



Owen Long and Audrey Bensinger were named Ovid-Elsie Marauders King and Queen during half-time of the game against Lakeville on September 12th. OE won 38-12.  
Photo by Michelle Ladiski



## Elsie Dam & Fish Passage Project is Moving Forward with Mussel Relocation

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – As many in the community are aware two-years ago, August 17, 2023, the Elsie Dam failed. Since that time Duplain Township made the decision to remove the dam and then to secure the funding to complete that project. Grants were awarded – MDNR \$225,000 for studies and design; 2024 EGLE Dam Risk Management \$1.2 million; US Fish and Wildlife Service \$400,000; and the 2025 EGLE Dam Risk Management grant \$1,597,500 for a total of \$3,420,500.00 in grant funding. To date studies are in progress and have been completed in preparation for permitting and the removal of the dam.



An additional challenge of this project and permits is a small mussel that helps maintain the health of the Maple River – the Federally protected Snuffbox Mussel is a resident of the impact area. One factor in the grant awards was to protect and relocate the Snuffbox mussels. Michigan is home to 43 native species of freshwater mussels. Of those, 31 species are currently listed by the state as threatened, endangered, or a species of special concern. The decline of these populations is attributed to factors like habitat loss from dams and road construction, water pollution, and invasive species like zebra mussels. The Elsie Dam location is home to 15 of these species one Federally protected the Snuffbox mussel and two State protected the Slipper Shell and the Black Sand shell.

The week of September 8, 2025 a team from US Fish and Wildlife Service, from the Green Bay, Wisconsin office and Michigan Department of Natural Resources biologists and staff began the process of relocating the mussels. The team was able to establish a lab on a newly formed sandbar in the Maple River. The scuba dive team has been busy locating the mussels. The mussels are identified, data entered, marked and relocated down river. The team is able to determine the age of a mussel by counting the ridges much like counting the rings to determine the age of a tree. A plain pocketbook mussel shell was discovered that is between 25-30 years old. The teams will be returning in October to continue the relocation process. The goal is to complete the process by October 15, 2025.



The cost of the mussel relocation is an in-kind contribution provided by US Fish and Wildlife Service, which is part of the local contribution. If Duplain Township had to contract a service to relocate the mussels it could cost up to \$100,000.



**Pickleball in Ovid** on Wednesday nights at 6pm at the new Pickleball court (former tennis courts) join in to learn to play the game. All ages, all skill levels.

**Elsie** Tuesday nights at 6pm and Saturdays at 9am.  
Weather permitting.

Interested persons can download the Team Reach app, Ovid's Code is 1234 and Elsie's Code is MooMoo. There you can find schedules and last minute information.  
Beginners are also welcome.



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# Social

## Elsie Lions Beef Raffle

The Elsie Lions Club is selling tickets for their annual beef raffle. First Prize is a 1/2 Beef, 2nd and 3rd prize, 1/4 Beef and 4th prize, \$100 Gift Certificate. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are available from any Elsie Lions Club member or at the Meridian Weekly office in Ovid.



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### Notice of Drainage Board Meeting For Consideration of Proposed Consolidation

#### Wait Consolidated Intercounty Drain Clinton and Shiawassee Counties

Date: October 6, 2025  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Ovid Township Hall, 1015 Baese Court, Ovid, MI 48866

The Wait Consolidated Intercounty Drain Drainage Board will meet at the above date, time, and location to hear all interested persons, receive evidence, and determine whether the consolidation, as set forth in the application dated July 17, 2025, is conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare; pursuant to Chapter 19 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at this public meeting will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Written comments may be submitted prior to the meeting, or additional information may be obtained from the following offices:

Brent Singer  
Shiawassee County Drain Commissioner  
1024 N. Shiawassee St.  
Corunna, MI 48817  
989-743-2398  
Phil Hanses  
Clinton County Drain Commissioner  
100 E. State Street, Suite 2300  
St. Johns, MI 48879  
989-224-5160

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner of their county at the number listed above or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Dated: September 9, 2025  
Joseph P. Brezvai, Deputy  
For Dr. Tim Boring, Director  
Michigan Rural Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
517-388-3067

## Laingsburg American Legion Auxiliary Craft Show

The Laingsburg American Legion Auxiliary will be having a craft show on November 1, 2025. We are looking for vendors for the craft show. The cost is \$15.00 per table. Set up will be October 31st from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm and the morning of.

Please contact Cindy Suggate at either 517-651-5669 or cgs6578@aol.com to reserve a table. You will need to have it paid for by October 25th. We are trying to keep it at one vendor per items being sold if possible.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Cindy Suggate.

## MMPC Public Meeting

Kate Neese – Clinton County Waste Management Coordinator

The Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) will be holding a public meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 5:45pm in the Clinton County Courthouse First Floor Conference Room to continue the Materials Management Plan process.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 5:45pm in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Clinton County Courthouse. MMPC meeting agendas and minutes will be regularly posted on the Clinton County website: [www.clinton-county.org/1075/Materials-Management-Planning-Committee](http://www.clinton-county.org/1075/Materials-Management-Planning-Committee).

For additional information, please contact the Clinton County Department of Waste Management by emailing [recycle@clinton-county.org](mailto:recycle@clinton-county.org) or calling the office (989) 224-5186.

## Laingsburg American Legion Reverse Raffle

submitted by Cindy Suggate

The Laingsburg American Legion, Clare Burt Post 248, is having an all money reverse raffle. The drawing will be November 11th at 12:00 pm. Tickets are available at the Post and you can get them from a member. The tickets are \$50.00 each and the proceeds will go towards the parking lot fund.

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## Online Auction to Benefit Elsie Area Food Pantry

submitted by Susan Peterson

As part of the Elsie Fall Festival, we're excited to once again host our Online Auction, featuring nearly 200 incredible items! This is one of the premier auctions in the region, and you won't want to miss it.

We have something for everyone—big-ticket items, experiences, entertainment, dining, beauty services, automotive, lodging, casinos, wineries, sporting events, gift cards, meats, flowers, gift baskets, and so much more!

Featured Big-Ticket Items:

- 7-Day Lodging in Lubec, Maine – Enjoy a stay in a 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom cottage overlooking the Lubec Channel. Valued at \$980.
- iPad Air (512 GB) – Valued at \$779.
- 20-Yard Construction Container – Donated by Granger Waste Services for a one-week rental. Valued at \$700.
- (4) Ski Lift Ticket Vouchers – For Nub's Nob. Valued at \$440.
- Two Golden Tickets to the Park Theatre – Admits the winners to every show during the 2026 season. Valued at \$2,000.
- 2-Night Stay at The Felt Estate for 12 People – A luxurious group getaway. Valued at \$5,000.
- Bonfire Party & Wagon Ride for 30 Guests – At Peacock Road Family Farm, a 180-acre Christmas tree plantation. Valued at \$450.

From unique items to once-in-a-lifetime experiences, there truly is something for everyone. And remember—every dollar raised helps fight hunger in our community.

How to Participate:

- Visit: [lildustyonline.com](http://lildustyonline.com)
- Look for the Elsie Area Food Pantry Benefit Auction
- Follow the step-by-step instructions to register and start bidding

Auction items will also be on display during the Elsie Fall Festival at the Elsie United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Auction ends at 3:00 PM on Saturday, October 4.

Winners will be notified by email shortly after the auction closes.

Bid online. Bid often. Bid generously. Help us make a difference!



Lubec, Maine 7 Day  
Getaway (Value: \$980)

Lot Number: 12

One of many items to bid on to benefit  
the Elsie Area Food Pantry.



**Wyrick's Orchard**

Gala, Empire, Cortland, Honeycrisp, Snow  
Sweet, Pumpkins, Squash, Stanley Plums

4 miles west of Ovid to St. Clair Rd., south 2 miles  
to Parks Rd., then 1/4 mile west.

10 am-6 pm Mon.-Sat.  
Noon-6 pm Sun.

## The Regular Meeting of the Ovid-Elsie Area Schools Board of Education

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – The regular meeting of the Ovid-Elsie Board of Education was held Monday, September 15, 2025. The evening was highlighted by the MASB strategic plan presentation.

Penny McWilliams, Michigan Association of School Boards Consultant, presented the Data-Driven Strategic Planning proposal. The key work of school board members is to identify the vision, accountability, policy, community leadership and relationships. Strategic planning has to do with setting the vision and goals of the district, typically are in progress for five-years. Remains even if superintendents or boards members change. Develop one district goal statement, a road map for the future. Recommend an outside facilitator to assist with the process, a neutral third party engage school personal and students and community engagement, and is not subject to FOIA for example survey information. The process – pre-planning, analysis needs assessment, strategic formulation, implementation and documentation the MASB final report. The survey includes the strengths and the challenges facing the district. Time frame from 3-months to 4-months, on the average. The thought is to begin in January. Officials have been presented with a proposal for approval, noting that the proposal is valid for six months. The O-E Board, like many State districts, is waiting for approval of the state budget before committing the finances for the development of the strategic plan.

