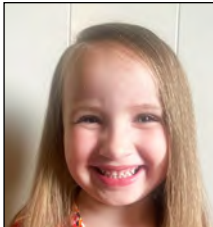


## Elsie Dairy Festival Pageant Contestants

The 2025 Elsie Dairy Festival will take to the streets on Thursday, July 10th and run thru Saturday, July 12th. The pageant will be held on Thursday beginning at 5pm at the Main Stage located in front of the Public Library. See pages 5-8 for complete festival information.

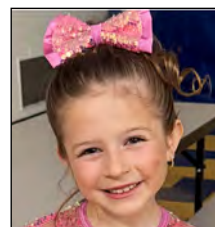
### Princess Contestants



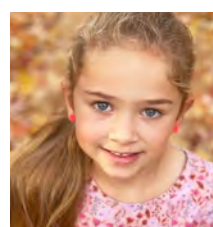
*Beretta Bensinger, 5*  
Parent  
*Brandy Bensinger*



*Maggie Coleman, 6*  
Parents  
*Adam & Cassie Coleman*



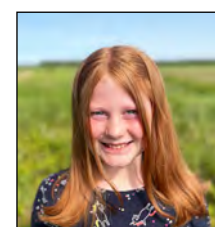
*Natalie Quinn Grecu, 8*  
Parents  
*Nick & Megan Grecu*



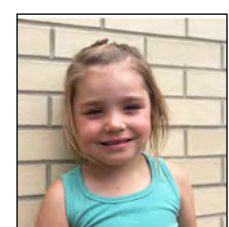
*Bre Gardner, 7*  
Parents  
*Nicholas & Andrea Gardner*



*Kariana Tyler, 9*  
Parents  
*Shayne & Debbie Tyler*



*Olive Davis, 9*  
Parents  
*Brandon & Danielle Davis*



*Scottlyn Peiffer, 5*  
Parents  
*Thomas and Heather Peiffer*

### Duchess Contestants



*Ryan Fields, 13*  
Parents  
*Rachel & Pete Remenar*  
*Chad Fields*



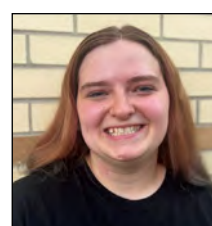
*Naomi Thomas, 13*  
Parent  
*Sarah Thomas*



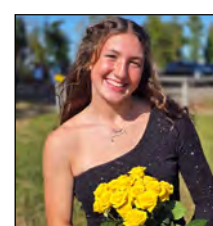
*Luella Davis, 13*  
Parents  
*Brandon & Danielle*  
*Davis*



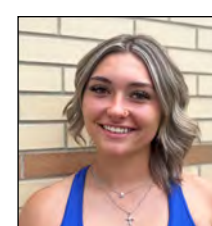
*Jasmine Tyler, 10*  
Parents  
*Shayne & Debbie*  
*Tyler*



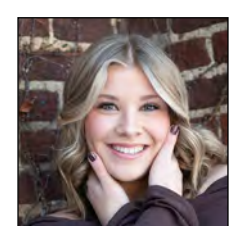
*Molly Phillips, 18*  
Parents  
*Hannah & Chris*  
*Phillips*



*Kyra Witt, 15*  
Parents  
*Melissa & Kory Witt*



*Audrie VanDeusen, 17*  
Parents  
*Hollie & Josh*  
*VanDeusen*



*Allie Lynn Barnhill, 16*  
Parent  
*Tricia Barnhill*

### Queen Contestants

## Vieyra's Market Open in Downtown Ovid

by Deb Price

Elsie residents, Antonio & Maria Guajardo have opened an authentic Mexican Grocery Store in the former Miller Realty Building. The store features a wide variety of Mexican grocery items as well as fresh produce, including Nopels (fresh cactus), fresh homemade salsas, dried chili peppers and a wide variety of Mexican spices. If you are looking for something sweet, they have Pan Dulce (Mexican sweetbread). When it comes to beverages, they have them and they are ice cold including, Jarritos. They also have fresh Aqua Fresca on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. They offer fresh meat on the weekends, lunch & dinner food specials on Tuesdays and Fridays. The couple also have a food truck that will be on location in downtown Ovid every Sunday from noon-7pm. "We are extremely pleased with the reception from the community thus far and we look forward to becoming a part of the community," explained Maria.

Store hours are Noon-7pm Sunday thru Friday and 10am-3pm on Saturdays. Stop by and say hello. They are located at 203 S. Main St., Ovid. They will be accepting EBT Cards soon.



*Vieyra's Market Family Members (l-r)*  
*Maria & Antonio Vieyra, Natalia Guajardo,*  
*Daniel Vieyra and Monica Vieyra.*

## A Message From Superintendent Mark Horak: Moving Forward Together at Ovid-Elsie

Dear Ovid-Elsie Community,

It is both a privilege and a personal honor to write to you today as the new superintendent of Ovid-Elsie Area Schools. As a proud graduate of Ovid-Elsie's Class of 1986, stepping into this role feels like I am coming home. This community shaped me—and now, I'm committed to working every day to help shape a bright and successful future for the next generation of O-E students.

While I didn't officially begin until July 1, I was able to have the pleasure of meeting with many staff members, students, families, and community leaders over the past few weeks. What stands out most is the shared love for our schools, our kids, and our community. That shared investment is our greatest strength.

I also recognize that the past few years have brought challenges—some financial, some organizational, and some related to communication and trust. It's important to acknowledge those openly, not to dwell on the past, but to learn from it. I want to be clear: I believe the best way forward is through honest, open communication, and a deep commitment to transparency. That's why I plan to keep you updated on district progress, share news, and continue building trust between our schools and the community we serve.



