

Joining Together

Even tho Carriage Days scheduled for this coming weekend has been cancelled due to the pandemic, the Ovid community will hold a few events to celebrate some sort of normal this week.

Community City-wide garage sales will take place on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 10th, 11th and 12th. The library will hold a used book sale on Thursday and Friday. The Ovid Lions Club will join in by selling food out of the hall on Friday and Saturday from 11am-close. Picnic tables will be set up in the parking lot for those who wish to sit and enjoy a variety of menu items including: Sloppy Joes, coney dogs, chips, soda and water. The Lions will also be holding a garage/yard sale in the parking lot. Lions members will be contributing items for the sale. They will also be accepting donations of items from others to add to their sale. The Ovid Historical Society will open the Mary Myers Historical Home, 131 E. Williams St., on Saturday from 2pm-4pm.

The Carriage Days committee is looking forward to the 2021 Ovid Carriage Days set for the weekend following Labor Day.



Dear Marauder Families

by Ryan L. Cunningham,
Superintendent, Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

The new school year is rapidly approaching and with that, I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back. It is hard to believe that I am in my 21st year here at Ovid-Elsie Area Schools but it goes without saying that this has been the most challenging past few months in my educational career.

School will officially begin for all students, whether face-to-face or virtual, on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The buildings are currently open and all staff reported back to work on August 31st.

A new calendar may be found by visiting our district calendars website.

Additionally, all Return to School Plans are posted on our website, but please be advised that under the recently passed legislation, all plans must be revisited monthly, Board approved and submitted to Clinton County RESA. With this rapidly changing environment, we are asking that you please be patient and flexible.

Each building has been hard at work planning and preparing for a safe return to school. Information as to the preparedness plan for Leonard & E.E. Knight Elementary, Middle & High School and Alternative High School can be found on our website ovidelsie.org

The District Preparedness Plan on our website also has valuable information so please take time to review it.

One thing that I would like to point out is that there will be a “no tolerance” policy when it comes to the safety protocols outlined in our Preparedness Plans. It is incumbent upon parents and families to sit down together and discuss those protocols so that we may all do our part in protecting ourselves and one another.

Athletics is another area that is a moving target. As more information and guidance is provided by the State of Michigan and the Michigan High School Athletic Association, we will communicate with the school community.

Our staff has been hard at work these past few months preparing for a safe return to school. One of the most exciting things is our one-to-one technology initiative. Every teacher went through two (2) days of training on how to implement best practices when it comes to technology. Every student in Ovid-Elsie Area Schools will receive a Chrometab or Chromebook to support their learning. It is important that you take time to read through the Technology Handbook to familiarize yourself with the processes and procedures.

With the departing of a couple of teachers due to retirement, we have reorganized some of our staff for scheduling purposes. However, we would like to welcome Mrs. Amy Fanning as the High School Business Teacher. Mrs. Fanning comes to us from Saginaw with many years of teaching experience. We would also like to welcome Mr. Jesse Johnson as the new Athletic Director. Mr. Johnson joins the Marauder staff after many years of working at the collegiate level.



High School Football, Other Fall Sports Back on in Michigan

Last August 14, the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) announced the football season would be played in the spring because of COVID-19 concerns.

Thursday at 3:30 p.m., the schools in Michigan received news from the MHSAA that it had received clearance from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer that all fall sports, including football, could proceed with their fall seasons.

Thursday, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Order 176 that re-opened indoor gymnasiums and pools that were previously closed under Executive Order 160. With the signing of Order 176, that meant all sports could resume competition, including football.

Practices for football will begin Tuesday, Sept. 8, move to pads on Sept. 10 and all schools will play an adjusted six-game schedule beginning Sept. 18.

Boys soccer competition can begin immediately. Volleyball and girls swimming and diving may start competition on Wednesday, Sept. 9.

All football teams in Michigan will qualify for the playoffs. The 11-player team championships will take place Dec. 4-5. All other fall sports tournaments will be conducted as previously scheduled.

According to MHSAA spokesman John Johnson, facial coverings will be required for all sports except swimming and diving and spectator limits of two tickets per participant will be enforced for outdoor and indoor events.

“We are thankful for the opportunity for kids to get back on the field in all fall sports, and we appreciate Governor Whitmer providing that opportunity with Executive Order 176,” MHSAA executive director Mark Uyl said in a release. “We share the governor’s priorities of putting health and safety first, and the COVID-19 guidance and protocols designed by the MHSAA at her request have led to the safe starts in all sports across the state.

“Thirty-three other states are currently participating in all fall sports, and the MHSAA and its member schools are committed to doing this as safely as possible. We are ready to again provide those experiences to students and communities that have hoped for a return of some normalcy. Given the challenges of online education in many school districts across the state, providing sports and a daily routine may be more important than ever in motivating students and providing a safe outlet for physical activity, competition and socialization.”

Photos by Chuck Prikasky, Clint Hawks,
Keith Kingsbury



Continued on page 2

Social

Concealed Pistol License Class

submitted by Norm Martin

The Shiawassee Conservation Association, 4247 N. M-52, Owosso, is hosting concealed pistol license classes on Saturday, September 12th and Saturday, September 19th. Class hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

All firearms, ammunition and classroom materials furnished.

N.R.A. Certified Instructors.

Class fee is \$100.00 (15% to support SCA).

Pre-register by calling Norman Martin at 989-834-5628 (home) or 989-277-1002 (cell).

Red Cross Seeks Donors, Offers Free Items

LANSING

During Childhood Cancer Awareness Month this September, the American Red Cross encourages eligible donors to give blood or platelets to support kids, teens and young adults battling cancer, as well as others in need of transfusions.

