



Front row (l-r): Paula Pettigrew, Lynn Schulz and Chair Jane Unterbrink. Back row(l-r): Administrative Assistant Samone Toth, Keith Salisbury, Troy Hayes, Matt Stehlik, Troy Spellman, Ted Schulz and Carol Stewart. Committee member Mike Turner was unable to be with us that evening.

Another Successful Ashley Country Christmas: The Ashley Country Christmas, an event that turns the Village of Ashley into a Christmas Wonderland, again saw thousands visit the tiny Village. The North Pole Express, the 1225 delivered thousands to experience the holidays over five weekends, November 21st thru December 21st. The locals responsible for the success of Ashley Country Christmas are seated here in this photo. The planning, a year long process, would not be successful without the commitment from this group of individuals who volunteer their time.

The 1225 delivered visitors twice a day during those five weeks. Visitors experienced the chance to purchase items from vendors, enjoy entertainment, visits with Santa, sweet treats and food in addition to the train ride. The Village of Ashley truly turned into a Christmas Wonderland.

Elsie Lions Club Holding 32nd Wild Game Dinner

The Elsie Lions Club will be holding their 32nd Annual Wild Game Dinner on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:00p.m.

This will be held at the Elsie American Legion Hall.

Please bring a Wild Game Dish to pass or Tame Dish and your place setting. Potatoes, rolls, milk and coffee will be provided.

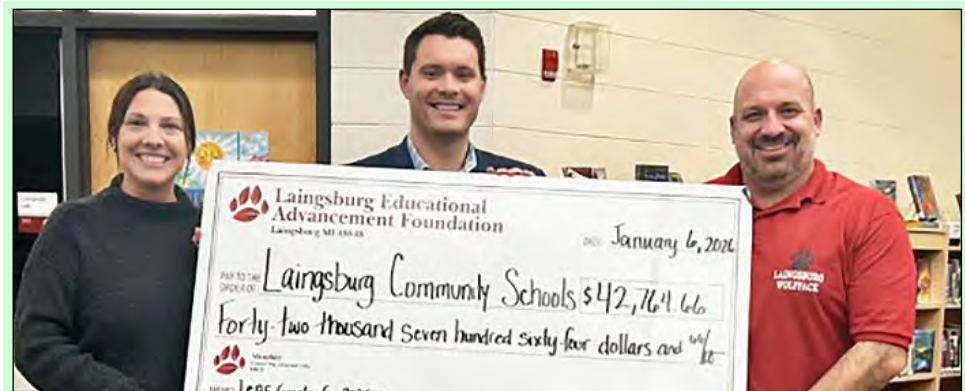
We will be Raffleing 1 Mossberg Patriot 350 Rifle Gun with Vortex 3-9X40 Scope
2. Fish Finder, Vexilar FL-SE Game Pack 19,

Tickets on sale at \$10/per ticket now by calling Lion Richard Easlick 517-881-0024 or Lion Rick Jones 989-666-2781 or at the door if not sold out!

We will also have Raffle prizes for children and adults, tickets available at the door.



EVERETT SMITH
Guest Speaker



Laingsburg Educational Advancement Foundation (LEAF) representatives Julie Nosek (left) and Christian Ragsdale (center) present a check for \$42,764.66 to Laingsburg Board of Education president Jason Michels.

Contribution Topping \$40,000 Presented by LEAF to Laingsburg Community Schools

LAINGSBURG -- The Laingsburg Educational Advancement Foundation (LEAF) has presented a check for \$42,764.66 to fund 25 grants submitted by teachers and administration. The presentation was made to the Board of Education at its monthly meeting on January 6.

The funds will be used to " ... create innovative educational experiences and programs for the Laingsburg students that will be utilized for the 2025/2026 school year," LEAF explained in its social media release.

Some highlights of the grants are:

- Early Childhood Education Center
- Dramatic play materials in the Young 5's classroom
- Hands-on enrichment for Kindergarten classrooms
- A Classroom Library project
- Laingsburg Elementary School
- STEM activity bin supplies for Science
- Vocal and Instrumental Foundations Program for Music
- 3rd Grade Nature Camp
- Salmon in the Classroom and Sea Lampreys in Michigan Education Program
- A Regulated Classroom project
- Big History Lesson
- Junior Achievement BizTown field trip
- House System pedagogy expansion
- Upper elementary Writing/Journaling/Poetry Club
- Wings Of Fire graphic novel classroom sets
- Counseling office sensory supplies and CharacterStrong implementation materials
- Laingsburg Middle School
- 8th grade Washington DC trip assistance
- Dedicated MS Robotics workspace
- Laingsburg High School
- Yearbook restoration and tech upgrades
- Area microphones for the auditorium
- Walking treadmill desks for Special Education
- Heart rate monitors for Physical Education
- Phlebotomy and injections training
- Dry erase table tops for Art

LEAF's annual Fundraiser in February helps support numerous educational opportunities not possible in the school budget.



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Social

Laingsburg Lions Free Spaghetti Dinner Returns January 20th

LAINGSBURG — Capacity crowds of over 200 diners have greeted the Laingsburg Lions Club at its past free Spaghetti Dinners.

The next dinner, hosted by the Laingsburg Lions in conjunction with the American Legion Post 248, will be held on Tuesday, January 20 from 5 p. m. to 7 p.m.

The menu includes spaghetti with or without meatballs, garlic bread, a beverage and dessert. There is no cost, but donations are gratefully accepted.

This is a zero-waste event, with the assistance of the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers.

To-go orders will be available; sorry no deliveries. Bring a friend, bring a neighbor and enjoy a great evening of community fellowship; the community truly coming together for the betterment of all. Everyone is welcome!

The Legion Hall is located at 1240 W. Grand River Ave., Laingsburg.



Nancy and Darrell Smith Celebrating 75th Wedding Anniversary



Nancy and Darrell Smith were married in Ovid in 1951 making this their 75th wedding anniversary on January 22nd.