Mr. Mark Horak, superintendent, reported on the two Coffee Chats that were held. The focus was a district update for those who participated. Noting that approximately 12 – 15 in attendance at each, two were held. The information on declining enrollment and the status of the fund balance was of interest to the public. Next, Horak presented the estimated student count for the 2025-26 school year. In 2024-25 school year the budget reflected 1262 students, in comparison to the the 2025-26 school year the estimate is 1,256 students.

Officials took action to extend a contract to Sadie Casady, elementary teacher for the 2025-26 school year, BA Step 1, effective September 7, 2025. Next, officials accepted the resignation of Rebecca Keusch, paraprofessional, with regrets effective September 12, 2025.

Horak, explained the MASB membership assistance program. A district may apply for up to \$1,500 reduction for the strategic plan process. Officials authorized the superintendent to apply for the reduction of up to \$1,500.

Upcoming meeting dates include: an OE-Board workshop September 22, 2025, 6 pm in the high school student lounge and a finance committee meeting October 6, 6 pm, also in the student lounge.

## Memorial Healthcare Free Lunch and Learn

submitted by Dianna Vsetula

Owosso – Memorial Healthcare will be hosting a FREE community Lunch and Learn presentation on Thursday, September 25th from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (doors open at 11:30 am) in Owosso and will be presented by Dr. Ashraf Elbanna, an Orthopedic Surgeon at Memorial Healthcare.

Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injection therapy is a quick and simple outpatient procedure where blood is drawn from the patient's arm and placed in a specialized centrifuge that separates and concentrates the platelets. Using ultrasound guidance,

the platelets are then injected directly into the injury site by one of our providers. The platelets are obtained from a patient's own blood and have many growth factors which can help with healing for patients with osteoarthritis, post-surgical healing, and tendon and soft tissue injuries.

This presentation will be held at the Memorial Healthcare Auditorium, 826 W. King Street, in Owosso. Please RSVP to Becky Dahlke, Community Resource Manager at (989) 729-4856 or by email at RDahlke@memorialhealthcare.org.

### OID TOWNSHIP PROPOSED MINUTES - THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025

Supervisor J. West called the regular meeting to order at 6 p.m., with the Pledge to the Flag.

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Jennings West, Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger, Treasurer Nancy Hughson, Trustee Bobby Byles, Trustee Kurt Wolf

**Guests:** Woody Woodworth, Keith Jones, Lionel Olson, Jamie Aldrich, Bob Sauer, Gary Criner, Connie & Gary Kioski, Nicole Fickes-County Commissioner, Jon Johnson-Acrisure Insurance, Matt Candela-Maner Costerisan

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by N. Hughson to approve the agenda, Seconded by K. Wolf. Carried.  
Approval of Minutes: Moved by B. Byles to approve the June 26, 2025, minutes, as submitted, Seconded by N. Hughson. Carried.

**Treasurer's Financial Report-** June & July, 2025: Moved by 8. Byles to approve the Treasurer's financials, as submitted, for both months, Seconded by K. Wolf. Carried.

**Amend & Approve Budget:** Moved by C. Pluger to amend GL # 101-266-900, Printing & Publishing-\$1,700; GL # 101-266-822, Insurance-\$168; GL # 101-265-960, Miscellaneous Expense-\$360 (Fraud Protection Fee); GL # 101-101-713, Payroll Tax-\$30,000, for a total of \$32,228 from unallocated funds, Seconded by K. Wolf. Carried.

**Clerk's Report & Check Register-** June 27, 2025-July 24, 2025, \$42,238.43: Moved by N. Hughson to accept the Clerk's report, Seconded by K. Wolf. Carried.

**Clerk's Report & Check Register-** July 25, 2025-August 28, 2025, \$78,226.86: Moved by B. Byles to approve the July-August report, as submitted by the Clerk, Seconded by K. Wolf. Carried.

**New Business:**

Matt Candela from Maner Costerisan presented the Audit for Ovid Township. Mr. Candela commented on the Independent Auditor's Report to the Board of Trustees of Ovid Township for the year ending March 31, 2025, which states the opinion of Maner Costerisan. In their opinion, it's a clean, unmodified opinion, which means everything is in accordance with accepted accounting principles. This is what the State of Michigan Treasury Department wants to see. It is the best opinion you can get.

Jon Johnson from Acrisure, Ovid Township's Insurance Representative, supplied the Board with the new insurance booklet along with the cyber insurance document. Our property and liability insurance is through Michigan Township Participating Plan (PAR Plan).

Mr. Johnson went through the policy booklet explaining our coverage. Insurance-Act 218 of 1956 (Re: EMS)-Discussion with Jon Johnson regarding this.

Resolution No. 2025-07: Resolution to Adopt Policy for Public Comments at Board Meetings. Moved by J. West that we adopt Resolution No. 2025-07, Resolution to Adopt Policy for Public Comments at Board Meetings, Seconded by C. Pluger. Board discussion.

Roll Call Vote: K. Wolf-Yes, N. Hughson-Yes, J. West-Yes, B. Byles-Yes, C. Pluger-Yes. Carried. Resolution adopted. Resolution attached to these minutes. Supervisor requested adding flooring to the approved Agenda. He commented to put it on the Agenda for next month. Interruption from public attendee.

**Reports By:**

**County Commissioner -** Nicole Fickes Library - Trustee Bobby Byles OMESA - Treasurer Nancy Hughson CAASA - Supervisor Jennings West  
**Public Comments:** William Keith Jones, Connie Kioski, Lionel Olson. Board & public talking.

**Board Comments & Conversation:** Comments by K. Wolf, c. Pluger, B. Byles  
**Adjournment:** Motion by J. West to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by K. Wolf. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Claudia Barrett Pluger, Clerk

### OID TOWNSHIP CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN RESOLUTION NO. 2025-07 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT POLICY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS AT BOARD MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the Ovid Township Board welcomes and encourages comments from the public who attend Board meetings; and  
WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.261 et seq., a person shall be permitted to address a meeting of a Township under rules established and recorded by the Township; and  
WHEREAS, the Ovid Township Board desires to establish clear and consistent

rules for receiving public comments at Board meetings to promote orderly and efficient proceedings while encouraging civil discourse; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Ovid Township Board has reviewed and considered the proposed Policy for Public Comments at Board Meetings;  
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Ovid Township Board, Clinton County, Michigan, as follows:

1. The Policy for Public Comments at Board Meetings, attached as Exhibit A, is hereby approved and adopted, effective immediately.
2. The Township Clerk is directed to record these rules in the minutes and keep them on file as required.
3. All resolutions or parts of resolutions that conflict with this resolution are repealed to the extent necessary to give this resolution full force and effect. Adopted at a regular meeting of the Ovid Township Board held on August 28, 2025 Ayes: Nays: Q Absent/abstain: Q

### EXHIBIT A OID TOWNSHIP POLICY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS AT BOARD MEETINGS

**I. Purpose.**

The Ovid Township Board welcomes and encourages comments from the public who attend Board meetings. Pursuant to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, a person shall be permitted to address a meeting of a Township under rules established and recorded by the Township.

**II. Application**

1. If an agenda is available, the Township will have copies of the agenda available for the public who attend a Board meeting to review. The agenda shows designated times for the public to provide comments to the Board. These rules apply to the Public Comment Period in any regular or special meeting or any portion of a public hearing where public comment is required or designated ("Public Comment").

2. Members of the public have no right to address the Township Board or make comments outside of the Public Comment. At any time, the Township Board, in its discretion, may accept comments from the public. However, outside of the Public Comment time, the Township Board is not required to receive comments from the public.

**III. Rules of Public Comment**

The Township adopts the following procedures to receive public comments at Board meetings:

1. When the Township meeting reaches a designated time for Public Comment, the Supervisor (or other person who is chair of the meeting) will call on people for Public Comment.
2. The Supervisor (or meeting chairperson) will ask persons wishing to speak to raise their hands to be recognized by the Supervisor or to approach a designated location, such as a lectern or table.
3. The Supervisor will recognize one person to speak at a time, and each speaker must provide his/her name and address. No person in attendance may make a comment without being recognized.
4. Public comments must be addressed to the Township Board, not to other members of the audience or specific Board members.
5. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes. Each speaker is only entitled to one (1) three-minute time during each Public Comment period and may not split the time or "give" the time to another speaker.
6. In lieu of speaking or reading a written comment that exceeds the three-minute time limit, a person may submit any written comments to the Township Clerk. Written comments submitted to the Township are public documents but are not required to be included verbatim in the meeting minutes.
7. The Township encourages free and complete public dialogue on Township issues within the bounds of civil discourse. Speakers may not breach the peace of the meeting and are encouraged to refrain from personal attacks.
8. The Township Board is not required to respond to questions asked during Public Comment.
9. Groups are encouraged to designate one or more individuals to speak on their behalf to avoid duplicative comments. However, there is no requirement to make such designation.
10. The Township Board's meeting minutes are not required to include verbatim transcripts or details of any individual comments but will identify the individuals who speak during Public Comment.

**IV. Recording of Rules**

These rules shall be recorded in the minutes and kept on file with the Township Clerk.