*continued on page 4*



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## Elsie Public Library News

*submitted by Ann Trierweiler*

Hello from the Elsie Public Library. Has your summer been as crazy as ours? We have had record numbers of children in the summer reading program. Awesome!!! Already at least thirty children have completed their reading challenge. There has been one drawing for the teens and adults. The teen reader won a \$25.00 Walmart gift card, and the adult reader won a \$25.00 Taco Bell gift card. Congratulations! There are three more drawings before the challenge ends on August 4th. Stick with it, guys.

Wednesday afternoons are the highlight of our week. Children and parents come in droves...or swarms...you know what I mean. Then the fun begins. Noise, laughter, reading at story-time, more noise, crafts, giggles, snacks... Every person that comes makes us smile because you are the reason we are here. Thank you, Patrons!! Please remember that we won't have a program on July 9th, because of the festival.

The Elsie Public Library won't be open July 5 for the holiday weekend. We also will be closed July 9-12 for our village's Dairy Festival. We hope to see you somewhere downtown during the Dairy Festival, just not here at our library. Two of our lucky Patrons won a free bracelet for the festival rides.

The IQHUB in St. Johns is hosting all kinds of fun this month of July. Come in for more info or check out their online site. Likewise, Potter Park Zoo is full of fun this month. Zoo Days, Zoo nights, snakes... Yeah, THAT got your attention. We have the zoo pass for our patrons to check out, just like a book...Only the animals are definitely bigger!

Stay cool, keep hydrated, and keep reading.

## Mint Country Garden Club

*submitted by Cherie Delger*

On July 10, at 7:00 pm, the Mint Country Garden Club will be going on a tour at Faivor Fresh Produce. It is located at 1302 E. Price Road, St. Johns, MI 48879. Please join us there. We would love to meet you. Questions call Cherie at 989-277-7788.

## Elsie United Methodist Church Presents: Movies, Art and Praise - A Free Summer Series for Kids

*by Dawn Levey*

ELSIE, MI — This July, Elsie United Methodist Church invites area children to a special summer event series called "Movies, Art, and Praise," held every Thursday from July 10 through July 31, 2025, from 9:00 AM to Noon at 160 W Main Street, Elsie, MI.

Each week features a new, family-friendly movie with a meaningful theme, followed by praise songs, refreshments, and an engaging hands-on art activity. This enriching program is designed to nurture creativity, faith, and friendship in a fun and welcoming environment Weekly Themes & Activities

Week 1: July 10: Theme: All Emotions Are Important Movie: A story highlighting how every feeling is a gift. Art: Polymer Clay Sculptures

Week 2: July 17: Theme: Friendship – We May Be Different, But We Can Be Friends Movie: A wildlife adventure exploring acceptance. Art: Painting

Week 3: July 24: Theme: Teamwork & Looking Beyond Appearances. Movie: Unlikely friendships in a Viking tale. Art: Multimedia Collage

Week 4: July 31: Theme: What It Means to Be a Hero. Movie: Kids imagine their own superheroes. Art: Writing and Creating a Superhero

No pre-registration required! Just come and join us for one or all four Thursdays. This event is open to the public and perfect for children seeking fun, faith, and friends during the summer.

For more information, please contact Elsie United Methodist Church at 989-862-5239.

## Annual Ashleyite All-Class Reunion

*submitted by Karen Follett*

Get this date on your calendar: Sunday, July 13 from 12 - 3 pm. Alumni from the area country schools or Ashley, past teachers, & community members are invited to enjoy a potluck meal at 12:45 along with reminiscing. Drinks will be provided but please bring your own table service & a dish to pass. Hope to see you at Ashley's Community Center at 110 N. Sterling St. Questions may be directed to Karen (989-331-1492) or Frank (989-307-1062).



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# Editorial

## Axmitax.org Petition

*Letter to the Editor:*

The axmitax.org petition proposes an amendment to the Michigan Constitution to eliminate Property Taxes in Michigan, ensuring homeowners and businesses truly own their property without ongoing taxation, and saving family homes/farms/businesses from tax foreclosure.

To replace the lost revenue from this amendment, we propose an increased portion of state sales tax that is ALREADY BEING COLLECTED be redirected to cities, townships, and villages from 10% to 13.33%, and from 0% to 6.67% for counties. It will also shift 10% of state income, marihuana, alcohol, and tobacco tax revenues to local governments. Finally, it will require 60% voter approval for local tax increases and a 2/3 vote of the Legislature for tax increases greater than 0.1% over 5 years.

Please come to Andy T's Event Barn, 3647 S. Williams Road, Tuesday, July 8, 2025. Doors open at 6:30pm and the presentation begins at 7pm. You can also just drop in to sign and meet Karla Wagner, the founder of this citizen-led initiative. Check your license to make sure you know how you signed it, and how your name is printed on it so that you know your signature will count! It is imperative that you do it as it is on your Drivers License or Voter ID card. If you signed last year, you need to sign again this year! Karla's presentation is about 90 minutes long and she will explain our mission and how your taxes get spent along with how much money the state brings in. We still are in search of county co-captains and circulators. We have about three months left to obtain signatures, so any help is welcome! For more information, contact County Captain, Karol Suchek Sanborn at 989-224-4221. We will have yard signs, hats and shirts/merchandise available to purchase.

