

2025 OE Hall of Fame Inductees

On Saturday, February 8th, the 10th Annual Ceremony of the Hall of Fame Class of 2025 will be held in the Donald G. Thayer Auditorium at Ovid-Elsie High School. Welcome and Social hour: 5:00-6:00p.m. Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony immediately following social hour. Family members, friends and community members are invited to witness the induction of the following individuals and team members. Jason Tokar and Mike Loynes will be the Masters of Ceremonies.



Deborah Price

STUDENT - CLASS OF 1970

High School Accomplishments

- Member of GAA (Girls Athletic Association) • Fastpitch Softball - Ovid Merchants: 1969-1970

Career Accomplishments:

- Maple River News: 1978 - 1982 • Argus Press: 1982 - 1992
- Meridian Weekly: (Owner & Operator) 1992 - Present
- Deb has been dedicated to covering and promoting events at Ovid-Elsie Area Schools and surrounding districts.
- She has played an instrumental role in planning and presenting the Ovid Carriage Days Festival for many years
- Deb has been instrumental along with other O-E moms in starting the Ovid-Elsie Little World Nursery School



Carrie Darling Pope

STUDENT/ATHLETE 1984 - 1988

High School Accomplishments

Volleyball

- Received Three Varsity Letters • 1986 - Member of the Conference & District Champion Team • 1987 - Member of the Conference Champion Team • 1988 - All-Conference

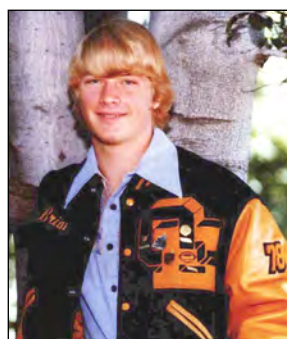
Basketball

- Received Three Varsity Letters

Track & Field 1985

- Conference All-League - 800 • Conference All-League - 3200 Relay • Regional 2nd Place - 800 • State Qualifier 1986 • Regional - 3rd Place - 800 • State Qualifier • Regional - 6th Place - 3200 • State Qualifier • Regional - 5th Place - 1600 Relay - State Qualifier 1987

- Regional Champion - 1600 • State Qualifier 1988 • All-Conference - 3200 • All-County - 1600 & 3200 • State Qualifier - 1600 & 3200 • State Qualifier - 3200 - 6th Place. Holds school records since 1988 in the 1600, 3200 and the 3200 Relay. Received the Mike Maag Award in 1988



Brian Byrnes

STUDENT/ATHLETE 1974 - 1978

High School Accomplishments

Football

- Received Three Varsity Letters • Captain Sr. Year

Basketball

- Received Three Varsity Letters • Captain Jr. & Sr. Years
- District Champions: 1977 & 1978 • 1st Team All-State Class B: 1978 (First time in O-E History) • 1st Team All-Conference: 1977 & 1978 • 1st Team All-Area: 1977 & 1978 • Most Valuable Player: 1977 & 1978 • Held the school record for Most Field Goals in a Game (15) • Held the school record for Most Assists in a Season (103) • 3rd in School History Total Points (995) • Voted Most Athletic & Most Active by Senior Classmates

Baseball

- Received Three Varsity Letters • Captain Sr. Year • Pitching Leader Award: 2.05 ERA - 1978
- Ferris State University: 1978-1982 • Received An Athletic Scholarship for Basketball where he played for two years • B.S. in Business Management



Ryan Miller

STUDENT ATHLETE 1997 - 2001

High School Accomplishments:

Wrestling

- Received Four Varsity Letters • 4X State Qualifier
- 1998 - Qualifier
- 1999 - 7th Place • 2000 - 4th Place • 2001 - 2nd Place • Regional Champion: 2001 • 1998 - 4th Place • 1999 - 2nd Place • 2000 - 3rd Place • 3X District Champion: 1999, 2000 & 2001 • 1998 - 3rd Place • 2X Conference Champion: 1999 & 2000 • 1998 - 4th Place • 2001 - 2nd Place • 45 Consecutive Wins - Total Record: 191-24
- As an Ovid-Elsie Alumni, Ryan returned to assist in coaching wrestling in 2018



Robert "Bobby" Dodson

STUDENT ATHLETE 1997 - 2001

High School Accomplishments

Cross Country

- Received Four Varsity Letters • Individual State Qualifier (Finished #81) - 1999 • Individual State Qualifier (Finished #37) - 2000 • Team State Qualifier (Finished #14) - 2000 • Personal Best: 16:39

Wrestling

- Received Four Varsity Letters • Finished with 178 Career Wins • 3X State Qualifier • 7th Place - 1998-1999 • 4th Place - 1999-2000

- Runner Up - 2000-2001

Track & Field

- Received Four Varsity Letters • Competed in two events at State Finals: 2000-2001 • Broke School Record in 3200 Relay

Academics

- Received Four Academic Letters • Ranked 11th in Class of 119 - GPA 3.7 • National Honor Society - 2 Years • Ovid-Elsie Quiz Bowl Team - 4 years

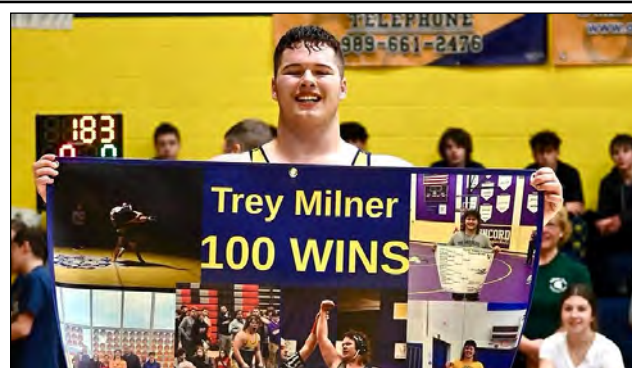


1977-78 Boys Basketball Team

Left to Right: Dirk Besko, Kelly Loynes, Bryon Taylor, Joe McAnich, Cary Bashore, Rod VanDeusen, Scott Schoendorf, Ed Kaminski, Ken Kellogg, Brett Welton, Bill Kayanek, Brian Byrnes, Mike Perrien, Doug Len, Ray Bowles, Dave Sovis. Kneeling: Bobby Foreback, Coach Bob Foreback, Manager Jim Egbert

Highlights:

- Season Record: 20-3 (13-1 MMB League) • District Champions 1977 & 1978 • Most Regular Season Wins - 18 • Most Season Wins - 20 • Most Consecutive Wins - 13 • Lowest Number of Points Allowed in a Season - 63.7 • Field Goal % - 42.4



Trey Milner Scores 100th Victory at O-E Wrestling Invitational on January 25th

Laingsburgs Marlon Graham Recorded his 100th Career Victory on January 28th During Dual Meet

See stories on page 7 & 8



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Social

Nancy & Darrell Smith Celebrating 74th Wedding Anniversary



Nancy and Darrell Smith were married in Ovid on January 22, 1951 making this their 74th wedding anniversary. They have 5 children, Claudia Gielow, Norman and Patty, Kim and Pete Garcia, Lisa and Mark Meyers and Lora and Matt Dougherty, along with 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Cards may be sent to Nancy and Darrell at 319 Prospect St., Ovid, MI 48866.



Elsie Library Adventures

submitted by Ann Trierweiler

The library will be closed on Monday, February 17, for President's Day. We will be back on Wednesday the 19th. The last holiday was followed by a snow day. For myself, the days ended up being a small, unplanned, and very cold vacation.

Our Winter Bingo Challenge is still running through the end of February. It has been fun to see the smile that comes with the different Bingo sheets that have been submitted already.

Come in any day in February for a blind date with a book...seriously. There will be wrapped-up books in each age group, a kind of mystery, right? They look like fun valentine gifts right now!