### Fairfield Township Cemetery Clean-Up

We are reminding those who have loved ones buried at Fairfield Cemetery to please remove all refuse of any kind or nature by October 1st, per the Fairfield Cemetery Ordinance. This is including but not limited to: annual, dried or plastic flowers, wreaths, blankets, papers, decorations, etc. Items must be removed from the cemetery grounds or deposited within approved containers within the cemetery. Any materials not removed by burial space owners or heirs shall be removed and appropriate disposition shall be made by the Sexton. Thank you!

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## Elsie Fall Festival's Tom Bradley Walk to End Hunger: A Color Walk for a Cause

Elsie Fall Festival's Tom Bradley Walk to End Hunger: A Color Walk for a Cause

Join us on Saturday, October 4 at Elsie Park for a vibrant start to the Elsie Fall Festival with the Tom Bradley Walk to End Hunger — a Color Walk sponsored by BetterLife and the ZCBJ Lodge #225 in Bannister.

Event Details: • Check-In: 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM • Walk Begins: 9:00 AM • Registration: Pre-register online or sign up the morning of the event. The cost to register is any amount you would like to donate. A \$50 donation receives a one-of-a-kind 2025 Color Walk t-shirt!. • Free snacks and water will be provided to all attendees.

Lace up your sneakers, throw on a white t-shirt, and get ready to be doused in color as we walk in honor of Tom Bradley, a beloved community member who dedicated his life to building a stronger, more compassionate community.

This isn't just a walk — it's a movement. Every step, every splash of color, and every dollar raised will benefit the Elsie Area Food Pantry, a vital resource for local families in need. Expect color stations, community spirit, and feel-good fun for all ages!

After the walk, head downtown to enjoy the rest of the Elsie Fall Festival — a full day of fun with: • Activities for kids • Local vendors • Delicious food at the Lions trailer • Free entertainment for all

Let's walk together toward a brighter, more nourished future!



## Obituaries

### Mark A. Haley

Mark A. Haley, age 95, of Bannister, Michigan passed away, Saturday, September 13, 2025, peacefully, at his daughter's home with his family by his side.

Mark was a lifelong Catholic was born in Lockport, New York on April 26, 1930, the son of Raymond and Kathleen (Collins) Haley. Mark attended DeSales Catholic School, and later graduated from Lockport High School where he ran track. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Third Degree, when he attended St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. He enjoyed lawn bowling, hockey, and watching sporting events. He graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with an Associate's Degree in Hotel Management. He was a member of the Phi Theta Gamma fraternity there and served as their Chaplain. He later attended Michigan State University. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1951-1954, and was stationed in Japan during the Korean Conflict as a typist and cryptographer. He spoke basic Japanese and French.



On December 28, 1971, he married Mary Helen Guerrero at St. Joseph's Church in Owosso, Michigan. They had three children, Kathleen, Kenneth and Cynthia. In 1978, his wife passed and he became a dual caregiver. He continued to work at Oldsmobile for thirty years.

Mark had a zest for traveling, seeing all 49 states except Alaska, hitchhiking to New Mexico and back; then hitchhiking to Michigan to work at the Hotel Rowe in Grand Rapids. He explored many different countries after retirement, including Ireland, England, and France. He enriched himself in the local culture and believed in packing light (no more than a duffel bag). Mark embodied a life of adventure. He was not a materialistic man, but rather found joy in experiences and relationships. He was famous for his exercise routine that kept him young and fit, that he called his Daily Dozen, along with his love of roller skating and walking. He was forever a student and always enjoyed sharing his knowledge with others. He was an avid coin collector and looked forward to visiting coin shops wherever he landed.

In more recent years, Mark chose to live in Wenatchee, Washington, where he had spent time during his military service. There he enjoyed the mild temperatures and he developed a community of friends. A year ago, Mark returned to Michigan where he spent quality time with family.

Mark was predeceased by his wife, Mary Helen; his parents, brothers: Raymond, Eugene, William, and Earl, and sisters: Monica (Francis) Wruck, Rita (Daniel) Illig, and Dorothy (Martin) Hickey, brother's in-law, John Taylor, Francis Wruck, Martin Hickey, Russell Moore, Daniel Guerrero Sr., Modesto and Amador Guerrero, sisters-in-law, Mary Kay Haley, Refugia Johnson, Marcella Moore, Felipa Luiz, and son-in-law, Eric Kremer.

He is survived by his children: Kathy (Fred)Heinze of St. Charles, MI; Ken (Deena) Haley of Brighton, MI; and Cyndi Haley of Alma, MI; his siblings: Janet (John) Taylor of Lockport, NY, Frank (Jane) Haley of The Villages, FL, and one brother in-law, Daniel Illig of Lockport, NY and John (Katherine) Guerrero of Bannister, MI. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Bradley Heinze, Mary Abshagen, Mattea, and Mili Haley; Nick, Ava, and Claudia Kremer; Camille, Maeve and Audric Haley; and one great-grandson Rowan Abshagen.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Cyril's Catholic Church, Bannister, MI on Thursday, September 18, 2025, with Father Andizej Borocho presiding. Burial has taken place at Ford Cemetery, Elba Township, Michigan.

Memorials may be made to St. Cyril's Catholic Church- Faith Formation program, Bannister, MI, Ovid-Elsie Girls' Soccer Team, or the Ovid-Elsie Girls Basketball Team. Online condolences may be made at [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com). The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.

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## Church Directory

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### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Watch Sunday Service on  
YouTube at [elsiebaptist.com](http://elsiebaptist.com)  
Pastor Phillip Rogers

### Laingsburg United Methodist Church

210 Crum St., Laingsburg  
517-651-5531

Worship Service: 10:30am  
Pastor:

Kendra Holcomb - Densmore

### Middlebury United Methodist Church

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

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

### Bannister United Methodist Church

103 Harvey Street  
Pastor: Zella Daniel  
Sunday Worship 11:15am

### FAITH FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

Corner of Price & Chandler, St. Johns  
Pastor: John Jakus  
Sunday School: 9:00am  
Worship Service 10:00am  
517-651-6210

### ELSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

### First Congregational Church Laingsburg

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

Sunday Worship 10:00am

Pastor: Dr. Tom Rundel  
[fcclainzburg.com](http://fcclainzburg.com)



### United Church of Ovid

Office Hours: 9-11 Mon - Tue - Wed  
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Sundays am: 11:00 - Worship  
Youth Group Sundays 6:00-7:30pm  
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### St. Cyril Parish of Bannister

Mass: Sun. 10:30am,  
Wed. 5:30pm  
1st Saturday Mass 9am  
517 E. Main St.  
Bannister

We Welcome You to Come...  
Father Andrzej



### Editorial

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Must include name.

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## Editorial... cont' on page 10



## A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

Have you ever felt as if you accidentally took a 'stupidity pill'? You know, you act as if everything is okay and yet know that the stupidity gene is out there flaunting itself. I have been having one of those moments that have lasted since the third of September through the eighteenth. I paid my six month vehicle insurance on the second, had the receipt and on the third the insurance company took an additional nine hundred sixty-two dollars and thirty-six cents. Of course this truly messed up my checking account. It took me until the tenth of the month before the insurance company agreed with me. They were going to direct deposit my money back to my bank. Funny thing, after I gave the insurance company my e-signature and the routing number and my account number they couldn't put the money back...it didn't work. So on the sixteenth the insurance company guaranteed me that my check would be over-nighted to me. The check would be at my home on the seventeenth. It wasn't until the afternoon of the eighteenth after four. Because I was so stressed out over the twice paid insurance bill, I called the bank to see what had happened to my social security check...you guessed it, I called the wrong bank and of course apologized for my stress caused stupidity. When I get the check back into my bank I will be very nearly stress free.

Then when it comes to the old adage 'adding insult to injury'... Yup, September doth stink. I called my township treasurer to inquire about my up coming tax bill. She mailed me another one which also got lost in the mail. I finally called her and asked to have the amount due texted to me. She complied the following business day. I paid my taxes on the fifteenth. On the seventeenth I deposited five hundred dollars cash into my checking account but the cashier didn't put it into my checking account as I had requested... she put it into my saving account. Which left my checking account with a negative balance. Yup, September has been filled with nasty negative events and yet I can still laugh and joke with others. Oh, FYI several property tax bills that were sent thru the Bannister Post Office never reached their addressee. Let there be light!

I finally put my new mechanical juicing gadget to work. I think while figuring it out I did manage to can about thirty quarts of tomato juice. Yes, I did add a nice variety of herbs to the mix. I'm also looking forward to enjoying a few Bloody Mary's in the mix. I only have apple sauce left to can and venison. The venison is in the bottom of my freezer and must be thawed. I may not get it done until November when the St Johns Farmer's Market is finished for the season. At that time I will have three days off in a row. Our 'cheesy jalapeno' has become a hit and so is our 'cinnamon swirl bread'. One of our regular customers likes the cinnamon swirl bread better than the rolls, because she can slice the bread and put it into the freezer. No guilt for only eating half a roll. Just toast and butter a slice, yummy.

Have you every wondered how your personal 'genetic coding' works? I wasn't in the room when it involved domestic qualities. I can cook, bake, can and such. I do it well but I hate washing dishes and cleaning the house. For a year's time after the slip on ice and under the pickup messed up my capabilities. Finally I'm regaining my strength and am back to doing many things. But my house is in shambles, I think that my daughter's terminology is that it is overly cluttered. This clutter is offensive to her and others. I didn't get my Mother's genes which kept everything in spit spot shape. So I will do penance for my lackadaisical attitude. I will try to become more domesticated. I do wish that I could find a local cleaning person. Such is life.

