

## Ovid-Elsie Running Legend Seeking to 'Win the Day' on Trading Floor

REPRINTED FROM THE MHSAA.COM WEBSITE

Written by Paul Costanzo

Maverick Darling's competitive running days have been behind him for nearly a decade, but the eight-time MHSAA Finals champion from Ovid-Elsie isn't done competing.

Made In Michigan and Michigan Army National Guard logosDarling, who was also a five-time All-American at Wisconsin, is now fighting for wins on the Viking Forest Products lumber trading floor in Minnesota.

"Our trading floor is very unique," Darling said. "We have 60 traders, and probably 30-35 of them are former student-athletes in college. It's very competitive, but kind of like a locker room. It's kind of a unique way for me to still be competitive even though I'm not in athletics. I really love it."

Darling is a commodity trader at Viking Forest, trading mostly OSB, plywood and dimensional lumber to buyers throughout the United States. He lives with his fiancé Danielle and their two dogs in Plymouth, Minn., a suburb of Minneapolis.

Lessons learned while working toward Finals titles on the dirt roads of Ovid and national goals on the trails of Madison, Wis., are helping him find success again.

"My lessons I learned from running and the reward, whether good, great or OK, is that no matter the day, you have to go put in the effort and work, and it carries over to my work," he said. "I now literally start over every day. We had a saying: 'Win the day.' And 'Win the day' kind of means something different for every day. I try to apply that to my life. It's motivating to be successful every day."

Friendly competition between teammates leading to greater success also carried over from cross country and track to the trading floor.

"We have a department where it feels almost like my cross country team in college," he said. "One guy will put up 30 orders that day, and we're all happy for that person. The synergy between the group is awesome. But it motivates me to be like, tomorrow that's going to be me."

Darling had spent his first three years out of Wisconsin running professionally and had coaching stops at Iona and Cal-Berkeley after that. But when the pandemic hit, he stepped away from coaching and made the move to trading.

Darling rounds a turn during a high school race. That ended a spectacular career in the sport, which was actually second choice for most of Darling's childhood.

Growing up, he was a top snowmobile racer, along with his brother.

"My first (high school) cross country race, I took seventh," Darling said. "I didn't know better, but that's pretty good. My mom was like, 'Seventh? You know, we're used to first or second (in snowcross).' We're not a running family. I started at about 18 minutes in the 5K, and at the state meet I finished eighth and ran 16:13. I was like, 'OK, maybe this is something I can really be good at.'"

It was at the end of his junior year, after winning his heat at the Nike Outdoor Nationals, that Darling turned his entire focus to running. By that time, he had already won two Division 3 cross country titles, two 3,200-meter titles and one 1,600 at MHSAA Finals.

He was training often, but knew he was undertrained because of the limitations on where and when he could run during mid-Michigan winters. Colleges knew it, too, and that led to a barrage of communication as soon as they were able to reach out.

"I probably had 150 of those (hand-written letters) sent to the house," Darling said. "I would get two to three phone calls a night after July 1. It wasn't like overwhelming, because I was pretty confident at that point where I wanted to go to school."

Darling committed to Wisconsin on the day of the Lower Peninsula Cross Country Finals his senior year. He also won his third Finals title that day with a then-Division 3 record time of 14:52. At the time, it was the third fastest time ever run in Michigan.

He would later win his second straight 1,600/3,200 double at the Track & Field Finals, running 8:58 in the 3,200 during the season, which was the 12th-best high school time in the country that year.

The choice to go to Wisconsin was based on his drive to be challenged as much as possible.

"I thought, 'If I come into this room, I'm probably the eighth or ninth best runner in this room – maybe,'" Darling said. "I had such a great recruiting trip. I grew up in Ovid, and everything I ran there was pretty much dirt roads. Wisconsin has a lot of dirt trails, and I kind of loved that. I could run from our locker room and be on a trail in a mile, mile and a half."

Darling and Danielle enjoy a sunset over the water with her parents. Darling's collegiate career proved he had made the right decision. He was the Big Ten Freshman of the Year for the 2009 cross country season, and an All-American in 2010 and 2012. He was a three-time All-American in track, as well.



Maverick Darling

## Village of Elsie Continues to Deal with Financial Issues

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – The regular meeting of the Elsie Village Council was held Monday, April 8, 2025. The highlights of the evening included water rate increases and fire department housing.

A full house was present with a focus on the increase on water bills. Due to the water rates that did not cover the costs incurred by the water system and were not increased in small increments over the years as recommended by Michigan Rural Water and the USDA. With the current financial condition of the Village and the water system itself the village does not qualify for grants or water focused loans. It will take time and patience by village residents. Residents indicated that if the water rates continue to rise let the public know what to expect was the consensus of those in attendance. Another question presented to officials was, "when can residents expect to see water improvements?" A question that could not be answered.

Tim Fair, Clinton County Catalyst, was present to add continued support for the village. Fair explained the purpose of the Clinton County based agency, we work on economic issues within the county, Elsie is a member. Grant writers were present as well, the group is busy assisting businesses in the county. "The Village of Elsie is in dire straits, and we are willing to work with the Village." Currently the focus is on trying to get the interest rates reduced on the sewer project that the village continues to pay on. In the future collaboratively we will be talking about a Downtown Development Authority and possible tax abatements, these goals are off the table until the village is financially stable.

Randy Redmer, Elsie Lagoon Project, was present to update officials on the status of the proposed project regarding waste disposal and management. Noting that he came to the village two years ago. Looking at the Elsie lagoons which are far larger capacity than utilized by the village. This could become a revenue generating opportunity the proposal is a septic receiving operation. The process – he has met with Michigan Rural Water and USDA both agreed that there is acceptable capacity; EGLE is on board; next, being approved for a Part 41 permit, at an estimated cost of \$10,000, which is an engineering plan. The permit is a requirement to move forward. The estimate for the engineering costs is forth coming. Redmer is willing to provide some of the services for example survey, and sludge sample analysis. In addition, USDA may require a feasibility study due to the current loan on the Village sewage system. Once the permit is secured than a plan will be developed and presented to Michigan Rural Water for final approval. "I think you have a gold mine setting there," commented Randy Redmer. Questions followed regarding the project with a focus on liability and the potential for odor issues. Currently the Village is utilizing 10% of the sewer receiving ponds.

Hero's Park update, Dorothy Ornelas, reported that Tim Higgins would be added to the village committee. To date \$1,500 has been donated. Mike White will assist with installation of the bricks at no charge to the village. The weather is hindering the progress of the installation. Applications for bricks to honor those who have served are available at the village business office.

Jason Freeman, village president, reported that officials have reviewed two assessments of the Emergency Services/Fire Base building. The village attorney recommended an independent appraisal. Officials approved \$1,000 for the recommended appraisal.

Destinee Bryce, Elsie Police Chief, presented the department's monthly report. Four traffic stops, increased complaints at total of 49 for the month. Many of the responses were to medical calls, followed by civil complaints, a cps assist and traffic enforcement. Chief Bryce participated in a presentation at EE Knight, the focus was bullying. In addition, it is the time of year to get golf cart permits and to renew those that have expired. Reminder that residents must have annual permits. Ben Helms, retired officer, has been hired to part-time thanks to the funding provided by the contract with Maple Rapids.

Manager's report, Bryce reported the following. Two memorandums of understanding were received from the State of Michigan, one for the Wood Hill Group, \$159,000 to be utilized for an internal controller. The second is for the BS & A accounting system in the cloud, for \$22,536 after the accounting system is cleaned up, the village will be accountable for an additional \$5,000. Additional grants are in progress. Both MOUs were approved by officials.

In addition, Bryce requested authorization to change employee insurance coverage and company. Currently the village employees have BCM platinum, the request to assists

*continued on page 9*



**Spring Sports**

The Meridian Weekly Spring Sports Preview  
featuring the Ovid-Elsie Marauders  
on pages 6-7-10-11. Ashley will be published as  
soon as photos available!



*continued on page 9*

Social

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PUBLIC NOTICE  
SCIOTA TOWNSHIP  
ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING (2nd) and  
OPTICAL SCAN SYSTEM & AUTO-MARK MACHINE

Notice is hereby given that Sciota Township will hold a public Election Commission Meeting and test of the Optical Scan Voting system and Auto-Mark Machine to be used in the May 6, 2025, election on:

**MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025**  
Election Commission Meeting begins at 6:45 p.m.  
Optical Scan Test begins at 7:45 p.m.  
(or after the board meeting adjourns)  
SCIOTA TOWNSHIP HALL  
3990 Leland Road  
Laingsburg, MI 48848

This test is being conducted as required by Michigan law (MCL168.798) to demonstrate to the public that the computer program used to record and count the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of law. Contact the clerk for accessible accommodations 5 days prior to the meeting.

*Jamie Parker-Wing*  
Sciota Township Clerk  
(517) 651-5286

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Elsie Library Adventures

*submitted by Ann Trierweiler*

We had a special visitor from Journey Federal Credit Union, Will McSweeney. He was able to read a Money Smart book for children, "Save It", by Cinders McLeod. The children made their own piggy bank and were given a monetary start to their savings. Yeah, they got quarters to feed the pig.

Now we have begun the "Color Our World" Bookmark Contest. The theme goes along with our summer reading program. These bookmarks will be submitted through April 30th. Anyone can vote for their favorite bookmarks during the first half of May. The winners from each category will have their bookmarks displayed as our official bookmarks during the summer reading program and published in "The Meridian Weekly."

Saturday, May 26, there will be a story time and craft for the children that centers around the book "Ploof" by Ben Clanton. A story, a craft and a snack!

The Elsie Library Book Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. Our book for the month of May is "The Maid," by Nita Prose. You are welcome to pick up a book and join our discussions.