~ Freedom and Property Rights are Inseparable. You can't have one without the other" - George Washington

Karol Sanborn  
St. Johns



## A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

May you have a wonderful Independence Day, enjoy the celebration and your family and friends, especially those of the military persuasion. Be thankful for our freedoms. So fortunately we have time to work in our yards and gardens and spend time with our loved ones. Speaking of which I have done a bit of that today. I just got my garden weeded(not much of a garden) but growing. It was also a time of cleansing my pores. I do believe that everything that I drank today has gone through my system and trickled down my face, dripped off the end of my nose, streamed down my neck and off my elbows. Yup, it was hot and muggy out there.

Now I'm trying to collect my thoughts so that I might convey an idea that will give you a clear picture of how boring my life can be... Monday is my day off from the shop but some of my errands are due to its existence. Margie, (our personal shopper), called and told me that she had been making the rounds and had garnered sixteen pounds of butter and sixteen dozen eggs for us, plus a case of mushrooms. So I made a trip into St Johns to pick up our goodies, of course the two of us, discussed other good options. In the near future there will be more brown sugar and powdered sugar on the way. Did I mention that she also gave me a bunch of tomato and sweet pepper plants to be put into the ground? I shared some on the way home before stopping to drop off the supplies at the shop. That was this afternoon.

This morning I did sleep in until about 6:30 then hit the shower and got ready to face another new day. I had to go up to Ithaca to have blood drawn at 8:45, I was there on time but got to watch others who had 9AM appointments come and go... Finally when the draw was done I questioned why only one vial. The gal double checked the order and realized that she needed two vials. Someone else came in and made the withdrawal on my left arm. Ain't life grand? Onward and upwards. I should have had time to have a short visit with Robin and a cup of coffee before the chiropractor. It didn't happen, I was aligned and on my way by 10:15 but needed to be in St Johns by eleven. I made it on time. Then I got to bake in a dry sauna for thirty minutes and Ashley poked and prodded my muscles until I was as limp as a wet noodle. I was relaxed and free of discomfort. Yup, I was spoiled.

From there I headed to Lansing to clear up an issue with the state. I then stopped at "Nip and Sip" for a hammy sammy sandwich. It was delicious. Then I finally headed for home but stopped at Wally World for milk and the ingredients for making some "Scotcheroos". Headed home and was a bit queasy so I took a two hour nap. Felt marvelous when I got up so Prudence and I headed west of here to pick rhubarb and had a short chit chat with Ethel and I'm hoping to get some raspberries from her this year. Went back to the Margie's to get some tomato and pepper plants. I also explained to her what type of a shovel I needed. Of course, she had one on hand that was what I was seeking. While she is out and about she will fulfill my wishes. Yes, I am spoiled.

On Sunday I spent time trying to catch up with my house. I did manage to get the dishes all washed but still need to get them put away. I also did pitch a lot of stuff and need to empty the garbage again. Fortunately I also finished several loads of clothes and finally put my fall and winter stuff away. Which of course made room for summer clothes. So I have a large tote to take upstairs and a mattress that is hogging part of the stairwell. One thing at a time. I know that there are normal people out there who keep on top of everything but I'm one of those abnormal individuals whose flight of fancy messes up my focus. I'm pleased that my house plants are looking well and that I have already started picking the black caps that are totally fab this season. It is past time for me to get the rest of the twin bed up the stairs. I do believe that I can manipulate the frame and the rest of it by myself. Or at least I hope that I can. Be happy and appreciate what you can do. God bless you.

Crystal Mitchell©2025

## Superintendent cont' from front...

Listening First, Leading Together

One of my first priorities has been listening—to staff, students, families, board members, and community partners. I was able to meet individually with about 90% of our employees before the school year ended, and I will be working with our administrative team to identify the common themes and opportunities that came out of those conversations. These insights will help guide our goals and priorities for the year ahead.

From those early conversations, one message is clear: people care deeply about our students and want to see Ovid-Elsie succeed. I believe that success will come through a team approach. That means strong relationships between the Board of Education and administration, collaboration among staff, and genuine connections with families and community members. We are all on the same team—We are O-E—and when we pull in the same direction, there's nothing we can't accomplish.

Building Bridges in the Community

In the coming months, I plan to be visible and accessible—not just in the schools, but throughout the community. I'll be visiting classrooms, attending local events, and holding informal "coffee chats" at locations across the district. I want people to feel comfortable sharing ideas, concerns, and hopes for our schools. My goal is for Ovid-Elsie Area Schools to be a place where everyone feels valued, heard, and included.

In January, we will be starting the process of developing a Strategic Plan. This plan will help provide a long-term roadmap that will outline the district's vision, goals, priorities, and measurable actions to improve student outcomes and guide decision-making. It will help ensure the district's goals align with the needs of our community. Your voice matters—and we're creating new opportunities to make sure it's heard.

Building Toward a Positive Future

Moving forward, we will be focusing on three key areas:

1. Academic Excellence – We will continue to raise expectations while supporting students and staff with the tools they need to succeed. This includes strengthening core instruction, expanding career and technical education opportunities, and supporting innovative teaching practices.
2. Safe, Supportive Schools – We know that students can only thrive when they feel safe, supported, and cared for. We will work to strengthen mental health supports, student engagement, and discipline policies that reflect both accountability and compassion.
3. Responsible Stewardship – As superintendent, I take seriously our responsibility to manage district resources wisely. That means making strategic financial decisions, planning for long-term needs, and maintaining transparency with our community about how tax dollars are spent.

We also want to maximize every resource to benefit our students—whether that's upgrading technology, maintaining safe and modern facilities, or ensuring that all students have equal access to opportunities regardless of background.

