



## OE Football Team Honored at Capitol

On Tuesday, December 12th, State Representatives Graham Filler and Penelope Tsernoglou made a presentation to the OE football coach, Travis Long and staff. The 2023 OE football team is pictured here in the House Chamber in Lansing, Michigan at the Capitol.

## Local Brew Club Makes Holiday Donation

submitted by Greg Gerding

The Shiawassee County Area Brewers Society (S.C.A.B.S.) is proud to announce its annual Holiday donation for 2023 to The Clothesline and its additional nonprofit, The Connection, both located in the 100 block of E. Grand River in downtown Laingsburg.

The Clothesline is a non-profit organization founded in 2006 by Laingsburg residents Lisa and Tom Jelenek, with a mission that centers on community and giving. It is a clothing resale store, focusing on selling gently-used, high quality clothing for free to low prices. In addition the Jelenek's are planning to open The Connection, next door to the Clothesline in 2024 which will offer free tutorial services to children, teens and both young and older adults.

"We were surprised and blessed when the SCABS contacted us", stated co-founder Lisa Jelenek. The club brought in several boxes of quality used clothing for The Clothesline store and a \$700 check which Ms. Jelenek added, "Put us over the top of our organizations goal to raise \$10,000 to complete work at The Connection".

Pictured front row left to right are, SCABS President Dustin Nolph presenting the club's check to Tom and Lisa Jelenek, SCABS members Stephanie Hildebrand, Lynne Gerding, Natasha and Dave Kovach. Back row, Erin Nolph, Eric Hildbrand, Greg Gerding, Brian Buckley and Jerry Pratt.

For information on both The Clothesline and The Connection call, 517-256-1399 or on Facebook at The Laingsburg Clothesline.

Since its founding in 2008, the SCABS brew club has donated nearly \$11,000 to individuals and Local charities. For more information about the club or in joining, please contact Greg Gerding at 989-627-6410 or email at [gerdinglg@gmail.com](mailto:gerdinglg@gmail.com)



## Elsie Village Council Proceedings

submitted by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE – The last meeting of 2023 of the Elsie Village Council was held Tuesday, December 12. Prior to the meeting a public hearing was held regarding Chapter 36 Article 4, ORV's on village streets. If passed by officials ORVs will be permitted on village street and would be effective January 1, 2024. Noting that the ordinance aligns with the recently passed Clinton County Ordinance.

Monthly action was taken to approve the meeting agenda, the minutes of the November 14, 2023 regular meeting, and the monthly financial statements. Officials approved expenditures totaling \$39,536.51 which reflects current payroll and invoices.

Officials took formal action to approve Ordinance 35 Article 4 regarding ORVs on Village streets. It is noted that the vehicles cannot exceed 25mph and must have headlights and tail lights. Effective January 1, 2024.

Tiffany Frink, village clerk, presented the 2024 Village Council Calendar for annual approval. Regular meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month. Noting that if an election affects the site the Elsie Public Library will be the alternate meeting site.

Shane Grinnell, village manager, presented his monthly report. It began with an update about the former Elsie High School development project, the total cost approximately 3 million dollars. The asbestos report came back and there is asbestos which was not a surprise. The application was submitted December 11, 2023 for grant funding, \$390,000 for asbestos mitigation. In the spring the property will be deeded to the developer, Ken Harris, noting there are grant opportunities for the Village maintaining ownership at this time.

The Elsie business owners and managers meeting was held to reorganize a business group. It was an opportunity to work on the vision for the downtown area and growth for the businesses. The group would like to meet every six months and keep the momentum going. MEDC representatives were present to inform the public that there are funding opportunities available to revitalize communities and businesses.

Christ Ormes, Department of Public Works, updated officials on the department's activities. A recommendation for updates on the wells was presented to be considered in the 2024 budget. The DPW is currently waiting for a panel for the system that should be delivered soon. An update of the street sign replacements was discussed briefly. Six street lights are being considered for the backside of the Elsie Village Park with an estimated cost of \$5,600 the projected install is after April 15, 2024. Lights will also be installed in the pavilions at the park.

Public comment an Elsie Dam update given by a Duplain Township official.



On Wednesday, December 6th at Pewamo-Westphalia, Zander Woodruff scored a career high 39 points and exceeded the 1000 point total. He was honored on his home floor in Laingsburg on Friday, December 8th. Zander is pictured here with his parents and grandparents. See pages 8-13 and 16 for Winter sports team photos, previews and game and match results.

# Meridian Weekly

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

200 S. Main St., P.O. Box 11, Ovid, MI  
989.834.2264 Fax: 834.2066

E-mail - News/General

[news@meridianweekly.com](mailto:news@meridianweekly.com)

E-mail - Publisher

[deb.price@meridianweekly.com](mailto:deb.price@meridianweekly.com)

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We wish to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who called, sent cards, flowers and memorials. Also everyone who came to visitation at Keck Coleman Chapel.

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## Elsie Historical Society Meeting

The Elsie Historical Society will meet on Wednesday, December 20th at 7pm in the Historical Room at the Elsie Public Library. The agenda will include discussion on the re-opening of the historical room. For more information call Lyla at (989)862-5846.

## Blood Drive in Bannister

The Bannister ZCJB Lodge and St Cyril's Knights of Columbus are sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, Dec. 28 from 12:00 noon until 5:00 pm at the lodge hall (401 E Main St. Bannister).

Appointments can be made on line at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or by calling 1-800-RedCross. Please share the gift of life this holiday season.



## Elsie Lions Club Wild Game Dinner

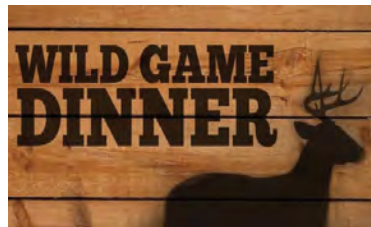
Please mark your calendars for Monday January 8, 2024, for the Elsie Lions Club 30th Annual Wild Game Dinner.

This will be held at the Elsie American Legion Hall starting at 6pm. Please bring a Wild Game Dish to pass or Tame and your place setting. Potatoes, rolls, milk and coffee will be provided.

Guest speaker will be Terry Kemp. Terry will be talking on the History and Creation of Commemorative Bucks. Come listen to Owosso resident and local author/publisher. Terry has been involved with CMB almost since the inception of the organization in 1981. CMB was created to measure record Bucks in Michigan. It eventually became Michigan's official record keeping organization for not only Deer, but also Bear, Elk and Turkey.

We will be Raffleing a Savage Axis 350 Rifle Gun, tickets on sale at \$10/per ticket now by calling Lion Richard Easlick 517-881-0024 or Lion Rick Jones 989-666-2781 or at the door if not sold out!

We will also have Raffle prizes for children and adults, tickets available at door. Mark your Calendars now!



## Clinton County Museum's Victorian Christmas

*submitted by Kelly Jurman*



There is still time left to enjoy the Clinton County Museum's Victorian Christmas!

The Clinton County Museum will be open on Wednesday, December 13th and Wednesday, December 20th from 2- 5 PM and Sunday, December 17th from 1 -4 PM.

Please come stroll through the house to enjoy the beautiful sight of the tree and the Santa collection on loan from Bil Irrer. Cedar boughs and the fresh Fraser fir tree have created delightful aromas while the flickering of candles give the whole house a warm glow.

On Sunday, December 17th from 2-4 PM, Jeff Richards and friends will entertain us with some beautiful Christmas songs while we enjoy a cup of warm Christmas punch. It's sure to be an afternoon to put you in that Christmas spirit.

106 Maple St., St Johns, MI

No reservations needed. Please feel free to call the Museum at 517-224-2894 for questions.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Grove Bible Church will be hosting a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00pm on Sunday, December 24th. We will be singing Christmas Carols, sharing the Christmas Story, and having fellowship with cookies and hot chocolate following the service.

## St. Johns Blood Drive

The Duplain Church of Christ, 5565 E. Colony Rd., St. Johns will be holding a Blood Drive on Tuesday, December 26 from 12:00pm to 5:45pm.

For information or appointment, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) (sponsor code DUPLAINCOC) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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### Tuesday and Friday

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**We hope to see you soon!**



## Elsie and Breckenridge Masonic Lodges Hold Joint Installations

submitted by Dawn Levey



ELSIE – Saturday, December 9, 2023 Elsie Masonic Lodge F & AM #238 and Breckenridge Lodge F & AM #406 held a joint installation of officers at the Elsie Masonic Center, 100 W Main Street, Elsie. Prior to the open installation a dinner was held.

