



Spring Sports Have Begun: Above, Ava Bates, goalie for the Marauders makes one of her 11 saves against St. Johns. Sister, Lilly Bates defends a Redwing player. Photos by Jodi Thornton



Marauders Battle to 1-1 Soccer Draw with Redwings

OVID-ELSIE — The new look Marauders took on a very skilled St. Johns team on opening night of the 2023 season and battled to a 1-1 draw here March 23.

Down 1-0 midway through the second half, outside midfielder Haley Palus won a heavily contested 50/50 ball and poked the equalizing goal past the Redwing keeper for the game's most dramatic moment.

The Marauders benefited from 11 saves from keeper Ava Bates and enjoyed strong performances from central midfielders Hailee Campbell and Evelyn Cole as well as center back Dannika Campbell.

Ovid-Elsie starts five freshmen under head coach Jerome White. "Hailey Bukantis is our lone senior and a played a steady game at center back," said White. Previous club coaches, it was the first high school game for the new O-E coaching staff.

The Marauders avenged a 2-0 loss to the Redwings from 2022 with the win. St. Johns' lone goal was scored just after halftime by Alivia Smith.

O-E returns to the pitch on April 11 vs. MMAC Otisville-Lakeville in their MMAC opener.

MDARD Direct Tours Michigan Turkey Producers Cooperative and Joins McDonald's in a "Best Egg Cracking Competition"

submitted by Chelsea Lewis-Parisio

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Acting Director Kathy Angerer toured the Michigan Turkey Producers Cooperative in Grand Rapids and continued celebrating Michigan Food and Agriculture Month by participating in an egg cracking contest hosted by McDonald's in Ionia.

"Farmers, processors, and suppliers across the state of Michigan take tremendous pride in their work to help feed our families," said Angerer. "From here in Ionia, to the Upper Peninsula, and everywhere in between, the care, commitment, and passion our farmers have for the quality of product they produce for Michiganders is on display in any restaurant or grocery store you visit."



MDARD Acting Director Kathy Angerer with representatives from McDonald's



All of the eggs served in McDonald's restaurants in Michigan come from Herbruck's Poultry Ranch in Saranac. In 2021, the McDonald's system purchased 56 million dozen eggs from Herbruck's and \$162 million in raw supplies from Michigan producers.

"Michigan egg, chicken, and turkey farmers are committed to providing safe, high-quality, and nutritious food for consumers.

Today highlights the importance of our industry and what food and agriculture mean to our state," said Dr. Nancy Barr, Executive Director at Michigan Allied Poultry Industries. "Michigan Allied Poultry Industries is proud to work alongside MDARD to ensure the advancement and prosperity of Michigan's thriving poultry industry."

The Michigan Turkey Producers Cooperative (MTP) was founded as a cooperative in 1998 by 15 growers who wanted to bring their birds to market locally. The vertically integrated cooperative sells 45 percent of its products at the food service level, while 40 percent of its sales are at the retail level. The remaining 15 percent are export sales.

For the past 25 years, MTP provides nutritious, good-tasting, quality turkey products by growing, processing, and delivering a consistent, reliable, value-added commodity source for industrial food service and retail customers.

"Michigan is home to 53 turkey farmers, who work incredibly hard to create a safe and quality source of protein for Michiganders and local businesses in the food service industry," added Angerer. "Our farmers produce high-quality food and help support and maintain Michigan's food supply chain. Governor Whitmer's executive budget recommendation highlights her commitment to make sure that Michigan is the place to be when it comes to our growing food and agriculture industry."

Throughout 2023, MDARD will meet with Michigan's food and agricultural businesses to discuss how they can continue to succeed and how the department can best assist their continuous growth and expansion.

More farm news on pages 8-12



WATCH FOR THE Spring Sports Preview

featuring Ashley, Laingsburg and Ovid-Elsie Spring Athletes



Coaches' Comments, Team Photos and Schedules Coming Soon!



Meridian Weekly

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Social

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (60 and Over)

submitted by Becky Zemla

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

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

Family size 1 - \$18,954; family size 2 - \$25,636; family size 3 - \$32,318. For each additional family member add \$6,682.

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

April 4, 2023 will be drive thru only.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF OVID

The City of Ovid will be accepting sealed bids on the 2014 Ford Explore, 4 door, with 93,529 actual miles as is. there is a minimum bid of \$7,500. If you would like to view the vehicle, call the Police Department at 989-834-5335 to make an appointment.

Dead line for bids is Friday, April 7, 2023 until 4:00 pm.

ALL SEALED BIDS WILL BE OPENED BY THE COUNCIL DURING THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023 AT 7:00 pm.

The council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids submitted.

*Josefina Medina, Clerk
City of Ovid*

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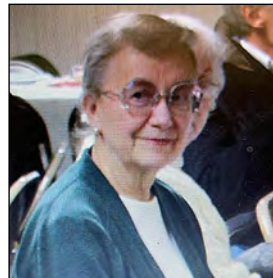
Fax (989)834-2279

Tribute to Sue Hardaker

Please join us on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 9:30am at the Elsie First Baptist Church, as our Church will be paying tribute to Sue Hardaker, who recently passed away.

Sue was a member at Elsie First Baptist Church for many years and played the organ. Sue was a leader of our church and will be missed.

Please join us and pay tribute!



Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch

submitted by Sue Casler

The United Church of Ovid, 131 W. Front St. will be having an Easter Egg Hunt & Lunch, Saturday, April 8, 11:30 am

Parking lot located behind church on Clinton Street one block west of main street.

The United Church of Ovid is excited to be having our annual Easter celebration for kids of all ages. Come and participate in Games, Egg Hunt, Story Time and Lunch.

Bring your own container for eggs and of course your camera.

For more information, contact The United Church of Ovid at 989-834-5958, Monday – Thursday from 9am – 12noon.

Kite Flying Day

submitted by Jessica Hickey

DeVries Nature Conservancy is inviting the public to Kite Flying Day, a free event being held on Saturday, April 15 from noon to 3 pm. Guests are encouraged to bring a chair and a picnic, but kites will be provided while supplies last. This is a great opportunity to get outside and enjoy the beginning of spring! The event will be canceled in the case of rain or excessive mud in the field where the kite flying takes place. Call DeVries at (989) 723-3365 or visit www.devriesnature.org for more information. Registration is not required.



Ashley UMC Easter Breakfast

The Ashley United Methodist Church will be hosting Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 9th at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday Easter Service will follow at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a Good Friday Service on April 7th at 7:00p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend both events.



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2023 Fish Fry Schedule

Fridays: March 24, 31

**4:00 pm to 6:30 pm Public Welcome
No Advance Orders...Drive Thru Only**

Limited Take Out Items: \$15 each (cash/check only)



1. Fried Fish w/French Fries or
2. Baked Fish w/Baked Potato
(Sides include: Green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, dinner roll)

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Elsie Library Adventures

submitted by Ann Trierweiler

2023 will be marking the 2nd Annual Elsie Public Library "Bookmark Design Contest". The theme for the contest will always be the Summer Reading Program theme. The 2023 theme is "All Together Now" Kindness/Friendship/Unity. There are 4 age divisions, 3-7, 8-11, 12-17, and adults. Voting will be done at the library. Bookmarks designed by the four winners will be printed and distributed during the Summer Reading Program. Contest rules and bookmarks may be picked up at the Elsie Public Library or by using the library's website, <https://www.elsiepubliclibrary.org/>. The contest will run from March 27th until April 17th. And please mark your calendars for the SRP kick off on Wednesday, June 7th at 2:00 pm at the Elsie Public Library!

SOS Formerly TOPS 9825 Meeting Again

submitted by Pat Hibbard

SOS (Support Offers Success, Formerly TOPS 9825) is now having in-person meetings again. SOS is a group of men and women who meet Thursday mornings at The Restoration Church of Christ, 1993 North Lansing Street, St. Johns, Michigan. Dues are \$4 a month. Weigh in begins at 8:00 a.m. and an informational meeting follows at 8:30. Follow a healthy plan of your choice. We are not medical professionals, just a community of people who strive to have a healthy life. Everyone is welcome. Our scales weigh up to 550#. For additional information, email hibbardp83@gmail.com.

ASHLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

Due to a recent resignation, the Ashley Community Schools Board of Education is seeking candidates to fill a vacant board seat through December 2024. Interested persons must be a resident and registered voter of the Ashley School District and are asked to submit a letter of interest and qualifications for the position no later than April 10, 2023.

Ashley Community Schools
Central Office
PO Box 6
Ashley, MI 48806

Following a review of the submitted materials, the Board will conduct interviews with selected candidates on April 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Please contact the Superintendent's Office at 989-847-4000, ext. 1000 with any questions.

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Rep. BeGole Votes Against Scheme That will Shortchange Students, Deny Parents' Voices

submitted by Denny Schwarze

State Rep. Brian BeGole, of Antrim Township, voted against a Democrat plan to lower literacy requirements at elementary schools throughout Michigan.

