



100th Win

Ava Juhas was the first female wrestler in Marauder history to hit the 100-win mark for OE Wrestling!

She accomplished this during the home invitational on Friday, January 23rd.

Full story and more sports on pages 7 & 8.

Wolfpack's Latuszek is Finalist for MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award

LAINGSBURG -- Wolfpack senior standout Bella Latuszek is one of six Shiawassee-area finalists for the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA)'s Scholar-Athlete Awards for the 2025-26 school year.

The program, in its 37th year, has recognized student-athletes since the 1989-90 school year and again this winter will honor 32 individuals from MHSAA member schools who participate in at least one sport in which the MHSAA sponsors a postseason tournament, according to a press release from the MHSAA.

Latuszek, the daughter of Brad and Jodi Latuszek of Laingsburg, is a standout in softball and basketball at LHS. She has signed her National Letter of Intent to play for the Lansing Community College Stars.

Other Shiawassee-area finalists were: Nolan Carr (Corunna), Joel DeLorge (Corunna), Madison Dennis (Durand), Emma Winans (Perry) and Sean Dammann (New Lothrop).

Farm Bureau Insurance underwrites the Scholar-Athlete Awards and will present a \$2,000 scholarship to each of the 32 winners. Since the beginning of the program, 991 scholarships have been awarded, according to the press release.

To be eligible for the award, students must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) and previously have won a varsity letter in at least one sport in which the MHSAA sponsors a postseason tournament. Students also were asked to respond to a series of short essay questions and submit two letters of recommendation and a 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

The applications were judged by a 72-member committee of coaches, counselors, faculty members, administrators and board members from MHSAA member schools. Selection of the 32 scholarship recipients will take place in early February.



Bella Latuszek

MI Tri-Share Expands Across Region 7, Bringing Child Care Cost-Sharing to More Employers and Families

submitted by Genesis Lodise

LANSING — Employers across Region 7, including Eaton, Clinton, Ingham, and Shiawassee counties, can now participate in MI Tri-Share, a state-supported employer-based child care cost-sharing program benefit administered by the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP). The expansion brings a proven child care benefit model to more employers and working families across the region.



MI Tri-Share is Michigan's nationally recognized child care cost-sharing program that divides the cost of licensed child care equally among the employee, employer, and the State of Michigan. Families qualify for the state's one-third contribution if their household income falls between 200% and 400% of the federal poverty level.

The expansion of MI Tri-Share in Region 7 aligns with the broader work of the Capital Area Child Care Coalition (CACCC), a regional partnership facilitated by the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) and co-led by United Way of South Central Michigan and Capital Area Michigan Works!, to strengthen child care access, affordability, and workforce solutions. Through the CACCC, regional partners collaborate to advance initiatives like MI Tri-Share that support working families while addressing talent and economic development needs across the capital region.

"LEAP understands from the business community that affordable and accessible childcare capacity is essential to providing a more reliable work force and LEAP is most pleased that we fought to expand this excellent program to all three counties of our region in 2026," said LEAP's president and CEO Bob Trezise. "Childcare should be looked at as essential infrastructure, as much as water or roads, to help our businesses grow. The issue of childcare transcends county borders just as connecting people to jobs transcends county borders."

As part of MI Tri-Share, employers in Region 7 may also utilize MI Care-Share, an add-on option that allows participating employers to extend their child care cost-sharing benefit to employees who do not meet MI Tri-Share's income eligibility. Under MI Care-Share, employers contribute one-third of child care costs, while employees cover the remaining two-thirds. Employees who meet MI Tri-Share income eligibility receive the additional one-third contribution from the state, reducing their family's share to one-third.

"MI Tri-Share helps employers attract and retain staff by helping parents remain in the workforce," said Shannon Garrett, MiLEAP's MI Tri-Share Senior Program Advisor. "As a public-private investment, MI Tri-Share and MI Care-Share allow Michigan employers a low-cost way to offer an in-demand workplace benefit, giving them a competitive advantage in talent recruitment."

The Shiawassee Regional Education Service District (RES D) serves as the regional facilitator hub for MI Tri-Share in Region 7. Facilitator hubs recruit employers and employees into the program and provide ongoing support to ensure successful participation.

"This expansion allows us to meet employers and families where they are across Region 7," said Courtney Herrick, Great Start Collaborative Director, of Shiawassee Regional Education Service District. "By serving as the regional facilitator hub for MI Tri-Share, we can help more employers offer a meaningful child care benefit while supporting working families with reliable, affordable child care options."

The expansion of MI Tri-Share in Region 7 reflects a continued commitment to strengthening Michigan's child care system while supporting workforce participation and economic stability for families.

For employers interested in learning more about offering MI Tri-Share as a benefit for their employees, please contact the Region 7 Facilitator Hub: Courtney Herrick at herrick@sresd.org

Meridian Weekly

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Social

Ashley PTO Chili Cook-off and Dessert Bake-off

submitted by Kristen Ringle

On Sunday, February 22nd from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. the Ashley PTO will be holding a Chili Cook-off and Dessert Bake-off at the Ashley School Cafeteria.

\$5 donation gets you sampling tickets and you be the judge!

Registration and information deadline is February 15, 2026. Use this scan code.



Library News

Ovid Public Library

Looking for something to do to beat the mid-winter blues? Then come to the Ovid Public Library. We've got lots of new books to check out. Come try a new author or revisit a past favorite. Or how about a puzzle? We have so many in our puzzle exchange ranging from small ones for the kiddos to 300, 500, 750 and 1000 pieces. There's even a few bigger ones if you're looking for a real challenge.

We've also got some fun programs this week. On Monday, February 2 will be our Adult Booktasting. This is a good place to meet other readers and find out what books others are reading and enjoying. They meet at 1:00 and all are welcome.

On Wednesday, February 4 we will be showing the movie 'Singin' in the Rain' starring Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds. Movie time is 1:00 and light snacks are provided.

Friday, February 6 will be our Children's Story Hour. Bring the kids for a fun-filled hour of stories, crafts and a snack. Story hour will begin at 10:30 and this week's theme will be Valentine's Day.

Just a reminder that if the weather is bad please call or check our facebook page to make sure we haven't closed or delayed opening. We don't always close if the schools are closed but we do make our decisions based on whether or not we feel it is safe for staff and patrons to travel.

Ovid Historical Society Executive Committee Meeting

OVID - On Tuesday, February 3, 2026, the Ovid Historical Society Executive Committee will meet at 6:00pm to discuss business. At 7:00 pm a program with updates and discussion for plans to continue the preservation of Ovid History and the Museum that reflects the journey that made Ovid a special place to call home.

The membership welcomes volunteers to give presentations of historical artifacts, help with fundraisers, and promote awareness of Ovid History. If you have family history or interesting facts about the area and events over the last 150 years, they would love to schedule a time for you to share your knowledge.

All are Welcome to join the membership meeting at 131 E. Williams St. at 7:00 pm on every first Tuesday of the month.

Holy Family Fish Fry Dinners Coming Soon

submitted by Cindy Broome

BELIEVE IT OR NOT . . . Holy Family Fish Fry Dinners will soon open their doors AGAIN! Some things never change and that is true of these dinners.



Menu: THE SAME. Servers & Helpers: THE SAME. And PRICE: THE SAME SINCE 2023!

Yep you read right, our prices have not gone up like so many other things. We decided to keep the price the same in the hopes that you will be able to come and enjoy a good home cooked meal.