Blood and platelets donations are needed to ensure blood products are available for pediatric cancer patients and others throughout this pandemic.

Make an appointment to donate by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling (800) 733-2767 or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

To learn more and sign up to host a blood drive this fall and winter, visit RedCrossBlood.org/HostADrive.

Donors can get a free haircut coupon from Sport Clips Haircuts during the annual Saving Lives Never Looked So Good campaign. Those who come to give blood or platelets Sept. 1-30 will receive a coupon for a free haircut via email several days after their donation. The coupon is valid through Nov. 30 at participating Sport Clips locations. Donors must have a valid email address on record to receive the coupon.

An upcoming blood donation opportunity will be offered from 12 noon to 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 8 at the Owosso VFW, 519 S. Chipman St.



Gaylord and Shirley Long
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Dear Marauders...

cont' from front

Finally, we are wrapping up the construction and projects that were slated for this summer and the buildings are looking amazing! We still have some outstanding projects that will take place next spring and summer, but most of the projects have been completed such as parking lots, a new roof at Leonard Elementary, new unit ventilators in each classroom and much, much more. We are thankful for the support of our community and are proud of the outcome of our bond extension projects.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child(ren)'s teacher, your building principal, or to the Superintendent's office.

We are excited to have students back on campus this fall and if we all do our part, TOGETHER we will make this a great year.

Ovid Public Library

Annual Carriage Days Book Sale will be on Thurs. Sept. 10th and Fri. Sept. 11th

The library staff have been weeding and sorting and stacking and piling and are now ready to share the results of their labor with our generous readers. Donations for the books displayed on the sidewalk will be the only price tags. Newer one-time read fiction books, many nonfiction books, and too many genres of books to list. All books are valuable in the eyes of librarians, we hope that the books on display will intrigue your interest enough for you to take them home and dive into the world of reading. Even though the library is closed for anything except curbside service, the community has been extremely generous with book donations. While you browse the titles, you may find new authors or exciting covers, or intriguing jacket advertising.

It will also include various non-book articles. A copy machine, a metal rolling clothes rack, a stainless rolling cart, a small plastic bookshelf, and many other assorted non-book articles. These will also be "donation only" sales.

Please call the Ovid Public Library at 989-834-5800 for information.

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Obituaries

James S. “Jim” Batterbee

James S. "Jim" Batterbee, age 75, of Ovid, MI, passed away Wednesday, August 26, 2020, at his home with his family by his side.

James was born in Lansing, MI, on June 3, 1945, the son of Willard Ransford and Althea Dorothea Jane (Vallad) Batterbee. He married Carol Lorene Cooper on May 14, 1966, at Pishgah Heights Wesleyan Church, Marion, MI.

Jim was a man with many talents. He was an excellent welder and a mechanical genius who could build or fix about anything, even if it meant fabricating his own parts. He enjoyed building and creating with wood and steel; he designed many items including a three-wheel motorcycle, an amazing treehouse, and transformed an old farm into a welcoming home. He also restored old cars and entered local parades with his hand-built tractor “Lil’ Champ” with great pride, relishing his role as “Uncle Sam”.

He enjoyed playing guitar and singing, especially when having gatherings at the Batterbee Barn with family and friends joining-in around the campfire. Throughout his life he enjoyed riding motorcycles and exploring the back roads.

The work ethic he lived and taught his kids was “You can’t fail if you don’t quit”. While many describe him as the toughest man they ever knew and his grandchildren affectionately refer to him as “Grumpa”, he truly had a generous heart and loved to help people. He was a dedicated volunteer at a local community Thanksgiving dinner for many years. He also had a witty sense of humor and loved to tell jokes, play epic pranks on family and friends, and was known for his colorful insults like “skunk monkey” during game play.

He was very proud of his children and grandchildren and adored his wife, Carol, of 54 years. He received Christ as his savior and will be waiting for our family reunion in Heaven.

He is survived by his wife Carol, daughters: Carrie Beth and Cecil Turner of South Carolina, Jessica and Gabe Cameron of Gladstone, MI, Amanda and Kenn Cushman of Ovid, MI, grandchildren: Jessie Ruth (Eric) Willor, Aiden Cushman, Reagan Cushman, Opal Cushman, Ian Turner, Charlie Cameron, Chloe Cameron, Brady Cameron, Brittney (Mike) Babirad, Ashley Turner, Kristina Turner, 7 great grandchildren, sister Dawn and Ron Miller, brother Clifford and Janet Batterbee, and sister Joyce and Art Fox. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, son Cleatus Batterbee, and sister Wanda Mapes.

Funeral Services were held at The Batterbee Farm, 8342 Simpson Road, Ovid, MI, 48866, on Sunday, August 30, 2020 with Pastor Cal Emerson, Pastor Clifford Batterbee & Pastor Birt Cooper officiating. Burial has taken place at Middlebury Township Cemetery, Ovid, MI.

Memorials may be made to Our Daily Bread Ministries, 3000 Kraft Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI.



“Life imposes things on you that you can’t control, but you still have the choice of how you’re going to live through this.”

— Celine Dion

In Memory of Judy Curtis

3/4/44 - 9/8/15

It’s hard to believe it has been 5 years without our beloved wife, mother and grandmother. As time has passed we spend less time grieving and more time celebrating your memory!

We feel your presence each time the flowers grow, the blueberries flourish, the sun sets. We cherish your memory each time we are at the lake, filling the bird feeders or gathering for some strawberry shortcake.

Judith Curtis, forever in our hearts.