I still have yard work to do and am happy that I can do it. Just need a bit more energy. I am glad that I enjoy the out doors, gardens, and yard work. I am thankful that I can do most of it by myself. I have been blessed many times. May God bless you and your efforts. Be happy and smile.

Crystal Mitchell©2025



## Faith Focus

by Phil Hoppersberger  
www.TotallyWriteousCopy.com  
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### "Ob Portu is Knocking"

"Just as you do not know...how bones are formed in the womb... (Ecclesiastes 11:5)."

My Uncle Charles loved knock-knock jokes, and never missed an opportunity to tell us kids any joke he heard. I can hear him now. "A priest, an atheist, and a rabbi walk into a bar (you think at least one of them would have seen it)." Corny or not, he knew that a joke and a baby both depend on the same thing...a good delivery. Timing is everything.

Moments ago, our second granddaughter was born. Ellie came ten days early, and quick – in less than 3 hours with only one push! They barely made the 40-minute ride to the hospital at 101 MPH. Actually, barely is generous. My son delivered the baby in their car, curbside, at the hospital's main entrance. Timing is everything (and that's no joke).

Ellie got me to thinking about the miracle of her birth and the above verse from King Solomon. The miracle of a baby growing bones and then being born is a wild mystery, as is the rest of this verse about God ("...so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things."). We don't always know what He's up to, but we do know that He's good.

Consider carefully, my 7-11 passage from Matthew 7:7-11 and see His generous spirit:

"Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened. Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he shall ask for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"

Ob Portu is a Latin phrase that means "opportunity," as in "towards the harbor." Before modern harbors, ships relied on the flood tide to make it into their port. Timing is everything. If they missed that opportunity to come ashore, they'd have a long wait to get another acceptable tide, but coming to the Jesus shore is always a now tide and time.

In 2 Corinthians 6:2, Paul says, "Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation." He's quoting Isaiah 49 and the context is the salvation the Messiah will bring to Israel, and His saving light to the Gentiles (a lighthouse for the storm-tossed). Jesus was despised at His arrival, but upon His return He'll be revered (verse 7).

When I came ashore in 1980, Matthew's 7-11 passage rang in my ears from Sunday School as I knocked on a Christian's dorm door at MSU. I didn't know much, but I knew I was guilty, even "evil," as Jesus said of us all. Another lighthouse verse came to mind, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; and if anyone hears My voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and dine with him, and he with Me (Revelation 3:20)."

Salvation isn't complicated, it's just one push (John 3:3), but being willing...to come ashore, that's the really hard part. To admit your sin, and your need, that you're drowning, is not 7-11 Store convenient, but His arms are always open, 24 hours. So now, the next time you hear a knock-knock joke, you won't have to ask, "Who's there?"



### 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

### It's ok to be Sensitive

Dear Andy,

Why do I take things so personally? I often feel as if I am on the defense all the time. People tell me to "just get over it" or "stop being so hard on yourself." My boyfriend upsets me, all the time, over some of the most mundane issues. Sometimes, I just can't shake it. My family laughs at the goofy things he says; but I feel as if he is setting me up to make me the butt of a joke. My friends say, "he didn't mean it like that" or "let it go," or "don't sweat the small stuff." Sometimes I feel everyone, including myself, is disappointed in my decisions or what I say. I am thinking there is something wrong with me.

continue on page 10

### City of Ovid Draft Regular Meeting September 8, 2025

#### Open Regular Meeting:

Mayor M. Perrien called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid, Michigan.

#### Roll Call:

Present: M. Soliz, M. Olger, M. Perrien, E. Brown, M. Jones, E. Starn.

Absent: L. Perrien

#### Guests:

There were 5 people in attendance.

#### Agenda:

Motioned by M. Olger and seconded by M. Jones to approve the agenda as presented. Carried on a voice vote.

#### Minutes:

Motioned by Council Member M. Olger and seconded by M. Soliz to approve the minutes from August 11, 2025 Regular meeting and August 28, 2025 Special meeting as presented. Carried on a voice vote.

#### Invoice/Check Register:

Motioned by Council Member E. Brown and seconded by M. Soliz to approve the invoice/check register from August 13, 2025 through September 9, 2025 for a total of \$303,075.87. Carried on a voice vote.

#### County Commissioner:

Open Public Comment: Opened 7:06 pm Closed: 7:06 pm -none

#### Report Motion:

Motioned by Council Member E. Brown motioned and seconded M. Olger to accept receipt of the reports from Treasurer, Attorney, Police and DPW. Carried on a voice vote.

#### New Business:

a. Resolution 2025-04: Motioned by Council Member E. Starn and seconded by M. Soliz motioned to adopt resolution 2025-04, The City of Ovid Master Plan.

Upon Roll Call vote the following voted YES: M. Soliz, M. Olger, M. Perrien, E. Brown, M. Jones, E. Starn

Upon Roll Call vote the following voted NO: none

Absent: L. Perrien

b. EGLE Pay app #15 and USDA Pay request #6 Motioned by Council Member E. Starn and seconded by E. Brown to approve payment of EGLE pay application # 15 and USDA pay request #6 and authorize the mayor to sign all necessary documents. Carried on voice vote.

c. STEPP- Volunteer Group -Motioned by Council Member E. Brown and seconded by M. Jones to implement the formation of the STEPP (Strategic Team Event Public-Space Planning) Volunteer Group. Carried on voice vote.

#### Old Business:

a. Windows 11 upgrade of City's computers -Motioned by Council member M. Soliz and seconded by E. Brown to approve the purchase of computers and to hire VC3 to install and upgrade to Windows 11 up to \$11,374.00 from CIF (Capitol Improvement Fund). Carried on voice vote.

#### Final Comments:

#### Adjournment-

Council Member E. Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Council Member M. Olger seconded the motion.

Carried on a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by  
Susan Tomasek Swan  
Clerk



Pictured (l-r): People's Choice Award: Martha West, with her "Me and Mama's Chili."

Winners by dollars donated:

First place: Jeff Holyfield's "Rocky Mountain Green Chile"  
 Second place: Pastor Kendi Holcomb-Densmore's "Just Chili"  
 Third Place: Peacock Road Family Farm (not pictured)

### LUMC Chili Cook-off Fundraiser Winners

submitted by Carrie A. Rathbun Hawks

Laingsburg United Methodist Church would like to congratulate the winners of its Feed 12,000 Chili Cook-off fundraiser held Sept. 13. The goal was to bring in dollars to help cover \$4,000 in costs for assembling and packing rice meal kits later this year. Thanks

to the many local restaurants and church members who donated delicious chili - and the community at large who showed up to sample and support - the church raised \$1,553 toward its goal.

People who couldn't attend but still want to help LUMC feed 12,000 people in war-torn and impoverished countries can call the church office at 989-651-5531.



### Trucking for Troops Fundraiser

Raffle tickets for the 4th Annual "Trucking for Troops" fundraiser put on by Modern Woodmen are now available. Proceeds from this raffle go to support local veterans. The \$100 ticket price entitles the winner to a 2026 Chevrolet Silverado "Patriotic" truck. Tickets are available from Ed Arthur at Modern Woodmen, The Meridian Weekly office or from Shaheen Chevrolet. The drawing will be held on Monday, November 10th at the Modern Woodmen office in Lansing.

### Clarkson Barn Dances

The last barn dance hosted by Jack & Tess Clarkson on the second Saturday of the month, during the summer, will be October 11th. All are welcome to the 10901 Hollister Road address in Laingsburg. The event runs from 6:30pm-9:30pm.



The downtown Summer patio party at Twilligers on Wednesday evening has come to an end for the season. "The support over the summer was appreciated very much," expressed Jack Clarkson.

### Carriage Days Parade Winners



Best Business: Ferall's Tree Trimming



Best Golf Cart: Ovid Lions Club

Thank you to all who participated in the parade.

The winners include:

- Best Business: Ferall's Tree Trimming
- Best Golf Cart: Ovid Lions Club
- Best Walking Unit: Shiawassee/Clinton Co. Democratic Party
- Best Antique Vehicle: Ray & Missy Sheldon 1971 Olds Cutlass 442
- Best Tractor: John Prewitt 1951 John Deere 70
- Best Queen Float: Elsie Dairy Festival
- Most Creative Float: MWC Cheese Factory St Johns
- Best Overall: Brandon Galesk 1953 Ford 150

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2025 Elsie Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 4. Come and join us for a day of fun and support the Elsie Area Food Pantry. See next weeks Meridian Weekly for more details!



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# Sports



Brock Spitzley scoring for OE during the game against Lakeville. Photo by Michelle Ladiski

## Ovid-Elsie Romps in Homecoming Game Over Previously-Unbeaten Lakeville, 38-12

OID-ELSIE -- Joie Fabus returned a pick-six 59 yards to paydirt, and Bryce Krueger, Brock Spitzley, Braxton O'Bryant, Wyatt Lover and Owen Long all got in on the fun for a Marauder defense that throttled previously-unbeaten Otisville-Lakeville at Mark O'Donnell Field here September 12.