Starting Feb. 13th, and serving again Feb. 27th, March, 13th & 27th and final dinner on April 10th the Friday after Easter-- you won't have to eat Easter leftovers, instead, you can enjoy one more fish dinner before we close up for the season. The price will stay the same: \$16/adult, children 6 to 12 years old \$8, and kids under 5 eat for free.

Meal includes: COD fish -- Fried & Baked, cheesy potatoes, French fries, baked beans, tropical salad, coleslaw, green beans, corn, dinner roll, pickles, condiments, choice of dessert and drink.

Make your plans now, doors will open at 4:30 pm on Feb. 13th. Hope to see you then!

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING DATES 2026 (ALL MEETINGS 7:00PM)

FEBRUARY 5, 2026	AUGUST 6, 2026
MARCH 5, 2026	SEPTEMBER 3, 2026
APRIL 2, 2026	OCTOBER 1, 2026
MAY 7, 2026	NOVEMBER 5, 2026
JUNE 4, 2026	DECEMBER 3, 2026
JULY 2, 2026	

Budget Meetings 2026

Thursday, February 5th 6:30 pm
Thursday, March 5th 6:30 pm

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Looking for Ovid Centennial Photos for Future Publication

submitted by Ken Miller

The Ovid Centennial that took place in June of 1969. Many articles were published in the area newspapers and many archives of that event are currently being held in the History Room at the Ovid Public Library. Along with that collection are many real photos turned into the society. Ken Miller; the current Historian would like try to gather slides, negatives and real photos from those in the area. His attempt is to produce a colorful publication that can be viewed and enjoyed by all. If you have any such items; please loan them to Ovid Historical Society via the Weekly and they can include them in our collection and promptly return them to you.

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The Winter of Our Recycling Discontent

submitted by Ellen Link

For the first time in the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers' 35+ year history, recycling collections have had to be canceled three times this winter due to extremely cold weather, two of those times being back-to-back. Hopefully that will not happen again and our scheduled 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (February 3 and 17), 4-6 p.m., and 2nd and 4th Saturdays (February 14 and 28), 9 a.m.-1 p.m. will go on as usual.

We also hope all our patrons will understand that volunteers cannot be expected to work in unusually cold weather, which has recently reached below-zero wind chills. No one here is getting paid to sustain frostbite, though our guys still come in to bale cardboard and plastics. What would we all do without them? So, please be aware of our weather policy: we will be closed if temperatures are predicted to be 15 degrees or lower or road conditions are deemed hazardous.

Those new to using our recycling facility can find most of the details, including a list of the materials we take and how to prepare and sort them, at the contacts listed below. Also, our greeters now have a handy introductory packet of information to give to new patrons. Two notes concerning household batteries: First, please do not bring in corroded batteries, which can contaminate a whole load of good ones; they should be thrown in the trash. Since we continue to take batteries all the time, there's no need to store them up until you have a large amount, which is difficult and time-consuming for us to sort; please sort them at home.

Second, we're not the only place you can take your household batteries. Home Depot accepts rechargeable and lithium-ion batteries (but not alkaline) for recycling, and Staples will take your alkaline and rechargeable batteries for free and give you coupons in return! Remember, the risk of fires from lithium-ion batteries is real—but preventable. A great article from Handyman magazine (www.familyhandyman.com/article/lithium-batteries-fire-risk/) provides a good understanding of how this can happen and how to prevent it. Precautions include the proper way to choose, store, and charge these batteries.

Questions, comments or ideas? We're all ears. Visit our Facebook page or website (<https://recyclelaingsburg.wixsite.com/mysite>). You can also call Terry or Ellen Link at (517) 651-2005 or Beth Lange at 651-6437. Together, let's continue working toward a sustainable future in our own backyard.

Have a Heart for Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee County

submitted by Helen Rathbun

Have a Heart for Respite happens in January and February. This is a fundraiser idea given to us by Mary Slingerland to encourage heartfelt donations to sustain our services we provide together.

We are also calling on those who would consider being partners with us, to please consider a contribution of any amount. \$550 would help provide Respite Volunteers family services for one year. Most donors last year donated in honor of or in memory of a loved one or a volunteer.

Does your company match donations? Locally, Home Depot, State Farm, Exxon Mobile, Verizon, AT&T & DirecTV, and Starbucks have this program for their associates. There may be more, so ask your employer if they have a company match program.

Perhaps your family member works for such an organization locally or nationally and would consider this for Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee.

Memorial Healthcare Welcomes Ophthalmologist to Owosso

submitted by Dianna Vsetula

Owosso — Memorial Healthcare is pleased to welcome Dr. Anthony Hsu to our active medical staff and to the Owosso community.

Dr. Hsu earned his medical degree from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in Missouri. He completed an internship at POH Regional Medical Center/MSU-COM in Pontiac and his residency in Osteopathic Ophthalmology at St. John Providence Health System in Madison Heights. Dr. Hsu also completed a Clinical and Surgical Glaucoma Fellowship at New York Eye and Ear infirmary in New York.

Prior to joining Memorial Healthcare Ophthalmology, Dr. Hsu worked at Novi Ophthalmology as a Comprehensive Ophthalmologist/Glaucoma Specialist. Dr. Hsu is currently a clinical faculty member at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in the department of Neurology and Ophthalmology.

Dr. Hsu has co-authored several publications and has served as a presenter for Ophthalmology and Glaucoma lectures. He is also a member of American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), the American Glaucoma Society (AGS), and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO).

Dr. Hsu is currently accepting new patients with most insurances.

Mark Your Calendar

submitted by Diane Korienek

Saint Cyrils Czech-Slovak Heritage Mass will be held on Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

All are welcome to come celebrate their heritage.

Potluck and music. Table service and beverages are furnished.

For more information contact Diane Korienek (989) 307-1776.

Ovid Historical Society History Room Hours Change

The Ovid Historical Society History Room, located inside the Ovid Public Library, has changed their hours open to the public to every Monday from 1pm-3pm. For more information or to set up an appointment, call Ken Miller at 989-666-6826 or by email at ovidite@yahoo.com



Dr. Anthony Hsu

Elsie United Methodist Church Warming Center

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE — With wind chill temperatures dropping and additional snowfall expected, concerns are growing for the safety and well-being of local residents. The Elsie United Methodist Church, located at 160 W. Main Street, Elsie, Michigan, has been designated as the community's official warming center.

The church's Fellowship Hall is open to anyone needing a place to warm up. Community members who enjoy walking are invited to come indoors and use the space for light exercise, while the sanctuary is available for those seeking a few quiet, reflective moments. Guests are encouraged to use the Church Street entrance for convenience and safety.

"All are welcome," church representatives emphasized.

Regular Sunday worship services are held at 9:30 a.m., led by Pastor JD Paik, followed by a time of fellowship.

OID TOWNSHIP Public Notice of Budget Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ovid Township Board will hold a budget public meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 5 p.m., at the Ovid Township Hall, 1015 Baese Court, Ovid, MI.

This is to discuss the 2026-2027 fiscal year budget.