They have 5 children, Claudia Gielow, Norman and Patty, Kim and Pete Garcia, Lisa and Mark Meyers and Lora and Matt Dougherty, along with 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

The couple will celebrate with family with a dinner in Frankenmuth.

Cards may be sent to Nancy and Darrell at 319 Prospect St., Ovid, MI 48866.

Elsie Library Adventures

submitted by Ann Trierweiler

Happy New Year! So many days and so many books to read in 2026. Winter is such a good time to curl up in a soft blankie with a cup of cocoa and a good book. The cocoa being WITH the good book, not ON the good book... Sorry, I'm a librarian and the book guardian in me comes out in these moments.

Saving money is a good new year resolution. Have you considered Elsie Public Library as a part of that goal? From 1/7/2025 to 1/07/2026 ten patrons saved from \$15,018.51 to \$3,502.19. That is just our book records. We have thousands of DVD's, magazines, puzzles, blood pressure kits, cake pans and games that can be checked out to save you time and money. The best part for us is that we get to meet and know more incredible people! Come and check out our Elsie Public Library.

We are just beginning a new year and already I remind you of a library closing. We will not be here on January 19, 2026 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. I found this quote of his, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." Mr. King is still an inspiration with his amazing legacy and immortal inspiring words.

The Elsie Historical Room will be open from 2-5 pm on January, Wednesday 21. They are staying open two days each month through April. Then they will be able to resume regular hours.

Our children will still have two Mondays for Music and Motion, January 12 at noon and January 26 at noon. On Saturday, January 24, at 11:30 am, there will be a craft and story time. Spoiler has it that there are caterpillars and buttons and snow...Oh my!

Adult and Teen craft time is on January 15 at 5:00 pm. We are not sure what the craft will be, but we would enjoy seeing the projects you are currently working on...It is always fun to see the patterns and ideas. Bring your current project in with you. I need for you guys to step up with your crafting Super Powers and come show us how you do what it is that you do.

Homeschool Moms are going to meet at 5:30 pm on January 22. It is a good time to come and sit with others that have some of your same questions. Sometimes the questions are still there, but they find ideas and ways to navigate this experience.

We at Elsie Public Library do love all our children. It is fun to watch all of them at story times as they interact and play. I enjoy their stories, their opinions on different books, and their life stories. Was it Art Linkletter... "Kids say the darndest things?"

Please check our Facebook page for any closing or program updates!! Happy New Year and we hope to see you soon!

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Friday: Closed

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Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee Volunteer Training Friday, January 16th

submitted by Helen Rathbun

Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee is seeking persons to consider giving Respite Volunteering a try. The nonprofit serves adults who have ongoing health and medical challenges in Shiawassee County. Volunteer Services for persons and their caregiving families are based on the availability of volunteers for each community. 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.

Respite 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 your community and church.

The next Respite Volunteer Training will be Fri. Jan. 16th 9-11 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.

VICTOR TOWNSHIP CLINTON COUNTY MICHIGAN CORRECTION NOTICE TO VICTOR TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Victor Township Board will hold a **SPECIAL MEETING / BUDGET WORKSHOP** on Tuesday, **January 13, 2026 at - 5:30 p.m.** at the Victor Township Hall located at 6843 E. Alward Rd. Laingsburg, MI 48848.

The purpose of this meeting is to review the 2025-2026 budget for Victor Township.

The Victor Township board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 48 hours' notice to the Victor Township board. Individuals requiring assistance should contact the Victor Township Board by writing or calling the Clerk at the address or telephone number noted below.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (the Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Lianne Prange, Clerk

A copy of this notice is on file in the Office of the Clerk

University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Unveils New, Free Narcan Vending Machines

submitted by John Foren

The University of Michigan Health-Sparrow has installed new Narcan (naloxone) vending machines at our Carson and Clinton community hospitals to expand access to a critical tool during the ongoing opioid epidemic. The goal is to offer free nasal naloxone to help underserved communities and reduce overdose deaths. The machines are stocked with Narcan received from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Officials emphasize that anyone with opioids or sedating medicines in their home should have naloxone, which can sustain a person suffering an overdose until emergency medical services arrive. Interviews are available with hospital officials, along with b-roll of the new vending machine and harm reduction materials.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF DIRECTORS Clinton Conservation District

The Clinton Conservation District 2026 Annual Meeting and Board of Directors election is scheduled for March 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at AgroLiquid 3055 M-21, St. Johns, MI 48879.

Agenda includes: Board Member elections, updates from District staff, Keynote speakers discussing the importance of vernal pools.

Nominating petitions are always available by request year-round at our office. For the 2026 Board of Directors election all nominating petitions must be completed and received by the Conservation District no later than 4:00pm January 16th, 2026. The Clinton Conservation District will be filling two (2) board director 4-year terms by election of voting residents.

Absentee ballots should be requested by phone, mail or e-mail. Absentee ballots are also available, by appointment only, at the Clinton Conservation District office located in the USDA Service Center, 2343 North US-27, St. Johns, MI 48879, during the regular business hours of Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Kurt Wolf at 989-224-3720, ext. 5 or by e-mail at kurt.wolf@macd.org. Voting residents are individuals of legal age who can demonstrate residency in Clinton County by one (1) piece of identification.

OVID TWP. PROPOSED MEETING MINUTES - Thursday, December 18, 2025

Supervisor J. West called the regular meeting to order at 6 p.m., with the Pledge to the Flag. Roll Call: Supervisor Jennings West, Clerk Claudia Barrett Pluger, Treasurer Nancy Hughson, Trustee Bobby Byles, Trustee Kurt Wolf
Absent: None

Guests: Keith Jones, Woody Woodworth, Lionel Olson, Robin Olson, Keith Weaver, Peggy Lidgard, Gary Kioski, Connie Kioski, Duane Call, Nicole Fickes, Larry Bosom

Approval of Agenda: Board discussion on Agenda items.

Motion by B. Byles that we approve the agenda with the suggested changes, Seconded by

K. Wolf to support the changes. Carried.

Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2025: Moved by N. Hughson to approve the minutes, Seconded by B. Byles. Carried.

