

Local Fur Buyer Still Going Strong After Five Decades

written by Tom Turek

It's the start of winter. The day begins before the sunrise as the truck idles, warming up in the December cold before embarking on a 200-mile-or-so trek.

The trek is a "Labor of Love." The truck is a 20-year-old F-350 dually with a 20-foot double-axle trailer attached. The mission is Gladwin, where one deer processor has been storing whitetail hides since bow season opened on October 1.

Four guys load into the well-used Ford led by the owner / driver, Gary Koonter, the former high school three-sport star and an ardent hunter and fur buyer. The four guys are embarking on a day of back-breaking work to separate and load — how many? — whitetail hides and bring them back to Koonter headquarters in Laingsburg.

How many hides? The processor doesn't know for sure. The Koonter team shows up expecting maybe 600 ... but sees pallets holding well over 1,000, maybe as many as 1,500 salted hides. Weighing somewhere from 15 to 40 lbs. apiece, they all need to be separated, hauled, graded and stacked.

The back-breaking, salt-tasting work has just begun. Once they're back in Laingsburg, the hundreds-full trailer -- with furs hanging over the sides -- needs to be unloaded, the tails cut off, and "palletized." One hundred to a pallet. Stacked in just a way that they balance against the layers below, and don't fall over.



An overflowing load returning from Gladwin to Laingsburg.

It's more an art than a science. And perhaps the most grueling job of all.

The deer season may be over for countless numbers of other hunters by December; but here it's just beginning. When asked why he got into this obscure-outdoorsman gig -- Fur Buyer -- he says simply, "I figured if I worked hard enough I could make myself a job."

He got that right.

With the 1960s waning, Gary graduated LHS as a record-setting quarterback and standout in basketball and baseball. He married high school sweetheart Barb Arthur and soon they had their own children. Son Mark and daughter Kim were indoctrinated into the family "biz."

Gary came from a family of outdoorsmen, including his grandfather Albert Forrest, who was an avid coon hunter.

Coons: that's where the first furs came from. At age 20, Gary started buying coonskins, beaver, skunk, fox, deer, even cattle, and started running his own traplines, in addition to hunting. He once had a scary encounter with an angry trapped badger which he says he never wants to re-live.

From the start, it was labor intensive. Small animal hides had to be mounted and stretched. Cow hides can run upwards of 150 lbs.

In the early 1980s, the market for smaller furs dried up. Too, beef hide prices plummeted.

Yet the market for Michigan deer hides has remained constant. Mitten-state hides are world-renowned as premium, based on their genetics (from top-notch feed lots), the lack of ticks and a mostly-free environment of thorns and briar patches. "Many of the hides are big, rich, full ... and perfect," Koonter admires. "Without any marks, scratches or blemishes."

Where do they go? Koonter ships them to tanning houses in Wisconsin or New York, where they're sold to the top fashion capitals in Europe, mainly Italy. The leather produced is revered for its softness and suppleness. Much of it goes toward handbags and shoes; this past year, there was a high demand for deer-leather gloves.

The younger generation appeal of the business always appealed to Koonter. He provided a place where younger hunters -- there were lots of them around Shiawassee and Clinton Counties and he lists them off by name -- could bring their furs and get a little pocket money.

He remains devoted to the younger aspect of hunting, trapping and responsible gun ownership.

This has been Gary Koonter's side-vocation for some 53 years now, since he was 20 years old.

Now on the north side of 70, Gary processes more than 20,000 deer hides per season; a campaign that can begin around the start of November and run until mid-March. His clientele, hand-picked and trusted over years, are trained how to salt and stack hides for the fur buyer's pickup. Ranging from the Ohio-Indiana border north to nearly Houghton Lake, a pickup might be from 200 hides to over 1,000. The crew he depends on are over-50 or retirement-age former LHS athletes who, for lack of a better explanation, can kick ass and love what they do. The loyalty, Gary says, runs both ways.

"I have no thoughts of retiring," Koonter says. "Until they tell me they're done. Then we'll have to take a look at it."

"I mean, look at the great workout we get."



Gary Koonter in his shop

LBCA Unsung Hero and Business Person of the Year



(l-r): Kaillyn Liskey, Roy Liskey, Rhonda Liskey, Lisa Jelenek, Tom Jelenek and John Liskey

submitted by Greg Beavers

Local Roots and the Liskey family received the Business Person of the Year Award.

The owners of Local Roots, the Liskey family has worked hard and long hours to bring this creative business to our town. They help the community in many ways such as bringing concerts to town, helping with Laingsburg celebrations and running a turkey drive for Thanksgiving to help those that need a little support through the giving season. They are great with activities in our community and help bring others in to lend a helping hand in many ways.

Tom and Lisa Jelenek received the Unsung Hero Award.

Lisa and Tom Jelenek have put countless hours and money into the city of Laingsburg by adding the Clothesline and now the Connect, a tutoring service for students at no charge. This will benefit the community in many ways.

Words are not enough to thank them for what they have giving to the people of our community. Tom has worked hard at fixing up the buildings that the business now are in and in doing so helped beautified the downtown area.

These are truly great heroes of our community.

Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce Home, Garden and Business Expo

DATE: April 20 – 21, 2024
LOCATION: Owosso High School,
765 E. North St., Owosso
TIME: Saturday, April 20th – 9:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday, April 21st – 10:00am – 4:30pm

Owosso, Mich.— Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce (SRCC) Home, Garden & Business EXPO is back! The EXPO will be held at Owosso High School on April 20-21st. We encourage everyone to come out and join us for our first year back and check out all the vendors as well! Kids' Day is Sunday, April 21st – Home Depot & Crooked Tree will have activities set up for the kids to enjoy. We are excited to announce our presenting sponsors for this year: Memorial Healthcare, Weather Vane Roofing, Alderman's and LAFCU.

We are looking to fill our vendor booths, our "Restaurant Row" in the cafeteria, food trucks who would like to set up in the parking lot, car dealerships who want to display vehicles & more! Registration is now open to all vendors who would like to participate, please contact Erin Huska at 989-720-5044 or email ehuska@shiawasseechamber.org to register. The deadline for member discount ends on 4/5 and the deadline to register to participate is on April 12th.

Visit our website <https://www.shiawasseechamber.org/expo>

Meridian Weekly

Deborah Price
Owner/Publisher
meridianweekly.com

200 S. Main St., P.O. Box 11, Ovid, MI
989.834.2264 Fax: 834.2066

E-mail - News/General
news@meridianweekly.com
E-mail - Publisher
deb.price@meridianweekly.com
E-mail - Display Advertising
ads@meridianweekly.com

Birth Announcement ~ Twin Boys



Parents Alysia Potter and Jeremy Bowden welcomed twins Rex Steven (5lbs. 7oz.) and Russell Wayne (6lbs. 4oz.) at 8:34am and 8:48am, February 16, 2024 at Memorial Hospital in Owosso.

Social

Steak Fry

submitted by Cindy Suggate

The Sons of the American Legion Post 248 will be hosting a Steak Fry on Saturday April 13th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The post is located at 1240 E. Grand River Rd., Laingsburg and the Steak fry will be open to the public. The dinner will consist of steak grilled to order, baked potato, coleslaw, roll and dessert. The cost of the dinner is \$15.00. Drinks will also be able to purchase. Please come and enjoy a delicious steak dinner.

E.E. Knight Elementary Career Day

submitted by Morgan Alexander

E. E. Knight Elementary hosted Career Day on March 21st! This event provided 3rd through 5th grade students an up-close look at different career paths and connected learning to the real world. The presenters took time out of their schedules to educate and interact with students, and E. E. Knight thanks them for volunteering their time and efforts!

Thank you to Officer Grinnell (Elsie Police Department), Don Peterson (Elsie Area Fire Department), Brandy Martinez (Whimsical pARTy gallery + DIY), Barbie Kolodica (Bellingar Specialty Meats), Cindy Trumble (Cindy's Mobile Grooming), Marty and his colleagues (Wolverine Engineers & Surveyors), Stephanie and Ben Moore (Moore Seed Farm), Doreen Wakefield (Horse Farrier), Taryn Zmitko (Mane Attraction Salon), Jim Pontack (Once Removed), and Alicia Peters (Fog's Pizza). Students and staff appreciate it!