"The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this meeting." (MCL 141.412)

Claudia Barrett Pluger,
Clerk Ovid Township

Valentines Day

FUNDRAISER DANCE

Valentines Day Dance with Live Band



Saturday, February 14, 2026, Elsie MI
Silent Auction 6:30-9pm
Dessert Bar Provided

Band: Timeless 8pm-11pm
Dessert Bar/Water included. BYOB
1 Ticket \$15 or 2/\$25

DOOR PRIZE (Winner drawn at the end of the night no need to be present)
50/50 Raffles

Proceeds go towards getting a new roof for American Legion Post 502. If interested in donating, sponsoring, or ticket info contact:
Mark and Jen Thornton (989) 307-2010/(989) 292-2726
Steve and Barb Sutliff (989) 492-6653

Laingsburg American Legion Post 248 Valentine's Dance

submitted by Cindy Suggate

The Laingsburg American Legion Post 248 will be having a Valentine's Dance on February 14th. The doors open at 5:30 pm, cocktail hour is 5:30-6:30, dinner 6:30-7:30 and music starting at 7:30. Music will be provided by Sudden Impact band. Tickets are \$30.00 each and there will be a cash bar. You can purchase tickets from the American Legion Post in the Dugout, texting Kelsey Curtis at 517-881-4584 or Cindy Suggate at 517-651-5669. All proceeds from the dance will go towards the parking lot fund. Get your tickets soon. We hope to see you there and hope everyone has a great time.



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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 Hanvey 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
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Obituaries

Joanne Zimmerman

Joanne Zimmerman, of St. Johns, died peacefully at home, surrounded by family, on Friday, January 23, 2026.

Joanne was born on March 5, 1938, in St. Johns, the daughter of Harold and Alice (Dobson) Palmer. She graduated from Rodney B. High School in 1955.

While Harold Zimmerman was home on leave from the U.S. Navy, the two met and went roller skating together. After a brief courtship, they were married on June 16, 1956, beginning a devoted marriage that would span nearly 70 years.

Joanne worked for 10 years at Federal Mogul and later for 12 years at Hazel Findlay Country Manor.

She was a talented quilter and a true perfectionist, lovingly making quilts for her family—each grandchild and great-grandchild, for baby showers, and for countless special moments. Joanne and Harold enjoyed bingo and euchre tournaments together. Baking was another way she showed her love. Joanne made cookies for her family, the Ovid quilt group, firefighters, euchre groups, and anyone who might need a little sweetness. To many, she was simply described as “an angel.”

Joanne was caring, doting, and calm. She was known for her steady presence and gentle wisdom, often reminding others, “This too shall pass.” Family meant everything to her, and she cherished family card nights and spending time together.

Joanne is survived by her husband of nearly 70 years, Harold Zimmerman; her daughters, Jenifer Abbott, Lisa Coffman, and Nadine Zimmerman; 35 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, with more on the way; along with many nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Melissa, and many half brothers and sisters. A Funeral Service was held at the funeral home on Monday, January 26, 2026. Granddaughter, Erika Sparks officiating. Burial was at South Bingham Cemetery, St. Johns. Memorial contributions may be made in her name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The family was served by McGeehan Funeral Home Keck-Coleman Chapel.



Frank J. Dukes

Frank J. Dukes, a cherished father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully on January 21, 2026, at the University of Michigan Health in Lansing. Born on December 6, 1947, in St. Johns, Michigan, to the late John A. Dukes and Laura I. Schultz, Frank's gentle spirit and unwavering kindness touched the lives of all who knew him.

Frank graduated from Elsie High School, where he formed lifelong friendships and laid the foundation for his future. Shortly after graduation, he began a distinguished career at General Motors, dedicating 30 years of service from 1969 to 1999.

In 1967, Frank honorably served his country in the United States Army and was a proud Vietnam Veteran. His bravery and patriotism were among the many qualities that earned him the respect and admiration of his peers. During this defining time,

Frank married the love of his life, Nancy Ann Stevens, at St. Paul Catholic Church on August 12, 1967. Together, they built a life filled with love, laughter, and shared values, remaining devoted to each other for 58 years until Nancy's passing in May 2025.

Frank's life was a testament to the power of simplicity and the joy found in everyday moments. He was a man who found pleasure in riding around, exploring the world around him, and embracing the beauty of life's journey. A long-standing member of St. Isidore Catholic Church in Laingsburg, Frank's faith was a cornerstone of his life, guiding him through times of joy and sorrow.

He leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories with his surviving daughter, Marsha (John) Beeman, and son, Edward Dukes. Frank's granddaughters, Emily Beeman and Kathryn (Connor Barash) Beeman, also many nieces and nephews will forever hold dear the wisdom and gentle guidance he provided throughout their lives. Though he was predeceased by all of his siblings, Frank's memory will continue to be honored by his extended family and friends.

Frank's life was one of quiet strength, unwavering loyalty, and gentle grace. He was a beacon of light to those fortunate enough to have known him, and his memory will continue to inspire kindness and compassion in the hearts of many. As we say farewell to Frank, we celebrate a life well-lived and a soul that has undoubtedly left an indelible mark on this world. He will be deeply missed, but the warmth of his gentle spirit will remain with us always.

The family is being served by Watkins Brothers Funeral Homes, Laingsburg Michigan
Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.WatkinsFuneralHomes.com



“Grief is like the ocean. It comes on waves ebbing and flowing. Sometimes the water is calm, and sometimes it is overwhelming. All we can do is learn to swim.”

~Vicki Harrison

Editorial



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

It would appear that I will be having an interesting/stressful week. On Saturday my water pump quit doing its thing. On Sunday church was canceled due to the very cold temperatures and in the late afternoon a Father/Daughter duo ended in the ditch on my corner. This morning after moving my truck so that the repair folks could get into my driveway I went back into the house with the help of one of my walking sticks. The snow was deeper than I realized. I'm also having straw bales delivered to be put on the northeast corner of my house. This should have been done in November, and I forgot. I went back into the house and sat down on the recliner with Pru, she had an accident and I had to scrub the chair seat and tried to blow it dry. Notice, I did say try. My jeans were wet where I sat, yuck!!!

Sunday morning Pru and I did go over to Diane and Brent's so that I could take a shower, give one to Pru and Noah trimmed Pru's toenails. I did get to have a couple of cups of coffee then came home where I parked in front of the south deck. I had a forty-four pound bag of cat food to get into the house. Yup, I messed up my right side again. Though I did manage to unload my car trunk which had some interesting stuff from Therese. So this morning I'm hoping that the water will return. Oh, I did fill some buckets with snow and melted them so that I could flush the toilet. I will probably do some extra so that I can water my plants. The pump is broke, it being removed and taken back to the shop, the light was hung too low and it froze badly. Hopefully they will be able to fix and return it today with a new heater. Ouch, that will hurt my pocket stash... Such is life. That being said, I should have everything back in working order very shortly.

On Monday afternoon the pump was fixed and I now have water from my well. It makes me very happy and thankful. I managed to do a couple of loads of laundry and got the dishes done. Per normal I went to work on Tuesday morning and after closing the shop at noon, I filled the car up with gas, went home and picked up Prudence. I had a 2:40 PM appointment at the vet's office in Swartz Creek. The weather was atrocious, lots of blowing snow, a few white outs and numerous careless drivers. Out west of Owosso, Pru had a problem. She could barely walk and tried to jump off the front seat which I had covered with an old quilt. She was rather fearful and ended up pooping on the quilt. The poop almost made it into my purse that was sitting on the floor... Poor Pru was horrified and expected me to yell, I calmly told her to sit and it was no big deal. First thing that I did when we got to the veterinary's office was to flip the quilt and blanket off before I picked Pru up and carried her to the door. I had attached her leash to her collar and then we both walked into the reception area an hour early. I got to talk to the veterinarian who was available before our appointment because someone had canceled.