Elsie officers installed included: Rodney Ridgeway, Worshipful Master; followed by Stephen Parker, Colby Putnam, Richard Bates, Eric Levey, Jeffery Zampaloni, Bruce Levey, William Archer, and Walker Levey.

Breckenridge officers installed: Bill Syckle, Worshipful Master; followed by Colby Putnam, Bruce Levey and Jim Peck.

The installing officers for the evening were Marvin Waid and Greg Dick. In addition, three generations were installed as officers of the Elsie Lodge: Eric Levey, Bruce Levey and Walker Levey.



## Stay Safe on the Roads During Winter Holidays

### Impaired-driving enforcement campaign encourages sober driving

Before and during the Christmas and New Year's holidays, law enforcement officials throughout Michigan are participating in the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. To protect lives, there will be increased patrols on roads from December 15, 2023, to January 1, 2024, with zero tolerance for those who drive impaired.

Throughout 2022 in Michigan, there were 9,331 alcohol-involved crashes with 322 fatalities, and 2,452 drug-involved crashes with 249 fatalities statewide, according to the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute.

That is why, over the 2023 winter holidays, the Michigan State Police, county sheriff offices and municipal police agencies across Michigan are encouraging motorists to celebrate safely and make smart driving decisions. During the nearly three-week period, there will be increased enforcement and messaging about the dangers of driving impaired.

"Driving impaired is deadly and illegal. Getting behind the wheel of a vehicle after you've been drinking or using drugs endangers you, your passengers and everyone else on the road," said Katie Bower, Director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). "The aim of the enforcement campaign is to drastically reduce deaths and serious injuries caused by impaired driving."

"We want all Michiganders to have a great time with friends and family over the holidays, but to keep everyone safe, we are also urging people to be responsible, make smart choices and plan for a sober ride home."

From 2018 to 2022, during the Christmas and New Year's holidays, 66 people were killed in traffic crashes in Michigan, including 17 people who died in alcohol-involved crashes.

Officers will be on the lookout for motorists under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol throughout the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" enforcement period. In Michigan, it is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher, although motorists can be arrested at any BAC level if an officer thinks they are impaired.

To increase awareness and encourage safe and sober driving, the OHSP is funding a statewide media campaign about the dangers of impaired driving. Also, December has been recognized as National Impaired Driving Prevention Month to remember those who lost their lives due to impaired driving and remind people that helping prevent impaired-driving deaths and injuries is every driver's responsibility.

The "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign is supported with federal traffic safety funds provided by the United States Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and coordinated by the OHSP.

## Dean Gilbert Concert Success

submitted by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – Elsie United Methodist Church and the Elsie Baby Pantry would like to thank Dean Gilbert for making the magic of music come alive during this festive season. Those in attendance spent one-and-a-half hours enjoying the sounds of the season, reliving memories of the past and supporting the Elsie Baby Pantry.

Dean Gilbert recalled his musical journey as a child and young man in the Elsie area. Traditional carols and modern arrangements were shared followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments. A variety of children's items were donated and \$335, again thank you to the community for their continued support.



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# Christmas FUN in Ashley 2023

Photos by Chuck Prikasky



## Elsie Christmas Memories 2023

Photos by Dawn Levey



### Santa Arrived in Elsie

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – Saturday, December 2, 2023 was a perfect evening for a light parade and the arrival of Santa Claus. The community came together to celebrate the arrival of the festival elf.



# Christmas in Ovid 2023



Photos by Deb Price



## Missing From the Table

by Emily Klingbeil



The holiday season is upon us. Let the eating, celebrating, eating, decorating, more eating and shopping commence! The first holiday without a special loved one can be a rollercoaster of emotions as you step into all the usual family traditions but with an obvious empty space in the middle of the festivities. Sometimes it's the little things..Nana always brought the fruit salad. Who's going to bring it now?

You go to send a message to a family group text to let everyone know what time dinner will be and

you automatically add their name. You grab one too many of the fancy plates when you go to set the table. Not to mention the missing voice, laugh and familiar stories. If this is the first holiday without your loved one or even if it's the fifteenth.. Give yourself a break. It's okay if an unexpected wave of emotion overtakes you as you are carving the turkey or if you tear up giving the blessing. Your loved one is there with you in your heart, smiling, and enjoying the family being together. Go with the flow, step away for a few minutes if you need a moment and let tears fall where they may. Take time, think of a warm memory, tell stories, laugh over pictures, and give thanks for the blessings they brought to your life.



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## Clinton County Historical Society Newspaper Digitization Project

To help celebrate their 50th anniversary, the Clinton County Historical Society has launched a newspaper digitization project for county newspapers outside of St. Johns.

In cooperation with the Ovid Historical Society, the Clinton County Historical Society hopes to digitize Ovid newspapers from 1868-1967 and make them available on the Internet to be searched by keywords and viewed for free.

The total estimated cost of this project is \$7,800. The Clinton County Historical Society is accepting donations to make this a reality. Donations will also be accepted to digitize Elsie and other Clinton County historical newspapers.

Donations may be mailed to the Clinton County Historical Society, P. O. Box 174, St. Johns, Michigan 48879. For questions or to donate by credit card, email ccgensoc@yahoo.com with your phone number and we will contact you.

## MYCA Graduation

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) will hold a graduation ceremony for 103 cadets of class #49 at 10 a.m. on Dec. 16, 2023, at the W.K. Kellogg Auditorium at 50 Van Buren St. W, Battle Creek, MI 49017. Doors will open at 9 a.m. and the ceremony is open to the public.

The graduating class consists of cadets from across the state, hailing from 35 different counties: including Clinton, Grand Traverse, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Saginaw, and Shiawassee.

The voluntary academy is a cost-free alternative education program which offers at-risk youth the opportunity to change their future. As part of the curriculum, cadets participate in drill and ceremony formations, meet physical fitness standards, perform community service and receive classroom instruction.

Class #50 will begin on Jan. 14, 2024 and the MYCA is encouraging interested cadets and families to submit their application as quickly as possible here: Admissions Process. For more information:

Area codes 231, 269, 517, 616 and 906 - contact Joan Miller at 269-968-1368

Area codes 248, 313, 586, 734, 810 and 989 - contact Frank Vasquez at 269-968-1397

Graduates of the MYCA are eligible for the Michigan Job Challenge Program, an extension program of the MYCA, which teaches workplace essentials, provides opportunities to learn a skilled trade and assists with job placement. Visit Michigan Job Challenge Program for more information.

About Michigan Youth Challenge Academy

The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy educates, trains and mentors at-risk youth in a quasi-military environment at no cost to participants, giving young people the skills to become productive and responsible citizens. Applying the military model to alternative education, the Academy promotes competency development through academic opportunities, life skills and vocational preparation. For more information, please visit: <https://www.michigan.gov/myca>.

## Longest Night Worship Service

Thursday, December 21, 2023  
6:00 pm

The United Church of Ovid,  
131 W. Front St., Ovid

The holiday season can be tough. It is a time where many people intrinsically think of Joy and happiness abounding from all people everywhere. But that's not everyone's experience. Whether you have lost someone, struggle in the long, dark winter, or feel overwhelmed by the stress of the season, we invite you to take a break, and join us for a service rooted in the blues that sometimes come at Christmastime. A service of reflection, song, and scripture that holds a space for everyone to be a little blue on the longest night of the year.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24, 2023.  
6:00 pm

The United Church of Ovid,  
131 W. Front St., Ovid

Picture this...candles everywhere...carols singing... special music...a meaningful time with family and friends. There's nothing like this special night. There is no other day like it on our calendar. Join our candlelighters, musicians, and our pastor as they guide us through this awesome "real" candlelight experience. (Battery operated candles are also available.) Every year we look forward to inviting our extended friends and family, to this genuinely meaningful service for kids of all ages.

For more information about The United Church of Ovid, please feel free to call 989-834-5958

## Church Directory

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### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

163 W. Main St., Elsie  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.  
Watch Sunday Service on  
YouTube at [elsiebaptist](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe1ebaptist)  
Pastor Phillip Rogers

### Laingsburg United Methodist Church

210 Crum St., Laingsburg  
517-651-5531

Worship Service: 10:30am  
Minister:  
Rev. Tiffany Newsom

### Middlebury United Methodist Church

8100 W. Hibbard Rd., Ovid  
989-834-2573

Minister:  
Rev. Tiffany Newsom  
Worship Service  
9:00 a.m.

