

Elsie Lions Club Partners with American Red Cross to Host Community Blood Drive September 12

submitted by Douglas Sturgis

The Elsie Lions Club will host a community blood drive with the American Red Cross on September 12, 2025 from 1:00 to 4:45 at the Elsie United Methodist Church.

For more information on how to make an appointment to donate, call 517-256-4585 or sign up online at redcrossblood.org with sponsor code "Elsie".

The Elsie Lions Club is committed to strengthening our community and helping meet hospital and patient needs through blood donations, said Lion Douglas Sturgis. "This blood drive is our way of giving staff, colleagues and neighbors an opportunity to help save lives."

Blood is a perishable product that can only come from volunteer blood donors. With someone in the U.S. needing blood every two seconds, blood products must be constantly replenished, according to the Red Cross.

"We urge community members to donate blood and help ensure that patients in local hospitals have a supply of blood ready and waiting before an emergency occurs. There's no better feeling than knowing that your blood donation may give someone a second chance at life." The Elsie event continues to gain in popularity for donors in the area. Schedule today, don't miss this opportunity to make a difference.

According to the Red Cross, donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative.

BONUS: With your blood donation at this event, you will receive a Subway gift card. PLUS, receive one of four T-Shirts with the Iconic Red Cross and Peanuts design. Find out how you can get all four T-Shirts too. Signup today!!



Twilliger's Tavern and Tank's Tavern Present: Bottom of the Hill Blues Festival, 2025

submitted by Ronda Liskey

Twilliger's Tavern Owner, Mike Putnam, is collaborating with Tank's Tavern Owners, to produce the 2025 Bottom of the Hill Blues Festival! The event will take place on Saturday, September 13th, 3-11 p.m. in the street in front of Twilliger's and Tank's in Downtown Laingsburg.

There will be 3 bands featured throughout the day. The music begins with Blue Tone Two at 3 PM. Blue Tone Two is a talented duo that delivers a captivating and rockin' blues sound. Featuring Gary "Blind Dog" Day on harmonica and Jeff Fluegel on guitar, each musician bringing over 40 years of experience in playing and performing. Their repertoire pays homage to the legends of the blues, in addition to music by contemporary artists and some blues originals. Following Blue Tone Two will be Tad and the Fat Katz!, a dynamic, electric blues group, featuring frontman, Tad Mullins, on the harmonica and vocals, along with a host of talented music makers.

Together they produce a raucous good time!! The Headliners of this year's festival are Tony Thompson and Friends, sure to delight the crowd with their soulful, funky sound! They play a mix of Funk, Motown, R & B, and Soul, with a goal of inspiring dance! This will be, as years prior, a street dancin' good time!!!

There will be a \$10 cover charge to attend the event. Food and drink will be served in the street! Dancing and prancing will be encouraged! There will be some seating provided, but visitors are encouraged to bring a chair.

*In the event of inclement weather, the show goes on!!! The bands will move indoors at Twilliger's.

For more information contact Ronda Liskey or Mike Putnam, 517 420-3181



Laingsburg Marathoner Completes North Country Trek in Impressive Time

MANISTEE -- The run is known as the 50-Mile Ultra, and it's not for the faint of heart -- let alone if you're 50 years old.

None of that phased veteran Laingsburg High School cross-country coach Shawn Baynes, who -- along with his volunteer assistant coach, Matt McDougal-Smith -- ran the North Country Trail 50-miler on Saturday, August 23rd, through the Manistee National Forest.

The North Country Trail Run is one of the top trail runs in the United States. Home of the largest half marathon and ultra-marathon, it also boasts the third-largest number of marathon finisher medals in the country.

"It was a great experience and a very challenging course," explained Baynes, who finished 3rd in his age group of 50-54. His time was good for 33rd place overall in 11 hours and 19 minutes.

"My goal was to be under 12 hours," explained Baynes. "This was tough because the race was very hilly. It had 7,000 foot of elevation change. It is one of the toughest courses around.

"I look forward to the next challenge."



(l): Matt McDougal-Smith and (r): Shawn Baynes

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Social

1960's Fundraiser Dance
submitted by Brian Valentine
 Saturday September 20, 2025, the Elsie American Legion is having a 1960's themed Dance from 6 pm to 10 pm. Cost is \$10 per person, children 12 and under are free. This is a fundraiser to have funds to replace our building's roof. The estimates for the roof have been between 35 and 55 thousand dollars. Please help your local veterans!
 Come dance in your 60's outfits (prize for best dressed), 50/50 drawings at 8pm and 10 pm, Concessions, BYOB, DJ Ben will be playing the tunes,man. A groovy- far out time will be had by all. Hippies and rockers are welcome as well as anyone else. For more information email Commander Valentine at elsiepostcommander@gmail.com .

Fall Into Recycling
submitted by Ellen Link
 Most of us think of fall as a time for harvesting—things like apples, grapes, herbs, etc. But why not add the “ripened” things in your home, i.e., the things whose lifetimes, at least with you, have come to an end—to the list? It's time to clear out the house as well as the garden. Unwanted items (like weeds!) might be reusable, put to another use by someone else, or recycled into something else altogether. Just think of the possibilities!
 Those items that can be recycled can be brought to the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers' facility on Woodbury Rd. We are open, as usual, the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (September 2 and 16), 4-6 p.m., and 2nd and 4th Saturdays (September 13 and 27), 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Everyone is welcome and there's no charge, though we gladly accept donations. The long list of the materials we accept, from cardboard, various plastics and glass to household batteries and electronics, can be found on our website.

In Loving Memory of
Violet Irene Splan
4/16/36-9/10/23



It's been two years since we've seen your sweet smile, heard your soft voice Or held your gentle hands. We miss you dearly Mom...




Ovid Public Library News
 If you haven't already checked out our book sale at the Ovid Public Library then make sure you get down here! We still have lots and lots of books for sale. Not to mention puzzles, games, dvds and lots more. Everything is by donation. Help us clear out our shelves so we have room for new items that get donated. And remember, all your donations help us to provide great programming for our patrons.
 Also, be sure to join us on Monday, September 15 for our Adult Booktasting. This program begins at 1:00. This is where you can share a favorite book or author and find out what everyone else has been reading. Light snacks are provided. We hope you join us!

More problematic “weeds,” like hazardous household waste (HHW), are usually accepted at spring and fall county events. Residents of Shiawassee County can attend the HHW COLLECTION on Saturday, September 13, at Chippewa Trail, just north of VG's Grocery Store in Owosso, 8 am to noon; no appointment is necessary. Accepted materials include oil-based paints and varnishes, cleaning solvents, pesticides and weed killers, and more; latex paint, used motor oil, tires and smoke detectors will not be accepted. For more information, call the Shiawassee Health Dept. at (989) 743-2390.

Clinton County will hold its FREE FOR FALL EVENT for residents on Saturday, Sept. 27. In addition to HHW they accept farm & landscaping chemicals, motor oil & antifreeze, unwanted medications (including needles, patches & inhalers), electronics and more. Fees apply for televisions and computer monitors. An appointment is required to attend the event and find out the location; check it out on their website or call 989-224-5186.

If you're still left with unwanted but usable items, consider donating them to organizations like Goodwill, Salvation Army, St. Vincent's, or Habitat's Restore. While some may have to go to the landfill, hopefully it will inspire you to be more mindful when making future purchases.

