



(l-r): Damien Miller, in front Case Miller, Kortney Miller, Jane Miller, Scott Miller, Braelynn Holmes, in front Paisley Miller, Randi Holmes, Kenleigh Holmes, Annistyn Holmes

Courtesy photo

Scott Miller Builds Farming Legacy. Master Farmers: The Fourth-Generation Elsie-area Farmer is Grounded in Family

by Jennifer Kiel, Farm Progress

First published online at MichiganFarmer.com and in the February issue of *American Agriculturist*.

“When you’ve got skin in the game, you learn how to do things quickly,” says Scott Miller, who purchased his first farm at age 19.

It’s been a whirlwind since, with some setbacks and triumphs along the way. But with great pride, Scott says he’s exactly where he wants to be.

After Scott graduated high school, his father, Walter, asked him what he was going to be. “I said, ‘a farmer,’ and my dad said, ‘There’s a farm for sale, you ought to go buy it,’” Scott recalls. “I signed my life away to the Federal Land Bank at the time.”

Starting with 146 acres in 1984, a house and a few outbuildings, Scott went to work building his operation alongside his high school sweetheart and new bride, Jane. They lived through the high interest rates of the 1980s.

“Things were not good, but it was a great time to buy ground and, thankfully, my dad encouraged me,” Scott says. “Even though interest was high, land was cheap. If anything came up for sale, I made my best effort to buy it. I also rented more ground.”

To survive, they made interest-only payments. Scott drove a semitruck and bailed straw, while Jane worked long hours as a hairstylist. “I literally would do anything to make a buck to keep going,” says Scott, who notes there were times when being in business was questionable. “But farming is a lifestyle you can’t get anywhere else. I don’t care where you go — that’s what keeps you moving forward.”

Today, Scott, a fourth-generation farmer, is growing corn, soybeans and some wheat on 2,900 acres in four counties: Shiawassee, Clinton, Saginaw and Gratiot. Jane is retired and now works alongside Scott on the farm.

Together, they have a daughter, Randi, 38, and a son, Damien, 35, and they wholeheartedly welcomed five grandchildren in recent years. Damien joined the operation 12 years ago after graduating college and spending a few years as a survey engineer.

Both Jane and Scott grew up on farms. “I was my dad’s shadow 24-7,” Scott says. “My grandpa, Ralph, too. It was amazing to work with them, and I learned a lot.”

Scott never worked for his dad or drew a paycheck, but they always worked together sharing equipment and labor. “It’s still the same with my son, who has his own ground, but we do everything together and utilize the economy of scale,” he explains.

Damien and his wife, Kortney, are farming about 400 acres and put up a contract-finishing hog facility five years ago. Manure that isn’t utilized on Damien’s ground is spread on Scott’s wheat acres to fill the potassium and phosphorus needs for a couple of years, as well as a portion of its nitrogen levels.

Having good neighbors and being a good neighbor are important to Scott.

“With the Swanson family, we are always there to help each other in times of need,” he says. “And with my agronomist, Ron Palmer, I didn’t realize how much I relied on him throughout my career until he retired about 10 years ago. He did so much for me as a farmer, but also as a person. I was kind of floundering until a young guy, Mike Becker, called on me. We fostered a relationship for about three years, and he didn’t try to sell me anything, which I thought was amazing. So, when Ron retired, he stepped in, and it’s been great.”

Farming smarter

Scott has evolved and embraced changes within agriculture, including the adoption of con-

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Village of Elsie Approves Deficit Elimination Plan to Address Financial Woes

by Dawn Levey

ELSIE – The monthly meeting of the Elsie Village Council was held Tuesday, March 11, 2025 officials once again addressed the financial issues facing the Village. Representative Steve Adair from the Woodhill Group outlined a plan of action.

Prior to the regular meeting a public hearing was held to finalize the adoption of the Brownfield plan, specifically as it applies to the former Elsie High School site. MEDC advised that this additional step be completed. Action was taken to adopt the resolution plan during the regular meeting.

The Woodhill Group represented by Steve Adair discussed the results of the budget workshop and presented the Village of Elsie deficit elimination plan that after approval will be forwarded to the State of Michigan for final approval. “Hard decisions are being made,” commented Adair. Noting that grants are being applied for to assist the Village.

Adair moved through the proposed FY 2025-26 budget, which must be passed by March 31, 2025 and implemented April 1. A public hearing is slated for 6:30 pm March 25, 2025, Duplain Township Hall 145 W Main, followed by the regular meeting to approve the budget. In, addition, he presented an overview of the budget. The entire budget was presented to officials, he recommended that officials take the time to read and prepare questions regarding the proposed budget. It was noted that the Village ended the year in a deficit. A balanced budget must be in place by April 1, 2025, the proposed budget is a balanced budget. Adair’s presentation was very detailed on the funding sources and legal details of the budget, part as an informational component for officials.

Adair noted that in the recent past a number of filings that secured revenue were late or not filed at all. Those that were late, funds were received after filing, those reports not filed monies were lost.

Investment accounts were liquidated in February 2025, thus revenue from interest will be very low in the proposed budget. The general fund was a major focus aligning expenditures with anticipated revenue. Proposed best practices were included not because things were done wrong, but doing things differently. On the expenditure side no raises, no overtime that will be replaced with comp time up to 40 hours, reduction in contracted services. No capital outlay from the general fund. Revenues and expenditures have both come down with the actions taken.

Water and sewer funds are severely under funded with major infrastructure needs. Rates are going to have to increase. Recommended utility rate increases, sewer and water. There has been a history of chronic underbilling. Recommended billing for water/sewer is every two-month cycle, garbage could drop 6%, ready to serve sewer rates to increase 28.9% and water 21.15%. Noting eliminating the free water to prevent freezing in the winter, and watering yards in the summer will be necessary. An average increase of about \$321 per year per household for sewer and water is being proposed. Action will be taken on March 25th.

Adair presented a five-year deficit elimination plan. Noting that the 2025 budget ended in a deficit and the 2025-26 budget begins in deficit, a five-year plan is mandated by the State of Michigan. The plan adheres to a strict budget. A resolution was presented for approval. Deficit of approximately \$35,000 is reflected in the 2024-25 budget. Projecting a positive fund balance at the end of 2026. In 2021 the Village of Elsie had a healthy fund balance. The village heading to recovery in 2029, 25% fund balance is the goal. With the recommendations a slow and steady recovery is anticipated. In 2027 recommending a financial controller be added to the staff which the budget will support. Possible recovery in the future with elimination of overtime, no raises in 2025 but will be reinstated in 2026; and rate increases to water and sewer were proposed.

The two-year plan reflects reporting to the State of Michigan, as required, a monthly forecast of the trends regarding the Village of Elsie.

Jason Freeman, Village President, commented that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Next, reports regarding Clinton Area Ambulance Service, Kory Witt reported that the service is in the process of updating the articles of incorporation and bylaws. In addition, the community paramedicine program is moving forward. Hiring and firing was also discussed determining who has the authority. The CAAS 2025-26 FY budget was presented and approved.

Todd Carroll updated officials on the status of the Village involvement in the Elsie Area Fire Department and Association. Progress is heading in the right direction. The building was discussed, with little or no negotiations, purchase or a one-year lease has been offered \$1,250 monthly plus utilities. No decisions at this time. Discussion followed. The consensus is that the community wants the department to stay in the village limits.

Finally, Dorothy Ornelas, updated officials on Hero’s Park Committee and Scripture Brick Committee. Ornelas reported that there are six people interested in being on the committee and the committee will look at fundraising opportunities for brick installation. A meeting will be set in the near future. Jim Hyland, original supporter, voiced his suggestions for the park. Members of the committee are: Mike White, Scott Hall, Dorothy Ornelas, Caleb Paguet, Bethany Bryce, and Ben Devries.

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Soup & Sandwich Luncheon

Please join us for Soup & Sandwich Luncheon at Bannister United Methodist Church on Tuesday, March 18th starting at noon. This will be the final S&S Lunch for the season. Free will offering. Join us at 103 E. Hanvey, Bannister! We will save you a seat!!

*I May Be Crazy, But it Keeps Me
From Going Insane!
MY LITTLE GIRL*

*The first time that I held you and
looked into your eyes
I knew how much I loved you. I didn't realize
how each day would be special, no matter what
we'd do, what a special gift I had the day
God gave me, you.*

BID FOR SCIOTA TOWNSHIP CEMETERY SEXTON:
Sciota Township is accepting bids through Wednesday, April 9th 2025, for a 4-year cemetery sexton contract. Position includes interment for burial of cremains or caskets and knowledge of cemetery laws and burial procedures. Requires independent judgment in determining methods of completion to carry out assignments. Duties include working knowledge of techniques, materials and practices of gravesite interment; interaction with funeral directors and families, either in person, by telephone, or in writing concerning burial directives for cremains or caskets. Installs markers and headstone monument foundations, provides burial information to the township clerk for record keeping purposes. Coordinates with branches of the military for the delivery of military markers and marker installation. Must be available to work Saturdays, Sundays, and holiday weekends, if necessary. Some proficiency with computer skills is necessary for public communication and invoicing. Submit full name, home address, email address, and 10-digit telephone number with dates of applicable experience and summary of work performed, 2 letters of reference, proof of license and insurance, along with proposed fees/rates for the following work services.