Current law sets children throughout the state on a course for success. It requires an assessment of a child's reading level, employs possible methods to address any deficiencies and gives parents updates on their child's progress. The law is broadly supported by a coalition of teachers, parents and education experts and was enacted with this input in mind.

In addition, the retention aspect of the third-grade reading law has barely taken effect. But Democrats in majority are forging ahead as the state currently ranks 43rd out of 50 states in fourth-grade reading scores.

"Reading is a crucial skill kids should be focusing on from kindergarten through third grade. This is a pivotal time of their development," BeGole said. "We can't just turn our backs on young people who are experiencing reading challenges, funnel them through the education system and pretend this isn't a problem."

"This bill also takes parents out of the conversation with a part of their child's education, which is a big mistake."

Republicans in the House have proposed multiple amendments as Senate Bill 12 moved through the legislative process, including ensuring parents and guardians are involved with intervention strategies for students who are not reading at their grade level after fourth grade and grants of up to \$1,000 for tutoring and other services if a child is severely behind in reading proficiency. These changes, however, have been rejected by Democrat majority.

"March is Reading Month nationally, but here in Michigan we're passing bills that de-emphasize its importance," BeGole said.

The bill will go to the governor's desk for consideration.

Employment Opportunity Seasonal Laborer Department of Public Works

Position performs general labor duties including mowing and general maintenance for the Public Works, Water and Parks Departments. Starting wage is \$15.00 per hour with an average of 25-30 hours per week. Applicant must have a valid driver's license and be able to pass an employment physical and background check. Position requires applicants to work with others and independently in indoor and outdoor environments.

Applications may be picked up at the Village of Ashley office or are available online at www.ashleyvillage.com. Submit application to the attention of the DPW Supervisor Paul Beck at the above address or by email to ashleydpw@ashleyvillage.net. Applications accepted until filled. EOE

NOTICE

MIDDLEBURY TOWNSHIP MANDATORY OBLIGATION TO CUT GRASS AND WEEDS PURSUANT TO THE GRASS AND WEED ORDINANCE

To all Middlebury Township property owners and residents of subdivided and residential lands:

Pursuant to the Middlebury Township Weed and Grass Ordinance #11-2-11, it is your mandatory obligation to cut all weeds and grass to a height less than 12 inches on or before May 1st and thereafter throughout the growing season until October 1st of this year.

Such obligation to cut weeds and grass shall be for a depth of 10 rods, or the depth of the lot, whichever is less.

Failure to cut the weeds and grass by the date provided will allow the township or its contractor to enter onto the property for purposed of cutting the same and the owner of the property charged with the cost as many times as necessary, plus administrative fees.

Failure to pay timely to the township such charges will result in a lien being placed upon the real property and taxes as provided by law.

Date: March 26, 2023
Susan Tomasek-Swan
Middlebury Township Clerk

New Member Development Coordinator Joins Shiawassee Regional Chamber

submitted by Ruthann Liagre

Owosso, Mich. – Paulette Darling is the new member development coordinator for the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Darling brings more than 25 years of experience in compliance, marketing and community development. She has degrees in business management, and facility management and marketing.

Her primary role at the chamber will be to build relationships with its members, recruit new members, and ensure members and prospects know the benefits the chamber offers and how to take full advantage of them. Darling will also collaborate with the chamber's events and marketing coordinator to design and execute special events and marketing campaigns.

Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce Interim Executive Director Ruthann Liagre encourages businesses to call on Darling with questions they may have about how the chamber can help them grow and prosper, whether a current or future member. Liagre shared that Darling will also be out in the community meeting with members and visiting companies to hear their stories.

Darling is new to the area and is excited to get going.

"I am a trainer, motivator and liaison for community building. I'm proud of my ability to connect different types of businesses with services they may need to succeed. We are always networking internally and externally," she said. "I've already fallen in love with the state of Michigan, having just moved to Owosso from California. I look forward to meeting some great people." Darling can be contacted at 989-723-5149.



Elsie Food Bank Donation: Terry Ornelas and Tom Bradley from the St. Cyril's Knights of Columbus donated \$1,000 to Toni Ornelas at the Elsie Food Bank.

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Elsie and Shepardsville UMC Holy Week Activities

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – Pastor JD Paik, Elsie United Methodist, 160 W Main Str., Elsie MI and Shepardsville United Methodist, 6990 Winfield Rd, Ovid, MI, churches would like to invite members of the community to services and activities during Holy Week 2023. Palm Sunday services, Sunday, April 2, 2023, 9:30 am. At Elsie UMC and 11 am at Shepardsville UMC. The schedule of the remainder of the week is as follows: Maundy Thursday, April 6, 6 pm Shepardsville UMC; Good Friday service, April 7, noon at Elsie UMC; and Easter Sunday, April 8, 7:30 am Elsie UMC followed by breakfast; Easter services 9:30 am Elsie UMC and 11 am Shepardsville UMC. Both churches have an online option through Facebook live.

PUBLIC MEETING

The Solid Waste Planning Committee will be holding a public meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:00pm in the Clinton County Courthouse Board of Commissioners Room to continue reviewing and discussing two requests to amend the Clinton County Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). The requests include 1) one additional county to the SWMP for waste import and export and 2) amend the total area sited for use at the Grand River Avenue landfill located at 8550 West Grand River Highway, Grand Ledge, Michigan.

Draft amendments will be reviewed at the April 11th meeting and then made available for public comment once the committee agrees on a draft. Copies of the proposed draft amendments will be made available to all municipal offices, on the Clinton County website (www.clinton-county.org) and through email or regular mail by request.

For additional information, please contact the Clinton County Department of Waste Management by emailing recycle@clinton-county.org or calling the office (989) 224-5186.

Kate Neese – Clinton County Waste Management Coordinator

RESOLUTION 2023- 1

Michigan Township Participating Plans Risk Reduction Grant Program

At a regular Meeting of the City of Ovid's, City Council held on the 13th, day of March 2023 in the Council Chamber room, located at 114 E. Front Street, 7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Mr. Lasher.

A motion was made by Mr. Starn, supported by Mr. Perrien, to adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, The City of Ovid wishes to apply for a Risk Reduction Grant through the Michigan Township Participating Plan to assist in purchasing/funding for the MACP reimbursement for the new Police Chief's school, and

WHEREAS, The City of Ovid is seeking a grant contribution in the amount of \$1,295.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ovid's City Council supports submittal of an application to the Michigan Township Participating Plan for a \$1,295 grant to assist in funding of the MACP reimbursement of the new Police Chief's school.

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: Mrs. Olger, Mr. Brown, Mr. Ordiway, Mr. Perrien, Mr. Starn and Ms. Perrien

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Lasher.

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Health



Celebrating Sparrow Clinton Nurse Cory Mygrants' DAISY Award are (from left) Adriann Sanders, Nursing Manager for Sparrow Clinton's Medical-Surgical and Critical Care Department; Mygrants; Sparrow Clinton Chief Nursing Officer Mariah Hesse; and Kristina McCarty, the hospital's interim President.

Sparrow Clinton Hospital Honors DAISY Award Recipient for Extraordinary Nursing Skills

submitted by John Foren

ST. JOHNS, MI – A Sparrow Clinton Hospital nurse was recently honored with the DAISY Award for compassionate care and dedication to helping patients.

Med/Surg nurse Cory Mygrants, BSN, RN, was named a DAISY honoree based on a letter from a patient's family member, recognizing his extraordinary bedside manner and identifying him as "Supernurse." According to the letter, Mygrants patiently devoted time to the patient and even helped the patient shave while in the hospital.

"I give it my all when it comes to caring for patients so it's rewarding to be recognized and know the care I provide makes a difference," Mygrants said. "It's the little things we do for our patients that make the greatest impact."

Since becoming a Sparrow Clinton caregiver in 2021, Mygrants has been nominated for the prestigious award twice.

"Cory is well deserving of the DAISY award. He exemplifies kindness, respectfulness, and compassionate care for his patients that shines brightly in his interactions with his patients and their families," said Sparrow Clinton Chief Nursing Officer Mariah Hesse, BSN, RN, CENP. "This is the care that Sparrow Clinton Hospital strives to uphold with every patient, every time."

The DAISY Award is an international program that rewards and celebrates the extraordinary, compassionate, and skillful care given by nurses every day. Nurses are nominated by their patients and patients' families. Mygrants was presented with a certificate of recognition, a DAISY pin, and a hand-carved sculpture entitled The Healer's Touch.

Sparrow Clinton honors two nurses each year as DAISY Award honorees. In addition, a DAISY Team Award is presented as recognition is merited. To nominate an exceptional nurse or nursing team, please complete and return a form from one of The DAISY Foundation displays in the hospital.

AWAKENING! -

by LeeAnna Woods

Licensed Therapist, Reiki Master and Owner
of Healing Feather Wellness
www.HealingFeatherWellness.com
(810) 339-0260

Yes, Spring is here! Although the past couple of years have been very challenging for most of us, through it all, we each have come to realize how much life truly means. This realization of what is really important to us and how fragile we actually can be, has created an impact in our minds. This impact can cause issues with our health on different levels depending on the mindset of the person. As we all were forced to slow down without a choice, we each were taught something very important. It's easier to learn the things of importance, but for some people, it was learning what things they didn't necessarily need in their life, and others learned what things needed to be changed or discarded.