Potter Park has new programs for the spring: Saturday, Apr. 19: Party for the Planet - Join us on Saturday, April 19, 2025, for Party for the Planet, North America's largest Earth Day celebration! More than 120 zoos and aquariums across the country are taking part, and you're invited to explore conservation in a fun, hands-on way—all included with standard zoo admission! Friday, Apr. 25: Arbor Day Celebration - Calling all tree lovers and nature enthusiasts! Join us Friday, April 25, 2025, for a day dedicated to celebrating the trees that sustain us and the wildlife that call them home. This event is included with standard zoo admission! Come in and get a FREE ZOO PASS at the Elsie Public Library!

Matter of Balance Workshop

*submitted by Christine Hised*

Matter of Balance in an interactive discussion-based workshop which aims to reduce fall risk, increase physical activity, and reduce the fear of falling in older adults. The workshop also includes exercises to improve balance, strength, coordination, and stability. If you are concerned or fearful of falling, this is the workshop for you!

St. John's Lutheran Church, 511 E. Sturgis St., St. Johns, MI

Meet in the John Room  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 6 – May 29, 2025, 10:00 am – 12 noon

Free of charge but donations accepted.  
To register: Call Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1465 or e-mail Christine at [histedc@tcoa.org](mailto:histedc@tcoa.org)

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**DANIEL BUKOVCIK**  
101 N. MAIN ST., OVID  
Phone (989)834-2270  
Fax (989)834-2279

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

*submitted by Adrian Cervini*

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for Ashley Community Schools Band Program

There will be a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday April 13th from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Ashley High School Cafeteria.

Free will cash donation  
Proceeds benefit the Ashley Band Program



Memorial Healthcare to Host  
Free Lunch and Learn  
on "MASLD  
(Non-Alcohol Fatty Liver)"

*submitted by Dianna Vsetula*

Owosso – Memorial Healthcare will be hosting a FREE community Lunch and Learn presentation on Friday, May 16th from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm in Owosso.

The topic of this educational presentation will be on "MASLD (Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver)" and will be presented by Zachary Landers, MSN, FNP-BC from Memorial Healthcare Gastroenterology.

This presentation will be held at Memorial Healthcare's Auditorium, 826 W. King Street, Owosso. Please RSVP to Becky Dahlke, Community Resource Manager at (989) 729-4856 or by email at [RDahlke@memorialhealthcare.org](mailto:RDahlke@memorialhealthcare.org). RSVPs are due by Friday, May 9th.

For more information please visit, [www.MemorialHealthcare.org](http://www.MemorialHealthcare.org)



Elsie Historical Society

*submitted by Janet Swanson*

Spring has sprung; The friends of the Elsie Historical Society invite you to their April meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at this Historical Society Room (next to the library). We are making plans to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Society. Members, friends, and interested community members are welcome to attend and offer suggestions and support as we make plans to move forward for the coming year.

BID FOR SCIOTA TOWNSHIP CEMETERY SEXTON:

Sciota Township is accepting 4-year contract bids for Cemetery Sexton through Sunday, April 13th, 2025. POSITION DESCRIPTION: 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, business address and email, 10-digit telephone number with dates of applicable experience and summary of work performed, 2 letters of reference, proof of license (LLC/DBA) 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)	

Criminal background check required post-employment offer. Bid may be sent by email to [clerk@sciotatownship.net](mailto:clerk@sciotatownship.net), OR by USPS mail to: Sciota Township Clerk, 8430 W. Parker Rd., Laingsburg MI 48848-9640, OR by placing a bid in the clerk's drop box at 8430 W. Parker Rd.. Questions? Contact the clerk at 517-651-5286.

## Free Legal Consultations at the Courthouse

submitted by Marnie Dewan

Announcing the Shiawassee County Bar Association's Law Day Free Legal Consultation Fair.

This year's event will take place May 1st, from 8-11:00 am at the Shiawassee County Circuit Courthouse. Local attorneys will be providing free 15-minute legal consultations in honor of Law Day. The consultations will be offered the morning of May 1st on the main (second) floor of the old Courthouse, 208 North Shiawassee Street, Corunna MI. Consultations are offered on a first come, first serve basis. The Bar Association wishes to thank the local attorneys who have repeatedly donated their time for this traditional event, including Curtis Zaleski, Jennifer Peplinski, Thomas Perry, Matthew VanEpps, Barbara Dawes and Robert Ellis.

President Dwight Eisenhower established the first Law Day in 1958 to mark the nation's commitment to the rule of law. In 1961, Congress issued a joint resolution designating May 1 as the official date for celebrating Law Day, which was subsequently codified (U.S. Code, Title 36, Section 113). Every president since then has issued a Law Day proclamation on May 1 to celebrate the nation's commitment to the rule of law.

## Callin All Artist of All Ages

submitted by Cait Hall

Laingsburg Public Library is thrilled to host its second annual Miniature Art Exhibit, themed "COLOR YOUR WORLD," throughout the month of May.

For a \$5 cash donation, participants will receive a 4"x4" canvas and easel from the library, located at \*\*255 E Grand River Road, Laingsburg\*\*. Submissions are due by \*\*April 29th\*\* and will be divided into five age groups, judged by art professionals and public vote. Age groups include:

- \*\*Littles through Pre-school\*\*
- \*\*Kindergarten-3rd Grade\*\*
- \*\*4th-7th Grade\*\*
- \*\*8th-12th Grade\*\*
- \*\*Post High School / Adult\*\*

Winners will be announced—and awarded prizes—during \*\*Laingsburg Lions' Spring Festival\*\*, coinciding with Memorial Day weekend.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call the library at \*\*517-651-6282\*\*. Don't wait—pick up your canvas today and HAVE FUN!



## 10th Annual Laingsburg Euchre League

by Karen Anderson, Correspondent

LAINGS-

BURG - On

Thursday,

April 3rd, a

Prime Rib dinner and celebration for the

10th year was held at the

American

Legion Post

248 in

Laingsburg.

The League

was organized

in 2015 over breakfast at Tammy Café.

The League started 10

years ago, with only twenty players.

This year 84 Euchre players

competed for 12 winter weeks, winning a total of \$4,300 in

prize money. Nearly 159 players and guests attended the

awards ceremony and enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by

Brad Schlicher and the American Legion's outstanding kitchen

crew.

Organizers Brad Schlicher and George Gavenda presented

a check for \$1,500 to American Legion Post 248 Commander

Alex Hagerty.

This year's 1st place winner was Rachel Dugan, with 639

points. The following players from 2nd place to 10th were Rick

Sayles, Gary Bulemore, Laurie Sayles, Nancy Howland, Scott,

Schoebdorf, Julie Bornefele, Janis 1, Marie Vandusen, and

Steve Lehman. 50/50 winners were George Gavenda, Rick

Sayles, Jan DeGroup, and Shirley Derkey.

The lucky Red Hot ticket winners were Mike Cole, Aaron

Ostrander, Janis 2, Michelle Burch, Donna Judd, Rachel Dixon,

Doug Foster, Tom Horvath, Nina Whitehill, Amanda

McDonald, Shirley Derke, Brian Ostrander, Irene Pole, Joe

Anderson, and Janet Walker.

Are you interested in joining? The 12-week Euchre

League begins the first Wednesday after New Year's day.

Come early to sign up and pay. Playing starts at 7:00pm sharp.

Food is available for purchase and donations. (make-up games

are allowed)

JUST OFF THE PRESS: Owosso- CROSSTOWN

SHOWDOWN played on

Tuesday, April 8th, and the

Owosso Conservation Club

WINS with 534 points with

Laingsburg Euchre League

losing at 483 points. "See

you next year Laingsburg

Euchre League."



(l-r): George Gavenda, Post 249 Commander, Alex Hagerty and Brad Schlicher presenting checks for Veterans

## Tri-County Office of Aging Meeting

submitted by Casey Cooper

The Tri-County Office on Aging will hold a public hearing to solicit input on its Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP): May 8 at 1:00PM at Tri-County Office on Aging, 5303 S. Cedar St., Bldg. 1, Lansing, MI 48911 and online on Microsoft Teams. Contact Kate Long by May 1 for information on how to join.

The 2026 AIP Summary, as well as more information about the plan, is on Tri-County Office on Aging's website, [www.tcoa.org/documents](http://www.tcoa.org/documents). To request special accommodation, submit written comment, or to request a copy, call (517) 887-1348 or write Kate Long at Tri-County Office on Aging, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Building 1, Lansing, MI 48911 or by email to [longk@tcoa.org](mailto:longk@tcoa.org).

### SCIOTA TOWNSHIP ACCEPTING BIDS FOR LAWN CARE SERVICES 2025 - 2028

The Township of Sciota is accepting bids for a 2-year and/or 4-year contract for lawn care services. Bids are due on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 12 noon to the township clerk, via email, drop box in driveway, or USPS mail. Contractors are asked to submit bid estimates by two methods, (1) cost per mow and (2) cost per season or per month. Grounds are located at (2) locations. Location #1 Sciota Township Hall (3990 Leland Rd), hall building lawn 0.25 acre + hall parking lawn 0.9 acre. Location #2 Putnam Cemetery (Putnam Road) 2.5 acres. Specifications include grass height to be kept at an average of 3.0" - 3.5" inches.

In addition to mowing services, the township requests the following services: 1) weed trimming for approximately 110 headstones at the Putnam cemetery (as needed) 2) tree limb pick-up and removal 3) tree and brush trimming, as needed, to reserve fence-row lines 4) removal of dead flowers and trash

The township requests that lawncare services be provided as close to national holidays as possible (i.e. Memorial, July 4th, Labor Day). Bidder must be licensed with liability, worker compensation, and auto insurance policies. All questions should be directed to the clerk.