Love always: Larry, Loren & Jodi Curtis, Roxanne & Grant LeDuke, Bryan & Michelle Curtis, Rachel & Jake Kramer, Katelyn & Tyler Curtis, Mitchel LeDuke



Memorialize your loved one

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989-834-2573



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11:00 - Worship
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We Welcome You to Come...

Country and Gospel Concerts Announced

OWOSSO — A pair of nationally known country music performers will appear Sept. 12 and 13 at the Don and Metta Mitchell Amphitheater.

“Dave and Daphne” are set to host a free concert at 7 p.m. Sept. 12 featuring classic country and pop songs.

Dave Salyer formerly performed with Barbara Mandrell and has appeared on numerous TV shows, and at the White House. He appears regularly at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

Daphne Anderson has toured with the Bill Gaither Group, The Cathedrals, The Hinsons and many others. She was previously the Southern Gospel Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year.

The First Church of God, which is sponsoring the event, invites the public to bring chairs or blankets and enjoy the concerts. The church, 2100 N. M-52, is the rain site.

At the 10:30 a.m. Sept. 13 service, the duo will perform God’s country and gospel music at the church. The public again is welcome. A donation will be requested. Face masks and social distancing will be required.

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The family of Joseph “ Joe” Malek would like to thank: our extended family, neighbors and friends for the flowers and gifts, cards, telephone calls, memorials and out pouring of love and support during our time of loss.

Thank you to the Ashley Fire & Rescue, Gratiot County Sheriff Dept. and MMR for your prompt response in our time of need. Thank you to the ZCBJ Lodge for the wonderful dinner.

Thank you to Smith Family Funeral Home for first class service during our difficult time.

Obituaries

Roy Sylvester Harger

Roy Sylvester Harger, age 89, of St. Johns, MI, passed away Thursday, August 27, 2020, at Sparrow Health Systems, Lansing, MI.

Roy was born in Clinton County, MI, on November 11, 1930, the son of Frank Sylvester and Maybelle (Taylor) Harger. He graduated from Maple Rapids High School with the class of 1949. On June 14, 1951 he married DeLoris Jean Wilber in Ovid, MI.

Roy retired from the Clinton County Road Commission in 1991. He farmed his fathers land for several years and raised cows, pigs and horses. He took many trips with his horses across the state. Roy and his daughter Mona enjoyed wood-working together and they traveled to many craft shows to sell their projects. Roy enjoyed camping trips with his family to Ludington. He coached his sons little league teams for many years. He volunteered with God's Outreach Mission in Maple Rapids, taking many trips to Detroit, Flint and West Virginia delivering food and clothing to people in need.

He was a proud member of the Ithaca VFW and Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Roy was a member of the Maple Rapids United Methodist Church. He proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years DeLoris Harger of St. Johns, MI, children: Mona and Marlin Kindel of Maple Rapids, MI, David and Nancy Harger of Ithaca, MI, Keith Harger of St. Johns, MI, Trina and Richard Fitzsimmons of Ottawa, Canada, 6 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, grandson Chad Harger, brother Edwin (Betty) Harger, sister Imogene (Oliver "Bud") Beck, brother Vernon (Beverly) Harger, nephews: Donald (Debbie) Beck, Ronnie (Bonnie) Harger, Dale Harger, Pat Wilcox.

Funeral Services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns, MI, on Monday, August 31, 2020 with Pastor Kathy Leydorf-Keck officiating. Burial has taken place at Eureka Cemetery, Eureka, MI.

Memorials may be made to Maple Rapids United Methodist Church. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns, MI.



Dirk Duane Galehouse

Dirk Duane Galehouse age 88 of Elsie, MI, passed away Wednesday, September 2, 2020, at The Meadows Assisted Living, Owosso, MI.

Dirk was born in Elsie, MI on September 2, 1932, the son of Lloyd and Iva Mae (Pierce) Galehouse. He graduated from Elsie High School with the class of 1950. On September 14, 1952 he married Joanne Earegood in Elsie, MI.

Dirk enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1950. He served in Korea in 1951 and 1952, where he was wounded three times in ten days, once on his birthday. He worked at Auto-lite in Owosso, MI, Milk Producers Association in Ovid, and he & his brother operated Gales Tire and Wrecker Service in Elsie for many years. He was a member of American Legion Post 502, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Masonic Lodge #238. Dirk enjoyed hunting, coin collecting, and sports.

He is survived by his wife Joanne Galehouse of Elsie, MI, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, and brother Stanley.

A Graveside Service will be held at Riverside Cemetery, Elsie, MI, on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 11:00 A.M., with Pastor JD Paik officiating.

Memorials may be made to Elsie United Methodist Church. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI.



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Editorial...cont' on page 9

What a morning this has been.....and it is only 9:30! I was up at the office at 5:45 AM to get the bulletins done, printed, and stuffed..... I did have them delivered by 9:15. This involved making changes on the inserts and making up new inserts, printing both the inserts and bulletins for all three churches which also needed to be folded. Just before I left to deliver them I got a text which wanted more changes to be made. I felt bad.....but told them it was too late for this week everything was already printed. So, I'm probably in Dutch somewhere with someone.....such is life.

Have I told you the zucchini story? Mine have been troubled this year and from what I hear other folks are having problems with them also. Any who, I planted more seeds in a couple of different spots in the yard. William and I were also weeding in the garden and I didn't have any pockets to put the rest of the zucchini seeds. So William put them in his pocket and there they stayed until they went through the washing machine and the dryer. Of course I found them as I removed the clothes from the dryer. Several fell to the floor and the rest had to be recovered from the dryer drum. I almost pitched them.....but I decided to try planting them in bare patch of ground which had just been rain soaked. This was at 8AM.....the next morning three plants had sprung up. They must have liked their pre-wash and dry cycles.....three days ago after the rain showers these plants had sprung up a good two feet and blossomed. Apparently Arm & Hammer laundry detergent put through a large wash cycle is good for your seeds?