It's amazing how much we can see and learn when the chaos of life stops and you're standing in pure silence. Some felt fear, loneliness, and anger, while others became depressed, sad, and some developed anxiety issues. The months seemed to go on forever and then, the new year came.

January was the time of making plans and setting goals for ourselves. February was the month to show how much we actually care, not just to our loved ones for Valentine's Day, but to ourselves personally. Then March rolls in, bringing Spring along with it and reminding us that even after cold hard times, growth is still possible and life continues. This is the moment to give ourselves what we truly deserve. It's the choice of moving forward and creating a healthier lifestyle. After all, time is valuable and life is precious, as many of us have learned in the past two years. Now is the moment for you to take that step forward and begin caring for yourself, making your health a top priority in your life. Each day can bring a little more happiness and peace with it, especially when you allow the time for yourself to get a massage, have a Reiki session, do a yoga practice or just sit and meditate for a moment. It's not hard to do, it's believing you are worth it. Any of these modalities among others can heal on different levels by lowering stress, relieving tension, and providing balance throughout the body. You are worth the time and you deserve a healthier life. So set something up now and show the world around you that you matter too!!

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Laingsburg Robotics Zooms Towards State Championships

submitted by Clint Hawks

Red Thunder Robotics, Team 7166, has qualified for the FIRST in Michigan State Championships, April 6-8 at Saginaw Valley State University. This will be the team's first ever appearance at the state tournament.

621 FIRST teams from Michigan compete twice yearly in district playoffs during a five week stretch to earn district qualification points for the state championships. The top 160 teams, which includes automatic qualifiers by event winners and Impact award winners, attend states to compete for 82 spots in the World Championships in Houston, two weeks after Michigan's finals.

Laingsburg competed in a "Week 1" event at Jackson's Spring Arbor College, placing in a tie for 7th place and earning 30 qualification points (15 from qualifying matches, 10 for alliance playoffs and 5 for winning the Team Sustainability award). The Team Sustainability Award celebrates and recognizes a team which has developed a sustainable program in order to define, manage and achieve the team's ongoing objectives. This season, Laingsburg has grown their robotics program from two teams and 16 students to seven teams and more than 60 students. Their projected growth is to add 5-6 more teams for next year.

In "Week 3" at Standish-Sterling Central High School this past weekend, Red Thunder Robotics started quite strong, winning its first three matches. Overall, they finished 8-4-0 during qualification matches, finishing fifth of 39 teams.

During alliance selection they moved up to fourth alliance captain and this event's team captain Jaylei Kramer, selected Team 3641 (South Lyon's Flying Toasters) and Team 5229 (Saginaw Heritage Hawkbots) as alliance partners. Red Thunder Robotics lost their first playoff match to the fifth alliance (in a replay due to a field fault) by a score of 121-108. This placed them into the lower bracket of the double-elimination event.

The team and their robot "Melman" (from Madagascar) kept moving forward, beating alliance 8 and alliance 7 to move into the lower bracket semi-finals. This time, Red Thunder Robotics was able to defeat the fifth alliance, whom they lost to in playoff match one, 108-92. They lost a close match to alliance three in the next round, taking home third place overall

and a total of 50 district qualification points (19 from qualifying matches, 13 from alliance selection, 13 from playoff performance and five points for winning the Jack Kamen Imagery Award).

The Imagery Award in memory of Jack Kamen (FIRST founder Dean Kamen's father), celebrates attractiveness in engineering and outstanding visual aesthetic integration of machine and team appearance. Red Thunder Robotics was recognized for this award due to the zookeeper drive team uniforms and the "Melman" giraffe theme of their robot.

The team is planning a state send-off event for April 5. More details will be posted on their social media channels @RedThunderRobotics#7166, team7166.com and at their booster-club website, Wolfpack-robotics.com.

Laingsburg robotics program would like to thank their students, parents, mentors and sponsors for providing us the resources to compete and showcase their skills.

SPONSORS: Pro-Mec Engineering Services, Laingsburg Lion Club, Laingsburg Educational Advancement Foundation, Lakeshore Employee Benefits, Shaheen Cadillac, TechSmith, Magna-Dexsys, Advanced Audiology, Baker College of Owosso, Polymershapes, TechSmith, Meiers Lombardin Lemanski Insurance, Alderman's of Lennon, Daystarr Communications, In Memory of Frank Robinson and John Liskey.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to Wolfpack Robotics booster club, a licensed 501c3 organization.



Above: Melman the robot. Below: Melman in full balance (endgame challenge during FIRST Power-Up game for 2023).



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12:45pm - 3rd-5th Grade Egg Hunt
1:30pm - 6th Grade+ Egg Hunt

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Hello Spring!



TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!

Raffle Drawing

Monday, May 29th - 3:00pm

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1st Prize - \$5,000 Custom Golf Cart

2nd Prize - \$599 Grill

3rd Prize - \$500 Meat Bundle

4th Prize - \$500

5th Prize - Mystery Prize

6th/7th/8th Prize - \$100

Donations: \$10.00 each ticket or 3 tickets for \$20.00

Need not be present to win

Raffle tickets are available from Lions Club members. They are also available at Leonard Hardware, Sage Market, Twilliger's and the Meridian Weekly office.

“Chief Stone”

“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies...(John 12:24).”

“The Red Balloon” won an Oscar for Albert Lamorisse in 1956 with a simple story — a magical balloon befriends a lonely French boy on his way to school. I saw it at Leslie Elementary at about the same age as the film’s star — Albert’s five-year-old son, Pascal. For 34 minutes, and with almost no words, his enchanting spell took me to Paris to see an over-sized ruby red balloon pal along with Pascal through his harsh, drab-gray streets.

I watched it today and was instantly back in that dark Leslie auditorium, convinced again that his balloon was alive! Perfectly round, that vibrant candy apple orb also reminded me of something else that’s living...God’s Word. The Bible is a perfect reflection of God’s holiness and His love, but it’s also a spiritual thermometer that shows us how sick we are. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).” We’ve all broken at least one of the Ten Commandments. (Not you? Well, you just did!).

So how many pins do you have to stick in a balloon before you break its perfection? Albert shows the answer and our sinfulness when a mob of children throw stones at Pascal’s sentient friend. When just one stone hits the balloon, it falls to the earth and dies. One pin, one sin, or one stone and perfection dies. “For whoever keeps the whole Law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all (James 2:10).”

We’re all in that stone-throwing mob, guilty and dead. “For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).” Thankfully God hurled a stone too. The target was sin and death. His aim and stone were perfect...Jesus Christ. Psalm 118 and Matthew 21 tell us that Jesus became God’s chief cornerstone (the first stone laid by a mason, a reference point for all the other stones to be perfect). The Perfect came to make us holy (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Sadly for Albert, life imitated art when he was 48 years old. While filming a documentary over a dam in Iran Albert’s helicopter got tangled in some power lines. Pascal was onboard and miraculously leapt from the helicopter. He survived the crash that killed the pilot and his Father. Great or small, young or old, because of sin death is a real threat, especially if we die in our sins. Fortunately, his film had a better ending.

Balloons from all over Paris escape their tethers and rush to a heartbroken Pascal. Mobbed by the colorful blob, he grabs their strings and they lift him up and over the city in a wonderful resurrection moment. Apparently, his friend sent help...just like God did when the chief cornerstone was laid down in the grave for our sin and then rose again.

Our sin murdered Jesus just as sure as that stone killed Pascal’s floating friend. Our stone broke that union with God, but Jesus came to restore us...if we grab His tether. John chapter 12 says He can lift you up too. Let Him lift you up this Easter, over your drab-gray grave, and surrender to Him as your Master, your Lord, and your Chief Stone.



Faith Focus

by Phil Hoppersberger
Graham Community Church

Obituaries

Merle Duane Baese

Merle Duane Baese, age 89, of Elsie, MI, passed away Thursday, March 16, 2023, at his home surrounded by his family.

Merle was born in Elsie, Michigan on June 4, 1933, the son of Onas Penn and Thelma Irene (Doten) Baese. He graduated from Elsie High School with the class of 1951. Merle married Carol Elizabeth Bancroft on January 19, 1958. They celebrated sixty-five years of marriage.