Treasurer's Financial Report:

Treasurer commented the date on the report says December 17 and should be 18. Moved by K. Wolf to accept and place on file the Treasurer's report with the correction of the date from December 17 to December 18, Seconded by B. Byles. Carried.

Clerk's Report & Check Register-\$11,644.95 (November 21, 2025-December 18, 2025):

Moved by J. West to accept the Clerk's report, Seconded by B. Byles. Carried. Public Comments: Keith Jones

New Business:

Special Land Use Application - (PC-01-26) (PSLU250004) - Duane and Molly Call: Board discussion with Mr. Call. The Board has no problem with this Special Land Use Application.

MTA Winter Academy: Board discussion. The Supervisor suggested it would be good if the entire Board could go.

Reports by:

Assessor - Peggy Lidgard

County Commissioner - Nicole Fickes Library - Trustee Bobby Byles OMESA - Treasurer Nancy Hughson CAASA - Supervisor Jennings West

Public Comments: Connie Kioski, Nicole Fickes

Board Comments: Comments by B. Byles, N. Hughson, K. Wolf

Adjournment: Motion by C. Pluger to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by K. Wolf. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Claudia Barrett Pluger, Clerk

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.

VICTOR TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 27 CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY ELECTRIC FRANCHISE ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE, granting to CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY, its successors and assigns, the right and authority to construct, maintain and commercially use electric lines and related facilities including but not limited to towers, masts, poles, crossarms, guys, wires and transformers on, under, along, and across public places including but not limited to highways, streets, alleys, bridges, and waterways, and to conduct a local electric business in the TOWNSHIP OF VICTOR, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

THE TOWNSHIP OF VICTOR ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. GRANT and TERM. The TOWNSHIP OF VICTOR, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, hereby grants to Consumers Energy Company, its successors and assigns, hereinafter called "Consumers" the right and authority to construct, maintain and commercially use electric lines consisting of towers, masts, poles, crossarms, guys, wires and transformers on, under, along, and across public places including but not limited to highways, streets, alleys, bridges, and waterways, and to conduct a local electric business in the TOWNSHIP OF VICTOR, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

SECTION 2. CONDITIONS. No public place used by Consumers shall be obstructed longer than necessary during construction or repair, and shall be restored to the same order and condition as when work was commenced. All of Consumers' electric lines and related facilities shall be placed as not to unnecessarily interfere with the public's use of public places. Consumers shall have the right to trim or remove trees if necessary in the conducting of such business.

SECTION 3. HOLD HARMLESS. Consumers shall save the Township free and harmless from all loss, costs and expense to which it may be subject by reason of the negligent construction and maintenance of the lines and related facilities hereby authorized. In case any action is commenced against the Township on account of the permission herein given, Consumers shall, upon notice, defend the Township and its representatives and hold them harmless from all loss, costs and damage arising out of such negligent construction and maintenance.

SECTION 4. EXTENSIONS. Consumers shall construct and extend its electric distribution system within said Township, and shall furnish electric service to applicants residing therein in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. FRANCHISE NOT EXCLUSIVE. The rights, power and authority herein granted, are not exclusive.

SECTION 6. RATES and CONDITIONS. Consumers shall be entitled to provide electric service to the inhabitants of the Township at the rates and pursuant to the conditions as approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission. Such rates and conditions shall be subject to review and change upon petition to the Michigan Public Service Commission.

SECTION 7. REVOCATION. The franchise granted by this ordinance is subject to revocation upon sixty (60) days written notice by either party. Upon revocation this ordinance shall be considered repealed and of no effect past, present or future.

SECTION 8. MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION JURISDICTION.

Consumers remains subject to the reasonable rules and regulations of the Michigan Public Service Commission applicable to electric service in the Township and those rules and regulations preempt any term of any ordinance of the Township to the contrary.

SECTION 9. REPEALER. This ordinance, when enacted, shall repeal and supersede the provisions of any previous Consumers' electric franchise ordinance adopted by the Township including any amendments.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect on 02/10/2026

We certify that the foregoing Franchise Ordinance was duly enacted by the Township Board of the TOWNSHIP OF VICTOR, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, on 14th day of 2026

Lianne Prange, Victor Township Clerk

Obituaries

Jeanne (Korienek) Callahan

Jeanne (Korienek) Callahan of Shallotte, NC passed away on December 9, 2025 at her home, entering into her eternal heavenly home, being embraced by those that have gone before her.

Born in Owosso, Michigan on November 6, 1942, raised in Bannister, Michigan, one of seven children to the late Joseph and Agnes (Phillips) Korienek.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 61 years, Jimmie P. Callahan, her children, Loretta (Dave) Taylor, Pamela (Mike) Riley, Angela (Tom) Hutchinson, Douglas (Venus) Callahan. Grandchildren; Scott and Emily Taylor, Jacob (Joan) and Joshua Riley, Nicholas and Chloe Hutchinson, Douglas (McKenna) Callahan, Nicole (Raymond) Davison, plus 5 great-grandchildren and one on the way.

The family will be holding a private service.



Ann Maureen Ferden

Ann Maureen Ferden, age 76, of DeWitt, Michigan, went to be with the Lord on Monday, January 5, 2026, at The Woodlands of DeWitt.

Ann was born in La Harpe, Illinois on December 24, 1949, the daughter of Berny and Shirley (Arnold) Ferrill. She graduated from Dallas City High School, Dallas City, Illinois and went on to graduate with her bachelor's degree in Music Education from Quincy College; she went on to earn her Master's degree from Michigan State University. She married Francis Carl Gebhardt Ferden, on December 31, 1977, at Shepardsville United Methodist Church. They were blessed with twenty-nine years of marriage; prior to his passing on January 2, 2007.

Ann enjoyed working as a music teacher and was a gifted pianist. She served as an organist and pianist at several area churches for many years.

She is survived by her children: James (Karen) Ferden, John (Courtney) Ferden, and Sarah Meredith. She is also survived by three grandchildren: Emily, Andrew and Alaina. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Francis, her brother Dennis and her son-in-law Jerry Meredith.