This has been another canning week.....forty-one quarts and one pint of stewed tomatoes on Sunday. Sunday night my sleep was interrupted by obscene Charlie horses. Thank goodness I still had a bottle of Tei-fu oil to sooth the horses. I ended up sleeping on the recliner for half the night. On Monday I had to pick more tomatoes and only put up another fourteen quarts. On Tuesday I had a houseful.....Diane, Ryan, Isabella, and Zach. During the visits Diane and I managed to can another twenty-eight quarts of stewed tomatoes. Ryan helped me straighten up the old granary and she also scrubbed up a set of shelves and their contents. Wahoo, I just found some of my missing four o'clock seeds and acorn caps! I also worked at the office to get the Parables out in the mail.

It would appear that I have had another one of those busy weeks. Last night I canned fourteen pints of sweet chunk pickles. The recipe that I use came from my Great Grandmother who had measured everything with tea cups. Lucky for us, we had one of those cups and it measure out to be three fourths of a cup. These pickles always turn out crisp, which makes me happy. Last night I also got my hair cut and finished mowing the yard in the dark. I was surprised about how well the headlights worked on the mower. I think that I made it back into the house around nine.

I need to bring in a couple dozen more quart canning jars to wash. I have to pick the tomatoes and the Hungarian Hot peppers which were supposed to be sweet banana peppers. They do shock your taste buds and I'm glad that Tammy wants them. Technically I'm on vacation.....I will be at Clare on Friday then all bets are off. It would appear that Diane and I will be doing another long tomato day on Saturday. Hopefully I will finish up the peaches on Sunday. At any rate I'm looking forward to the city wide yard sales in Ovid on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday this coming week.

May your days be filled with purpose and with many blessings. One of which I hope is good common sense, God bless you.

Crystal Mitchell©2020



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

"Why did Jesus have to die?"

Another way to look at this is to ask, "Why can't people just have relationships with God without faith in Jesus?"

Throughout the Bible we see the teaching that all people are sinners. Some sin more, some sin less. But all of us are sinners before God.

The ramifications of this are many; the main one is that we are separated from God.

Isaiah 59:1-2 says, "Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."

This separation is automatic the moment we are conceived. It is confirmed whenever we choose to sin, especially and primarily when we refuse to believe in God.

God is infinitely holy. He is infinitely pure. Totally sinless. Absolute perfection.

When comparing us to God, it's easy to see that something's got to give.

And what gives is us. Our sin separates us from God.

What can those do who want to have a personal relationship with God but are separated from Him?

To believe in the one way that God has provided for us to know Him; faith in Jesus Christ.

As Jesus says concerning Himself, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."- John 14:6

If you do not know God, know that the way into a personal relationship with God, and to have all of your sins completely forgiven, is to believe in the Gospel. That Jesus was fully God and fully human. That He lived a sinless life, that He died on the cross and rose bodily from the dead for your sins.

Salvation is received by faith in the Lord. No good works. No baptism. But by faith alone.



Religious Thoughts

by Chris Hearn
www.letsmeetgod.com



*You are never too old
to set another goal
or to dream a new
dream." - C.S. Lewis*

Sports



Front (l-r): Gayvn Leavett, Ryan Gavenda, Cole Workman, Corbin Kelley, Luke Spitzley, Joe Humrich. Second row (l-r): Coletton Towsley, Christian Schmidtfranz, Andrew Hall, Kaden West, Justin Prewitt, Gage Kvalevog. Back row: Coach David Pastula. Missing: Dalton Love



Front (l-r): Alyse Ladiski, Kaia Spiess, Abigail Prewitt, Samantha Grubaugh. Second row (l-r): Ella Powell, Rachel Spitzley, Alexis Spitzley. Back row: Coach David Pastula.

Marauder Cross-Country Team Welcomes New Coach, Strong, Experienced Contingent Back for 2020 Season

OVID-ELSIE -- David Pastula is stepping up as Ovid-Elsie's new cross-country coach. He welcomes a strong, veteran roster back as the Marauders look to improve on last year's 3rd place (girls) and 5th place (boys) finishes in the conference.

"The boys team is a veteran group that is hungry to take the next step in competition. Leadership from captain Coletton Towsley is helping to grow emerging young talents like Ryan Gavenda and Cole Workman," says coach Pastula. "The girls team, while small, has some of the best chemistry I've seen in my young coaching career. Led by captain Samantha Grubaugh and emerging talent from Alexis Spitzley, this small team has what it takes to be competitive."

Returning runners for the male Marauders are Coletton Towsley (12), Gavin Leavitt (12), Corbin Kelley (12), Luke Spitzley (12), Justin Prewitt (11), Andrew Hall (11), Ryan Gavenda (10) and Gage Kvalevog (10).

The girls return Samantha Grubaugh (11), Alexis Spitzley (10), Alyse Ladiski (10), Abigail Prewitt (10) and Ella Powell (10).

Newcomers for the boys team are Kaden West (11), Christian Schmidtfranz (11), Dalton Love (9), Joseph Humrich (9) and Cole Workman (9). The girls club welcomes Rachel Spitzley (9) and Kaia Spiess (9), new to the fold.



Coach David Pastula

Pastula looks for about the same conference finishes for his Marauders as he continues to build the program. This is Pastula's first year as a high school cross country head coach. His previous experience comes from Ovid-Elsie Middle School, Owosso High School, and Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Roanoke, Virginia.