A Personal Note

Returning to Ovid-Elsie in this role is deeply meaningful to me. I care about these schools not just as an educator, but as someone who grew up here. I sat in these classrooms and benefited from the care of teachers and coaches who believed in me. My wife and I are proud to live in this community, and I want every student to know that they belong here and that they matter.

This isn't just a job to me—it's a calling. And I truly believe that our best days are ahead.

In closing, thank you for the warm welcome I've received already. I look forward to earning your trust, working beside you, and celebrating all that we can accomplish together. Please watch for my next update and don't hesitate to reach out anytime.

With gratitude and determination,  
Mark Horak  
Superintendent  
Ovid-Elsie Area Schools  
[mark.horak@ovidelsie.org](mailto:mark.horak@ovidelsie.org)

## The Weekly Sportsman

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

## Pheasants Forever Changes Branding

When the Weekly Sportsman was President of Michigan Pheasants Forever a lot of time was spent attending hunts, meetings, and conferences all over Michigan and even some other states from time to time. During the many years spent as president probably the most often heard complaint at local, district, and state meetings focused primarily around the logo. In terms of complaints about a national non-profit probably not a bad problem to have. Most stated it was outdated and just didn't look right on clothing or items offered for sale or raffle at banquets. The Weekly Sportsman definitely sided with membership on this issue. An often heard joke was that the logo would be around forever, maybe ever long after the last pheasant was gone.

After forty-three years and survival through COVID the organization continues to thrive and apparently new national leadership has deemed it possible to rework the logo which conveys a "unified effort for upland wildlife habitat conservation, amongst members, supporters, and partners." If nothing else it allows for easier digital and monogram work on clothing and merchandise along with working as a single color. Maybe chapters will adhere better to national brand standards and guidelines. Logos may not be forever but hopefully pheasants will be!





# 2025 Elsie Dairy Festival



## Garage Sales Planned

The annual village-wide garage sales will open on Thursday July 10th at 9 a.m. Many garage sales will run all weekend long and there are sure to be bargains for everyone.

## Still Time to Sign Up



A ton of new vendors - so much so, we've had to expand our Arts and Crafts area!

Arts and crafts vendors are still being accepted for the Elsie Dairy Festival. The event times during the festival are Thursday, July 10th, Friday, July 11th and Saturday, July 12th from Noon - 7p.m. each day.

If you would like to sign up please call Quinn Passmore 989-388-7649.

**SILENT AUCTION**

## Elsie Dairy Festival Silent Auction

submitted by Brooke Wooley  
We are excited to host the 2025 Elsie Dairy Festival

SILENT AUCTION again this year! We are so thankful for all the generous donations that were given for this event! Proceeds from this event go toward next year's festival costs and toward Elsie community projects. The Silent Auction will be open on Friday, July 11 from 3-6 PM and Saturday, July 12 from 12-4PM in the Masons building on the SE corner at the stoplight. Bidding will close at 4 PM. Credit cards will be accepted as well as cash this year and you are welcome to come take a peek during any open times! Come join us and help us raise money for the festival and our community!

## Parade Marshals



Jerry and Margaret Horak



Sue and Dr. Bob Peterson



## Kid's Day



Friday July 11th will be Kid's Day from 8am-1pm.

We are hosting a ton of child appreciated activities, a Scavenger Hunt, bounce houses, face painting, petting zoo, model cow milking, duck pond, corn sensory pool, ice cream.



## Jail and Bail



At the Elsie Dairy Festival you can tell the "police" to lock up \_\_\_\_\_ and you pay \$x.xx for 10 minutes. The person being arrested can either pay a bail, or sit in lock up for the arrested time.

# ELSIE DAIRY FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025

**9am**  
**Village-Wide Yard Sales**  
**Noon - 2pm**  
**Family Fun Tyme Amusements**  
"Special Needs - Special Time" - Free  
**Noon - 7pm**  
**Arts & Crafts Booths**  
NW Corner N Ovid & Maple  
**10am - 10pm**  
**Elsie Lions Food Tent**  
NE Corner Main & N. Ovid  
**Noon - 10pm**  
**Ice Cream Booth**  
Next to the Big Cow  
**2pm - 11pm**  
**Family Fun Tyme Amusements**  
Main Street  
**5pm - 7pm**  
**Elsie Dairy Queen Pageant**  
Main Stage  
**7pm**  
**Festival Welcome/Grand Marshals**  
Main Stage  
**7pm - 9pm**  
**Community Talent Show**  
Main Stage  
**9pm - 11pm**  
**DJ Dance Party for all Ages**  
Main Stage

## FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025

**8am - 1pm**  
**Children's Day Events**  
SW Corner of Main & N. Ovid Free  
**Historical Room Open to Public**  
Connected to Library on W. Main  
**8:30am**  
**Registration for Kiddie Pull**  
Main Stage  
**9am**  
**Kiddie Tractor Pull**  
Main Stage - Free  
**10am - 10pm**  
**Ice Cream Booth**  
Next to the Big Cow  
**10am - 10pm**  
**Elsie Lion's Food Tent**  
NE Corner Main & N. Ovid  
**11am - Dusk**  
**Jail and Bail**  
In front of Village Offices  
**11:30am - 3:30pm**  
**Lions Kid Sight**  
NW Corner Main & N. Ovid  
**Noon - 7pm**  
**Vendor Village Arts and Crafts**  
NW Corner N Ovid & Maple  
**Noon - 11pm**  
**Family Fun Tyme Amusements**  
Main Street  
**3pm - 6pm**  
**Silent Auction**  
SE Corner of Main & N. Ovid  
**5pm - 7pm**  
**Dairy Dash Registration**  
SW Corner of Church & Main  
**8pm**  
**Grand Marshal Introductions**  
Main Stage  
**8pm - 10pm**  
**Elvis Tribute Show**  
Main Stage  
**10pm - 11pm**  
**DJ Dance Party for all ages**  
Main Stage



## SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2025

**6am**  
**Dairy Dash Registration**  
**7:30am**  
**Elsie Dairy Dash**  
W Main near Library  
**7:30am - 10am**  
**Lions Pancake Breakfast**  
SW Corner Main & N Ovid  
**8:30am - ?**  
**Softball Tournament**  
Elsie Park  
**9am - 2pm**  
**Car Show - Awards at 1:30pm**  
N. Ovid - North of Lions Tent  
**10:30 am - 10pm**  
**Elsie Lions Food Tent**  
NE Corner Main & N. Ovid  
**11am**  
**Super Parade**  
**11 am - Dusk**  
**Jail and Bail**  
In front of Village Office  
**Noon - 10pm**  
**Ice Cream Booth**  
Next to Big Cow  
**Noon - 7pm**  
**Vendor Village Arts and Crafts**  
NW Corner N Ovid & Maple  
**Noon - 4pm**  
**Silent Auction**  
SE Corner of Main & N Ovid  
**Noon - 11pm**  
**Family Fun Tyme Amusements**  
Main Street  
**Noon - 4pm**  
**Silent Auction**  
SW Corner of Main & N Ovid  
**1pm - 5pm**  
**Bingo**  
American Legion Hall  
**1pm - ?**  
**Basketball Free Play**  
Elsie park new basketball court  
**5pm - 7pm**  
**SCW Wrestling**  
Main Stage  
**8pm**  
**Grand Marshal Introduction**  
Main Stage  
**8pm - 10pm**  
**Jim Pontack**  
Main Stage  
**\*\* Dusk**  
**Light Parade**  
Maple St. near Fire Station  
**10pm - 11pm**  
**DJ Dance Party for all ages**  
Main Stage



# 2025 Elsie Dairy Festival • July 10, 11 & 12

## Dairy Dash



Dairy Dash will be Saturday, July 12 at 7:30 a.m. Registration is at 6:00 a.m. It will be at the corner of Church and Main.



## DJ Dance Party

A DJ Dance Party for all ages will be Thurs., Fri. and Sat. from 10-11pm at the Main Stage.



## Elsie Dairy Festival T-Shirts

The 2025 Elsie Dairy Festival T-Shirts are now available. Youth sizes, \$10.00, Adult sizes (S-M-L) \$10.00, Adult (XL-2XL-3XL) \$10.00. You can purchase them before the festival in Elsie at Piggy Tails and Village Office or at the Meridian Weekly Office.

## Elsie Dairy Queen Pageant

The Elsie Dairy Queen Pageant is back after many years. The pageant will be held Thursday, July 10th on the Main Stage from 5-7p.m.



## Information Booth

The information booth will be held the little barn near main stage. Open 9am-10pm. Check our website: [ElsieDairyFestival.org](http://ElsieDairyFestival.org) for additional information.

BINGO				
10	18	40	53	74
3	23	37	55	70
15	24	★	51	62
5	30	43	54	65
1	28	33	58	67

The Elsie American Legion Post 502 is hosting BINGO on Friday July 11 and Saturday July 12 during the Dairy Festival from 12 pm to 5 pm in the Air-Conditioned Hall. All are welcome to attend.

## Co-Ed Softball Tournament

The co-ed softball tournament will be held Saturday, July 12th at the Elsie Park. Start time 8:30am. Intermission for the parade.

\$200 team fee. 8 team bracket, double elimination, 12 person roster, guy/girl rotation for batting. 1&1 starting count. 7 innings - no new inning after 1 hour.

1st and 2nd place will receive T-shirts.

Proceeds will be donated to the Elsie Food Bank

## Elsie Lions Host Kidsight During Dairy Festival

The Elsie Lions Club will be agin hosting the Lions Kidssight, USA at the Elsie Dairy Festival on Friday, July 11th from 11:30am-3:30pm. The testing trailer will be located by the Lions food trailer. Each child who completes the testing will receive a free hot dog from the Lions Club. Make plans now to get your child's (age 1-9) eyesight tested and even Santa will be there!!

Kidsight, USA is a national organization with a coordinated coalition of active and experienced Lions vision screeners. This service is needed as vision problems that go undetected by the age of 7 become permanent. The concern is that many millions of kids now have worsening eyesight from prolonged "screen time" in today's world. And this service is FREE, the screenings are conducted by Lions Volunteers who have been trained in the proper use of Touchless Screening Devices.

Don't miss this opportunity to get your child tested during the Elsie Dairy Festival on Friday, July 11th.



Christmas in July at the Elsie Dairy Festival

## New Carnival Offerings



Family Fun Tyme Amusements will offer a new variety of rides as well as a "Special Needs - Special Time" day. From 12:00pm - 2:00pm on Thursday July 10th the carnival will be open to Special Needs, their families and/or paraprofessionals at NO CHARGE to ride rides at a slower, quieter pace.

## Welcome to Elsie! The Dairy Capital of Michigan!

We would like you to come and visit us during the Elsie Dairy Festival.

Visit the upstairs viewing parlor and watch the milking process at our 9697 Riley Road location in Elsie



*"Where the latchstring is always out."*

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ALSO...Visit our Self-Automated Feeder Calf Barn During the Festival. It's located just North of the office at our Hollister Road location.