Funeral Services were held at First United Methodist Church, Owosso, MI, on Saturday, January 10, 2026, Burial hastaken place at Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Moody Bible Institute, 820 N. La Salle Dr. Chicago, IL 60610 or Family Life Radio, P.O. Box 30355, Tucson, AZ 85740. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, Michigan.



William Donald Chapko, Jr.

William Donald Chapko, Jr., age 87, of Elsie, MI, passed away Friday, January 2, 2026, surrounded by his family.

Bill was born in Pompeii, Michigan on August 22, 1938, the son of William J. and Katherine Lucille (Benadick) Chapko. He married Janice I. Thelen, on April 30, 1960, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Westphalia, MI. They were blessed with fifty-six years of marriage, prior to her passing on January 12, 2017.

Bill resided most of his life in the Elsie area, working as a dairy farmer. Before committing to his career, he served his country in the U.S. Army for two years as a PFC. He was also a lifetime member of St. Cyril's Catholic Church in Bannister, MI. Family was very important to Bill. He loved to bowl, play golf and euchre. He loved cheering on the grandkids at their games. Any reason to spend time with family was a good reason to Bill. Kolaches were also a personal love of Bill's, especially when his daughter Julie made them.

He is survived by his children: William F. Chapko of Elsie, MI; Daniel (Vicky) Chapko of Elsie, MI; and Julie Chapko and Jodie Mitchell of Lennon, MI. He is also survived by seven grandchildren: DJ and Charlie Chapko of Ovid, MI; Phillip Chapko of Elsie, MI; Haley and Andy Grocholski of Flushing, MI; Curtis Chapko of Elsie, MI; Vanessa, Gavin, and Travis Chapko of Lennon, MI; great-grandchildren: Daniel III, Amelia, and Harper Chapko; and many brothers and sisters-in-law. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Janice, many brothers and sisters-in-law.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Cyril's Catholic Church, Bannister, MI, on Friday, January 9, 2026, with Rev. Fr. Andrzej Borocho presiding. Burial has taken place at Riverside Cemetery, Elsie, MI.

Memorials may be made to St. Cyril's Catholic Church. Online condolences may be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



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Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Watch Sunday Service on
YouTube at elsiebaptist
Pastor Phillip Rogers

Bannister United Methodist Church

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

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.

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
fcclaingsburg.com



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1st Saturday Mass 9am
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Father Andrzej

Editorial

2026: Looking Ahead

The beginning of the year is a good time to get informed of what lies ahead for the environment and conservation efforts. 2026 is the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, as designated by the United Nations. The objective is to bring awareness to the importance of rangelands and sustainable pastoralism. Rangelands are natural landscapes such as grasslands, shrublands, savannas, woodlands, and deserts. They are paramount for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem regulation and climate resilience. Pastoralists are people that raise livestock as a lifestyle. They move their herds to different rangelands to find fresh food and water. They are important to the environment because they strengthen biodiversity and support wildlife. Unfortunately, both face many dangers like climate change and over-exploitation that put important environmental systems at risk.

The UN also assigned 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development.

The objective of this designation is to "collaborate, innovate, and amplify the voices and actions of volunteers towards a more equitable and sustainable world." Volunteerism is a major part of the foundation of environmental conservation. These efforts are essential to achieving the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a global plan to protect the planet. This year, the 17th Conference of the Parties will have the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. It will address land degradation and droughts, mainly for rangelands. They will also have the the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, which will focus on sustainable resource use and nature conservation.



Planet Perspectives

by Alison Kozlowski

Editorial



Religious Thoughts

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

It's a cold winter's evening and you are in the forest alone. No cell coverage. No map. You've somehow gotten off the trail and are lost.

While it is early evening, the sun has just gone down and it's starting to get even colder. You walk along, trying to find something or someone to help you out. Some glimmer of light. Anything.

You trudge along for thirty minutes, which seems like three hours in the snow and cold. The darkness has now truly set in and you and your thermals are doing battle with the cold.

At last! What's that? A light? Yes! Maybe? It's worth checking out. You proceed further and it sure looks like a light; a light in the midst of the darkness and snow.

It's a good sized light too. You head closer and closer and can see the outlines of a structure. A cabin! Yes!

You enter the building and boy is it warm! There's a fire going.

You call around but no one seems to be there. Good enough. You can explain your situation to the owner when he or she arrives.

For now, you look around and see that it is a good, solid home—the wall isn't going to fall over when you sneeze.

There's a Christmas tree in the corner with neatly wrapped presents underneath. The tree is about an eight-footer with a rainbow of lights and ornaments of various shapes and sizes.

You walk closer and notice that all of the presents are addressed to someone with your name! "Wow! That sure is a coincidence!" you think.

The fire is warm. Hanging over the fireplace is a stocking with your name on it.

You notice a table in the middle of the room with plenty of food. It's a real nice spread and untouched.

Amazingly, all of your favorite foods and drinks are there. Your favorite Christmas dishes you loved as a kid and as an adult are on the table.

There is a place setting on the table with a note on it. "Must be some child's note to Santa," you think.

But it's not. Rather, it's a letter addressed to someone with your name.

Oh, this must be a note for the owner of the place—their stocking is right over there. But wait, a note to the owner? Hmm...

You decide to have a little peek at the note and not only does it have your first and last names on it, just for good measure, there is your birthdate and the name of the town where you were born.

This letter is to you! It has all of this personal information on it. This is definitely addressed to you. How can that be?

To satisfy your curiosity you decide to see what the note says. It reads:

I am the owner of this cabin. I have prepared all of this for you. That is indeed your name on the presents, the stocking, and this letter is for you to read. Everything you need is here. I have paid for it all. Enjoy it freely.

I do have one request. I would like to come and visit you. Not in the cabin, but in a different place—in your heart. As I have prepared this cabin for your arrival, please open your heart for my coming.