The Elsie Library Book Club will meet again on February thirteenth at six in the evening. We will discuss *The Baker's Secret*, by Stephen Kiernan. If we can coordinate the plan, wouldn't it be nice to have a few baked goods? Maybe without the straw?

We are currently processing many new books and DVD's. It looks like there could be a book for you! Not only are there new DVD's, but also a new streaming service for our patrons (Kanopy).

Our family enjoys putting puzzles together. I remember many winters when we would gather around a table placed in front of our wood stove, working together to complete different masterpieces. The Elsie Public Library has hundreds of puzzles to browse through and borrow. We always keep a puzzle in progress here at the library. Come in and find a few pieces. It is a joy to see several people at the table finding pieces and enjoying the company.

"You know you've read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a best friend." Paul Sweeney

Library News

We Heard You...Holy Family's Fish Fry

Loyal customers of Holy Family's Fish Fry Dinners! It has been stated often by the people that come to Ovid for Holy Family's Fish Fry Dinners that they wished there were more dinners each year. Well, we have decided to do something about that this year. Traditionally, the first dinner is served the Friday before Lent starts.

However, this year, we will be adding ONE ADDITIONAL dinner—February 14th! That's right—you can celebrate Valentine's Day by bringing your date to Holy Family for a wonderful fish dinner. Dinner will include: COD fish, either baked or deep fried, French Fries, Cheesy Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Green Beans, Corn, Baked Beans, Tropical Fruit Salad, and Roll with Butter. Plus you will get your choice of dessert and drink. All this for the incredibly low price of \$16 per person, \$8 for kids ages 6-12 and kids under age 5 eat free! Our menu and prices stayed the same—so mark your calendars—Holy Family Fish Fry Dinners will be February 14th, February 28th, March 14th, March 28th and April 11th!

Serving starts at 4:30 pm. Hope to see you on the 14th of February and for all the other dinner dates!



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Recycling and Waste Issues

January proved to be an interesting start to the new year for the GLR. The third Tuesday, when we would normally have been open, had to be cancelled when the predicted temperature was five below. (Our weather policy, which should have been posted at the outset of winter, dictates that the recycling facility will be closed when the temperature is under 15 degrees or weather conditions are sufficiently bad to close schools.) This was then followed by one of the busiest Saturday drives we've had since opening the facility! What's next?

Hopefully nothing that would prevent the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers' facility from being open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (Feb. 4 and 18), 4-6 p.m., and 2nd and 4th Saturdays (Feb. 8 and 22), 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For details on what we take or anything else, consult our web page or the contacts given below.

Many of us in the Greater Laingsburg community live in rural areas and rely on a septic system but don't give it much thought. Did you know that Michigan is the only state in the union without statewide laws governing septic systems—even though 35 percent of Michigan residents depend on them? The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) estimates that more than 330,000 septic systems (there are over a million), which must treat and dispose of more than 455 million gallons of wastewater each day, are failing. This makes it likely that nutrients, bacteria, viruses, pharmaceuticals and other pollutants are constantly being introduced into our lakes, streams and wetlands.

Corrective legislation has been introduced many times but has never passed. One sticking point is always the high cost of installing a new system. But there is hope: backed by a \$35 million allocation from the state legislature, EGLE has partnered with Michigan Saves, the nation's first nonprofit green bank, to offer financing for the replacement of failing or near-failing septic systems statewide through the Septic Replacement Loan Program (<https://michigansaves.org/septic/>). The program provides low-interest financing options for loans up to \$50,000 to Michigan homeowners looking to replace their septic systems. Through the initiative, EGLE and Michigan Saves aim to protect Michigan's water resources and safeguard the well-being of its residents.

On another upside, this year should finally see action concerning the new solid waste laws requiring counties to present their plans for dealing with waste. Terry Link already represents the GLR on Clinton County's Materials Management Committee, and we hope to encourage and be involved in ongoing efforts in Shiawassee County.

If you have questions or comments, visit our Facebook page or website (<https://recycle-laingsburg.wixsite.com/mysite>). You can also call Terry or Ellen Link at (517) 651-2005 or Beth Lange at 651-6437. New volunteers of any age are always welcome. Slowly but surely, working together we'll create a sustainable future in our own backyard.

35th Shiawassee County Walk for Warmth

submitted by Becky Zemla

Capital Area Community Services, Inc., will hold their 35th Annual Walk for Warmth on February 22, 2025 at The Shiawassee Council on Aging, 300 N. Washington St., Owosso MI. Registration for the 3 mile Walk will open at 9:00 A.M., and the Walk will begin at 9:30 A.M.

Walk for Warmth is a statewide effort to raise public awareness of people experiencing heat-related emergencies. Funds are raised through contributions from individuals, businesses, civic organizations, clubs and church groups and are used to assist area residents with heat-related emergencies. With the rising costs of basic needs which may create an economic hardship, the need for heat-related assistance has become far greater than service agencies and churches can resolve without additional resources, such as Walk for Warmth. 100% of the funds raised through the Shiawassee County Walk are used to assist low-income households within Shiawassee County. ZERO administrative fees are taken by the Agency.

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

Donations may be mailed or hand delivered to: CACS, Shiawassee County Service Center, 1845 Corunna Avenue, Owosso MI 48867.

For further information, please contact our office at: 989-723-3115.

Pledge Sheets are now available in our office and posted on the CACS website: CACS-inc.org

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

CACS - Shiawassee Service Center Staff



Memorial Healthcare Welcomes Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner to OB/GYN

Memorial Healthcare is pleased to welcome Gretchen Bucher, FNP-BC, C-EFM to Memorial Healthcare OB/GYN.

Gretchen is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner who received her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Michigan - Flint with a family nurse practitioner program focus. Gretchen has a wealth of labor and delivery experience providing care for obstetric patients as a nurse practitioner, and registered nurse.

Gretchen is now accepting new patients with most insurances.

To learn more, visit www.MemorialHealthcare.org

About Memorial Healthcare

Memorial Healthcare is an independent, community non-profit hospital with 161 beds and a medical staff of nearly 500 physicians and advanced practice providers and over 1,500 employees. Memorial Healthcare is the sole hospital in Shiawassee County, serving a population of approximately 68,000 with an expanded footprint in Bay, Clinton, Ingham, Livingston and Saginaw Counties. Memorial Healthcare's mission rings true today, as it did in 1921 when it opened its doors, to be an industry leader in the promotion and delivery of health and wellness through quality compassionate healthcare with a commitment to service excellence, teamwork, and innovation. For more information, visit www.MemorialHealthcare.org.



Rep. BeGole to Lead House Government Operations Committee

submitted by Denny Schwarze

The Michigan House of Representatives and Speaker Matt Hall announced that State Rep. Brian BeGole will chair the Michigan House Government Operations Committee for the 2025-2026 legislative term.

The committee reviews legislation impacting the core functions of state government. Hall also announced that BeGole will serve on the House Economic Competitiveness Committee, which focuses on business development and regulatory issues affecting Michigan's economy, and the House Energy Committee, which develops policy concerning the state's energy infrastructure and services.

The committee selections follow BeGole recently being named Vice Chair of the House Judiciary Committee and Assistant Floor Leader for the 2025-26 term.

BeGole, who is beginning his second term, represents the 71st House District, which includes Corunna, Durand, Owosso, Perry, Bancroft, Byron, Morrice, New Lothrop, Vernon, portions of Lennon and Ovid, and the townships of Antrim, Bennington, Burns, Caledonia, Fairfield, Hazelton, Middlebury, New Haven, Owosso, Perry, Rush, Shiawassee, Venice and Vernon in Shiawassee County. It also includes Chesaning, Oakley, Brady Township, Chesaning Township and Maple Grove Township in Saginaw County and Argentine Township, Gaines Township, and a portion of Mundy Township in Genesee County.