SERVICE	RATE
Foundations (Marker size plus 2" border) quote \$ per square inch	
Coordination of and Installation of Military markers	
Opening and Closing Regular Burial (Weekdays, Year-around)	
Opening and Closing Regular Burial (Sat-Sun and Holidays)	
Opening and Closing Child Burial (Weekdays, Year-around)	
Opening and Closing Child Burial (Sat-Sun and Holidays)	
Opening and Closing Cremains (Weekdays, Year-around)	
Opening and Closing Cremains (Sat-Sun and Holidays)	

Bids are due Wednesday, April 9th at 5:00 p.m. Must include proof of license and insurance with bid. Criminal background clearance required post offer.
Email or send via USPS mail to: Sciota Township Clerk, 8430 W Parker Rd., Laingsburg MI 48848-9640.

Jamie Parker-Wing
Sciota Township Clerk
Email: clerk@sciotatownship.net
Office: 517-651-5286

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Social

Easter Egg Time

It's that time of year again! We are in need of CANDY and MONETARY Donations for our Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt at Ovid Healthcare Center.

Plases drop your donations at the front desk at 9480 E. M-21, Ovid or call 989-834-2228 for a pick up.

We Thank You for your Generosity!

The Easter Egg Hunt is planned for Saturday, April 12, 2025.

If you are sending a check please write it out to Jill March.

Ovid Carriage Days Meeting

It's that time of year. The Ovid Carriage Days Committee will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, March 19th at 6pm at City Hall. The committee is asking people to come and share their opinions on the last Septembers one day event. Plans for the 2025 Carriage Days will start in April, and the committee needs to hear from those who attended last year. The one day event last year had many positive comments but organizers are interested in and looking for suggestions as to how to make the event even better.



Elsie American Legion 1950s Dance

by Brian Valentine

The Elsie American Legion is hosting a 1950s Dance on Saturday April 5, 2025. Although this is a fundraiser for our building repairs, we would like to invite everyone to attend and have some fun. The Dance starts at 6 pm to 10 pm. Concessions, Door Prizes, 50/50 drawings at 8 pm and 10pm, Prize for best dressed 50s outfit. Come support your local veterans and have fun doing it!

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Elsie Library Adventures

submitted by Ann Trierweiler

The "March is Reading Month" program has been running for a couple of weeks. The crafts and snacks are a hit with the children, but my favorite part is watching them find the picture of the day. There is a drawing for the children that find the picture. They win the stuffed animal from the story. We still have "The Berenstain Bears", "Snoopy", and "Curious George" left to read. We would love to see you here for the program. Spoiler!!! This next craft is a make-your-own snack!!!

There were four winners of the Bingo Challenge. Their pictures and prizes are on Facebook. It was a fun challenge. Only two adults completed the challenge...our books are a tad longer, I guess. Maybe next year we will give the children some competition?

The Book Club has been reading some very interesting books. Being part of this book club has greatly expanded my typical reading choices. Our next book is an autobiography. I am excited to read this, but I also have some trepidation. The book is written by a woman who was raised in a form of isolation one hears of, but seldom encounters. Her escape from this world and her path through a new life and higher education are certainly read worthy.

Soon we will be ready to start designing new bookmarks. There is only one left from last year at the front desk. You can draw, color, stamp, make fingerprint animals...maybe vegetable art? It is fun to see the results and vote on the winners from each age group...You don't have to be "crafty" to make your mark...bookmark.

It is always fun to help our patrons find that book or item they are trying to find. Come on in and let us get to know you. We are here to help.

Don't forget we have Potter Park Zoo passes. The weather is finally warming. I think.

Village of Ashley Casino Bus Trip

The Village of Ashley Country Christmas Fundraiser, Casino Bus Trip to Firekeepers in Battle Creek will be held on Saturday, April 5th.

Bus pick up point will be in Ashley at noon.

The cost is \$55. You will receive \$20 in free play, \$5 promo. Raffles on the bus 1225 Train Quilt, homemade 2-North Pole Express train tickets for the 2025 season and more.

Seats are limited.

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Spring Farm Section

Miller... continued from front page

servation practices and technology to farm smarter, from years of using a moldboard plow and conventional tillage, to now minimum till and some no-till.

"We were 100% no-till at times, but we strip-till most of our corn acres and heavy ground now," he says. "We're putting fertilizer in the root zone to prevent any runoff."

The farm is environmentally verified through the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program.

Last fall, Scott planted a test plot of twin rows of wheat, which will be seeded with soybeans in the spring. In July, the wheat is harvested, and soybeans take over. "It's our third attempt for two crops because we're too far north to truly double-crop," he explains.

He's not afraid to take calculated risks, but his memory won't let him forget his grandpa's teachings. "He had gone through the Depression, was very intelligent, and a stickler for details," Scott says. "His motto was, 'You can't afford to make all your mistakes yourself; you have to learn from other people's mistakes.' And we live by that to this day."

All corn is dried on-farm, and they recently added storage for a 250,000-bushel capacity. With margins tight, Scott has a keen eye on return on investment.

"Both Grandpa and Dad always said storage and tile are good investments," he says. "Normally, we can store 100% of our crops, but we had some really good yields this year — probably the best we've ever had — so we had to shut down and ship some out to make room to finish. It's a good problem, but unfortunately, we took a bath on basis."

Giving back

As a couple in 2000, Scott and Jane completed the Michigan Soybean Young Leaders Academy. Scott has served on the Michigan Corn Board for several decades.

"As a lifetime member and former president of the Michigan Corn Growers Association, Scott has tirelessly worked to advance the needs of Michigan corn growers," says his Master Farmer nominator Matt Frostic, chair of the Michigan Corn Growers Association and member of the corn board of the National Corn Growers. "His contributions extend to the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan board, where he plays a crucial role in shaping policy and marketing strategies. His leadership was significant to the establishment of the first ethanol plant in Caro, a testament to his vision for sustainable agriculture."

Scott has also served on his township board and Farm Bureau boards, both at the state and county level. Beyond state lines, He represented the U.S. Grains Council on a mission trip to Japan and has lobbied for Michigan corn growers in Washington, D.C.

Family and football

Scott lost his mother seven years ago, but his dad is still a source of strength. "Thank the good Lord, Dad is almost 90, still drives, and has a fantastic memory," Scott says. "He is an eternal optimist with a smile that never quits. I vent to Jane, and I bounce ideas off my dad — it's a great mix."

Succession plans are in place. Scott has no plans to retire, but he would like to slow down. "We have plans to move, and Damien and Kortney will move in here," he says. "But I'm always going to show up to work, as long as they will have me around. I built something here that will live on, and I'm happy my son has the same passion."

No feature on Scott Miller would be complete without mentioning his love of high school football. Scott played in high school and went back to his alma mater as a freshman coach for a short stint. However, balancing it with his young family and the farm was too much. He was



Photo by Jennifer Kiel, reprinted with permission from Michigan Farmer/Farm Progress

pleased to return as the varsity defensive coach in 2004, just as Damien was entering high school.

"It was so much fun to experience that with him," says Scott, noting they were conference champs and made many runs in the playoffs. In 2008, just after Damien graduated, the team made it to the finals at Ford Field. "I looked around, and the whole town was in the stands," he says. "That's when I learned it's much bigger than football."

Damien went on to play football at Ferris State University, while Randi, a high school state cheerleading champion, cheered at Grand Valley State University and is now a registered nurse. "Jane coached cheerleading for almost 13 years," Scott adds. "We cherish that time with family and following the kids with our motorhome and tailgate trailer."

Tragically over the years, the Millers lost three nephews at young ages. "It has sculpted how we look at things — life is too short," Scott says. "We like to travel and do fun things with our family. We buy memories instead of stuff. The combine can set there until we get back."

On occasion, all five grandchildren are on the farm. "They love it here, and we love that they are all so different. ... It keeps it fun," Scott says.

With his pilot's license, Scott and Jane fly to Gaylord frequently to visit Randi and participate in grandkid activities. "There's nothing better than to watch your kids grow into parents, and we're so proud of them," Scott says. "It's our biggest accomplishment."

Scott Miller at a glance

Farm: Miller Family Farms, 2,900 acres of corn, soy, wheat and hogs

Ag and community: County Farm Bureau, 15 years as board member and executive committee; multiple trips to Washington, D.C., and Lansing to lobby on behalf of Michigan Farm Bureau; 25 years with Michigan Corn Growers Association; Corn Marketing of Michigan board member, with many trips to Washington, D.C., and Lansing; co-chair of the Michigan Farm Produce Insurance Board for eight years; township trustee for 15 years; and football coach for 13 years

Awards: American Soybean Association Young Leader Award, Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Achievement Award, MCGA Distinguished Service Award



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Spring Farm Section

Ashley FFA Attends State Convention

submitted by Amber McAllister

Ashley FFA had a great experience at this year's State Convention. Ten members were in attendance. The chapter engaged in tours of the Turfgrass and Agronomy Farm, enjoyed a team dinner at Buffalo Wild Wings, and had an ice cream treat at the famous MSU Dairy Store.

Students also enjoyed listening to the State Officer's retiring addresses with messages on personal journeys and leadership. Ashley sent two delegates to attend the capital tour and handle voting obligations for this year's officers. Not only did they have a wonderful time engaging in the educational aspects, the chapter brought home a number of awards.

The chapter received National Chapter with a bronze rating and Superior Chapter. Chapter President and Region 3 Representative Gibby Jason received his Outstanding Junior Award, Academic Excellence Silver, and a Gold in the Proficiency of Diversified Crop Management. State Degrees were awarded to seniors Lee Follett and Gavin Malek. Finally, Ashley sent two members as qualifiers in the Prepared Public Speaking Contest. Gavin Malek brought home a Silver and Seth Stahr a Bronze.