It was Homecoming 2025 at Ovid-Elsie, with the festivities getting off to a rollicking start. Travis Long's Marauders handed the Falcons (2-1, 1-1) their first MMAC loss, while O-E improved to 2-0 in the league, 2-1 overall.

The hosts romped to a 14-0 lead early in the second quarter, then leaned on their stout defense to hold the Falcons at bay the rest of the way.

Spitzley opened the scoring at 3:07 of the opening quarter on a 13-yard run. Fabus intercepted Lakeville QB Garret Roberts to start the 2nd period for the Marauders' second TD.

After Lakeville scored on a one-yard blast by Randy Lowen, O-E QB Long found Brody Howard with a 32-yard strike to put the Homecoming hosts up, 21-6, at halftime. Dannika Campbell tacked on all three PAT kicks after the first-half touchdowns.

Howard showed off his speed again to open the 3rd quarter, returning Jordan Clinesmith's kickoff 79 yards to the endzone. Campbell again booted the PAT and it was 28-6.

Still in the 3rd stanza -- just two minutes later -- Long scampered for a 33-yard TD run. Campbell's kick put O-E clearly in charge, 35-6.

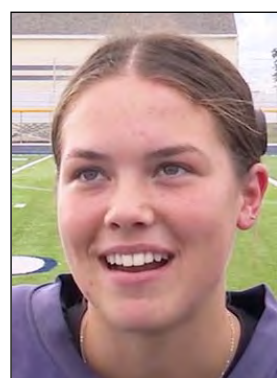
Midway through the final quarter, Campbell split the uprights with a 22-yard field goal, completing the Marauder ledger at 38 points.

Lakeville's Fred Hammond tallied on a 5-yard run with just 1:27 left unplayed, and after the two-point conversion run was stopped, the scoring was completed at 38-12.

Spitzley ran for 124 yards on just 9 carries, with Chase Fabus adding 68 yards (10 carries) and Long 16 yards on the ground. Long was accurate on 2-of-6 passes for 37 yards, with Howard and Joie Fabus hauling in the completions.

Ovid-Elsie's defense limited the Falcons to 261 total yards on the night. Krueger totaled 12 tackles -- one for loss -- with Spitzley adding 11 stops, O'Bryant 7 (2 for loss) and Long 7 tackles. Lover had a fumble recovery and Fabus, the long interception return.

Following two games of league action, five teams -- Ovid-Elsie, Durand, Lakeville, Birch Run and New Lothrop -- were tied with 1-1 MMAC records, 2-1 overall. Montrose led the MMAC at 3-0, 2-0, while Chesaning stood 0-2, 1-2 and Mt. Morris 0-2, 0-3.



A pair of local girls soccer stars are carrying their talents over to the football field this fall. Dannika Campbell (left) and Payge Woodworth are the starting placekickers for the Ovid-Elsie Marauders and Laingsburg Wolfpack, respectively. Both are extremely accurate and are among their team leaders in points scored.

## Wolfpack Prevails in Five Sets Over Yellowjackets Volleyball Team

LAINGSBURG -- It took five sets to do it, yet the Wolfpack volleyball team ran its record to 7-4-1 overall with a non-league victory over the Ithaca Yellowjackets.

Mickey Fox's Lady Wolves prevailed, 23-25, 26-24, 24-26, 25-19 and 20-18, dropping the 'Jackets to 3-6-1 overall.

Harper Strouse led the red-and-white with 15 kills and 3 aces. Other big contributors for the 'Pack were Kendall Michels (21 assists, 5 aces, 12 kills, 23 digs), Lia Soeltner (33 digs) and Ella Mohney (5 aces, 14 digs, 3 kills).

## Wolfpack Soccer Team Keeps Unbeaten CMAC Mark Rolling, 4-2 at Potterville

POTTERVILLE -- Laingsburg's Wolfpack soccer team kept its unbeaten league record intact -- and swept the season series over Potterville -- with a 4-2 victory here September 17.

First-year coach Emily Tyner's LHS charges improved to 8-0 in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC), 9-3-1 overall with a trio of goals from Keaton Dietz. The Vikings, after dropping a 5-3 nod at Laingsburg on August 26, drooped to 1-6 in the CMAC, 2-7 overall.

Dietz tallied first for the Wolves, assisted by Asher Shastal. Dietz found the back of the net again for the Pack's second goal, assisted by arter Klont.

Josh Barragan notched the third goal for the red-and-white, assisted by Dietz. Then Dietz closed the ledger off an assist by Greg Sequin.

The Wolfpack was back in action Thursday afternoon opposite CMAC foe Perry.

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# GRIDIRON GURUS

WEEK SIX

Form must be at The Weekly office no later than Thursday, September 18 at 4pm

Put a check next to the team you think will win! HOME TEAM LAST

**The Wolfman's Picks**

**Amon-Ra St. Gibbs**

Penn State	OREGON	PENN ST.	Penn St.
Georgia	ALABAMA	GEORGIA	Georgia
Ohio State	OHIO STATE	WASHINGTON	Ohio State
Illinois	USC	ILLINOIS	USC
C. Michigan	E. MICHIGAN	C. MICHIGAN	E. Michigan
LSU	LSU	OL' MISS	LSU
Cardinals	SEAHAWKS	CARDINALS	Seahawks
Lions	BROWNS	LIONS	Lions
Falcons	COMMANDERS	FALCONS	Commanders
Jets	JETS	DOLPHINS	Jets
Steelers	VIKINGS	STEELERS	Steelers
Chiefs	RAVENS	CHIEFS	Chiefs

Mail to: The Weekly

200 S. Main St., Ovid, MI 48866

E-mail to: news@meridianweekly.com or tomturek20032003@yahoo.com

Or Drop Off Between 9 a.m. and 12 noon on Tues., 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Wed, or Thur at The Meridian Weekly office

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TIEBREAKER

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TOTAL PTS.

## Gridiron Gurus Week of September 14

**PIZZA -- Ryan Ackels 11-1 (tie-breaker)**  
**SUB SANDWICH -- Luke Nixon 11-1**  
**BREADSTICKS -- Bob Lawrence 10-2 (tie-breaker)**



GRIDIRON GURUS

by Tom Turek

sports@meridianweekly.com

The tie-breaker portal was red-shot as we completed the 4th week of our wildly wonderful Gridiron Gurus contest.

Each week we have new readers entering the competition ... and we thank them with all our pigskin-pickin' hearts.

This week, though, it was the tried-and-true veterans duking it out. Ryan Ackels and Luke Nixon nearly reached perfection, each stumbling on just one pick to finish a sterling 11-1. Ryan won the tie breaker (the Seahawks and the Steelers battled to a total of 48 points) ... yet it was the race for third place that was really intoxicating.

No fewer than 8 players -- Gary Skriba, Bob Lawrence, David Keener, Ben Hudson, Zach Grieder, Russ Ginther, Tom Doubrava and Dan Culpepper -- each went 10-2. Lawrence nearly hit the tie-breaker on the nose to break the log-jam for third prize.

Our staff "experts" (yeah, right) were nearly spot on, with Amon-Ra St. Gibbs nosing out The Wolfpack by one game. Amon's hat size keeps increasing after he went 10-2, actually leading him to believe he's good at this (yeah, right). St. Gibbs holds a .750 to .725 advantage as we enter this week -- you would be wise to remember, this is a marathon and not a sprint.

We will be running the contest every week until the end of the regular college football season (no bowls). The picks will include six NFL games and six collegiate games each week.

It's simple, fast, easy to play and FREE. For those who play every week, there will be a winner's prize fund to be disbursed at the end of the season for whoever ends up picking the highest total of winners.

First place - \$100; second place - \$60 and third place - \$40. Just pick your winners and make a check mark to the right of their name on the entry blank below. No worry about Las Vegas point spreads, just pick who you think will win the game outright.

**MOST IMPORTANT:** make sure your entry gets to The Weekly before each Thursday at 4pm.

Don't forget to fill in the tiebreaker as this will decide any and all ties. Entries are accepted in person at The Weekly's offices at 200 S. Main in Ovid, by e-mail at "news@meridianweekly.com" or "tomturek20032003@yahoo.com," or via USPS delivery.

For those of you that get your Weekly fix on line at the paper's website -- remember to email your picks to news@meridianweekly.com.

Each week the top three winners will receive a coupon for redemption at the sponsor of their choice; 1st place (pizza), 2nd place (sandwich) and 3rd place (breadsticks) will be awarded.

Again, please patronize our sponsors, Main Street Pizza in Ovid and Twilliger's Tavern in Laingsburg. All winners can pick-up their winning coupons at The Weekly.

## Wolfpack Girls Nipped by P-W for Top Honors at 1st CMAC Jamboree

SARANAC -- The Laingsburg girls cross-country team ran runner-up to a strong Pewamo-Westphalia contingent, at the initial CMAC Jamboree of the 2025 season.

The Wolfpack boys finished 5th in the 7-team field, that featured Whitney Werner and Collin Farmer, both from P-W, as the top female and male harriers, respectively.