Ovid Historical Society

Welcome Spring! The first meeting of the Ovid Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, April 02 at 7:00pm at the Mary Myers Museum. Please join us as we plan events for 2024. The museum is located at 131 East Williams Street in Ovid.

Retired School Personnel to Meet

submitted by Peg Zink

The Clinton-Shiawassee MARSP Meeting will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 111 S. Shiawassee St, Corunna, MI. Luncheon (\$12) is payable at the door. Our program is Master Gardener, Jennifer Hessler. For reservations, leave your name and number attending by email to rzick5039@gmail.com or call Peg at 517-282-8350 and leave a message by Friday, April 5, 2024 by noon.

Ovid Library Grand Opening



On Monday, April 8th, the Ovid Public Library would like to invite you to a small grand reopening celebration from 11-6. Come in and see all the exciting changes we have made to the library. We will have light refreshments and will gladly give you a tour of our newly improved library.

Also on Monday April 8, between the hours of 2 and 4 a rare solar eclipse will be taking place. We will be handing out safety glasses so that you can watch this event take place. Make sure you make time for this because you won't be able to see another one until 2044!

Wednesday, April 10th we will be having our classic movie. Movie time will be 1:00. Watch the paper next week for details on what movie we will be showing.

Tuesdays at the library, the back (childrens) room will be open for crafters from 1-4. There's lots of tables and room for you to spread out and craft with your friends!

Laingsburg Hat,

Mittenmakers Need Supplies

LAINGSBURG -- A Laingsburg group of women are busy making hand-crafted hats and mittens for the homeless.

They give out over 900 pairs of mittens a year, along with about 600 hats.

They are in need of sweaters, yard and polar fleece for liners.

Items can be dropped off at St. Isidore Catholic Church, 310 N. Crum St. in Laingsburg, or you can call Barb Koonter at 517-651-6206 for a pickup.

IT'S BACK BREAKFAST

Public Welcome...

Every Sunday

8am-11am

LAINGSBURG
AMERICAN LEGION
Post 248

1240 E. Grand River
(517) 651-6050

Ashley Football

Spaghetti Dinner & Auction Fundraiser

Friday April 12th • Dinner 5pm

Ashley Schools Cafeteria

Silent Auction begins 5pm, Live Auction begins 7pm

Pre-sale

Dinner Tickets:

Adults \$10

Kids 12-under \$5

Kids 3-under Free

Meal includes:

Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic

Bread, Dessert, & Drink

Proceeds to benefit the

Ashley Schools Football

Program:

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At The Door:

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Memorial Healthcare Hosts Blood Drive April 5

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

Monday, March 25 (2024) — Owosso, Michigan — Memorial Healthcare will host an American Red Cross blood drive on Friday, April 5 from 10 am to 3:45 pm at the Memorial Healthcare Auditorium, located at 826 W. King Street, in Owosso.

Did you know, every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood, which means more than 36,000 blood donations are needed every day. With each blood donation this can potentially save up to three lives.

There's a critical shortage of blood and blood products, so if you've been putting off being a donor, now is the time. To schedule an appointment, please contact Lyn Freeman at (989) 729-4818, by email lfreeman@memorialhealthcare.org or on the American Red Cross website at www.redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is preferred.



Warrior Appreciation Rally

submitted by Brian Valentine, Elsie Post Commander

The Elsie American Legion will host its annual Warrior Appreciation Rally (W.A.R.) on August 3, 2024. We are currently looking for anyone who would like to bring Military memorabilia to display or any Military vehicles, historic photo display or old weapons. It is a one day event and there is no charge to display or demonstrate. We hold this event to show appreciation to our military, fire departments, police and all first responders. For more information or to bring memorabilia contact American Legion Commander Brian Valentine at 989-307-9856 or email elsiepostcommander@gmail.com



Rescheduled Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt originally scheduled for March 23rd at Ovid Healthcare has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 6th. The event will begin at 11am for preschool & under, kindergarten and 1st thru 6th grade students. Kids need to bring their own baskets as they hunt for eggs filled with candy and prizes. For more information call 989-834-2228, Ovid Healthcare is located at 9480 E. M-21 in Ovid.

VICTOR TWP.

Clinton County, Michigan
6843 E. Alward Road, Laingsburg, MI 48848

Proposed Board Minutes from March 12, 2024

The regular board meeting of Victor Township was called to order by Supervisor Conklin at 7:00 p.m. and the pledge to the flag was given.

Attendance: Roll call: Conklin, Prange, Willoughby, Townsend, Fickes. Absent: None
17 citizens in attendance.

Public Comment: Scott Darragh, representative of the St. Johns School Board, supplied information regarding the School Bond Proposal to be voted on at the May 7, 2024 Special Election. (For those voters in the St. Johns School District only) For more information on this proposal visit www.sjredwings.org/bond2024.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Willoughby to approve the March 12, 2024 agenda. Motion seconded by Prange. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Willoughby to approve the February 13, 2024 regular meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Conklin. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Prange to accept the March 12, 2024 Treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills and Payroll: Motion by Willoughby to disburse the February, 2024 bills (Paid March 12, 2024). Motion seconded by Fickes. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks# 29025-29057 in the amount of \$16,120.15

Motion by Willoughby to disburse February, 2024 payroll and related payroll expenses. (Paid March 12, 2024) Motion seconded by Fickes. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks# 13045-13054 in the amount of \$21,437.33

County Officials: No report given.

Victor Township Planning Commission: A meeting with DNR representative, Riley Millard, was held regarding DNR grants available to Victor Township. Grant submissions are due April 1, 2024. Motion made and seconded to support grant endeavors and submission to the Township Board at the March 12, 2024 scheduled meeting. Roll call vote passed unanimously by those members present.

The next meeting of the Victor Township Planning Commission will be **April 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Victor Township Hall.**

LSW: Fickes attended the meeting. Victor Township is waiting on information from LSW on the new proposed contract.

Maintenance & Facilities:

Maintenance Report: Continuing work is being done on the Dennison School house front door. The back door project is complete.

Items of Public Interest:

Unfinished Business:

Broadband: The ROBIN grant challenge process provided additional funding opportunities for applicants that were not awarded funds in initial grant awards. The challenge process for this second round has ended. MIHI announcement will be released soon and show final batch 2 awards.

Emergency Services (Ambulance and Fire): Discussion is ongoing regarding ambulance service for Victor Township. Holly Madill, MSU Extension representative, was present and discussed the plans for a public meeting to give information to and hear public input regarding Ambulance Service in Victor Township.

Motion by Conklin to hold an

Emergency Services Workshop on:

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

at the Victor Township Hall, 6843 E. Alward Rd. Laingsburg, MI 48848

Motion seconded by Fickes. All in favor. Motion carried

Motion by Fickes to pay \$4,401.00 to MSU Extension to organize and facilitate the meeting and continue to work with the Victor Township Board in ways to best communicate with our residents in providing ambulance services to our community. Motion seconded by Willoughby. Roll call vote: Willoughby: yes, Fickes: yes, Townsend: yes, Conklin: yes, Prange: yes. Noes: None. Absent: None: Motion carried.

New Business:

Budget Resolution 2024-2025: 2024-03-01

Motion by Conklin to approve the General Appropriations Act for FY 2024-2025. Motion seconded by Willoughby. Roll call vote: Townsend: yes, Fickes: yes, Willoughby: yes, Prange: yes, Conklin: yes. Noes: None. Absent: None. The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted.

Budget Amendments 2023-2024: Motion by Willoughby to approve the budgeted amendments submitted by the clerk. Motion seconded by Fickes. Roll call vote: Fickes: yes, Townsend: yes, Prange: yes, Conklin: yes, Willoughby: yes. Noes: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Road Contracts:

Motion by Fickes to approve the Clinton County Road contracts for 2024 totaling \$364,124.54. Motion seconded by Willoughby. Roll call vote: Willoughby: yes, Prange: yes, Conklin: yes, Townsend: yes, Fickes: yes. Noes: None. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Service Contracts: 2024-2027 (RFP)

Hall and Cemetery Grounds: Mowing/Plowing:

Motion by Prange to accept proposal from First Choice Lawn and Snow from April 1, 2024-March 31, 2027. Motion seconded by Willoughby. All in favor. Motion carried.