Group Picture at the Turfgrass Farm



Group Photo at the Agronomy Farm (Left to Right: Seth Stahr, Mayson Giles, Caiden Russell, Gavin Malek, Robert Kral, Carson Litwiller, and Lee Follett)



State Degrees Gavin Malek and Lee Follett



Members that attended the Capitol Tour Gibby Jason and Tristan Ringle



Junior Gibby Jason



Public Speaker Gavin Malek

(r): Public Speaker Seth Stahr





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Ovid-Elsie FFA Chapter Members Receive Multiple State Recognitions

submitted by Trinity Ziola, Ovid-Elsie FFA Chapter Parliamentarian

On March 5th, 6th, and 7th, the Ovid-Elsie FFA traveled to the campus of Michigan State University for the 97th Michigan FFA State Convention. The FFA Chapter and its members brought home numerous awards. Ovid-Elsie FFA is proud of the hard work by its members and that was rewarded at the 97th Michigan FFA State Convention.

Ovid-Elsie Junior High FFA had a very impressive representation at the Michigan FFA State Convention. The Conduct of Meetings team competed in the state finals, received a gold award and were named the Michigan FFA State Winners. Those team members were: Lily Miller, Sofia Connelly, Audrey Allen, Nolan Moore, Sarah Clark, Liam Fabus and Elizabeth Kebler and KyLynn Salyer. Additionally, Rebecca Lehman competed in the state semi-finals of the Junior High Public Speaking Contest and she received a silver award. Sofia Connelly and Lily Miller presented and won in the Arthur Berkeley Agriscience Fair in the Plant Systems: Division II.

Individual Ovid-Elsie FFA members were recognized during the Convention week. Trinity Ziola, Cheyenne Kline, Joseph Kioski, Corbyn Janes, Jamie Houska, James Kelly, and Harris Evans received the highest honor given by the Michigan FFA Association, the State FFA Degree. Several Ovid-Elsie FFA members received the Michigan FFA Outstanding Junior Award for meeting the requirements set by the Michigan FFA Association. Those members include: Jillian Williams, Alexis Lucier, Hunter Long, Danica Bancroft, Joshua Miller, and Clarissa Baese. Ovid-Elsie FFA members received recognition for their high academic achievement. Juniors receive silver and seniors receive gold-level status. Corbyn Janes and James Kelly were honored with the Gold (senior grade level) award for academic excellence while Clarissa Baese, Joshua Miller and Danica Bancroft received Silver.

Danica Bancroft, Joshua Miller, and Alexis Lucier were chosen to represent the Ovid-Elsie FFA Chapter as a delegate to the State FFA Association. These members traveled to the Michigan Capitol in Lansing with other FFA members from across the State, to meet with Michigan legislators. They also had the opportunity to vote on the 2025-2026 Michigan FFA Association State Officer Team.

Multiple members were recognized for the state proficiency awards in each of their respective SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) areas. Abigail Lehman received a silver award for her proficiency in Diversified Livestock Production. Meadow Evans received a silver award for Sheep Production and Joshua Miller earned silver for Fiber and Oil Production. Clarissa Baese received a gold award for her proficiency in Dairy Production Placement. Joshua Miller received a scholarship for the Washington Leadership Conference, and James Kelly and Jacob Miller served as Courtesy Corps. Also, the chapter got recognition for the Superior Chapter Award, and the Crop Management Team got an award for coming in 2nd in the corn division of the Crop Management Contest.

The chapter is very proud of all of the accomplishments of its members.



State Degrees (l-r): James Kelly, Corbyn Janes, Joseph Kioski, Harris Evans, Jamie Houska, Trinity Ziola, Cheyenne Kline



Outstanding Juniors (l-r): Jillian Williams, Alexis Lucier, Joshua Miller, Danica Bancroft, Clarissa Baese

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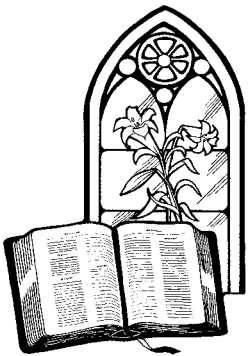
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VILLAGE OF ELSIE
PUBLIC HEARING
FY 2025-2026 BUDGET

March 25, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the Duplain Township Hall
145 W. Main St. Elsie, MI 48831
I. PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA: Discussion on FY 2025-2026 Budget
II. PUBLIC COMMENT:
III. ADJOURNMENT

*****Public will be allowed 3 minutes to address their concerns
to Village Council. *****



“Grief is like the ocean. It comes on waves
ebbing and flowing.
Sometimes the water is calm, and some-
times it is overwhelming.
All we can do is learn to swim.”

~Vicki Harrison



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Obituaries

Beverly Ann Harris

Beverly Ann Harris, age 91, of Bath, MI, passed away
Thursday, March 6, 2025.

Beverly was born in Blanchard, Michigan on April 20,
1933, the daughter of Glenn Vernon and Mary I. (Cummings)
Olger. In August of 1949, she married Alfred Harris. Alfred
passed away on October 20, 2024.

Beverly enjoyed bird watching and reading books on differ-
ent species of birds. She loved listening to country music.
Beverly's family was dearest to her heart.

She is survived by her daughter Pamela Watson of DeWitt,
MI; daughter Kristi Harris of Bath, MI; daughter Patricia
Spagnuolo of Bath, MI; daughter-in-law Victoria Harris of St.
Johns, MI; 11 grandchildren: Sherry (Kirk) Wurm, Bill
(Corissa) Harris, Shannon (Erik) Bonga, Bradley (Mallorie)
Harris, Beverly (Tim) Blair, Fred (Darcy) Willson, Ashleigh
(Kris) Sysak, Matthew (Dani) Spagnuolo, Jonathon (Danielle) Spagnuolo, and William
Spagnuolo; many great-grandchildren and a few great-great-grandchildren. Beverly was preced-
ed in death by her loving husband, Alfred (Poncho), her beloved children: William Harris and
Kathy Willson, son-in-law James Willson, grandson Michael Watson, great-grandson Nicholas
Lester also her brothers and sisters.

Funeral Services will be held at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns,
MI, at 1:00 P.M. on Sunday, March 16, 2025, with Beverly's family officiating. Burial will take
place at Rose Cemetery, Bath, MI. Visitation will be held on Sunday, March 16, 2025, from
12:00 P.M. until the time of service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital. Online condolences can be sent to
www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral
Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns, Michigan.



John Carleton Elliott

John Carleton Elliott, Sr., 84, of Champion, MI, left his earth-
ly home for his Heavenly home on March 4, 2025.

He was born on May 15, 1940, in Grand Rapids, MI. After
high school, John enlisted into the Air Force. After discharge, he
joined the Michigan National Guard, where he dutifully served
and retired after his commitment. John also retired from the
Michigan State Police, where he worked as a state trooper as a fin-
gerprint specialist.

John enjoyed competitive shooting, keeping up on his
weapons skills, making pasties with his church family in
Champion, and military history.

He is survived by his son, John (Shelly) Elliott, Jr.; daughter,
Joni (Gary) Williams, granddaughters Elizabeth (Jesse) Piippo
and Alicia Elliott; grandson, Benjamin Williams; great-grandchil-
dren Rochelle, Travis, and Hazel and his girlfriend, Elaine
Matznick, and his furry son, Rocky. He is preceded in death by both of his parents, his wife,
Lorraine Elliott, and sister, Kathy (Robert) Thatcher.

John did not want a funeral service. The family will come together at a later time for a small
Celebration of Life.



Phyllis Ann Straw

Phyllis Ann Straw, a longtime resident of LeRoy and Cadillac,
died peacefully on March 5, 2025 at Addie's Acres in DeWitt.

Born in Bridgeport, Michigan on December 13, 1928, Phyllis
was the oldest of three children born to Harold and Lorraine (Nass)
Irish. Following graduation from Ovid High School in 1947, she
married Keith A. Frisbie on June 26, 1947.

They welcomed their only son, Richard Lee, into their home
and in 1957 moved to LeRoy to operate a local motel and restau-
rant. In 1963 they were divorced.

Phyllis worked at J.C.Penney Co., Kickaway Garments, Goss
Canvas and Rexair in the Shipping and Receiving office. Then on
June 4, 1977 she married Mervin D. Straw and they lived in
Saginaw. Following his retirement, they moved to their retirement
home on Goose Lake in LeRoy.

She was a lifetime member of The United Church of Ovid. She
enjoyed sewing, any kind of knitting or crocheting. Phyllis liked playing cards and enjoyed
Bingo with her special Bingo friends in LeRoy and Cadillac.

Phyllis is survived by her daughter in-law, JoAnn Miltner, step son, David Straw, step daugh-
ter, Janet Westendorf, three grandsons, several nieces and nephews as well as two special friends
she considered part of her family, Bob & Nancy Lockhart.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Keith (1975), Merv (2004), son, Richard (2003),
father, Harold (1989), mother, Lorraine (1997) sister and brother in-law, Barbara (2000) and Bob
(2003) Taft, brother and sister in-law, Keith (2024) and Shirley (2014) Irish of Ovid.

A funeral service was held Friday, March 14, 2025 at Peterson Funeral and Cremation
Services, 205 E Cass St, Cadillac, with Pastor Ron Sischo officiating.

Entombment will be at Oakwood Memorial Mausoleum, 5950 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw, MI
48603.

Memorial contributions may be made in her name to LeRoy-Rose Lake Fire Department or
Osceola County Animal Control. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.



