. All are welcome, you don't have to be a member of the church to come and quilt.

Since starting this group in September 2010, we have made and donated over 1,000 quilts (we do NOT sell the quilts - all are given away!) Each quilt has a label sewn on it and is blessed by the priest. All this done with volunteer help and donations.

We also have opened a seasonal Christmas store and made small craft items for the store. All proceeds - 100% - from the Christmas Store are then given to the food banks. The Christmas store in 2022 was able to donate over \$2,000 to area

We remember those people who have passed and continue sewing in their memory, especially Pat Latz, who was one of the two ladies who started the group.

If you h ae some time and would like to join us, we usually meet every Thursday from 9am til noon. Sewing experience is not necessary as there are other things that need to be done each week. With your help, we look forward to continuing sewing and making quilts.

For more info contact Holy Family office on Tuesdays 8am-3pm 989-834-5855.