Signed,
Jesus Christ



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

I do hope that everyone had a marvelous Christmas and a New Year filled with hope and interesting expectations!!! I have not taken the time to make any empty new resolutions (since like many, they never seem to manifest themselves). That being said, I do have a few new concepts that are wrecking havoc with my gray matter. This will be called my experimental year... I've been whipping together different concoctions to see if they really do work. One that I'm trying boasts of renewing my facial glow. Not really looking for that illusive glow, just darned awfully tired of the dried out patches that the dermatologists keep burning away with nitrogen. I do hope that these natural concoctions will remove the pieces of sandpaper patches that haunt my visage. I've also been seeking a different healing salve that works on dry itchy skin for Miss Prudence. I need to find some unadulterated shea butter to mix with coconut oil and apply to her little backside. She has itched so hard that she now has hairless patches on her back... I'm tempted to shave her hair very very short. I think that she might be embarrassed that I didn't find the regular grooming as viable.

I am so excited with our new gal. Peppy is a great blessing and we keep getting more things addressed and finished because she is quite the dynamo. The gal tires me out but in a good way. It is nice having a supportive personality to share ideas and work with... I think that if my memory is correct that is a dangling participle. But being human, I could be wrong.

As I sit here at my desk my mind is a wondering... Karen and I have been discussing the games that we play on our phones or Ipads. I play Mahjong daily and mostly enjoy doing so, probably has something to do with the winning streak that I'm on roughly one hundred thirty games in the last hundred and fifty days. Sometimes I'm too busy to play, and I probably should be instead of playing games. Just so many vices to be had... Right now I'm working on putting together a puzzle on the beautiful puzzle board that Diane made for me. Several of my friends put them together in a matter of hours, I don't have that much concentration. I do believe that I have had the pieces sorted, the borders done, and different clumps of the picture in place, it has taken me a week to do so. At first I thought that it was because I couldn't sit still for long but I enjoy playing cards and the sitting isn't a hindrance then. I have some beautiful puzzles to get done, apparently they do not engage my imagination well.

I'm in need of shea butter, Borax, and pipe cleaners. Different projects and other then ordering them online which I don't like doing I was told that I had to go to Hobby Lobby in Lansing to get them. To me that sounds a bit crazy. I would think that the pipe cleaners would be available at the dollar stores, Meijer and Wally World. And all three items are, I just called first and even know what aisle to investigate. Better to let my fingers do the walking and save on the gasoline and time physically searching. Note to self, I need to contact Apple to see if it is true that I can't use the ipad that was my son's, he passed unexpectedly and I don't have the pass words. It can't hurt to try.

I've been working on downsizing again. I brought down four hefty totes to sort. I now have realigned the contents so that now two and a quarter are filled and I did a pitch and throw. I redistributed the contents to other totes with like items. I have even taped a list of contents to each so that I don't have to hunt and search so much. Too bad that I didn't manage to color code them for contents. Red for Christmas décor, orange/brown for Halloween and Thanksgiving, pink for Valentine, blue tops for craft items, white for clothes, travel chest for yarns and artificial flowers in clear zipper holders. I can envision the possibilities. Gleefully!!!

May your expectations and reality align well, be happy and do a bit of sorting. May God bless you with restraint as needed, it does tend to keep my tongue curbed.

Crystal Mitchell©2026



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

2025 Michigan Capitol Year End Wrap Up

With the exception of the budget battle last October, along with an unofficial shutdown of state government, very little news has emanated from Lansing. Despite a heavily criticized DNR, dysfunctional Natural Resources Commission and a partisan gridlocked Senate and House, the conservation and wildlife community has seen some very reportable progress and most of that has flown under the radar for most media sources.

Despite the Natural Resources Commission recent indecision about the coyote season and straying from using "principles of sound scientific management", as required under Proposal G of 1996, there have been some notable updates. The first change is expanding underwater fishing from limited areas of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron to now include limited areas of Lake Superior and Lake Erie. The current limited area within Lake Michigan has also been expanded. The decision to restrict a buck harvest during Liberty and Independence hunts has been rescinded once again allowing youth and veterans to shoot a single buck. This was done since not many bucks were actually harvested during those weekend hunts. Turkey hunters will be pleased to learn that there will be fewer management units, season extensions, and new areas open to hunting within the northern Lower Peninsula.

The legislature was able to pass two very important conservation bills signed into law by the Governor. The first was HB 4401, sponsored by Representative Jamie Greene, ending the five year sunset on the original pheasant stamp hunting program. The Michigan DNR's pheasant release program aims to enhance hunting opportunities by releasing rooster pheasants across various state game areas, with releases scheduled throughout the hunting season. The second bill, HB 4285 sponsored by Representative Curt S. Vandewall, would amend the Revised School Code and require the Michigan Department of Education work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to make a model program of firearm safety instruction available to schools as an elective course for students not later than September 1, 2025. The course would be for students in grades 6 to 12. The firearm safety instruction would have to include at least the following topics: proper usage and handling of firearms, safe cleaning and maintenance of firearms, different types of firearms and safe hunting practices. The course could be provided as an optional extracurricular class. The Weekly Sportsman has been a proponent of this legislation for the last thirty years.

Still working through the legislative process include another half a dozen or so other bills. The first is HB 4445, sponsored by Representative Jennifer Wertz, which would end the ban on feeding and baiting deer. She also is the sponsor of HB 4206 which would give all base license holders two free doe permits. Next up is HB 4855, sponsored by Representative Dave Prestin, which would allow all bow hunters to either open or concealed carry for use only when endangered by wildlife. This does not allow for the hunting or dispatch of game. Next are HB 4073 and HB 4421, sponsored by Representative Greg Markkanen and Representative Tom Kunes respectively, that would change Michigan from being an "Open Fields Doctrine State" and require DNR and EGLE officers to have a warrant to search property. (More on this issue in an upcoming column). Lastly, SB 276 and SB 277, Sponsored by Senator John Cherry and Jon

Bumstead respectively, are the hunting and fishing license increase bills. Currently these are sitting in the House with very little interest in being advanced. The devil is in the details and this bill has hidden language not really being discussed about and end to the baiting ban and under certain circumstances the possible requirement to allow a second buck only after taking a doe.