Jamie Parker-Wing, Clerk  
Sciota Township  
8430 W. Parker Rd.  
Laingsburg, MI 48848  
[clerk@sciotatownship.net](mailto:clerk@sciotatownship.net)  
Telephone: 517-651-5286

### SCIOTA TOWNSHIP 4-YEAR BID FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES:

Sciota Township is accepting janitorial bids for the township hall through Wednesday, May 7th, via USPS mail service, email, or by placing a bid in the clerk's drop-box located at the mailing address driveway. POSITION DESCRIPTION: Includes dusting all high and low vertical surfaces including windows, blinds, cabinetry, and file cabinets; spot clean walls, baseboard and cove moldings as needed; vacuum carpet, sweep and mop floors in foyer and bathroom monthly. Take down lighting fixtures to remove bugs from light lenses (April-September), sweep carpeted exit stairway. Cleaning services are arranged on a monthly schedule; however, the clerk may request additional specialized cleanings or deep cleanings in anticipation of an election. The estimated monthly cleaning time is 1.5 hours per month. Cleaning products and garbage bags should be included in both monthly and hourly rate. All waste materials must be removed from the premises. Please include a 1) once-per-month rate for cleaning services, and 2) an hourly rate of service. The township should be invoiced at cost for toilet paper, paper towels, soap, and light bulbs, with original receipts included. Submit a resume including business and person name, email and local address, telephone number, dates of applicable experience and summary of work performed, 2 letters of reference, along with the proposed monthly fee and hourly rate. Include a copy of business license (LLC/DBA) and insurance with bid; criminal background clearance required post offer. Township hall physical location 3990 Leland Rd, Laingsburg MI 48848. Contact the clerk for hall viewing.

Jamie Parker-Wing, Sciota Township Clerk  
Office: 517-651-5286  
Email: [clerk@sciotatownship.net](mailto:clerk@sciotatownship.net)

## GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS



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| <b>PRIZE 3</b> | <b>2 Wooden Rocking Chairs</b>         |
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| <b>PRIZE 5</b> | <b>\$400 Local Business Gift Cards</b> |
| <b>PRIZE 6</b> | <b>\$300 Cash</b>                      |
| <b>PRIZE 7</b> | <b>\$200 Cash</b>                      |
| <b>PRIZE 8</b> | <b>\$100 Cash</b>                      |

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# Obituaries

## Marilyn (Byrnes) Love Celebration of Life

Marilyn (Byrnes) Love, 85, of Fremont, passed away Monday, January 20, 2025 at Fisher Titus Medical Center following a sudden illness.

A celebration of life will be held for Marilyn at 1:00pm, April 19, 2025, at the Ovid VFW, 218 S. Main St, Ovid, MI 48866.

Memorial contributions to Susan G. Komen Foundation at [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org) or St Jude Children's Research Hospital at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)



## Ronald Lee "Ron" Galko

Ronald Lee "Ron" Galko, age 71, of Bannister, MI, passed away Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at the Hospice House of Mid-Michigan, Lansing, MI.

Ron was born in Owosso, Michigan on June 9, 1953, the son of Edward and Mary Veronica (Wlosek) Galko. He graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School with the class of 1971. Ron retired from Michigan Milk in Ovid after many years of service.

Ron found joy hunting, fishing, camping and spending time outdoors. He always had a garden and shared his produce with family and friends. He admired muscle cars and loved collecting antiques, especially antique cast iron stoves. Ron spent many hours building & flying his model RC airplanes. Ron was a member of Church of the Living Word in Ovid.

He is survived by his son Gregory and Jacki Galko; his daughter Mikki and C.J. Reha; and his grandchildren: Jackson and Charlotte Galko. He is also survived by his siblings: David and Linda Galko, and Lynn Fruchey, niece, nephew, and great-nieces & great-nephews: Victoria and Jake Woodbury, Jeffrey and Amanda Fruchey; Ellie Woodbury and fiancé Cordell Wilkins, Emma Woodbury and Colby Good, Clayton Fruchey, and Claire Fruchey. He was preceded in death by his parents Ed and Mary Galko and his brother-in-law Christopher Fruchey.

Funeral Services will be held at Smith Family Funeral Homes Elsie, MI, at 12:00 P.M. on Monday, April 14, 2025. Burial will take place at Ford Cemetery, Elba Township, MI. Visitation will be held on Monday from 10:00 A.M. until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to The Laurels of Carson City or to the Hospice House of Mid-Michigan. Online condolences can be sent to [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com). The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



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## Church Directory

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### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Watch Sunday Service on  
YouTube at [elsiebaptist](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs1eBaptist)  
Pastor Phillip Rogers

### Laingsburg United Methodist Church

210 Crum St., Laingsburg  
517-651-5531

Worship Service: 10:30am  
Pastor:

Kendra Holcomb - Densmore

### Middlebury United Methodist Church

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

Minister:  
Pastor Kendra  
Holcomb-Densmore  
Worship Service  
9:00 a.m.

### Bannister United Methodist Church

103 Hanvey Street

Pastor: Zella Daniel

Sunday Worship 11:15am

### FAITH FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

Corner of Price & Chandler, St. Johns

Pastor: John Jakus

Sunday School: 9:00am

Worship Service 10:00am

517-651-6210

### ELSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

### First Congregational Church Laingsburg

401 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg  
(517) 651-6741

Sunday Worship 10:00am

Pastor: Dr. Tom Rundel

[fcclaingsburg.com](http://fcclaingsburg.com)



### United Church of Ovid

Office Hours: 9-1 Mon - Tue - Wed  
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Sundays am: 11:00 - Worship  
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## Editorial...cont' on page 5

### Need Answered Prayer?

Dear Andy,

I pray and pray "without ceasing" just like the Bible says to do. Sometimes I don't feel as if I am being heard or that my prayers are being answered. My life and my family seem to have one challenge after another; with insurmountable obstacles in the way. I don't ask for much. I ask for safety and for things that we need, but some days are such a struggle. Why are my prayers not being answered? Praying with all my heart, all the time.

Mom of Five.

Dear Mom,

It was Apostle Paul in a letter to the Thessalonica people who said to "...Pray without ceasing." It does not mean asking for things over and over again like a beggar. Paul was advising them to "Rejoice evermore...and in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God, in Christ Jesus concerning you". (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

God knows your heart and needs. Sometimes unanswered prayer is actually the answer. As for obstacles and challenges that's how we learn to be patient so if you are asking God to make you more patient, He will give you challenges. Look around you...I bet you can find everything might be an answer to your prayers, even challenges.

Reading the Gospels of the New Testament beginning with Matthew Chapter 6, Verses 5-13. Mathew instructs us how to pray. It is known as the Lord's Prayer. Recite it daily. I know that God answers specific requests but to pray without ceasing, you must use praise as your prayers. Praise for the glory of what He gives you and what you have, not what you do not have. Praise is Prayer without ceasing.

Be grateful and be in awe of every day, every blessing, every sunrise and sunset, and every meal; embrace acts of kindness towards you and give kindness to others. Be happy for every drop of rain and roar of thunder. Live in joy and a mind-set of faith that God knows your heart. He wants us to be happy and abundant in wealth, love and happiness.

I have a framed poster in my hall outside my bathroom and I read it every day. It says, "DEAR LORD, I TAKE A MOMENT, NOT TO ASK FOR ANYTHING, BUT TO THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING AND ALL I HAVE. AMEN" I always have what I need. Not always what I think I might want but always answered prayers, eventually. Even when it is "NO," or "Not Yet." Andy

Thanks for asking Andy but asking in God's son's name, Jesus name is much more powerful than my humble advice. [askandy@aol.com](mailto:askandy@aol.com)

### Have a Question for Andy?

Submit them to:  
[ask\\_andy@aol.com](mailto:ask_andy@aol.com)

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



## Editorial...cont' on page 13



### A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

Wow, it has been a while since I last sat at my computer. I have been experiencing a lapse of good health. This lapse has left me with a nasty cough and a very long time with a sore throat. I've been to a couple of different doctors and their ideas have been proven to be moot. I don't have strep throat, covid, the flu or whooping cough. The conclusion that was come to was that I have an allergy. Never had one in the past, and I seldom become so discombobulated. I'm now half way through a bottle of cough pearls that I take three times a day to improve me. Honestly I do now feel much better and I'm not sleeping twelve to fourteen hours a day. So I must be improving. I am thankful that my throat is more mellow now and I don't cough as much. My lungs are clear and I'm not experiencing the post nasal drip. And I don't run a temperature. I'm not contagious just plain funky. I'm very glad that seldom become ill because it turns me into a very cranky old lady. Oh, I also have an appointment with an ear, nose and throat specialist to check for polyps in my nasal cavity which may be the reason that I lost my sense of smell many years ago. Such is life.

I would like to cheer the Gratiot County Sheriff's Department. I have seen them pulling speeders over and giving out tickets. I have also seen them handcuff someone that they pulled over. Maybe under the influence? I find it sad that many drivers do not respect the speed laws or fail to be courteous to other drivers. I've experienced those (who must pass all folks in their lane) cutting back into the lane after passing without checking their rear view mirror to see the head lights of who they passed. I thought that this was one of the important issues taught in Driving 101... I believe the idea is that if you can't see their headlights then you may be clipping their front bumper with your back bumper. I know that we all make mistakes and if we are lucky it doesn't end up with someone maimed, hospitalized, or worse. Too bad that the local deer population hasn't been educated on the 'what ifs' of car or pickup abuse.

Have you ever noticed how trying to expedite the filing of government forms on line has the general tendency to raise blood pressure? Today we attempted to get our license renewal done. First getting to the site wasn't too horrific... However getting the information into the document in the time period allotted was ridiculous. Part way in and you need a pass word from the state...and the state fails to send it to you. After wasting about an hour we ended up taking the form and check to the post office where I had to get a proof of signature for delivery. I still believe that the gal was wrong and I didn't need to get the letter registered. I just wanted a POD. First I was told that it would cost just shy of twenty dollars, of course I questioned that and she re-figured the cost. Then the clerk told me that it would be five dollars which made more sense. Then added a bit more and the cost was about \$9.82 and I lost my civilized self and cussed. I apologized twice and went to the car because I only had eight dollars cash on me. I grabbed a debit card from my purse and made the purchase. To be honest I did not want to use the mail service, because I have had too many letters disappear and it has cost me in late fees. I did apologize a third time for being crass.