Maintenance & Sexton:

Motion by Willoughby to accept proposal from Dig Excavating from April 1, 2024-March 31, 2027. Motion seconded by Fickes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Custodian/Janitorial:

Motion by Prange to accept the proposal from Irene Pool from April 1, 2024-March 31, 2027. Motion seconded by Fickes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Insurance: Motion by Fickes to accept the 2024-2025 insurance proposal including Cyber protection by Michigan Township Par Plan (Burnham & Flower). Motion seconded by Willoughby. All in favor. Motion carried

Salary Resolutions:

Clerk: Resolution 2024-03-02

Motion by Willoughby to adopt the clerk salary resolution in the amount of \$23,000 per year plus \$1,000 additional compensation per regular or special election. Motion seconded by Prange. Roll call vote: Conklin: yes, Fickes: yes, Willoughby: yes, Townsend: yes, Prange: yes. Noes: None. Absent: None. The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted.

Treasurer: Resolution 2024-03-03

Motion by Prange to adopt the treasurer salary resolution in the amount of \$22,000 per year. Motion seconded by Fickes. Roll call vote: Fickes: yes, Prange: yes, Conklin: yes, Townsend: yes, Willoughby: yes. Noes: None. Absent: None. The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted.

Michigan DNR Recreation Grant Applications:

Supervisor Conklin opened public comment to hear comments regarding the LWCF Project Grant Application. Trustee Fickes provided a brief overview of the project and pointed everyone's attention to the large poster sized site plan of the site and improvements that was available for the public to view. The total project cost is estimated to be \$557,400; the Township is asking for \$278,700 in grant funding. The Township is committed to \$278,700 which is a 50% match. This project will include playground equipment, pickleball courts, a walking path, restroom and other renovations.

There are several members of the public that made comments in support of the project. The Township maintenance and groundskeeper was present and offered comments regarding construction and installation.

Supervisor Conklin asked if there were any further public comment on the project, hearing none; the public comment for the LWCF Project Grant application was closed.

Resolution 2024-03-04 Resolution to support LWCF Project Grant

Motion by Conklin to adopt Resolution 2024-03-04 supporting LWCF Project Grant Application in the amount of \$278,700 (50%) of a total project cost of \$557,400. Motion seconded by Prange. Roll call vote: Prange: yes, Willoughby: yes, Fickes: yes, Conklin: yes, Townsend: yes. Noes: None. Absent: None. The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted.

Supervisor Conklin opened the floor for public comment to hear comments regarding the Recreation Passport Grant Program Application. Trustee Fickes provided a brief overview of the project and pointed everyone's attention to the large poster sized site plan of the site and improvements that was available for the public to view. The total project cost is estimated to be \$254,300; the Township is asking for \$150,000 in grant funding. The Township is committed to \$104,300 which is a 41% match. This project will include the construction of a walking path and renovations to the existing restroom facilities.

Several members of the public made comments in support of the project. The Township maintenance and groundskeeper was present and offered comments regarding construction and installation.

Supervisor Conklin asked if there was any further public comment on the project, hearing none; the public comment for the Recreation Passport Grant application was closed.

Resolution 2024-03-05 Resolution to support Recreation Passport Grant Program

Motion by Conklin to adopt Resolution 2024-03-05 supporting Recreation Passport Grant Application in the amount of \$150,000, and further resolves to make available a local match through financial commitment of \$104,300 (41%) of a total project cost of \$254,300. Motion seconded by Willoughby. Roll call vote: Fickes: yes, Conklin: yes, Prange: yes, Townsend: yes, Willoughby: yes. Noes: None. Absent: None. The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted.

Extended Comment: Open comment: 8:00 p.m. None.

Motion by Conklin to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Seconded by Willoughby. All in favor. Motion carried.

Copies of full Resolutions, amendments and contracts are available at the Victor Township Offices or by requesting by e-mail at: clerk@victortwp.org.

Lianne Prange

Victor Township Clerk

Obituaries

Annie Smalec

Annie Smalec, age 100, of Howell, MI, passed away Friday, March 15, 2024, at Village Manor Retirement.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Cyril's Catholic Church, Bannister, MI on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. with Rev. Fr. Raj Bandaru presiding. Visitation will be held from 10:00 A.M. until the time of the mass at the church. Burial will take place at St. Paul Catholic Cemetery, Owosso, MI.

Annie was born in Garner, Iowa on December 29, 1923, the daughter of John and Rosalie (Hanacek) Kadera.

Annie enjoyed being DJ at WOES for 17 years. She loved gardening, playing cards and Scrabble. Most of all she loved spending time with her family. She was a member of St. Cyril's Catholic Church in Bannister.

She is survived by her children: John Smalec, Carolyn and Terry Fuller, Sandy and Dawain Riebow, Terry and Ramona Smalec, Dennis Smalec, Bonnie and Alvin Schnautz, 6 grandchildren: Jen and Ron Njau, Cori and Tim Akers, Alina and Andrew Zawislanski, Aron and Ana Smalec, Joseph and Maria Smalec, Wesley and Rachel Nickens, and 8 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Frank, brothers: Steve and Jerry Kadera and sisters: Lillian Turnboom, Rose Day, and Mary Goldman.

Memorials may be made to WOES Polka Palace or ZCBJ Lodge, Bannister, MI. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



Robert W. "Bob" Orweller

Robert W. "Bob" Orweller, age 89 of Mecosta, passed away Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at his home. He was born in St. Johns on April 30, 1934, the son of the late Joseph and Marion (Horn) Orweller. Bob was a 1952 graduate of Rodney B. Wilson High School. He served his country honorably in the United States Army during the Korean War. Bob was stationed in Japan where he learned clerical work; he was discharged in 1958.

Bob married Bonita "Bonnie" Bellingar-Nyhus on August 27, 1965, in Elsie and together they made their home and raised their family in Clinton County. Bob was employed by Oldsmobile as a clerk and retired in 1982. He and Bonnie moved to their dream home at Tubbs Lake where he looked forward to fishing and going for long walks around the island. Bob also enjoyed playing card games, going for trips to the casino, and challenging himself with sudoku and crossword puzzles. Bob was a longtime volunteer at the Mecosta County Senior Center and was a driver for Mecosta County Commission on Aging.

Bob is survived by his two sons, Raymond (Erika) Orweller of Mecosta and Milton Nyhus of Elsie; seven grandchildren, Kari, Jamie, Stephanie, Benjamin (Brandi), April Lynn, Amanda, and Steven Jr.; 24 great-grandchildren that fondly knew him as "Big Papa"; one great-great-grandson; sister, Charleen Bellingar of Ashley; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his wife Bonnie; his son, Steven Nyhus; and three siblings, Shirley Mae Orweller, Joe Orweller, and Patricia Greenfield.

A Memorial Service will be planned for a later date.

Memorial Contributions may be made in Bob's name to Mecosta County Commission on Aging - Transportation or Mecosta County Senior Center.

Arrangements and care entrusted to Daggett Funeral Home in Barryton.

Share a memory or leave a condolence for the family at www.daggettgilbertfuneralhome.com



Easter at Heartland Church

Easter Sunday Services on March 31st will be held at 9:15am and 11:am. The church is located at 8440 M-21 in Ovid. Join us in worship this Easter Sunday.

Everyone is welcome, bring the family and join us.



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Religious Thoughts

by Chris Hearn
www.howdidchristianitybegin.com
 tohearns@yahoo.com

Have You Ever Caved in to Peer Pressure?

Peer pressure is when we say or do something that we know is wrong, but do it anyway rather than standing up for what we know is right.

I have. I'm sure we all have. Even Peter in Galatians, chapter 2 did so. We've all done it and we hated ourselves afterwards for doing so.

Peer pressure can come in all different forms. There are the standard forms that we may think of at first- underage drinking or smoking. Premarital sex. Lying. Stealing.

There are also more subtle forms of peer pressure- To laugh at a bad joke. To say something negative against someone when you know it's better just to drop the matter. Also to not share about God when we are feeling the Holy Spirit's leading to do so. When we give in to peer pressure, we fail to be an example to others of what is right and good.

In contrast, by taking a stand, we can show others a different, better way to act or talk and that stand can serve as an inspiration for those people the next time.