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# 2025 Elsie Dairy Festival • July 10, 11 & 12

## Krazy Hypnosis Show



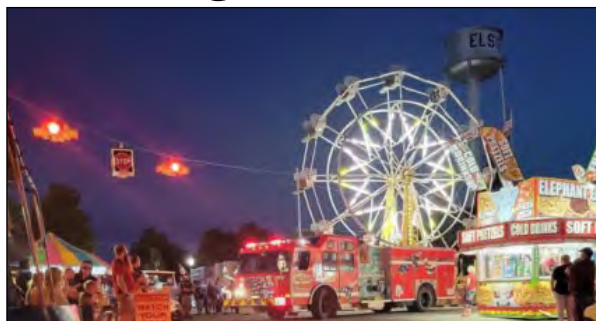
Keith Kocher induces a hypnotic trance and you see your friends, one by one, drop to the floor sound asleep. Then by speaking just a few words, one of your friends suddenly jumps to her feet, grabs the microphone, and starts singing because she believes she is a rock star. Another friend has a horrified look on his face because he can not find his pet canary and somebody in the audience has stolen it. Somebody else is frantically scratching all over her body from imaginary insects. All along your most intelligent friend is crawling along the floor acting like a vacuum cleaner.

Sound like great entertainment?

Keith opens each show by humorously addressing some frequently asked questions about hypnosis and performs some mass audience hypnosis. Then he has 20-30 audience volunteers run up to the stage to be hypnotized. It is at this point that the show really begins. your friends will fall asleep and upon awakening will yell strange things, go on an imaginary trip to Hawaii, turn into or meet celebrities and see things that only exist in their imaginations.

Catch his performance, Friday, July 11th from 5-7p.m.

## Light Parade



The Elsie Fire Department Light Parade will be held on Saturday, July 12th at dusk.

## Support The Elsie Lions Club Food Booth



The Elsie Lions club is 82 years old and their main fundraiser is the Food Booth during the Dairy Festival. Money raised from the booth goes to local charities such as: Elsie Food Bank, Youth Recreation League, DARE, Meals on Wheels, and of course they buy glasses for the needy. The tent is open Thursday and Friday 10am-10pm. Make plans now to attend the Pancake Breakfast on Saturday from 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

They hope to see you at the festival on July 10, 11, and 12.

## Jim Pontack - Once Removed

Saturday, July 12th  
8pm - 10pm  
Main Stage



**Elsie Lions Club Blood Drive**  
United Methodist Church  
160 W. Main Street, Elsie

Tuesday, July 15, 2025  
11:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Sponsored by Elsie Lions Club  
To schedule an appointment log onto RedCrossBlood.org  
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# 2025 Elsie Dairy Festival • July 10, 11 & 12

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## The 2025 Elsie Dairy Festival Super Parade



The Parade will step off at 11am sharp on Saturday, July 11th. If you have not yet entered there is still time. To enter email Michelle.ElsieDairyParade@gmail.com



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## Talent Show



The popular Talent Show will take to the Main Stage on Thursday evening, July 10th at 7:00pm immediately following the Elsie Dairy Queen Pageant.

There is still time to enter but you need to do so by Tuesday, July 8th by calling Brooke Wooley at 517-819-8459.



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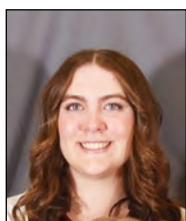
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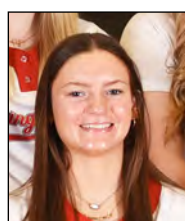
# Sports



Addyson Buchin



Bella Latuszek



Savvy Stirm



Harper Strouse



Peyton Stahr



Makenna Johnston



Alayna Merrell

## Stirm and Latuszek are All-State Softball Honorees for Wolfpack; Five Others LHS Softball Standouts Feted

LAINGSBURG -- The Lady Wolfpack's haul of post-season awards reads like a potential league dominator for the upcoming 2026 softball season.

All but one of Laingsburg's post-season all-stars will return for coach Jeff Cheadle's Wolves. This, from a team that advanced all the way to the MHSAA Quarterfinals for the second time in three years.

Yet, the one graduating senior -- Addyson Buchin -- won't be easily replaced. The four-year pitcher signed with Aquinas College in Grand Rapids to play softball for the Saints.

The Laingsburg ace as went 18-5 with a 3.18 ERA and 171 strikeouts in 149 and 2/3 innings. She was also dangerous at the plate, smacking four homers and an area-leading 50 RBI with a .440 average. She was the rock for a Laingsburg team that made the Division 3 state quarterfinals.

Addy's softball legacy at LHS will be remembered: all-time pitching wins (90), strikeouts (764), 2nd all-time ERA (2.13); and hitting records: doubles (63), RBI (198) and 3rd all-time hits (218).

Buchin was named honored as 1st Team All-CMAC, All-District, All-Region and 2nd Team All-Shiawassee Area.

A pair of Wolfpack underclassmen, Bella Latuszek and Savvy Stirm, received top honors as Honorable Mention All-State. They also garnered 1st Team All-Conference, All-District and All-Regional plaudits.

Latuszek, the Wolves' star shortstop, was named to the All-Shiawassee Area for the second consecutive season. She led the Wolfpack with a .463 batting average and recorded two homers and 10 doubles, and also swiped 23 bags.

Stirm was feted as 2nd Team All-Shiawassee Area, after hitting .408 with a homer and 22 RBI as the Wolfpack's leadoff hitter.

Buchin's batterymate, catcher Harper Strouse, was the Wolves' 4th representative on 1st Team All-CMAC. Another of the Wolfpack's All-Area 2nd Team honorees, Strouse hit four home runs with seven doubles and three triples -- and batted .327 overall.