Merle retired from MMPA as a lab technician in 1999. He was a past union president of Local #86. Merle was a volunteer EMT with the Elsie Ambulance for more than forty years. He was a referee for MHSAA in football, basketball, baseball, and softball for many years. He was a life-long member of the Elsie Lions Club, Lions Club All State Band, and the Elsie United Methodist Church. Merle proudly served his country in the United States Army in Korea. He was a lifelong member of the Elsie American Legion. Merle helped provide military honors for funerals and participated in many local parades. Merle enjoyed sports and he was an avid University of Michigan fan. Merle and Carol loved family trips, camping and wintering in Florida. Most of all, he loved time spent with his family, especially his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife Carol Baese of Elsie, MI; daughters: Janice and Wayne Swender of South Whitley, IN; Kathleen and Mark Shook of Carmel, IN; son Kevin and Jodi Baese of Elsie, MI; grandchildren: Kurt and Abby Swender, Kaleb and Natalie Swender, Jocelyn and Matthew Dugan, Victoria and Michael Stout, Cayden Baese and Shelby Tengler, and Madison Baese; and great-grandchildren: Oliver and Elsie Swender. He is also survived by sisters: Mary Lou Hanold, and Diane and Richard Bates; brothers: Gale and Marcella Baese, and Richard Baese and Linda Collins, sisters-in-law: Shirley Baese and Dorothy Baese; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers; Versil Baese; Robert (Shirley) Baese; Eldon (Jean) Baese; Lewis Baese; Raymond Baese; Owen Baese and Bryce Kevin Baese; sister Onalee (Jerry) Austin; and brother-in-law Ed Hanold.

A Memorial Service will be held at the Elsie United Methodist Church, Elsie, MI, at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, April 22, 2023, with Pastor Ava Euper officiating. Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery, Elsie, MI. Visitation will be held from 10:00 A.M. until the time of service at the church.

Memorials may be made to WOES Polka Palace, Elsie United Methodist Church, or the Elsie Lions Club. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



Nancy Lee Pilot

Nancy Lee Pilot, age 81, of Bannister, MI, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 20, 2023, at Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, MI, surrounded by her family.

Nancy was born in Norwalk, CT on October 6, 1941, the daughter of George Washington and Elizabeth Catherine (Torpey) Kitchens. She graduated from Norwalk High School in Norwalk, CT with the class of 1959. On June 12, 1987, Nancy married Ronald Lee Pilot at Eureka Christian Church. They have been blessed with thirty-five years of marriage. They were members of Chapin United Methodist Church.

Nancy was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She was always doting on her family; she loved to cook for them and send food home with them. Her happiest times were spent with her family. She also liked tending her flowers and loved growing up near the Atlantic Ocean.

She is survived by her husband Ron; three children: Edward (Mary) Rutkowski of Lansing, MI; Daniel (Jacalyn) Rutkowski of North Adams, MI; and Darlene Medore of Owosso, MI; four step-children: Kimberly (Dave) Gibby of Alton, IL; Tammy (Brian) Randall of Ft. Wayne, IN; Kristi (Brett) Payne of Springfield, MO; and Ronny (Keri) Pilot of Halfway, MO; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sister Diane (Roland) Lamoureux; brother-in-law John Pequigney; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, and siblings: Patty (Charlie) Toth, Tommy (Susan) Kitchens, Johnny Kitchens, and Kathleen Pequigney.

A Memorial Service will be held at Chapin United Methodist Church, Elsie, MI, at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, April 1, 2023, with Pastor Charlene Reha officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church.



Memorials may be made to the wishes of the family. Online condolences may be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.

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HERITAGE MONUMENTS

Editorial



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

I just had a learning experience regarding my computer which in and of itself is amazing. I'm a bit of a technophobe. I've been frustrated in the near past because I couldn't find the libre office writer when I opened my computer to use it. But if I just canceled what I was doing and went back to the same place it would be there. I guess that I was feeling more adventurous today. Anyhow I was able to find a blank page and am using it now. I even was able to save it so that I could continue using it and hopefully finish what I had started. I understand that those of you who are very articulate upon how to use your computers that I must sound rather silly. Drat, just as my creative juices seem to be flowing Miss Prudence lets me know that she needs to go outside. So my brain synapses quit working and I can't follow my own thoughts. It is very aggravating.

Diane complimented me today, she told me what a hard working soul I was. And yet I had to point out that I'm a terrible house keeper. Yup, she agreed with my assessment of said skills or lack there of. My mother was an excellent house keeper even when she had four rug rats to contend with. Yes, she tried to make sure that I could handle any situation and I can but I still hate housework. Maybe it is because I enjoy working outside in the yard and or garden or doing chores in the barn instead of those that are in the house. My sister spent more time in the house caring for things when we were youngsters than I did and she is a very creative person who makes the most beautiful quilts. Of course she bakes and cooks like a chef if needed. Whether she knows it or not, she was a hard act to follow.

Yesterday I got my hair cut and no one made a comment about it today. Must be it was not a noticeable event. I thought that the cut was decent but then I don't look into a mirror very often. Yesterday our regulars were telling me that I appeared to have been blond at one time, I did tell them that had never occurred though come to think of it, I did have a blond wig when in college. I did mention that I was born with auburn tresses. This of course explains my quick temper which Mom in her wisdom taught me to control.

Monday, my neighbor Karen and I went on a shopping spree. The only stop that I needed to make was at Gordon Foods and that was not a fruitful stop. So we headed out to other areas of interest and did fairly well while browsing. The clearance racks at JC Penney yielded some good buys, some of the tops were up to 70% off and then I had some credits which knocked my cost down to eight dollars which pleased me greatly. Then there was Ollie's which is always interesting and I picked up some new throws for the furniture and a few books. Did I mention that I was running out of steam as the day seemed to grow longer? It really didn't grow longer, it just was a matter of my flag was dragging. I got Karen to stop at Burger King on the way through St Johns because I wanted an ice tea. I was floored when a large ice tea cost \$3.17, then to add insult to injury the tea tasted like it was full of powder and I wouldn't have drank it if I hadn't been so darn thirsty. I know, I sound petty.

Today has been interesting. It was misty and foggy when I went to the coffee shop this morning at a quarter to six. Then it started to pour when it was seven and the signs needed to be put out on the sidewalk. Instead the open flag was hung and the open light was turned on. The birds were singing and then it would pour torrents. Finally the sun would come out to shine and then it would rain rambunctiously again. It was nice that the rain had quit when it was time to leave. Margie came to pick up her ordered loaves of bread and she shared coffee and her time with me. Which was nice because at times I can't always visit with folks. Win some...

May your days be filled with sunshine and pleasant visits. May God bless you always and please remember to enjoy your time spent with friends and family. It is precious.

Crystal Mitchell©2023



Have a Question for Andy?

Submit them to:
ask_andy@aol.com

You can also mail or drop questions off to: Meridian Weekly
P.O. Box 11, Ovid, MI 48866

Spammers and Scammers

Dear Andy,

It is happening again. People are calling to verify information to send the insurance company refund of \$400 per vehicle. Explaining that due to so many refunds they have hired independent callers to meet the state deadline to be in compliance to get the money back to people by the April deadline. Asking question like your name, address, how many vehicles, what kind of vehicle and how many drivers of your vehicle. After getting your personal information. Then they ask if you would like it to be direct deposited into your account. That is when I hung up and knew it was a SCAM. Please warn your readers. Insurance companies are not calling or doing a direct deposit. Your refund will be a check addressed to you and mailed. Celeste B.

Dear Celeste,

Thank you for the heads up. Unfortunately, the telephone fraud occurs every day. I have given this advice previously but here it is again...

If you do not know the person or you did not call them, you should never give personal information or confirm information to a stranger on the computer or the telephone. You must be absolutely sure, even if they claim to know your information. Online and telephone scams can look and sound legitimate.

I just got a call last week to give me a refund for \$299.99 telling me I bought a computer protection plan on March 22, 2019. I might not remember but if I followed the instructions to access my computer, he could remove the program. He also claimed it was put on my computer illegally and they no longer allowed to conduct business in the U.S. I took his number. Called my Credit Union and they verified that I made no such purchase. Called him back...no such number...SCAM

Some online warning signs include the gift card offers by collecting data or having you take a survey. Professional looking sties can trick you into sharing a lot of personal information. If you are making a purchase or paying a bill online make sure you are on the official site. Also, Watch out when you are told it is "Free" to enter and then they want your credit card number...it is NOT free. Scammers on the telephone, easily obtain private information by asking you to donate to what sounds like a good cause by appealing to your giving nature.

Watch out when the caller is giving you a deadline, such as - "Last day" for this "Great low price" or a "One-time offer" only. Hang up! Do not be bullied or talked into something with their "threats." When they sound professional with an urgent tone of voice, tell them you will call them back. If you continue to receive persistent calls, go to your "settings" to "block" the number. If you cannot figure it out, call your phone company or ask someone from a younger generation...they seem to know how to do everything on the cell phone and the computer.

Deleting and hanging up is ok. It's not rude...but it is rude and a crime when someone hacks your information and goes on a cruise or buy a new refrigerator with your credit card. If you are paying medical bills on a payment plan, many collection/payment companies are now using only routing and account numbers instead of your debit card number. Still, do not give out your information. Call them back on the phone number you have on your invoice or bill.