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Editorial

Obituaries



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

Another week has passed and spring seems to be making a great effort to arrive early this year. The sunsets have been spectacular this past week. The pinks, the blues, and white with the sunlight giving a beautiful hue to the western sky. Very beautiful in contrast with the black shadows of the trees and bushes west of me. As I look through my sliders I can even see illuminating lavenders. Yup, spring is trying to make her debut. Which brings to mind another mystery concerning my English Ivy house plant that originated as a gift from old and elderly neighbors that gave a start to my Mother in the mid-fifties. My Mom nurtured the ivy and gave starts to all that were interested. Of course I was given a start and passed numerous starters to family and friends. About a year ago mine bit the dust, fortunately the ones that I gave my granddaughter and daughter still thrived. Diane restarted one for me and an amazing thing happened. Mine has blossomed. This is a first for me and those that I have checked with, also agree to their knowledge it has never happened previously. So of course, I needed to do a little research. What I have found is that occasionally the ivy will blossom, providing the potting soil is rich, the light is consistent but low, and the temperature is between fifty and sixty degrees. If all of these conditions are in place then a plant of eight to ten years might bloom. My plant is only eight weeks old, but the temperature is within the needed range and the lighting in the west end of the living room seems to be perfect. Interesting things do happen.

On Saturday after the shop was closed I headed up to my granddaughter's home. I took up Isabella's birthday present and watched Diane and Ryan finish frosting and decorating the cake. I sat there sipping coffee and enjoying my visit. Suddenly it was about 2:30 and I had been waiting for the arrival of Brent so that I could follow him to visit his step-mother. Fortunately my memory was doing well and I managed to get to Robin's without a hitch. Brent left shortly after I arrived and I did chide him for forgetting that we were to meet up at two. Life is what it is...

Robin and I headed east towards St Louis. I was going to get the grand tour of her new home. She had recently moved into a 'Fifty-five and up community'. She has moved from her three acre parcel filled with both black walnut and evergreens to a lovely plot with few shadows and a small easy to care yard. Her new home is a charming three bedroom ranch with an attached two car garage. It is warm and welcoming just like Robin. As an aside, the master bedroom has a huge walk-in closet, and there are only two bedrooms, the third has become the craft room. All and all, a very delightful home.

On Sunday I was ready for church but failed to make it again. I had been accumulating boxes of food, clothes, shoes, bedding, paper products and personal hygiene products and a few tools for the Carolina's. Unfortunately it took longer to get things loaded in a timely manner. Mostly I putzed around for the rest of the day which was beautiful. I did get some of the branches picked up and moved to my burn pile. I played with the cats and gave Pru the chance to play in the yard until she was ready to go back into the house to rest.

Tuesday morning I went to my 'cook & prod' which did a wonderful job of limbering up my muscles and removing a few of the remaining knots. I thoroughly enjoyed the dry sauna and Ashley did a wonderful job of massaging my muscles. When Ashley finished I was ready for a lovely nap and looking forward to making Prudence happy. She was thrilled that my lap was at her beck and call.

Did I mention that Pru might be rather spoiled. She's earned it.

Today after I left the shop I had an appointment with my dermatologist. Currently my facade is red and covered with blisters. I do hope that I will heal as fast as the last 'go a round'. Hopefully I won't need to do this again for another twenty years. A blessing that is currently in a painful state. May you be blessed with good health and interesting view. May God bless you.

Crystal Mitchell©2025

Response to the Weekly Sportsman Articles

Letter to the Editor:

In recent articles of the Weekly Sportsman, it appears to me that Dan McMaster is using the sportsman as a platform for gun proponents at any cost.

His December 8, 2024 article was pushing back on HB4127 and 4128 to expand gun free zones at polling places and absentee drop off zones. SB 857 and 858 bills that prohibit carry at the State Capital buildings. Also HB 5450 and 5451 to have school districts distribute materials on gun storage laws. He also pushed back on legislations to prohibit bump stocks and ghost guns. What do any of these bills have to do with sportsman?

Dan's article on February 23, 2025 was another article that had nothing to do with sportsman, at least I hope we have not evolved to classifying long shot assassination of people even in wartime as sporting! The entire article could and my have been pulled from a military type magazine.

His last week article was all about a new gun that he has acquired, or should I say three of the same he has acquired. Reading how the gun could be used gives me pause, this gun through described as a pistol, is not much more than as formally described, a sawed off shot gun. He described it being "serve well tucked into the front of a survival flight vest or kept as a truck gun. The way it was described, it sound like it could be easily hidden in a truck. It may be that's why they gave the gun the title of Brawler!

As far as sportsman is considered I would rather hear about the wolves heading across the frozen Great Lakes or the cougar that family took pictures of with their trail cams.

I would hope the Meridian Weekly would restrict the use of "The Weekly Sportsman" to its stated topic.

Bill Kline
Middlebury Township

Susan Lyn Keys

Susan Lyn Keys, age 69, of Lansing, Michigan, passed away Sunday, March 9, 2025, at University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Lansing, Michigan.

Susan was born in LaFayette, IN, on December 20, 1955, the daughter of Arthur Wallace and Carol June (Plantenga) Canard. She graduated from St. Paul High School, Minneapolis, MN with the Class of 1973. On June 30, 1984, Susan married John "Jack" B. Keys at River Terrace Christian Reformed Church, East Lansing, Michigan. They were blessed with forty years of marriage.

Susan was a paralegal for Attorneys Jack Davis and J. V. Anderton at the Loomis Law Firm in Lansing for over forty-two years. She worked in taxes and retirement and greatly enjoyed her relationship with many clients, especially Steve Smith.

Susan enjoyed camping and traveling with her husband and friends. They camped all around Michigan, but especially enjoyed Lake Charlevoix. Their travels included Charleston, NC; Seattle, WA; Minneapolis, MN; Tampa, FL; and Kansas City, MO. Her favorite hobbies were reading, sewing, and raising Samoyeds. They were members of Delta Presbyterian Church for over the last decade.

She is survived by her husband Jack, dog Katie, sisters: Sheila Canard of Minneapolis, MN, Kelly (Vince) Stashko, of Fenton, MI, and Ginger (Paul) DeVries of Bellflower, CA; nieces and nephews: Eric Stashko, Sean Stashko, Kelsey DeVries, Peter DeVries, Spencer Bowles-Keys, and David (Felicia) Keys; great nephews: Steven (Lauren) Keys, and Brandon (Kristyn) Keys; great-great nephew and niece Alexander Keys and Isabella Keys. She was preceded in death by her parents, stepson Kyle Keys, Jack's parents Sidney and Neva Keys, and niece Debbie Keys.

A Memorial Service will be held at Delta Presbyterian Church, 6100 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan, at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, March 29, 2025, with Pastor Ben Rumbaugh officiating. Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery, Elsie, Michigan at a later date.

Memorials may be made the Capital Area Humane Society. Online condolences may be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



Editorial

Late Season Small Game

Michigan hunters have only two weeks left to hunt rabbit and squirrel before the season closes for the next six months. If you want to stretch your legs from being confined all winter, now is the time to grab a rifle and head to the woods or fields to do some last minute freezer filling.

While the leaves are gone and the dried grass is matted down it is important to not underestimate your quarry. They may be hungry and scavenging for food as the spring green up happens but careless they are not. It is important to remember that success will increase by hunting food sources with the right gear.

Rabbits will more than likely be found on southern sunny slopes munching on fresh grass and other green vegetative growth as it slowly emerges from winter. Find a wheat or rye field near some thorns and thickets and don't be surprised when rabbits are caught in the open nibbling on tender growth. Squirrels will be digging up acorns and hickory nuts stored from last fall and of course nibbling on field corn kernels left in fields that did not receive fall tillage. If there were brush piles, fencrows, along with oak and hickory beds not previously hunted, consider that also as a viable option. It doesn't take much to educate these critters and they have grown very wary of not only hunters but also ground and avian predators.

Don't bother with typical spot and stalk methods. Pick a hill that overlooks an unhunted area or food source and use binoculars to locate squirrels and rabbits. Don't use the scope on your firearm like it is a pair of binoculars. An accurate scoped rimfire rifle chambered in .22 WMR, .17 HMR or .17 Mach2 should be adequate for late season hunting when equipped with a bi-pod and a 3x-9x or even 4x-12x powered scope. Make sure ammunition selected has gamepoint bullets that will anchor the animal but not overly damage the sought after meat. Bring along a canteen of water, paper towel, ziploc baggies, small knife and or some game shears to literally field dress and cool the meat. Even though the woods will probably be empty of others, make sure you wear a hat and other gear that are blaze orange not only for common sense and safety but because it is the law.

When you get home don't waste any time and get the meat prepared for the freezer by cleaning and quartering. There is nothing like pulled and shredded rabbit in a peppery cream sauce spread on crackers or bread. Squirrel is probably best used as a protein in asian or south of the border recipes. Don't be afraid to experiment and try new dishes.

-WS



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster

theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Spring Farm Section

Ovid-Elsie FFA... continued

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Junior High Conduct of Meetings (l to r): Audrey Allen, Sofia Connelly, Liam Fabus, Lily Miller, Elizabeth Kebler, KyLynn Salyer, Sarah Clark, Nolan Moore

Proficiency Awards



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Abigail Lehman



Clarissa Baese



Meadow Evans



Joshua Miller



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Spring Farm Section



Local Farmer at Denver Commodity Classic

by George Hubka/MG News Service

2017 Michigan Master Farmer Dave Williams (R) of W Farms raises more than 3,000 acres of corn and wheat near Elsie, Michigan mostly on some of the same land that was settled by his family over 150 years ago.