Time we got checked in and ushered into an examination room Pru was being owly and snipping at others. Both of her ears had infections and her right front knee was hurting. After some tests (blood, urine, and stool). Reports wouldn't be back until sometime on Wednesday. Actually it was Thursday afternoon before I got the results. I now have ear drops, pain pills, and liquid antibiotics to administer to her. At least now her tail is wagging again and she is not as nippy, which is not her normal behavior. She is happy to be home and thrilled that my lap is open for her. She does not like some of the meds but tolerates me giving them to her. I'm looking forward to her not snapping at me when I brush her. Pru is responding well, of course I'm back to being broke. Wish that I had had pet insurance on her, but I don't, such is life.

Cousin Peggy dropped by this afternoon and gave me a couple more wide mouth canning jars and we had a marvelous chat. It was very relaxing. May God bless you with interesting visits and good pets. Pru is on of my many blessings. And family and cousins are a great blessing. Be safe and warm. And thank you Dave for delivering the straw bales and placing them where I needed them.

Crystal Mitchell©2026



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Groundhog Day Conspiracy

The weekly Sportsman went down a really deep rabbit hole a few weeks ago while reading an internet article titled "Grading the groundhogs" that was published on January 28, 2025. The article was written by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and was a report on a study to determine the most accurate groundhog weather prognosticator. Nineteen groundhogs and alternative groundhogs (one tortoise, one prairie dog statue, and three taxidermied groundhogs) were selected based on that each one had at least twenty years of weather forecasting and must be active as of February 2, 2024. Weather data from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information was used to base accuracy on March temperature averages from the U.S. each year from 2005 to 2024.

Our friend Phil in Punxsatowney, PA and Woody from Howell, MI placed 17th and 18th due to their 35% accuracy. But wait, the Weekly Sportsman remembers attending last year's events at the Howell Nature Center and hearing that Woody has an accuracy rate of 65% for the last twenty six years. So even if Woody was 100% accurate in her six additional years, not included in the study, the math still doesn't add up. As a matter of fact, Woody still wouldn't even be at 50% with all of her twenty six years included. Maybe the Weekly Sportsman needs to ask some questions at this year's events which start at 7:30 a.m. this coming Tuesday. If interested in attending make sure you register at howellnaturecenter.org and come early for the continental breakfast, costume parade, trivia, photo opportunities, etc.

-WS

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

Proper Funeral Etiquette

Dear Andy,

My aunt recently passed away. Our family sent a plant with flowers which cost \$80.00. We had four siblings to divide the amount but that still seemed like a lot of money, considering there were plenty of flowers and plants from her church friends and her immediate family at the funeral. I felt obligated when my out-of-state siblings suggested we send a plant. What do you think is the appropriate thing to do? I was the only one from our branch of the newsfamily. And, I hope I can collect the costs before next summer's family reunion.

Loving Niece

Dear Loving Niece,

You are not just a loving niece, you are a kind and responsible sister. Send your sibs a self-addressed stamped envelope or your Venmo Acct information soon! And...

This is a subject matter that should be talked about at a time when you are not under pressure to feel obligated. Plan with your siblings sooner rather than next time; there will be more situations you will want to do something special at the loss of another loved one, weddings, a graduation, a baby, a Baptism, or some other milestone for family members.

Your attendance at the funeral or visitation and a gentle hug for your cousins is the most appropriate thing to do. When a person cannot make the funeral because they are out of state, a plant is appropriate and nice, if you can afford it. Another thoughtful idea and not typically too expensive is to give a garden stone, often with a comforting message etched into the stone or a framed picture with a heartfelt verse.

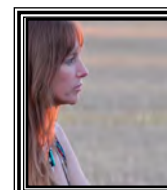
Many families make a monetary donation in the name of their loved one who may have had a special charity or mission in that person's life. For example, to a Humane Society, a youth center, a park, or a medical foundation, if appropriate. You could just send a sympathy card to the family.

A monetary contribution to a specific cause is often suggested in the obituary or funeral home posting. If you can afford it, I think the most appropriate thing to do is to bring a plant or bouquet to your loved ones while they are still living. Take time to have a cup of tea. That will always be appreciated and remembered.

Death is unexpected. We never know when exactly it will happen. So my advice...visit loved ones as much as you can. Do good, Choose joy and happiness for your life. Don't let the death of a loved one or yourself become a regret.

Blessings to you and sorry for your loss.

Andy @ask_andy@aol.com.



Allowing Things to Pass

by LeeAnna Jakus
Licensed Therapist, Reiki Master and Owner
of Healing Feather Wellness
www.HealingFeatherWellness.com
(810) 339-0260

Understanding why healing grief requires feeling it and not avoiding it, will help bring a new relationship with your emotions that can create true relief.

The past isn't the only place your grief and loss is at. When unprocessed, grief and loss will continually shape your mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing. This happens in ways you won't immediately recognize, like anxiety, emotional numbness, depression, and even addiction. When left unresolved, it'll become the influence of how you cope, relate, and live your life. Grief and loss that are pushed away will ultimately keep you stuck.

The stress that comes from loss, grief and trauma builds up in the nervous system creating layers of blockages which cause illness within the body. The blockages manifest in different ways, physically, mentally and emotionally for the person carrying them.

There are no shortcuts through any of it, but there are healthier ways of getting through it. Starting to heal through holistic modalities can be a powerful beginning. Working your way through any type of grief, loss or trauma, can be a treacherous path that is very difficult to maneuver.

Remember that it's not impossible to heal and that you can do it with the correct support and knowledge, as long as there's an understanding that the memory will always remain intact.

The healing process removes the emotional tie from the loss, grief or trauma, so that the memory becomes manageable. This enables any triggers associated from those feelings to extinguish out, allowing the person to live and experience life without stressful baggage or interference from their mental state.

The best thing one can do is to allow things to pass. Permit the stages of grief and loss to flow freely through their body as the stages come, which sooner or later, they will.

There are other holistic options that can help by calming the body's nervous system down and one of those options are like Spinal Flow treatments.

So, take it moment by moment, day by day, through your own healing process. You've got this because you are mighty.

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Editorials are welcome. 250 words or less.

Email to: news@meridianweekly.com.

Must include name.

New Chief of Medical Staff Begins Term at UM Health-Sparrow Lansing

LANSING – Joseph J. Kochan III, M.D., a longtime anesthesiologist and U.S. Navy veteran, has begun a two-year term as Chief of Medical Staff at University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Lansing.

Kochan was elected to the role by members of the medical staff and had served as Chief of Medical Staff-Elect for the past two years.

Kochan succeeds Michael Kent McLeod, M.D., MBA, FACS, FACE, representing the hospital's medical staff and working with leadership on clinical quality, patient safety and physician engagement. University of Michigan Health-Sparrow is grateful for McLeod's outstanding leadership and is indebted to him for his service to our patients and staff.

"I am deeply honored to serve my colleagues and this institution in this capacity," Kochan said. "My focus will be on fostering collaboration, supporting our clinical teams and advancing the exceptional patient care that defines our community."

The Chief of Medical Staff is elected by medical staff members for a six-year leadership track. The role begins with a two-year term as Chief of Medical Staff-Elect, followed by two years as Chief of Medical Staff, and concludes with two years as immediate Past Chief of Medical Staff.

Kochan, a native of Sterling Heights, earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology, Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry and Doctor of Medicine from Wayne State University. He was commissioned in the Navy in 1988 and completed his anesthesiology residency at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va., in 1999. His extensive military career included deployments aboard multiple ships, service as deputy command surgeon in Afghanistan and a COVID-19 pandemic response deployment to New York City in 2020. He most recently served as Deputy Chief of Staff, Naval Medical Forces Pacific, in San Diego, retiring at the rank of captain.