He explains, "The boys team still needs to develop its top end talent. Without multiple runners below 20:00, it will be hard to compete for first. As for the girls, opposite of the boys, I believe the top end talent is emerging, but our small team leads to a lack of depth for the team. This is likely due to being such a young team and I expect to see this team take big steps during the year."



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Senior Spotlight

Why the Flu Shot is so Important in 2020

Millions of people across the globe get flu shots each year. Flu shots protect people against influenza, but they might provide even greater benefits in 2020.

As the world continues to confront the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, it's imperative that people everywhere take every step necessary to protect themselves and others. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that a flu vaccine will not protect people against COVID-19. However, flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of illness related to the flu. Those illnesses weaken people's immune systems, making them more vulnerable to other viruses, including COVID-19.

Flu vaccines have also been shown to reduce the risk of hospitalization. That's a significant benefit of being vaccinated, as people who get their flu shots can indirectly help hospitals conserve potentially scarce resources. As the COVID-19 virus rapidly spread late in the winter of 2019-20, many hospitals across the country and even the globe were stretched incredibly thin. So anything ordinary citizens can do to alleviate such burdens can help save lives while also making hospital workers' jobs easier and less stressful.

Many people may be concerned about going out and getting a flu shot in 2020. That's especially likely for people who live in communities where the COVID-19 virus is spreading. However, the CDC notes that getting a flu shot in 2020 is an essential part of protecting your health and the health of your family. Many doctor's offices are now insisting patients wait in their cars until doctors are ready to see them, and masks may be required when entering the doctor's office. Such measures can reduce the risk of getting the COVID-19 virus when visiting a doctor's office for a flu shot or another visit, so patients should not be hesitant to receive their vaccinations in 2020. Patients can follow such protocols even if their doctors are not insisting they do so. The same safety measures can be followed by people who intend to get their flu shots from neighborhood pharmacies.

Flu shots are vital to individual and public health every year, but the importance of being vaccinated against influenza in 2020 is heightened as the world continues to confront the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

Memory Care a Component of Assisted Living

Aging brings about many changes, including some that may compromise seniors' ability to remain independent. In such instances, many families consider assisted living facilities for their aging relatives.

More than 835,000 Americans currently reside in assisted living communities, according to the National Center for Assisted Living. While communities and homes provide various services, one service in particular may be needed for seniors with Alzheimer's disease, other dementias or memory problems. Memory care units are separate facilities that cater to people with dementia or other memory issues.

According to the senior residence referral and resource guide A Place for Mom, memory care is a distinct form of long-term skilled nursing. Also called special care units, memory care facilities provide 24-hour supervised care for individuals. This care is often carried out in a separate wing or floor of a residential facility or community.

Memory care facilities aim to provide a safe and secure environment for residents. This means limiting entry or egress to other areas of the facility for those who may have trouble navigating and remembering where they started out. The Alzheimer's Association notes that six in 10 people with dementia will wander and become disoriented. This is dangerous for the individual and others. Memory care units often have alarms and "wander guard" precautions in place to make sure residents cannot roam unsupervised and risk injury.

Another goal of memory care is to provide a stress-free, structured lifestyle that has set schedules and routines, states Brookdale Senior Living. This can help keep distress minimal and make for more comfortable and happy residents.

In addition, memory care units offer programs that help slow the progression of dementias and cultivate cognitive skills. Fitness exercises, games, specialty food programs, activities, and much more may be offered to make residents more comfortable. Memory care facilities include common spaces for socialization, meals and activities.

"Alzheimer's patients must maintain their activity, walking, interacting with music, and art," says Lory Bright-Long, MD, CMD, of the American Medical Directors Association. "We have to awaken the senses so that the memory can have a hook. This is accomplished in the memory care setting."


It is important for those considering assisted living and nursing home facilities to inquire about specific memory care units if a loved one requires this environment. Start the search at APlaceForMom.com.




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Senior Spotlight

How Illnesses are Stopped from Spreading in Nursing Homes

Millions of elderly and incapacitated individuals find long-term care facilities are the safest places to reside and receive both medical care and assistance with daily living requirements. Nursing homes aim to keep residents safe and healthy, and in order to do so important precautions need to be taken not only by staff members, but by friends and family who visit their loved ones in nursing home facilities.



Infectious diseases can spread easily through nursing homes if visitors are not careful. Age and compromised immune systems which are common among many people who live in long-term care facilities, elevate residents' risk for disease. A nursing home outside of Seattle was the site of one of first cases of COVID-19 on American soil. As of early March 2020, thirteen residents of the facility contracted and died from COVID-19, an additional 11 deaths were being investigated but had not yet been attributed to the novel virus that dominated headlines.

In many nursing homes, residents share rooms, and common areas are small, making residents vulnerable to infections that are transmitted from person to person, advises the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. And the open-door policy of many facilities can make it easy for diseases to find their way in. These pointers can help reduce the risk for disease transmission.

- Visitors should not come into the facility if they have symptoms of respiratory infections or other illnesses that are easily transmissible.
- Employees should stay home if they are sick.
- Good infection prevention and control techniques always should be implemented. These include cleaning hands before and after touching another resident. Cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces, removing soiled items, and wearing personal protective equipment is advised.
- Residents, workers and visitors should practice proper cough and sneeze etiquette by coughing and sneezing into the crooks of their elbows rather than into their hands.
- The CDC says alcohol-based hand rub should be available in every resident's room.
- Restrict residents with any contagious illnesses to their rooms. If they need to be moved for testing or other reasons, have them wear correct safety items, like facemasks.
- Healthcare personnel who may work other jobs, such as those in other facilities, should exercise extreme caution after caring for an individual with an infectious disease.
- Guests should wear gowns when visiting someone who has a virus or type of bacteria that can be transmitted through direct contact.