### Bannister United Methodist Church

103 Hanvey Street  
Pastor: Zella Daniel  
Sunday Worship 11:15am

### FAITH FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

Corner of Price & Chandler, St. Johns  
Pastor: John Jakus  
Sunday School: 9:00am  
Worship Service 10:00am  
517-651-6210

### ELSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

### United Church of Ovid

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# Editorial

## Reflecting on my work at the State Capitol in 2023

By State Rep. Graham Filler

As we bid farewell to 2023, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the strides made in the Legislature and the work I am doing to address the pressing needs of the people I serve. Throughout the year, I championed bills aimed at empowering survivors, improving access to health care, and protecting the vulnerable. I also spoke out against several ill-conceived ideas that are bad for Michigan.



Here's a comprehensive look at the year's highlights and ongoing efforts:

**Legislative triumphs:** Bills signed into law

I took the lead on three measures that were signed into law in 2023:

**Public Act 49 of 2023 (House Bill 4123):** One of my proudest moments this year was the signing of Public Act 49, a critical component of the bipartisan plan to support survivors of sexual assault. In response to the shortcomings exposed by the Larry Nassar investigation, this bill addresses the misuse of professional authority to silence victims, ensuring justice is served.

**PA 177 of 2023 (HB 4422):** Contributing to a broader plan aimed at bolstering victims' rights, Public Act 177 broadens the scope of the Crime Victims' Rights Act. This legislation empowers crime victims with enhanced rights, allowing them a stronger voice in the criminal justice process, from consulting with prosecutors to providing impact statements at sentencing.

**PA 99 of 2023 (HB 4496):** In the realm of healthcare, I championed legislation eliminating burdensome mandates for lower-income enrollees of the Healthy Michigan Plan. These changes not only improve access to healthcare but also streamline administration, saving taxpayer dollars.

**Driving change:** Legislation in the works

I introduced several other measures, still making their way through the process, that hold the promise of positively impacting our communities:

**Protecting Vulnerable Adults (HBs 4909-4912, 5047):** Through a bipartisan effort, I am working to enhance protections within the guardianship and conservatorship system. These bills, approved by the House, await Senate consideration, aiming to safeguard Michigan seniors and vulnerable adults from exploitation.

**Combating the Opioid Epidemic (HBs 5128-5130):** Introduced in October, this bipartisan initiative seeks to impose stricter penalties for the distribution of deadly drugs like heroin and fentanyl, striking a balance between public safety and justice.

**Allowing alcohol at university sporting events (HBs 4328):** I proposed a bill to permit Michigan universities to sell alcohol at specific on-campus sports gatherings. Although my bill wasn't enacted, a similar one signed by the governor in July now enables Michigan's public universities to seek permits for selling alcohol at athletic events, which discourages binge drinking and has led to a decrease in alcohol-related incidents inside stadiums in other states.

**Standing firm:** Advocating for your best interests

In the face of policies that could negatively impact our communities, I stood strong against:

**Extreme energy mandates:** Advocating for reliable power sources, I opposed legislation that is expected to lead to increased electricity costs and additional grid reliability problems.

**Stripping local control:** Opposing HBs 5120-5121, I fought against laws that force large-scale energy projects on local communities that reject them.

**Partisan court-packing:** Speaking out against a partisan plan to create a new Court of Appeals district, I emphasized the importance of bipartisan, data-driven efforts to ensure access to justice and successfully stalled the controversial bill.

**Dangerous criminal justice reforms:** Opposing bills that risk public safety, I voiced concerns about measures that could

release dangerous criminals early, sending them back into our communities and retraumatizing victims of crime.

**Road brine restrictions:** Pushing back against DEGLE's proposed restrictions on road commissions, I advocated for the responsible use of mineral brine on gravel roads to maintain safety and infrastructure.

**Higher taxes:** Voting against bills that aimed to avoid an income tax cut, I successfully fought for financial relief for working families, seniors, and small businesses.

**Looking forward:** Shaping Michigan's energy future

Michigan's energy profile is undergoing dramatic changes, as our state seeks affordable and clean energy sources while facing major questions about grid reliability. I believe Michigan must examine nuclear energy as an important piece of our energy future, and I am proud to co-chair a new bipartisan and bicameral caucus in the Michigan Legislature focused on issues related to nuclear energy.

**Your Voice Matters:** How to Reach Out

If you have a state government issue, or if you'd like to share an idea or concern, please don't hesitate to contact my office at (517) 373-1778 or email GrahamFiller@house.mi.gov. Your input is invaluable.

Thank you so much for placing your trust in me to be your representative at the Capitol. Looking ahead to the new year, my commitment to serving you and championing policies that positively impact our communities remains strong. Your support means the world, and I'm honored to continue this journey with you.



## The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster  
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com



## Chilled Pear Soup

This last Thursday evening, the Weekly Sportsman was very fortunate to attend a Savory Soups Culinary Demonstration at the Corunna Branch Library. The presenters were three students from Owosso High School's Culinary Arts program and the Weekly Sportsman would like to share a Chilled Pear Soup recipe from that evening. It would be an excellent choice for a soup or dessert course served during your Christmas family dinner.

**Ingredients:** 3 pears, 2 tbsp sugar, ½ tsp pure vanilla, ¼ cup heavy whipping cream, dash of cinnamon, dash of nutmeg, and a drop of cranberry sauce.

1. Slice pears in half. Peel and deseed.
2. Add the sugar and vanilla to a large pot of boiling water
3. Poach pears for 15 minutes in the large pot
4. Remove pears and place in blender
5. Add the nutmeg, whipping cream, and cinnamon and then puree until smooth
6. Place in refrigerator to chill or serve warm
7. Garnish with cranberry sauce

If looking for other ingredient options to enhance the layering of flavors consider rosemary and thyme along with the addition of black pepper to the preparation of your cranberry sauce.

-WS



### 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

## Family Christmas Scheduling

Dear Andy,

We have 2 sons and 5 grandchildren. We cannot seem to set a date to have all of them come to our home at the same time. Each family resides 25 miles in opposite directions from our home. I understand they have two very different lifestyles and schedules. We can never seem to get them to the same place at the same time. I think it is important for cousins to know each other and to do things together. It feels like our sons don't want them to know each other.

Finally, one of them gave us the date of Sunday, before Christmas to come to their home to celebrate with just their family. Whatever happened to going to one set of grandparents on Christmas Eve and the other on Christmas Day, wearing matching pajamas? Upset Grandma PJ

Dear Grandma PJ,

Schedules are a lot more complex than ever these days. Work and friends' parties, school plays, sports, music lessons, church, and community activities in their hometowns. Just to name a few... Family get-togethers are not all Hallmark movies, with everyone heading out to cut down their Christmas tree. Obligations and values have evolved into a busy life for most young working families.

Some families with children just want to be home with their own family. Choosing another day with each of your extended families is ok. One thing to take into consideration is that daughters are typically closer to their mothers, so sons are more accommodating towards his wife's family schedules. Be happy for what you get. Many people are all alone on Holidays. Christmas time is not the only time to plan significant family gatherings. Become the planner.

Some children of split families have more than one set of grandparents to schedule. I think young children need to wake up in their primary home as often as possible to grow with a connection to that "life-style" their parents have chosen.

Grandma, be happy you are still able to travel to them. Maybe you could have a family gathering during their school break or have your family tradition be on New Year's Day. Christmas and family celebrations do not need to be held according to the social or advertised calendar. Or with all siblings. Many people have more than 2 son's families to take into consideration. It is highly likely it will be impossible to always schedule everyone at the same time.

As for the exact days of Christmas, other holidays, and schedule conflicts, do your own thing, go to a movie with Grandpa, spend it with a friend or just relax and count your blessings. All 5 of them.

Have a Very Merry Christmas, whenever, wherever, and whoever or however you celebrate... Andy @ ask\_andy@aol.com.

## Cirque Dreams Holiday at Wharton Center

**EAST LANSING, MI** — The merry and bright holiday circus is in town at Wharton Center for three nights from December 18–20, 2023, all at 7:30PM. Tickets are on sale now through the official Wharton Center Ticket Office, online at whartoncenter.com, or by calling 517.432.2000 or 1.800.WHARTON.