More and more individuals are shopping online. Make sure you are on a legitimate site when you order your items. I know this is a lot of information but it is worth taking note to protect you financially and emotionally. ask_andy@aol.com

P.S. If it too good to be true, then it's about 99.9% not true. Quit answering the Potential Spam calls, please

CITY OF OVID SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING MARCH 13, 2023

The draft minutes may be requested at the Municipal Building located at 114 E. Front Street, or you may view them on the City's website at: www.ovidmi.org

Mayor Pro-Tem Perrien opened the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Ordiway, Mr. Perrien, Ms. Olger, Mr. Brown, Mr. Starn and Ms. Perrien.

ABSENT: Mr. Lasher, Rich Simpson – DPW Superintendent.

EX OFFICIOS: Present: Lisa Rousseau – Chief of Police, Liza Kusnier-Treasurer and Josy Medina – Clerk.

VISITORS: Melissa Jones, Val Vail-Shirey, Jaclyn Allen, Chris Nethaway, Arlene Pesik, Matthew Bartow and Jennings C. West.

AGENDA: A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Perrien to accept the agenda as printed.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES: A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Ordiway to approve the minutes of Regular meeting held on February 13, 2023 with the corrected date mentioned.

MOTION CARRIED

CHECK REGISTRY: A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mrs. Olger to approve the invoice/check registry for the period of February 15, 2023 thru March 14, 2023 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mrs. Vail-Shirey from Clinton County Commissioner's office updated the council on the solar applications at Greenbush. The Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioner's did accept the application.

TREASURER: A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Starn to authorize the Treasurer to move 1 million dollars into a money market account to draw 4.5% interest at Mercantile Bank as discussion.

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Starn, second by Mr. Perrien to approve the budget amendments as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mrs. Olger to allow Maner Costerisan to do the verification of the new Chart of Accounts and then to allow BS&A to do the final conversion as requested by the Treasurer.

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Perrien, second by Mrs. Olger to increase the city's return check fee from \$25 to \$30 effective immediately.

MOTION CARRIED

POLICE: A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Perrien to authorize the Chief to purchase 4 rifles for the Police Department and send to the Police Committee to review the policy for the buy-back program.

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Ms. Olger to move \$8,000 from General Fund Reserves to the Police Equipment Purchase line.

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Pro-Tem read resolution #2023-1. A motion was made by Mr. Starn, supported by Mr. Perrien to adopt resolution 2023-1 as read. The Clerk took roll call as followed: YEAS: Mrs. Olger, Mr. Brown, Mr. Ordiway, Mr. Perrien, Mr. Starn and Ms. Perrien. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Mr. Lasher.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

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

DPW: A motion was made by Mr. Ordiway, second by Mr. Starn to approve the request to roll the leave time for Rich Simpson as requested.

MOTION CARRIED

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

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss was held to replace the email system. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Starn to purchase the office 365 exchange email.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Discussion was held on the request of use of the Veteran's Memorial Field & Ackley Field for a fundraiser. No Action taken.

3. A motion was made by Mr. Starn, second by Mr. Ordiway to hire Mr. Kyler Garner and Mr. Mitchell Ladiski for the position of DPW Full-Time position per the recommendation of the Personnel Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS: A motion was made by Mr. Ordiway, Second by Mr. Brown to put the Vehicle out for bid with a minimum bid of \$7,500 until April 7th at 4 pm and all sealed bid to be opened at the April 10th, council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

PERSONNEL: A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Perrien to enter into a closed session at 8:37 pm to discuss Attorney Client Privileged information regarding the personnel investigation. Mayor Pro-Tem Perrien asked the Clerk to take a roll call. YEAS: Mr. Ordiway, Mr. Perrien, Mrs. Olger, Mr. Brown, Mr. Starn and Ms. Perrien. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Mr. Lasher.

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Starn, second by Mr. Brown to go back into open session at 9:02 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mrs. Olger to extend the meeting for 20 minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Brown, second by Mrs. Olger to put a letter of reprimand in Rich Simpson's personnel file to reflect section 5.4 section G of the Personnel Policy as recommended by the City Attorney.

MOTION CARRIED

LIBRARY: A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Starn to reappoint Sherry Byrnes to the Library Board for another term.

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second on Mrs. Olger to close the meeting at 9:16 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Josefina Medina, Clerk
City of Ovid

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Photo: C.J. Miller / Michigan Ag Today.

Biggest US Farm Grew Larger in 2022, Says USDA Report

by Michigan Ag Today

The largest farms in the U.S. that had sales of \$1 million or more operate nearly 26 percent of U.S. farmlands according to the USDA's annual Farms and Land in Farms Report.

The size of farms in the \$1 million or more sales class increased. Farms in every other sales class either decreased or remained the same size. Around 88,660 farms, or 3.9 percent of the total, had sales of at least \$1 million. Ten years ago, three percent of farms made that category.

The average size of the largest farms, by sales, was 2,927 acres or 4.6 square miles in 2022. In 2012, farms with \$1 million in sales were an average of 2,481 acres in size. USDA says the average farm size for 2022 was 446 acres, up from 445 acres in 2021.

The agency also says there were 2.003 million farms in the nation during 2022, a drop of 0.5 percentage points from 2012.

Moolenaar Votes to End Rule Burdening Michigan Farmers

Congressman John Moolenaar voted for legislation that would repeal the Biden administration's Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. The Biden administration's rule greatly expands the definition of what is a navigable body of water and would increase the regulation of water on farmland in Michigan.

"Michigan farmers work hard while dealing with the weather, rising costs, and the 24/7 needs of their farms. The Biden administration's new rule is imposed by executive order and goes too far. It would allow bureaucrats in Washington D.C. to regulate the puddles and ditches on farmers' fields," said Moolenaar. "I voted to overturn Biden's rule - so farmers can focus on growing food instead of worrying about Biden's red tape."

The Environmental Protection Agency finalized its WOTUS rule on January 18, 2023 with an effective date of March 20, 2023. This legislation would repeal the rule using the Congressional Review Act, a 1996 law that allows Congress to overturn executive branch regulations.

Rep. Filler Stands Up for Farmers, Families in Rural Communities

submitted by Jeremiah Ward

State Rep. Graham Filler continues to stand up for farmers and residents in rural Michigan communities by fighting back against overreaching government regulations that harm them.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) proposed a rule earlier this year that would have imposed new restrictions on county road commissions, severely limiting them from spraying mineral brine on gravel roads beginning on April 1.

"EGLE made a horrible decision that was going to turn dirt roads all over Michigan into a mess, lowering visibility and seriously increasing the amount of dust in the air for families who live off of dirt roads," said Filler, R-Clinton County. "The rule was not based on science. It was a solution looking for a problem that would have horribly affected the quality of life of citizens who live on dirt roads."

Filler was just one of many people who voiced strong opposition to the rule, which EGLE recently put on hold.

"I am thankful for the many farmers, residents, local officials, and the County Road Association for standing up against EGLE's overreach and making sure their concerns were heard," Filler said. "I will continue to be your voice against this rule and other policies that harm rural residents and farmers."

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Spring Farm Section



The Michigan Barn Preservation Network featured the Kevin Somers Barn, located on S. Merrill Road in Elsie, in their 2023 calendar. The 100 year old family barn was hit by lightning while the cows were being milked, half of the barn was replaced so that canned milk production could continue. The use has evolved from a dairy barn to housing a Hereford cow/calf operation, to raising Holstein deacon calves. Today, it houses feeder cattle, an occasional pig or chickens. It's new purpose is for breeding Labrador puppies.

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Spring Farm Section

Michigan Apple Producers Approve Continuation Referendum and Program Changes

submitted by Jennifer Holton

LANSING – Michigan's apple producers have approved a referendum to continue the Michigan Apple Advertising and Promotion Program and implement the proposed changes presented by the Michigan Apple Committee, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Acting Director Kathy Angerer announced today.

Established in July 1968, the Michigan Apple Advertising and Promotion Program was developed to enhance the economic position of Michigan apple producers through advertising, promotion, and publicity programs; to conduct market development and research; and to obtain and disseminate other apple industry information important to producers.

The program will continue for an additional five years beginning September 1, 2023 and ending August 31, 2028. The current assessment rates are \$0.52 per hundredweight of fresh apples, \$0.28 for apples sold for processing, and \$0.12 for apples sold for juice. Included are a \$.04 per hundredweight for research and up to \$.03 per hundredweight for promotion of U.S. apples with the United States Apple Association.

A total of 92 valid ballots were cast. Each producer voted on two questions – one on the continuation of the Michigan Apple Advertising and Promotion Program for an additional five years; and the second was regarding proposed changes to the program.

80 producers voted yes for the program to continue (87 percent) representing 42,655,495 hundredweight of apples (70 percent) and 12 producers voted not to allow the program to continue (13 percent) representing 18,567,276 hundredweight of apples (30 percent). On question two, 84 producers voted yes to make the proposed changes to the Michigan Apple Advertising and Promotion Program (91 percent) representing 42,827,229 hundredweight of production (70 percent) and 8 voted not to implement the proposed changes (9 percent) representing 18,395,542 hundredweight of production (30 percent).