OVID TOWNSHIP Public Notice of Budget Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ovid Township Board will hold a budget workshop hearing on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., at the Ovid Township Hall, 1015 Baese Court, Ovid, MI, to discuss the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget.

"The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this meeting." (MCL 141.412)

Claudia Barrett Pluger, Clerk Ovid Township

City of Ovid Draft Special Meeting January 27, 2025

Open Public Meeting:

Mayor M. Perrien called the Special Meeting to order at 2:00 PM in the Council room located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid, Michigan.

Roll Call:

M. Soliz, L. Perrien, M. Olger-Absent, E. Brown-Absent M. Perrien, E. Starn, M. Jones-Absent

Guests- There was 1 guest present Susan Tomasek Swan- Clerk.

Agenda

Council Member L. Perrien made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member M. Soliz seconded the motion.

Carried on a voice vote

Open Public Comment: Opened 2:01 pm Closed: 2:01 pm - None

New Business:

a) Letter of Support for Community Enhancement Grant – Mayor M. Perrien read the letter of support.

Council Member L. Perrien motioned to apply for Community Enhancement Grant and to authorize the Mayor, Mary K. Perrien to sign the letter of support as presented. Council Member M. Soliz seconded the motion.

Carried on a voice vote

Final Comments: none

Adjournment-

Council Member M. Soliz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:07 pm.

Council Member E. Starn seconded the motion.

Carried on a voice vote

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm

*Respectfully submitted by
Susan Tomasek Swan
Clerk*

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Obituaries

Heidi Jo Ackels-Budge



Heidi Jo Ackels-Budge, age 62, of Dallas, TX, formerly of Elsie, MI, passed away Monday, January 20, 2025.

A Memorial Service will be held at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI, on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at 1:00 P.M. with visitation from 11:00 A.M. until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Heidi was born in Owosso, Michigan on August 19, 1962, the daughter of Keith RG and Diana Kay (Thompson) Ackels. She graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School and earned a Medical Assistant Certificate at Ross Medical Education Center.

Heidi loved her family and spent a large portion of her life caring for them. She enjoyed being outside in the warm weather with her little dog Mindy. Heidi's smile was infectious and lit up the room and others around her. She liked to take photos wherever she went "of anything and everything!"

She is survived by her father Keith Ackels, daughters: Sara Sevenski, and Molly (Garry) Sanfilippo; the father of her daughters James Budge, grandchildren: Kylee (Jakob), and Skilar (Dakota); siblings: Ricky Ackels, Charlie Ackels, and Bernadette (Donnie Flanner) Corl; partner Dan Mathews, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her mother Diana Pollitt, and two infant sisters.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, Michigan.



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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

163 W. Main St., Elsie
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Watch Sunday Service on
YouTube at [elsiebaptist](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsIEBaptist)
Pastor Phillip Rogers

Laingsburg United Methodist Church

210 Crum St., Laingsburg
517-651-5531

Worship Service: 10:30am
Pastor:
Kendra Holcomb - Densmore

Middlebury United Methodist Church

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



Minister:
Pastor Kendra
Holcomb-Densmore
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

Office Hours: 9-1 Mon - Tue - Wed
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Marilyn (Byrnes) Love



Marilyn (Byrnes) Love, 85, of Fremont, passed away Monday, January 20, 2025 at Fisher Titus Medical Center following a sudden illness. She was born June 2, 1939 in Owosso, MI the daughter of the late L. Bernard and Onalee M. (Larkins) Byrnes. Marilyn graduated from Ovid High School, Ovid, MI, in 1957. On September 26, 1957 in Gary, IN, she married Larry Love and he preceded her in death on May, 18, 2024.

Marilyn worked at Green Hills for 10 years and then she worked for Larry as office manager at Abrasive Diamond and Granite for more than 25 years.

Survivors include her children, Sherryl (Dennis) Myers of Clyde; Larry Michael (Valerie) Love of Toledo; Leisa (Barry) Crum of Fremont and Mark Love of Fremont survive. Seven grandchildren Kimberly, Derek; Kyle Kaleigh; Brianne, Brittany and Courtney also survive, along with twenty-one great grandchildren; sister, Karen Fracassi of Howell, MI; brother-in-law, Dennis (Sharry) Love of South Haven, MI and several nieces, nephews & cousins.

A celebration of life will be held for Marilyn at 1:00pm, April 19, 2025, at the Ovid VFW, 218 S. Main St, Ovid, MI 48866. Memorial contributions to Susan G. Komen Foundation at www.komen.org or St Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org

Rickie Edwin Camp



Rickie Edwin Camp, affectionately known as Rick, lived a life marked by love, laughter, and a deep commitment to his family and community. Born on October 14, 1954, in Adrian, Michigan, to the late Frank and Marian (Sanborn) Camp, Rick grew to be a man of great character and warmth. He passed away peacefully at his home on January 29, 2025, surrounded by the family he so deeply cherished.

On March 10, 1973, Rick married the love of his life, Lucy Palek, at St. John's Church. Their union was a testament to enduring love, celebrating 51 years of marriage filled with joy, support, and mutual respect. Rick's legacy continues through his beloved wife Lucy, his daughter Angela Camp, and his adored granddaughter Regan Bracey. His memory is also treasured by his siblings Ron (Beth) Camp, Randy Camp, Bonnie Jennings, brothers-in-law Phill Dopp, Jerry (Patty) Palek, and sister-in-law Lillian Long, all of whom he held close to his heart.

Rick was predeceased in death by his parents, two sisters Shirley Dopp and Ginny (Ted) Balker, sister-in-law Joanne Camp, and two brother in laws Chuck Jennings and Jerry Long.

Rick dedicated 41 years of service to Michigan Milk Producers in Ovid, Michigan, where he was revered for his exceptional work ethic and his ability to keep everything running smoothly. His colleagues knew him as a man who could be relied upon, a man who maintained not just the machinery but the morale of those around him.

In his earlier years, Rick's adventurous spirit led him to the great outdoors, where he found solace in hunting and fishing. His passion for animals shone brightly, particularly in his love for his dog Bailee. As a sports enthusiast, Rick played pool on numerous leagues and was a devout fan of the Detroit Tigers, the Lions, and the Spartans. His love for sports extended to coaching his daughter's softball team and playing the game himself, sharing his competitive spirit and camaraderie with others.

Rick's sense of humor was unparalleled, often lighting up a room with his quick wit and infectious laughter. His generosity knew no bounds, as he gave freely of his time, resources, and heart.

Those who knew Rick will remember him as a thoughtful man who would go out of his way to help a friend in need or to make a stranger feel welcome.

Per Rick's request cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held later. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Lee-Ramsay Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers those wishing an expression of sympathy are asked to consider the local Humane Society in Rick's honor.

Happy 15th Birthday in Heaven

January 28th

Alexis

We Will Miss

Experiencing The
"Teenage Years With You"

We Love & Miss You
MacKenzie, Gage and Family



Obituaries

Joseph Carlton Jodway

Joseph Carlton Jodway of Laingsburg, 74, passed away on January 25, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Joseph was born on January 20, 1951, to Clarence Walter and Nora May Jodway. After graduating from Laingsburg High School in 1969, he proudly enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He served in Vietnam as a Reconnaissance Marine and Sharpshooter in the 2nd & 3rd CAP Marine unit, where he earned many honors. After Vietnam, he joined the National Guard. He retired from the 119th Field Artillery after 25 years of service.

Joseph concluded his career at General Motors as a Health and Safety Instructor after serving in various roles throughout the company. The position he was most proud of was training over-the-road truck drivers. He dedicated countless hours volunteering as a CPR instructor for both the American Red Cross and the Lansing Fire Department.