Infectious diseases can be problematic in nursing home settings since residents are vulnerable due to their proximity to others, ages and potentially compromised immune systems.

Did You Know?

According to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, nurses are the second largest group of licensed professionals in the United States. While laws vary depending on where nurses work, many nurses must have their licenses renewed at certain intervals. State boards of nursing, sometimes referred to as "BONs," were established to oversee and assure the safe practice of nursing in an effort to protect the public's health. Part of the responsibilities of a BON is to evaluate licensure applications, and some BONs, depending on the state laws, will handle license renewals as well. The goal of license renewals is to ensure licensed nurses are up to date on the latest best practices and procedures. In addition, nurses who have not practiced in some time but want to return to practicing may need to take a refresher course to ensure they can still serve as competent nurses. In states where renewals are required, nurses who continue to practice without renewing their licenses may be subject to discipline. Nurses are urged to stay abreast of the licensing laws where they practice and to contact their BON if they have any questions about the licensure process.



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Laingsburg Knights of Columbus Yard Sale Is Cancelled

submitted by Gary Lundquist

Traditionally, the Laingsburg Knights of Columbus has had a Yard Sale the first Saturday after Labor Day (9/13) at the St Isidore Church (Laingsburg). Unfortunately, this event is cancelled this year due to the Coronavirus.

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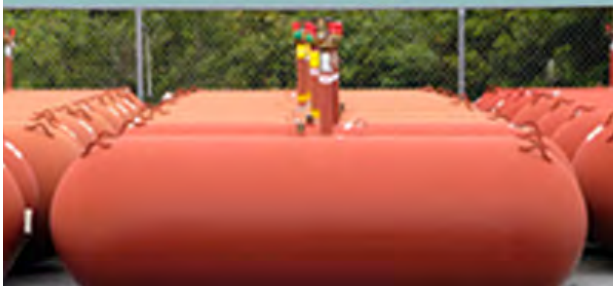
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Photo by Clint Hawks

Wolfpack Cross-Country teams Look to Finish in Top Four of Tough CMAC

LAINGSBURG -- A top 3 of 4 finish by both of his cross-country teams. That's what veteran coach Shawn Baynes is looking for from this year's Wolfpack edition.

"We've got a good depth of strong runners on the boys team, and we are senior-strong with a lot of experience with the girls team," says Baynes, as he looks to steer his Wolfpack in the top half of the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) in 2020.

The Wolfpack boys are coming off a 6th place showing in the league, led this year by returning runners Tyler Scanlon, Miguel Ramirez, Nolan Gregg, Kadin Beck, Caleb Clark, Sawyer Shastal, Dawson Shastal, Dan Miller and Zach Slider. Newcomers are Garrett Mathews, Levi Stephens, Dano Winans, Brad Dedic, Jacob Slider, Aden Baynes, Lucas Woodruff and Wyatt Stanfield. "The CMAC is a strong running conference," says coach Baynes. "Our boys team hopes to finish in the top four, but it will be tough."

The Wolfpack girls are striding to move up from their 4th place league finish from 2019. They return Sierra Price, Danielle Winans, Emily Gutzman, Hayleigh Mertens, Saige Wurm, Daisy Wilson, Kezzie Dietz, Emma Kribs and Shaily Baynes. There are two newcomers to the team: Desire Knoblauch and Sophia Dittrich. "Our girls are small in numbers and a young team," explains coach Baynes, "But we're shooting for a top 3 finish."

The future of the Wolfpack program looks bright. "We have 40-plus Middle School runners in cross-country. We are looking forward to a big class of runners next year," says the coach.



Coach Shawn Baynes

Laingsburg Harriers Kick Off 2020 Season by Hosting Early Burg Invite

LAINGSBURG — Perry's girls were the top area performer at the Laingsburg Early Burg Thursday, finishing sixth as a team.

Junior Grace O'Neill paced the Ramblers with a 11th-place finish in 22:09.5. Ella Kloeckner was 17th in 22:51.2.

Laingsburg, which finished eighth, was led by senior Shaily Baynes (23:29.6) in 22nd. Emma Kribs took 29th in 24:06.1.

Marshall won the girls scoring with 33 points. Battle Creek Harper Creek was second with 65. Perry had 144 points and Laingsburg tallied 192.

Laingsburg's boys finished seventh as a team with 169 points, led by Lucas Woodruff in 13th (18:34.8). Miguel Ramirez (19:52.2) was 29th for the Wolfpack.

Perry took ninth with 188 points. The Ramblers' top finisher was Ethan Smith in 16th (18:51). Benjamin Hinkley was 24th (19:32.1).

Fowlerville edged Harper Creek 73-74 for the team victory. Leslie was just behind in third with 78 points.

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Editorial...cont'd from page 4



The Weekly Sportsman
by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Ask Andy

Have a Question for Andy?
Submit them to:
ask_andy@aol.com
You can also mail or drop questions off to: Meridian Weekly
P.O. Box 11, Ovid, MI 48866

The Squirrel Master

The Michigan squirrel opener is a little over a week away so the Weekly Sportsman thought he would introduce readers to America's Squirrel Master. Jonathan O'Dell may well be the first and only hunter in North America to complete the Grand Slam of Tree Squirrels in 2009. It has been almost ten years since his accomplishment was featured in Field & Stream.