CITY OF LAINGSBURG
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
 Please take notice that at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Laingsburg, Shiawassee County, Michigan, held on September 2nd, 2025, the City Council adopted an amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 18 “Businesses,” Article VIII “Use of Right-of-Way for Outdoor Seating, Sales, and Service.”
Purpose:
 The purpose of this amendment is to establish consistent and attractive standards for outdoor seating, sales, and service areas located within the public right-of-way.
Amendment:
 Section 18-504 “Operating Requirements,” Subsection (3) is hereby amended to read as follows:
 “Umbrellas and awnings must be a solid color and free of advertisements, unless otherwise approved by the Planning Commission.”
 This ordinance shall take effect **20 days after publication** in accordance with the City Charter.
 A complete copy of the ordinance is available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 114 N Woodhull, Laingsburg, Mi 48848, during regular business hours.
 Dated: September 4, 2025
Kim Hamilton, City Clerk
 City of Laingsburg

City of Ovid
Draft
Special Meeting
August 28, 2025

Open Regular Meeting:
 Mayor M. Perrien called the Special Meeting to order at 5:35 pm in the Council Chambers located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid, Michigan.
Roll Call:
 M. Soliz-ABSENT, L. Perrien, M. Olger, M. Perrien, E. Brown, M. Jones, E. Starn-ABSENT
Guests:
 There were 2 people in attendance: Susan Tomasek Swan- Clerk and Chief Lisa Rousseau-Chief of Police.
Agenda:
 Council Member L. Perrien motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member E. Brown seconded the motion. Carried on a voice vote.
Minutes:
Open Public Comment: Opened 5:36 pm Closed: 5:36 pm None
New Business:
 a. Carriage Festival Street Closures: Council Member L. Perrien motioned to approve closing Main St. from Oak St. to Clinton St. from Friday September 5th at 6:00 pm to Saturday, September 6th until festival ends. Council Member M. Olger seconded the motion. Carried on voice vote
 b. DPW Supervisor Position- E. Brown reviewed the personnel committee recommendation. Discussed other DPW position opening. Council Member E. Brown motioned to offer the position of Superintendent of Public Works (DPW) to Chad Juderjohn. Council Member L. Perrien seconded the motion. Carried on voice vote.
Final Comments: none
Adjournment-
 Council Member M. Olger motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 pm. Council Member M. Jones seconded the motion. Carried on a voice vote.
 Meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm

Susan Tomasek Swan
 Clerk

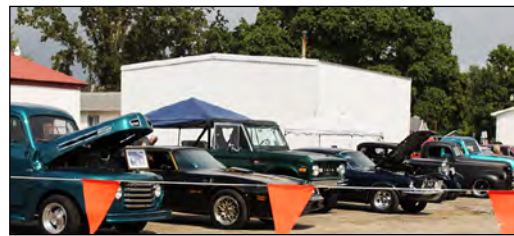
Community Spirit Shines at Elsie's Heroes Park Benefit Weekend



by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – Despite a rainy weekend, the Village of Elsie was alive with energy and community spirit during the Heroes Park Benefit Car Show and related events.

Classic cars and unique vehicles surrounded Heroes Park as enthusiasts gathered for the car show. The rain couldn't dampen the excitement, as attendees



stepped up with a Fazoli's dinner and bake sale. The event not only offered tasty meals and treats but also raised funds to support the association's ongoing community activities.

The entire weekend was a celebration of fun, fellowship, and small-town pride in the Village of Elsie.

Residents of Ovid-Elsie and the surrounding communities are encouraged to get involved and stay connected. Information about upcoming events can be found in the Meridian Weekly, on local Facebook community pages, the Ovid-Elsie Area Schools calendar, at area libraries, and on local signage. There's always something happening in our community—come be a part of it!

enjoyed music, prizes, and delicious offerings from the Elsie Lions Club food tent. Meanwhile, Bingo at the American Legion provided indoor fun.

Adding to the festivities, the Elsie Masonic Lodge #238 hosted a breakfast that drew a hearty crowd and raised an impressive \$525 in support of Heroes Park.

Later in the day, the Elsie Area Fire Fighters Association



Chili Cook-Off Raising Funds to Feed 12,000 People in Two Hours



submitted by Carrie A. Rathbun Hawks, APR

Laingsburg – Chili heads are invited to Laingsburg United Methodist Church Sat., Sept. 13 from 5-7 p.m. to sample chilis made by local restaurants and community organizations. Proceeds will go toward the cost of packing 2,000 rice meal bags in just two hours for people in war-torn or poverty-stricken countries. Since each bag feeds six people, 12,000 meals will make their way to hungry families and individuals.

About a dozen chilis of all sorts are being donated by Laingsburg eateries including The Laingsburg Dairy Den, Peacock Road Family Farm, Tammy's Bakery and Café, Tank's Tavern, Twilliger's Tavern and Two Dog Tavern, all coming together at a time when help is so desperately needed around the world. Some of the church's members will also offer up their favorite recipes to tantalize people's taste buds.

The chili cook-off will be at the church at 210 Crum Street in downtown Laingsburg. Because the rice meal bags cost \$2 apiece, the church needs more than \$4,000 to cover ingredients and shipping. There is a minimum donation to enjoy samples. People can vote with their dollars to help pick the best chilis of the evening.

LUMC partners with Midwest Mission, a faith-based nonprofit dedicated to providing meal and hygiene kits, school supplies, disaster clean-up resources and much more to people in their time of need.



Saturday, September 13, 5-7 PM

At Laingsburg UMC, 210 Crum Street

Sample up to 12 different chilis and vote with your dollars! Chili provided by Dairy Den, Peacock Road Family Farm, Tammy's Bakery, Tank's Tavern, Twilligers Tavern, Two Dog Tavern and church members.

Donations requested to help fund the cost of assembly and shipping of 2,000 rice meal kits, which provide vitamin-rich, dehydrated meals to individuals in need, particularly during disaster relief and humanitarian crises. Help us feed our hungry neighbors!

Contact us to donate or use the QR code.





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Obituaries

Donald "Don" William Lloyd

Donald "Don" William Lloyd, age 78, of Elsie, MI, peacefully passed away Saturday, August 30, 2025, at Hazel I. Findlay Country Manor, St. Johns, MI.

Don was born in Manistique, Michigan on December 15, 1946, the son of Donald S. Lloyd and Edith (Barnes) Lloyd. Don graduated from Manistique High School with the class of 1965. He attended Northern Michigan and obtained his bachelors in education. Don married Rosella Howard on June 22, 1974, at the Elsie United Methodist Church.

Don was a retired assistant chief of the Elsie Area Fire Department. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and spending time outdoors. Don was a proud grandpa and loved attending his grandchildren's school and sporting events. Most of all, he enjoyed being with his family. He will be remembered for his willingness to help others. He was a member of Elsie United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife Rosella Lloyd of Elsie, MI; his daughters: Tina and Phil Collins of Roscommon, MI; and Jennifer and Kyle Thornton of Elsie, MI; his grandchildren: Benjamin Collins, and Kathryn and Brooklyn Thornton. He is also survived by his twin sister Donna and James Freeland of Cadillac, MI; sister-in-law Regene Darling, of Elsie, MI; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Lisa Ann Lloyd, father and mother-in-law Alton and Claudia Howard, and brother-in-law David Darling.

Funeral Services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes Elsie, MI, on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, with Pastor JD Paik officiating. Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery, Elsie, MI.

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




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Larry Dean Stoneman

Larry Dean Stoneman, age 80, of Elsie, entered eternal peace on Thursday, August 28, 2025. Larry was born on May 8, 1945, at home in Ashley, Michigan, to the parents of Fred and Loretta (Barrett) Stoneman. The youngest of 4 children, Larry attended Ola School and graduated from Ashley High School in 1963. In his youth, he worked on his family farm, played sports, hunted, and tried unsuccessfully not to get sprayed by skunks.

In May 1966, he married his wife of 59 years, Sherry Rae Saylor, at St. Cyril's Church in Bannister, Michigan. He then proudly served in the United States Navy from 1966 to 1972, spending his entire naval career in the Atlantic. He often told the story of his fondest memory in the Navy of attending a bull fight in Spain and rooting for the bull.

In 1973, the family moved and settled into their home on Ridge Road in Elsie, where they raised their family, attended St. Cyril's, and resided for 50-plus years. He worked at General Motors Lansing in skilled trades, machine repair, for 33 years, retiring in 1999. While lacking what one could call a 'good' John Wayne impression, his telling of countless adventures and capers at 'the shop' could entertain for hours.

Larry really enjoyed music, sports, old movies, and auto racing, a gift he passed along to all his sons. Larry also never met a piece of pie he didn't love. But his real talent was working with his hands and fixing things, especially cars. His love of classic cars was a topic of many discussions and turned every family car ride into a potential lightning round of "What's that car?" Many family members, friends, and friends of family members benefited from his uncanny ability to fix a car.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father, his sister Shirley Rademacher, brother Lee James, and brother John (Jack), to whom he was especially close.