There is and will continue to be peer pressure to either conform to the worldview of others or to just be silent when it comes to living in public what we believe.

Thank God, He has not left us alone to deal with peer pressure. His Holy Spirit lives inside of us to help. When one becomes a believer in God, he or she has God's Holy Spirit. Part of having God's Spirit living inside of us is the new ability to say "No!" to sin and to say, "Yes!" to God. This includes saying "No!" to peer pressure. The Holy Spirit can give you the strength and courage to do what's right.

Also, as Christians God has changed us so that we will desire to do His will. This includes saying, "No" to peer pressure.

As Paul writes, "...if anyone is in Christ, he [or she] is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17

When the peer pressure is on, say a quick, silent prayer, to the Lord for help and strength to not give in, but to take godly action.

Remember too that ultimately it's not the approval of people that matters, but it's God's approval that counts.

It's His, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:21) whether said after one has done something good in this life or whether it's heard as we enter into His presence. It's His, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" that matters most.

Also remember that when we fail, when we do give into peer pressure, there is forgiveness.

As 1 John 2:1-2 says, "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."



Editorial



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

was closed I did manage to pick up a few items at the Food Pride in Ovid. I had a nice surprise and got to have a short exchange with Vicky. It was nice seeing her. No info other than she had been there for about a year because six weeks of retirement wasn't worth the effort. This I do understand well. Though there are times when I feel lacking in applying my life experiences to my current life patterns. Wahoo, we have a very competent dishwasher to help at the shop. I believe that this one will be sticking around for awhile. It is nice to have someone responsible and willingly helpful and also good at doing dishes.

I finally had my first physical therapy Wednesday late afternoon. I found out that I still do have a brain in my head...now if I would only have followed my own instinct then I wouldn't be in this pickle. After the first appointment I came up with the same conclusions as did my therapist so why haven't I already applied them. My left lower limb has been down right rude. Things that I wish I owned, like an updated 'tens unit', not sure if I spelled that correctly but it does the job by stimulating the muscles in my knee as they were packed in ice. After just one therapy session I'm walking more confidently and firmly. Life is good. Now if I could only figure out what is giving me a sore throat when I wake up in my nice flat bed. No more sleeping in the recliner and I better get into gear because I need to pack my knee in ice for about an hour and to keep my leg elevated.

All and all Wednesday was a good day. I stopped to pay my bill at the Ouch Clinic in St Johns, I was expecting to pay forty-three dollars and informed the young lady at the check in station. She asked my birth date and name and couldn't find the charge. I told her when I received the bill which was about three weeks ago and she still couldn't find it. Finally she realized that my supplemental insurance had also sent in a check and I only owed ten dollars and thirty cents. It was nice saving thirty dollars but I don't understand why I was billed before both insurance companies had been billed. I know, what I believe to be common sense doesn't apply to others?!!?

Now, please be prepared for a rant. North of Bannister between Woodbridge and Barry roads on Taft Road there has been a pain to the home owners. The irritation has been caused by the birdwatchers who line the road with their vehicles on both sides of the road. These folks are watching the 'short eared owls'. Lots of high end cameras are being used. What I don't understand is why some type of starter guns? Are being shot into the air to excite the owls? Also these owl folks seem to believe that their actions are not their responsibilities. The parking on the road and the noise stir up the home owners dogs...Maggie gets very upset. Milo, Mia, and their best three buds are also upset. Add the miniature goats and there are a chorus of unhappy pets. And don't forget the local adult drivers that can't get through that section of road in the evenings. Sure would be nice if you didn't have to meander around folks who have been taking over the back roads. Tim did offer his property for them to park in, haven't seen anyone do so yet. His field is on the south side of Taft near the Woodbridge intersection. Just a thought...

Tomorrow morning I need to make four pies. Two banana cream pies, a pineapple cream, and a lemon meringue pie. I got the crusts made this morning and I'm pleased with their appearance. Brent did follow the recipe and made the dough for me. I will be delivering pies after work on Friday. Then I need to catch the young toms and put them over in carriers to be taken to GAIN for neutering on Saturday morning. I hope that the weather complies with my plans and especially that the young cats let me catch them. It could be a very interesting day. May your days be filled with interesting events and many of God's blessings.

Crystal Mitchell©2024

Protect Farmers Rights

Letter to the Editor:

There is a petition circulating to repeal the green energy laws passed by the Michigan Legislature last November. It claims to protect local property rights, but that is very misleading.

To meet Michigan's goal of carbon neutrality there will have to be many new renewable energy projects created in the next decade. However, local restrictive ordinances would have denied the farmers and landowners the opportunity to use their land to earn extra income to help them through the tough times and keep the farm in the family. They also deny rural communities the benefits of increasing the tax base and more tax revenue.

These restrictive ordinances take away the landowner's right to decide what they can do with their property. This is an example of local government taking away an individual right, which did not go unnoticed by the legislature. The legislation passed last fall was needed to rebalance property rights with local control. This was accomplished by allowing local governments to create ordinances with reasonable siting parameters and negotiate with the developer. If they cannot reach agreement then the developer can apply to the Michigan Public Service Commission, MPSC, for a permit. The landowner is not forced to participate in the project, it is their choice.

We have the constitutional right as citizens of the United States to decide what we can do with our own property without interference from neighbors or governments.

Protect Farmers property rights. Don't Sign the so called "Citizens for local control" petition.

Theresa Hubbard
Clinton County Resident

Toys for Tots Collection

It is already after 6 PM on Thursday and I'm running around on exhaustion. I shouldn't be, after the shop



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

Wasting Food is a Worldwide Problem

Dear Andy,

My family wastes so much

of our food, it is unbelievable. The kids do not clean up their plates and we are putting food in the trash every day. I cannot imagine what is happening to our planet due to all our garbage. When I clean out the refrigerator each week, the day before trash day, I throw away at least 15 pounds of leftovers, uneaten food, and takeout boxes of food. I know we live in a throw-away society and that change takes time but what can we do to eliminate so much waste of food and stuff? Trashy Family

Dear Trashy Family,

At least you recognize the problem, and it is a major environmental concern. Did you know the world wastes more than 1 billion tons of food every year?

According to a recent United Nations report, 17% of food available for consumption could be packed in millions of semi-trucks and circle the Earth seven times. It is a sad point too, that over 700 million people worldwide go hungry, every day. Distribution of food is a political import and export nightmare. If properly handled with appropriate legislation for distribution, there should be food equity for everyone on the earth. Make your position known to your powers that be in Congress.

The 2 biggest wasters of food are China and the United States. A Research study at William & Mary College revealed that every American wastes \$3.50 every day. For a family of 4 that is \$728 per year. I confess, my family wastes more than that I am sure the statistics are understated. Not to mention the resources used to raise animals and grow plants - water and labor; have you witnessed the food waste at restaurants and retail grocery stores? The report I recently read, indicated that over 60% of waste occurs from individual homes and that 628 million tons of food is thrown out. Over 40% of food in the United States ends up in the garbage, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

What can we do? We can learn how to store fruits and veggies to have a longer shelf life. Most produce can be cooked when it is past its' prime for raw eating. Buy less and make less. Make exact amounts when preparing meals. And have healthy snacks like cheese sticks, boiled eggs, veggies, and fruit to fill them up.

It is ok to not make them clean up their plate until it is gone. You do not want them to become over-eaters like my generation. I have struggled with weight all my life. I do not like waste, so it all goes to my waist. My own and everyone else's leftovers! Not good! Kids do not eat as much as you might think, just be prepared for growth spurts when they eat you out of "house and home."

When at restaurants, challenge siblings and partners to share a meal. Take turns selecting your meals. Serving sizes are ridiculously large; It will eliminate waste and save money. You can also order smaller portions at most eateries; you just need to ask. The FDA has set a goal of cutting food waste in half by 2030. Be a part of the vision.

We can do our part by composting. Start with a small quart-sized plastic container with a sealed lid on your kitchen counter. Place scraps in them to begin the composing process. Find a larger container if you need to transport your garbage to a recycling center. If you have a backyard, build a small corner along your property line or in an inconspicuous location. Comply with your local regulations. You may be able to share a space with a neighbor and create awareness in your block. Composing might sound gross and stinky but eventually it deteriorates into the earth to make richer soil and properly dispose of garbage.