Farmer completed the 5,000-meter course in a blistering 16:11.0, with the Pirates taking team honors at 38 points. Bath was second at 38, Saranac third 73, Dansville fourth 97, Laingsburg fifth 133, Fowler sixth 149 and Lansing Christian seventh 165.

Laingsburg's Noah Devereax finished just behind Farmer, in third place, in 16:47.1. Other finishers for Shawn Baynes' male Wolfpack were Ben Young 23rd, Felix Ramirez 33rd, Logan Robinson 43rd, Lucas Shastal 52nd, Cade Fuller 62nd, Will Rathka 66th, Jacob Cromley 78th, Jack Danbrook 83rd, Cody Cataline 84th, James Pratt 85th, Blake Goetschy 86th, Cameron Betts 91st, Zander Nethaway 102nd and Oliver Stanfield 103rd.

The Lady Wolfpack totaled 71 points versus 23 for P-W. Fowler ran third with 112 points, Saranac fourth 118, Portland St. Patrick fifth 136, Bath sixth 137, Lansing Christian seventh 139 and the Perry Ramblers eighth 182.

Emily Rathka was the Wolves' top runner, 4th in 21:03.3. Evelyn Logghe clocked 12th, Hazel Burley 15th, Madison Phillips 24th, Samantha Gutzman 26th, Addison Rusz 35th, Laura Nemuntye 51st, Grace Knull 57th, Agnese Tome 64th and Liva Skutane 65th for the Lady Wolves.

## Owosso Speedway Hosts New Lothrop X-Country Invite; Ovid-Elsie Boys Close 2nd

OWOSSO -- Owosso Speedway is usually known for clocking much faster times than what was seen here September 16.

But this racing was all about endurance.

Those who think high school cross-country is an easy sport, well ... they need to re-consider. The grueling 5,000-meter course here was conquered by four teams on the male side -- Chesaning 27, Ovid-Elsie 40, New Lothrop 71 and Morrice 88 -- and three squads on the girls' side.

The event was the annual New Lothrop Invitational. At a unique venue, to be sure, that harkens to the annual State Meet for cross-country harriers held annually at Michigan International Speedway.

On the girls side of things, Chesaning topped the field with 26 points, followed by the host Hornets 37 and Ovid-Elsie 65. O-E's top finisher was Ava Juhas 9th in 25:55.9. Lydia Lawrence ran 15th, Haley McClung 17th, Shaelyn Kinney 23rd, Belle Cooper 26th and Brena Vincent 27th.

Joshua Miller was the Marauders' top racer on the day, taking 3rd place in the boys field in 18:55.71. Travis Wright clocked 5th, Mitch Gonzalez 7th, Jeremiah Stewart 12th, Samuel Kennedy 17th and Destin Kinney 21st.

The Marauders of 1st-year coaches Wes and Emma Kvalevog return to the rugged circuit for Senior Night at O-E, for the second MMAC Jamboree of 2025.

## Wolfpack Girls Golf Team Learning From Experienced Head Coach

LAINGSBURG -- Greg Beavers sees himself more as a teacher -- than a coach -- in mentoring this season's Wolfpack girls golf team.

The veteran head coach explains it like this: "My goal is to teach a young team how to get through rough rounds, how to consistently hit the ball and get it up in the air. And finally, to enjoy the game."

Returning players for the Lady Wolfpack are Abby McNeil, Jayden Hodges, Alexa Ayen, Lila Esch and Ava Rann.

Newcomers include Elisa Aldrech, Leah Mills and Emma DeShone.

The Wolves expect to finish in the middle of the pack in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference.

Coaches please  
remember to send in your  
weekly sports results!  
tomturek20032003  
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## Sports

## Wolfpack Gets First Football Victory Over Winless Perry Team, 27-15

PERRY

Football is a fantastic game.

Those that have played it, coached it and are fans of football will tell you it comes down to the basics: discipline. Courage. Dedication. Brains. Carrying out assignments. Motivation.

Yes, Laingsburg won its first prep gridiron game of the season here September 12, by a score of 27-15, but Brian Borgman's Wolfpack didn't out-



Waylon Rowley carrying the ball for a touchdown for the Wolfpack against Perry on September 12th.

Photo by Burg Sports

play the Ramblers as much as they out-disciplined them.

Numerous Rambler penalties. Too many turnovers that doomed them. Too many missed assignments.

It all resulted in a 1-1 conference record for LHS, 1-2 overall, while the host Ramblers remained winless at 0-2, 0-3.

There were three turnovers in the first four possessions of the contest -- two Wolfpack picks of Perry QB Tyger Whitbeck and a costly 'Pack fumble in their own endzone -- yet LHS battled through for a quick 7-0 lead. Liam Esch hit paydirt on a 3-yard run, and Payge Woodworth's PAT boot staked LHS to the swift advantage.

Scoring again to start the second quarter, the Wolves took command, 14-0, when sophomore QB Julian Smith found Leandro Dolego-Caceres over the middle. Dolego-Caceres outran the Rambler defense for a 39-yard touchdown and Woodworth again kicked the PAT.

The Ramblers started moving the ball smartly on their next possession, but Eli Burns coughed up the ball near the Wolfpack sideline. After a couple of slaps, it bounced into the break-basket of LHS senior Waylon Rowley and he was off to the races at midfield. No one laid a hand on him. The defensive TD put Laingsburg up at halftime, 21-0, after Woodworth's third PAT of the half.

Perry kept things interesting face a 4th down midway through the third stanza. Zach Miller hit Alex Rockafellow with a deep strike after taking the ball on a reverse from Witgen. That set up Burns to take it in from 15 yards out two plays later.

Rowley put the game away with the Wolves' final score, this time from 13 yards out, running the ledger to 27-7.

With a little over 8:00 remaining, J.T. Lynch kept the score respectable for PHS, bullying in from a yard out. He also tacked on the two-point conversion, completing the scoring at 27-15.

"I've been waiting (to get a win) since last year," Borgman said. "Last year was a rough, rough year for us (LHS finished an uncharacteristic 2-7 in 2024). These kids have been working hard. This has been the offseason for so long, so for them to see some of the fruits of their labor pay off feels really good for me, and for them."

Laingsburg's big defensive plays came from Liam Esch, Landon Freeman and Ethan Platte, all who came with big interceptions to thwart Witgen and the Ramblers. Calvin Stier, Dolega-Caceres, Esch, Platte, Rowley, Freeman, Harrison Dorman, Bryce Curry, Woodworth, Collin Logghe, Dylan Koenig, Joe Deshone, Cooper Morr, Adam Kazor, Nate Malone and Gus Larson all recorded tackles for the LHS defense.

Smith completed 5-of-15 passes for 68 yards, one TD and two picks. Rowley touted the ball 23 times for 157 yards, with a long run of 35 yards. Dolega-Caceres picked up 67 yards in just four carries. Esch had a long run of 30 yards, and finished with 56 yards on 11 carries.

Dolega-Caceres, Dorman and Logghe were on the receiving end of the Smith aeriels.

LHS ran its record to 15-10 in the all-time series opposite the neighboring Ramblers.

## Ovid-Elsie Soccer Pitches Shutout on Pitch Past Birch Run

OVID-ELSIE -- Dominic Martin continued his magic scoring touch with three goals and Aidan Doyle added a trio of scores as well, as Ovid-Elsie's varsity soccer team whitewashed the Birch Run Panthers, 8-0, in MMAC action.

The winless visitors fell to 0-5-1, 0-1 in the MMAC, in their league opener. Chris Parker's Marauders won for the 10th time in 11 games, and upped their conference record to 4-1.

"We came out strong and possessed the ball well tonight. Dom and Aidan were able to get heavily involved in the offense and open up opportunities for a lot of people. The defense played really well to give us a shutout," explained coach Parker.

Dalton Jordan was credited with the shutout in goal.

The Marauder scoring plays in order: Martin assisted by Marshall Leavitt; Doyle assisted by Martin; Martin assisted by Doyle; Doyle assisted by Ryker Parsons; Eddie Rademacher assisted by Martin; Marshall Leavitt assisted by Joey Kozlowski; Martin assisted by Doyle; and Doyle assisted by Conner Brya.

Dalton stopped all three of the shots he faced.

### Ovid-Elsie drops second game of soccer season to SASA Dragons, 2-1

OVID-ELSIE -- Saginaw Academy of Sciences and Art (SASA) capitalized on a lackluster Ovid-Elsie effort here September 15, handing the Marauder soccer team just its second loss of the season.

Following the 2-1 loss, O-E coach Chris Parker explained, "We came out with very little effort tonight and it showed in the final result. We didn't communicate and showed no want for the ball. If we want to still contend for the conference title, we have to play better than we did tonight."

It was the first victory of the 2025 season for the Dragons, who moved to 1-2-1. The Marauders fell to 10-2 overall.

O-E's lone score came in the 65th minute from Dominic Martin, assisted by Ryker Parsons. Dalton Jordan was in goal for the Marauders and made three saves.

### 'Great soccer game' ends with Ovid-Elsie on top over Clare, 1-0

CLARE -- Ovid-Elsie swept the season soccer series with Clare in an exciting 1-0 shutout on the Pioneers' home field here September 17.