Joseph and his first wife, Brenda Campbell, established their home in Laingsburg, Michigan, in 1972, where they raised their five children: Jessica, Jody, Jillian, Janae, and Joseph. He was later blessed with another daughter, Katie, with his second wife, Linda Louise Craig.

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents, brother Douglas, sister Anita, sister-in-law Nanci Lynn, and stepson Corey Craig. He is survived by his children: Jessica (Ronnie), Jody (Bill), Jillian (Marcus), Janae (Kevin), Joseph (Jessica) and Katie (Rodney), his Linda Lou, the Craig family and his beloved grandchildren, great grandchildren and multiple siblings.

Joseph was a patriotic man who lived life to the fullest, finding joy in both simple pleasures and grand adventures. He was a devoted grandfather who cherished his role as Grandpa/Poppy/Papa to his grandchildren. An avid outdoorsman, he found peace in nature, whether watching sunsets, stargazing, searching for fireflies, or walking in the woods. He created beautiful pieces through woodcarving and woodburning. He loved sharing his outdoor knowledge and survival skills with others as well as his hand to hand combat knowledge and skills. Joseph was happiest when spending time with his family, camping, building camp fires, fishing, hunting, target shooting, foraging, chainsawing, listening to music, canoeing, boating, or at the cottage. He was an animated storyteller and could always be counted on for a good, bad joke. He was literally "one phone call away" and would show up to change your flat tire on the side of the road, pull your vehicle out of a snow bank, jump start your dead battery or whatever task needed his assistance. He'd say, "Don't call a mechanic. Call your Dad." and would help you with any vehicle repairs, as long as you stood there holding a flash light, even when it was daylight. His passion for the outdoors extended to tending his gardens and maintaining his lawn with pride. He was a cultured foodie who also enjoyed cooking and baking. Joseph particularly treasured his travels to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He was a spiritual man who found peace in the Lord. To say he will be missed is a major understatement. Last but certainly not least,

OORAH! 

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, February 1st at the Laingsburg United Methodist Church from 2-5 pm.





The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

PETA Targets Organizers of Groundhog Day Events

PETA believes that groundhogs or woodchucks should be left alone. They claim that they're naturally shy, sensitive prey animals who react poorly when handled in front of raucous crowds as shown in recent years when groundhogs have bitten humans and even attempted escape during Groundhog Day festivities. PETA claims that groundhogs are nocturnal and belong in forests and fields they call home so they can dig, burrow and forage. In addition, part of their motto states that animals are not ours to use for entertainment. Their goal is simple: to stop live groundhogs from being put on display in order to forecast the future weather based on the presence of a shadow or not.

The group has been known to pay for advertising on billboards and on the side of public buses with catchy messages like "I'm Me, not a meteorologist" and of course a play on words with "It's time to chuck this tired old tradition." While it is easy to pay for advertising, they have gone even further with offering event organizers alternatives to using a live groundhog. Over the last five years they have written letters and issued press releases offering the following so Phil and his friends can live at a sanctuary free of cages:

2020- PETA offered an animatronic groundhog with Artificial Intelligence capable of weather forecasting

2021- PETA offered to dig a hole in the ground and find a human meteorologist to pull through the hole

2022- PETA suggested and offered to deliver persimmons trees to be planted at Gobbler's Nob because 25% of the time their seeds can predict the future weather which is just less than a groundhogs 40% success rate

2023- a young philanthropic lady was offered by PETA to spend all year in the basement of the Punxsutawney library in a cage where Phil and friends live

2024- A large double sided gold coin with a weather prediction on each side since accuracy would be better


2025- PETA offered to supply a "weather reveal" vegan cake much like a "gender reveal" cake. Pink would indicate an early spring and blue a longer winter

Cities that have retired their groundhog and used a human in a costume with an attached tutu and ribbons have been awarded with not only a certificate but also a bag of walnuts and vegan chocolates from PETA. Maybe it's the German blood in the Weekly Sportsman or the fact that PETA falsely thinks 'chucks are nocturnal... but live groundhogs work just fine and their treatment is plenty humane. As a matter of fact, the Weekly Sportsman will be partaking in this tradition by watching Woody the Woodchuck on Sunday morning in Howell as she is Michigan's only groundhog used to forecast the weather.

-WS



Editorial



Editorials are welcome.
250 words or less.
Email to:
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Editorial



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

Winter Car Tips- Burrrrrr

Dear Andy,

My dad places his windshield wipers, in an upright position, away from the windshield in the wintertime. Common sense tells me that a gust of wind during a blizzard could snap them off completely. I am just learning to drive, and he has been giving me some tips that seem like old wives' tales. I do not want to contradict him, but I am not too sure about the windshield thing. What do you think? Becca S.

Dear Becca,

I admire your respect towards your Dad. A good thing to keep in mind about parents...They just want to be a part of the process for the learning information to take into your adult life-skills bank. Be a good listener, then weigh out his advice from what you learn and apply it to your life decisions in the future. I am not just talking about cars. Thank you for writing.

Since you wrote to me, I have noticed quite a few people with their windshield wiper blades popped up away from their windshields. It appeared to be an end of the day thing; I am presuming they do not want icy windshield wiper blades when they leave on cold mornings.

So, I called Auto Zone and spoke to a technician to get an expert opinion. I got an ear full. Here are some of her winter road tips: #1) Popping up your wiper blades is a BIG mistake. "Windshield wipers are on springs; leaving the blades upright will stretch over time, so the blades end up applying less pressure on the windshield, making them much less effective." No problem, he said, just stop in they will replace the blade while you wait. Costs can vary for 1 blade for as little as \$17.00 or 2 for \$50.. Need to have clear vision for safe driving.


Other tips for battling the cold weather? #2) Do NOT leave your car idling every day in the winter -- as that can cut short the lifespan of your car battery. #3) Never pour hot water on your frozen locks, that will just create a new layer of ice. Hot water on a windshield can shatter the glass. #4) Prior to winter months, check your tire pressure and keep the fluids full. #5) If you get stranded, always stay with your car. I carry a blanket with a plug-in attachment that runs off the battery power. If you need to run your car to keep warm, limit the time with 10 minute intervals with the window cracked a couple of inches. Be sure there is no snow packed in the exhaust pipe as it could cause the affixation of carbon monoxide. #6) Turn on your flashers and headlights.

After my phone call with the AZ tech, I was given more helpful information and a price list to last me for years, but I appreciated professional advice. The last one to share with you is #7) ...Fill your tank at the half-full mark, so you won't run out of gas. A full tank keeps water from melting in the gas tank. Be prepared for emergencies with jumper cables, blankets, snacks, and flares especially when traveling in inclement weather. Stay off roads that have not been plowed. Please drive safely and slowly on our snowy roads. Your life is more important than getting to someplace on time or end up in a ditch. If you're late 2 minutes, might, as well be safely 10 minutes, when you are running late. Be safe on the road, my dear readers and friends. Every life matters.

Thank you for writing to me. My audience is typically, the newspaper crowd who still read the newspaper. It is nice to hear from youth. Ask anything at ask_andy@aol.com

P.S. I just bought a new battery from my AZ tech. She was so knowledgeable and tested my old battery for free. I already knew I needed a new one, since my car is 5 years old and it didn't start the last 4 cold nights. Zoom, zoom. Safe and traveling with caution!

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Senior Spotlight

Alcohol Consumption After 50

Patients are asked several routine questions during annual wellness exams. Among those queries are a subsection of questions regarding alcohol consumption. Doctors ask these questions to identify how much alcohol their patients consume and how often they drink. It's important that patients of all ages answer such questions honestly, and that includes men and women over 50.

Binge drinking may not be a behavior people associate with individuals over 50, but this behavior is on the rise among aging men and women. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) defines binge drinking as a pattern of alcohol consumption that elevates an individual's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 percent or higher. The NIAAA notes that such levels correspond to consuming five or more drinks (male) or four or more drinks (female) in a roughly two-hour period. Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicates that one in five adults between the ages of 60 and 64 and 12 percent of individuals age 65 and over report current binge drinking.