Anything we do to make our earth better is going to grow into a better situation. It starts with one person, then one family, one neighborhood, and one community, and then one state, and so forth. Give your children an example so they can grow up to be a part of saving our earth. Be a part of the FDA 2030 goal by starting composting, today.

P.S. As far as "Stuff" goes...we all have too much stuff. That is another subject for another day. Buy less "stuff." Don't just trash stuff. Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose

Thanks for asking Andy @ ask_andy@aol.com

OVID TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING DATES

FOURTH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH - 7 p.m.
(*Except April, November & December, 2024)

*April 18, 2024
May 23, 2024
June 27, 2024
July 25, 2024
August 22, 2024
September 26, 2024

October 24, 2024
*November 21, 2024
*December 19, 2024
January 23, 2025
February 27, 2025
March 27, 2025

Sparrow Carson Hospital Nurse Earns DAISY Award

submitted by John Foren

CARSON CITY – Sparrow Carson Hospital has recognized Emergency Department Nurse Craig McAlvey with the DAISY Award after he was nominated by a patient for his compassion and comforting care.

The nomination noted, “Craig was extremely compassionate, informative and comforting when working with us. He talked to us like we were family and constantly ensured us that we were in the best hands. His work with us in the ER changed our perspective on ER visits. We felt that we were exactly where we needed to be and that we fully trusted in the care we were receiving.”

McAlvey was surprised by his family, who also attended the DAISY Award ceremony.

“In my eyes, it’s a reflection of my years of experience as an ED nurse which allows me to meet patients ‘where they are’ in the moments when life isn’t the greatest,” McAlvey said. “My ED team also deserves credit for creating a work environment that allows me as a nurse to care for patients in the manner that best suits their needs. My goal each day is to make each patient feel like their needs are important and that I care about them as a person, instead of just caring for them. It’s an honor to accept this award.”



Said Sparrow Carson Emergency Department Manager Julie Noreen, RN, BSN: “Craig is an amazing nurse. I have had the pleasure of working with him for the last 20 years. His passion and skill for caring for others is unmatched. He is truly one of the best.”

The DAISY Award is an international program established in 1999 by the family of J. Patrick Barnes. Created in Pat’s memory, the foundation is dedicated to recognizing extraordinary nurses for the enormous difference they make in the lives of their patients every day. DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System.

Nurses are nominated by their patients and patients’ families. To learn more about the award, visit Sparrow.org/Daisy.

Signs a Loved One Might Need Assisted Living

Assisted living facilities provide an invaluable service. When a medical condition, developmental associated with aging or another variable affects an individual’s ability to live independently, assisted living facilities can ensure such men and women get the help they need to live as fully and actively as possible.



It’s not always easy to identify when an individual may need to move into an assisted living facility. Some individuals choose to do so on their own, but families often make such decisions together. As families work to determine if a loved one should move into an assisted living facility, they can look for various signs that suggest the time is right to do so. According to the Elder Care Alliance, signs that an individual may benefit from assisted living include:

- Requiring routine reminders to take medication
- Noticeable changes in weight, including weight loss or gain
- Loss of mobility or increase in falls
- Signs that household maintenance is being neglected
- Difficulty with daily tasks like grooming and meal preparation
- Increased isolation
- Loss of interest in hobbies

It’s important for families to recognize that some of the signs noted above might suggest the presence of a condition or disease that would not, if treated successfully, compromise an individual’s ability to live independently. For example, the SilverSneakers program offered through Tivity Health notes that weight gain among seniors may be attributable to slower metabolism, a less active lifestyle or menopause for women. Each of those conditions can be addressed without requiring a relocation to an assisted living facility. Family members are urged to discuss anything that seems to be affecting a loved one’s ability to live independently with that person’s health care team before they consider if a person needs to move into an assisted living facility. It’s equally important to ask a loved one’s health care team which type of facility they think might be most beneficial if, in fact, they think it’s in an individual’s best interest to relocate. No two facilities are the same, and the Elder Care Alliance notes many specialize in specific types of care, such as tending to individuals with cognitive issues like dementia or physical issues like limited mobility.

Assisted living facilities help millions of individuals every day. Families can work together to decide if a loved one can benefit from moving into such a facility

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The Role of a Home Health Aide

Caregivers come from all walks of life. Doctors and nurses may be the frontline medical providers people encounter most frequently, but there are plenty of others who do their part to maintain the well-being of individuals, including home health aides.

Home health aides, sometimes called personal care aides, are brought in to assist a person with activities of daily life. An HHA typically helps a person who may need some assistance with tasks they cannot perform due to illness or disability. HHAs may work in a person's home, in a group home or in another care facility.

AARP says home health aides are considered health care paraprofessionals and must meet established training requirements, which vary by location.

HHAs may perform various duties, including:

Assistance with personal care, such as dressing, toileting, feeding, and moving from bed to chair, etc.; checking vital signs; monitoring a client; light housekeeping; meal planning and cooking; picking up prescriptions; companionship.

HHAs typically will not provide skilled nursing care and may not be able to offer recommendations on treatment or medications.

Individuals can find the services of HHAs who may work independently or are placed through agencies. Sometimes a doctor or hospital will have connections to HHA services and can make referrals. It can be useful to interview several potential HHAs to find one who will fit with the needs and personality of the person requiring assistance. A good HHA will be compassionate, patient and flexible. As illness or injury also can affect a person's mood, HHAs must be able to adjust if a client is reluctant to receive help or is depressed or anxious from his or her limitations.

Home health aides serve vital roles in the health care community by providing care and companionship to those who can no longer live independently.



Euchre Awards Banquet

by Karen Anderson, Correspondent

LAINGSBURG: After twelve weeks of competition, the 2024 Laingsburg Euchre League, held at the American Legion Post 248, over 50 participants celebrated their annual Prime Rib Banquet on Wednesday, March 27th. The crowd had a fun evening with over 30 guests, award presentations, and plenty of food and dessert provided by the players and spouses.

Coordinators of the event, Brad Schlicher and George Gavenda presented \$400 to the Post Commander, Alex Hagerty towards their mission. The Legion is a military veteran's organization to raise funds to assist American veterans and their families. Members include - Veterans who have served in the US Armed Forces or as auxiliary members for sons and daughters of parents who have served.

Post 248 serves as support and social activities for the community. You need not be a member of the post to join in the Winter Euchre League which begins on the first Wednesday of the new year for 12 weeks. If you want to join, show up next year, or for more information contact Brad Schlicher.

The top ten winners for the 2024 League were Ron Ballinger 646, Doug Foster, 644, George Gavenda 636, Jo Sindell 635, Kathy Freed 628, James Latunski 628, Mark Brink 626, John Dugan 624, Wolfram Tuffy 623, Brad Schlicher 622. 50/50 was won by Curt McGee and Janet Walker shared their winnings. The second 50/50 winner was Gary Bulemore. The highest individual score was Gert Haas with a 67. Tom Richards with 32 Loners. Among the many gifts donated, Twilligers Tavern and Pub donated 4 gift certificates.

The participants and guests extended a heartfelt thanks to the kitchen workers and all who helped make the event successful. On Wednesday, April 3rd at 7:00 pm a Cross-Town Challenge will be hosted by the Laingsburg Euchre League with a playoff between Euchre players from the Shiawassee Conservation Club. Overheard was an anonymous quote, "Hope we can find the Trophy we won last year in case we have to pass it back across town."



L to R Brad Schlicher, Ron Ballinger, George Gavenda

Despite the forecast, live like it's Spring.
~ Lilly Pulitzer



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O-E Grad Mikayla Kelley Among Spring 2024 NAIA Collegiate Scholar-Athletes



SPRING ARBOR -- Ovid-Elsie graduate Mikayla Kelley is among outstanding scholar-athletes recognized by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

The NAIA has announced that 155 women's bowling student-athletes across 49 schools have been named 2023-24 Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athletes, including seven members of the Spring Arbor University women's bowling team.

Spring Arbor's Kelley, Madelyn Learman, Emily Pepper, Mikayla Ponce, Devon Thomas, Emily Vanderburg and Emma White were recognized for their academic excellence.