Laingsburg's star 3rd baseman, Peyton Stahr, was voted 1st Team All-Area, 2nd Team All-CMAC, All-District and All-Region as a utility player. Stahr did it all for the Wolfpack this season, leading the team in home runs (5) and was also their No. 2 pitcher behind Buchin. She hit .410 and went 4-6 with a 4.17 ERA and 51 strikeouts in 67 innings pitched.

Wolfpack standout outfielder Makenna Johnston was feted as Honorable Mention All-Conference, 1st Team All-District and All-Region. Makenna went 38-for-114 at the plate for a .333 average with 29 RBI, 18 runs, and 4 assists from right field with an outstanding .940 fielding average.

LHS 2nd sacker Alayna Merrell, coming off a standout 2024 season, backed that up with 1st Team All-District and All-Region fetes in 2025. She was another top red-and-white offensive threat, with 36 hits for a .305 average, a .410 OBP, with 11 sacrifices (hitting in the second spot), 36 runs scored and 15 stolen bases. In the field, Alayna had 43 putouts, 39 assists, and only 5 errors for a .943 fielding average.

## Two Marauder Linkster Named to All-Shiawassee Area Golf Team

OVID-ELSIE -- A pair of Marauder links standouts have been named to the 2025 All-Shiawassee Area Golf Team.

The honor squad is selected annually by the Owosso Argus-Press. This year it includes O-E freshman Easton Keck, and junior Michael Bancroft.

Keck finished second-team all-MMAC, averaging a 42 for a nine-hole round. He placed fourth and 11th overall, respectively, at the two MMAC tournaments.

In addition, Bancroft was named to the Honorable Mention contingent after a stellar three-year career thus far with coach Josh Latz's team.

Chesaning sophomore Luke Skaryd was honored as the All-Area Player of the Year.

## Cheadle Continues Legendary Coaching Career; Honored as All-District and All-Region Coach of Year in Div. 3

LAINGSBURG -- Another long run into the MHSAA post-season.

Another year of top awards for the LHS softball program.

Another finishing 24-12-1 overall -- including bringing home District and Regional championship trophies, Wolfpack coach Jeff Cheadle was voted the All-District and All-Region Coach of the Year for the MHSAA's Division 3.

The two-dozen wins put Cheadle at an iconic 946 for his career, as he continues his march toward the historic 1,000 mark.

Cheadle sets a tough schedule for his charges, on purpose. In 2025, the Lady Wolfpack played 15 games against district champs (went 10-5), 25 games against schools that won at least 20 games, 20 games against ranked teams and 17 games against Division 1 and 2 teams.



Coach Cheadle

## Wolfpack's Motz Will Wrestle for New Coach This Season at Albion

ALBION -- Albion Britons' Director of Athletics Jennifer Rushton has announced the hiring of Jolynn Harris as the next Head Women's Wrestling Coach.

Harris, a former two-sport athlete at Colorado Mesa University will begin her role with the Britons on July 14.

Her roster includes former Laingsburg standout Gabby Motz, a runner-up for a state championship during her senior season at LHS and a four-time state qualifier while wrestling for coach Shawn Baynes.

After graduating from the Wolf den in 2022, Gabby has logged the following achievements in her collegiate career:

2022-2023: Qualified for nationals, Finished the season 14-13 (.519), Finished with 6 tech falls and 8 falls, Earned 3rd at the Albion Invitational, 3rd at the West Coast Tournament of Champions, and 5th at Hastings, Region 5- 4th place, Scholar All-American

2023-24: Qualified for nationals, Finished the season 18-10, Earned 2nd at the Pointer Open, 2nd at Albion Invitational, 6th at D3 National Invite, Region 3 Champion, Scholar All-American

2024-25: Finished the season 19-12, 4th place finish at Albion Open, 5th place finish at Midlands championship, 2nd place finish at Spartan Mat Classic, 4-0 at Tiffin Duals, 5th place finish at QC DIII National Invite, 5th Place finish at NCWWC Regional.



Gabby Motz

## UM Health-Sparrow Offers Alternate Routes for Downtown Amidst Michigan Avenue Construction

submitted by John Foren

LANSING, MI -- The Michigan Avenue road construction project is creeping closer to the University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Lansing campus, and that will impact our team members, patients and visitors, especially those coming from the east (such as East Lansing, Okemos and the Williamston areas).

But, with a little planning and extra time, the project doesn't have to affect patient care or access to UM Health-Sparrow services.

UM Health-Sparrow is providing alternate routes to our downtown locations, such as the hospital, Herbert-Herman Cancer Center and Sparrow Professional Building. Find the latest information at [uofmhealthsparrow.org/news/navigating-michigan-avenue-construction](http://uofmhealthsparrow.org/news/navigating-michigan-avenue-construction). We've also created a map of alternate routes: download [HERE](#)

Starting the week of July 7, the project is expected to extend from Lathrop Street west to the traffic light at Holmes and Michigan Avenue at the east end of the hospital. That impacts several UM Health-Sparrow buildings on Michigan Avenue.

Starting in August, the road work will extend farther west on Michigan Avenue in front of the hospital. But access to UM Health-Sparrow buildings will be maintained throughout construction.