He joined the Sparrow Hospital medical staff in 2001 and has held several leadership roles, including President of Physician Anesthesia Service and, since 2020, Director of Perioperative Services for UM Health-Sparrow Lansing.

Kent Yaney, D.O., Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine and Medical Director of the UM Health-Sparrow Lansing Emergency Department, has been elected to serve as Chief of Medical Staff-Elect.

He credited his commitment to his deep ties to the hospital, where he trained, and where his son received cancer treatment.

"I owe my son's life to Sparrow and the incredible team that cared for him," said Yaney. "It was at that point that I decided to dedicate my entire professional career to Sparrow Hospital."

For more information on the new Medical Chiefs of Staff, visit UofMHealthSparrow.org/News.



Joseph J. Kochan III



Michael Kent McLeod

Nonprofit Leaders Launch "The Year of the Nonprofit" for 2026

submitted by Rachel Osmer

With 650 currently registered, Shiawassee County nonprofits are the bedrock of local communities. This year, the Cook Family Foundation is partnering with a group of nonprofit community leaders to launch a new campaign: 2026 - The Year of the Nonprofit. This campaign strives to educate, inform, and demystify the work nonprofits do. Many misconceptions exist that shape how people view nonprofits.

The Year of Nonprofit is addressing all those unknowns to help the community fully grasp the importance of nonprofits and how to support their work. There will be a variety of marketing initiatives to highlight the work happening right here in Shiawassee County done by nonprofits, including radio spots, interviews, social media highlights, and a podcast.

Nine nonprofit partners are actively participating in the Year of the Nonprofit Campaign to share their organizations' information directly with the community.

1. The Arc Mid-Michigan
2. Durand Union Station
3. Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee
4. The SafeCenter
5. Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce
6. The Shiawassee Family YMCA
7. Shiawassee Humane Society
8. Steam Railroad Institute
9. Voices for Children Advocacy Center

Listen to Z92.5 The Castle to hear the radio spots for the Year of the Nonprofit; each month features a different nonprofit organization, and tune into the In Focus Interview with Lisa D. about The Year of the Nonprofit on Sunday mornings. Follow the Cook Family Foundation on Facebook to keep up with all the happenings for The Year of the Nonprofit. Learn more about The Year of the Nonprofit campaign and how you can support the work nonprofits do in the community at www.cookfamilyfoundation.org/year-of-the-nonprofit/. Contact Rachel Osmer at the Cook Family Foundation for more information: rachel@cookfamilyfoundation.org.



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Save for the future while maintaining some flexibility for college expenses. A Modern Woodmen of America financial representative can help you determine if a Roth IRA could help you achieve your dreams.

Let's start the conversation.

Edward J. Arthur, FIC
9790 E. M-21
Ovid, MI 48866
B 989-834-3300
C 517-697-5430
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Sports

Lady Wolfpack Rolls to 9-2 Record, 43-32 Over St. Charles Bulldogs

LAINGSBURG -- Brooklyn Holm was the player of the night as her 23 points led Laingsburg's girls basketball team to a 42-32 victory over St. Charles.

The non-league win was the Lady Wolfpack's 9th triumph in 11 games. The visiting Bulldogs fell to 7-5 overall.

Mallory Woodbury added 10 points, 6 rebounds and 7 steals and Harper Strouse had 9 boards and 4 blocks to go along with her 4 points. Payne Woodworth led LHS with 4 assists.

For St. Charles, Allison Zelinko had 16 points.



Harper Strouse had 4 points, 4 blocks and 9 boards during the game with St. Charles
Photo by Burg Sports

Lady Wolves score Huge Conference win with 33-21 Shellacking of St. Pats

LAINGSBURG -- Brooklyn Holm had 10 points and 6 rebounds to lead the Wolfpack girls basketball team to a big conference win over Portland St. Patrick here January 28.

Lilli Morrill scored 10 and Mallory Woodbury, 8, in the Lady Wolves' 33-21 victory.

The double-digit win avenged an earlier 57-39 loss to the Shamrocks, and was just the second setback of the season for St.

Pats. The Lady Shamrocks fell to 9-2 overall, 7-2 in the CMAC. Dan Morrill's Wolfpack improved to 10-2 overall, 7-2 in conference play.

Gracelyn Rockey had 12 points for Portland St. Patrick.



Lilli Morrill scored 10 points during the conference game against St. Pats.

Photo by Burg Sports

Ovid-Elsie Bowling

submitted by Matt Fabus

Richfield Bowl was the setting for OE against Montrose. Both teams were on the winning side.

Girls won 26-4 with scores of: Abby Orweller 108, 138; Tori Dennis 121, 128; Haylee Arnett 117, 113; Brooke Pugsley 165, 155.

The boys won 20-10 with scores of: Bryon Odenbaugh 214, 171; Collin Jullie 177, 134; Teagan Ignash 134, 171; Devyn Pugsley 201, 197.

Next up is New Lothrop at Fenton Lanes at 1pm.

Some of the Varsity bowlers competed in a singles tournament on Jan. 25th at Grand Blanc Lanes.

83 girls and 106 competed. Format was four games for total pins. Both sides take top 32.

Brooke Pugsley would be 11th out of 32. Her games were 191, 177, 179, 176. First game in top 32 191 but lost to be end of her day.

Devyn Pugsley qualified 20th to go to match play. 212, 223, 226, 158. First game 199 to make Top 16. Second game 191 just shy of making the top 8.

Another good showing for O-E Bowlers.



Brooke Pugsley



Devyn Pugsley

Marauder Swimmers in Tank Action at Charlotte

CHARLOTTE -- Jolene Hebelier swam to a 2nd place finish in the 100 breaststroke, and Audrey Bensinger was the runner-up in the 200 im, leading Ovid-Elsie's swim team in action at Charlotte High School.

The host Orioles scored a 128-32 victory, swimming to first places in each of the 12 events.

Hebelier shaved :01.71 seconds off her best time in the breaststroke for a new PR of 1:24.16. She also placed in the 50 freestyle (:31.70). Adalynn Roberts placed in the 50 free (:33.35) and 100 breaststroke (1:43.86).

Lilliana Kennedy placed in the 50 free and 50 backstroke where she set a new personal record in :43.39 (:02.25 second improvement).

Bensinger placed in the 100 freestyle (1:14.36).

Emberlyn Kvalevog was one of the top Marauders in the 50 freestyle (:39.25).

Robert Kebler was the Marauders' top finisher in the 100 fly (1:34.37).

Maria Gifre-Troya was a top O-E performer in the 100 backstroke (1:59.119).

Lilliana Kennedy, Jolene Hebelier, Audrey Bensinger and Robert Kebler sparked O-E to 3rd place in the 200 medley relay, 2:26.91.

Marauders Keep Mount Morris Girls Winless with 50-9 Basketball Victory

MOUNT MORRIS -- Panthers' girls basketball remained winless after Ovid-Elsie came to town and delivered a 50-9 knockout blow here January 23.

Kendal Tokar sparked O-E with 20 points and 6 assists as Shaun McKinney's club moved to 7-1 in conference play, 9-2 overall. The Lady Panthers fell to 0-10, 0-8 in MMAC action.

Kortlynn Loynes added 9 points and 5 rebounds for the Ovid-Elsie victors. Alyson Moore tallied 8 points for O-E.