Binge drinking trends among individuals 60 and over alarm public health officials. The NIAAA notes that older adults are vulnerable to various problems when drinking alcohol, which can lead to bad interactions among people taking medications and increase risk for various health ailments.

- Alcohol can exacerbate various medical conditions. Age is a notable risk factor for various medical conditions. For example, the National Institute on Aging notes that changes in the heart and blood vessels that occur naturally with age may increase a person's risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure. Additional conditions that can be exacerbated by heavy drinking include diabetes, liver problems, osteoporosis, and mood disorders.

- Alcohol can interact with various medications. The NIAAA warns that mixing alcohol with OTC medications can be dangerous and even deadly. OTC medications such as aspirin, acetaminophen, allergy medicines, and sleeping pills can interact badly with alcohol.

- Alcohol consumption should be limited to two drinks or less. As noted, a significant percentage of adults over 60 qualify as binge drinkers. That may alarm some older adults who do not feel as though they have a problem with alcohol but still meet the qualifications for binge drinking. Refraining from alcohol is arguably the safest option, but individuals over 50 who still

like to enjoy a drink every now and then are urged to keep their consumption to two drinks or less in a day for men and one drink or less in a day for women. It's important that individuals recognize they cannot save up drinking for one night of the week. So those who abstain six days a week cannot then consume between seven and 14 drinks on the day they drink. Such an approach is unhealthy, unsafe and potentially deadly.

Adults over 50 are urged to learn about the ways alcohol affects aging bodies. More information is available at niaaa.nih.gov.



Fitness Regimens For Those 50+

Fitness is an important component of overall wellness. Indeed, staying active has been linked to a number of noteworthy benefits, including decreased disease risk and improved mental health.

Routine exercise helps a person burn calories and maintain a healthy weight. Tufts Medicine says weight gain is common among aging individuals, with both men and women tending to put on weight in their mid-sections. Weight gain is a risk factor for diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Older adults may need to step up their fitness regimens to combat growing waistlines.

Staying active also can help with muscle and bone density, which can decline with age. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons says exercise is important for maintaining bone strength as the body ages. Strength-training exercises put stress on bones so they can make bones stronger.

Now that it is apparent why fitness is key during senior years, it's time to explore some routines that may be best for people age 50 and older.

Yoga

Yoga is a low-impact practice that improves muscle strength, balance, mobility, and flexibility. All of these factors are important for seniors. For those who find that conventional forms of yoga are too taxing on joints and bones, chair yoga is a lower-impact form of the exercise.

Cycling

Riding a bike is a cardiovascular workout that offers a wide range of benefits. Most people find riding a bike is easy on the joints, and regular cycling can increase muscle strength and enhance flexibility. The pace and intensity of rides can be customized depending on riders' speed and the routes they ride.

Pilates

Joseph Pilates developed an exercise routine that now bears his name in the early twentieth century. Pilates emphasizes core strength and stability, but works all the major muscle groups in the body. Since it is another low-impact exercise, it can be suitable for people with joint issues.

Body weight exercises


As individuals age, they may find that working with dumbbells, barbells or weight equipment at the gym is too taxing. Using body weight to build strength is a low-intensity option. Squats, wall push-ups, chair push-ups, and resistance bands can be used to build strength.

Walking

Walking is an unsung hero in the fitness realm. According to Better Health Channel, just 30 minutes of walking every day can increase cardiovascular fitness, strengthen bones, reduce excess body fat, and boost muscle power and endurance. Walking is low-impact and less taxing on joints than jogging or running.

Seniors have a host of options to stay active as they navigate their changing fitness needs.





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Average Age of Retirement is 62

A high cost of living and advancements in medicine that have contributed to longer life expectancies would seemingly compel individuals to work longer, but data indicates the average professional is retiring shortly after turning 60. Data from the 2024 MassMutual Retirement Happiness Study indicates that the average retirement age among American retirees is 62. That's in spite of the fact that pre-retirees and retirees who participated in the study indicated that 63 is the ideal retirement age. Canadians are staying in the workforce a good deal longer, as Statistics Canada reports the average retirement age across Canada in 2023 was 65.1. That disparity could be due to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), which replaces part of retirees' income with a monthly, taxable benefit. The Government of Canada reports the standard age to start the CPP is 65.





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Senior Spotlight

The Impact of Reading on Cognitive Decline

Aging and change go hand in hand. Although some may bemoan the gray hairs that start to arrive or stiffness in the knees that seems to sneak up on a person in middle age, such concerns are not necessarily enough to lose sleep over. However, many people 50 or older are nervous about the potential for cognitive issues like dementia as they grow older.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates that 6.7 million people have Alzheimer's disease in the United States. Alzheimer's disease and other dementias can rob people of their memories, personalities and abilities to live satisfying, independent lives. While it may not be impossible to prevent all cognitive issues completely, there is reason to believe that reading could be an ally in cognitive care.

The American Academy of Neurology says that reading stimulates the brain and has been shown to slow down cognitive decline in old age. Reading also may help slow down memory loss.

The powers of reading were noticed more than 10 years ago when a 2013 study from researchers at Emory University measured readers' MRI scans as they read books. They found the deeper readers went into a story, the more areas of their brains were activated. This activity remained elevated for several days after participants finished their books. The more a person reads, the stronger complex networks in the brain become.

Additional evidence that reading can help the brain was noted by researchers at the Texas A&M School of Public Health. A 2024 study suggests that older people with mild cognitive impairment who engage in high levels of activities like reading, hobbies and word games have better memory, working memory, attention, and processing speed than those who do not take part in such endeavors. A 2021 study published in Neurology found that high levels of cognitive activity, like reading and writing letters, can delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease by five years among those age 80 and over.



Wellness Exams After 50

Aging men and women are vulnerable to chronic conditions like heart disease, COPD, cancer, and arthritis. It's noteworthy that many chronic health conditions fail to produce any symptoms until they have progressed to a point where treatment is difficult.

It's possible for a person to preserve his or her health (and possibly life) through check-ups and easy tests. Here are some common screenings and health recommendations that come up in the prime of one's life.

- **Colorectal cancer screening:** A colon cancer screening is recommended for everyone at age 45. Colon cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, and risk increases at age 45. Although people seldom look forward to a colonoscopy and the required prep, putting off this test due to a little discomfort may result in missing colon cancer at its earliest stage when it is most treatable.

- **Cholesterol screening:** This simple blood test can help evaluate the risk for heart disease. High cholesterol can contribute to the buildup of plaque in the arteries, making them narrower and less flexible, according to Sharecare, Inc.

- **Mammogram:** Most health organizations recommend annual mammogram screenings from age 40 until menopause. Then it may be possible to have a mammogram every other year for those who are at average risk. It is important for women to discuss mammogram frequency with their doctors, particularly if there is a family history of breast cancer.

- **Diabetes:** ChenMed says diabetes may be more common in older adults, so regular screenings for this illness can enable early diagnosis and management.

- **Testicular cancer screening:** This test generally is not recommended without symptoms. Some organizations suggest men with a family history or other risk factors consider performing self-examinations.

- **Vaccination needs:** Doctors can alert patients to recommended vaccinations during wellness exams. Seniors should receive an annual flu shot and updated COVID-19 vaccination as available. Pneumococcal vaccine can protect against pneumococcal disease that can lead to pneumonia, meningitis and bloodstream infections. Adults over 50 also should receive a vaccination for shingles, which can occur in older age in those who have previously experienced chickenpox.