Larry is survived by his wife and sons: David (Heidi), Mike (Kim), Keith (Susan), and Kevin, as well as 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Cyril's Catholic Church, Bannister, Michigan, on Thursday, September 4, 2025, with Rev. Fr. Andizej Borocho presiding. Burial has taken place at Riverside Cemetery, Elsie, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that private donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Bethany Christian Services. Online condolences may be sent at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.

Linda Kae (McNamara) Gross

Linda Kae (McNamara) Gross, 75, went home to Jesus on August 27, 2025, surrounded by her loving husband Randy and his sister Jill. She held an unwavering faith in God which she shared with those who surrounded her.

Born on February 23, 1950, Linda was passionate about helping people saving money, she ran food Co-Op out of her home for over 40 years. She looked forward to taking orders and seeing her co-op friends.

Linda also enjoyed gardening, she would start her seeds in the house in early spring and plant them outside in the garden as soon as it was safe from frost. Another one of her favorite pastimes was watching the Detroit Tigers.

She will be missed by her husband Randy, family and friends. Linda now rests in the arms of the Savior, free from pain and sorrow, rejoicing in the presence of the almighty.

Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the Faith.



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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](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 e(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
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Father Andrzej

Editorial

Rep. BeGole: House Budget Provides Value for Tax Dollars, Fulfills Promise to Cut Waste

submitted by Denny Schwarzze

State Rep. Brian BeGole, of Antrim Township, today voted to advance a responsible, balanced House budget plan that gives Michigan residents the best value for their tax dollars and addresses their priorities.

The \$78.5 billion overall budget proposal provides funding to support road repairs, tax cuts to help working families, a new Public Safety Trust Fund to help protect communities and record resources for students without raising taxes or nickel and diming workers and small business owners with hidden fees to support unsustainable government spending.

"People throughout our state have been clear: the spending they are seeing in state government is unsustainable," BeGole said, noting government spending has increased over 40 percent since Gov. Gretchen Whitmer first took office. "Fraud, waste and abuse has run rampant in Lansing for years and has been ignored. It just gets rubber-stamped year after year. We have cut it within this budget plan and used tax dollars for priorities a majority of people in our state have like roads, schools and public safety. This is an effective and responsible spending plan for our state."

Highlights of the budget plan include:

Eliminating wasteful government spending – The House budget cuts 4,300 "phantom" positions that state departments ask for within a budget process but don't fill, freeing up \$560 million for priorities a majority of Michigan residents share like roads and schools. The House budget also eliminates \$1.27 billion in political giveaways that have been handed out year after year with no accountability and works to correct issues in administering SNAP food stamp benefits as Michigan suffers from one of the highest error rates in the nation. The errors lead to hundreds of millions of dollars being mismanaged when the state overpays on benefits. In total, House Republicans went line by line through the budget and eliminated more than \$5 billion in waste, fraud, and abuse.

A landmark commitment to local infrastructure – The budget plan dedicates \$3.4 billion in ongoing funding to fix local roads without raising taxes. For many local road agencies, this investment will mean communities finally have the resources to repair potholes and repave roads workers and families use every day. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's own Department of Transportation has said the roads plan could create more than 20,000 new, good-paying jobs in Michigan.

Prioritizing public safety – A new \$115 million Public Safety and Violence Prevention Trust Fund will help every Michigan family feel safer in their neighborhoods and communities. The funding will go to embattled communities to help address violent crime and provide communities across the state with resources to upgrade equipment and vehicles, retain officers, and more.

Supporting federal efforts to cut taxes – The House budget supports federal tax cuts for Michigan families and seniors at the state level so that hardworking people aren't punished for putting in extra hours or enjoying the retirement they've earned. State taxes on tips, overtime pay and Social Security income would be eliminated under the plan.

The budget comes after a previously passed House K-12 budget plan from June that allocates \$21.9 billion to schools – more than the Senate or governor's respective plans. The House's K-12 plan increases per-pupil funding from the current \$9,608 to \$12,000 and moves away from Lansing's one-size-fits-all mandates by loosening restrictions on how schools can use the funding. This flexibility will allow school districts to meet their unique needs and put additional resources into free school lunch for all students, better transportation options, new textbooks, before and after school programs, and more.

The budget plan now moves to the Senate for consideration.



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

What to say... Today I woke up with many good intentions and I do hope that I can accomplish them. Empty intentions are noxious. I'm having an argument with an insurance company who can't read a bank statement which I was asked to text to them... To prove that they had double dipped and had taken almost an extra grand. Of course it is my fault because I had paid the account the day before it was due, have a receipt from them proving such and apparently should have paid it twenty-four hours earlier. I don't know about you but I can't and don't believe that I should wait until the September 12 to get it back. The insurance company couldn't tell from reading the bank statement that there was over a grand in the bank on the second of the month. Is there such a thing as selective reading? Like selective hearing? My guess is that there was also selective hearing involved when they were told that I paid the bill from a different account. Thank goodness that this is the end of the week.

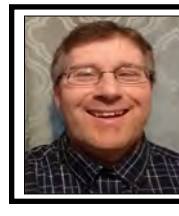
Things that I have discovered this week. The best discovery was when I checked my shelves for bread and butter pickles and sweet chunk pickles. While seeking them I discovered that I really didn't need to can anymore stewed tomatoes. Thank you Dena for liking pickles. I also gave her some pickled beets because I wasn't sure that she liked them. She does. That is when I was reminded that Diane also has a taste for them, as does my sister. Two out of three should be learning the process when next I can them. It is late in the season but I was still able to find some peaches for Dena's son. I also found out that a couple of my friends who had wanted to learn how to can stewed tomatoes no longer wish to do so. Another one of those nasty mysterious allergies that is plaguing their lives.

Remember how excited I was when I ordered the juicer? Now I do need some tomatoes to do that and Margie gave me a half a bushel yesterday afternoon. Hopefully I will get them done today after picking up the pork that was ordered for the shop. Delivering it and getting it put away. It came in ten days earlier than expected. First the three of us need to remove the new toilet from the back of the truck and get it into the shop. This meant that I had to traipse upstairs to get the apparatus for moving it and loading it into the pickup bed. Yup, it has already been an interesting day? And I am running a tad bit behind.

At the shop yesterday, we had two groups of ladies come in at the same time. The Sunshine Club had reserved a couple of tables and we knew to expect them. The Elsie Methodist ladies were an unexpected surprise. Fortunately we had enough seating and everyone seemed to know each other. It was a nice chatty forum. I know that the ladies expect to be spending more time with us and I do hope that they can. We've been getting more special orders and just have to remind folks that we do need forty-eight hour notice. Like anything else, we usually have more than one special order at a time. Such is life.

This morning I need to make cinnamon bread, onion bread, whole wheat, and cheesy jalapeno bread while Brent is making peanut butter and double chocolate chip cookies. Diane has cupcakes to make and we all have to take turns on the grill. It will be a good day. May your days be filled with happy experiences and God's blessings.

Crystal Mitchell©2025



Religious Thoughts

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

Job 36:8-10 says, "But if people are bound in chains, held fast by cords of affliction, he [God] tells them what they have done- that they have sinned arrogantly. He makes them listen to correction and commands them to repent of their evil."

All people have two options in life. One is to be a slave to sin, the other is to be a slave to righteousness or in other words, a slave to God.

That's it.

If one rejects sin, truly rejects sin, they must turn to the one, true God. If one rejects God, then they will be a slave to sin.

Some people think that there is a third option, one that will bring them true freedom and that they will be no one's slave. That they can reject God but still choose freedom for themselves. Freedom to live however they want with no restrictions except for the ones they choose to put on themselves. People will reject God and turn to other things- other religions, self-help materials, legalism, turning inwards to find the answers to life, living a good moral life, partying 24/7. All of these things, and more, ultimately result in slavery to sin.

We may wake up from our sin in time, like the Prodigal Son did, or we may not, like Judas. Which path will you choose?

What chains of bondage are you under today? Have you come to God and asked Him to break those chains and forgive you of your sins?

Jesus says, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

- John 8:34-36

Be assured, friend, that when you do come to your senses and call on the Lord, He will hear you. Every time.