Back in '15 The Weekly Sportsman met O'Dell in person while attending a National Pheasant Fest in Des Moines, Iowa. A very outgoing and cheerful individual he introduced himself as Arizona's small game biologist while he hung out around the cooking stage primarily watching his friend Hank Shaw's cooking demonstrations. The Weekly Sportsman also spent the weekend around the cooking stage while serving as a wildgame sous chef for Uncle Millie. O'Dell seemed like a familiar figure and it was as if maybe the Weekly Sportsman had met him before but this was not possible as he was from the far away state of Arizona. Following dinner on the very first day of Pheasant Fest it finally came to the Weekly Sportman why O'Dell seemed so familiar. Could this be the same small game biologist that was in a magazine a few years back who hunted many different species of squirrels in America's southwest?

The next morning the Weekly Sportsman quietly approached O'Dell during a cooking demonstration and whispered to him, "I think I know who you are.... Mr. Squirrel Master." It was if someone had injected O'Dell with a million gallons of caffeine. He snapped to life with a smile and stood like he was ten foot tall. The Weekly Sportsman had just delivered the biggest compliment possible by acknowledging his accomplishment of shooting the American Grand Slam of Tree Squirrels. Slipping away from the cooking stage, O'Dell and the Weekly Sportsman nerded out about squirrels and small game hunting for about an hour and discussed what Arizona and Michigan has to offer.

Now about this Grand Slam and Squirrel Master title. There is no governing squirrel association or published record book. In 2009 O'Dell had the opportunity to travel to California, Missouri, and Kansas and thus was able to hunt all eight species of tree squirrels. The state of Arizona itself is home to four of the species of which some are only found there. The list for the Grand Slam includes Western Gray, Douglas, Arizona, Abert's, Red, Eastern Grey, Eastern Fox, and the Mexican Fox. O'Dell is a shotgun man and totes a Remington 870 and uses #6 shot. He uses calls and does a lot of scouting to locate movement and sign such as cracked nut hulls at the base of trees. Much like his colleague from Arkansas, Clifton Jackson, he believes that squirrel hunting may be the key to recruiting new hunters. There is something unique that happens when a young hunter spends time in the woods honing marksmanship and fieldcraft skills.

The Weekly Sportsman and O'Dell have both offered to host each other for hunting trips in their home state but busy calendars have not been able to mesh. The Weekly Sportsman looks forward to an Arizona squirrel hunting trip with dove and prairie dog possibilities although O'Dell's discussion of the edibility of prairie dogs is of some concern. Take some time and hit the woods this Tuesday, September 15th for the opening of Michigan's 2020 squirrel season.

-WS



**YOUR NEWSPAPER:
TEXTBOOK TO THE WORLD**

September and Back to School

Dear Andy,

Our 2 grandchildren, 5th grade and 2nd grade have cried every day since school started. Likely, out of frustration and probably feeling my tension and frustration, as well. Their maternal grandmother is recouping from cancer treatment; their mother has been 'exposed' and have sent the children to live with their father during the Covid-19 challenges. And, she said she would not do the online school with their children, (Not part of her job) The kids Dad, my son, is at work until 5:00 every day so Papa and Meme were the "lucky" ones to home school the grandkids. We are in our late 70's and neither one of us is all that computer savvy.

We are at our wits-end as to how the chrome book works and the kids will not sit still to focus. There is so much background noise from other participants, it is tough hear all the information and then I am yelling at them all the time. This is not working out! Any thoughts?

Mean Papa

Dear Mean Papa,

You are not alone. I have heard many stories as to the challenges of some students using the Chrome Book for the very first time. I just heard from a mom that her 8 yr old son has 3 other classes on Zoom and it was not until day 10 they realized he was not attending the online class. Just one of the many horror stories I have heard. Students have many styles of learning. Some may need to record the teacher and listen to it again later. Some may need to take notes the entire time. Some just listen. Most all will need to go back to review the assignment. It is a learning style in progress. Be patient and Relax...gramps and grams... you're not the teacher.

Suggestions on getting children to focus. Let them sit where ever they are comfortable....the hammock, a beanbag chair or upside down on the couch or on the trampoline. And if you have fidgeter, give them a fidgeter hand spinner, a stress ball or a sensory toy.

Organization is going to be a key to their success. Get folders for each class; place all textbooks and supplies in a small bin. Most all children have a short attention span. You can get them excited to learn by showing interest in their accomplishments and asking questions about what they learned. Know what subject is up next and know the time. Set a timer. Ask them questions after they finished the instructions from their teacher. No yelling! If background noise is distracting. Students can mute the other students and still hear the teacher. Have your students make a paper with a question mark and one with a check mark meaning they understand; tape it to a pencil. When the teacher asks for questions, your student can hold up the question sign and unmute. When they understand the can hold up the check mark without hearing all the background noises of other students.

Do what works: Make sure they have a visual schedule of classes and assignment. A white board with wipe off marker. Schedule with times for each class. Know the daily agenda. Know when assignments are due. When you check into attendance for each class, you are given the zoom time and other information. Do it prior to class time. Know your kids log in and password.

As for the students, it is frustrating for them, too. Especially, your grandchildren. At that age they carry pressure and worry about their parent's mortality. They have a grandmother who is fighting cancer and the 'rejection' from their mother has got to be stressful for them. They are likely to be worried that their mother is going to die. It is important you keep them informed about family personal struggles and ask them if they have any concerns. Educate them regarding Novisvirus Covid 19 and Pandemics so they know there is a history of deadly pandemics every generation. Be Positive. What you do not know, Google it!

Make sure they have snacks and water nearby and take advantage of the breaks the teachers give them. They should stretch and rejuvenate with some exercise or jumping. It gets tiring to look at a screen; it can be uncomfortable, or the neck could be hurting. Have them gently bend their heads to the back, left and right and stretching forward holding the position

for 3 seconds and slowly turning. Don't forget to stretch their hands. Clasp them together: stretch and wiggle the finders. All of you take deep breaths to destress.