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#### Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on August 6, 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): Keith Allen Harter and Donna Harter, husband and wife  
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns  
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Athene Annuity and Life Company  
Date of Mortgage: May 3, 2007  
Date of Mortgage Recording: May 11, 2007  
Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$125,136.82  
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Saint Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 1 and the North 35.00 feet of Lot 2 and 1/2 of the vacated alley adjacent, all in Block 3, Brown's Subdivision of OutLot J of the Original Plat of the City of St. John's, Clinton County, Michigan. Common street address (if any): 1001 S Clinton Ave, Saint Johns, MI 48879-2327  
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: June 29, 2025  
Trott Law, P.C.  
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
(248) 642-2515

1565573  
(06-29)(07-20)

#### 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 JULY 16, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.  
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Sylvester Eugene Sherrill and Carol J. Sherrill, formerly Carol J. Arrell, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Newrez LLC, Mortgagee, dated August 18, 2022 and recorded August 29, 2022 in Instrument Number 5328560 Clinton County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand One Hundred Eight and 64/100 Dollars (\$124,108.64).  
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Clinton County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on JULY 16, 2025.  
Said premises are located in the Township of GREENBUSH, Clinton County Michigan, and are described as:  
BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE NORTH SECTION LINE DISTANT 757.62 FEET NORTH 87°32' WEST FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 8 AND EXTENDING THENCE SOUTH 02°15' WEST 150 FEET, THENCE NORTH 87°32' WEST 80 FEET, THENCE NORTH 02°15' EAST 150.00 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 87°32' EAST 80 FEET, ALONG THE NORTH SECTION LINE (MAPLE RAPIDS ROAD) TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. ALL IN SECTION 8, T8N, R2W.  
2119 W Maple Rapids Rd, Saint Johns, Michigan 48879  
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. Dated: June 15, 2025  
File No. 25-007693  
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC  
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48064  
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(06-15)(07-06)

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1793+4

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Michael doesn't see himself living on the beach when he retires, but he'd like to vacation there with his wife. He worries he isn't saving enough in the 401(k) account he has at work, but he isn't sure what more he can manage with two kids, a mortgage and credit cards.

Michael faces two dilemmas: Saving enough money for a comfortable retirement, and making those savings last his lifetime. Like most Americans, having money in retirement may depend on part-time jobs, personal savings and tax-advantaged retirement savings accounts.

A financial representative can help people like Michael understand their options, such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans, annuities, and individual retirement accounts (IRAs).

The key is to set goals and get started. The longer you wait to start saving, the more you will have to save to reach those goals.

**Let's start the conversation.**

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## Fly2K, Nashville's Top '90's-2000's Tribute Band to Rock the Stage at St. Johns' Concert in the Park on July 9th

*submitted by Bill Tennant*

Nashville based band, Fly2K, is a premiere tribute band performing the hits of the 90s - 2000s! This fun-loving group has a high energy, dance-infused performance that showcase the most beloved pop, rock, hip-hop and R&B hits from that musical time period.

Band members include Rachel Thompson Mitchell, and Bear Mitchell, who are St. Johns natives and are thrilled to return to the William E. Tennant Performance Shell to blast these incredible songs from the past. This concert will take place on Wednesday, July 9 in the beautiful St. Johns City Park starting at 7:00 p.m.

"We were finally able to get the band up to St Johns last year for the first time," said Bill Tennant, concert coordinator. "They're doing more touring now and we made it happen. The place was packed. It turned out to be our largest concert of the year. Everyone had a great time! We hope that people will want to reconnect with the band again, reliving the nostalgic magic from last year."

Fly2K has headlined festivals like Nashville's Oktoberfest, and rocked casino stages like Hard Rock Cincinnati. Performing songs from artists like: Britney Spears, Outkast, Blink 182, Beyoncé, NSYNC, Dr. Dre, Spice Girls, Shania Twain and so many more, fans can't resist moving to their music. The band delivers a nonstop, high-energy performance that keeps the crowd dancing all night long!

The Concert in the Park series is co-sponsored by the Clinton County Arts Council and the City of St. Johns. Pauli Ford is being recognized at this concert for their generous donation to the new addition building fund.

Bring a chair or blanket – visit the Lion's Club Food Trailer - the concert takes place rain or shine. The concert is free, but donations are greatly appreciated and needed to support the series each year.

So, set your GPS to 801 W Park St, and enjoy an evening of music you won't soon forget! The CCAC receives funding from the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Fly2K Band members Rachel, vocals and dance, Bear, bass, rap and band leader, Turi, vocals, dance and trumpet, Cooper, keys and engineer, Jeff, guitar and Ryan drums

## Ashley Community Schools' Educator Chosen to Join Sea Grant Aboard EPA's Research Vessel on Lake Michigan

*submitted by Cindy Hudson*

Very soon Deann Smith, a science teacher at Ashley Community Schools will join Center for Great Lakes Literacy (CGLL) staff and Great Lakes scientists to work aboard an EPA research vessel for a week and bring Great Lakes knowledge and information back to her classrooms! The expedition is July 7-13, 2025, and will set sail from Milwaukee, Wis. Smith is one of two Michigan teachers to join the science expedition. Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Park Ranger Erika Van Kirk (USFWS) was also chosen to attend.

Through a partnership with the EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, NOAA, and with funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, educators will spend a full week alongside researchers aboard the EPA R/V Lake Guardian. Hosts for the Lake Michigan expedition are CGLL partners Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant and Wisconsin Sea Grant.

Smith, a resident of Elsie, teaches science, biology, chemistry, and physical education. She enjoys learning new information and thought this program would help tie in with what she has already done, including teaching Salmon in the Classroom. "I'm hoping to help my students understand that what we do in middle of Michigan impacts the Great Lakes as well," Smith said. "Gaining the hands-on experience will help with that." Smith has a busy schedule planned for the summer. At the end of July, she will be chaperoning eight high school students on a trip to the Galapagos Islands.

For more information on the 2025 Shipboard Science Immersions visit the Center for Great Lakes Literacy website. (cgl.org)

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