In order to be nominated by an institution's head coach or sports information director, a student-athlete must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and attend a full year at said institution to qualify for this honor. Kelley is a sophomore majoring in psychology.

Bates Makes 1st Team; Five Marauders Represent Ovid-Elsie on All-MMAC Squad

OID-ELSIE -- Hunter Bates was selected to the 1st Team, leading Ovid-Elsie's boys basketball team on the All-MMAC honor squad for 2023-24.

1st-year coach Canyon Walker's Marauders were a top contender in the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference after an impressive run through league play. They made it to the District Final in Chesaning before ending a 14-10 overall season as the third-place team in the circuit.

Bates, a 6'3" senior who was the Marauders' inside presence throughout the campaign, hit at a 46% clip from the floor, averaging 7.7 points and while pulling down 200 rebounds -- also an average of 7.7 per contest.

Tryce Tokar, Gunner McCreery, Bruce Thornton and Travis Milner, Jr. were all named to the All-MMAC Honorable Mention team for the Marauders.

McCreery hit 57-of-174 two-pointers and 32-of-108 three-pointers to finish with a 6.8 points per game average. He tossed out 55 assists -- two behind team leader Bruce Thornton's 57. McCreery was second on the team in rebounding with an average of 3.8 per contest.

Thornton averaged 6.7 ppg while hauling down 58 boards on the campaign.

Tokar, O-E's quarterback on the floor, tossed out 28 assists while leading the team in scoring with a 11.3 average. He pulled down 42 rebounds for the season.

Milner, just a freshman, average 4.0 ppg while shooting 41% from the field. He totaled 38 rebounds on 20 assists.

Tokar and Milner will return next season to the lead the basketball Marauders.



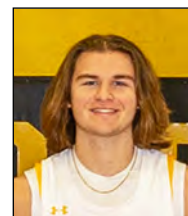
Hunter Bates
1st Team



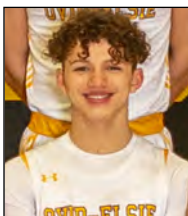
Tryce Tokar
Honorable Mention



Gunner McCreery
Honorable Mention



Bruce Thornton
Honorable Mention



Travis Milner, Jr.
Honorable Mention

Editorial

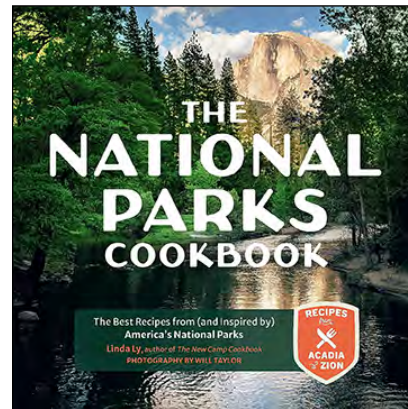


The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

The National Parks Cookbook

In February, the Corunna Library's cookbook club selected recipes from The National Parks Cookbook. Written by Linda Ly, and photographs provided by husband Will Taylor, the cookbook takes the reader on a tour of almost forty national parks and regional food that is served locally at restaurants near the parks or can be made from foraging local flora and fauna ingredients unique to that specific region or park.



This cookbook has something for everyone including entrees made with elk, bison, trout, salmon, lobster, pasta, beans, fresh vegetables, and cornbread. If you love making drinks and desserts with berries and other fruits the options will seem endless as the pages are turned. It's a good thing that red raspberries and blackberries go on sale often at local grocery stores because they are often called for ingredients.

For those looking for natural and healthy options to take on the go there are numerous pages on granola, trail snacks, jerky, sandwiches, and six bento box options including one for charcuterie. It is hard to

pick a favorite and the Weekly Sportsman has made or sampled about fifteen recipes but the current frontrunner so far are Roosevelt Baked Beans.

This cookbook retails for \$25 but don't be surprised to find a used copy in very good condition for under \$10 online or at a used bookstore. The only problem with the book is that you will need two copies; one for the kitchen and the other one on display for your coffee table for your dinner guests to view.

-WS

Ovid-Elsie Boys, Girls Track Teams Open Season at SVSU



SAGINAW -- The Saginaw Valley State University Invitational opened the 2024 track and field season for both boys and girls teams from Ovid-Elsie.

Thirty teams competed in the annual event, though no team scores were tabulated.

Medal winners for coach Doug Long's Marauder boys were:

- Tryce Tokar, 2nd in the pole vault 13'6" and 8th in the 60 m dash :07.54.
- Travis Milner, 4th in the 400 m dash :54.14 and 8th in the long jump 18'11."
- Clay Powell, 4th in the 800 m run 2:08.4 and 7th in the

1600 m run 5:03.26.

- Jamison Custer, 7th in the 400 m dash :55.00.
- The 4 x 300 Relay team, Tryce Tokar, Jamison Custer, Owen Long and Travis Milner, 4th in 2:34.09.

For coach Nick Hugnagel's Lady Marauders:

- Jess Kozlowski, 4th in the 60 hurdles, :10.80.
- Braeden Tokar, 5 5th in the 60 m dash, :08.79.
- Audrey Johns, 6th in the high jump, 4'5."

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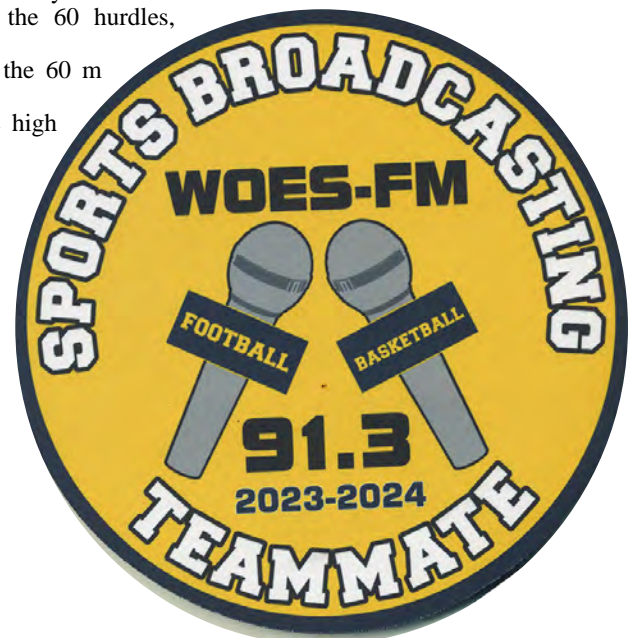
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Local high School Robotics Team Earns the Prestigious FIRST Impact Award



submitted by Clint Hawks

Laingsburg – “This team’s commitment to growing all levels of FIRST in their community was ‘striking’... The team’s impact on their community is so powerful, it left the Judges seeing ‘Red’ and hearing ‘Thunder!’ FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a global program which uses

robotics as a vehicle to engage youth and inspire them to become leaders and innovators in the fields of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), and Red Thunder Robotics from Laingsburg is doing just that within their community.”

This was the announcement from FIRST judges as Laingsburg’s Red Thunder Robotics excitedly accepted FIRST’s most prestigious blue banner IMPACT Award at their first event of the season at Kettering University in Flint. (see attached photo)

The IMPACT award is a testament to a team’s dedication to bringing FIRST and STEM education to its community. Earning this award automatically advances Red Thunder Robotics to the State Championship held at Saginaw Valley State University April 4 – 6, 2024. They are now preparing for the State competition where they have an opportunity to earn one of five State Impact Award trophies, and a golden ticket to the World finals in Houston.

Red Thunder Robotics was established in the fall of 2017 to supplement the curriculum of Laingsburg High School. In an intense six-week timespan beginning the first Saturday of January, students learn of their game theme and begin brainstorming and prototyping a robot which will complete the game’s challenges.

The game changes annually, so students must start from scratch each year. The team hums along like a small business run by students: project managers hold weekly project update meetings and set deliverable deadlines; designers begin to take the 2-dimensional concept, then model it in 3D using OnShape; photographers and videographers gather footage and interview team members to create their newest video; social media influencers are posting updates on behalf of the team, and fabricators are operating router tables, cleaning parts, and assembling their robot according to the 3D model’s prints. It is really a sight to behold.