MG's Perx & Pastries will be serving breakfast burritos on Good Friday and Saturday. I'm looking forward to having them but then I haven't yet learned how to wrap them. Though I am decent at getting the salsa and sour cream ready for folks to use. Diane made some cut out sugar cookies today, well I did make the dough but she spent the time rolling it out and cutting and baking the cookies. In the morning she will be decorating them which reminds me that I need to take cocoa and my Easter Egg cake pan in to use. If you check us out on FB you will see the pictures of the individual upside down blueberry cherry cakes. May your lives be blessed with interesting events. My next great granddaughter is to make her debut on Easter weekend. May God bless you all with good health.

Crystal Mitchell©2025



### The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster  
[theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com](mailto:theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com)

## Canada Goose Program

Readers may be shocked to know that the DNR and the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services have worked together for many years to help manage nuisance resident Canada geese when it comes to private landowners, businesses, and other commercial entities. Many times resident Canada geese become attracted to golf courses and lakefront residential property when manicured grass lawns run right up to the shoreline of water whether it be rivers, ponds or lakes. Nearby walkways and landscape become covered with goose feces and E. coli levels in the water become unsafe for humans. Most of the program has focused on permit based egg and nest destruction and transport relocation practices. Starting in 2025, there will be a pilot program that expands nest egg destruction permits statewide and transport relocation practices will be replaced with euthanasia.

Why is this happening? Why not let hunters have a more liberal season and bag limits? The short answer is that it is too hard to safely hunt resident Canada geese in urban settings and increased disease concerns like the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). What about harvesting the meat and providing the protein to food pantries and kitchens? The DNR said it was looking into options for testing, processing, and distribution but the Weekly Sportsman is doubtful with all the ongoing issues with the Michigan Hunters Against Hunger Program. While this program has some high permitting thresholds you would think part of the pilot would have included something with the involvement of hunters. What are your thoughts?

If you would like more information please visit:  
<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/wildlife/nuisance-wildlife/nuisance-canada-geese-faqs>

Seems like everything the DNR manages is becoming mis-managed and labeled as a nuisance. Where shall the list begin... deer, bear, coyote, Canada geese, squirrel, rabbit, and sandhill cranes. Where and when will it stop? Next week...discussion of license fee increases to balance the DNR budget and assist with management practices.

-WS

## Son's of the American Legion Steak Dinner

The Son's of the American Legion Steak Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 26th from 4-7 p.m. at American Legion Post 248, 1240 E. Grand River, Laingsburg.

It is open to the public.

Dinner includes steak - grilled to order; baked potato; cole slaw, roll and dessert. \$17 per person.

Drinks available for purchase.



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## Building Futures

Letter to the Editor:

Our St Johns School District is at a crossroads. Maintaining the status quo in today's world is not an option. We have a unique opportunity to move our district forward with a new commitment of excellence to our students and community. And with no added millage increase to what we're paying now, there will never be a better time to vote "YES" for a bond proposal.

Everything listed in the bond is important, like firming up safety & security - addressing our aging infrastructure - updating classrooms to reflect changing educational needs, etc.

I'd like to focus on the extreme importance of a quality Early Learning Center, which will lay the important foundation for lifelong learning, which is so essential today. Currently, our program is spread out in 3 different buildings - in classrooms not specifically designed for young children - classrooms that are currently needed for other instructional activities.

We desperately need a specific building for our young learners, with rooms specifically designed for them and their learning needs. Our staff will be able to work together - young families will be attracted to our community - will have room for more students!

Why wouldn't we want the best educational opportunities for our kids! We have always been proud of our schools and have supported bonds over the years. We can't quit on our kids now. This bond is about Building Futures - addressing the needs of students today while preparing them for their futures. Please vote "YES" on May 6th.

William Tennant, St. Johns Resident

## Vote No May 6th

Letter to the Editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to express our need to come together and turn down the current bond proposal from St. Johns Public Schools. There are several reasons, here are some primary problems with the bond passing.

First, the district voted this down last year. No means no, and to return this year with an increased cost and more added to the bond (like the fly system for theater) indicates that the board has not listened to the community and instead spent another \$25,000 to bring this to a ballot at a special time. \$100 million will cost us \$192 million by the time we pay this off, and this outsized borrowing will perpetuate our debt another 30 years.

Another reason to VOTE NO is the early child development center. We already have pre-k offered district wide, its purpose being to draw students and families into our district. Centralizing this to a new, \$22 million dollar facility in town (20% of the bond request) will not only mitigate the reach and radius of our pre-k programs, but will cause traffic jams where its intended to be located (lansing and townsend). Also, it will cause scheduling problems for any families with children in pre-k and in kindergarten thru second grade, those grades only allocated to gateway across town. If you live south of town and work in lansing, SJPS pre-k at a new ECDC will add a 30 minute trip to your morning schedule. All this to possibly add 50 students to our state funded pre-k program, which can easily be done with classroom additions to the elementary schools in lieu of a new building.

A third reason to turn this down is the closure of Eureka. While SJPS currently states they will keep that school open, the original planning of this bond was to close Eureka. While community blowback has frowned upon this, the culture of SJPS has been to contract the district to in town for some time. We've already shut down East Essex and the Wilson center, and if this bond passes they plan on shutting down East Olive. Not only did (or will) we sell these vested properties for very little, but the consequence is that we are leaving our rural families less incentivized to stay in our district, after all we are one of the largest area districts in the lower peninsula. Considering the decade of lowering enrollment in Saint Johns, and the fact that there are 100 kids less this year than enrolled last year, making it more conducive to our rural families to enroll elsewhere, especially Riley area families (our largest elementary) is counter productive to attracting families to our district.

Please, tell the board "NO" this May 6th, and send this back for re-consideration. Let them know we want less spending. Show your support for district wide pre-k, as well as being family oriented and encouraging growth in our district by not contracting and centralizing our educational services to town. Let them know we need to keep schools open, not close them and sell them off in order to justify a new building. Vote, "no", and let the board know that this current bond proposal is beyond scope and budget for our community.

Thank you for your consideration,  
James Sills, SJPS bond 2025 steering committee member

# Meet the Teams - Ovid-Elsie Marauders



## Ovid-Elsie Varsity Baseball

First row (l-r): Sean Silapatkul, Blake Fabus, Joe Zuniga, Jaxon Ladiski

Second row (l-r): Javen Belill, Corbyn Janes, Jayce Herblet, Brody Howard, Clayton Fruchey

Third row (l-r): Hunter Long, Tucker Loynes, Daniel Topping, Lance Wiktorowski, Jake Bowen

Back row (l-r): - Coach Ben Skoczylas, Coach Mike Loynes, Coach Luke Martin

Photo by Ortman Production, Inc.



## Ovid-Elsie Varsity Softball

Front row (l-r): Olyvia Coon, Kathryn Thornton, Jamie Houska, Samantha Helms, Alexah Heckman. Second row (l-r): Audrie VanDeusen, Isabella Phillips, Danica Bancroft, Laiken Watkins. Third row (l-r): Haley McClung, Mercedes Grieder, Brooklyn Thornton, Ava Juhas.

Back row (l-r): Sadie Casaday Head coach, Alayna Wenger Manager, Keigan Ormes Assistant Coach.

Photo by Ortman Production, Inc.

## Speed, Smarts, Experience Lead Marauders Into 2025 Sack Season

OVID-ELSIE -- Team speed, baseball IQ and experience are the bedrock on which the 2025 Ovid-Elsie varsity baseball team will build its season.

Veteran coach and former O-E standout Mike Loynes returns with a top-notch staff in Luke Martin, Ben Skoczylas, Jeremy Lukas and Jake Loynes. They'll look to overcome a lack of depth to on the roster " ... as I expect us to finish in the top half of the conference," explains the head coach.

Key newcomers are Kanyon Keusch, Hunter Long, Jayce Herblet, Clayton Fruchey, Logan Brown, Daniel Topping, Tucker Loynes and John Kelly.

Top returnees for the 2025 Marauders include Jake Bowen, Corbyn Janes, Javen Belill, Lance Wiktorowski, Brody Howard, Jaxon Ladiski and Joe Zuniga.

Bowen, along with standout outfielder and leadoff man Lance Wiktorowski, led the Marauders in 2024 honors, both selected to 1st Team All-MMAC. Bowen was also named to the All-District team.

Wiktorowski hit .350 with a .467 on-base percentage, tying Bowen for the team lead in hits with 35. He also led the Marauders with 18 steals and 32 runs scored as the consummate table-setter at the top of the order.

Bowen just missed a mind-boggling .500 hitting season in 2024, settling for a .486 mark (35 hits, 72 at-bats) with a glittering .684 on-base percentage. The Marauder slugger blasted 10 doubles and a pair of homers while driving in 18 runs.

O-E's 2024 pitching staff was led by an outstanding season from Corbyn Janes. He finished a tough-luck 5-4 with a 2.64 ERA, striking out 71 in 55 innings pitched. Janes' team-leading season led to 2nd Team All-MMAC honors.

Honorable Mention All-MMAC honors went to outfielder Javen Belill, who batted .369 with 18 hits, 20 RBI and 16 steals.

The 2024 Marauders finished 12-19-1 overall, with a 4th place league finish behind Chesaning (14-0), Lakeville (11-3) and New Lothrop (10-3). Rounding out the MMAC race was Durand (4-9), Montrose (4-10), Mt. Morris (3-11) and Byron (1-12).

O-E is on track to improve on that 2024 finish in 2025.

## New Coach, Key Players at Key Positions Breeds Optimism for Lady Marauders

OVID-ELSIE -- With its third head coach in three seasons, Ovid-Elsie's softball program returns to the diamond in 2025 not lacking experience ... or optimism.

Says new mentor Sadie Casaday, "I'm excited to work with several key players this season who are ready to lead and make a significant impact."