Marauders stay in thick of MMAC girls basketball race, 59-11 over Rams

OID-ELSIE -- The Marauder girls varsity basketball team stayed in the thick of the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) race with a 59-11 thrashing of the Montrose Rams here January 27.

Alyson Moore sparked Shaun McKinney's Marauders with 15 points, as they moved to 8-1 in MMAC action, 10-2 overall.

The visiting Rams fell to 1-8 in conference play, 1-11 overall.

McKenzie Keck hit for 12 points, Kendal Tokar 8, Allison Veith 8 and Kortlynn Loynes 8 points in the win. Tokar also dealt 7 assists.

Unbeaten New Lothrop remains atop the MMAC standings, facing a crucial February 6 matchup on O-E's home floor.

Coaches please remember to send in your weekly sports results!
tomturek20032003 @ yahoo.com or news@meridianweekly.com



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Sports

Judas Sets Marauder Female Mat Record; Baese Leads the Way at O-E Invitational

OVID-ELSIE — Will Baese captured a runner-up finish at the annual Ovid-Elsie Individual Wrestling Invitational, and Ava Juhas topped the century mark in victories, highlighting an exciting week for the Marauders on the mats.

Baese grabbed 2nd place at 120 lbs., as the Marauders placed 10th in the 20-team field with 55 points. Plainwell took home team honors with 201 points, followed by Williamston 149, Napoleon 145, Ionia 110, Carman-Ainsworth 87.5, Corunna 81, Grayling 75.5, Clare 58.5, Howell 58 and O-E 55. Ithaca, Haslett, St. Louis, Bath, Owosso, Hemlock, St Johns, Fowlerville, Bellevue and Jackson daVinci completed the field.

Baese fell to Dylan Nieuwenheis of Plainwell in the championship bout.

Marauder junior Travis Wright (126) and freshman Levi Stewart (138) took fourth for the Marauders.

Elsewhere, Juhas was the first female wrestler in Marauder history to hit the 100-win mark. Placers from the girls tournament were Juhas, 2nd place at 115 lbs., and Haley McClung runner-up at 135.

The Marauders wrestle in another local match on February at Laingsburg.

Laingsburg's Low Scoring Output Dooms Wolves Again in Loss to Portland St. Pats

LAINGSBURG -- The Wolfpack's scoring woes again jumped up and bit them in the backside.

Tim Beebe's Wolves had lost three of their past five games heading into Friday's home clash vs. high-flying Fowler. In those three losses, LHS had totaled just 83 points -- a paltry average of 27.67 points per outing.

The latest infliction was a 48-24 loss to surprising Portland St. Patrick, a loss that dropped the Wolves to 6-5 in Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) play, 6-8 overall.

The visiting Shamrocks are in the thick of the CMAC race at 9-2, 10-3 overall.

"We've had a few games where we've shot well," Beebe said following the disappointing loss. "We didn't make one 3-pointer tonight in our own gym. That just never happens."

The hosts grabbed their lone lead of the game in the first quarter, 3-0. After that, this contest was all about a smothering St. Pats' defense. The Shamrocks shut the lights out early, racing to a 24-5 halftime lead.

At one point, the 'Pack went on a 14-minute scoring drought as St. Pats opened the second half on a 13-0 run.

Senior Landon Freeman led LHS with seven points. Junior big man Cash Heaton contributed three points in the loss.

"I thought defensively, we played pretty well," Beebe explained. "When you hold a team to 48 points, you expect to be in the game."

"They are good kids," he said. "They'll come back. They always come back every day and respond."



RedHawks Sweep to Victory Through Middle Weight Classes, Down Wolfpack

LAINGSBURG -- In an impressive 24-win dual meet season, the Saranac RedHawks have rolled to a perfect 11-0 home record in 2025-26.

They looked just as impressive on the road at Laingsburg High School.

The Hawks rolled to 7-straight victories in the 138 through 175 lb. weight classes to secure a 54-30 mat triumph over the host Wolfpack.

Trent LaShauy's Wolves opened with forfeit wins at 106 and 113 lbs., respectively, from Eli Stier and Cooper Mund. The Wolves also scored wins from Dylan Phillips (120 lb. fall over Gabe Scoby), Riley Hannahs (132 lb. fall over Jace Smit), and Charles Dehnert (forfeit win at 215).

Saranac turned the tables, however, with big wins from Dominic Hutter (126 lbs. over Liam McDonald), Aiden Bussell (138 lbs. by forfeit), Sawyer Vankuiken (144 lbs. over Logan Robinson), Gabriel Webb (150 lbs. by forfeit), Kole Kruger (157 lbs. over Tristian Sherman), Jacob Bollone (165 lbs. by forfeit), Pyetro Goulin-Guimaraes (175 lbs. over Cameron Betts), Hunter Peterson (190 lbs. over Carson Helmer) and Whyatt Hicks (285 lbs. over Shaun Mills).

Laingsburg returned to CMAC wrestling action on January 28 at Dansville.

Inspired Women Network to Host February Event: "Network with Confidence"

submitted by Jordan Hankwitz

Owosso — Inspired Women Network will host its first event of 2026, Network with Confidence, on Tuesday, February 11, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Owosso Armory Community Room. The event will feature a dynamic panel discussion focused on practical, real-world networking strategies designed to help professionals build confidence and create meaningful connections.

Local business leaders will share proven insights and personal experiences on how to network with purpose and authenticity. Panelists include Krystle Steele, The Vernon Agency; Kori Shook of Kori Shook & Associates; Andrew Reger, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones; and Tony Nash of AZEE Branding Solutions.

Networking doesn't have to feel awkward or intimidating," said Laura Archer, SRCC Board Chair. "This event is about giving women the tools and confidence to turn everyday conversations into opportunities that support both personal and professional growth."

Attendees will gain clarity on how to approach networking with intention, strengthen communication skills, and build relationships that align with their goals.

Registration is required. To register, visit www.shiawasseechamber.org/inspired-women-network.html or by calling the Chamber at 989-723-5149

Despite Winter Chill, Consumers Energy Connects Customers to Dollars to Reduce Heating Cost

submitted by Brian M. Wheeler

JACKSON — As Michiganders battle this week's winter chill, Consumers Energy is connecting customers to help with heating bills. Consumers Energy last year helped over 140,000 customers obtain \$60 million to pay energy bills. We are working with customers now to get even more assistance to them — over \$100 million is available statewide — in the new year.

"Our energy assistance team is dedicated to the safety and well-being of our customers, and that starts with making sure they have access to every available dollar to keep costs down," said Lauren Snyder, Consumers Energy's senior vice president and chief customer and growth officer. "Our company is putting money on the table and working with nonprofits to connect people with federal, state and private dollars that will help people today."

Consumers Energy this month announced \$5 million in new support to help customers pay bills. In November, the Consumers Energy Foundation also provided \$250,000 to support the Food Bank Council of Michigan.

This winter, with temperatures below zero, our energy assistance team is actively connecting people with resources to help pay bills.

How can customers get help? Snyder suggested the following:

Call 2-1-1. This free service links Michiganders to assistance in their community, not only to help with energy bills, but also to address many essential needs, from housing costs to food to medical bills.

Apply for emergency relief. If your bill is past due or you have a shut-off notice, apply for State Emergency Relief here: Michigan.gov/MIBridges

Find resources through ConsumersEnergy.com/assistance. Consumers Energy provides benefits for customers in all situations, from home energy assessments to save energy to a monthly budget plan to make bills more predictable, from help for military veterans to bill credits for seniors. Take action today.