"What a great game! We played our tails off and it showed tonight," said veteran Marauder coach Chris Parker, after watching his team improve to 11-2 overall. "We came out with tremendous energy and effort and it paid off. Dom (Martin) was able to head the ball past the keeper with just over a minute left in the game. Our defense was outstanding and our midfield possessed really well.

I am really proud of how we played tonight."

Martin, one of area leaders in scoring with 25 goals in 13 games, tallied in the 78th minute, assisted by Aidan Doyle.

Dalton Jordan was again outstanding in goal, pitching the shutout by making four saves.

Clare, which lost at Ovid-Elsie 4-1 earlier in September, fell to 4-8 overall with the non-league loss.



OE girls blocking at the net during recent meet  
Courtesy photo

## Marauder Volleyball Team Improves to 9-4-2 Hosting O-E Triangular Meet

OVID-ELSIE -- The Lady Marauder varsity volleyball team upped its record to 9-4-2 in action at the Ovid-Elsie Triangular Meet.

Angela Ehle's Marauders won in two sets, 26-24 and 25-22, over Saginaw Heritage. O-E dropped a 18-25, 14-25 decision to Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart.

The Marauders played without senior outside hitter, Ashton Ehle, who has an injured right shoulder. Thus, they leaned on these stat leaders for the night:

- Bentlie Kelley - 1 ace, 1 kill, 26 assists, 16 digs
- Allie Veith - 10 kills, 2 block, 3 digs
- Kortlynn Loynes - 4 Kill, 5 blocks, 1 dig
- Lily Bates - 3 kills, 1 block, 16 digs
- Isabella Phillips - 8 kills, 1 Dig
- Kendal Tokar - 5 kills, 2 Aces, 2 blocks, 17 digs
- Isabelle Ryal - 1 Ace, 1 Assist, 13 Digs.

O-E's Tuesday match against Lakeville was postponed and will be rescheduled.

## Marauder Soccer Team Keeps Pace in MMAC With 4-1 Win Over Lakeville

OTISVILLE -- The Marauder soccer team got off to a slow start, then bounced back for a 4-1 MMAC triumph over Otisville-Lakeville here September 18.

Dom Martin punched in three goals after Blake Palus scored the ice-breaker in support of goalkeeper Dalton Jordan, who made five saves. The win moved O-E to 4-1 in the conference, 12-2 overall. The host Falcons drooped to 0-2 in the MMAC, 3-7-1 overall.

"After a slow and sluggish start, we finally strung together some passes and were able to convert some opportunities," said Marauder coach Chris Parker. "I want to send a shout out my two centerbacks, Chaycen Thornton and Josh Brown. They made a couple key saves off the goal line that kept the game from being closer."

Assisting on the O-E goals were Ryker Parsons, Marshall Leavitt and Leyton Belill. Martin's last score came on a penalty kick.



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## Editorial...Ask Andy Continued

Most of the time I only feel this way with my boyfriend or immediate family. At work, I feel confident and respected and valued. Feeling Criticized too much, Beth (not my real name)  
Dear Beth,

Psychologists call this trait "Social Perfectionism." You may have some lifelong habits of worrying about what others think about you. It can put you on the defense or hurt your feelings easily. Most people have sincere intentions in trying to make you feel better by giving you the advice to "not care what others think" but the truth is "it is ok to care about what others think" about you. It is a normal social response, especially if you have spent your life trying to do your best. Typically, when we want to strive for the best, we can be toughest on ourselves. So, when others find fault or are being too picky about what we do or say, it is because we have learned to be critical of our flaws in a society that we think expects perfectionism.

In our cultural, we often grow up with low-esteem when we do not acknowledge our good characteristics and positive strengths. We need to have more positive self-talks. Repeating affirmations to encourage us to value ourselves and our opinions. It is important to be positive when you are having your "zero to 60" internal dialogs. Spend time around people and friends who respect you for who you are and appreciate your contributions.

As a sensitive person who cares what other think or feel, it is surprising how much influence other people have in our adult lives, even the ones who seem to care about us the most or the one we spend a lot of time with at work, socially or in a family situation. Sometimes we need to weed out negative people in our lives and make friends with more positive and uplifting individuals. Change your thinking. Your thought affect how you feel. Keep your thoughts kind and your words to yourself kind. Be nice to you.

There is a psychologist who has a blog to encourage individuals to find methods to work on personal growth in understanding why we take things so personally....  
<https://nickwignall.com>. If you are interpreting remarks or other opinions as a personal criticism more than you can handle, ask your family doctor or minister for a referral to a counselor. Often to stop taking things personally, you may need a deeper understand of the reason you are a "social perfectionist." So, learn to be more assertive, be proud of yourself and accomplishments or achievements. No more negative self-talk.

Look in the mirror every day and tell yourself that you "love and approve of yourself." It is hard to not take things personally, when you are in the habit to "being on the defense all the time." Good luck on your continued journey of self-reflection and growth. It takes time. And it is ok to not be perfect. Andy @ask\_andy@aol.com or askandyforadvice@gmail.com

### SCIOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING AUGUST 11, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Matthews, @ 7:20 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Matthews, Parker-Wing, Palmer, Reed, Vondrasek.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Charlene Austin, Kay Nickols, Caroline Wilson, Cynthia Farrell, Diane Baclawski, Wanda Potter, Shelly Doyle, Traci Buxton, Fred Morrison, and Rene Mahoney.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:** Palmer moved to approve the July 2025 meeting minutes with changes, seconded by Reed. Changes include adding Wanda Potter's public comments.

**TREASURER REPORT APPROVAL:** Reed made a motion to approve the Treasurer report, seconded by Reed—Motion approved by all. General Fund Balance \$175,633.99; Tax Fund Balance \$74,639.02; CD Fund Balance \$34,682.13.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT—1st**

- Rene Mahoney asked if the new occupancy capacity limit of 53 people took into consideration that 1/2 of the room is not available for human capacity during board meetings.
- Charlene Austin asked why the July meeting minutes were not in the newspaper prior to August's meeting.

#### **PUBLIC OFFICIAL REPORTS:**

- Shiawassee County Sheriff Department: Deputy Wells reported county and township 911 call statistics.
- Laingsburg Public Library: Diane Baclawski outlined monthly community service outreach.
- LSW Fire & Ambulance: Diane Baclawski reported June data for Sciota and total LSW runs. John McDougall was honored with a 50-year service award.

#### **BOARD REPORTS:**

- Supervisor Matthews reported the hall building capacity was assessed at a 53-person limit. He also mentioned that fire extinguishers are to be wall-mounted at 5' high. He read thank-you letters sent to the township.
- Clerk Parker-Wing informed the board that a John Hancock retirement check, written for November 2024, was not cashed as of August 10, 2025. A replacement check was written and submitted for approval.
- Treasurer Palmer stated that Huntington Bank's stop payment check order is held on an account for 1 year. Without a stop payment order, a bank teller can cash a check on an account up to 6 months from the check date, but if a teller doesn't notice a check is stale dated (and a stop payment is not in force), the check can be cashed on an account any time is presented to the bank.

**OLD BUSINESS:** To be revisited at the September 2025 Board meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- The Shiawassee County Clerk, Caroline Wilson, shared her office's 2024 bi-annual update with the township. The County address book is available online and the 2024, 9-day early voting site was a success.
- On a motion by Palmer and seconded by Parker-Wing. The Board approved a motion to place a stop payment on uncashed Check #11304 written to John Hancock 11/10/2024. Check #11508 was written in its place.
- On a motion by Matthews and seconded by Reed. The Board approved the purchase of (2) Laingsburg-based, USPS P.O. Boxes. (1) box for the Clerk/Township business and (1) box for the Treasurer/Tax payments. Rollcall. YES: Reed, Palmer, Vondrasek, Parker-Wing, Matthews. NO: None. ABSENT: None.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT—2nd**

**BILL PAYMENT APPROVAL:** Vondrasek moved to pay bills, seconded by Reed—Motion approved by all. Payroll and expenses = \$49,334.25; checks used #11458-11516.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Palmer moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vondrasek—Motion approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Submitted by: Jamie Parker-Wing  
Sciota Township Clerk

## CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

**Attention homeowner:** If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on October 22, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Miguel Mata, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for E Mortgage Management, LLC D/B/A EMM Financial, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated September 19, 2019 and recorded September 25, 2019 in Instrument Number 5284038 Clinton County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, an officer of the United States, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Seven and 26/100 Dollars (\$161,477.26).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Clinton County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on OCTOBER 15, 2025. Said premises are located in the City of Dewitt, Clinton County Michigan, and are described as:

Lot No. 17, Assessors Plat South, City of DeWitt, Clinton County, Michigan. FKA Lot 27 Viewcrest River Addition to the Village, now City of DeWitt, on the south fraction of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 8, T5N, R2W, City of DeWitt, Clinton County, Michigan according to the Plat thereof recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, Page 33, Clinton County Records. 814 Elmwood Street, Dewitt, Michigan 48820

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. Dated: September 14, 2025  
File No. 25-011580  
Firm Name: Orleans Law Group PLLC  
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084  
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(09-14)(10-05)

**SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CLINTON COUNTY** 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 October 22, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Paul J. Blankenship, a married man and Diane Blankenship, his wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns Date of mortgage: March 28, 2005 Recorded on April 13, 2005, in Document No. 5077700, and re-recorded via Affidavit of Correction on May 30, 2012, in Document No. 5185102, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2005-3, Mortgage Loan Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-3 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Eighty-Nine Thousand Ten and 97/100 Dollars (\$89,010.97) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Clinton County, and described as: Lot 153, Assessor's Plat of the City of DeWitt-North, a part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 4, the Northeast 1/4, the Northwest 1/4, the Southeast 1/4 and the Southwest 1/4 of Section 5, the Northeast 1/4 of Section 8, the Northwest 1/4 of Section 9, all in Town 5 North, Range 2 West, City of DeWitt, Clinton County, Michigan, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 8, Page 1-15, of plats, Formerly Known as: The South 43.75 feet of Lots 85, 86, 87, and 88 and the North 41.25 of Lots 129, 130, 131, and 132,

all in Block 15 of the Village (not City) of DeWitt, Clinton County Records. Also that part of the vacated West 33 feet of Market Street, except commencing at the Southwest corner of Block 15, Village of DeWitt (now City), being a Subdivision of part of Section 5 and 8, Town 5 North, Range 2 West, Clinton County, Michigan, thence South 89 degrees 51 minutes 21 seconds East 132.00 feet along the North line of Madison Street to the point of beginning of this description, thence North 00 degrees 37 minutes 00 seconds East 95.30 feet, thence North 88 degrees 47 minutes 25 seconds East (not West) West 166.00 (looks like 165) feet; thence South 00 degrees 37 minutes 00 seconds West 99.20 feet; thence North 89 degrees 51 minutes 21 seconds West 166.00 (looks like 165) feet along said North line of Madison Street to the point of beginning. Commonly known as 308 N Franklin St, Dewitt, MI 48820 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under 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. U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2005-3, Mortgage Loan Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-3 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1572081  
(09-14)(10-05)

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

Estate of JUNE E. REYNOLDS.  
Deceased: August 25, 2025  
NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent June E Reynolds, Settlor of the June E. Kollmorgen Revocable Living Trust, u/a/d May 27, 1999, who lived at 12717 Houghton Drive, Dewitt, Michigan 48820, died on August 25, 2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Estate/Trust will be forever barred unless presented to the Successor Trustee of the June E. Kollmorgen Revocable Living Trust u/a/ May 27, 1999, at 14641 Boichot Road, Lansing, Michigan, 48906, within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

PATRICIA L. McAVOY P49931  
Samantha Ann Ridge, Trustee  
14641 Boichot Road  
Lansing, MI 48906  
Telephone No. (517) 484-5192

(09-21)

### PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE STATE OF MICHIGAN 29TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - FAMILY DIVISION COUNTY OF CLINTON

**CASE NO: 25-32567-NC**  
In the matter of Zea Aubrey Grandt TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable) whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:  
**TAKE NOTICE:**  
Zea Aubrey Grandt has filed a petition for name change.  
A name change hearing will be held on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at 100 E. State Street, 4th Floor Courtroom St. Johns, Michigan 48879, before Judge Lisa Sullivan to change the name of  
Zea Aubrey Grandt to  
Keith Aubrey Grandt

(09-21)

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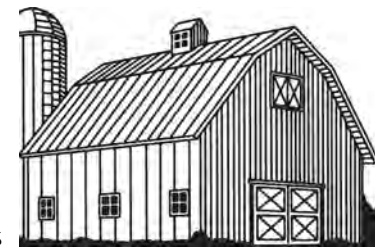
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**Fun Fall Porch Decor Ideas**

by Carol J. Alexander

Nothing says fall more than colorful mums, pumpkins, and corn shocks on your porch. To add a touch of the season to your home, spruce up your curb appeal, and welcome your friends with the warmth of the season, consider a few of these fall porch ideas for your home.

1. Natural Arrangements. As summer flowers fade, you can still create appealing front porch displays using natural elements. Create arrangements using large urns filled with dried branches or grasses with the seed heads on top. Deep-hued berries like pokeberry, autumn olive, or staghorn sumac can be incorporated to add color. Colorful leaves and long sprays of goldenrod can fill in the gaps, creating a rich, textured look. Other natural items to include in your fall display include:

Gourds, Mini pumpkins, Pinecones, Cinnamon sticks, Dried apple, Wheat stalks, Dried corn cobs. Hold items in baskets or wooden crates to create a charming, farmhouse-inspired look.

2. Fun and Country. Fun and Country porch decor: A country-inspired fall porch is a great way to involve the whole family in decorating. Carve jack-o'-lanterns with your children—a timeless fall tradition that adds a playful touch to your porch. To make your jack-o'-lanterns even more eye-catching, give them "hair" by inserting chrysanthemums into the top. Alternatively, place potted mums on bales of straw on either side of the porch for a rustic look.

3. Get Cozy. Fall porch with area rug and seating: If you're lucky enough to have a long, deep porch with rockers and a swing, make it a cozy place to gather with just a few touches. A fuzzy throw over the back of a rocker or swing seat and a few fall-patterned pillows will make drinking your morning coffee more comfortable.

An area rug keeps your toes off the dew-covered floor, and cinnamon-scented candles create a warm, glowing ambiance. If you don't have one already, add a small table. It provides the perfect place to rest that serving tray of hot cocoa. To further enhance the ambiance, consider adding an outdoor heater or firepit; it's perfect for those crisp autumn nights and extends the usability of your porch.

For an additional touch of charm, include some lantern-style candle holders or mason jars filled with fairy lights to sprinkle soft illumination for those cozy evening gatherings.

4. Pumpkins, Of Course! Pumpkins, the country's favorite cucurbits, come in more colors than orange. For a contemporary home, consider white pumpkins that go with every color scheme. Pumpkins also come in blue, green, yellow, and tan, and some even have stripes.

Mix and match pumpkins of different sizes. Smaller pumpkins can be grouped in decorative bowls or baskets or used to accent other fall decorations. You might also paint pumpkins with metallic paints or use stencils to create patterns. Adding personalized elements like initials or monograms can give your pumpkin display a distinctive look.

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Don't forget about gourds—these quirky relatives of pumpkins come in fascinating shapes and colors, adding whimsy and texture to your fall porch decor. Arrange them in a vintage wooden crate or wheelbarrow for a charming, rustic display. You can even carve out some of your larger pumpkins for festive planters for small autumn flowers or succulents, making your décor multi-func-

tional and environmentally friendly.

5. A Pumpkin Topiary. Pumpkin topiaries are a creative and eye-catching way to decorate your front entry for fall. To create your own, you'll need the following materials:

Two large planters, Pea gravel, Six pumpkins (two large, two medium, two small), Two long dowel rods, Dry grasses or autumn foliage. Follow these steps to assemble your pumpkin topiaries: Fill the planters with pea gravel for stability. Remove the stems from the four larger pumpkins and drill holes through their centers. Drill holes halfway into the bottom of the two small pumpkins, but not all the way through. Sink a dowel rod into the center of the gravel in each planter. Thread the pumpkins onto the rods in order of size: largest at the bottom, medium in the middle, and smallest on top. Arrange dry grasses or autumn foliage between the pumpkins to fill gaps and add texture. For added flair, wrap the dowel rods with faux ivy or twinkle lights before assembling the topiaries. This will bring a glow to your entrance when the evenings begin to darken earlier.

6. Mums! Mums porch decor: Chrysanthemums, or mums, are a fall staple that can instantly brighten up your porch with vibrant colors. Antique apple crates, Half-bushel baskets, Hollowed-out pumpkins, Old washtubs, Vintage pickle crocks

Choose mums in complementary colors or stick to a monochromatic scheme. Pair your mums with other fall elements like mini pumpkins, gourds, or colorful leaves.

The key to vivid mums lies in their care; water the mums consistently and deadhead any spent blooms to ensure they flourish for as long as possible. Don't forget to protect them from frost by moving the planters indoors during cold snaps.

7. Lights Aglow: Jack o Lantern: Proper lighting can transform your fall porch. Some fall lighting ideas include:

Carved pumpkin lanterns: Instead of traditional jack-o'-lanterns, carve small holes in mini pumpkins to create twinkling lanterns. Place battery-operated tea lights inside for a safe, enchanting glow. Lanterns: Place decorative lanterns of varying sizes around your porch. Fill them with battery-operated candles or fairy lights for a cozy ambiance. Luminaries: Create fall-themed luminaries using paper bags with cut-out designs. Place battery-operated candles inside and line your walkway or porch steps with these glowing decorations. String lights: Drape warm white or amber-colored string lights along your porch railing or wrap them around pillars. Use novelty lights shaped like autumn leaves or acorns for a whimsical look. Twinkle light pumpkins: Drill small holes in artificial pumpkins and insert individual twinkle lights for a starry effect.

Remember to consider safety when using lights in your outdoor decor. Opt for battery-operated or solar-powered options when possible, and always follow manufacturer guidelines for outdoor use.



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