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Sports

Milner Scores 100th Victory, Leading Marauders at O-E Wrestling Invitational

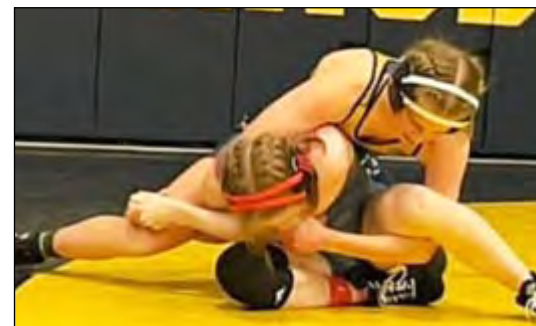
by Tom Turek

OVID-ELSIE -- Trey Milner, Ovid-Elsie's standout at 285 lbs., racked up his 100th career victory at the highlight of the home team's effort at the annual Ovid-Elsie Wrestling Invitational here January 25.

Milner went 5-0 to lead all Marauder wrestlers on the day.

Three Marauder grapplers grabbed runnerup finishes: Anthony Silva 2-1 at 113 lbs.; Ryker Parsons 2-1 at 132; and Jeremiah Stewart 2-1 at 165.

In the girls competition, O-E's Ava Juhas went unbeaten to take top honors at 110 lbs.



Ava Juhas with a cradle against opponent during the All Girl competition on January 24th. Ava won the 110lbs. division



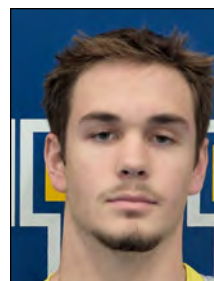
Connor McClung running a power half during the O-E Home Invite on January 25th.

Bears Lose Two

by Ashleigh Shaw

The Bears battled the Huskies from Breckenridge losing a tough one. It was close after quarter one with Ashley only being down 6, but the Huskies pulled away in the second quarter and the Bears struggled to keep up. Carson Litwiller had 8 points and 3 rebounds, Gibby Jason scored 7 points and had 5 rebounds, Tristian Ringle had 4 points and 3 rebounds.

Ashley also took on the Mustangs from Montabella losing 62-35. "We had a slow start and struggled with catching up all night, it was an up-hill battle" said Coach Sourek. Robert Kral had 9 points and 10 rebounds, Carson Litwiller scored 10 points and grabbed 8 rebounds, Gibby Jason added 45 points and 4 rebounds.



Carson Litwiller



Gibby Jason

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Sports

Wolfpack Mat Team Finishes 2024-25 Dual Match Season in Unbeaten Fashion

by Tom Turek

LAINGSBURG -- Marlon Graham recorded his 100th career victory and the Wolfpack wrestling team kept its dual meet record unblemished at the LHS athletic complex here January 28.

Shawn Baynes' Wolves wrapped up the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) portion of its regular season unbeaten, with a 48-28 conquest of Bath.

The Owosso Trojans also competed in the triple-dual as a non-league opponent, and suffered a 54-22 loss to the mat Wolfpack.

Bath opened up with a 17-6 advantage over LHS in the lower weight classes -- scoring falls or technical falls at 106, 120 and 126 -- but the red-and-white rallied with wins by Graham at 132, Logan Robinson at 138, Carson Helmer at 157, Cameron Betts at 165, Zander Nethaway at 175, Charles Dehnert at 215 and Harvey Montgomery at 285.

Opposite Owosso, Laingsburg got a big win from Cooper Mund at 113 for his second victory of the evening. Liam McDonald at 126 lbs., Robinson, Jeff Smith at 150, Helmer, Betts, Gauge Ream at 190 and Montgomery sealed the deal for LHS for a 32-point victory over the Trojans.

Durand Shocks Marauders, 55-43, to Tighten up MMAC Basketball Race

DURAND -- The host Railroaders knocked Ovid-Elsie (12-3, 9-2 MMAC) out of a first-place tie in the conference, stunning the Marauders 55-43 here last Thursday.

Durand moved to 12-3 (8-3 MMAC) and within two games of Mt. Morris (10-1 MMAC). Chesaning lurks right behind O-E in the conference race.

The Railroaders avenged a 66-51 loss on Ovid-Elsie's home floor in December.

"Our guys came in thinking since we beat (Durand) by 15 the first time we were going to walk over them," Marauder coach Canyon Walker said. "Durand was being really physical with us and took us out of our groove -- we couldn't get into our sets -- and we weren't able to get in the lane and get kick-out threes."

Durand took control early, jumping out to an 11-6 lead and extending it to 33-21 at halftime. O-E pulled within five points after Tucker Loynes banked in a three-pointer with 1:06 remaining, but was never closer after Durand's Brayden Joslin made two free throws.

O-E was led by Jake Bowen's 11 points. Loynes and Travis Milner Jr. each scored 10 points for the Marauders and Tryce Tokar added eight.

Tough Loss for Lady Bears

by Ashleigh Shaw

Montabella came to Ashley to take on the Lady Bears in a conference matchup that was a back-and-forth game all night where unfortunately Ashley came up a point short missing out on the victory 47-46. "This was a back-and-forth game the whole way, we just came up a bit short in the end" expressed Coach Shaw. Two players scored in double digits; Ellie Drummond had 19 points 8 rebounds and 3 assists, while Karissa Brady scored 14 points and had 6 rebounds. Zoe Schneider contributed 6 points, Peyton Rohn scored 4 points and Marissa Brady scored 3 points grabbed 6 rebounds and added 5 steals.

Vandals Take One from Bears

In a game where Ashley didn't come with their best effort, the Vandals of Merrill took down the Bears 56-28. "Merrill played a strong game defensively to pull away in the third quarter to win the game" stated Coach Shaw. Marissa Brady just missed a double-double with 11 points and 9 rebounds, her sister Karissa Brady scored 9 points brought down 12 rebounds and added 4 steals, while Ellie Drummond scored 6 points and had 4 steals and Zoe Schneider chipped in a basket.

Big Second Half Carries Fowler Past Laingsburg Girls, 50-28

by Tom Turek

LAINGSBURG -- A big second half rallied the Fowler Eagles to a 50-28 CMAC girls basketball victory here January 29.

The win completed a 2024-25 sweep for the Eagles over the Wolfpack, as FHS climbed to 7-1 in the league, 9-1 overall. Coach Daniel Morrill's Wolves, who lost December 10 at Fowler, 64-53, fell to 7-4 overall, 6-3 in conference play.

For LHS, Brooklyn Holm led all scorers with 15 points and Payge Woodworth chipped in 8.

Fowler was led by Paige Thelen and Ella Hufnagel, each with 10 points.

OE Bowling

On Saturday, January 18th, the Marauders bowling team traveled to Colonial Lanes in Flushing. OE faced New Lothrop. The girls (14-16), and the boys (1-29). Scores for the girls: Kyra Pupava 115, Victoria Dennis 126, 170, Alexah Hickman 142, 150, Haylee Arnett 124, 148, Brooke Pugsley 167, 168, Abigale Orweller 148. For the boys, Peyton Holmes 158, Landyn Adkins 136, 156, Braydon Gruesbeck 212, 141, Devyn Pugsley 202, 181.

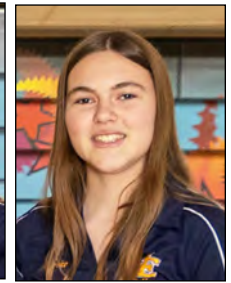
The Marauders next traveled to Richfield Bowl in Flint for a contest with Chesaning. The girls team beat Chesaning 30-0, the boys won 27-3. Scoring for the girls, Kyra Pupava 123, Victoria Dennis 120, Alex Hickman 148, Kaylee Arnette 137 and Brooke Pugsley 151, 188. For the boys, Damian Misener 136, Collin Julie 127, Landyn Adkins 143, Braydon Gruesbeck 147, 149, Devyn Pugsley 166, 210.