For renewal of the program and its activities, more than 50 percent of the voting producers, representing more than 50 percent of the production of those voting, must have approved it. For more information on the Michigan Apple Committee, visit their website at Michigan Apple Committee (michiganapples.com).



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Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Elects 2023 Officers and Welcomes New Commissioners

submitted by Jennifer Holton

LANSING –

During its regularly scheduled meeting today, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development elected its new officers for 2023 and welcomed new Commissioners David Williams and Dr. Felicia Wu.

Andy Chae of Detroit was elected Chair of the

Commission. Chae was appointed to the Commission by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on July 7, 2021. He is the owner/operator of FishEye Farms in Detroit.

Monica Wyant of Grand Rapids was elected Vice Chair of the Commission. Wyant is the Produce Business Manager for Meijer, Inc., where she is responsible for sourcing fresh fruits and vegetables for the grocery chain.

Juliette King-McAvoy of Central Lake was elected Secretary of the Commission. King-McAvoy is the VP of Sales and Marketing for King Orchards, a family-owned and operated orchard and food business.

Additionally, the Commission welcomed new Commissioners David Williams and Dr. Felicia Wu to their first meeting. Williams and Wu were both appointed by the Governor yesterday, March 14, 2023, for terms ending on December 31, 2026. Williams succeeds Charlie Meintz whose term has expired, and Dr. Wu succeeds Patricia Bergadhl whose term has expired.

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development has the responsibility to recommend, and in some cases determine, policy on food, agricultural, and rural development issues. The Commission is a bipartisan body of five citizens appointed by the Governor.

For a schedule of Commission meetings or additional information, visit the Commission website.



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Spring Farm Section

USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program Signup for 2023

USDA Farm Service Agency

Lansing – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin applying for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General signup starting February 27 through April 7, 2023. CRP is a cornerstone voluntary conservation program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a key tool in the Biden-Harris administration's effort to address climate change and help agricultural communities invest in the long-term well-being of their land and natural resources.

"The Conservation Reserve Program is one of the largest private lands conservation programs in the United States, offering a range of conservation options to farmers, ranchers and landowners," said Dr. Tim Boring, FSA State Executive Director in Michigan. "CRP has and continues to be a great fit for farmers with less productive or marginal cropland, helping them re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and support wildlife habitat. Under this administration, we have made several updates to the program to increase producer interest and enrollment, strengthen the climate benefits of the program and help ensure underserved producers can find a pathway to entry into CRP."

Producers and landowners enrolled more than 5 million acres into CRP through signups in 2022, building on the acceptance of more than 3.1 million acres in the largest Grassland CRP signup in history. There are currently 23 million acres enrolled in CRP, with 1.9 million set to expire this year. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is aiming to reach the 27-million-acre cap statutorily set for fiscal year 2023.

General CRP

General CRP helps producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Additionally, General CRP includes a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to help increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping producers and landowners establish trees and permanent grasses, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands.

Continuous CRP

Under Continuous CRP, producers and landowners can enroll in CRP throughout the year. Offers are automatically accepted provided the producer and land meet the eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap. The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is also available in the Continuous signup.

FSA offers several additional enrollment opportunities within Continuous CRP, including the Clean Lakes Estuaries and Rivers Initiative (CLEAR30), the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initiative, the Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP), and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The CLEAR30 Initiative, which was originally piloted in twelve states in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay watershed, has been expanded nationwide, allowing producers and landowners to enroll in 30-year CRP contracts for water quality practices. Under this administration, FSA also moved SAFE practices back to the Continuous CRP signup, giving producers and landowners more opportunities to participate in the initiative. Through the FWP, producers and landowners can enroll land in CRP as part of their efforts to restore previously farmed wetlands and wetland buffers, to improve both vegetation and water flow.

This administration has also made significant improvements to CREP, which leverages federal and non-federal funds to target specific State, regional or nationally significant conservation concerns. Specifically, USDA made significant improvements to CREP to reduce barriers and make the program more accessible to a broad range of producers and new types of partners. These updates included flexibility for partners to provide matching funds in the form of cash, in-kind contributions, or technical assistance, along with an investment in additional staff to work directly with partners. Through CREP, for the first time ever, three Tribal Nations are now partnering with USDA to help conserve, maintain, and improve grassland productivity, reduce soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat.

Grassland CRP

FSA will announce the dates for Grassland CRP signup in the coming weeks. Grassland CRP is a working lands program, helping landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as working grazing lands. Protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations, and provides important carbon sequestration benefits to deliver lasting climate outcomes.

How to Sign Up

Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for the program before their deadlines.

Producers with expiring CRP acres can use the Transition Incentives Program (TIP), which incentivizes producers who sell or enter a long-term lease with a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who plans to sustainably farm or ranch the land.

More Information

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.



USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit usda.gov.

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Green Farming is Growing

Farmers have been pressured to increase production to meet the demand of a growing population. This may require employing more efficient measures to ensure maximum output. Unfortunately, efficiency doesn't always mesh with sustainability, so commercial operations have had to make some modifications to find a balance between serving the public and protecting the planet.

Green farming utilizes different technology and practices in order to decrease detrimental impact on the environment. According to the farming resource NuFarming, agricultural operations have a significant impact on climate change. Simply adopting some new practices can lessen that impact.

Solar power

Growing plants are not the only thing on a farm that can benefit from the sun. Farmers can convert a portion or all of their power needs to solar. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, there are benefits when solar companies and farmers work together. Solar developers reduce installation costs and upfront risk by placing solar modules on previously tilled agricultural land. Vegetation under modules also can contribute to lower soil temperatures and increased solar performance. Agricultural land managers can reduce energy costs and diversify their revenue streams with solar. Plus, they can market products to sustainability-minded customers.

Solar is not the only renewable energy option. Farmers can incorporate wind and hydroelectric power as well.

Crop rotation

This farming technique has been used for thousands of years and involves growing different crops in different seasons over a period of time. Farmers reduce the chances for pests and diseases becoming problems in the soil because frequent crop changes prevent invaders from gaining a foothold. Farmers use fewer fertilizers and pesticides as a result.



Hydroponic and aquaponic strategies

Farmers can improve productivity while also reducing environmental impact with these two growing methods. NuEnergy states that hydroponic systems grow plants in mineral solutions or in materials like perlite or gravel. Aquaponics involves raising aquatic animals in addition to growing crops. The waste from the fish and other marine life is used to offer nutrients to the plants by growing them in this nutrient-rich water. Both methods remove the need for soil.

Drip irrigation

Drip irrigation methods deliver water to the roots of plants through a series of pipes or tubes. Because water is not being sprayed into the air through sprinklers and other methods, less is lost to evaporation, and less water overall may be needed to provide for crops.

Plasticulture

Plastic seems like it may not have a purpose on the farm, but recycled plastic, which is used in plastic mulch, can help produce plentiful crops with less water. Plastic mulches raise soil temperatures and insulate against evaporation so plants can grow faster and mature sooner. Invasive weeds also may be less likely to take root in plastic mulch or when crops are grown on black plastic.

Natural pesticides

Farmers can introduce plants that pests tend not to like to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides. For example, interspersing crops with natural bug repellants, such as basil, lavender and lemongrass, may keep insects at bay. Alliums, chrysanthemums, marigolds, and other flowers planted nearby also may deter bugs.

Green farming is something more agricultural operations may want to adopt.

Mapping the Future of Agriculture

The demand for food is directly related to population growth. By 2050, food needs are expected to double, according to a study published in the journal Agricultural Economics. That puts increasing pressure on the agricultural sector to meet growing demand. However, many experts think the industry will fall short.

In addition to increased food demand, consumer habits, technology, and policies continue to force the agricultural industry to evolve. Indeed, the agricultural sector may look very different in the future.

Bigger digital footprint

Social media has transformed many industries, and it can do the same for agriculture. Farming supply chains can communicate with one another by getting feedback from customers in real time through social media. However, agricultural operations will have to devote teams to manage social media presence, especially since misinformation is so widespread on social media.

Apart from social media, local farmers may increase their efforts to utilize mobile apps and direct-to-consumer purchasing options. The global pandemic helped businesses reimagine take-out and curbside shopping. Local farms may want to market to the home-shopping community, providing ways to deliver produce, fresh meat and poultry and other items direct to customers' homes.

Regenerative agriculture

The future may feature a significant shift in the way farms source their ingredients. Regeneration International says that regenerative agriculture can be the future. This describes farming and grazing practices that may help reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity. Some insist that farmers who utilize regenerative agriculture produce food that is more sustainable and healthy. This is something eco- and health-conscious consumers can stand behind.

Technological advancement

There's a good chance that technology will continue to play important and growing roles in farming operations. New agricultural technologies can collect data on soil and plant health and produce results in real time. Precision farming technology can be developed to deliver integrated solutions no matter the size of the operation.

Shift in what's grown

Farmers may give more thought to sustainable products. Crops like hemp and cannabis are being utilized in new and innovative ways, and they're only the start as consumers have expanded their views on plant-based foods and products.

While there's no way to see into the future, individuals can anticipate changes that could be in store for the agricultural sector in the decades ahead.