In addition to learning lifelong skills outlined above, this team of 25 high school students devote time to bettering their community by donating over 1,600 hours to projects like the Laingsburg Lions Club chicken and spaghetti dinners, walking in parades from St. Johns to Owosso, hosting the rock painting booth during Laingsburg’s Summerfest, demonstrating their robot at various engagements, and partnering with Laingsburg Girl Scouts to provide an opportunity to spread STEM and computer programming to elementary aged youth.

Their largest outreach event, Family STEM Night, currently set for May 6 (6:00-7:30PM), draws more than 200 people from the greater Laingsburg area to participate at stations like Snap Circuits, paper airplane launch, and spaghetti towers. Participants also can drive the middle school robots, program LEGO models, and watch a demonstration of the high school robot.

Robotics in Laingsburg remained a high school only extracurricular from the fall of 2017 until expanding to one lower elementary team (Thunderpups) in the fall of 2021. In the fall of 2022, this one team grew to four. That same fall, an upper elementary and a competitive middle school team were also added to the mix, marking the first year that the extracurricular was offered to Laingsburg youth K-12. The fall of 2023 witnessed an explosion of the program growing from four to 15 younger elementary teams as well as an increase to four upper elementary and four middle school competitive teams, resulting in an overall growth of 1,050% since the fall of 2021.

During a high school robotics competition, 40 teams group up in 3-on-3 alliances to play head-to-head qualification matches in a round-robin style tournament. In Michigan, teams as far away as Calumet may work alongside teams from Detroit or Grand Rapids. Once qualification matches are played, the top 8 seeds become captains and choose teams to form their playoff alliance. Away from the competition floor, the teams can make presentations to panels of judges for 13 separate awards, ranging from excellence in engineering, to spirit and the programming of their robots. The IMPACT Award allows Laingsburg’s Red Thunder Robotics to compete at the Michigan State Finals next month.

Red Thunder Robotics’ sibling teams also experienced successes during their competition seasons. All four upper elementary teams (Lightning Wolves Red, Black, Gray, and Blue) advanced to their State Championship held at Mason High School in December. Two of the four competitive middle school robotics teams (Lightning Thieves) advanced to their State Championship held at Howell Middle School in December. One of the teams which advanced is the program’s all-female team, who was also awarded third place for the FIRST Inspire Award.

Wolfpack Robotics (501c3), the umbrella program which manages robotics in Laingsburg, supports 24 teams (15 at the K-3 level, four upper elementary, four middle school, and the high school team). Wolfpack Robotics is gathering interest for the fall season. To complete a form or learn more about Wolfpack Robotics and FIRST, please visit www.wolfpack-robotics.com.

Wolfpack Robotics and Red Thunder Robotics would not be possible without the support of businesses, organizations, private donors, and fundraisers. If you know of an organization who may like to invest in the skills the students are learning, please email wolfpackroboticsboosters@gmail.com (a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization). Donations can be made to Wolfpack Robotics Boosters Club, c/o Laingsburg High School, 8008 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg, MI 48848.

CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier’s check at the place of holding the circuit court in CLINTON County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on April 24, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. **MORTGAGE INFORMATION:** Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Isabelle Cleland, a single woman, whose address is 103 Floral Avenue, Saint Johns, Michigan 48879, as original Mortgagors, to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., being a mortgage dated August 26, 2013, and recorded on September 10, 2013 with Document Number 5206059, Clinton County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated November 17, 2015 and recorded on June 7, 2016 and given document number 5241751 in Clinton County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX AND 11/100 DOLLARS (\$81,026.11). Said premises are situated in the City of St. Johns, County of Clinton, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lot 6 and the East 1/2 of Lot 8, all in Block 3 of Avenue Addition to the Village of St. Johns, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 8, Clinton County Records. Street Address: 103 Floral Avenue, Saint Johns, Michigan 48879 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. **THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.** **ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE.** Dated: March 24, 2024 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Kenneth J. Johnson, Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 18, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 23 5538

(03-24)(04-14)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE SALE 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 a.m. on April 3, 2024. 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** having been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage made on December 2, 2014, by Kareem Everett, a single man, given by him to Michigan State University Federal Credit Union, of 3777 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823, as Mortgagee, and recorded on December 11, 2014, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Clinton County, Michigan, in Instrument Number 5222408; on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due and unpaid, as of the date of this Notice, the sum of Seventy Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-One and 52/100 Dollars (\$70,481.52); and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt or any part thereof secured by said Mortgage, and the power of sale in said Mortgage having become operative by reason of such default; **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 10:00 o’clock in the forenoon, at the South entrance to the Clinton County Courthouse, 100 E. State Street (M21), St. Johns, Michigan, that being one of the places for holding the Circuit Court for Clinton County, there will be offered for sale and sold to the highest bidder or bidders at public auction or venue for purposes of satisfying the amounts due and unpaid on said Mortgage, together with all allowable costs of sale and includable attorney fees, the lands and premises in said Mortgage mentioned and described as follows: **SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BATH, COUNTY OF CLINTON, STATE OF MICHIGAN:** Lots 11, 12 and 13, Supervisor’s Plat Number 1, of a part of the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 28, Town 5 North, Range 1 West, Bath Township, Clinton County, Michigan, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, Page 14, Clinton County Records, ALSO, a part of Outlot C of said Supervisor’s Plat Number 1, Bath Township, described as beginning at the/ Southeast Corner of Lot 11, Supervisor’s Plat Number 1, running thence West 30.6 feet thence South 300.2 feet, thence East 30.6 feet, thence North 300.2 feet, to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Also, Lot 31, Culver’s Plat Number 1, a plat thereof as recorded in Liber 2 of

Plats, Page 4, Clinton County Records. AND That part of Lot 30, Culver’s Plat Number 1, Bath Township, Clinton County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot 30, thence Northwesterly along the Northerly lot line to the Northwest corner of said lot, thence Southwesterly along the Westerly lot line to the point of intersection thereon, thence Southwesterly to a point on the Easterly lot line which is 34 feet Southerly along the Easterly lot line from the Northeast corner of Lot 30, thence Northerly along the Easterly lot line 34 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as: 15793 Culver Drive, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 Tax Parcel Number: 010-160-000-030-01 The period within which the above premises may be redeemed shall expire six (6) months from the date of sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with M.C.L.A. Sec. 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the time of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the mortgagor(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. This notice is from a debt collector. Dated: February 23, 2024 FOSTER, SWIFT, COLLINS & SMITH, P.C. MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Benjamin J. Price FEDERAL CREDIT UNION Attorneys for Mortgagee of East Lansing, Michigan, Mortgagee 313 S. Washington Square Lansing, MI 48933 (517) 371-8253

(03-03)(03-31)

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF CLINTON NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Rita M. Thelen, Deceased
Date of Birth: July 5, 1933
Name of Trust: Thelen Family Trust dated May 16, 1995
There is no probate estate.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent, Rita M. Thelen, died on March 9, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to John L. Thelen, successor trustee of the Thelen Family Trust within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

John L. Thelen, Successor Trustee
509 S. Baker St.
St. Johns, MI 48879
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(03/31)

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1

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Johnson Estate Auction. 1975 John Deere 2630 diesel tractor, CAT 216, diesel skid steer, machinist tools, zero turn mower, more. Bidding ends April 16.