As Psalm 107 says, "Some sat in darkness, in utter darkness, prisoners suffering in iron chains,11 because they rebelled against God's commands and despised the plans of the Most High.12 So he subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help. 13 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. 14 He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains. 15 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for humankind, 16 for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron.

Psalm 107:10-16

And as the Psalmist writes, "Truly I am your servant, LORD; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains."

- Psalm 116:16

Attention: City of Ovid Residents City-Wide Clean-Up September 13th 2025

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Editorial



Editorials are welcome. 250 words or less.

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MEET THE TEAMS...2025 FALL SPORTS...ASHLEY BEARS



ASHLEY VARSITY VOLLEYBALL: Front row (l-r): Marissa Brady, Paige Larsen, Peyton Rohn.. Middle row (l-r): Ellie Drummond, Jazmyne Good, Aleena Long, Karissa Brady.. Back row (l-r): Gracyn McCallister, Jordynn Long, Head Coach Brian Davis.
Photo by Deb Price

Ashley Volleyball

by Ashleigh Shaw

This year's team has nine players from last season along with Coach Brian Davis who will be beginning his second year as head coach of the Lady Bears. Although the team is returning all of its players from last season, they are still young with juniors, and sophomores making up the team. "We have a very young team, but at the same time we are experienced as these kids have played Varsity Volleyball for a few years now, we continue building a winning tradition" explained Brian Davis.



MERRILL/ASHLEY FOOTBALL: Team Includes: Will Long, Jacob Mattilla-Gonzales, Eli Evans, Tristan Ringle, Collin Buckley, Robert Kral, Walker Coty, Harrison Ayotte, Taylor Bethke, Gibby Jason, Jesse Hall, Ethan Laclair, Xavier Aguado, Jaxson Garchow, Grant Marlow, Lincoln Ordway, Brady Nierescher, Blake Breasbois, Hunter Wiley, Elijah Fischer, Austin Artcliff. Head Coach: Christian Wiley. Assistant Coaches: Tony Monk, Phil-Fletcher, Kyle Weisenberger, John Seno, Pete Theisen, Kevin Saylor, Jake Schmidt, Rick Weisbarth, Kaleb Walker



ASHLEY CROSS COUNTRY: (l-r): Peyton Rohn, Trevor Dolloff, Paige Larsen and Coach Jon Berger. Photo by Deb Price

Ashley Cross Country

by Ashleigh Shaw

The Ashley Cross Country team is headed by a new coach this season, Coach Berger. Three runners are returning from last year, two of which qualified for states, Trevor Dolloff, Peyton Rohn, Paig Larson also joins the team from last year along with newcomer, freshman, Jaxon Wirt. "We are strong individual runners, although we are a small team" said Coach Berger.

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**Ashley/Merrill
Football
Schedule**

Sept. 12	7:00pm
Coleman A (Merrill)	
Sept. 19	7:00pm
Breckenridge A	
Sept. 26	7:00pm
St. Charles A (Merrill)	
Oct. 4	2:00pm
Potterville H (Homecoming)	
Oct. 10	7:00pm
Carson City A (Merrill)	
Oct. 17	7:00pm
Montabella A	
Oct. 24	7:00pm
Fulton A	



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MEET THE TEAMS...2025 FALL SPORTS...LAINGSBURG WOLFPACK



WOLFPACK CHEER: Front row (l-r): Kierstyn Szilaygi, Riley Bowman, Ally Underhill, Taylor Droste, Keira Justice, Laura Rademacher. Back row (l-r): Claire Hinkley, Sara Hart, Jayden Foltz, Ava Trier, Sophia Wilburn, Edie Zacharda, Maya Venton.

Photo by Keith Kingsbury

Fourteen Squad Members Whipping up Spirit for Wolfpack Teams This fall

LAINGSBURG -- Veteran coach Jenna Wilburn has no lack of talent in welcoming back the 2025 Wolfpack varsity cheerleading team this fall.

Fourteen spirited girls make up the Wolfpack sideline cheering team, including returnees Kierstyn Szilaygi, Laura Rademacher, Jayden Foltz, Riley Bowman, Sara Hart and Edie Zacharda.

They will be joined by newcomers Sophia Wilburn, Keira Justice, Ava Trier, Ally Underhill, Taylor Droste, Caitlyn Ewing, Claire Hinkley and Maya Venton.



WOLFPACK VARSITY FOOTBALL: Front row (l-r): Josiah Hawes, Adam Kazor, John Schafer, Calvin Stier, Leandro Dolega-Caceres, Waylon Rowley, Liam Esch, Nate Malone, Stephen Stahl, Landon Freeman. Second row (l-r): 5Dylan Koenig, Julian Smith, Harrison Dorman, Caiden Nidefski, Colin Logghe, Joe DeShone, Cooper Morr, Gus Larson, Ethan Platte, Bryce Curry. Not pictured: Payge Woodworth. Photo by Keith Kingsbury

Wolfpack Rebuilding and Optimistic, Behind Talented Senior Backfield and Line Players in 2025

LAINGSBURG -- Throughout Brian Borgman's long tenure atop the Wolfpack football program, consistent success usually leaves the team in reload -- not rebuild -- mode.

But after a tough 2-7 season in 2024, and a 4-6 mark in 2023, the Wolfpack senior class is working to rebuild hopes. Rebuild optimism. Rebuild a program that annually has been a post-season contender.

Entering his 24th season as the Wolfpack mentor, Borgman is easily the winningest coach in LHS history, the longest tenured, and the dean of Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) coaches. His 125-96 career mark (.566) includes 13 playoff appearances, including a 2015 trip to the MHSAA Regional Final.

Getting back to that level of success began the day after the 2024 campaign ended in disappointment, with a 35-7 loss to Essexville Garber. Making those painful memories disappear is the goal of a solid nucleus that showcases blazing speed -- and 7 returning starters both on offense and defense.

Senior RB Waylon Rowley is a multi-purpose, do-everything kind of threat. Senior WR Leandro Dolega-Caceres may just be the fastest player in the conference. Senior linemen Joe DeShone, Adam Kazor and Dyland Koenig anchor both the offensive and defensive fronts. Junior DE Collin Logghe is a run-stuffer, and doubles as a starting lineman on offense. Senior Liam Esch is another speedster at wideout and part of a contingent that is " ... an extremely tight group of guys who care and play for another," Borgman says.

Juniors Landon Freeman (WR/DB), Harrison Dorman (WR/DB), Cooper Morr (OL/DL) and sophomore QB Julian Smith will also be looking to make their mark.

"We have been lifting extremely hard in the offseason and all returners have made significant gains in the weight room," coach Borgman explains. "We have to stay healthy with lower numbers this season than last."

"Early games with PW and Fowler will determine our chances of repeating as CMAC champions like we did in 2022."

Early predictions for the league finish puts P-W at the top, followed by Fowler, Laingsburg, Saranac, Bath, Perry and Dansville.

The 2025 schedule will have a new look, as well. Michigan Lutheran Seminary dots the top of the slate as the non-league opener on August 29. Vestaburg is new to the schedule on September 26, as is Caro in the regular season-ender on October 24. In between those non-conference tilts, the always-tough CMAC looms.

Borgman will be assisted again this season by coaches Jon Cecil, Dan Blemaster, Jacob Chambers, Cedric Ford and Julio Caceres.