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Sports



Wolfpack guard Brayden Thomas, playing in his final game for LHS, drives on Ecorse Red Raider Keyon Williams in MHSAA Quarterfinal play at Ypsilanti Lincoln HS. The Wolves' 57-46 loss ended a school-record 25-1 campaign for Laingsburg.

Photo by Burg Sports

Ecorse Raiders Deal Wolves 1st Loss, Ending Perfect Season

EYPSILANTI -- This one was a game of extremes.

Red hot vs. ice cold. A team with an unblemished record vs. an opponent with a few ugly scars. Win, or go home wondering what might have been.

The Ecorse Raiders drilled 7-of-8 free throws down the stretch, fending off a furious Laingsburg rally and ending the Wolfpack's perfect 2022-23 season here March 21.

The Raiders came out blazing, racing to a 10-0 lead before the contest was two minutes into LHS history. Their eventual 57-46 win featured a 21-point lead midway through the second quarter before Dan Morrill's Wolves mounted a gritty comeback.

They never made it all the way back, however. Despite holding Ecorse all-stater Malik Olfiyoe in check -- 20 points below his 30 points per game average -- the Pack couldn't overcome a red-hot shooting touch from the other Red Raiders. Ecorse shot 51% from two-point range -- and a game-deciding 60% beyond the 3-point arc.

"They shot the ball extremely well," said Morrill, who ended his 4th season with a 60-15 career record. "Their quickness and rebounding and pressure early got to us. It took us a few minutes to adjust and they made their run.

"Their team speed was something that we were preparing for, but their 3rd and 4th option shooters having the night that they did -- that was something we were not able to overcome. They played and shot with a higher level of confidence than we did. They have a really nice team and they deserved to win."

Dennelle Kemp was stellar throughout the game for Ecorse, hitting numerous clutch shots, leading all scorers with 23 points. Darren Reddick also had a hot hand behind the arc, finishing with 14 points. Point guard Olafioyoe added 10 and teammate Deonatae June 6 for the victors.

Getting 13 points -- all in the second half -- from senior guard Jacob Essenberg, LHS made its run in the 3rd quarter, closing to 40-30 and 42-32 deficits. That was as close as the Wolves would get.

Eli Woodruff led the Wolfpack with 18 points and brother Zander, the Lansing area's leading scorer, hit for 15.

At 20-4, the Raiders advanced to the Breslin Center for a semifinals showdown vs. #3 ranked Flint Beecher. It was the first and only loss of the campaign for LHS, the state's #2 rated Division 3 team, finishing a school record 25-1.

"These types of seasons don't come around in most people's lifetimes and we were part of one," said Morrill, noting that his team remains hungry to do even better next season. "We even have some school records to remember it by. Our hope is our young guys remember it enough to want to build on it.

"I was pleased with the step forward that the team took this year but there is another level for us, one that we will be willing to find. Our focus now becomes putting our program in position to do bigger and better things."



Ellie Baynes



Bella Strieff

Wolfpack Basketball Girls Say Goodbye to Outstanding Senior, Look to 2023-24

LAINGSBURG — The Wolfpack girls basketball team wrapped up a 9-13, learning season with the announcement of post-season honors for 2022-23.

Senior forward Ellie Baynes earned 1st Team All-Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) plaudits for coach Doug Hurst's team, while junior forward Bella Strieff was named Honorable Mention.

Baynes is the Wolves' lone graduating senior, as Hurst looks to stockpile some solid talent coming up through the ranks in 2023-24.

"It's always hard to say good bye to my seniors, and in this case one senior," said Hurst. "So the positive is returning eight players next season. The sad part is saying goodbye to Ellie Baynes who was our leading scorer and captain. We wish her success as she moves on."

Baynes averaged 11 points, 6 rebounds, 2 blocks and 3 steals per game while leading Laingsburg to a 6-8 CMAC finish.

Strieff averaged 5 points, 8 rebounds, 2 steals and one block per game as the program's top returning player next season.

Ashley Basketball All-Conference Honors

by Ashleigh Shaw

Two young ladies were honored to the Honorable Mention team this year, senior Allyson Emmendorfer who average 1.2 points and 1.5 rebounds per game and eighth grader Ellie Drummond averaged 7.4 points, 7.8 rebounds and 2.2 steals per game.

Two young men were also honored to Honorable Mention as well, senior Logan Drummond who averaged 11 points 3.4 rebounds and 1.3 steals per game. Sophomore Carson Litwiller also made the Honorable Mention team averaging 6.8 4.7 rebounds and 2.1 steals.

Congratulations to these athletes.



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Proposed Board Minutes from March 14, 2023

The regular meeting of Victor Township was called to order by Supervisor Conklin at 7:01 pm and the pledge to the flag was given. Attendance: Present: Townsend, Willoughby, Prange, Conklin. Absent: Fickes. 7 citizens in attendance.

Public Comment: Mark Burkhart had questions regarding the 3 public alleys at Round Lake. Topic tabled to check information and discussion to take place at the April 11, 2023 regular board meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Willoughby to approve the March 14, 2023 agenda. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Willoughby to approve the February 14, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Willoughby to approve the March 28, 2023 special meeting minutes. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Prange to accept the March 14, 2023 treasurer's report. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Willoughby to open the Budget Public Hearing on the 2023-2024 budget. Supported by Townsend. Roll call: Yes: Willoughby, Prange, Townsend, Conklin. No: none. Absent: Fickes. Motion carried.

Motion by Conklin to close the Budget Public Hearing. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call: Yes: Prange, Conklin, Willoughby, Townsend. No: none. Absent: Fickes. Motion carried.

Approval of bills: Motion by Willoughby to pay the March 14, 2023 bills. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks# 28745-28762 in the amount of \$14,339.33.

Motion by Willoughby to disburse March 14, 2023 payroll and related payroll expenses. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks# 12437-12444 in the amount of \$14,346.19.

County Commissioner: Commissioner Vail-Shirey gave an update on County business.

Victor Township Planning Commission: The next meeting of the Victor Township Planning Commission will be April 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Victor Township Hall, 6843 Alward Rd., Laingsburg, MI 48848.

Motion by Willoughby to regretfully accept the resignation of Chuck Nelson, Chair of Victor Township Planning Commission. Supported by Prange. All in favor. Motion carried. Victor Township wishes to thank Mr. Nelson for his service and wishes him well.

Maintenance Report: The tree removal in the Township Cemeteries is complete. Motion by Willoughby to pay JJ's Excavating & Tree Services \$10,725.00 plus \$2,700 for the addition of two additional tree removals at Stilson Cemetery upon receipt of invoice. Total amount: \$13,425.00. Supported by Prange. Roll Call: Yes: Conklin, Prange, Willoughby, Townsend. No: none. Absent: Fickes. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

- Broadband: Discussion on ongoing progress concerning Broadband in the County and Township.

- Roads: Townsend reported on March 9, 2023 meeting with the Road Commission. Discussed future projects including mowing unpaved roads, deer removal and dust control.

- Township Insurance Policy: The Township insurance policy is being reviewed by the Supervisor and Clerk.

New Business:

- Motion by Willoughby to approve the Proposed General Appropriations Act for FY 2023-2024 Resolution 2023-03-01. Supported by Townsend. Roll call: Yes: Prange, Conklin, Willoughby, Townsend. No: none. Absent: Fickes. Motion carried. Copies are at the Township Hall and on the Township website.

- Motion by Willoughby to approve the Resolution 2023-03-02 in support of Lake Victoria Property Owner's Association's request to participate in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Roundup and Nest Destruction Programs for Lake Victoria. Supported by Prange. Roll call: Yes: Conklin, Willoughby, Townsend, Prange. No: none. Absent: Fickes. Motion carried.
- Motion by Willoughby to approve 2022-2023 budget amendments with monies to be taken from Contingency fund. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Motion by Willoughby to accept proposal for professional services for the MDNR Sparks Grant to C2AE Professional Services. Supported by Townsend. Roll call: Yes: Prange, Townsend, Conklin, Willoughby. No: none. Absent: Fickes. Motion carried.

- Motion by Willoughby to approve the Clinton County Road Agreement for Chloride applications for local gravel roads in the amount of \$31,006.28. Supported by Townsend. Roll call: Yes: Conklin, Prange, Willoughby, Townsend. No: none. Absent: Fickes.

- Motion by Willoughby to approve the Clinton County Road Agreement for over band crack fill on various local roads in the amount of \$9,998.94. Supported by Prange. Roll call: Yes: Townsend, Willoughby, Prange, Conklin. No: none. Absent: Fickes.

- Motion by Willoughby to approve the Clinton County Road Agreement for Alward Rd. paving project and chipseal in the amount of \$540,852.05. Supported by Townsend. Roll call: Yes: Prange, Willoughby, Townsend, Conklin. No: none. Absent: Fickes.

- Motion by Conklin to adjourn at 8:28 pm. Supported by Willoughby. All in favor. Motion carried.