And, it is ok if they need their blanket or a special stuffed animal nearby. It will bring them comfort trying this new challenge of virtual computer-generated education. And, it's ok to call the school or text the teacher if you have questions or need assistance on the protocols and expectations of the students. (Do not call during class time) Most students and many teachers are learning for the first time, too. Be patient, don't hover, use encouraging words and compliments. Back off some...they will get it eventually.

Your grandchild's education is important. For most, this will be a temporary situation. We need to make the best of it, especially if the only choice we have is staying home to be safe until a cure or vaccine is available. It could take many more months and maybe years. So, my FINAL suggestion is to enjoy the new experience by being positive and excited to learn something new. Andy

Readers: Thank you to the teachers and staff who are doing their best. Thank you for the hands-on support from family members and friends. Thank you to the students who want to learn and do their best. You can do it! AskAndy@aol.com

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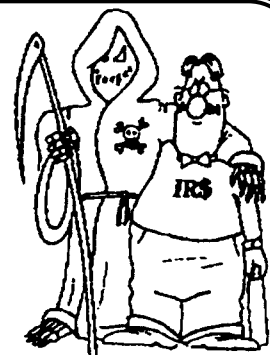


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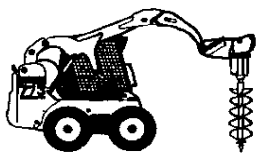
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GARAGE SALE: 2895 Loomis Rd., St. Johns. Sept. 10-11, 9am-5pm. Antiques, high chair, chamber pot, walker, floor lamp, crafts, ktichen items, clothes, picture frames. 1541

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HELP WANTED: Bartender. Tues, Wed, Thur - Nights; Sat. days. Approx. 15-20 hrs a week, possibly more. Minimum wage. Apply in person at American Legion Post #248, 1240 E. Grand River, Laingsburg. 1538t4

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The Weekly

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF EVICTION AND REMOVAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY FROM STORAGE UNIT

Storage facility location: 9446 E. M-21 Ovid, MI 48866 Unit #C14(72)
Timeline and actions taken
Communication to Tenant: USPS 7014 2120 001 0269 4304
Notice of non-compliance mail out: 2020-08-17
Notice of non-compliance received: 2020-08-17
Settlement date to resolve non-compliance dispute: 2020-08-31
Public notice of sale or other disposition-FIRST NOTICE: 2020-09-06
Public notice of sale or other disposition-SECOND NOTICE: 2020-09-13
Newspaper contracted to publish notice to the public: **The Weekly**
Contents of the unit will be removed: 2020-09-21
Description of unit contents: Miscellaneous items with or without personal or familial value. Some items may or may not be in individual containers.
Owner/manager actions: All items will be sold and/or discarded. Upon removal of all items the unit will be restored to a functional, safe condition, making this unit available to other prospective tenants.
This action is pursuant to self-storage facility act 570.521 1986-March-31, State of Michigan.

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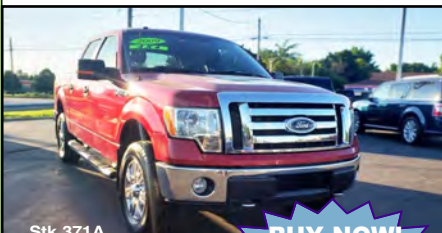
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Photo by Dane Nichols

Ga Ga Pit

On Saturday, August 22nd, members of the Laingsburg Lions Club installed a second GaGa Pit and Laingsburg Elementary School. Pictured here (L-R) are Terry Fraidenburg, , Mike Foster, Club President, Cindy Arthur, Lori Leonard, Mike Danek and Ed Arthur.

Laingsburg Lions White Cane Sale

The Laingsburg Lions will be holding their annual White Cane Sale on Saturday, September 12th from 9am-3pm at the Main Four corners in downtown. They have constructed six foot white canes that will allow for easy access and social distancing. Please stop and support your local Lions Club.



Laingsburg Reports Second Student COVID-19 Case

LAINGSBURG — The weekend of August 29-30, a Laingsburg Middle School student was diagnosed with COVID-19, and may have had “close contact” with one class of other students before staying home for the second part of last week.

Laingsburg Community Schools officials informed district families of the positive test August 30. The student was not identified, officials said, to protect their privacy. “We’ve been in communication with both the Clinton County (Mid-Michigan District) Health Department and the Shiawassee County Health Department throughout the day (Monday),” Superintendent Matt Shastal said. “I think it is important to communicate that we have reason to believe that the student did not contract the virus while attending school and that our strict safety protocols that we have in place will help prevent the spread of the virus to other students or staff members.”

This is the second instance of a single positive test at Laingsburg; the first reported a week ago was a high school student. Corunna, Durand and Perry all also have reported positive tests among either students or staff. According to an email sent to families in the Laingsburg district Sunday, “(The district) recently became aware of a student in our middle school that tested positive for COVID-19. We found out late Saturday evening, Aug. 29, that the test came back positive.

“This student was not in school on Thursday, Aug. 27, or Friday, Aug. 28. With that said, some students may have been in “close contact” with this student during one class period on Wednesday, Aug. 26, in which case we will be in contact with those families within 15 minutes of this email,” the notification said.

Shastal’s email said the district is responsible for informing all staff and students who are considered “close contacts” by the CDC guidelines. “However, we feel that it is important to notify all families in our district in an abundance of caution,” the email said.

A close contact typically is someone being within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes.

Shastal said the latest infected student does not ride district-provided transportation.