Recently during the 2025 Commodity Classic in Denver, Colorado Williams who is always on the lookout for a better way of doing things in his farming operation, stopped by the Dickey-john (R) booth to visit with Regional sales manager Kevin Days (R) about the company's new battery powered analyzer that requires one teaspoon of grain to measure the grain's protein, moisture, oil content, and carbohydrates. Days showed Williams the device and discussed details about how knowing that information would allow him to make the best management decisions about how to store or market the crop being testing at harvest time.

What do Farmers Make the Most Money From?

According to recent data, most farmers in the United States make the most money from selling corn and soybeans, which together account for nearly half of all crop cash receipts in the country.

Dominant crops:

Corn and soybeans are considered "commodity crops" and are widely grown across the US, contributing significantly to farmers' income.

Market fluctuations:

While these crops are generally reliable, their market prices can fluctuate depending on factors like weather and global demand.

Specialty crops:

Some farmers may choose to focus on higher-value "specialty crops" like fruits, vegetables, or herbs, which can potentially generate more profit per unit but may require more specialized care and marketing.



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What is the 5 Year Rule for Farming Loss?

One of the key benchmarks used by the IRS is the "3-out-of-5-years" rule. According to this rule, a farming activity is presumed to be for-profit if it has made a profit in at least three of the last five tax years. For horse breeding, training, showing, or racing, this period extends to two out of seven years.

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Spring Farm Section

Why Do Farmers Get Up So Early?

Farmers often wake up early to maximize daylight hours for work, especially tasks like milking cows which need to be done in a timely manner for both animal comfort and milk quality.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

Milking Schedule:

Cows, as creatures of habit, have an internal clock that signals when it's time to be milked, and they produce more milk at that time. Early morning milking ensures fresh, high-quality milk.

Optimizing Daylight:

Farm work often involves long, physically demanding tasks, and maximizing daylight hours increases efficiency and safety.

Animal Welfare and Efficiency:

Early starts ensure that animals, like cows, are milked at optimal intervals and receive proper care throughout the day, which can impact the overall health and productivity of the farm.

Crop Management:

Early starts also enable farmers to tend to crops and ensure that the work is completed during favorable temperatures and before the midday heat, which could harm the crops or workers.

Tradition and Lifestyle:

Historically, farming relied heavily on the natural rhythms of sunrise and sunset, with early work being a common practice.

Why is the Price of Eggs so High?

by Francine Czerniawski and Sarah Zeiler, Michigan State University Extension - February 26, 2025

The rise in egg prices is correlated to the Bird Flu outbreaks.

Cage-free laying hens in a barn.

Understanding the Rise in Egg Prices Due to Bird Flu Outbreaks

One of the main factors driving the recent increase in egg prices is the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1), also known as the bird flu. This strain has been more active recently, with its spread linked to the migratory patterns of wild birds. Waterfowl, such as ducks and geese, are natural carriers of the virus. These waterfowl can unknowingly transmit the disease to domestic poultry during migration, often without showing symptoms. The virus typically spreads from wild birds to farmed birds through contaminated feed, water sources, clothing or equipment. Implementing good management practices is critical to preventing outbreaks. The bird flu virus spreads rapidly and is devastating. If bird flu is detected in a flock of any size and scale, the entire flock must be humanely euthanized as part of the disease response plan, to contain the disease and prevent it from spreading to other flocks.

Since the beginning of the bird flu outbreak in 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports that over 1,400 poultry flocks in all 50 states and Puerto Rico have been impacted. This includes both large commercial farms and small flocks owned by individuals. Ohio, the second-largest egg-producing state in the U.S., has been hit particularly hard, with over 10 million birds being euthanized since the virus started spiking in late December 2024. Many of these birds were egg-laying hens, commonly referred to as "layers" in the poultry industry. Iowa leads the nation in egg production, while California ranks tenth. Together, they account for 38% of the flocks affected and humanely euthanized due to bird flu.

In a commercial farm, where birds are often housed in large-scale facilities, the virus can spread quickly, leading to significant animal mortality. For example, a flock of 20,000 layers can generate approximately 117,600 eggs in a week. If the flock must be humanely euthanized due to bird flu, those eggs will not reach the supply chain to be available in grocery stores. Nearly 100 million egg-laying birds have been affected since the beginning of the outbreak in 2022, which means approximately 5.8 million eggs per week have not been produced.

When bird flu is detected, birds from the flock are humanely euthanized and the farm must undergo thorough cleaning, disinfection, and a mandatory idle period of at least 14 days. During this period, birds are not allowed in the barn, and this restriction is often extended for additional virus surveillance. Afterward, a new flock of laying hens needs time to reach maturity and begin producing eggs, which can take up to six months. This extended timeline contributes to significant delays in restoring normal egg supply levels to the market.

Other factors are also driving up egg prices. First, egg consumption typically rises during winter months, which increases demand. Second, beginning January 1, 2025, new cage-free laws went into effect, such as those in Michigan, which require hens to be raised in more spacious, open environments. While these cage-free systems are intended to improve animal welfare, they come with higher operational costs for farm producers. Maintaining these more spacious systems is more expensive,



sive, which leads to higher prices for consumers.

Although bird flu poses a minimal risk to humans, with only 68 reported human cases since 2024—most of which were in California and linked to dairy cattle, which can also contract bird flu—it is important to emphasize that properly cooked eggs and meat are safe to consume. There is no risk of transmission through pasteurized milk or properly prepared and cooked poultry products.

As spring approaches, coinciding with the migration of wild birds, risks of new outbreaks can continue impacting the agriculture industry. To help prevent the spread of the disease, people who keep poultry should follow good management practices. If you keep backyard chickens, it's recommended to keep them in coops or confined areas to minimize contact between domestic and wild birds, and to implement strategies such as having dedicated footwear worn only while caring for animals, washing hands before and after working with animals, and regularly cleaning and disinfecting animal housing and equipment.

Reporting Possible Cases

For Domestic Animals:

Bird owners should watch for sudden deaths in their flocks, reduced egg production, decreased water intake, diarrhea, coughing, or other signs of illness. If you suspect bird flu, contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) at 800-292-3939 during regular hours or 517-373-0440 after hours.

For Wildlife:

If you encounter unusual deaths in wild birds or other wildlife, report it to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) through their Eyes in the Field app (select the "Diseased Wildlife" option) or by calling the DNR Wildlife Disease Laboratory at 517-336-5030.

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Michigan's Top 10 Agricultural Products

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Hogs. \$456.9 million in cash receipts.

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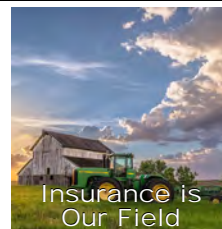
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Elsie... continued from front

Jason Freeman, village president, presented a business update. The village must work together and stay on track. Furthermore, the Elsie Public Library has a contract with the Village and is committed to a \$2,000 contribution annually and it will be paid at some point.

Tiffany, Evitts clerk/treasurer, submitted her letter of resignation effective March 20, 2025. Officials accepted her resignation with regrets.

Destinee Bryce, police chief and interim village manager, presented the monthly reports for each agency.

Elsie Police Department, responded to 25 calls, noting that complaints were down for the month. Complaints included property checks, a false alarm, and traffic enforcement. The department received three emergency travel trauma bags one for each vehicle. The equipment was covered by grant funding. Blight and code enforcement enforcement will be underway. Finally, on March 18, 2025 the Village should have an additional officer on board and he will assist with the Maple Rapids contract and the Village of Elsie.

Managers' report -An update was presented regarding the USDA loan; the Village still owes approximately 1 million dollars on the sewer system for an additional sixteen years. Bryce is researching options to get the interest lowered. There may be an option reduce the interest to 2.5% instead of 4.5% by pushing the loan out another 14 years. She will continue to research options. USDA is also looking at the rates that the Village charges for water and sewer which the village is not in compliance. This situation has put the lagoon usage project on hold. Bryce requested council approval to explore further. The consensus was to allow further research.

Consumers Energy will be conducting a street light audit and which time it will be determined which are not LEDs and could be turned off part of the time which will take council action.

July 19, 2025 will be the village wide clean-up with Granger.

Finally, an interim financial controller provided by Woodhill Group will be provided until a properly qualified full-time person is hired for the business office. In addition, a meeting with the State of Michigan Treasury is slated for at the end of the month to possibly provide the Village with the funding to retain the Woodhill Group and BS & A in the cloud until the end of FY2026. This is a program available for fiscally stressed municipalities.

Chris Ormes, Department of Public Works, reported that he has addressed seven water main breaks in the past month. Waiting for approval of the grant for the new water meters, \$148,000, awards are announced at the end of April. The grant, if received, will need to be approved by Village officials. The goal is to replace all meters.

Action items included the approval of the deficit elimination plan which was approved unanimously.

Next action was taken to set the public hearing and approval of the 2025-26 fiscal budget for March 25, 2025, 6:30 pm followed by a regular meeting.

As a reduction to the budget officials took action to delay implementation of the MERS Pension defined contribution, plan, pulling back the 3% until the end of 2026 and possibly reinstating in the future.

Monthly action was taken to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of the resolutions and the MERS defined contribution plan, approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025 regular meeting, the monthly financial report and to approve expenditures totaling \$42,739.75.



Reverse Raffle Winners

l-r: Jason Tokar, 4th place \$500; Nathan Sweet 3rd place \$700; Jamie Jones (accepting for Jenny Fabus) 5th place \$300; Sadie Casaday, 2nd place \$1,200; On phone Jeff Campbell 1st place \$2000.

UM Health-Sparrow Community Hospitals Offer Scholarships to High School Seniors

submitted by John Foren

LANSING, MI – University of Michigan Health-Sparrow hospitals in Carson City, Charlotte, Ionia and St. Johns are offering scholarship opportunities to local high school graduating seniors who intend to pursue higher education in a health-related field.