The Department of Natural Resources has been taking a public relations beating by House Republicans and their oversight committee hearing process on numerous operations and were even roasted by Ted Nugent when he testified. Their gassing of geese program, which was halted, appears to only be the tip of the iceberg. In 2026, expect a heated debate entangled and intertwined with DNR practices alleged abuses along with the "alleged" need for license fee increases.

-WS

Editorial



Editorials are welcome. 250 words or less.

Email to: news@meridianweekly.com.

Must include name.

Ovid Historical 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

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Pat's Place Fundraiser

submitted by Brian Behrens

On Saturday, February 7th Pat's Place is hosting Saturday Night Comedy Show, starring Robyn and Jason Gilleran of Hard G Comedy with emcee Jecorey Hawkins at the Z Hall, 1775 Owosso Ave., Owosso. Doors open at 6:30pm, show starts at 8:00pm.

Online tickets are \$20, purchase at www.patsplace.org or buy at door for \$25 - 21 and older. Cash bar, snacks and 50/50.



Jason and Robyn Gilleran



Emcee

Jecorey Hawkins

Pat's Place is situated in the heart of Downtown Corunna, Pat's Place Adult Center serves as Shiawassee County's sole specialized adult center facility for adults experiencing memory loss and dementia.

Recognizing the significant challenges faced by those caring for individuals with dementia and Alzheimer's, our facility is committed to providing professional support. Our skilled staff delivers compassionate care that is customized to each client's unique needs, offering essential respite to families.

Friends of Pat's Place, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, supports our mission through grants and fundraising efforts, ensuring the continued delivery of vital services. The center operates Monday through Thursday, with flexible scheduling options designed to help families balance responsibilities at home, work, or elsewhere.

Pat's Place organizes multiple annual fundraising events, such as a Comedy Show, Casino Bus Trip, and Bingo & Bands at the Shiawassee County Fairgrounds and Holiday Shores RV Resort. For updates, follow Friends of Pat's Place on Facebook or visit our website at www.patsplace.org.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please call 989-277-0915. We are committed to providing attentive care for your loved one while offering you peace of mind.

2026 Curwood Festival Queen's Pageant

submitted by Shelly Collison

The 2026 Curwood Festival Queen's Pageant application window is now open.

The purpose of the MISS CURWOOD FESTIVAL'S QUEEN program is to promote the Curwood Festival and educate others about the life and efforts of James Oliver Curwood. It is also a goal to invite members of other communities to Owosso to attend the Curwood Festival.

Another highlight for the Queen and her Royalty (Teen & Princess) is attending speaking engagements throughout their reign. If this is something you are interested in and you are a Shiawassee County girl between the ages of 8-21, please go to the Curwood Festival Website for more information, www.curwoodfestival.com. The deadline to apply is January 23, 2026.

The Curwood Festival Queen's Pageant will be at 4:00pm on February 22nd, 2026, at the Owosso Performing Arts Center. We hope you are able to join us for this great tradition.



January is National Radon Action Month

submitted by Brady Guilbault

St. Johns, Stanton, Ithaca, MI – The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) is encouraging residents to test their homes for radon this January and is offering free test kits to those living in Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm counties.

MMDHD's Health Officer, Liz Braddock says, "Testing your home is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon since there are no warning symptoms and no physical signs to let you know you are being exposed."

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas. It is tasteless, odorless, and colorless. It comes from the radioactive breakdown of radium, which comes from the radioactive decay of uranium. Both radium and uranium are found in at least trace amounts in almost any kind of soil or rock.

One in every four Michigan homes is expected to have radon levels that exceed the recommended federal action level. This is alarming because radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, behind smoking. Home radon testing is recommended every two to five years because homes settle and new cracks form in the foundation, causing radon levels to change. You can't see, smell or taste radon. The only way to know if you have elevated radon levels is to test.

Get your free radon test kit by visiting or contacting MMDHD:

- Clinton County Branch Office: 1307 E. Townsend Road, St. Johns. Phone: 989-224-2195
- Gratiot County Branch Office: 151 Commerce Drive, Ithaca. Phone: 989-875-3681
- Montcalm County Branch Office: 615 N. State Street, Stanton. Phone: 989-831-5237 For further information about radon, visit: Michigan.gov/radon or EPA.gov/radon.



'Mark Your Calendar' 4th Annual Cabin Fever Breakout Bazaar

submitted by Shirley Huguelet

The 4th Annual Cabin Fever Breakout Bazaar at St. Johns Lutheran Church in St. Johns, MI will be held Saturday, February 28th, 10am-3pm. Spaces are still available. For vendor info, please e-mail churchoffice@stjohns1869, or call the office (989 224-6796) Mon-Thurs. from 9am-1pm.

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Sports

Phillips, Mund Bring Home Hardware from Prestigious DCC Wrestling Invitational

REDFORD -- Just watching the introductory video, to the sounds of Black Sabbath's "War Pigs," is awe-inspiring.

The prestigious, 61st annual Detroit Catholic Central Wrestling Invitational returned to the mats Saturday, January 13 -- with a pair of Laingsburg grapplers making the field.

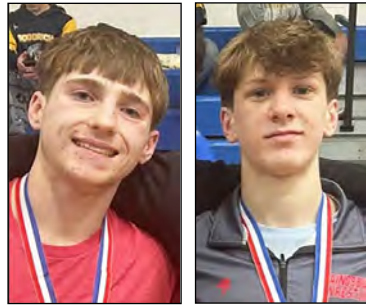
It is billed as the most-elite high school tournament in Michigan.

Wolfpack representative Dylan Phillips and Cooper Mund both apliced on the podium.

Mund wrestled to a 6 place finish at 113 pounds. Cooper is the 9th-ranked wrestler in Division 3, and as junior is a returning MHSAA Regional qualifier.

Phillips placed 3rd in wrestling at 106 lbs. Dylan is ranked 2nd in Division 3 and ranked 10th pound-for-pound in the state of Michigan for the class of 2029.

Explained the LHS coaching staff, "To wrestle in the Detroit Catholic Central Invitational is an accomplishment on its own. Placing is a proud moment for our wrestlers, coaches, and parents. It is an acknowledgement of Dylan and Cooper's continuous hard work."