Laingsburg Football Schedule

Sept. 12	7:00 pm	Perry A (Military Appreciation)
Sept. 19	7:00 pm	P-W H
Sept. 26	7:00 pm	Vestaburg A
Oct. 3	7:00 pm	Saranac H (Homecoming)
Oct. 10	7:00 pm	Bath A
Oct. 17	7:00 pm	Dansville H (Senior Night)
Oct. 24	7:00 pm	Caro A

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MEET THE TEAMS...2025 FALL SPORTS...LAINGSBURG WOLFPACK



WOLFPACK VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY: Front row (l-r): JJ Jackson, Sam Gutzman, Hazel Burley, Kiki Rusz, Noah Devereaux, Logan Robinson, Grace Knull, Merrill Burley, Ruby Burley, Madi Mae Phillips. Back row (l-r): Drake Pratt, Hannah Rathka, Cody Cataline, Calum Knull, James Foltz, Joel Rathka, Austin Hodges, Cameron Betts, Will Rahtka & Lilli Morrill.
Photo by Keith Kingsbury



WOLFPACK VARSITY SOCCER: Team includes: Jayden Jackson, Joshua Barragan, Owen Platte, Carter Klont, Jayden Carpenter, Grey Seguin, Cameron Spedoske, Camden McGee, Asher Shastal, Ryan Park, Connor Heyd, Evan Lefevre, Caiden Nidefski, Cody Cataline, Everett Rodriguez, Nolen Russell, Paxton Rodriguez, Keaton Dietz, Kaleb Salas. Coach Emily Tyner.
Photo by Keith Kingsbury.



WOLFPACK GOLF: Front row (l-r): Lily McKenna, Leah Mills, Lila Esch, Abby McNeil, Elisa Aldrich. Back row (l-r): Jayden Hodges, Alexa Ayen, Sofi Hughs, Jocelyn Ljames, Emma Deshone, Hailey Magley.
Photo by Keith Kingsbury



WOLFPACK VARSITY VOLLEYBALL: Front row (l-r): Jasmine Noffke, Ella Mohny, Hayden Wilson, Paige Erickson, Lia Soelner, Alaina Asher, Peyton Stahr. Back row (l-r): Head coach Mickey Fox, Mallory Woodbury, Kendall Michels, Alayna Merrill, Gwenith Clark, Sydney Curtis, Harper Strouse, Bella Latuszek, asst coach Jason Michels.
Photo by Keith Kingsbury



WOLFPACK JV FOOTBALL: Team members include: Carter Conklin, Derek Porubsky, Carson Helmer, Michael Neff, Dez Herold, Mason Kent, Jaxson Smith, Ethan Smith, Titan Sindel, Lamari Stuckey, Ashton Unruh, Maxwell Cosgrove, Owen Suggate, Levi Ijames, Eli Morr, Logan Potter, Will Rathka. Head coach Jacob Chambers. Photo by Keith Kingsbury

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MEET THE TEAMS...
2025 FALL SPORTS...
LAINGSBURG WOLFPACK



WOLFPACK JV VOLLEYBALL: Team includes: Riley Mills, Gracie Travis, Allie Brasseur, Ella Dorman, Raegan Cousineau, Juju Latuszek, Sam Magyar, Aleigha Highfield, Everly Izzo, Maddie Butler, Kali Spade.

Photo by Keith Kingsbury



WOLFPACK FRESHMAN VOLLEYBALL: Team includes: Eve Guenther, Addison Westfall, Scarlett Parker, Ashlyn Soeltner, Anna Walker, Lilly Knapp, Gabrielle Woodbury, Samantha LaMacchia. Photo by Keith Kingsbury

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MEET THE TEAMS...2025 FALL SPORTS...OVID-ELSIE MARAUDERS



OVID-ELSIE SIDELINE CHEER: Front row (l-r): Victoria Dennis, Mercedes Grieder, Clarissa Baese, Lianna Shearer, Laiken Watkins, Emmylou Blaha, Audrie VanDeusen, Alayna Wenger, Audrey Bensinger, Haley McClung. Second row (l-r): Lila Havens, Savannah Stornant, Kira Schmidfranz, Lauren McCafferty, Naomi Schneider, Kaelyn Long, Aubrey Parkhouse, AllieLynn Barnhill, Memarie Brassuer, Alison Kozlowski, Addilynn Vincent. Third row (l-r): Coach Sarah Stewart, Adelaide Faziani, Alizabeth Throop, Katlyn Blomfield, Alexia Schneider, Dylan Masarik, Lila Goodrich, Kyra Witt, Sadie Seidel, Lillian Pulley, Coach Roni Behrens
Photo by Ortman Productions, LLC

Marauder Sideline Cheer Team Rallies the 'M' Zone and Home Side

OVID-ELSIE -- No fewer than 31 cheerleaders will spark the sidelines for Ovid-Elsie this fall sports season.

"We have a really big team this year," says coach Sarah Stewart, who welcomes back 21 returning varsity members. The Marauders have 10 seniors on the team, eight juniors, nine sophomores and four freshmen.

"I have an assistant coach this year, Roni Behrens, and she joined our team at the perfect time," says coach Stewart. "With this many girls we are able to run a more efficient practice. Roni has been a tremendous help so far. Im excited to have her."

The coach continues, "We are excited to come up with some fun sideline events to engage with the fans as we cheer on our football team. The girls are also working with our M-Zone student section to make our stadium even more energetic to help cheer on our teams."

Coach Stewart notes the newcomers are working hard and seem eager to get started. "I'm also very proud of our seniors for their encouragement and support of our newbies. It's going to be a great season," she explains.

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MEET THE TEAMS...2025 FALL SPORTS...OVID-ELSIE MARAUDERS



OVID-ELSIE VARSITY VOLLEYBALL: Front row (l-r): Kendal Tokar, Sarah Newman, Isabella Phillips, Isabelle Ryal, Bentlie Kelley, Brooklyn Thornton, Allison Veith. Back row (l-r): Manager Maria Gifre, Ashton Ehle, Jolene Hebler, Kortlynn Loynes, Lillian Bates, Manager Ketei Loynes, Varsity Head Coach Angela Ehle. Missing from picture: Manager Vivian Sweet
Photo by Ortman Productions, LLC



OVID-ELSIE VARSITY FOOTBALL: Front row (l-r): Brody Howard, Maverick Horak, Julian Medina, Owen Long, Michael Bancroft, Kellen Garcia, Chandler Hart-Butcher, Chase Fabus, Robert Kebler, Walker Lover, Joie Fabus. Second row (l-r): Wyatt Lover, Jason Harrell, Dannika Campbell, Maxon Fabus, Brock Spitzley, Evan Anderson, Hunter Smith, Bryce Krueger, Daniel Topping. Third row (l-r): Logan Mason, Brooks Lohr, Dylan Henning, Daniel Olger, Jacob Miller, Bennet Throop, Braxton O'Bryant, Jaycen Hunt. Back row: Head Coach: Travis Long, Assistant Coach: DJ Chapko, Assistant Coach: Damien Miller, Assistant Coach: Mike Klingbeil, Equipment: Jowa Wildes, Student Trainer: Lauren Phillips, Student Trainer: Adalynn Roberts, Water: Grace Long & Brie Howard, Ball Boy: Brooks Rasch, Camera: Rodney Palatka, Camera: Jacob Fabus.
Photo by Ortman Production LLC

O-E Volleyballers Have a Lot of Bases Covered Entering 2025 Campaign

OVID-ELSIE --Serving. Attacking. Blocking. Floor defense. Those are all the positives that coach Angela Ehle has instilled into her Marauder varsity volleyball team entering the 2025 season.

That's an impressive list. What's left to improve? "We are still learning to communicate as a team, as we have many young starting players," says the veteran mentor.

Ehle and assistant coach Jessica Bowen return a group of eight talented, experienced players that includes five seniors:

- Ashton Ehle, outside hitter and a 4-year varsity starter, who is signed collegiately to play at Northwood University.
- Lillian Bates, a three-year varsity starter and outside hitter.
- Sarah Newman, two-year starter and defensive specialist.
- Isabella Phillips, two-year varsity player, middle hitter and rightside threat.
- Jolene Hebler, back for her third year on the varsity, filling the role as rightside hitter and middle hitter.

Isabelle Ryal is a junior and two-year varsity starter at libero.

Sophomore returnees to the Lady Marauders are Kortlynn Loynes, two-year varsity starter at middle hitter, and Kendal Tokar, who moved up to varsity for the Districts last year and is a rightside hitter.

Newcomers on the varsity Marauders are junior Brooklyn Thornton (defensive specialist), freshman Bentlie Kellsey (setter) and frosh Allison Veith (middle hitter).

"We should finish in the top three in the league," enthuses coach Ehle. "We're looking forward to a great season."

Football Marauders Already are 8th-Ranked Team in State- Before They've Played a Down

OVID-ELSIE -- The Marauders, admittedly, have lost a TON of talent from their previous two football editions.