To be eligible for the \$1,000 scholarships, candidates must be a resident of Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ionia or Montcalm counties and submit a copy of their most recent completed school semester transcript. The deadline to submit a scholarship application is Friday, April 25, 2025.

Funds for these scholarships have been generously donated by benefactors of UM Health-Sparrow, including the Merten and Geraldine Whyman Health Careers Scholarship Endowment Fund for Clinton County residents.

For more information, eligibility requirements or to submit an application, visit <https://www.UofMHealthSparrow.org/Scholarships>.

Ovid City Council Meeting

by Deb Price

Mayor Mary Perrien called the March 10th Ovid City Council Meeting to order at 7pm. All council members were present with the exception of Eric Brown. The agenda, previous months minutes and check register were all approved.

County Commissioner, Nicole Fickes gave an update on the Wind Ordinance, LEAP and the upcoming March 17th meeting concerning the County Jail and its 79 million dollar project proposal. Next, Doug Scott gave a report on the repairs needed at the water lagoon. The pipes at the lagoon were originally installed in the 60's and the flow meter needs to be replaced, a requirement by EAGLE. The cost for a new meter, valves, pipes and installation is \$34,500. The council voted to approve the purchase.

There was no public comment. Reports from the Treasurer, Attorney, DPW and Police Reports were given and accepted.

Under new business: Fall Clean-Up, a discussion was held and decided that Clerk Swan was to procure a September date from Granger to hold another one this Fall. Next on the agenda: Zoning Board of Appeals which consists of 5 members, it was reported that 3 at large members are needed to fill the board. Interested persons can contact City Hall to help fill the positions. The next topic was Fall Leaf Pick-Up, the City will return to using a back-hoe or possibly by vacuum to pickup leaves this Fall. The council approved the use of Ackley Field for Ovid-Elsie Schools new Middle School Baseball Program.

The following purchases were approved unanimously: GO-GOV Enforcement Contract, \$4,404 for a one year contract. Next, the council entertained bids for the purchase of a DPW Service Truck. After discussion, the council approved the purchase of a 2025 DodgeCrew Cab from LaFontaine for \$56,065.60. Next the purchase of a Hydro Buddy, a DPW Valve turner from Utility Technologies in the amount of \$5,900. Next a High School Flow Meter from Kennedy Industries, cost for meter and installation, \$8,521. The last expenditure was to JJ Hardwoods for \$4,650 for tree removal and trimming.

A new Automatic Bill Payment Program has been established. Interested persons can find out how to enroll or find more information on the city's website.

Next discussion involved around a new policy pertaining to City vehicle Care & Use, the council approved unanimously additional language that drug and alcohol testing would be done immediately following any vehicle accident involving City vehicles.

Next the council discussed Working Out of Class pay for the DPW employee who was filling the role as Supervisor during the absence of current Supervisor. The council approved an hourly rate of \$26 per hour for those 10 days. The council then entered into closed session for the purpose of a personnel matter. Upon returning from closed session, the council voted unanimously to terminate immediately the contract with the city's Zoning Administrator, Al Toman.

The last two agenda items discussed was the Historical Society utility bill appropriation and the light poles on Main Street. The attorney for the City informed the council that they legally could not grant the Historical Society or any other entity free water. As to the light poles, more ideas needs to be discussed.

The council then heard from committees and boards of commissions. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30pm.

Moolenaar Announces 2025 Congressional Art Competition

Congressman John Moolenaar invites high school students in Michigan's Second Congressional District to participate in the 2025 Congressional Art Competition.

The winning student from the Second District will have their art displayed in the U.S. Capitol Building for a year. Additionally, two regional winners will have the opportunity for their art to be displayed in Congressman Moolenaar's offices in Caledonia and Clare.

The deadline for students to enter their artwork is Monday, March 31, 2025. All entries should be mailed or personally delivered to Congressman Moolenaar's Caledonia office at 8980 North Rodgers Court SE, Suite H, Caledonia, MI 49316, or his Clare office at 431 North McEwan Street, Clare, MI 48617.

More information on the rules and how to enter the 2025 Congressional Art Competition can be found online at moolenaar.house.gov. Participating students who need assistance transporting their art to Congressman Moolenaar's offices or who have any questions about the competition should call his office at (616) 528-7100.

CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

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, April 16, 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 certain mortgage made by Gary Gatewood, A Married Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Van Dyk Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated May 10, 2022, and recorded on May 12, 2022, as Document Number: 5325139, Clinton County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated March 03, 2025 and recorded March 06, 2025 by Document Number: 5352107, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Three Thousand Ninety-Eight and 63/100 (\$203,098.63) including interest at the rate of 5.62500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the City of SAINT JOHNS, Clinton County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 10, Replat of Part of Orchard Glen Subdivision, City of St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 10, Clinton County Records Commonly known as: 905 N OAKLAND ST, SAINT JOHNS, MI 48879 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: March 16, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00141-1

(03-16)(04-06)

Sports



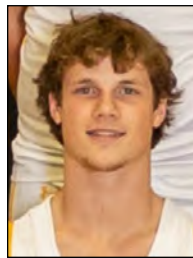
Mitchell George
1st Team



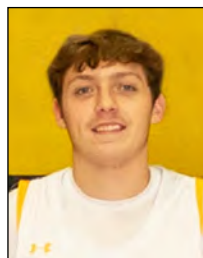
Dom Garcia
Honorable
Mention



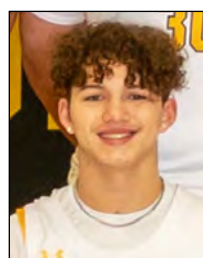
Logan Holm
Honorable
Mention



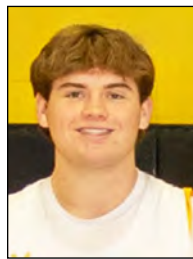
Tryce Tokar
Player of Year
1st Team



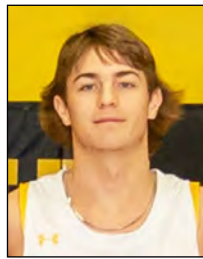
Tucker Loynes
1st Team



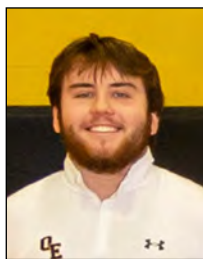
Travis Milner
2nd Team



Jake Bowen
Honorable
Mention



Jayce Herblet
Honorable
Mention



Joe Bancroft
Honorable
Mention

George, Garcia, Holm Represents Wolfpack on All-CMAC Cage Team

LAINGSBURG -- A trio of Wolfpack basketball players have been feted with CMAC post-season honors.

Veteran coach Tim Beebe's Wolves completed a 13-11 campaign (after an 0-4 start with a trip to the District Finals. Along the way, LHS won 8 of its 11 home games and fashioned a solid 11-7 record in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC).

Senior forward Mitchell George established himself as one of the premier big men in the CMAC. The 6'3" "go-to" player for the Wolves averaged 16.4 points and 8.3 rebounds per contest, as a member of the all-league 1st Team.

In addition, the red-and-white landed two players on the Honorable Mention contingent:

-- Senior point guard Dom Garcia bucketed 39 three-point goals on the season, while leading the team with 3.9 assists and 2.1 steals per game. The 5'8" sparkplug averaged 8.1 points per game.

-- Senior forward Logan Holm, a 6' source of muscle inside, connected on 41% of his three-point shots. His 30 made trifectas helped compute to a average of 6.5 ppg. He also averaged 3.9 rebounds per outing.

Tokar is Reigning MMAC Player of the Year; Five Other O-E Players Honored

OVID-ELSIE -- It's one thing to have a strong enough season to make your league's All-Conference Team.

It's quite another to have the kind of season that makes you the Conference Player of the Year.

As he has throughout his athletic career at Ovid-Elsie, Tryce Tokar continues to one-up the competition. At the completion of a 18-5 season, Tokar was honored by a vote of the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference coaches as the MMAC's best player for 2024-25.

Joining Tokar on the All-MMAC 1st Team was senior center Tucker Loynes. Sophomore guard Travis Milner was named to the All-MMAC 2nd Team, while Jake Bowen and Jayce Herblet was honorable mention selections. In addition, Joe Bancroft was honors in team voting.

Tokar was feted for his all-around playmaking ability, hitting critical shots and playing stellar defense as the "go-to" player for coach Canyon Walker's Marauders. He led the conference in assists per game with a 4.5 average. Too, he broke multiple school records this year:

- 3 pointers made in a career
- 3 pointers made in a season
- 3 points made percentage for a season

Loynes led O-E with a 16.7 ppg scoring average, and paced the team in blocks with 12 blocked shots.

Milner was a top defender in the MMAC with a 3.1 per-game steals average.

Bowen, the Marauder muscle in the middle, led Ovid-Elsie with 5.9 rebounds per contest.

New Lothrop Shoots Past Lady Wolves in Division 3 District Final, 51-38

LAINGSBURG -- In the end, outmanned and outgunned, Laingsburg's girls varsity basketball simply ran out of steam. ACinderella-like run to the District Championship game ended with a thud.

Make that more like a "swish."

New Lothrop (21-3) found its shooting touch after a slow start, and when the Wolfpack went ice-cold in the third quarter, the Hornets sped away to a 51-38 victory.

Three New Lothrop players took turns sticking daggers in coach Dan Morrill's Wolves. First it was Kaitlyn Wendling on drives to the bucket to get NL untracked in the second quarter; she finished with a game-high 16 points.