A show filled with color and joy fits right into the holiday season. Cirque Dreams Holiday showcases the world's finest circus artists with the style and merriment of Broadway. The storyline throughout the acts is loosely based on The Nutcracker, but the main event are the performers themselves.

There are jugglers that use only their mouths, contortionists able to squeeze into two-by-two boxes, aerial dancers that hang from the ceiling by only their hair, and expert hula-hoopers and jump-ropers. With so many amazing feats, it would not be surprising if Santa himself made an appearance on his flying reindeer!

This show is made for the whole family. No matter if you are 1 or 92, Cirque Dreams Holiday will astound you and fill you with the holiday spirit.

Wharton Center is proud to welcome the talented performers from Cirque Dreams. The whole holiday season will be merry and bright with Holiday!



## MEET THE TEAMS - LAINGSBURG WOLFPACK



Team includes: Ella Merrell, Kyleigh Luna, Ashlee Hawes, Callie Clark, Mallory Woodbury, Bella Strieff, Payge Woodworth, Harper Strouse, Jameson Conklin, Bella Latuszek, Justine Miller, Lilli Morrill, Alayna Merrell, Savvy Stirm. Head Coach Doug Hurst, Asst. Coaches: Norm Holm.



Front row (l-r): Vance Klont, Jackson Audretsch, Lucas Matthews, Dom Garcia, Max Powers, Adam Essenberg, Logan Holm, Josiah Hawes. Back row (l-r): Head coach Tim Beebe, Cameron Ballard, Zander Woodruff, Mitchell George, Aiden Maddaloni, Greg Stewart, Ty Randall, Elliott Wilsey, Asst. coach: Rob Porritt. Missing Asst. coaches: Jordan McGee and Evan Rogers. Photo by Keith Kingsbury

### Lady Wolfpack Strives Back to Upper Echelon of CMAC Basketball

LAINGSBURG — The guide posts, the accomplishments, are right there for them to emulate. Can Laingsburg's girls basketball team return to the upper echelons of the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC)?

Here are the lofty hopes: 2014-2015 MHSAA Final Four (26-1 overall), 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 CMAC champs, and 3 district championships in the past eight years.

They were District finalists last season. And that's only the icing on the cake to veteran coach Doug Hurst's coaching record since taking over the LHS helm.

Hurst will be assisted by coach Norm Holm as the Wolves — albeit with a program a

little low on numbers — embarks on a hopeful 2023-24 campaign.

"Our goals are to continue to improve and get back to compete for the top of the CMAC," says Hurst, as he returns a veteran lineup of Callie Clark, Ashlee Hawes, Kyleigh Luna, Ella Merrell, Bella Strieff, Harper Strouse and Mallory Woodbury to the forefront of the program.

New in the line up this season will be Justine Miller, Lilli Morrill and Payge Woodworth.

What CMAC teams do they need to overtake? "Fowler, PW and St Pats will be fighting for the top spot. We are hoping to be competitive with those teams," explains Hurst, looking to improve on a 9-13 record from 2022-23.

### Wolfpack Boys Off to Hot Start in Defense of CMAC Basketball Crown

LAINGSBURG -- It will be tough to beat last season's 25-0 start and perfect CMAC, league championship finish.

Yet, the Wolfpack boys basketball team is off to a blistering start -- including a clutch win at Pewamo-Westphalia.

Tim Beebe, a veteran to the program but in his first year as head coach, says, "We have a good core of returning seniors including Zander Woodruff who led the area in scoring last year, and 2nd team All-CMAC selection Ty Randall.

"The top players in the CMAC will be Zander, Grady Eklund (PW), and the two Halfman brothers from Fowler."

Laingsburg's top returning players are the 6'3" Woodruff, a senior guard, All-State and All-CMAC last year, the area's leading scorer in his 3rd year on varsity. He eclipsed the 1,000-point mark in the win at P-W; Cam Ballard, a 5'10" senior guard, Jackson Audretsch, a 6'1" senior forward; Randall, a senior 6'4" forward and All-CMAC honoree; Elliott Wilsey, a 5'10" senior forward; Vance Klont, a 5'9" senior guard; Aiden Maddaloni, a 6'6" senior forward; Adam Essenberg, a 5'10" senior guard; and Lucas Matthews, a 5'10" senior forward.

Top newcomers are 6'4" junior Mitchell George 5'8" junior guard Dom Garcia, 5'8" junior guard Max Powers, 6' junior forward Logan Holm, 6'2" soph guard Josiah Hawes, and 6'3" junior forward Greg Stewart.

"Fowler, P-W, Laingsburg, Lansing Christian, St. Pats, Pottersville, Dansville, Perry, Saranac," says coach Beebe. "That's how I see the CMAC race stacking up (though not necessarily in that exact order)."

### Wolfpack Mat Team 3rd of 16 at Don Johnson Invitational

LANSING -- Laingsburg's varsity wrestling team finished 3rd out of 16 teams at the annual Lansing Eastern Don Johnson Wrestling Invitational.

"It was a good showing for my team," said Wolfpack coach Shawn Baynes. "They wrestled well."

Individual weight class results for LHS were:

- 120 lbs.: Marlon Graham (3-2) placed 6th. -- 126: Dano Winans (3-3) placed 3rd.
- 132: Logan Robinson (1-4) placed 4th. -- 144: Tucker Nethaway went 0-2 ; Garret Matthews was 1-2. -- 150: Troy Mathews was 0-2; Martin Meyers (3-3) placed 4th.
- 157: Bryce Smith (3-2) placed 4th. -- 165: Jack Borgman (4-1) placed 2nd.
- 175: Seth Sivak (5-1) placed 2nd. -- 190: Alex Forcier (4-2) placed 4th.
- 215: Wyatt Stanfield (4-2) placed 5th.
- 285: Riley Kiffer (4-2) placed 5th.

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## MEET THE TEAMS - LAINGSBURG WOLFPACK



Ethan Schneeberger, Scarlett Ruhf, Alex Grandy, Cooper Mund, Marlon Graham, Liam McDonald, Calvin Stier, Logan Robinson, Dano Winans, Charles Dehnert, Garrett Matthews, Troy Matthews, Zach Grandy, Tucker Nethaway, Martin Meyers, Bryce Smith, Cameron Betts, Jack Borgman, Seth Sivak, Charlie Porubsky, Alex Forcier, Gus Larson, Mirabella Carolan, Harvey Montgomery, Thomas Smith, Wyatt Stanfield, Riley Kiffer. Head coach Shawn Baynes. Photo by Keith Kingsbury

### Wolfpack Mat Team Has a Lot of New Faces, Looks to Build on Past Success

LAINGSBURG — The Wolfpack varsity wrestling team has continued to build, build, build since becoming a varsity program some 20 years ago.

The program has developed top collegiate recruits — both male and female — and looks to do the same in 2023-24, albeit with several new faces.

Welcome to Laingsburg wrestling, led by veteran head coach Shawn Baynes.

“We’re hoping to have a great season with several state qualifiers ... and put together a run at the State Meet,” Baynes says. A top 3 finish in league action is in the offing.

Veteran returnees are Ethan Schneeberger, Dano Winans, Logan Robinson, Troy Matthews, Garrett Matthews, Marty Meyers, Jack Borgman, Bryce Smith, Seth Sivak, Alex Forcier, Wyatt Stanfield, Jay Montgomery, Riley Kiffer, Charlie Porubsky, Thomas Smith, Alex Grandy, Desire Knoblauch, Marlon Graham and Tucker Nethaway.

That’s a lot of experience returning. Still, “We’ll have some new faces in the starting lineup,” Baynes explains.

Newcomers are Cooper Mund, Thomas Brooks, Calvin Stier, Scarlett Ruff, Cameron Betts, Chuck Dehnert, Stephen Stahl, Kyler Campbell, Liam McDonald, Gus Larson, Mirabella Carolan and Sydney Curtis.

### LHS grapplers keep it rolling over Saranac and Montrose

LAINGSBURG — The Wolfpack mat team kept the good times rolling Wednesday night, rolling in the early season to a 66-15 victory over the Saranac Redhawks and a 51-21 non-league triumph over the Montrose Rams.