That's not a deterrent, however, when pundits look through their crystal balls and into the 2025 postseason.

After back-to-back strong playoff runs, Travis Long's Marauders are already ranked among the Top 10 in MHSAA's Division 6.

Behind Jackson Lumen Christi, Kingsley, Reed City, Traverse City St. Francis, Belding, Almont and Michigan Collegiate, respectively, Ovid-Elsie maintains the #8 ranking in the state, heading into the 2025 pre-season.

That's some rarified air.

But Long's charges have proved their mettle. They've won 16 of their last 23 games, good enough to fuel a trip to the MHSAA Semifinals in 2023 and the District Final in 2024.

Gone are players the likes of Tryce Tokar and Clayton Fruchey. That doesn't bother the Marauders; they simply reload. Seniors Owen Long, Michael Bancroft, Nolan Rasch, Daniel Topping, Robert Kebler, Daniel Olger, Braxton O'Bryant, Brock Spitzley and placekicker Dannika Campbell look to put O-E back atop the MMAC league race ... then continue success into the post-season where Long's team has become a fixture.

Juniors in starting roles are Brody Howard, Chase Fabus, Dylan Henning, Julian Medina and Hunter Smith will be joined by promising sophs Bryce Krueger and Joie Fabus.

Top newcomers are juniors Chandler Hart-Butcher, Wyatt Lover, Jason Harrell, Logan Mason, Brooks Lohr, Jacob Miller and Bennet Throop, and sophomores Maverick Horak, Kellen Garcia, Walker Lover, Maxon Fabus and Evan Anderson.

Explains coach Long, "Senior leadership will be one of our strengths this year. We should be able to run the ball to set up the passing game. Defensively, our linebacking core is pretty solid and our secondary looks to make some plays in the back end."

As far as the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) race, it's anyone's guess right now. "It's a toss up," says coach Long. "Chesaning has won the league the past two years. New Lothrop, Montrose, and Birch Run are tough. Durand plays a style of ball that keeps them in every game. Mt. Morris and Lakeville have improved in recent years.

"We look to be competitive in every game."

Coach Long -- last year's Division 6 Regional Coach of the Year -- has posted a .594 career winning mark as the Marauders' head mentor (88-60) over 14 seasons at the helm. He will be assisted again this year by DJ Chapko, Damien Miller, Mike Klingbeil, Doug Meisel, Brian Topping, Mitch Hufnagel and Nick Hufnagel.

The veteran coach concludes: "A lot of young players will have to step up and play huge roles for us this year. We graduated quite a few players last year, so our juniors and sophomores will have to learn fast.

"Our non-conference games are against some tough competition with Howard City Tri-County and Lansing Waverly."

Ovid-Elsie Football Schedule

Sept. 12	7:00pm	Lakeville H Homecoming
Sept. 19	7:00pm	Durand A
Sept. 26	7:00pm	Montrose Hill McCloy H Military Night
Oct. 3	7:00pm	Birch Run H
Oct. 10	7:00pm	Chesaning A
Oct. 17	7:00pm	New Lothrop H
Oct. 24	7:00pm	Waverly H Senior Night



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GO MARAUDERS

MEET THE TEAMS...2025 FALL SPORTS...OVID-ELSIE MARAUDERS



OVID-ELSIE BOYS VARSITY TENNIS: Front row (l-r): Tayt Kline, Byron Odenbaugh, Gavin Chadwick, Darby White, Brady Latz and John Kelly. Back row (l-r): Coach Ritenburg, Clayton Salyer, Kohl Brown, Cooper Ritenburg, Jackson Custer, Micah Ladiski and Easton Clark. Missing Asst. Coach Dan Brown. Photo by Ortman Production LLC

Marauder Tennis Team Looks to Make it Four Consecutive MMAC Titles

OVID-ELSIE -- Veteran coach Mike Ritenburg returns to mentor what has become -- unarguably -- a tennis dynasty in the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC).

The Marauders are looking to make it four consecutive league crowns under Ritenburg and assistant coach Dan Brown. "We've got good experience with five seniors on the team, and we have more players with playing time than I have ever had coaching here," Ritenburg explains. "We have a tough schedule, so overall our win total may be down, but the level of competition will be better."

Returning netters are seniors Gavin Chadwick, Easton Clark, Jackson Custer, Tayt Kline and Byron Odenbaugh; juniors Kohl Brown, Micah Ladiski and sophomores Cooper Ritenburg and Clayton Salyer.

They'll be joined by newcoming juniors John Kelly and Darby White, and freshman Brady Latz.

"Overall, the team is smaller this year, so there will be less competition for playing spots," coach Ritenburg concludes.



OVID-ELSIE JV VOLLEYBALL: Front row (l-r): Adalyn Polash, Makenzie Kelly, Aliana Rodriguez, Averie Powell, Sky Jury, Abby Bowen, Macy VanEttten. Back row (l-r): Athena Jones, Kayla Gruber, Alli Brooke, Laura Newman, Marlee O'Bryant, Sierra Snider, Emberlyn Kvalevog, Chloe Brown, Coach Jessica Bowen. Photo by Ortman Productions, LLC



OVID-ELSIE GIRLS VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY: Team includes: Clarissa Baese, Audrey Bensinger, Ava Juhas, Dana Juhas, Shaelyn Kinney, Lydia Lawrence, Haley McClung, Brena Vincent, Katelyn Wright, Belle Cooper, Coach Emme Kvalevog. Photo by Ortman Production LLC



OVID-ELSIE BOYS VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY: Team includes: Will Baese, Mitchell Gonzalez, Destin Kinney, Joshua Miller, Colton Sempsrott, Jeremiah Stewart, Travis Wright, Coach Weston Kvalevog. Photo by Ortman Production LLC

Coaches please remember to send in your weekly sports results!

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Gridiron Gurus Week 4

- 1st place Pizza: Rod Weisenberger
- 2nd place Sub: Brandon Grieder
- 3rd place Breadsticks: Ryan Ackels

A tenuous Week 2 slate tripped up most of pigskin pundits in The Weekly's gargantuan Gridiron Gurus groupthink.

Florida State's stunningly easy upset of Alabama headed the upset specials, while CMU clung to a narrow win over San Jose and Georgia Tech made short work of Colorado.

Those three contests alone were enough to send most of our crystal ball-gazers over the edge.

Newcomer Ryan Ackels joined contest veterans Brandon Grieder and Rod Weisenberger in holding their own, all at 10-2.

Weisenberger prevailed in the tie-breaker (total points N. Alabama vs. Western Kentucky). Grieder took 2nd in the tie-break for a sub sandwich, while Ackels scored some yummy breadsticks by taking the third spot.

The arrogantly-named Amon-Ra St. Gibbs nipped the Wolfman by one game in our staff runoff to take a .687 to .625 in the early voting. Wolfie plans a major revenge tour this week.

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 4 pm.

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.



GRIDIRON GURUS

by Tom Turek
tomturek20032003@yahoo.com

MEET THE TEAMS...2025 FALL SPORTS...OVID-ELSIE MARAUDERS



OVID-ELSIE VARSITY SOCCER: Front row (l-r): Mason Somers, Blake Palus, Andrew Brown, Chaycen Thornton, Dalton Jordan, Ryker Parsons, Aidan Doyle, Jaxon Chrenka, Leyton Belill. Back row (l-r): Assistant Coach Ryan Doyle, Wyatt Watts, Conner Brya, Finn Pesik, Marshall Leavitt, Cooper Ritenburg, Kody Ash, Eddie Rademacher, Joey Kozlowski, Dominic Martin, Cole Hannahs, Josh Brown, Assistant Coach Carter Davisson, Head Coach Chris Parker.
Photo by Ortman Productions, LLC

100-Win Coach Guides Ovid-Elsie Boys Soccer Program Into 2025 Season

OVID-ELSIE -- Hopeful is one word. Optimistic is another. Confident is an entirely different dimension.

Call Ovid-Elsie's soccer team "hyper-confident" heading into a 2025 boys season that is already off to a perfect 8-0 start.