Junior pitcher Mercedes Grieder will be at the forefront on the mound, bringing a powerful arm and valuable leadership. Junior catcher Haley McClung will continue to anchor our defense while providing crucial offensive contributions. Senior Kathryn Thornton will be a steady presence at third base, offering her experience and consistency on the hot corner. Senior Jamie Houska, O-E's center fielder, remains a dynamic force in the outfield, utilizing her speed and strong defensive skills. And senior Olyvia Coon will be holding down second base, bringing leadership and reliability to the infield.

Continues coach Casaday, "This season, I'm looking forward to seeing the impact of our newcomers, who bring fresh energy and talent to the team. Junior Ava Juhas joins us as a short-stop and utility player, adding depth and versatility to the infield. Sophomore Brooklyn Thornton will join us as a pitcher and utility player, bolstering our pitching staff and providing flexibility throughout the field."

The Lady Marauders finished 12-18 last season, and will have to fill the shoes of catcher Maddisyn Miller, pitcher Kaitlyn Fry and Karigann Cuthbert, who all graduated with the Class of 2024.

"From my perspective, one of the biggest strengths of our team is the strong bond we share. We really support each other, both on and off the field, which creates a positive and cohesive atmosphere," explains Casaday. "That unity helps us stay focused and motivated, no matter what happens during a game. Another big strength is our solid fielding. We can rely on each other to make plays and back each other up, which gives us confidence and keeps us in the game even when things get tough."

O-E has some younger pitchers -- two juniors and a sophomore -- which Casaday sees as actually a great opportunity for the team to grow. With more experience, the pitching staff has the potential to become a real strength.

The coach says, "We can build their confidence and help them develop the skills they need to take on bigger challenges in the future. As for our hitting, I

know it's something we need to work on, but I see it as a chance for our offense to come alive. We have the potential to hit consistently, and with focus and practice, I believe we can unlock that offensive power and become a well-rounded team.

"As the new head coach, my goal for this season is to build on what we've learned from last year and continue growing as a team. We have a strong group of returners who are ready to lead, and the newcomers are eager to make an impact. Together, we're focused on daily improvement, building team chemistry, and maintaining a positive mindset. Our ultimate goal is to stay competitive, work hard, and take on every challenge with determination and optimism. With a great mix of experience and new energy, I'm excited to see how this team rises to the occasion."

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# Meet the Teams - Ovid-Elsie Marauders



## Ovid-Elsie Varsity Boys Track

Front row (l-r): Ben Wildes, Alex Aekvorathongchai, Joe Bancroft, James Kelly, Clay Powell, Tryce Tokar, Drew Goins, Alex Wright. Second row (l-r): Robert Kebler, Josh Miller, Braxton O'Bryant, Dalton Jordan, Jackson Custer, Brock Spitzley, Owen Long, Mike Bancroft, Kody Ash, Landen Kusnier. Third row (l-r): Jacob Miller, Dylan Henning, Brooks Lohr, Marshall Leavitt, Bennet Troop, Mitchell Gonzalez, Jeremiah Stewart, Chandler Hart-Butcher, Wyatt Lover, Travis Milner. Fourth row (l-r): Mitchell Blaha, Landen VanConant, Peyton Stewart, Colton Sempstrott, Destin Kinney, Maverick Horak, Bryce Krueger, Cooper Ritenberg. Missing: Peyton St. Onge and Chaycen Thornton. Coaches: Doug Long, Brian Powell.

Photo by Ortman Production, Inc.

## State Qualifiers, Throwers and Sprinters Pace O-E Boys Track Team Into 2025 Season

OVID-ELSIE -- The Ovid-Elsie boys track and field team opened their 2025 season at two early indoor meets.

They looked pretty darned good doing it.

"We have some quality people in a lot of events," says veteran mentor Doug Long. "We're strongest in the throwing events and the sprints."

Add a state champion-caliber pole vaulter in senior Tryce Tokar, and the Marauders think they're right in the hunt for a league title in the always-tough Mid-Michigan Activities Association (MMAC).

Tokar (sprints), Joe Bancroft (throws), James Kelly (distance) and Clay Powell (middle distance) are the Marauders' senior captains. Other returning standouts are junior Jackson Custer (hurdles), sophomore Mitchell Gonzalez (distance), soph Marshall Leavitt (middle distance), junior Owen Long (sprints), soph Wyatt Lover (sprints), junior Josh Miller (distance), soph Travis Milner (sprints, long jump), junior Brock Spitzley (throws), soph Jeremiah Stewart (distance and high jump), junior Chaycen Thornton (pole vault) and senior Alex Wright (hurdles).

Long, Milner, Powell, Spitzley and Tokar were all State Qualifiers in 2024.

Top newcomers are Alex Aekvorathongchai in the sprints, Dylan Henning in the throws, Dalton Jordan in the throws, Bryce Krueger in the throws, Braxton O'Bryant in the throws and Ben Wildes in the throws. Wildes and Aekvorathongchai are seniors new to the Marauder roster.

"We'll have to overcome not being very deep in the jumping or distance events," explains Long.

"Chesaning will be strong again and the conference favorite. We should compete with them -- if not be right behind them."



## Ovid-Elsie Varsity Girls Track

Front row (l-r): Kyla Washburn, Metta Newell, Avery Rowell, Kortlynn Loynes, Hannah Koutz and Dylan Masarik. 2nd row (l-r): Kendal Tokar, Laila Hoch, Kenlee White, Carly Williams, Maddi Bushard, Clarissa Baese, and Lizzie Throop. 3rd row (l-r): Tava Kvalevog, Piper White, Darby White, Abigail Lehman, Chloe Preston, Jill Williams, and Jessi Kozlowski. Coaches: Nick Hufnagel and Brian Powell. Not pictured: Audrey Bensinger, Violette Massuch and Alexia Schneider. Photo by Ortman Production, Inc.

## Lady Marauder Track and Field Team is Strongest in Hurdle and Distrance Events

OVID-ELSIE -- Veteran coach Nick Hufnagel joins assistant mentors Doug Long and Brian Powell in looking to mold the 2025 Lady Marauder track and field team into a championship squad.

Returning tracksters Audrey Bensinger, Clarissa Baese, Kyla Washburn, Laila Hoch, Jill Williams, Chloe Preston, Tava Kvalevog, Jessi Kozlowski, Hannah Koutz, Piper White, Abigail Lehman and Metta Newell are strongest in the hurdle and distance events, explains the coach.

They're joined by newcomers Maddie Bushard, Kendal Tokar, Avery Rowell, Kenlee White, Darby White, Violette Massuch, Kortlynn Loynes, Dylan Masarik, Lizzie Throop and Carly Williams.

"We have some very strong returners," says coach Hufnagel. "Depth in the field events is not as strong as previous years, but we feel confident in our ability to compete with the best teams in the conference."

MMAC favorites include the Chesaning Indians and New Lothrop Hornets.



**Spring Sports**

The Meridian Weekly Spring Sports Preview for Ashley will be published as soon as photos are available!



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### Easter Egg Hunt & Lunch

The United Church of Ovid, 131 W. Front St., Ovid will have an Easter Egg Hunt & Lunch on Saturday, April 19, 11:30 am

The parking lot is located behind church on Clinton Street one block west of main street.

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

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

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

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### Ashley United Methodist Church Easter Service

submitted by Pastor Zella Daniel

The Ashley United Methodist Church will be holding Sunday Easter Worship Services on April 20th at 10:00 a.m.

Breakfast is free and always held before at 9:15 a.m. in the church basement.

Come and join us.

### Holy Week Services at Elsie United Methodist Church

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – Elsie United Methodist Church has slated the following services during Holy Week. Starting with Maudy Thursday Services, Thursday, April 17, 2pm; Good Friday Service a joint service with Elsie United Methodist, Shepardsville United Methodist, and United Church of Ovid churches, 2 pm; Easter services Sunrise Service 7:30 am, 8 am breakfast and worship service 9:30 am. Elsie UMC is located at 160 W Main Street, Elsie. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### Duplain Church of Christ

Duplain Church of Christ, 5565 E. Colony Rd., St. Johns. Good Friday Service, April 18 from 7-8 p.m.

Saturday, April 19, Easter Fair. Egg hunt, petting zoo, food and more.

Sunday, April 20, Easter Breakfast from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Service at 11:00 a.m.

### United Church of Ovid

United Church of Ovid, 131 W. Front St., Ovid  
Easter Sunday Service, April 20 at 11:00 a.m.

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A Modern Woodmen financial representative can review flexible and affordable life insurance options. The more you learn about your options, the better prepared you can be to select the type of life insurance that's best for you and your family.

Let's start the conversation.



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## Elsie... cont' from front page

change HSA gold and change the agent of record to Brian McCluskey with DJ McCluskey Insurance. Current program annual premium is \$34,000, the new program would save approximately \$11,000 for a total \$23,000. However, an HSA account would be established for employees to cover prescriptions with a total savings of approximately \$6,600.

Chris Ormes, Department of Public Works, updated officials on the storm damage, noting that an electronic panel was destroyed and an insurance claim filed. The deductible for the village is \$500, the full cost of the panel was \$59,000.

Public Comment: Will the Village continue the recycling program, unclear, no documentation of contributions from the area townships. It was noted that Fairfield and Duplain have been making contributions towards the program for a number of years. It should be noted that after researching further it was discovered that the recycling is an established contract and will continue monthly. In addition, Fairfield and Duplain Townships have made contributions to ensure that their residents can participate in the program.

Amy Bowen, Elsie Area Fire Association treasurer, asked a number of questions regarding the fire department and the relationship with the village. She referenced a letter sent to officials March 25, 2025. A special meeting of the Elsie Area Fire Association board is slated for April 11, 2025 to address a number of concerns. Jason Freeman, Elsie Village President, indicated that the department will receive a response to the letter by the April 11, 2025 special meeting.

The public had additional questions regarding the Elsie Fire Department and the building issues. The general response was that the community wants the department to remain in the Village of Elsie. Discussion became very heated.