Lianne Prange,
Victor Township Clerk

Clinton County Legals

Attention homeowner:

If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on APRIL 12, 2023. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Linda L. George, an Unmarried Woman and Terri Davis, aka, Terri L. Davis, an Unmarried Woman, to Fifth Third Mortgage - MI, LLC, Mortgagee, dated July 23, 2013 and recorded August 1, 2013 in Instrument Number 5204410 Clinton County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Fifth Third Bank, N.A. as Successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety-Three Thousand One Hundred Seventy-One and 52/100 Dollars (\$93,171.52).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Clinton County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on APRIL 12, 2023.

Said premises are located in the City of Saint Johns, Clinton County Michigan, and are described as:

The South 1/2 of Lot 9 and all of Lot 10, Block 113, Walker & Steel's Subdivision, City of St Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, according to the recorded Plat in the frame on the wall in the Office of the Clinton County Register of Deeds.

201 E Lincoln St, Saint Johns, Michigan 48879

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: March 12, 2023

File No. 23-001853

Firm Name: Orlans PC

Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084

Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(03-12)(04-02)

Attention Homeowner:

If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on APRIL 5, 2023. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Daniel L. Baker, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for E Mortgage Management, LLC D/B/A EMM Financial, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated April 9, 2020 and recorded April 14, 2020 in Instrument Number 5291578 Clinton County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by MSR Asset Vehicle LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Fourteen and 2/100 Dollars (\$180,014.02).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Clinton County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on APRIL 5, 2023.

Said premises are located in the Township of Watertown, Clinton County Michigan, and are described as:

Commencing at a point 42 rods North of the Southeast corner of Section 7; thence West 15 rods; thence North 3 rods 11 feet; thence Easterly to a point on the East line of Section 7, Town 5 North, Range 3 West, Watertown Township, Clinton County, Michigan; which point is located 45 rods 12.5 feet North of the Southeast corner of Section 7; thence South 3 rods 12.5 feet to the point of beginning.

12840 S Wacousta Rd, Eagle, Michigan 48822

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: March 5, 2023

File No. 22-008982

Firm Name: Orlans PC

Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084

Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(03-05)(03-26)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on May 3, 2023. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Samuel Ralph Corbin Jr, an unmarried man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Date of Mortgage: June 11, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: June 11, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$350,849.41

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Dewitt, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: Unit No. 87, VILLAGE AT HAWTHORNE WOODS CONDOMINIUM, according to the Master Deed recorded in Liber 927, Page 846, as amended, and designated as Clinton County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 23, together with rights in the general common elements and the limited common elements as shown on the Master Deed and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended.

Common street address (if any): 13689 Pearwood Dr, Dewitt, MI 48820-9075

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: March 26, 2023

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1493299
(03-26)(04-16)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on May 3, 2023. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): John M. Hobbs Jr., Trustee of The John M. Hobbs Jr Living Trust dated June 19, 2014 and any amendments thereto

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Finance of America Reverse LLC

Date of Mortgage: November 16, 2016

Date of Mortgage Recording: November 22, 2016

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$193,248.62

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of DeWitt, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 11, except the South 8 feet thereof, Sibley Acres No. 2, City of DeWitt Clinton County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 22, Clinton County Records.

Common street address (if any): 205 W Dill Dr, DeWitt, MI 48820-8798

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: March 19, 2023

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1492304
(03-19)(04-09)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement.

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on April 12, 2023. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Russell E. Hopper Jr, a single man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns

Date of mortgage: May 19, 2016

Recorded on June 13, 2016, in Document No. 5241980,

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Nations Direct Mortgage, LLC

Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Eighty-Six and 94/100 Dollars (\$147,086.94)

Mortgaged premises: Situated in Clinton County, and described as: Commencing at a point 100 feet East of the Northwest corner of the East 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 4, T5N, R2W, DeWitt Township, Clinton County, Michigan, thence South 40 rods; thence East 165 feet; thence North 40 rods, thence West 165 feet to the point of beginning. Commonly known as 1661 W Cutler Rd, Dewitt, MI 48820

The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Nations Direct Mortgage, LLC Mortgagee/Assignee

Schneiderman & Sherman P.C.

23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335

248.539.7400

1492477
(03-12)(04-02)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on April 26, 2023. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Jeanette Krider, a married woman and Thomas D. Mosher, her husband

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST

Date of Mortgage: December 8, 2006

Date of Mortgage Recording: December 18, 2006

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$167,193.15

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Dewitt, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at a monument at the Southeast corner of Lot No. 1, Forest Hills Subdivision, according to the recorded plat thereof, and running thence North 2 degrees 33 minutes East 243.00 feet, thence North 89 degrees 39 minutes East 20.80 feet, thence North 00 degrees 53 minutes West 100.28 feet, thence North 89 degrees 02 minutes East 288.80 feet, thence South 00 degrees 10 minutes West 350.00 feet, thence North 89 degrees 50 minutes West 304.20 feet, and thence North 71 degrees 45 minutes West 21.10 feet to the place of beginning, being in Section 10, Town 5 North Range 2 West, DeWitt Township, Clinton County, Michigan.

Common street address (if any): 1243 E Webb Rd, Dewitt, MI 48820-8393

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: March 26, 2023

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1493071
(03-26)(04-16)

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STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF CLINTON

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The Dorothy D. Molitor Trust

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The Grantor, Dorothy D. Molitor, whose date of birth was December 31, 1931, who lived at 1007 Randy Lane, St. Johns, Michigan 48879, died on February 16, 2023. Currently there is no Personal Representative for the estate of the Grantor to whom Letters of Administration have been issued. Creditors of the grantor/decedent are notified that all claims against The Dorothy D. Molitor Trust, will be forever barred unless presented to Janice M. Briggs, trustee, or to the Gallagher Law Firm, PLC, Attn: Craig S. Gerard, 6025 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Craig S. Gerard P66855
The Gallagher Law Firm, PLC
6025 N Hagadorn Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517)853-1510
Janice M. Briggs, Trustee
14155 S. DeWitt Road
Lansing, MI 48906
(517)669-7062

(03-26)

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CLINTON
COUNTY LEGALS

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on April 26, 2023. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. **MORTGAGE:** Mortgagor(s): Eric C. Martens, a single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns Date of mortgage: June 19, 2017 Recorded on June 21, 2017, in Document No. 5255225. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Nationstar Mortgage LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Ten Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Seven and 42/100 Dollars (\$110,447.42) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Clinton County, and described as: Lot 14, Block 117, Walker and Steel's Subdivision, City of St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 46 of Deeds, Page 331, Clinton County Records. Commonly known as 707 N Clinton Ave, Saint Johns, MI 48879 The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Nationstar Mortgage LLC Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1493980
(03-26)(04-16)

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Ovid Township is accepting bids for lawn care services for Ovid Township premises and South Ovid Cemetery. Submit separate bids for the Township premises and South Ovid Cemetery to P.O. Box 136, Ovid, MI 48866, or they can be dropped in the drop box at the Township Offices, 1015 Baese Court, Ovid, MI. Please list separately the mowing fee, weed control and fertilizer. Bids are due by Monday, April 10, to the Township Clerk. Thank you.

Claudia Barrett Pluger, Clerk
Ovid Township

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Position performs general labor duties including mowing and general maintenance for the Public Works, Water and Parks Departments. Starting wage is \$15.00 per hour with an average of 25-30 hours per week. Applicant must have a valid driver's license and be able to pass an employment physical and background check. Position requires applicants to work with others and independently in indoor and outdoor environments.

Applications may be picked up at the Village of Ashley office or are available online at www.ashleyvillage.com. Submit application to the attention of the DPW Supervisor Paul Beck at the above address or by email to ashleydpw@ashleyvillage.net. Applications accepted until filled. EOE



Ava Bates



Evalyn Cole



Braeden Tokar



Kiah Longoria



Hailee Campbell

Bates is MMAC Player of
Year; League Champ O-E
Lands Five on
All-MMAC Team

OVID-ELSIE — Marauder standout Ava Bates was named as the All-MMAC Co-Player of the Year, and four other Ovid-Elsie girls were all-league selections for coach Ryan Cunningham's MMAC basketball champions.

Bates joined Evalyn Cole on the 1st Team. Ava averaged 12.6 points, shooting nearly 43% from the floor — including 48% from two-point range. She led O-E with a 5.6 rebounding average, adding 1.9 assists, 2.7 steals and 1.3 blocks per game.

Cole was also a 1st Teamer, averaging 11.2 points, 3.9 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 4.1 steals per outing. Another solid marksman, Evalyn hit just under 46% from 2-point range.

Braeden Tokar and Kiah Longoria were feted on the 2nd Team.

Tokar hit for 8.8 ppg, adding 3.8 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 2.1 steals.

Longoria, the Marauders' senior "quarterback," scored 4.2 ppg, tacking on 2.4 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 1.1 steals for the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) champions.

Hailee Campbell was selected to the Honorable Mention team, averaging 4.2 ppg, 4.6 rebounds, 1.7 steals and 1.2 assists for O-E's league, District and Regional kingpins.




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