Coach Chris Parker has hit the prestigious century mark (100 wins) skipping the Marauder program, and returns a loaded lineup that includes seniors Josh Brown, Chaycen Thornton and goalie Dalton Jordan; junior Ryker Parsons; and super sophomores Dominic Martin and Aidan Doyle.

Newcomers to the varsity team are freshmen Joey Kozlowski and Mason Somers, and soph Jaxon Chrenka.

"Our experience, camaraderie and scrappiness are our team strengths," says coach Parker. The conference outlook stacks up like this: O-E 1st, followed by Otisville-Lakeville, Durand, Chesaning, Birch Run and Montrose -- in that order.



OVID-ELSIE JV FOOTBALL: Front row (l-r): Logan Strachota, Maddi Bushard, Peyton Harris, Walker Lover, Mitch Blaha, Kellen Garcia, Toby Brown, Trey Palatka, Eyan Fabus, and Evan Anderson. Second row (l-r): Christian Chapko, Bryce Fabus, Levi Stewart, Will Baese, Brent Spitzley, Nick Topping, Maverick Horak, Max Fabus, Henry Remenar, and Cade Fabus. Third row (l-r): Connor McClung, Kadon Levey, Kane Pupava, Gabe Lohr, Carson Odenbaugh, Eli Willbanks, Jaydon Ford, Jack Stambursky, Dallas Kusnier, and Peyton Stewart. Back row (l-r): Coach Brian Topping, Tayden Raish, River Minarik, Ashton Gilbert, Aydan Ackles, Todd Fox, Coach Nick Hufnagel and Coach Mitch Hufnagel. Not Pictured: Players Jeff Dingler and Michael Anderson
Photo by Ortman Productions, LLC

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Form must be at The Weekly office no later than Thursday, September 11 at 4pm

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2025 Ovid-Elsie Homecoming

Friday, September 12
at 7:00pm
vs. Lakeville



Ovid-Elsie Varsity Football

Front row (l-r): Brody Howard, Maverick Horak, Julian Medina, Owen Long, Michael Bancroft, Kellen Garcia, Chandler Hart-Butcher, Chase Fabus, Robert Kebler, Walker Lover, Joie Fabus. Second row (l-r): Wyatt Lover, Jason Harrell, Dannika Campbell, Maxon Fabus, Brock Spitzley, Evan Anderson, Hunter Smith, Bryce Krueger, Daniel Topping. Third row (l-r): Logan Mason, Brooks Lohr, Dylan Henning, Daniel Olger, Jacob Miller, Bennet Throop, Braxton O'Bryant, Jaycen Hunt. Back row: Head Coach: Travis Long, Assistant Coach: DJ Chapko, Assistant Coach: Damien Miller, Assistant Coach: Mike Klingbeil, Equipment: Jowa Wildes, Student Trainer: Lauren Phillips, Student Trainer: Adalynn Roberts, Water: Grace Long & Brie Howard, Ball Boy: Brooks Rasch, Camera: Rodney Palatka, Camera: Jacob Fabus. Photo by Ortman Production LLC

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HOMECOMING WEEK EVENTS:

Monday, September 8th - Spirit Day: "Night on Vacay"
Powder Puff Football Games

Tuesday, September 9th - Spirit Day: "Wear Your Favorite Jersey"

Wednesday, September 10th - Spirit Day: "Dress Your Hallway"
(Seniors: Las Vegas; Juniors: New Orleans; Sophomores: Los Angeles;
Freshman: Nashville)

Thursday, September 11th - Spirit Day: "Class Color Day"
(Seniors: Black & Red; Juniors: Purple & Lime Green; Sophomores: Sky
Blue & White; Freshman: Denim Blue & Tan)

Pep Assembly (Class Competitions/Games) 7th Hour

Friday, September 12th - Spirit Day "Blue & Gold"
Parade After School; Hog Roast (donations accepted) - HS Cafeteria after
parade; 6:45pm Homecoming Court Announced; 7:00pm Varsity Football
game: 8:30pm Homecoming Dance (HS Cafeteria)

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Good Luck Marauders!

Sports

Marauder Soccer Team Extends Winning Streak to 7 to Start Season

CORUNNA -- Dominic Martin scored in the 14th minute and Leyton Belill backed that up with a score at the 26th minute, lifting Ovid-Elsie to a 2-0 boys soccer win here August 28.

The non-league victory extended O-E's winning streak to 7 games to start the 2025 season. The Cavaliers dipped to 1-4 overall.

Belill assisted on the Martin goal, and Dominic returned the favor, assisting on Belill's score.

Dalton Jordan was a perfect 4-for-4 on saves as the Marauder netminder.

"We were a little slow in warmups which was a cause for concern but we came out strong, especially defensively," said O-E coach Chris Parker. "Dom got us going as he usually does with a great goal. He was able to contribute with an assist to Leyton Belill as well.

"Our standouts were on defense. We were able to shut down Corunna's best player. Chaycen Thornton, Josh Brown, Kody Ash, Cole Hannahs, and Ryker Parsons played exceptionally well."

Ovid-Elsie boys race to 8-0 record on soccer pitch

MONTROSE -- Ovid-Elsie maintained its lead in the MMAC boys soccer race -- in undefeated style -- with a dominant 7-1 victory at Montrose on September 2.

"This was definitely one of the more sluggish performances to date," said Marauder coach Chris Parker, after watching his club move to 8-0 overall.

"Although the score shows that we played well, we had no energy on the field and at times struggled to do the simple things.

"We have to raise our level of play as we enter the middle part of our season."

O-E goal scorers were Joey Kozlowski, Leyton Belill (twice), Aidan Doyle, Dominic Martin (twice) and Chaycen Thornton.

Assists went to Ryker Parsons, Dominic Martin (two), Aidan Doyle (two) and Eddie Rademacher.

Dalton Jordan faced five shots in goal for the Marauders.

The host Rams fell to 0-2-1 with the league loss.

Ovid-Elsie 6,

Otisville-Lakeville 1in

MMAC boys soccer showdown
OTISVILLE -- Win #5 in Ovid-Elsie's impressive start to the 2025 season came with a 6-1 thrashing of Otisville-Lakeville in MMAC boys soccer action.

Dominic Martin scored five times after Aidan Doyle notched the opening goal, and coach Chris Parker's Marauders never looked back.

Joey Kozlowski assisted on two of the scorers, and Doyle, Leyton Belill and Marshall Leavitt all had goal-helpers.

Dalton Jordan made 5 saves on 6 shots in the Marauder net.

"We came out strong tonight and took it to Lakeville with 3 goals in the first 10 minutes," said coach Parker. "That took the wind out of their sails and we cruised from there. We still have a lot of work to do but the boys are playing with confidence and that will take us a long way."

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY LEGALS

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

Estate of VIOLA NIELSON
Date of birth: May 17, 1927
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent,
VIOLA NIELSON,
Died on July 24, 2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased will be forever barred unless presented to Cynthia Vargo, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 E. Mack St. #1 Corunna, MI 48817 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

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Alexa B. Pratt. P83426
201 E. State St.
St. Johns, MI 48879
(989) 224-9449

(09-07)

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 8, 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. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Robert J. Andretz and Jacquelyn K. Andretz, Husband and Wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Bank of America, N.A., its successors and assigns Foreclosing Assignee: Bank of America, N.A. Date of Mortgage: June 1, 2018 Date of Mortgage Recording: June 8, 2018 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: \$217,411.57 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Township of Victor, Clinton County, Michigan, and are described as: That part of the South 330 feet of the West fractional 1/2 of the Southwest fractional 1/4 of Section 18, commencing at a point on the section line 905 feet East of the Southwest corner of Section 18, T6N, R1W, thence East 587 feet; thence North 330 feet, thence West 587 feet, thence South 330 feet to the point of beginning. Commonly Known as: 4189 E Pratt Rd., Saint Johns, MI 48879 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act 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 Purchaser: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. 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 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: 09/07/2025 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 321306

(09-07)(09-28)