Monthly action was taken to approve the meeting agenda as presented, the minutes of the special meeting held, Tuesday, March 25, and the financial reports. In addition, officials approved expenditures totaling \$8,447.08. Bryce noted that the report reflects \$93,000 in bills that are outstanding, this will be reflected each month. The five-year debt reduction plan will address this deficit. Officials had an opportunity to review all invoices and checks written to improve transparency.

## Legend... cont' from front page

The Badgers also had massive team success during Darling's tenure, winning a cross country national title in 2011, four Big Ten cross country titles and two Big Ten track & field titles.

Darling was surrounded by great runners throughout his time in Madison, including close friend Mohammed Ahmed, who finished fourth in the 10,000 meters at this Olympics, one spot behind another Michigan distance star, Grand Blanc's Grant Fisher.

Watching the results of a distance boom he was a big part of has been a joy for Darling this summer.

"I thought I was pretty good, then watching these guys – it's jealousy," he said with a laugh. "And also, it's just cool to see. Michigan is one of the best distance states men's and women's-wise. It's great to see them not only be on the international level, but to have that success."

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# Meet the Teams - Ovid-Elsie Marauders



## Ovid-Elsie Girls Varsity Soccer

Front row (l-r): Belle Butcher, Maddie Vitek, Madalynn Bushard, Ava Sweet, Makayla Milledge, Macy VanEitten. Second row (l-r): Adalynn Roberts, Kaela Campbell, Kendal Tokar, Claire Fruchey, Jaedyn Palus, Breanna Helt. Third row (l-r): Dannika Campbell, Lilian Bates, Sarah Newman, Ava Kremer, Alyson Moore, McKenzie Keck. Top row (l-r): Sophia Sweet, Audrianna Lukas, Tava Kvalevog, Madison Thornton, Norah Wilcox. Photo by Ortman Production, Inc.



## Ovid-Elsie Girls Varsity Tennis

Front row (l-r): Hailie McCreery, Mikayla Bashore, Jenna Tomasek, Ellyanna Carman, Grace Remenar. Second row (l-r): Meadow Evans, Emmylou Blaha, Jolene Hebeler, Lauren Phillips, Evalyn Swender. Third row (l-r): Karcyn Pierce, Chloe Preston, Dylan Masarik, Alexis Chadwick, Adelaide Faziani. Fourth row (l-r): Savannah Stornant, Jazmyn Brantley, Alison Kozlowski, Autumn Bacziewicz. Photo by Ortman Production, Inc.

## Speed, Athleticism Keep Lady Marauders in Thick of Girls' Soccer Race in MMAC

OVID-ELSIE -- A young Marauder girls soccer team, resplendent with speed and athleticism, looks to be “... playing a very meaningful match in May,” says veteran coach Jerome White.

Looking ahead to post-season success, coach White has plenty of reason to be optimistic. A talented nucleus includes Dannika Campbell, McKenzie Keck, Madison Thornton, Sophia Sweet, Anna Lukas, Sarah Newman, Ava Kremer, Adalynn Roberts, Alyson Moore, Belle Butcher, Breanna Helt, Lily Bates and Nora Wilcox.

“We are very young. We will be playing six or seven newcomers very heavy minutes,” says coach White. “We are replacing three All-State players (Ava Bates, Evalyn Cole, Hailee Campbell), so we anticipate it will take a while for it all to come together.”

Newcoming players Ava Sweet, Claire Fruchey, Jaedyn Palus, Kaela Campbell, Maddie Vitek, Makayla Milledge and Tava Kvalevog are looking to help make that happen.

As far as the league race, where O-E is always a contender, will be led by the Montrose Rams. “Montrose will be very good this year and is probably considered the favorite to win the title,” coach White explains. “We expect to contend with them.”

“We have speed, athleticism, improved depth, and players willing to work hard to succeed. We have a tremendous culture and I believe that culture can win you an extra match or two per year.”

## Solid Foundation of Returning Netters Lead Ovid-Elsie's Girls Tennis Into 2025

OVID-ELSIE -- A great strength in returning players. That's a luxury any coach would love to have.

Ovid-Elsie's girls varsity tennis team is in exactly that position this spring, lending to a great deal of optimism in Marauderland. Seniors Hailie McCreery, Ellyanna Carman, Mikayla Bashore, Jenna Tomasek and Grace Remenar, along with underclassmen Ev Swender, Autumn Bacziewicz, Emmy Blaha, Meadow Evans, Jolene Hebeler, Ali Kozlowski and Lauren Phillips all return as a rock-solid foundation for co-coaches Marie Spiess and Holly Hibbard.

“Most of our returnees have at least two years of experience,” explains the coaching staff. “They are excited to get the season started. We have some strong and aggressive net players.”

Promising newcomers are Jaz Brantley, Alexis Chadwick, Adelaide Faziani, Dylan Masarik, Karayn Pierce, Chloe Preston and Savannah Stornant.

The Lady Marauders finished with an impressive 9-3-1 record in 2024, and lost by only one point in the conference championship to Durand.

“Durand will be our biggest competition in the conference, but we are preparing for the MMAC tournament on May 6,” the coaching staff explains. “They are a fun group of girls and we are excited to see their growth through the season.”

Coaches please remember to send your results every week to be included in the Meridian Weekly!  
Email to: news@meridianweekly.com or Tom Turek at tomturek2002003@yahoo

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## OVID-ELSIE SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES

Ovid-Elsie Soccer		Ovid-Elsie Girls Tennis		Ovid-Elsie Softball	
April 15: Birch Run	H 6:00pm	April 14: Swartz Creek	A 4:00pm	April 16: Lakewood DH	H 4&6pm
April 17: Lakeville	H 6:00pm	April 15: Mt. Morris	A 4:00pm	April 21: Montrose DH	A 4&6pm
April 18: Marauder Invite	H TBA	April 17: Chesaning	H 4:00pm	April 22: Lumen Christi DH	H 4&6pm
April 21: Byron	A 5:00pm	April 21: Corunna	H 4:00pm	April 24: Petoskey	H 4pm
April 22: Chesaning	A TBA	April 24: Leslie	A 4:00pm	April 24: Alpena	H 6pm
April 24: Montrose	H 6:00pm	April 25: Lakewood	H 4:00pm	April 28: Birch Run	H 4pm
April 29: Byron	H 6:00pm	April 30: Hemlock	A 5:00pm	April 28: Escanaba	H 6pm
May 2: DeWitt	A 7:00pm	May 1: Bullock Creek	A 4:00pm	April 30: Petoskey	A 4pm
May 5: Dansville	A 5:30pm	May 3: Home Quad	H 10:00am	April 30: Breckenridge	A 6pm
May 6: Durand	H 6:00pm	May 6: Chesaning	A 10:00am	May 3: St. Johns Tourney	A TBA
May 8: Birch Run	A 4:30pm	May 8: Lansing Christian	H 4:00pm	May 5: Durand DH	A 4&6pm
May 10: Fenton	H 7:00pm			May 8: Fulton DH	H 4&6pm
May 13: Lakeville	A TBA			May 12: Lakeville DH	H 4&6pm
May 15: Chesaning	H 6:00pm			May 14: Vestaburg DH	H 4&6pm
May 16: Flushing	A 6:30pm			May 15: Chesaning DH	H 4&6pm
May 19: Montrose	A 5:30pm			May 19: Byron DH	A 4&6pm
				May 21: Carson City DH	A 4&6pm

## Meet the Teams - Ovid-Elsie Marauders

## Sports



### Ovid-Elsie JV Baseball

First row (l-r): Teagan Ignash, Sam Cooper, Andrew Brown, Hunter Smith, John Kelly  
 Second row (l-r): Henry Remenar, Kanyon Keusch, Max Fabus, Jason Harrell, Logan Brown  
 Back row (l-r): Coach Ben Skoczylas, Coach Mike Loynes, Coach Luke Martin  
 Missing - Conor McClung.

Photo by Ortman Production, Inc.

### Buchin No-Hits Marauders, Wolfpack Softball Gals Win

OVID-ELSIE -- Laingsburg's highly-touted softball team kicked off their 2025 season on the road at Ovid-Elsie.

They never let the Marauders get on the board and left with a 13-0 win, the 923rd for LHS coach Jeff Cheadle as the march continues toward 1,000.

The victory continued a trend for the Wolfpack in their matchups with the Marauders: they've now won eight in a row.

The Lady Wolves opened with a 6-0 lead in the first inning, then scored two in the 2nd and 4th in the 4th to ice the win. The red-and-white rapped 9 hits while senior standout Addyson Buchin fired a no-hitter at the Marauders, in their debut under new head coach Sadie Casaday.

*Veteran coach Jeff Cheadle talks strategy with catcher Harper Strouse during his team's 13-0 season-opening win at Ovid-Elsie. The victory was the 923rd in Cheadle's coaching career.*



### Award Golf Outing Tees Off 2025 Season

LAINGSBURG — You're a Laingsburg High School alumnus. You love the place. LHS was a springboard to your success in life. Wolfpack red runs in your blood.

What better way to leave your legacy than to get involved with the Laingsburg Alumni Legacy Award (LALA)? This

Laingsburg success story in the making is picking up steam.

And if you're an avid golfer, this year's event helps tee-off the 2025 golf outing season.

The 4th annual LALA Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, April 19 at Pine Hills Golf Course, as an important fundraiser for the scholarship fund. The format is a four-person scramble, at \$60 per player or \$240 per team. Lunch will be served on the turn; there are notable prizes for 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place teams; also hole prizes and a 50/50 raffle.

To sign up for golf or for more information, contact Tom Turek at 517-282-1528. Sign-up forms are also available at the Pine Hills clubhouse, on the Laingsburg Community Page on Facebook, and on the Laingsburg Sports Boosters page on Facebook.



### Marauder Track Teams Blaze to Unbeaten Record in Home Quadrangular Meet

OVID-ELSIE -- Jessica Kozlowski blazed past the field in the 110 hurdles, and the Marauder boys' team dominated the visitors, as Ovid-Elsie track and field went undefeated in early-season non-league action at Mark O'Donnell Stadium.