Consumers Energy is committed to customers through this winter chill and in all seasons. The price that households pay for natural gas remains historically low, over 25% below the national average.

"Our customers are facing real pressure in their everyday lives, and we are committed to standing with them and helping them find solutions," Snyder said. "When our customers are making hard choices at the kitchen table, energy should not be one of them."

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Dangerously Cold Temperatures Expected Across Michigan

submitted by Clayton Cummins

LANSING - A powerful arctic cold front is forecasted to move across the state in the coming days, ushering in frigid temperatures and high winds leading to dangerous wind chills. The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) is urging residents and visitors to take precautions now to stay safe.



“As Michiganders, we know our winters can include extreme weather, and we are about to face the toughest conditions of the season so far,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. “With potentially dangerous winter weather on the way, the State of Michigan is closely monitoring conditions as they develop and preparing for weather impacts. I encourage every Michigander to prepare, check on your neighbors and loved ones, and stay safe.”

According to The National Weather Service, from Thursday night to Sunday, air temperatures across the state will struggle to make it to zero degrees during the day, while temperatures at night are expected to plunge well below zero. Gusty winds could send wind chills across the Lower Peninsula down to a range of 15 to 25 degrees below zero early Friday morning through Saturday.

Across the Upper Peninsula, wind chills are expected to dip as low as 25 to 45 degrees below zero. Lake effect snow showers off Lake Superior and Lake Michigan are expected to reduce visibility and create hazardous travel conditions. These extreme conditions significantly increase the risk of frostbite and hypothermia within minutes and can lead to hazardous driving conditions.

“We encourage everyone to take this forecast seriously,” said Col. James F. Grady II, state director of Emergency Management and director of the Michigan State Police. “Using the resources available on the MI Ready website, now is the time to prepare as extreme cold can become dangerous very quickly.”

Cold Weather Safety Tips

To stay safe during this extreme cold, MSP/EMHSD recommends the following:

Limit time outdoors. If you must go outside, wear several layers of warm clothing and watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia.

Frostbite symptoms: Numbness, loss of feeling, pale or waxy skin, especially on the face, fingers, and toes.

Hypothermia symptoms: Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, slurred speech, or drowsiness.

Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Use generators and grills only outdoors and away from windows. Never use a gas stove top or oven to heat your home.

Avoid overexertion. Shoveling snow can put extra strain on your heart, so take it easy and avoid sudden bursts of activity.

Check on others. Older adults, young children, and pets are especially vulnerable to extreme cold and should be checked on regularly. Keep pets indoors.

Prepare for travel emergencies. If you must drive, ensure your gas tank is full and your vehicle is stocked with an emergency kit, including warm clothing, blankets, gloves, hats, and a phone charger. If you become stranded, stay with your vehicle and wait for help rather than attempting to walk in the cold.

For more information on how to prepare before, during and after an emergency or disaster, visit www.michigan.gov/miready and follow MSP/EMHSD on X and Facebook.

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ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, GA 30004 ph:470-321-7112
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 judiciary 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 March 04, 2026. 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): KENNETH C. WILLIAMS AND MARCIE KATHERINE COWLEY. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by KENNETH C. WILLIAMS AND MARCIE KATHERINE COWLEY to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR ALLY BANK CORP. F/K/A GMAC BANK, original Mortgagee, for a mortgage dated May 06, 2011, and recorded on May 13, 2011, as document number 5170568 in the office of the County Recorder in and for Clinton County. Said mortgage was assigned by said Mortgagee to NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC as documented by an assignment of mortgage dated June 24, 2025, recorded on June 24, 2025, as instrument number 5355202 in the office of the County Recorder in and for Clinton County,

on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of \$157,494.59. 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 on March 04, 2026 at 10:00 am. Said premises are located in the city of EAST LANSING in CLINTON County, Michigan and are described as: IN BATH TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, TO WIT: UNIT 49, CHATEAU IN THE PINES NO. 2, ACCORDING TO THE MASTER DEED DATED APRIL 26, 1996, RECORDED MAY 28, 1996 IN LIBER 693, PAGES 764 THROUGH 818, INCLUSIVE, AND DESIGNATED AS CLINTON COUNTY CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN NO. 10, AS AMENDED, TOGETHER WITH RIGHTS IN GENERAL COMMON ELEMENTS AND LIMITED COMMON ELEMENTS AS SET FORTH IN THE ABOVE MASTER DEED AS DESCRIBED IN ACT 59 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1978 AS AMENDED, CLINTON COUNTY RECORDS. Property Address: 5795 COLEMAN RD. EAST LANSING, MI 48823 Tax ID No. 010-146-000-049-00 The redemption period shall be Six (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. If this property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judiciary Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the Mortgage sale or to the Mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC Mortgage/Assignee February 1, 2026 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Attorney for Mortgage/Assignee 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Telephone: 470-321-7112 Facsimile: 404-393-1425 Service Email: MIFCLTeam@raslg.com

(02-01)(02-22)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. 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. Under the power of sale contained herein in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised judiciary 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 a cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on March 18, 2026. 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 SALE – Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Flip 3, LLC, original mortgagor, to Oaktree Funding Corp., dated January 18, 2024, and recorded January 19, 2024 in 5341667, in Clinton County records, Michigan, and assigned to U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE OF THE LB-IGLOO SERIES VI TRUST, by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on May 22, 2025 in 5354322, and assigned to U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR LB-DWELLING SERIES VI TRUST by

an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on August 13, 2025 in 5356631, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twelve Thousand Eight-Hundred Ninety-Four and 99/100 dollars (\$112,894.99). Said premises are situated in the Township of Dewitt, County of Clinton, State of Michigan, and described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of the West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 33, Town 5 North, Range 2 West, DeWitt Township, Clinton County, Michigan; thence North 880 feet; thence West 1549 feet; thence North 93 feet and West 471.4 feet to a Point of Beginning in the center of Turner Road, said Point also being located 852.88 feet West of the South 1/4 corner of Section 33 to the intersection at Sheridan Road and North 10 degrees 22 minutes 49 seconds East 989.743 feet on the center of Turner Road to said Point of Beginning; thence North 10 degrees 22 minutes 49 seconds East, 120.00 feet on the center of Turner Road; thence East 137.56 feet; thence South 116 feet along a fence line; thence West 212.56 feet to the Point of Beginning. Property Address: 16779 Turner Road Lansing, Michigan 48906 Parcel No.: 050-033-400-041-00 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. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judiciary 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. Dated: February 1, 2026 For more information, please call: (513) 444-4100 Sottile and Barile PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 394 Wards Corner Boulevard, Suite 180 Loveland, OH 45140 File MF2511012 - FLIP 3, LLC (Commercial) - DA

(02-01)(02-22)

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

Case No: 25-32747-DE
Estate of
CECILIA MARTINEZ
Date of birth: November 22, 1934
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent
CECILIA MARTINEZ
whose address was 4853 W. Price Road, St. Johns, MI 48879
Died on September 9, 2023
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased will be forever barred unless presented to Margarita Matice, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 E. State St., Ste. 4300, St. Johns, MI 48879 and the named representative within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Margarita Matice
10302 W. Hibbard Road
Ovid, MI 48866
(989) 640-4183
Craig S. Gerard P66855
The Gallagher Law Firm, PLC
6025 N. Hagadorn Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 853-1510

(02-01)

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

Case No: 25-32742-DE
Estate of
TIMOTHY JON PADOT
Date of birth: June 29, 1967
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent
TIMOTHY JON PADOT
Died on October 11, 2025
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased will be forever barred unless presented to Tracy Padot, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 E. State St., Ste. 4300, St. Johns, MI 48879 within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Tracy Padot
13185 Specklewood Dr.
DeWitt, MI 48820
(02-01)



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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 FEBRUARY 25, 2026. 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 Joseph E. Clark and Elizabeth Ann Clark, a husband and wife, to The Huntington National Bank, Mortgagee, dated October 31, 2019 and recorded November 8, 2019 in Instrument Number 5285841 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on August 29, 2022, in Instrument Number 5328533, Clinton County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety-One Thousand One Hundred Fifty and 65/100 Dollars (\$91,150.65).