Next it was sharp-shooter Kelsey Kohlmann, who drilled a trio of long three-pointers that found nothing but net; she ended with 13 points.

And finally it was sparkplug point guard Laina Yates, who found her scoring touch with drives to the basket in the second half, tallying all 9 of her points in the final 16:00.

After falling behind 4-0 to start the contest, the Wolfpack kept pace with the favored Hornets. Tough baskets -- they were all tough again a swarming Hornet defense -- by Brooklyn Holm, Harper Strouse, Paige Woodworth and Mallory Woodbury kept LHs within 15-11 after one quarter.

Woodbury and Woodworth nailed back-to-back trifectas to stake the Lady Wolves to a 17-15 lead to start the second stanza. That's when NL's Kohlmann heated up and Laingsburg was down, 30-23, at the intermission.

The Wolfpack got within 32-30 on a long three-pointer by Kyleigh Luna with 4:14 left in the third period. But that's when Yates took things over, pushing NL to a 38-30 lead by quarter's end.

The Hornets closed things out with a 13-8 advantage in the final 8:00, five of those coming from the charity stripe when the red-and-white was forced to foul.

"Our girls played very well," praised Morrill following the contest. "They executed and did everything we asked them to do. New Lothrop is a very good team with a very good coach (James Perry). We did everything we could do to keep up with them."

Laingsburg was the youngest team in the tournament, and will graduate just one senior in Luna. The Lady Wolves finished 14-10 overall, 10-8 in the CMAC and things are looking bright for the future at LHS. Junior Mal Woodbury led them with 12 points; freshman Holm added 9, junior Strouse 6, senior Luna 3 and sophomore Woodworth 3.

New Lothrop advanced on to MHSAA Regional play vs. Hemlock at Springport HS.

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

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on APRIL 16, 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 Nathan Hoard and Shawn Hoard, husband and wife, to PNC Mortgage, a division of PNC Bank, National Association, Mortgagee, dated September 25, 2014 and recorded October 27, 2014 in Instrument Number 5220735 Clinton County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-Eight and 23/100 Dollars (\$119,938.23).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Clinton County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on APRIL 16, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of BATH, Clinton County Michigan, and are described as: PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 26, T5N, R1W, BATH TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 26; THENCE S86°30'24"E, 1321.75 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 26, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 2, PAGE 850 OF THE CLINTON COUNTY RECORDS; THENCE S03°33'24"W, 1320.38 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 26 TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 26, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 2, PAGE 851 OF THE CLINTON COUNTY RECORDS; THENCE CONTINUING S03°33'24W, 20.65 FEET ALONG SAID EAST LINE TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 26, RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 5086591 OF THE CLINTON COUNTY RECORDS; THENCE CONTINUING S03°33'24"W, 330.00 FEET ALONG SAID EAST LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION; THENCE CONTINUING S03°33'24"W, 148.50 FEET ALONG SAID EAST LINE, THENCE N88°22'56"W, 1326.19 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 26 TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 26; THENCE N03°40'12"E, 148.51 FEET ALONG SAID WEST LINE; THENCE

S88°22'56E, 1325.90 FEET PARALLEL WITH SAID SOUTH LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.EASEMENT A:A PARCEL OF LAND IN THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 5 NORTH, RANGE 1 WEST, BATH TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THE SURVEYED BOUNDARY OF SAID EASEMENT DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 26; THENCE SOUTH 03 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 12 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 1797.20 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 86 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 42 SECONDS EAST 1025.31 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS EASEMENT DESCRIPTION, THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 86 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 42 SECONDS EAST 300.00 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4; THENCE SOUTH 03 DEGREES 33 MINUTES 24 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID EAST LINE 16.30 FEET; THENCE NORTH 96 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 42 SECONDS WEST 300.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 03 DEGREES 33 MINUTES 24 SECONDS EAST PARALLEL WITH SAID EAST LINE 16.30 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.EASEMENT B:A PARCEL OF LAND IN THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 5 NORTH, RANGE 1 WEST. BATH TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN. THE SURVEYED BOUNDARY OF SAID EASEMENT DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 26; THENCE SOUTH 03 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 12 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 1648.81 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 86 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST 935.39 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS EASEMENT DESCRIPTION; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 86 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST 389.62 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4; THENCE SOUTH 03 DEGREES 33 MINUTES 24 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID EAST LINE 33.34 FEET; THENCE NORTH 86 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST 389.62 FEET; THENCE NORTH 03 DEGREES 33 MINUTES 24 SECONDS EAST PARALLEL WITH SAID EAST LINE 33.34 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.NOTE: CONSENT AFFIRMING ADJACENT PARCEL BOUNDARY LINES RECORDED ON 07/18/2006 IN INST # 5103242.

15340 Upton Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: March 16, 2025
File No. 25-002694
Firm Name: Orlands Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(03-16)(04-06)

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

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on APRIL 9, 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 Dakota Davis and Kaitlyn Davis, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Success Mortgage Partners, Inc., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated April 6, 2022 and recorded April 11, 2022 in Instrument Number 5323937 Clinton County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Planet Home Lending, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Eighty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Eighteen and 26/100 Dollars (\$187,918.26).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Clinton County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on APRIL 9, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of BATH, Clinton County Michigan, and are described as: A PARCEL OF LAND IN THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 20, TOWN 5 NORTH, RANGE 1 WEST, BATH TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN; THE SURVEYED

CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

BOUNDARY OF SAID PARCEL DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF DRYER'S ADDITION TO BATH AS RECORDED IN LIBER 2 OF PLATS, PAGE 26, CLINTON COUNTY RECORDS SAID POINT ALSO BEING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 20; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID DRYERS ADDITION AND THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 20 A DISTANCE OF 170.29 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION : SOUTH 00 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 55 SECONDS WEST PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF LOT 1 OF SAID DRYER'S ADDITION 144.61 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 12 SECONDS WEST PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF LOT 2 OF SAID DRYER'S ADDITION 126.71 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST PARALLEL WITH SAID WEST LINE 144.61 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 20; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 20 A DISTANCE OF 126.71 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; 5722 Clark Rd, Bath, Michigan 48808

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

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

Dated: March 9, 2025
File No. 25-002255
Firm Name: Orlands Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(03-09)(03-30)

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

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on MARCH 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 Mario Guerrero and Leslay Guerrero, husband and wife, to PNC Bank, National Association, Mortgagee, dated June 24, 2022 and recorded August 2, 2022 in Instrument Number 5327721 Clinton County Records, Michigan.

There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thirty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Seven and 38/100 Dollars (\$130,587.38). Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Clinton County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on MARCH 26, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of OLIVE, Clinton County Michigan, and are described as: BEGINNING 1847 FEET SOUTH CENTER OF SECTION 35, TOWN 6 NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST, OLIVE TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN; THENCE SOUTH 250 FEET; THENCE EAST 326.7 FEET; THENCE WEST 326.7 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. ALSO BEGINNING 2097.00 FEET SOUTH OF THE CENTER OF SECTION 35, TOWN 6 NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST, OLIVE TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN; THENCE SOUTH 150 FEET; THENCE EAST 326.7 FEET; THENCE NORTH 150 FEET; THENCE WEST 326.7 FEET TO THE POINT OF

BEGINNING.LESS AND EXCEPTA PARCEL OF LAND IN THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 35, T6N, R2W, OLIVE TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THE SURVEYED BOUNDARY OF SAID PARCEL DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTH 1/4 CORNER OF SAID SECTION 35; THENCE N00 DEGREES 37'23"E ALONG THE NORTH-SOUTH 1/4 LINE OF SAID SECTION 35 A DISTANCE OF 779.91 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION; THENCE CONTINUING N00 DEGREES 37'23"E ALONG SAID NORTH-SOUTH 1/4 LINE 13.33 FEET; THENCE S89 DEGREES 51'23"E PARALLEL WITH THE EAST-WEST 1/4 LINE OF SAID SECTION 35 A DISTANCE OF 326.70 FEET; THENCE S00 DEGREES 37'23"W PARALLEL WITH SAID NORTH-SOUTH 1/4 LINE 25.87 FEET, THENCE N87 DEGREES 39'28"W 326.84 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 0.14 ACRE MORE OR LESS; INCLUDING 0.01 ACRE MORE OR LESS PRESENTLY IN USE AS PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY; SAID PARCEL SUBJECT TO ALL EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS IF ANY.SUBJECT TO ALL EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESERVATIONS, LEASES AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORDS, ALL LEGAL HIGHWAYS, ALL RIGHTS OF WAY, ALL ZONING, BUILDING AND OTHER LAWS, ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS, ALL RIGHTS OF TENANTS IN POSSESSION, AND ALL REAL ESTATE TAXES AND ASSESSMNTS NOT YET DUE AND PAYABLE
10875 Bond Road, Dewitt, Michigan 48820

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

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: February 23, 2025
File No. 25-001609
Firm Name: Orlands Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(02-23)(03-16)

Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee Volunteer Training Thursday, March 27th

submitted by Helen Howard

Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee is seeking persons to consider giving Respite Volunteering a try. The nonprofit serves adults who have ongoing health and medical challenges in Shiawassee County. Volunteer Services for persons and their caregiving families are based on the availability of volunteers for each community. Volunteers are matched with one person and their family, to provide friendly visits to the person, and respite (a gift of time) to the family caregivers.

Respite volunteers typically spend 1-3 hours a week with the person they are matched with. The volunteers may play cards or board games, help the person with hobbies, go for walks, help someone write a letter, learn how to keep connected to grandkids on cell or computer, read a book, or just visit with each other. The family caregivers may need time for grocery shopping, going to their physician appointments, or even meeting a friend for coffee or lunch.