The Lady Marauders won 82-42 over Merrill, 67-47 over Fulton-Middleton and 66-48 over Morrice.

The male Marauder win differential was even larger: 121-9 over Merrill, 118-23 past Fulton and 93-43 opposite the Morrice Orioles.

For the boys, first place finishes were posted in the 400 m (Milner :53.79), 800 m (Powell 2:09.35), 110 hurdles (Custer :18.54), 4x400 Relay (Long/Leavitt/Blaha/Powell, 4:02.74), 4x800 Relay: (Milner/Leavitt/Blaha/Powell, 9:55.93), Discus (Spitzley 134'4"), high jump (J. Stewart 5'6") and pole vault (Tokar 12'6").

Runner-up efforts came in the 100 m (Long :11.53), 200 m (Milner :24.28), 400 m (Leavitt :58.19), 1600 m (Kelly 5:32.77), 3200 m (Kelly 12:05.32), 300 hurdles (Custer :47.14), shot put (Wildes 42'1"), pole vault (Thornton 11'0") and long jump (Horak 16'8.75").

Kyla Wasburn ran first in the 100 m dash for the girls in :14.30. Other top medalists for the Lady Marauders were Kendal Tokar (:29.27 in the 200 m), Madalyn Bushard (3:02.46 in the 800 m), Kozlowski (17.89 in the 100 hurdles), 4x100 Relay team of Kozlowski/Hannah Koutz/Kenlee White/Washburn in :58.69, and the 4x400 Relay of Tava Kvalevog/Audrey Bensinger/Carly Williams/Tokar in 4:55.9.

Runners-up for the O-E girls were in the 100 m (K.White :14.52), 800 m (Clarissa Baese 3:04.04) and Baese in the 1600 m run 6:35.56.

### Chilly, Pre-Season CMAC Quadrangular Ends With Stellar Efforts From LHS Thinclads

LAINGSBURG -- Logan Robinson and James Foltz topped the field in the 400 m and 800 m, respectively, as the Wolfpack track teams hosted the CMAC Pre-Season (South) Quadrangular at the LHS Athletic Complex.

Bath, Perry, Dansville and the host Wolfpack completed the four-team field.

Coach Brian Borgman's Wolves also added top spots with Felix Ramirez in the 1600 m, Shaun Mills in the shotput, Mitchell George in the high jump, and two relay events in an impressive early-2025 showing.

The Lady Wolfpack got top finishes from Kendall Michels in the pole vault (8'0"), Emily Rathka in the 800 m (2:45.32), Hazel Burley in the 1600 m (6:25.0) and Sophia Hughes in the discus (82'5").

Robinson in the 400 (:54.35) and Foltz in the 800 (2:12.51) showcased the male Wolves' dominance in the middle distances. Ramirez won the 1660 in 5:26.49, while the 400 m relay (Leandro Dolega-Caceres, Grey Sequin, Carson Helmer, George) won in a blazing time of :45.82, and the 3200 m relay (Robinson, Foltz, Noah Devereaux, Ramirez) won by a full 37 seconds in 8:55.41. over Dansville.

George won the high jump (6'2") with Dolega-Caceres runner-up (5'10"). Keaton Dietz was 2nd in the long jump for the Wolves at 17'3." Charles Dehnert was the runner-up in the discus at 109'7, and in the 300 m hurdles in :44.69.

Sequin ran 2nd in the 200 m in :25.34.

In the girls competition, Laingsburg's Grace Knoll was 2nd in the the 1600 m (8:20.00) as the Wolves swept the event. Edie Zacharda hurdled 2nd in the 100 m in :18.71.

The 4x200 m relay team (Evelyn Logghe, Mallory Woodbury, Samantha Magyar, Rathka) was 2nd in 2:10.72. The 4x800 m relay quartet (Logghe, Burley, Jayden Foltz, Rathka) ran 2nd in 12:01.58.

Ella Mohney was runner-up in the shot put (29'11"). Woodbury leapt 2nd in the high jump in 4'8." In the pole vault, Madison Phillips was 2nd with a 8' effort.

### 5th Road Win in a Row for Wolves; O-E Falls in Twinbill

OVID-ELSIE -- In the 2025 openers for both teams, Ovid-Elsie's varsity baseball Marauders couldn't capitalize on their home-field advantage and dropped 13-1, 11-3 nods to neighboring Laingsburg.

Coach Todd Randall's Wolfpack have become road warriors; the nightcap was their fifth road win in a row, dating back to last season. The Wolves have chalked up wins over Calvin Christian, Perry and Ovid-Elsie in that span, moving to 2-0 on the young 2025 campaign.

Coach Mike Loynes' Marauders lost their 5th-straight to LHS, in falling to 0-2.

# Meridian Weekly

Deborah Price

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## MDHHS Seeks Applicants for Weatherization Grants

*submitted by Lynn Sutfin*

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has issued a competitive Grant Funding Opportunity for statewide weatherization services.

The purpose of the program is to provide energy conservation and related health and safety services for eligible low-income households at no cost to the resident. MDHHS issues grants to local weatherization operators across the state to serve designated areas, ensuring that all counties in Michigan can benefit from this energy-saving program.

This opportunity is open to any community action agency or public or nonprofit entities.

An estimated \$18.3 million is available for the first 12 months of the program. Each applicant will be awarded funding based on the number of counties served and the number of applicants awarded in each county. Maximum funding amounts for each county are based on population and temperature data. After the initial agreement period, continuation awards will be available. MDHHS anticipates issuing up to 25 awards.

All applicant agencies must register for the EGrAMS system and request an application by 5 p.m., Friday, April 25. Grant applications must be submitted electronically through the EGrAMS program by 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 30. The initial program period begins July 1, 2025, and ends Sept. 30, 2025.

For more information or to apply, visit the EGrAMS website and select "About EGrAMS" link in the left panel to access the "Competitive Application Instructions" training manual. The complete GFO can be accessed under the "Current Grants" section under the "Community Action & Economic Opportunity" link and selecting the "WAPD2-2025" grant program.

A pre-application conference was held to discuss this funding opportunity and provide instructions on using the EGrAMS system. The recorded conference can be accessed from the "Documents" tab of the GFO on the EGrAMS website.



## If Your License or ID Has a Star, You are REAL ID Ready

*submitted by Cheri Hardmon*

LANSING – As the federal deadline approaches, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson said more than 73% of people with a Michigan driver's license or ID have already upgraded to a REAL ID. Beginning May 7, all U.S. airlines will require a REAL ID-compliant document to board a domestic flight, and travelers without one could be delayed.

Michiganders can obtain a REAL ID, which is a license or ID marked by a star, by going to [Michigan.gov/REALID](http://Michigan.gov/REALID) to schedule an appointment at any Secretary of State office. The scheduling system will walk them through documents they will need to bring.

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson encourages residents who do not have a REAL ID but may need one to apply soon, as it will take weeks to receive in the mail.

Those who provide proper documentation will be issued a license or ID in Michigan's new design, which features a REAL ID star indicator in the gold shape of Michigan. Older blue and green licenses and IDs that have the REAL ID star in a gold circle on them are also compliant.

The federal REAL ID Act of 2005 was passed in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and requires higher standards for identification. When the law goes into full effect May 7, 2025, a standard Michigan driver's license or ID card no longer will be adequate to board an aircraft for a domestic flight or to enter military bases, nuclear power plants, or certain other federal facilities.

Many people have an ID that meets federal REAL ID standards, such as a valid U.S. passport, a Trusted Traveler card, or an enhanced driver's license. Participation in the program is voluntary and anyone who doesn't want a REAL ID will be issued a standard license or ID that can't be used for federal identification purposes.

Upgrading a standard license or ID to a REAL ID is free if done during the normal renewal period. Otherwise, a card correction fee of \$9 for a driver's license or \$10 for an ID is charged.

As of March 21, 73.5 percent of Michigan driver's licenses and state ID cards are REAL ID-compliant. That includes enhanced driver's licenses and IDs, which are REAL ID-compliant and can be used to cross the border into the United States from Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean by land or sea. The indicator for an enhanced license or ID in Michigan is a U.S. flag icon.

When applying for a REAL ID, you will need to bring:

Your driver's license or ID.

Your certified birth certificate, with a raised seal or stamp issued by a governmental agency; your valid, unexpired U.S. passport; or an approved citizenship or legal presence document. (Faxes and photocopies won't be accepted.)

If your name differs from what is on your birth certificate, bring certified documents, such as marriage licenses or court orders, for every time your name has changed.

The Michigan Department of State has been working with airports in Michigan for years to provide signage and other reminders to travelers about the upcoming deadline. The department also includes reminders about REAL ID on driver's license and ID renewal notices and has completed several marketing campaigns about REAL ID over the past six years. Learn more at [Michigan.gov/REALID](http://Michigan.gov/REALID).



# ALL IN *for* AYLA

Ayla Marecek is a courageous 16-year-old recently diagnosed with B Cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma. This benefit is to help support her and her family as they navigate the road ahead.

Sunday, April 27

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**SILENT AUCTION**

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**LIVE DJ**  
Throughout the event



**DINNER BUFFET**

**4:00 – 7:00 PM**

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## Food Waste Drop-off Program

**Starting Saturday, April 26th, 2025, you can drop off food scraps at all GLR recycling drives.**

**Sign up for the food waste drop-off program at any recycling drive or by email!**

**Composting food waste helps reduce landfill waste and improve soil health.**

- ✓ Food waste will be turned into compost at a certified facility.
- ✓ Free and open to all communities!
- ✓ You can drop off food waste in BPI-certified compostable bags, brown paper bags, wrapped in newspaper, or loose.

**Starter Kits Available:**

GLR will be giving away free starter kits (compost bins + 4 bags) to the first 25 people who sign up at the **April 12th & April 15th** recycling drives. After that, kits will be available for \$5 each.