Coach Shawn Baynes’ Wolves rolled to a 30-0 lead over the Rams on victories by Ethan Schneeberger at 106 lbs., Liam McDonald 113, Marlon Graham 120, Dano Winans 126 and Logan Robinson 132 lbs. Both teams double-forfeited at 138, before Montrose together win mini-streak with wins over Garrett Matthews at 144 lbs., Gauge Ream 150 and Jack Borgman 165.

The red-and-white righted the ship at 175 lbs., with Seth Sivak scoring a 4:34 fall, followed by wins from Alex Forcier 190 lbs., Wyatt Stanfield 215 and Riley Kiffer at 285.

In the romp over the Redhawks, Scarett Ruhf, Schneeberger, Graham, Winans, Calvin Stier, Bryce Smith, Borgman, Sivak, Forcier, Stanfield and Kiffer all scored Laingsburg wins. Saranac broke through for victories at 138 lbs., Evan Lee over Logan Robinson, at 144 lbs., Evan Mouch over Garrett Matthews, and at 150 lbs., Landen Winsor over Troy Matthews.



Front row (L-r): Everett Rodriguez, Jake Rivet, Nate Malone, Kollin Bentley-Barr, Logan West. Back row (l-r): Head coach: Dillon Bates; Waylon Rowley, Harrison Dorman, Collin Logghe, Leandro Dolega-Caceres. Missing: Landon Freeman, Dylan Koenig, Josiah Hawes, Asst. coach Chris Koerner. Photo by Keith Kingsbury



Team includes: Savvy Stirm, Bella Latuszek, Paige Erickson, Makenna Johnston, Alayna Merrell, Sophia Schlaack, Sydney Curtis, Johanna Halsey, Jameson Conklin. Head coach: Kara Mahoney. Asst. coaches: Andrea Mahoney, Alex Randall. Photo by Keith Kingsbury



Front row (l-r): Damarion Henry, Cash Heaton, Colton Heaton, Kade McLean, Grey Seguin, Asher Shastal. Back row (l-r): Coach Brian Borgman, Devon Perez, Tristan Sherman, Chris Graham, Cooper Morr, Landen Hart, Tray Cornell, Coach Nate Hoad. Photo by Keith Kingsbury



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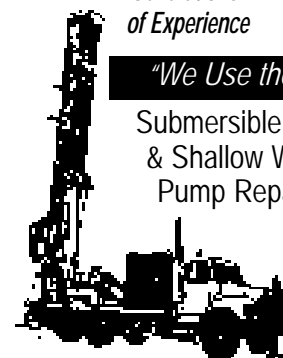
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Tucker Loynes scored 14 points to help oust LakeVille.  
Photo by Denise Burgess.

## Marauder Basketeers Open MMAC Season with Big Win at Otisville-LakeVille

LAKEVILLE — Tucker Loynes tossed in 14 points and Jake Bowen added 13, as Ovid-Elsie opened its 2023-24 season with a 60-23 varsity boys basketball conquest of Otisville-LakeVille here.

1st-year Canyon Walker's O-E squad improved to 2-1 overall with a big victory.

"We started off a little slow with Mason Ritenburg and Tucker Loynes getting into foul trouble early, but we had some good bench energy from Travis Milner and Jake Bowen," said the coach. "The second half we slowed ourselves down and started to play our brand of basketball and ended up finishing 60-23.

Milner scored 10 points, Javen Belill 7, Gunner McCreery 6, Hunter Bates 3 and Mason Ritenburg, Bruce Thornton and Joe Bancroft two apiece as the Marauders rolled.

"Overall a great defensive effort by our guys," explained coach Walker.

## Lady Marauders move to 3-0 with 63-20 win at LakeVille

OTISVILLE — Ovid-Elsie crushed host Otisville LakeVille 63-20 to open its MMAC slate. The Marauders remain unblemished on the season (3-0, 1-0 MMAC).

The Marauders were led by a strong effort from Evalyn Cole, who tallied a team-leading 15 points and seven rebounds. Hailee Campbell scored 10 points for O-E, and Ava Bates was impressive with a team-high seven steals to go along with nine points. Tava Kvalevog also contributed nine points in the win.

Ovid-Elsie took a commanding 22-4 lead after the first quarter and outscored LakeVille in each frame. O-E's largest lead was 46 points.

"Another solid win to open up league play. Again, a lot of contributions from a lot of kids which is nice because it shows we are not dependent on one or two girls," said O-E head coach Ryan Cunningham.



*It was a hard-fought road win for the Marauder boys at Montrose. "Shots were not falling in the first quarter and Montrose went up early," said head coach Canyon Walker. "We had outstanding leadership from Mason Ritenburg, Gunner McCreery, and Bruce Thornton to settle us down at half time and we came out guns blazing." O-E took a commanding lead in the 3rd quarter, before foul trouble plagued the Marauders. They fought through the adversity and ended up winning 65-48. Gunner McCreery 7/10 and 21 points, Bruce Thornton 4/14 and 11 points, Tucker Loynes 4/13 and 9 points, Travis Milner Jr. 3/5 and 9 points. We finished the game with 21 assists and only 8 turnovers.*



Hailee Campbell checks a Ram player with tough defense.  
Photo by Denise Burgess.

## Marauder girls remain unbeaten, 70-19 over Rams

The Ovid-Elsie Lady Marauders traveled to Montrose Tuesday night for an MMAC matchup which saw OE turn away the Lady Rams, 70-19. Ovid-Elsie used a 31-point third quarter to propel the team to victory.

"I thought we got off to a good start but then got a little stagnant on offense in the second quarter," said head coach Ryan Cunningham. "Our effort in the third quarter was outstanding both offensively and defensively."

Ovid-Elsie held quarter-scoring advantages in each stanza (18-7, 9-3, 31-7, and 12-2) but it was the third quarter that put Montrose away.

Ava Bates led all scorers with 20 points and added 8 rebounds while Evalyn Cole scored 19 points to go along with 4 assists and 5 steals. Ellyanna Carman added 9 points, 3 rebounds, and 3 steals while Lillian Bates knocked down two triples en route to her 8 points. Braeden Tokar filled the stat sheet with 6 points, 6 assists, and 2 steals while Hailee Campbell added 4 points, 4 rebounds, and 4 steals. Francesca Giacobbe and Tava Kvalevog rounded out the Marauder scoring with 2 points each.

"We were a little thin tonight numbers-wise because our kids can only play three games a week," noted Cunningham. "It was great to see each kid who dressed get into the scoring column and contribute."

Ovid-Elsie shot 49% from the field and 80% from the foul line. The Lady Marauders also knocked down 8 three-pointers and out-rebounded the Lady Rams 22-19. OE handed out 19 assists on 27 made baskets while also collecting 23 steals on 36 Montrose turnovers.

## Wolfpack girls fall at Fowler

FWLER — Laingsburg's girls basketball team suffered a 50-18 loss to an excellent Eagle club here in CMAC girls basketball action. The Eagles rolled to an earely 18-3 margin and rolled to victory.

Laingsburg was led by Lilli Morrill with 7 pts., Bella Strieff 4 pts., Ella Merrell 3 pts., Payge Woodworth and Ashlee Hawes with 2 each. "Right now we're struggling with our confidence and focus," said head coach Doug Hurst. "We're starting out the season playing 2 really good teams. No excuses though ... it's a process and I have confidence will figure it out.

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# Sports

## Guruific: Arnst, Madsen, Grieder rule in our annual contest

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Or winners ... to be more accurate ... in The Weekly's ever popular football pick-em contest.

Kevin Madsen of Owosso is a repeat winner, while Leanne Arnst (also of Owosso) tied the champ for 1st place, season-long honors.

Both prognosticators fashioned .677 winning percentages, nosing out Bannister's Zachary Grieder at .672%.

So. What to do? The Wolfman thinks this fair: the first and second place pots were totaled together and split evenly, meaning both Kevin and Leanne take home \$80. Grieder earns the final \$\$\$ in the pot, with \$40.

Our final weekly winners were Don Coe of St. Johns 1st place for a pizza, Mike Arens of Fenton 2nd place for a sandwich,



Kevin Madsen



Leanne Arnst

and Vivian Hrncharik of Ovid 3rd place for free breadsticks.

It was an unintentionally brutal final week slate. The winners all tied at a lackluster 6-6, with Coe prevailing in the tie-breaker -- a Patriots upset of the Steelers in Pittsburgh.

How brutal was it? We actually had our first 0-12 finisher. That crystal ball was very cloudy, to say the least.