In addition to visiting someone, there are multiple other

volunteer opportunities; helping at the office in Owosso, helping with events, helping with special projects, and sharing information about the program in your community and church.

The next Respite Volunteer Training will be Thurs. March 27th from 10 am -12 noonn at the Respite Volunteer office, the historic brick home east of Memorial Healthcare hospital, 710 W. King St., main entrance is on the north (parking lot) side. For more information; 989-725-1127 or office@respitovolunteers.org, or stop by the Respite Volunteer office M-F 9-3.

Adults with health and medical challenges, and their family caregivers may also contact Respite Volunteers to request an evaluation to receive Respite Volunteer in home visit to provide education about all the in home and senior care services available, case management by Respite Volunteer staff and the volunteer services. Area Employers wanting to provide information to their employees, who are also family caregivers may also call to schedule presentations, and individual meetings for their employees could also be provided.

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CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

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

CASE NO: 24-32376-DE
Estate of **JACK NEWTON**, *dec'd*
Date of Birth: October 24, 2008
TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent **JACK NEWTON**
Died on January 26, 2023.
Creditors of the decedent are notified
that all claims against the estate will
be forever banned unless presented
to Robert Ayers, 899 Jackson 7,
Bradford, AR 72020, personal repre-
sentative or both the probate court at
100 E. State St., St. Johns, MI 48879
and the personal representative with-
in four months after the date of publi-
cation of this notice.

Robert Ayers
899 Jackson 7
Bradford, AZ 72020
(501) 236-8500

(03-16)

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

**KEITH L. MERRILL AND LYNN K.
MERRILL TRUST**
U/A/D OCTOBER 28, 2024
TO ALL CREDITORS:
Settlor, **KEITH L. MERRILL**, died on
February 8, 2025. At this time, there
is no personal representative of the
Settlor to whom Letters of
Administration have been issued.
Creditors of the decedent are notified
that all claims against the Keith L.
Merrill and Lynn K. Merrill Trust will
be forever banned unless presented
to Lynn K. Merrill, Trustee, within four
months after the date of publication
of this notice.
Notice is further given that the Trust
will thereafter be assigned and dis-
tributed to the persons entitled to it.

Lynn K. Merrill
12704 Holly Lane
DeWitt, MI 48820
(517) 819-1663
Gabrielle C. Lawrence P76846
313 S. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 371-8100

(03-16)

**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, start-
ing promptly at 10:00 AM, on April 9,
2025. The amount due on the mort-
gage may be greater on the day of the
sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale
does not automatically entitle the pur-
chaser to free and clear ownership of
the property. A potential purchaser is
encouraged to contact the county reg-
ister of deeds office or a title insur-
ance company, either of which may
charge a fee for this information.
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): David
Hoke Jr, Single Man Original
Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic
Registration Systems, Inc., as mort-
gagee, as nominee for Stockton
Mortgage Corporation, its successors
and assigns Foreclosing Assignee:
PennyMac Loan Services, LLC Date
of Mortgage: July 12, 2019 Date of
Mortgage Recording: July 15, 2019
Amount claimed due on mortgage on
the date of notice: \$144,703.51
Description of the mortgaged premis-
es: Situated in the Township of Ovid,
Clinton County, Michigan, and are
described as: Parcel 1: Commencing
at a point on the East-West 1/4 line of
Section 18, distant South 89°58'48"
West 2512.15 feet from the East 1/4
corner of Section 18, Town 7 North,
Range 1 West, Ovid Township,
Clinton County, Michigan, as defined
in a survey by L.L.S. #19003; thence
South 00°18'35" East parallel to the
East line of Section 18, a distance of
169.00 feet; thence South 89°58'48"
West, parallel to the East-West 1/4
line of Section 18, a distance of
149.84 feet to a point on the North-
South 1/4 line of Section 18; thence
North 00°21'46" West along said
North-South 1/4 line, a distance of
169.00 feet to a point on the East-
West 1/4 line of Section 18; thence
North 89°58'48" East along said East-
West 1/4 line of Section 18 a distance
of 150.00 fee to the point of beginning
Parcel 2: Part of the Northwest 1/4 of
the Southeast 1/4 of Section 18, Town
7 North, Range 1 West, Ovid
Township, Clinton County, Michigan,
described as beginning at a point that
is South 89°58'48" West on the East
and West 1/4 line a distance of
2512.15 feet and South 00°18'35" East

169.00 feet from the East 1/4 corner
of said Section 18; thence continuing
South 00°18'35" East 400.68 feet;
thence North 83°51'50" West 150.45
feet to the North and South 1/4 line of
said Section 18; thence North
00°22'08" West (recorded as North
00°21'46" West) on said North and
South 1/4 line a distance of 384.55
feet, said point beginning South
00°22'08" East (recorded as South
00°21'46" East) on said North and
South 1/4 line a distance of 169.00
feet from the Interior 1/4 corner of
said Section 18; thence North
89°58'48" East 149.84 feet to the
point of beginning. Commonly
Known as: 4500 Wildcat Rd., Saint
Johns, MI 48879 The redemption peri-
od shall be 6 months from the date of
such sale, unless determined aban-
doned in accordance with MCL
600.3241a, in which case the redemp-
tion period shall be 30 days from the
date of such sale, or upon the expira-
tion 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 foreclo-
sure 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 home-
owner: 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 col-
lector. Date of notice: 03/09/2025
Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251
Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307
248-853-4400 319877

(03-09)(03-30)

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

Estate of
JAYDEN MICHAEL COBLENTZ
Date of birth: April 2, 2001
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent,
JAYDEN MICHAEL COBLENTZ,
died November 11, 2024
Creditors of the decedent are notified
that all claims against the estate will
be forever barred unless presented
to James Coblenz, personal repre-
sentative, or to both the probate
court at 100 East State Street, St.
Johns, MI 48879 and the personal
representative within four months
after the date of publication of this
notice.

James Coblenz
3879 W. Garfield Rd.
Perrinton, MI 48871
(989) 534-6739

(03-16)

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

CASE NO: 25-32441-DE
Estate of
BENJAMIN JOHN WERNER
Date of birth: August 14, 1936
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent,
BENJAMIN JOHN WERNER,
died on December 25, 2018.
Creditors of the decedent are notified
that all claims against the estate will
be forever banned unless presented
to Joanne McCartin, personal repre-
sentative or both the probate court at
100 E. State St., St. Johns, MI 48879
and the personal representative with-
in four months after the date of publi-
cation of this notice.

Joanne McCartin
304 Charlesgate Circle
East Amherst, NY 14051
(716) 432-1383

Pratl Law, P.C.
Alexa B. Pratl P83426
201 E. State Street
St. Johns, MI 48879
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Making a Splash - Laingsburg's High School Robotics Team Dominates at Season Opener

submitted by Leigh Seger

Months of brainstorming, engineering, and teamwork paid off for Red Thunder Robotics, Laingsburg High School's competitive robotics team, as they surged ahead at their first competition of the season, hosted by Milford High School and presented by General Motors Proving Ground.

This year's FIRST Robotics challenge, REEFS-CAPE, builds on the ongoing water-based theme, tasking teams with strengthening coral reefs in a simulated underwater environment. High school competitors designed and built robots to "harvest algae," "seed coral," and return to their barge to ascend to the ocean surface—all executed with precision, speed, and strategy.

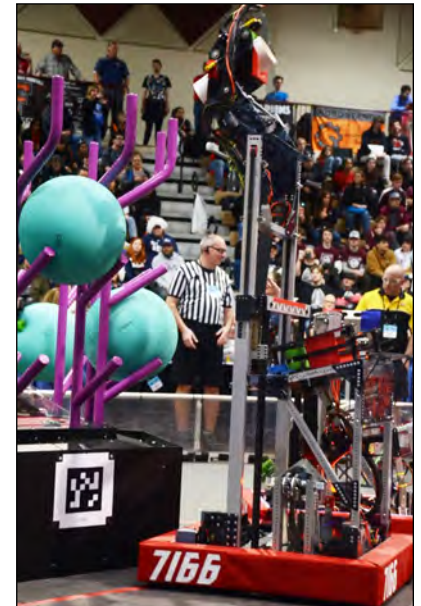
With aqua-colored exercise balls representing algae and white PVC tubing symbolizing coral segments, teams raced their robots against the clock to retrieve, stack, and place as many pieces as possible on steel reef branches of varying heights. Adding to the challenge, robots flung "algae" into overhead nets for extra points, all while navigating the fast-paced competition.

Among 40 teams from across Michigan, Laingsburg's robotics team rose to the occasion, securing an outstanding 2nd-place finish—an impressive feat, considering they faced off against much larger schools and well-established teams.

"This achievement speaks volumes about our students' dedication, problem-solving skills, and ability to work as a team. They're proving that talent and determination can go toe-to-toe with any competition," said Melissa Kramer, Laingsburg's Head Mentor and District Robotics Coordinator.

Beyond their stellar performance, the team also earned the Team Sustainability Award, recognizing their commitment to environmentally sustainable practices and long-term team development.

Congratulations to these bright young innovators who are not only making waves in competition but also shaping the future of technology and engineering. Stay tuned—this is just the beginning of a great season for Laingsburg Robotics!



*Red Thunder Robotics entry to competition.
 Courtesy Photo*

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Monday, March 17th

CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE
WITH ALL THE FIXINGS ~ \$14.00

Serving 11:30 a.m. until Gone

Reuben Sandwich & Chips ~ \$12.00

113 N. Main St.
Ovid

Take-Out
Orders Welcome