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Snow Fab Online Estate Auction. Metalworking equipment, plasma cutter, tools, steam cleaner, Ford tractor, more. Lots start closing April 8. Visit JohnPeckAuctions.com. Selling? Call John 989-426-8061. Offices in Gladwin & Charlotte CPM

Live Auction Gerald "Jerry" Gardner Retiring from farming. IH 1086 Tractor with Cab, IH 1066 Turbo tractor with cab, Bailers, Conditioners Rakes & more. 4/20/2024 10am 1801 E. Cohoctah Rd Howell MI 48855 Info@narhiauctions.com 810-266-6474 CPM

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HANDYMAN: Leaf removal, eavestrough cleaning, power washing (houses & decks), or other odd jobs, painting (exterior & interior). Call Miller & Sons today 517-881-9977 or Linda 517-449-3261. 1687tf

CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE SALE 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 a.m. on April 3, 2024. 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 having been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage made on October 17, 2019, by Scott A. McNalley, a married man, given by him to Michigan State University Federal Credit Union, of 3777 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823, as Mortgagee, and recorded on October 21, 2019, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Clinton County, Michigan, in Instrument Number 5285079; on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due and unpaid, as of the date of this Notice, the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Six and 63/100 Dollars (\$127,466.63); and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt or any part thereof secured by said Mortgage, and the power of sale in said Mortgage having become operative by reason of such default; NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at

10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, at the South entrance to the Clinton County Courthouse, 100 E. State Street (M21), St. Johns, Michigan, that being one of the places for holding the Circuit Court for Clinton County, there will be offered for sale and sold to the highest bidder or bidders at public auction or venue for purposes of satisfying the amounts due and unpaid on said Mortgage, together with all allowable costs of sale and includable attorney fees, the lands and premises in said Mortgage mentioned and described as follows: SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF OLIVE, COUNTY OF CLINTON, STATE OF MICHIGAN: Commencing at the East quarter post of Section 24, Town 6 North, Range 2 West, Olive Township, Clinton County, Michigan, thence West 660.00 feet along the East and West quarter line, thence North 0 degrees 16 minutes 12 seconds West 598.0 feet, thence East 660 feet to the East line of said Section 24, thence South 0 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds East 598.0 feet to the point of beginning. Commonly known as: 3801 Alward Road, Laingsburg, Michigan 48848 Tax Parcel Number: 110-024-100-026-00 The period within which the above premises may be redeemed shall expire six (6) months from the date of sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with M.C.L.A. Sec. 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the time of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the mortgagor(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. This notice is from a debt collector. Dated: February 21, 2024 FOSTER, SWIFT, COLLINS & SMITH, P.C. MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Benjamin J. Price FEDERAL CREDIT UNION Attorneys for Mortgagee of East Lansing, Michigan, Mortgagee 313 S. Washington Square Lansing, MI 48933 (517) 371-8253

(03-03)(03-31)

CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on April 10, 2024. 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): Kelly C. McCarron, a married man and Lisa M. McCarron, his wife
Original Mortgagee: Independent Mortgage Company
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Date of Mortgage: May 27, 2009
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 3, 2009

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$99,772.53

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Watertown, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: BEGINNING AT THE NORTH 1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 15, TOWN 5 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THENCE WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 440.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL TO THE NORTH-SOUTH 1/4 LINE OF SAID

SECTION 495.00 FEET; THENCE EAST 440.00 FEET TO SAID NORTH-SOUTH 1/4 LINE; THENCE NORTH 495.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Common street address (if any): 6565 W Herbison Rd, Dewitt, MI 48820-7834

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: March 10, 2024

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1524524
(03-10)(03-31)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on April 10, 2024. 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): Kevin E. Pfeifer, married man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Date of Mortgage: July 18, 2014
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 21, 2014

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$71,058.93

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Ovid, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: The South 100 feet of Block N, Village of Ovid, Township of Ovid, Clinton County, Michigan, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 21 of Deeds, Page (s) 367, Clinton County Records.

Common street address (if any): 319 East St, Ovid, MI 48866-9585
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: March 10, 2024

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1524673
(03-10)(03-31)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on May 1, 2024. 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): Dennis Lane Anderson, a single man
Original Mortgagee: Independent Mortgage Co. South MI
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Independent Bank
Date of Mortgage: February 6, 2006
Date of Mortgage Recording: March 1, 2006

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$45,590.29

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Ovid, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: All that part of the South 1/2 of the North 1/2 of Block "P" lying between the North 50 feet and the South 78 feet thereof, Village of Ovid, Clinton County, Michigan, also except; Beginning at a point on the East line of Block "P" 50 feet South of the Northeast corner of the South 1/2 of the North 1/2, running thence South 30 feet West 110 feet, North 30 feet, East to point of beginning, Village of Ovid, township of Ovid, Clinton County, Michigan

Common street address (if any): 315 N West St, Ovid, MI 48866-9695
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.

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: March 31, 2024

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1526374
(03-31)(04-21)

Treasures Estate Sales

Estate of Edward & Dawn Wrobel, 7770 Round Lake Rd., Laingsburg, MI 48848

Wed April 3 8-5pm/Thur & Fri 9-5pm/Sat 9-3pm
Sign up sheet 1st day of sale/Numbers given out 7:30am
1950s Blue Cornflower Corning Ware & Nesting Pyrex bowls, Kitchen-aid Food Processor, Vintage Holiday decor (light up Halloween light), Huffy Camaro Bike, Vintage PYREX, Confetti Ware, Vintage 50s & 60s Games and so much more...Must See!

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Greenhouse Sale!

Saturday, May 11th

Ashley Community Schools Greenhouse

(behind the Methodist Church)

9:00am - 11:00am

Flats \$12 • Hanging Baskets \$15 (2/25) • Patio Pots \$20 (2/35)

Many varieties of flowers will be available as well as green bell peppers and early girl tomatoes. Contact Amber McAllister 989-847-4000 ext. 1011 or amcallister@ashleyschools.net



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Celebrate Earth Day: Recycle!

submitted by Ellen Link

You can count on us to help you honor our live-sustaining planet on Earth Day (April 22) by making it easy to recycle your waste: you drive in, we empty your vehicle, and you drive out. We're open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (April 2 and 16), 4-6 p.m., and 2nd and 4th Saturdays (April 13 and 27), 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and accept a wide variety of materials (see below) but ask that you sort them according to our guidelines so they can be made into new products.

Once again it's time for the special spring recycling collections that rid your garage or basement of the bad stuff. Recycle Rama 2024, open to everyone, starts it off on Saturday, April 20, at the Ingham County Health Department. Participation is free except for e-waste (TVs, computer screens). Then comes Clinton County's Clean Community Event on Saturday, May 4, where county residents can take household hazardous waste, electronics (fees apply to TVs & computer monitors only), and car & light truck tires (limits apply). The location will be given upon registration; you can create an account on CivicRec (<https://secure.rec1.com/MI/clinton-county-parks-recycling/catalog>) or call (989) 224-5186 to register for an appointment.

Finally, Shiawassee County will hold its Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Sat., May 11, 8 am to noon at Perry City Hall; no appointment is necessary. The complete list of what they'll be accepting, available on their website (health.shiawassee.net/) or by calling (989) 743-2390, does NOT include latex paint, used motor oil, tires, explosives or smoke detectors.

Please join GLR in celebrating Earth Day on Sunday, April 21, from 3-5 pm, for a park and roadside clean-up. We'll meet

at McClintock Park in Laingsburg, where designated clean-up areas and supplies will be provided. Working together we can make a difference in our own backyard. If your backyard is in another community, consider doing the same there.

What we accept, clean and separated: Newspaper and phone books; tin and scrap metal, separated from aluminum; corrugated cardboard (include brown paper bags here); boxboard; mixed office paper and junk mail; magazines; books; plastics— #1 bottles and jars (clear and transparent green and blue only), no clamshells (bakery and produce containers); #2 (rinsed milk jugs/cloudy separated from solid color bottles and jars, seam on the bottom—no motor oil containers); and #5 (food cups, tubs and lids, e.g., yogurt, sour cream, etc.); non-corroded household batteries; glass bottles and jars only (all colors), caps and lids removed—no windows, mirror panes or drinking glasses; electronics; televisions (\$10-20) and monitors (\$5-10), the fees dependent on type and size (call or check our website); Brita water filters; denim (no more than 5% spandex, zippers and metal buttons removed); dental products; empty inkjets; plant/nursery containers; and hearing aids (batteries removed). We're also now a drop site for old eyeglasses for the Laingsburg Lions Club. We do not accept polystyrene (Styrofoam®) or plastic bags (return to grocery store). Into gardening? We'll take your empty pots, tags and trays.

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Calling Artists of All Ages

submitted by Sara Schweinsberg

Laingsburg Public Library is hosting a miniature art exhibit with a theme of "Reading is Magical" for the month of May. For a donation of \$5 entrants will receive a 4"x4" canvas and easel from the library, which is located at 255 E Grand River Road in Laingsburg. Submissions are due by April 29th, divided into four age groups, and will be juried by art professionals and public vote. Winners will be announced the weekend of Laingsburg's Spring Fest, which coincides with Memorial Day. Please call Sara with any questions or concerns at 517-614-0968. Pick up your canvas today and HAVE FUN!