As always, we thank our gracious sponsors, Foo-G's Pizza in Elsie, Main Street Pizza in Ovid and Twilliger's Tavern in Laingsburg.

See you all again next football season!

## Woodruff feted pre-game; Wolves run past St. Pats 72-53

LAINGSBURG — Zander Woodruff and Cam Ballard formed a potent 1-2 punch and the Laingsburg boys basketball team stayed unbeaten this year.

Woodruff scored 26 points and Ballard scored 21 with five 3-pointers as the Wolfpack improved to 3-0 overall and 2-0 in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference by downing Portland St. Patrick, 72-53.

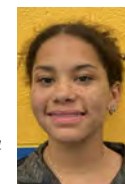
Laingsburg led by just six at halftime before outscoring the visitors by 13 in the second half. Harlie Thelen scored 26 points for the Shamrocks (1-2, 1-2).



Ellie Drummond



Marissa Brady



Katrissa Brady

## Ashley Girls Begin Season with 2 Losses

The Lady Bears started off their season with two conference matchups. First against the Merrill Vandals. Ashley got off to a slow start but got within reach and then fell off again, losing 39-29. "Our youth showed in this game as we got off to a slow start in the first quarter, but we were able to cut down on the turnovers and start making some shots" state Coach Shaw. Ellie Drummond has 11 points, 14 rebounds and 5 steals, Marissa Brady scored 9 points and grabbed 7 rebounds, while Katrissa Brady had 6 points and 5 rebounds.

Vestaburg visited Ashley for the second game of the season. Once again, the Bears got off to a slow start in the first quarter and couldn't recover. "We played a bad four minutes to start and end the first half tonight and that proved to be too much of a deficit to overcome" expressed Coach Shaw. Ellie Drummond once again lead the team with 16 points and 7 rebounds. Katrissa Brady scored 9 points nabbed 10 rebounds and came up with 4 steals. Marissa Brady scored 3 points with 9 rebounds, Savanna Denman scored a bucket and had 3 steals, Paige Larsen had 5 steals and two free throws and Sophia Wirt scored at the free throw line. Coach Shaw also said "We have to do a better job of taking quality shots, valuing the basketball, and making free throws when we get to the line."

## Perry outlasts O-E matmen in annual grudge match

PERRY — The host Ramblers defeated the Ovid-Elsie Marauder wrestling team, 54-27, in a four-way meet that included Middleton-Fulton and Pewamo-Westphalia / Potterville.

But it was the Perry vs. O-E match that drew that most attention, as brothers Jason Spiess and Kyle Spiess -- both Ovid-Elsie grads from the early 1990s, squared off in their annual coaching battle. The night was even more special in that the Ramblers were celebrating the 50th anniversary of its only state wrestling title -- with O-E coaching legend Jim Maidlow also in attendance.

Perry had opened the night by routing Pewamo-Westphalia/Potterville, 78-6, while Ovid-Elsie opened the quad by downing Fulton 45-30.

Kyle Spiess took the loss in stride, saying he still has the series edge after six straight wins over PHS. Ovid-Elsie suffered its first loss of the 2023 campaign.

The Perry vs. Ovid-Elsie clash started at 150 pounds with Cole Workman giving the Marauders a 3-0 lead following a 9-4 victory over Josh Nance.

The Ramblers took the lead they would never relinquish the next match. Reed VanWormer needed just 56 seconds to pin Chaycen Thornton and the score was 6-3 Ramblers. Brody Webb won unopposed for Perry at 165 and Perry's Ricky Hardy pinned Trace Taylor in 2:50 at 175. Perry led 18-3.

Gabe Reeder of the Ramblers won by pin in 33 seconds over Ben Wildes of Ovid-Elsie at 190. It was 24-3 Perry.

Cameron Doody of Perry won unopposed at 215 but 285-pounder Trey Milner of the Marauders pinned Caleb Knickerbocker of Perry in 1:01, pulling O-E to within 30-9. The Marauders continued to rally as Ava Juhas at 106 delivered a come-from-behind victory. She pinned Adrian Grossett of Perry in 4:37. Perry's lead shrank to 30-15.

But Delton Haley of Perry dispatched Kaia Spiess of Ovid-Elsie on a 53-second pin. O-E bounced back as Ryker Parsons pinned Tristan Reeder in 53 seconds.

Talan Parsons, Ovid-Elsie's state champion from 2022 and state runner-up last season and in 2021, maintained his perfect record this season by pinning Jackson Porter of Perry in 5:36. Parsons led 9-0 at the time and the Marauders closed the deficit to nine points, 36-27.

But Perry closed out the victory by winning each of the last three bouts. Aiden Turner pinned Gavin Mortinsen, Trenton Ross won by void and Payton Davis pinned Clayton Juhas to make the final count 54-27.

Trey Milner, O-E's heavyweight went 2-0 on the night to continue his unbeaten ways so far this season.



Trey Milner turned in his first varsity wrestling victory for the Marauders at Concord Invite. Photo by Charlotte Lyons



Ryker Parsons scored his first-ever triumph on the mat for O-E at Concord Invite. Photo by Charlotte Lyons

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## MEET THE TEAMS - OVID-ELSIE MARAUDERS



Front row (l-r): Manager Kaela Campbell, Danica Bancroft, Isabella Phillips, Alyson Moore, Dannika Campbell, McKenzie Keck, Lilian Bates, Ashton Ehle, Manager Kendall Tokar. Back row (l-r): Coach Chris Parker, Coach Jason Tokar, Francesca Giacobbe, Tava Kvalevog, Haillee Campbell, Ava Bates, Braeden Tokar, Evalyn Cole, Ellyanna Carman, Coach Ryan Cunningham, Coach Braylon Byrnes. Photo by Ortman Production, Inc.

### Lady Marauders gunning for more in 2023-24

OVID-ELSIE — The last time we saw the Ovid-Elsie varsity girls basketball team, coach Ryan Cunningham's Marauders were winning their first regional title since 198.

The Marauders led much of a Division 3 state quarterfinal matchup vs. No. 3-ranked Blissfield — in fact, they led by as many as eight points, 13-5, late in the first quarter following a basket by Evalyn Cole — but couldn't pull off the upset, faltering down the stretch, 45-41 in last season's MHSAA "March Madness" tournament.

Ovid-Elsie ended the season 22-5 — a school record for victories. "Losing stings right now but we look back on that season with fond memories," says the veteran coach.

The Lady Marauders are looking to forge more fond memories in 2023-24, already off to an undefeated, red-hot start.

A surprisingly young roster bodes well for the future. Seven sophomores made the varsity squad; guard McKenzie Keck, guard Danica Bancroft, forward Dannika Campbell, forward Isabella Phillips, guard Lillian Bates, guard Ashton Ehle and guard Alyson Moore.

They'll be mentored by senior veterans guard Francesca Giacobbe, forward Braeden Tokar, forward Haillee Campbell and senior forward Ava Bates. Team captains are Tokar, Campbell and Bates.

Juniors added to the Marauders' winning recipe are guard Ellyanna Carman and forward Tava Kvalevog.



Front row (l-r): Tryce Tokar, Tucker Loynes, Joe Bancroft, Travis Milner Jr., Javen Belill, Jake Bowen, Jayce Herblet. Back row (l-r): Managers: Braylen Ehle, Dominic Kline, Mason Ritenburg, Jamison Custer, Gunner McCreery, Bruce Thornton, Joseph Humrich, Hunter Bates, Asst. coach Jason Walker. Head coach Canyon Walker. Photo by Ortman Productions, Inc

### Marauder Basketball Strive to Continue O-E's Legacy of Success

OVID-ELSIE — Head coach Canyon Walker enters his first season as varsity head coach of the O-E boys basketball team looking to do work.

"Our one goal win, lose, or draw, is to outwork every single team we play," says the former Marauder standout, who now takes over leading his alma mater's program.

He has plenty of help. His dad, Jason Walker, is his assistant coach. The JV Coach is Travis Brown, assisted by Cole Dowd, and the freshman coaches are Austin Migoski and Marc Johnson.

Returning players to a strong Marauder team are Mason Ritenburg, Bruce Thornton, Gunner McCreery, Hunter Bates, Jamison Custer, Tryce Tokar and Tucker Loynes. They will help mentor newcomers Clayton Fruchey, Javen Belill, Jake Bowen, Jayce Herblet and Joe Bancroft.