On Sunday, January 26th in Grand Blanc a Singles Tournament, with 85 girls and 132 boys took place. The format was 4 Peterson total pins to make the cut at 32. Placing for OE was Brooke Pugsley (16th), Devyn Pugsley (11th), Brayden Gruesbeck (9th). Second round format, four bowlers on a pair of lanes where 2 move on.

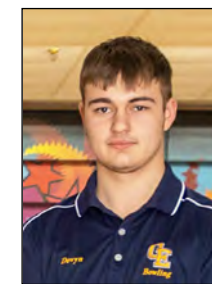
Scoring in the first round, B. Pugsley 157-195-169-192, D. Pugsley 231-219-162-213, B. Gruesbeck 222-143-257-209. All three went on to compete in the top 16 to bowl one game. Brooke 225, Devyn 248, Braydon 225. In the second round, Brooke and Devyn just missed advancing to the top 8. "Overall it was a great showing for both the girls and boys teams," said Coach Matt Fabus.



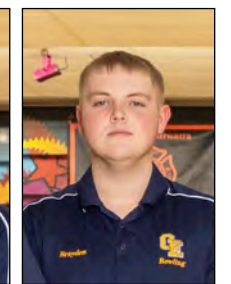
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Sports

Wolfpack Retains 2nd Place Standing in CMAC with League Wins

by Tom Turek

LAINGSBURG -- Laingsburg's boys basketball Wolfpack kept its grip firmly on 2nd place in the 2024-25 race with a trio of recent victories.

Coach Tim Beebe's Wolves -- the back-to-back defending CMAC champs -- have compiled a 7-3 record through ten league games, trailing only Pewamo-Westphalia at 11-0 (12-2 overall). LHS maintained a one-game advantage over 3rd place Portland St. Patrick (6-4, 7-5).

After a 0-4 start, the Wolfpack won 8 of its next 10 to improve to 8-6 overall as the regular season hits its homestretch.

In a 63-59 victory over St. Pats, the Wolves overcame a 31-21 halftime deficit behind 16 points from Mitchell George, Logan Holm 14, Dom Garcia 12, Jake Rivet 6, Waylon Rowley 5, Landon Freeman 4, Leandro Dolega-Caceres 5 and Greg Stewart two points.

After rally led LHS over Bath, 62-53, after trailing early 18-17. Kollin Bentley-Bar hit a pair of big three-balls in the third quarter, and George bucketed 9 of his 16 points in the pivotal third stanza. Garcia added 10 points, Dolega-Caceres 9, Rivet 7, Holm 7, Josiah Hawes 2 and Freeman 2 in a balanced scoring attack. The Bees fell to 5-5 in the circuit, 5-9 overall.

The Dansville Aggies faced a ferocious Wolfpack defense and went scoreless in the fourth quarter, managing just 20 points for the game, in a 65-20 defeat that kept the Aggies winless at 0-10, 0-16. Another balanced attack for LHS ended with Bentley-Barr scoring 13 points, Garcia 13, Dolega-Caceres 10, Rowley 7, Freeman 7, Everett Rodriguez 3, Holm 3, Logan West 3, Nate Malone 2 and Rivet 2 points.



#12 Waylon Rowley scores a layup during the St. Pats game

Photo by Burg Sports

Lady Marauders Stay on Title Track, Fend Off Durand, 46-40

DURAND -- The host Railroaders watched an early 12-6 lead vanish as Ovid-Elsie went on a 24-0 first half run, then held off Durand in a key MMAC girls basketball matchup here January 30.

O-E improved to 12-2 (10-1 MMAC) on the season and Durand dropped to 7-5 (6-5 MMAC).

Marauder freshman Kendal Tokar scored a career-high 19 points and junior Ashton Ehle made three 3-point baskets and finished with 14 points, as the visitors fended off late Durand rallies. The Railroaders tore off an 8-point run late to close within 43-38 with :42 seconds left.

The win keeps O-E in contention for a fourth straight MMAC regular season championship. Coach Shaun McKinney's Marauders currently sit one game behind New Lothrop (10-0) in the loss column. O-E will have a chance to avenge its sole MMAC loss this season — a 46-37 defeat at New Lothrop on Dec. 20 — on Monday.



Izzy Phillips heavily defended by Durand defenders.

Photo by Denise Burgess

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TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

The decedent, JEANNE KELLER-ANDERSON, died November 29, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jeremy Anderson, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 E. State St., St. Johns, MI 48879 and the personal representative within four months after the date of publication.

Jeremy Anderson
1725 Beach Drive
Crystal, MI 48818
(989) 854-2895

02/02)

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT CLINTON COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Trust

The MILLER FAMILY TRUST,

dated February 11, 2013

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

The decedent, RONALD W. MILLER, who lived at 1316 N. Grange Road, Fowler, Michigan 48835 Died August 8, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to the Trustees of the Miller Family Trust, dated February 11, 2013 within four months after the date of publication.

Lisa M. Warnke
5904 Essex Center Road
St. Johns, MI 48879
Sherry L. Barrett
14800 W. Parks Road
Fowler, MI 48835
(517) 331-0155

Wieber Prall Law, PC
Alexa B. Prall P83426
201 E. State Street
St. Johns, MI 48879
(989) 224-9449

02/02)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE

- CLINTON COUNTY 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 March 05, 2025. 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): Skyler Leona Castillo and Philip Castillo, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns Date of mortgage: July 15, 2022 Recorded on July 20, 2022, in Document No. 5327329, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Nationstar Mortgage LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Eighty-Six Thousand Eleven and 70/100 Dollars (\$86,011.70) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Clinton County, and described as: The East half of Lot 7, all of Lot 8, and the North 102 feet of the West 15 feet of Lot 9, Block 20, Village of Ovid, Clinton County, Michigan, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 21 of Plats, Page 367, Clinton County Records. Commonly known as 234 E Clinton St, Ovid, MI 48866 The redemption period will be 6 month 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

1552056
(02-02)(02-23)

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 March 5, 2025. 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. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Glenn Finch and Anette Finch, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns Foreclosing Assignee: (if any): PHH Mortgage Corporation, successor by merger to Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC Date of Mortgage: OCTOBER 21, 2010 Date of Mortgage Recording: NOVEMBER 1, 2010 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: \$91,740.89 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Olive, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at the North 1/4 corner of Section 9, Town 6 North, Range 2 West, Olive Township, Clinton County, Michigan, thence South 89 deg 48 min 14 sec West 300.00 feet; thence South 00 deg 11 min 29 sec East, 254.00 feet; thence South 39 deg 37 min 51 sec East, 299.09 feet; thence North 89 deg 48 min 14 sec East, 110.00 feet to a point on the North-South 1/4 line; thence North 00 deg 11 min 29 sec West along the North-South 1/4 line to the point of beginning. Common street address (if any): 1551 W Price Rd, Saint Johns, MI 48879-9273 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 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: February 2, 2025 Trott Law, P.C. 31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 642-2515 1551631 (02-02)(02-23)

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NOTICE OF MORTGAGE

FORECLOSURE SALE 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 February 26, 2025. 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 BARBARA L. COOK to PNC Mortgage, a division of PNC Bank, National Association dated March 26, 2014 and recorded April 2, 2014 as Instrument No. 5213159, Clinton County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by PNC Bank, National Association by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of \$40,490.39. Said premises are located in Clinton County, Michigan and are described as: ALL THAT PARCEL OF LAND IN CITY OF BATH, CLINTON COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS FOLLOWS: A PARCEL OF LAND IN SECTION 30, TOWN 5 NORTH, RANGE 1 WEST, BATH TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN: THE SURVEYED BOUNDARY OF SAID PARCEL BEING DESCRIBED BY MICHIGAN REGISTERED LAND SURVEY# 18998 AS COMMENCING AT THE WEST 1/4 CORNER OF SAID SECTION 30, THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 30, 451.29 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 34 SECONDS EAST, 33.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION; SAID POINT BEING ON THE EASTERLY ROW LINE OF CHANDLER ROAD; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 34 SECONDS EAST 200.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 100.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 34 SECONDS WEST 200.00 FEET TO THE POINT ON SAID EASTERLY ROW LINE OF CHANDLER ROAD; THENCE NORTH ALONG SAID, ROW LINE 100.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. BY FEE SIMPLE DEED FROM