Cooper Mund Dylan Phillips

Red-Hot Pewamo-Westphalia Romps Past Wolfpack Basketballers, 70-29

LAINGSBURG -- Pewamo-Westphalia was red-hot to ring in a cold, snowy New Year.

The Pirates ran the floor early then start sizzling from long range, grabbing a quick 13-5 lead and never looking back in a 70-29 rout of the host Wolfpack on the last day of 2025, staying unbeaten in Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) boys basketball race. The Pirates were 5-1 overall heading into the crucial league matchup with unbeaten Fowler.

Tim Beebe's Wolves dipped to 2-3 in the league, 2-4 overall with the loss.

When the Pirates weren't playing blistering offense, they were flexing their muscles on defense. After building a 34-13 halftime lead, P-W shut out LHS in the third quarter, carrying a 57-13 lead going into the final quarter.

All-Stater Grady Eklund led the Pirates with 20 points and Tyler Spitzley hit for 11. The Wolves got a career-high 12 from Colton Heaton. Leandro Dolega-Caceres added 8, Kollin Bentley-Barr 3, Everett Rodriguez 3, Josiah Hawes 2 and Jake Rivet a free throw for the red-and-white.

Genesee Christian Keeps Torrid Pace Alive with 59-35 Cage Win at LHS

LAINGSBURG -- So much for an 0-2 start. Genesee Christian continued its torrid turnaround at Laingsburg's expense, running to a 59-35 non-league win -- the Soldiers' 6th in a row. Tim Beebe's Wolfpack stood at 2-5 overall following the loss.

Genesee Christian came tearing into the rare Saturday game with five straight wins -- a stretch where they outscored their opponents by an average of 21.8 points), and they left with even more momentum. The Soldiers didn't have the best season last year (finished 10-15); it's starting to look like those struggles are a thing of the past.

The Wolves righted the ship with a win against Perry to start up the 2026 portion of their league schedule (see related story).

Wolfpack cagers back on winning track after 56-53 conquest of Perry

LAINGSBURG -- Landon Freeman and Josiah Hawes each stepped up with 13 points, and the Wolfpack boys basketball team got back on the winning side of the ledger with a 56-53 nipping of neighborhood rival Perry here January 6.

The win snapped a two-game slide for the Wolfpack.

The CMAC victory evened Laingsburg's league record at 3-3, 3-4 overall. The Ramblers stood 2-3 in league action, 3-4 for all games entering last Friday's CMAC contest at Portland St. Patrick.

Freeman potted 6 of his 13 in the critical final quarter, where Hawes buried a crucial three-point shot, as well.

The host Wolves trailed 42-39 entering the fourth stanza, and despite some difficulty at the free throw stripe, were able to rally past the Ramblers.

Colton Heaton added 9 points for LHS, Leandro Dolega-Caceres 9, Cash Holton 3, Kollin Bentley-Barr 3, Collin Logghe 2, Jake Rivet 2 and Cooper Morr 2.

Perry's "big three" showcased Anthony Cochrane with a game-high 20 points, Jacob Adkins 11 and Trey Selbig with 10.



Josiah Hawes scored 13 points for Laingsburg including a crucial three point shot against Perry. Photo by Burg Sports

Holm, Morrill, Woodbury, Strouse All Come up Big in 57-56 Win Over Genesee Christian

LAINGSBURG -- Brooklyn Holm tossed in 15 points, Lilli Morrill added 11 and Mallory Woodbury 10 points and 10 rebounds in a balanced offensive attack for Laingsburg that scored a tough 57-56 victory over Genesee Christian.

The non-league win lifted Daniel Morrill's Lady Wolves to 4-1 overall, and GCS fell to 3-2.

Laingsburg had nine girls in the scoring column -- but it still took a big 3rd quarter where the Wolfpack put up 24 points to even things out.

The Wolfpack trailed by 10 at halftime, before a major rally. Harper Strouse added 10 rebounds in a big rebounding effort for the red-and-white.

Genesee Christian was led by Reagan Gardner with 23 points and Madi Houle with 11.

Lady Wolfpack doubles-up on Perry in CMAC victory

LAINGSBURG -- Brooklyn Holm had 12 points as the Wolfpack ran away from Perry for a 36-18 CMAC girls basketball victory here January 6.

Lilli Morrill and Payge Woodworth each chipped in 8, while Woodworth added 4 assists. Harper Strouse pulled down 10 rebounds for LHS.

For the Ramblers, Ava O'Connor led the way with 7 points.

Dan Morrill's Wolfpack stayed in step with the league leaders at 3-1 in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC), 5-1 overall. Perry fell to 0-4 in league play, 1-5 overall.



Lilli Morrill scored 8 points during the game against Perry. Photo by Burg Sports



Cardio Drumming

Start the New Year with a new workout. Cardio Drumming will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6pm-7pm and Saturday mornings from 8am-9am at the United Church in Ovid. They have plenty of sets to borrow and the cost is FREE. All levels welcome, come check it out.



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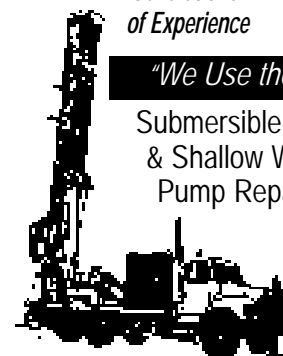
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Sports

Hornets Lay First Claim to MMAC Title, Running Past Ovid-Elsie in New Lothrop

NEW LOTHROP — Kate Wendling poured in 26 points and hit critical buckets on key possessions late in the game, sending the host Lady Hornets to a 47-34 victory over Ovid-Elsie in a Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) showdown here.

Shaun McKenney's Marauders, trailing for much of the contest on the Hornets' home floor, battled back to within two points in the fourth quarter -- before Wendling responded with a three-point shot, followed by a layup, forging a 7-point advantage, then twisted the dagger by going 8-for-8 from the free throw line down the stretch.