"Our outside shooting needs some work; right now we need to work a ton of shots into our practices," says the coach, who picked up his first career win in a double-digit conquest of Owosso.

"The conference will be tough this year, I doubt there will be many easy games for us. Chasing will be extremely tough this year, they have a couple key returners from last year," explains Walker. "I'm looking forward to my first season as head coach of O-E. We have a great group of kids who work really hard and are very receptive to the changes in coaching style. We hope to continue the success Coach Latz had from the last few seasons."

The Marauders are a tradition-rich, perennial conference championship contender. Look for

### Holly outlasts Marauder Swimmers, 88-84 in non-league action

OVID-ELSIE — Audrey Bensinger and Lindsay Washburn both swam to first-place finishes for Ovid-Elsie, but Holly had just enough in first place finishes to outlast coach Karl Dahlke's Marauders, 88-84, in early season prep swimming action.

Washburn was a full :10 second winner in the mixed 100 yd. backstroke in 1:17.24. Bensinger captured the 500-yard freestyle in 7:27.60.

The Marauders hung close with excellent team depth, featuring critical team places in the 200 yard medley Washburn / Lillianna Kennedy and Cheyenne Kline / Bensinger; Jolene Hebel, Noah Hufnagel and Norah Wilcox in the 200 free; Washburn, Pau Gifre and Kennedy in the 200 IM; Jacob Kast, David Lohr and Kline in the 500 free; Last, Carter Hebel and Adalynn Roberts in the 100 butterfly; Gifre, Colton Sempstrott and Michael Rinehart in the 100 freestyle; Kline and Lohr in the 500 free; Kast, Carter Hebel, Rinehart and Sempstrott in the 200 free relay; J. Hebel and Sempstrott in the 100 backstroke; C. Hebel, Kennedy and Bensinger in the 100 breaststroke; and Gifre, Bensinger, Kline and Noah Hufnagel in the mixed 400 freestyle relay.

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### Ovid-Elsie Boys JV Basketball

Front row: Jackson Custer, Josh Brown, Nolan Rasch, Michael Bancroft, Owen Long, Payton Maas, Eddie Rademacher. Back row: Head coach Travis Brown, Daniel Topping, Jonas Obling, Braxton O'Bryant, Dalton Jordan, Hunter Long, Asst. coach Cole Dowd, Team manager Easton Keck. Photo by Ortman Productions, Inc



## MEET THE TEAMS - OVID-ELSIE MARAUDERS

### Deep Marauder Team Looks to Fill All Weight Classes, Compete for MMAC Title

OVID-ELSIE — A big obstacle, when putting together a prep wrestling team, is making sure you don't give points away by not filling a weight class.

Veteran coach Ovid-Elsie coach Kyle Spiess is trusting that won't be a problem as his Marauders enter the 2023-24 campaign.

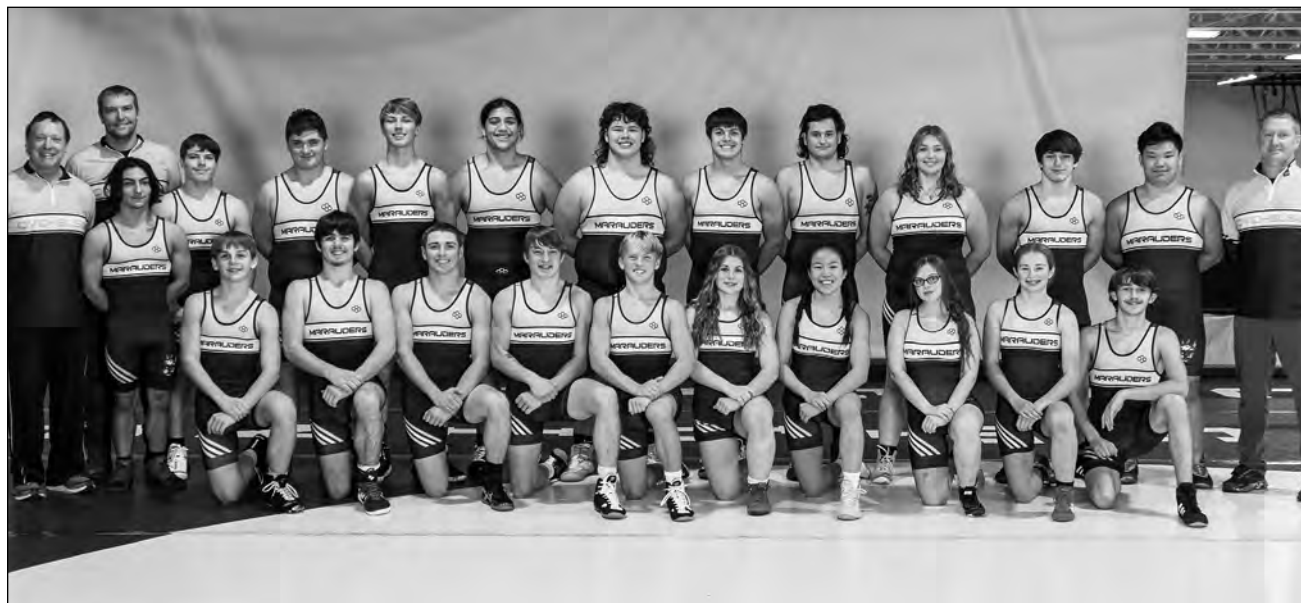
"We have a lot of experienced wrestlers returning ... a lot of seniors," Spiess, a former Marauder standout himself, says. "It looks like we fill all the weights and we will be competitive in MMAC play."

The depth is courtesy of several new wrestlers and freshmen.

The newcomers are Ben Wildes, Darin Richardson, Bennett Throop, Chandler Hart-Butcher, Jeremiah Stewart and Travis Wright.

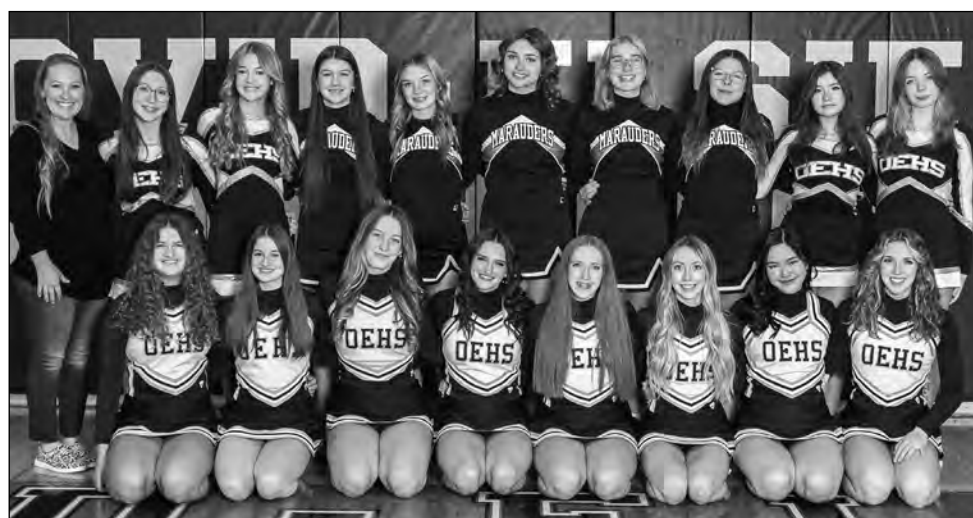
They will be mentored by Ovid-Elsie's "core:" returnees Talon Parsons, Cole Workman, Anthony Silva, Cavan Martinson, Clayton Juha, Hunter Hufnagel, Chaycen Thornton, Trace Taylor, Trey Milner, Manny Cedotal and the outstanding female contributors to the team: Katelyn Wright, Kaia Spiess, Ava Juhas, Haley McClung and Maddisyn Miller.

Coach Spiess will again once be assisted by a strong coaching staff consisting of Frank Goodrich and Justin Potter.



### Ovid-Elsie Co-Ed Varsity Wrestling

Kneeling (l-r): Ryker Parsons, Chaycen Thornton, Clayton Juhas, Cavan Mortinsen, Talan Parsons, Haley McClung, Kaia Spiess, Katelyn Wright, Ava Juhas, Travis Wright. Standing athletes(l-r): Anthony Silva, Cole Workman, Bennet Throop, Hunter Hufnagel, Manuel Cedotal, Trey Milner, Ben Wildes, Trace Taylor, Maddisyn Miller, Chandler Hart Butcher, Pha Ngo. Coaches (l-r): Frank Goodrich, Justin Potter and far right is Kyle Spiess. Not pictured is Jeremiah Stewart. Photo by Ortman Production, Inc.