ROSE LENORE COWLING AND DR. KATHLEEN MARIE COWLING AND ROBERT LEE COWLING, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP AND NOT AS TENANTS IN COMMON AS SET FORTH IN BOOK 682 PAGE 168 DATED 12/29/1995 AND RECORDED 01/05/1996, CLINTON COUNTY RECORDS, STATE OF MICHIGAN. Tax ID: 010-030-300-040-00 Said property is commonly known as 15379 Chandler Rd, Bath, MI 48808. The redemption period shall be 12 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. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: 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 COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: January 13, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 22-02437

(01-19)(02-09)

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CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

Notice of sale of real property taken on execution. Notice is given under section 6052 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.6052. On November 13, 2023, the 29th Judicial Circuit Court of Clinton County, in case number 2023-12353-CK, issued a judgment lien in favor plaintiff, John O'Bryan, and against the defendants, Amanda J. Gerding, et al. A court officer levied on the premises described below, and recorded a notice of levy on August 23, 2024, at document number 5347190.

Description of the premises: Situated in Township of Dewitt, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: A parcel of land in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 12, Town 5 North, Range 2 West, Dewitt Township, Clinton County, Michigan, the surveyed boundary of said parcel described as: commencing at the Northwest corner of said section 12; thence East along the North line of said Section 12, a distance of 464.88 feet to the point of beginning of the description; thence continuing East along said North line 150.00 feet; thence South perpendicular to said North line 323.40 feet; thence West parallel with North line 150.00 feet; thence North 323.40 feet to the point of beginning. Commonly known as: 3110 E. Howe Rd, Dewitt, MI 48820. The premises, or some part of them, will be sold at a public auction 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 a.m. on February 26, 2025. The amount claimed on the judgment as of the date of this notice is: Fifty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Eight and 87/100 (\$59,358.87) Dollars, excluding costs. Plaintiff may be entitled to additional interest and costs. The redemption period shall be one (1) year from the date of such sale in accordance with MCL 600.6062. Date of notice: January 12, 2025. Morris & Morris Attorneys, P.L.L.C. 3258 Broad Street, Suite 1, Dexter, MI 48130 (734) 221-0077.

(01-12)(02-16)

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 February 19, 2025. 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. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Christa Zaracki, an Unmarried Woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns Foreclosing Assignee: Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Date of Mortgage: September 22, 2020 Date of Mortgage Recording: October 22, 2020 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: \$100,277.81 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the City of Ovid, Clinton County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 15, and the East 1/2 of Lot 16, Block 19, City of Ovid, Clinton County, Michigan, according to recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 21 of Deeds, Page 367, Clinton County Records. Commonly Known as: 223 E Clinton St., Ovid, MI 48866 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act 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 Purchaser: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. 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 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: 01/19/2025 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 320055

(01-19)(02-09)

The Meridian Weekly



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NOTICE OF MORTGAGE SALE
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 March 12, 2025. 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 RONALD G. REAVES AND SUE REAVES A/K/A SUSAN L. REAVES TO FIFTH THIRD BANK (WESTERN MICHIGAN) dated July 12, 2006 and recorded August 9, 2006 as Instrument No. 5104399, Clinton County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Fifth Third Bank, National Association by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of \$30,931.70. Said premises are located in Clinton County, Michigan and are described as: A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WATERTOWN, COUNTY OF CLINTON, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND KNOWN AS: BEING LOT NUMBER 64 IN HAWTHORNE HILLS NO. 1, WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN AS SHOWN IN THE RECORDED PLAT/MAP THEREOF IN LIBER 3 OF PLATS PAGE 4 OF CLINTON COUNTY RECORDS. Permanent Parcel Number: 150-200-000-064-00 Said property is commonly known as 9840 Looking Glass Brook Dr, Grand Ledge, MI 48837. 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. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: 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 COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: January 27, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 24-36130

(02-02)(02-23)

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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CLINTON COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO and JUDGE: 24-32408-DE Hon. Lisa Sullivan
Estate of Bernice Irene Boris,
decedent
Date of Birth: August 29, 1944
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The
decedent, Bernice Irene Boris, decedent, died September 14, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Mabelle Irene Gregg, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 E. State St., St. Johns, MI 48879 and the personal representative within four months after the date of publication.**

Thav, Ryke & Associates
Abraham A. Snyder P77521
24725 W 12 Mile Rd#110
Southfield, MI 48034
(248) 945-1111
Mabelle Irene Gregg
6732 Belfast Dr.
Laingsburg, MI 48848
(517) 897-1027
02/02)



VFW District 9 Commander Aaron McClung, Brayden Gruesbeck, Dana Blank (Not Pictured Cadi Drayton)

VFW District 9 Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Teacher of the Year Awards

submitted by Aaron McClung

On January 11th, 2025, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan District 9 held their annual Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Teacher of the Year awards banquet at the Fred. E. Richards Post 305 in St. Louis, MI.

This year, Dana Blank was awarded Teacher of the year for the High School Division representing VFW Ovid Memorial Post 8964 and the Ovid-Elsie School District, also representing the Ovid- Elsie School District was Cadi Drayton (not pictured) on behalf of Owosso VFW Post 9455.

Cadi Drayton was selected as the District Teacher of the Year for elementary school division. Both teachers will move on to the state level this weekend in Kalamazoo, MI during the VFW Department of Michigan Mid-Winter Conference.

Brayden Gruesbeck was awarded 5th place at the district level for the Voice of Democracy youth scholarship program representing VFW Ovid Memorial Post 8964.

Ashley FFA Hosted FFA Leadership District

submitted by Amber McAllister

The Ashley FFA hosted FFA Leadership District on Wednesday January 29th. There were six districts in attendance including Alma, Ashley, Breckenridge, Chesaning, Coleman, and St. Louis.

Ashley results were as follows:

Job Interview - Tristan Ringle Gold 3rd Place Regional Alternate

Creed Speaking - Caiden Russell Gold 3rd Place Regional Alternate; Mayson Giles Silver 4th Place

Extemporaneous Speaking - Gibson Jason Gold 3rd Place Regional Alternate

Demonstration - Robert Kral, Lee Follett, and Owen Crumbaugh Gold 1st Place District Winner

Prepared Public Speaking - Gavin Malek Gold 1st Place District Winner, Seth Stahr Gold 2nd Place moving on to Regionals.

Congratulations to all teams!



(l-r): Advisor Amber McAllister, Owen Crumbaugh, Robert Kral, Gavin Malek, Lee Follett, Seth Stahr, Mayson Giles, and Caiden Russell

(l-r): Advisor Amber McAllister, Gavin Malek, and Seth Stahr



(l-r): Advisor Amber McAllister, Robert Kral, Lee Follett, and Owen Crumbaugh



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Pick Your Own Produce at The Elsie Area Food Pantry

submitted by Toni Ornelas

The Elsie Area Food Pantry is pleased to announce the addition of a new program. The “Pick Your Own Produce” distribution will take place at the Elsie Area Food Pantry, 219 S Ovid Street in Elsie. The first three dates for this event are February 13th and March 13th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

A complete schedule for this program is available at the pantry. Individuals will be able to select produce and bakery items that fit their needs from an available inventory.