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 FEBRUARY 25, 2026.

Said premises are located in the Township of Olive, Clinton County Michigan, and are described as: That part of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 17, Olive Township, Clinton County, Michigan, beginning on the Section line at a point 790 feet East of the North 1/4 post, running thence east 132.0 feet on the section line; thence Southerly 165.0 feet parallel with North-South 1/4 line; thence West 132 feet; thence Northerly 165 feet to the point of beginning subject to highway right of way.

2343 W Jason Rd, 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: January 25, 2026
File No. 26-000531
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

1583042
(01-25)(02-15)

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 March 4, 2026. 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): Brian Beck and Wendy Beck, husband and wife
Original Mortgagee: Washington Mutual Bank
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Citibank, N.A., as Trustee, in trust for registered Holders of WaMu Asset-Backed Certificates WaMu Series 2007-HE3 Trust

Date of Mortgage: March 27, 2007
Date of Mortgage Recording: April 6, 2007

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$161,300.39

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Watertown, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: That part of the South 7 1/2 acres of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 27, Town 5 North, Range 3 West, Watertown Township, Clinton County, Michigan, described as: Beginning on the East line of Section 27, at a point 668.00 feet North of the East 1/4 corner of Section 27, Town 5 North, Range 3 West, thence North 87 degrees 33 minutes 30 seconds West 330.3 feet; thence North 185.93 feet; thence East 330.00 feet; thence South 200.00 feet on the East line of Section 27 to the point of beginning

Common street address (if any): 15320 S Lowell Rd, Lansing, MI 48906-9344
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: January 25, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1583042
(01-25)(02-15)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Connor Tracy and Kelly Tracy, (the "Owners") having failed to pay assessments required under the terms and conditions of the Bylaws of Nottingham Fields Condominium (the "Lien Claimant"), a condominium project as established by the Master Deed, recorded October 2, 2006 in Document Number 5106948, both inclusive, as amended, Clinton County Records, as evidenced by a Statement of Lien dated May 30, 2025, and recorded May 30, 2025 in Document No. 5354524, Clinton County Records. As of the date hereof, there is outstanding and unpaid on account of said assessment the sum of Three Thousand Seventy-Four and 59/100 Dollars (\$3,074.59), which sum is exclusive of interest, costs, attorney fees, expenses of collection, and future assessments. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 a.m. EST, on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. 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. The premises are located in the Township of Watertown, Clinton County, Michigan and are described as: Unit No. 44, Phase 2, 15217 Loxley Lane, Lansing, MI 48906, a unit in Nottingham Fields Condominium as established by Master Deed, recorded October 2, 2006, in Document Number 5106948, both inclusive, as amended, Clinton County Records, subject to, in accordance with, and together with all rights, privileges, duties and restrictions imposed, reserved or granted in said Master Deed, and also subject to easements and restrictions of record. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA '600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. NOTTINGHAM FIELDS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Dated: January 14, 2026 By: McKenna S. Rivers (P86383) Attorney for Lien Claimant 1700 E. Beltline, NE, Suite 200 Grand Rapids, MI 49525 (616) 726-2209

(01-18)(02-15)

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- Dental • Vision • Paid Holidays

Email resume/inquiries to info@staydryinc.com

517-230-2412
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Elsie, MI



Listening Session



Where: VFW, 218 South Main Street, Ovid, MI

February 10th, 6-7PM

Local business owners and community members are invited to share about what you need from us so we can present tools and resources to make that possible.

Devon Pingel (LEAP), Rachel Elsinga (MEDC), Blake Newman (MEDC) RRC specialist

FREE EVENT



MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Respite Volunteer Training Tuesday, February 10th

submitted by Helen Rathbun

Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee is seeking persons to consider giving Respite Volunteering a try. The non-profit serves adults who have ongoing health and medical challenges in Shiawassee County. Volunteers are matched with one person and their family, to provide friendly visits to the person, and respite (a gift of time) to the family caregivers, in their own community.

Volunteers typically spend 1-3 hours a week with the person they are matched with. The volunteers may play cards or board games, help the person with hobbies, go for walks, help someone write a letter, learn how to keep connected to grandkids on cell or computer, read a book, or just visit with each other. The family caregivers may need time for grocery shopping, going to their physician appointments, or even meeting a friend for coffee or lunch.

In addition to visiting someone, there are multiple other volunteer opportunities; helping at the office in Owosso, helping with events, helping with special projects, and sharing information about the program in their own community and church.

The next Respite Volunteer Training will be Tues. Feb. 10th at 10 am at the Respite Volunteer office, the historic brick home east of Memorial Healthcare hospital, 710 W. King St., main entrance is on the north (parking lot) side. For more information; 989-725-1127 or office@respitevolunteers.org, or stop by the Respite Volunteer office M-F 9-3.

Adults with health and medical challenges, and their family caregivers may also contact Respite Volunteers to request an evaluation to receive Respite Volunteer in home visit to provide education about all the in home and senior care services available, case management by Respite Volunteer staff and the volunteer services. Area Employers wanting to provide information to their employees, who are also family caregivers may also call to schedule presentations, and individual meetings for their employees could also be provided.

The annual Have a Heart for Respite campaign is also now through February. Donations are requested to continue to provide services. The donations can be made in honor, or in memory of someone. For more info see the website, the RVS facebook, or call 989-725-1127.



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Denise, Diane and Joy are Respite Volunteers in Shiawassee County

UM Health-Sparrow Expands Colorectal Surgery Services Amid Rising Cases

submitted by John Foren

LANSING, Mich.- University of Michigan Health-Sparrow is significantly expanding its colorectal surgery services, centralizing a team of four specialized surgeons to address a growing community need and a national rise in colorectal cancer among younger adults.

Daniel Coffey, M.D., Lucas Julien, M.D. and Razvan Opreanu, M.D. will join current colorectal surgeon Kyle Schank, M.D. The team will offer treatment for acute and chronic colorectal conditions. The expansion responds to recent data showing that rates have increased in people younger than 50.

Kyle Schank, M.D., a colorectal surgeon with UM Health-Sparrow, emphasized the urgency. "Expanding our team and services ensures our community has immediate access to the latest diagnostic tools and surgical expertise, close to home," he said.

The surgeons will provide a full spectrum of colorectal surgical care, utilizing advanced minimally invasive techniques. Schank urged adults to talk to their primary care doctor about getting screened starting at age 45, stressing the importance of the updated guidelines.

"Starting screening at 45 is crucial. Many of these cancers are preventable with a timely colonoscopy," Schank added. "This expansion isn't just about treating cancer; it's about enhancing prevention and early detection to save lives."

UM Health-Sparrow Lansing Colorectal Surgery will offer highly skilled colorectal services at its office at 1627 Lake Lansing Road, Suite 100, Lansing, and within the UM Health-Sparrow hospital system.

For more information, visit UofMHealth.org/our-care/specialties-services/colorectal-surgery