### Ovid-Elsie Varsity Competitive Cheer

Team includes: Memaire Brasseur, Aubrey Parkhouse, Alison Kozlowski, Naomi Schneider, Kira Schmidtfranz, Clarissa Baese, Zoe Busch, Lianna Sharer, Audrie VanDusen, Laiken Watkins, Peyton Milz, Hannah Koutz, Piper White, Amy Davis, Rachel Spitzley, Macey Bennett, Hannah Evans, Napat Limpitheprakan. Head coach Sarah Stewart. Photo by Ortman Production Inc

### Marauder Competitive Cheer Pushing Forward to Great Things

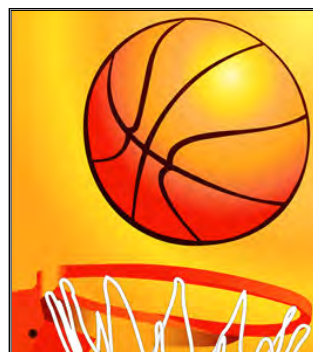
OVID-ELSIE -- Sarah Stewart is returning to coaching for the first time since 2011. She says she's not sure what to expect from her Ovid-Elsie competitive cheer team ... "But I'm confident we can push forward to do great things," she says.

"I wasn't sure what to expect, but it's looking good," the coach explains. "We are very 'fresh.' We have more newcomers than expected so we are learning from the beginning."

"The girls are willing to work hard ... they put in the effort and want to do well."

Returning cheerers are seniors Amy Davis and Macey Bennett; junior Hannah Koutz; and sophomores Lianna Sharer, Laiken Watkins, Peyton Milz and Audrie VanDeusen.

Newcomers are seniors Hannah Evans, Napat L., Zoe Busch, Piper White; sophomore Clarissa Baese; and freshmen Memarie Brasseur, Aubrey Parkhouse, Naomi Schneider, Allison Kozlowski and Rachel Spitzley.



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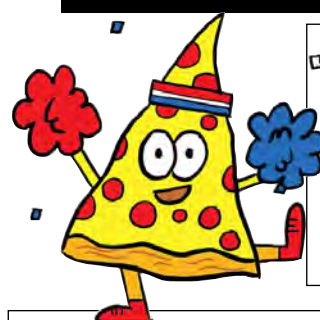


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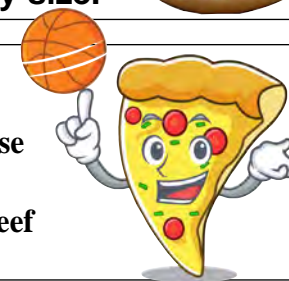


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# CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

## STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF CLINTON NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BRUCE DAVID CRONKITE  
Date of Birth: November 7, 1942  
**TO ALL CREDITORS: \*\***  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent BRUCE DAVID CRONKHITE, died September 23, 2023.  
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jessica A. Demianenko, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 E. State Street, Suite 4300, St. Johns, MI 48879 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

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Jessica A. Demianenko  
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Canton, MI 48188  
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(12/17/23)

## COUNTY OF CLINTON NOTICE TO CREDITORS

SCHAEFER FAMILY TRUST  
Date of Execution: October 19, 1992  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent PAUL J. SCHAEFER, who lived at 7041 West Howe Rd., DeWitt, MI 48820  
Died: October 11, 2023  
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased will be forever barred unless presented to the Trustees of the SCHAEFER FAMILY TRUST within 120 days after the date of publication.

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and  
Timothy Schaefer  
7660 W. Chadwick Rd.  
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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 January 17, 2024. 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): Trevor Thorne, unmarried man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns Date of mortgage: December 3, 2021 Recorded on December 15, 2021, in Document No. 5319399, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Six and 64/100 Dollars (\$220,796.64) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Clinton County, and described as: Lots 6, 7, 10 and 11 in Block 4, Village of Elsie, EXCEPTING a parcel of land 30 feet East and West 60 feet North and South in the Southeast corner of Lot 11 and also EXCEPTING a parcel of land 100 feet North and South by 102 feet East and West in the Southwest corner of Lot 10 and also EXCEPTING a parcel of land 114 feet North and South by 38 feet East and West in the Northeast corner of Lot 6, Village of Elsie, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber R, Page 579 of Plats, Clinton County Records. Commonly known as 155 W Main St, Elsie, MI 48831 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. Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1517749  
(12-17)(01-07)

**FORECLOSURE NOTICE**  
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, January 10, 2024. 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 certain mortgage made by Keith J Cornell, a married man to Fifth Third Mortgage - MI, LLC, Mortgagee, dated November 24, 2009, and recorded on November 25, 2009, as Document Number: 5150967, Clinton County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Fifth Third Bank, National Association, FKA Fifth Third Bank as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company by an Assignment of Mortgage dated October 21, 2014 and recorded October 29, 2014 by Document Number: 5220853, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Eight and 09/100 (\$84,878.09) including interest at the rate of 5.50000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of BATH, Clinton County, Michigan, and are described as: That part of East 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 19,

Town 5 North, Range 1 West, Bath Township, Clinton County, Michigan, lying East of the Michigan Central Railroad, described as: Beginning on the East line of Section 19 at a point 1448.85 feet North of the East 1/4 corner of Section 19, Town 5 North, Range 1 West 181.23 feet to the East right of way line of the Michigan Central Railroad; thence North 19 degrees 14 minutes 30 seconds East, 549.93 feet to the East line of Section 19; thence South 519.21 feet on the East line of Section 19 to the point of beginning Commonly known as: 14264 WATSON ROAD, BATH, MI 48808 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) 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. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: November 26, 2023 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Fifth Third Bank, National Association, FKA Fifth Third Bank as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 23MI00909-1

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## MEET THE TEAMS - OVID-ELSIE MARAUDERS



### Ovid-Elsie Varsity Swimming

Front row (l-r): Jacob Kast, Carter Hebel, Pau Gifre, Lindsey Washburn, Kaia Spiess  
 2nd row (l-r): Asst Coach Eugene Howe, David Lohr, Cheyenne Kline, Norah Wilcox, Coach Karl Dahlke; 3rd row (l-r): Michael Rinehart, Audrey Bensinger, Lillianna Kennedy, Jolene Hebel  
 back row (l-r): Noah Hufnagel, Mitchell Gonzalez, Adalynn Roberts, Colton Sempstrott, Asst Joah Wildes. Missing: coaches Brie Wildes and Wyatt Dahlke. Photo by Ortman Productions, Inc

### Focused, Ready to Learn O-E Swim Team Enters 2023-24 Season

OVID-ELSIE -- Veteran coach Karl Dahlke returns 8 swimmers to the pool -- with a team that " ... is focused and ready to learn," he explains.

The "Elite 8" are Lindsey Washburn, Carter Hebel, Jacob Kast, Jolene Hebel, Audrey Bensinger, Lilly Kennedy, Norah Wilcox and David Lohr, who daily show their dedication to one of the most demanding of prep sports.

Newcomers are Pau Gifre, Mitchell Gonzalez, Colton Sempstrott and Adalynn Roberts.

Dahlke has a strong coaching staff in Eugene Howe, Gabrielle Wildes, Jowa Wildes and Wyatt Dahlke.

"We are small and inexperienced (in some events)," says the coach. So the "learning" part will be key to the Marauders' season.



### Ovid-Elsie Girls JV Basketball

(l-r): McKenzie Keck, Alexis Latunski, Ashton Ehle, Danica Bancroft, Lilian Bates, Dannika Campbell, Isabella Phillips, Breanna Helt. Head Coach: Chris Parker.  
 Photo by Ortman Production, Inc.



### Ovid-Elsie Boys Freshman Basketball


Front row (l-r): Julian Medina, Jason Harrell, Hunter Smith, Chase Fabus, Kanyon Keusch, Marshall Leavitt, Logan Brown. Back row (l-r): Head coach Austin Migoski, Andrew Brown, Dylan Henning, Brody Howard, Brooks Lahr, Kohl Brown, Chase Thelen, Asst. coach Marc Johnson.  
 Photo by Ortman Productions, Inc.

. TWELVE DAYS OF .

# Christmas

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