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 September 24, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Casey R Adams and Stevie Adams Original Mortgagee: The Dart Bank Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None Date of Mortgage: September 16, 2022 Date of Mortgage Recording: September 22, 2022 Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$287,359.82 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Victor, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: Part of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 13, Town 6 North, Range 1 West, Victor Township, Clinton County, Michigan, described as: Beginning on the West line of said Section 13, 1003.86 feet measured South 00 degrees 26 minutes 10 seconds East from the Northwest corner of said Section 13, thence South 88 degrees 23 minutes 20 seconds East 330.00 feet, thence North 00 degrees 26 minutes 10 seconds West 280.00 feet, thence South 88 degrees 23 minutes 20 seconds East 661.50 feet, thence South 00 degrees 26 minutes 10 seconds West 600.00 feet, thence North 88 degrees 23 minutes 20 seconds East 661.50 feet, thence North 00 degrees 26 minutes 10 seconds West 150.00 feet, thence North 88 degrees 23 minutes 20 seconds West 330 feet to the West line of said Section 13, thence North 00 degrees 26 minutes 10 seconds West along said West line 170.00 feet to the point of beginning. Common street address (if any): 7149 Hollister Rd, Laingsburg, MI 48848-9229 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: August 24, 2025 Trott Law, P.C. 31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 642-2515

1570024
(08-24)(09-14)

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 9/24/2025. 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. Names of Mortgagor(s): Taylor Nearhood and Sarah Hurst. Original mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Broker Solutions, Inc., dba New American Funding. Date of mortgage: 2/8/2023. Mortgage recorded on 2/16/2023 as Document No. 5332945. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): New American Funding, LLC. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: \$280,954.72 Mortgaged premises: Situated in Clinton County, and described as: LAND SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VICTOR, COUNTY OF CLINTON, STATE OF MICHIGAN, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT A POINT 400 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTH 50 ACRES OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 11, TOWN 6 NORTH, RANGE 1 WEST; THENCE WEST 768 FEET; THENCE NORTH 429 FEET; THENCE WEST 552 FEET; THENCE NORTH 131 FEET; THENCE EAST 1320 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 560 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as 6214 South Hollister Road, Ovid, MI 48866. The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, or 15 days after the statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days after the statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241, the redemption period will be 1 month from the date of such sale. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes pursuant to MCL 600.3240(16), the redemption period is 1 year from the date of such sale. The redemption period may be 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. Date of Notice: 08/24/2025. Codilis & Moody, P.C. 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (313) 536-2500. This law firm is a debt collector. C&M File 23-25-00294

(08-24)(09-14)



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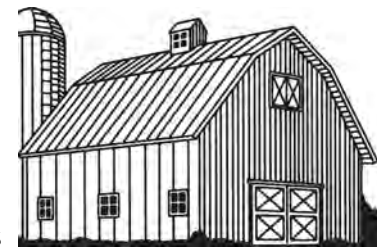
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Wolfpack Boys Down Potterville on Soccer Pitch, Improve to 5-1-1

LAINGSBURG -- The Wolfpack boys soccer team got off to a red-hot start to 2025, with five wins and a tie in their first 7 contests.

A win over Maple Valley moved new coach Emily Tyner's club to quick 5-1-1. "We've had a great start, with one loss so far against Durand -- with tired legs after playing five games in four days. We were not ourselves against Durand."

The Railroaders prevailed for a 4-0 win.

The Wolves rebounded with a gritty 5-3 CMAC win over Potterville, paced by four goals from Keaton Dietz and Everett Rodriguez also finding the back of the net.

"We came out against Potterville with something to prove and kept the ball at 90 percent possession," explained the coach. "The two times Potterville got in our half in the first ten minutes they scored. We then buckled down and played our game, kept possession and kept feeding the balls, we had it tied by half time."

The Wolfpack dropped Potterville to 1-4 with the two-goal victory.

Wolfpack soccer team prevails in CMAC opener over Perry, 2-0

LAINGSBURG -- The Wolfpack varsity soccer team improved to 6-1-1, with a solid 2-0 victory over Perry in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) opener.

"It was our third shut out of the season," said coach Emily Tyner. "We battled with a physically strong Perry team but stuck together as a team and helped defend all around the field."

The Wolves got a goal from Nolan Russell, with an assist from Keaton Dietz; then Dietz scored on a penalty kick in the first half as well to make it 2-0. Camden McGee pitched the shutout in goal for the red-and-white.

Marauder Host Double-Digit Teams for 24th Cross-Country Invite

ST. JOHNS -- Twenty teams from around mid-Michigan dotted the field as Ovid-Elsie's cross-country program hosted the 24th annual Marauder Invitational at Uncle's Johns Cider Mill here.

Pewamo-Westphalia's girls won the small school division with 35 points, ahead of Olivet 57, Leslie 76, Valley Lutheran 112, Perry 146, New Lothrop 155, Laingsburg 164 and the host Marauders 170.

P-W also prevailed in the boys race with 30 points, outdistancing Leslie 53, Fowler 73, Olivet 75, Ovid-Elsie 138, Laingsburg 176, Byron 209, New Lothrop 222, Morrice 228 and Saginaw Valley Lutheran 288.

Laingsburg's Austin Hodges was the top area finisher in the boys race, 17th in 19:24.32. Teammate Joel Rathka ran 37th in 20:30.85. Also for the Wolves, Calum Knull was 44th (21:15.16), James Foltz 49th (21:29.78), Logan Robinson 59th (21:55.17), Jayden Jackson 66th (22:44.27), Andrew Stevens 76th (24:14.75), Cameron Betts 80th (24:32.20) and Drake Pratt 82nd (24:50.71).

Travis Wright topped the O-E finishers, 21st in 19:36.13. Josh Miller grabbed 23rd place (19:38.25), Mitch Gonzalez 25th (19:46.25), Jeremiah Stewart 29th (20:01.61), Sam Kennedy 61st (22:01.27), Colton Sempstrott 62nd (22:17.10) and Destin Kinney 79th (24:27.68).

For the Lady Marauders, Clarissa Baese topped all area finishers, 15th in 21:40.43. Audrey Bensingler clocked 38th place (24:01.84), Ava Juhas 48th (24:38.43), Dana Juhas 54th (25:52.45), Shaelyn Kinney 69th (28:18.41), Lydia Lawrence 73rd (28:23.90), Haley McClung 80th (29:03.24), Brena Vincent 102nd (40:34.29) and Belle Cooper 103rd (41:37.34).

The Lady Wolfpack was sparked by Hazel Burley, 26th with a time of 22:36.48. Kiki Rusz ran 29th (22:50.30), Samantha Gutzman 30th (22:50.93), Madison Phillips 56th (26:10.64), Hannah Rathka 75th (28:28.68), Meriel Burley 94th (31:38.88), Sarah Kibzey 96th (31:51.89), Grace Knull 98th (34:39.89) and Ruby Burley 101st (39:04.59).

New Exhibit

submitted by Jennifer Ross

The Shiawassee Arts Center opens a new exhibit featuring artwork by Great Lakes Plein Air Painters Association and Art/5 Groups. The exhibit, "Shiawassee Revealed," which runs September 5 through October 25, is sponsored by Cheryl Henry-Downing. The public is welcome to attend the 'Meet the Artists' reception Friday, September 5, 5-7pm.

The Shiawassee Arts Center, celebrating its 53rd anniversary in 2025, is located at 206 Curwood Castle Drive in Owosso and is open to the public, free of charge, Monday through Friday 10-5pm, weekends 12-3pm. The Arts Center features the artwork of local and statewide artists in eight galleries including the Frieseke Gallery and a specialty Gift Shop. SAC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage participation and appreciation of the arts. For more information 989.723.8354 or visit www.shiawasseearts.org.



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Life insurance can help pay mortgage, bills

Jason's neighbor, a widow, sold her home six months after her husband died. The woman told Jason she was moving from the neighborhood because she couldn't afford the mortgage, credit cards and car loan without her husband. Jason was unsettled thinking debt could force his family into the same predicament.

Life insurance can provide peace of mind for you and the loved ones you leave behind. The income tax-free death benefit can help pay for housing and debt, as well as funeral costs and living expenses.

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

Let's start the conversation.

Edward J. Arthur, FIC
9790 E. M-21
Ovid, MI 48866
B 989-834-3300
C 517-697-5430
edward.j.arthur@mwarep.org

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