Acceptable Compostable Materials

 Fruit and Vegetable Trimmings	 Eggshells	 Grease	 Dairy Products
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517-819-0125

# Editorial

## Vote NO May 6 on School Bond - Why?

Letter to the Editor:

We are still 57 million dollars in debt from the bond taxpayers approved in 2010!!!

The incompetency and financial mismanagement of the school board and superintendent has made it so we will be in perpetual debt by not effectively applying these funds given to them.

Why do we need to spend \$22 million dollars to build a new building for pre-school when there is already a pre-school program in tact and working? We had the Wilson Center slated for this very purpose, but instead of utilizing this building, it was sold for pennies to the City.

Enrollment of students is going down-what reason is there for putting us further in debt for something we don't need? Giving a \$100 million dollar blank check to this group is like giving a blank check to a child. They will buy what THEY want, not what they NEED.

Just look at the indoor track field - oh that's right-there isn't one, but this was to have been accomplished with the 2010 \$64.3 million dollar bond we're still in debt.

Or, look at the artificial turf on the football field-oh that's right, it's not there-also promised to be done with the 2010 \$64.3 bond we're still paying for. They said it wasn't done due to cost overrun-who's to say this isn't going to happen this time?

The Sinking Fund is the solution-save and pay for what you need as you go. Don't hand over a blank check to this group because you'll never see what they promise to do. You/your children/grandchildren will forever be in debt. Kinda like the good ole USA-\$37 Trillion dollars in debt and counting. Someone will eventually have to pay the piper-let's get out of debt first, then work on the things we NEED for our schools.

Yvonne Makara

St. Johns resident

## Vote Yes on May 6

On May 6th, voters in St. Johns Public Schools will be asked to continue to invest in the future of our students. But why now? Here are 5 reasons.

1. Our early elementary students in grades K-3 need smaller class sizes. Smaller class sizes give younger children more personalized attention and raise student achievement. This bond proposal will add new rooms for early learners and upgrade classrooms across the district.

2. Our students need better preparation for school while they are ages 3 and 4. The bond will provide an early learning center so St. Johns can offer the preschool opportunities desperately needed. Using age-appropriate learning techniques, these young people will enter elementary school prepared for success.

3. New safety and security investments across the district will help keep all of our students safe at school. The bond will provide greater security at school entrances, upgrade door hardware, and increase internal security and the safety alert system.

4. New investments are needed in career technical areas, fine arts, and athletic facilities. Learning in school happens in many places and activities. Some learn best over a math paper, others in a drafting lab or auto shop, while others thrive in music, drama, or athletics. These investments will show our students that they matter, regardless of how they thrive and excel.

5. This will all be done without an increase in millage rate, an investment that the taxpayers of St. Johns Public Schools have made for the previous 30 years. Now is not the time to disinvest in our children, but rather now is the time to put our students first.

Please say yes to SJPS on May 6th.

Scott Darragh

Victor Township

## Vote Yes on St. Johns School Bond

Letter to the Editor:

As proud members of the St. Johns community, Lorraine and I strongly support the St. Johns School Board's proposed \$99.75 million dollar bond to fund critical educational improvements to our school district. The School Board, along with input from St. Johns citizens, have studied the proposal. This is not a wish list; it is a well-studied appraisal of repairs and educational improvements.

Proposed upgrades include enhanced school security measures, a new Early Learning Center, and upgrades to Riley and Eureka, to name some of the issues being voted on. Riley and Eureka Schools are the oldest buildings in our district. It is essential that we provide our students in these buildings with the same safety and educational opportunities for learning as we do in all of our buildings.

These millage items, dealing directly with the education of our students, are essential. Smaller class size, building maintenance, and equipment upgrades all enhance the learning environment. For our Early Learners, ages 0-5, an Early Childhood Learning Center will benefit parents and children alike. These young children will have a safe and secure environment and a curriculum that meets the needs for entry into elementary school with lasting effects toward graduation and beyond.

All of this can be achieved with passing this bond millage—without raising taxes.

Lorraine and I feel very fortunate that our schools provided our children and grandchildren an outstanding education in a safe environment. We would like to ensure that future generations will have the same opportunity.

Vote YES.

Bob and Lorraine Kudwa, St. Johns

# 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, on April 30, 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 Steven M. Gorham III, a single man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated March 15, 2021, and recorded on March 18, 2021, as Document Number: 5306975, Clinton County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated September 18, 2023 and recorded September 25, 2023 by Document Number: 5338798, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifteen Thousand One Hundred Eighty-One and 28/100 (\$115,181.28) including interest at the rate of 3.12500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Bath, Clinton County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 30 and 31, Loving's West Side Plat, Bath Township, Clinton County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 46, Clinton County Records. Commonly known as: 5954 PARK LAKE RD, BATH, MI 48808 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: April 13, 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. 23MI00718-3

(04-13)(05-04)

### 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 30, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Donald E. Hodge AND Kolbrun G. Hodge, husband and wife, joint tenants, whose address is 13198 Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837, as original Mortgagors, to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR AMERICAN PORTFOLIO MORTGAGE CORPORATION, being a mortgage dated April 9, 2018, and recorded on April 12, 2018 with Document Number 5265762, Clinton County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated October 20, 2021 and recorded on October 21, 2021 and given document number 5316884 in Clinton County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FORTY AND 57/100 DOLLARS (\$155,240.57). Said premises are situated in the Township of Waterton, County of Clinton, State of Michigan, and are described as: PARCEL 1: COMMENCING AT A POINT 62 RODS SOUTH AND 25 RODS WEST OF THE NORTH-EAST CORNER OF SECTION 18, THENCE DUE NORTH 8 RODS, THENCE WEST 8 RODS, THENCE SOUTH 8 RODS THENCE EAST 8 RODS TO THE PLACE OF BEGIN-

NING, T5N, R3W, WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN PARCEL 2: BEGINNING AT A POINT 62 RODS SOUTH OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 18, T5N, R3W, WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THENCE WEST 13 RODS, NORTH 8 RODS, WEST 12 RODS, SOUTH 8 RODS, WEST 8 RODS, SOUTH 8 RODS, EAST 19 RODS 5 FEET, THENCE NORTH 4 RODS, THENCE EAST 13 RODS, 11.5 FEET, THENCE NORTH 4 RODS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Street Address: 13198 Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 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. Dated: March 30, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6388

(03-30)(04-20)

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

CASE NO: 25-32445-DE  
Estate of DENNIS L. BASSETT  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:  
The decedent, DENNIS L. BASSETT died October 7, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Robert L. Goodrich, personal representative, or the probate court at 100 E. State St. Ste. 3400, St. Johns, MI 48879 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Robert L. Goodrich  
5111 N. Dewitt Road  
St. Johns, MI 48879  
(989) 224-6096  
Kenneth L. O'Deen P58004  
133 S. Cochran Ave.  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
(517) 543-5551

(04-13)

# CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

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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 30, 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 Thomas E. Dickinson and Amy Dickinson, husband and wife, to Fifth Third Mortgage - MI, LLC, Mortgagee, dated May 4, 2007 and recorded May 10, 2007 in Instrument Number 5116788 Clinton County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Fifth Third Bank, National Association as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty and 29/100 Dollars (\$236,960.29).

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 30, 2025. Said premises are located in the Township of RILEY, Clinton County Michigan, and are described as: The Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 30, T6N, R3W, Riley Township, Clinton County, Michigan. 9800 W Chadwick Rd, 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: March 30, 2025 File No. 25-002489 Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084 Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(03-30)(04-20)

**SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CLINTON COUNTY** Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on May 07, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Tyler Sower, a single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage 1 Incorporated Date of mortgage: January 9, 2023 Recorded on January 13, 2023, in Document No. 5332249, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Nineteen and 20/100 Dollars (\$148,219.20) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Clinton County, and described as: Beginning at a point on the East Section line 981 feet North of the Southeast corner of Section 22, Town 6 North, Range 2 West; thence West 362 feet; thence North 329 feet; thence East 362 feet; thence South 329 feet to the point of beginning Commonly known as 8836 S. Williams Rd, Dewitt, MI 48820 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. 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. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1558116  
(04-06)(04-27)

**Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement**  
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on May 14, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Abigail Brown, an unmarried woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Date of Mortgage: June 1, 2022 Date of Mortgage Recording: June 3, 2022 Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$345,699.86 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of De Witt, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 191, Geneva Shores, No. 2, City of Dewitt, Clinton County, Michigan, according to the recorded Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 23, Clinton County Records. Common street address (if any): 414 W Geneva Dr, Dewitt, MI 48820-9576 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16). If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: April 13, 2025 Trott Law, P.C. 31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 642-2515

1558288  
(04-13)(05-04)

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## Rep. BeGole: Dual Enrollment is Critical for Students Interested in Skilled Trades

*submitted by Denny Schwarze*

A plan from state Rep. Brian BeGole that gives students a head start as they pursue trades careers was advanced in bipartisan fashion today by the Michigan House.

House Bill 4154 makes trade schools eligible for dual enrollment classes. Dual enrollment is a good way for students to get ahead on college credits while they're still in high school. But state law currently does not allow for high school students to be dually enrolled in trade schools to learn applicable skills. This has created a gap that prevents career and technical education students from being able to earn college credit and opportunities to help fill labor shortages in skilled trades.

BeGole noted that the eligibility would be critical for Shiawassee County and surrounding areas.

"The intermediate school district in Shiawassee County has an invitational trade school that could benefit from this added capability," BeGole said. "There's a welding school nearby in Alma. There's a building and construction school right near where we voted on this bill in Lansing. We just need to provide avenues for students who are looking at good-paying careers in these fields. With this bill, we can further diversify our workforce and cement Michigan as a leader for in-demand skilled trades workers."

Michigan students have been provided the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school since 1996. Classes that students are eligible for must be offered by a state university or community college, and must lead towards postsecondary credit, accreditation, certification, and/or licensing. BeGole's bill, which adds trade schools to this beneficial arrangement, is part of a comprehensive education reforms that give Michigan students more tools to thrive in the classroom and prepare for careers while giving parents needed transparency and accountability.

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