New Lothrop surged to an early 18-2 lead before O-E's defense stiffened and got the visitors back in the game. The Marauders were plagued the entire night by poor shooting at the charity stripe; they shot just 6-for-16 from the line in a tough loss. "You can't go 6-of-16 from the free throw line and expect to win the game," McKinney said.

The Hornets improved to 4-0 overall, 3-0 in the MMAC with the critical league win. Ovid-Elsie fell to 5-2 overall, 3-1 in conference action.

The Marauders were led by Dannika Campbell's 13 points. Kendal Tokar, Allison Veith and Alyson Moore each potted five points for O-E. Kasey Kohlmann added nine for the Lady Hornets.

LHS Girls Basketball Team Keeps it Rolling, 49-20 at Lansing Christian

LANSING -- Brooklyn Holm had 15 points, Payge Woodworth netted 13 and Lilli Morrill 10 to lead Laingsburg's girls basketball team to a run-away 49-20 victory at Lansing Christian.

The win was the fifth-straight for Dan Morrill's Lady Wolfpack, moving them to 4-1 in league play and 6-1 overall.

Alyssa Shank led the Pilgrims (1-4 CMAC, 2-4 overall) with 8 points.

Ovid-Elsie Bowling

submitted by Matt Fabus

The OE Varsity Girls went against Birch Run and won 30-0. High scores: Abby Orweller 130; Tori Dennis 140, 122; Haylee Arnett 142, 138; Brooke Pugsley 161, 126.

The boys bowled against Mt. Morris and came up with a win 21-9.

High scores: Micah Ladiski 121; Collin Jullie 150; Bryon Odonbaugh 192; Brady Latz 129; Devyn Pugsley 175, 184.

Next up will be Lakeville at Richfield Bowl on January 10th & 11th with tournament play at 9:00am.



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A Look Back Through 2025

Wolfpack Softball Regional Champions

June 15, 2025



Laingsburg Varsity Softball Team

Team includes: Alayna Merrell, Alaina Asher, Juliette Latuszek, Harper Strouse, Bella Latuszek, Savvy Stirm, Morgan LaMacchia, Skylar Stiff, Willow Patterson, Kali Spade, Addyson Buchin, Jaylynn Smith, Peyton Stahr, Makenna Johnston, Coach Jeff Cheadle, Coach Madisyn Rawza.

Photo by Burg Sports

Horaks and Petersons named Co-Grand Marshals of Elsie Dairy Festival

June 29, 2025



Jerry and Margaret Horak



Sue and Dr. Bob Peterson

Vieyra's Market Open in Downtown Ovid

July 6, 2025



Vieyra's Market Family Members (l-r) Maria & Antonio Vieyra, Natalia Guajardo, Daniel Vieyra and Monica Vieyra.

Ribbon Cutting at Spirit Expression

July 27, 2025



On Thursday, July 17, 2025, Spirit Expressions & Small Things Space Center Owner, Jen West, gathered outside the Downtown Laingsburg location to officially open the new business space. Jen, along with her family, dancers, county and city officials, project officials and friends, were all there to witness the Ribbon Cutting. After the ceremony outfront, attendees got a first hand look at the three beautiful studio dance spaces on the main floor. The second floor features a large studio the size of an auditorium. The event space includes a kitchen, warming oven and plenty of refrigerator space. There are 4 bathrooms, a workout area and much more.

Photo by Keith Kingsbury



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A Look Back Through 2025

Ovid Lions Members Recognized For Years of Service

May 4, 2025



On Monday, April 14th, five Ovid Lions Members were recognized and presented certificates from Ashley Lion Member, Brent Bearcy. Pictured here (l-r) Dave Zell, 35 year member, Mike O'Bryant, 50 year member, Brent Bearcy, Presenter, who is also a member of the Lions International Global Leadership Team and Past District Governor and Mary Perrien, 10 year member. Also recognized were Dave Porrell and Jack Powell, both, 20 year members.

John & Peggy Leonard To Be Featured in the Laingsburg Springtime Festival Parade

May 18, 2025



Tank's Tavern Opened in Laingsburg

June 1, 2025



Tank's Tavern owners Frank McGillis and Jessica Keck



Signing Day in Laingsburg

May 11, 2025



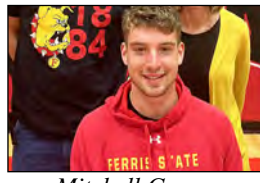
Addyson Buchin



Dominic and Emilio Garcia



RJ Garcia



Mitchell George



Erin Pohlod



Felix Ramirez



Elsie Gets Safety Upgrade Grant

May 11, 2025



District Champions

Laingsburg Varsity Softball Team



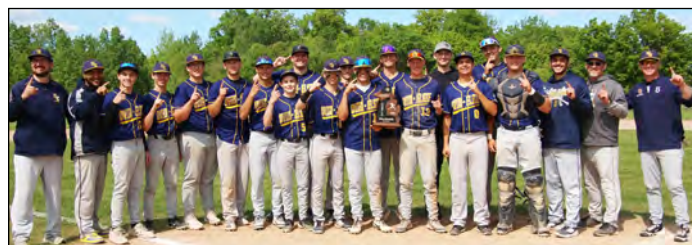
Team includes: Alayna Merrell, Alaina Asher, Juliette Latuszek, Harper Strouse, Bella Latuszek, Savvy Stirm, Morgan LaMacchia, Skylar Stiff, Willow Patterson, Kali Spade, Addyson Buchin, Jaylynn Smith, Peyton Stahr, Makenna Johnston, Coach Jeff Cheadle, Coach Madisyn Rawza. Photo by Burg Sports

Laingsburg Varsity Soccer

Team includes: Erin Pohlod, Emilee Mertens, Kierra Ruzs, Payge Woodworth, Allie Brasseur, Alayna Nanasy, Lillian Platte, Kendal Hoard, Sydney Curtis, Ella Dorman, Hayden Wilson, Ivy Collier, Addison Ruzs, Sarah Kibzey, Madison Phillips, Samantha Gutzman, Ines De Juan, Gwenith Clark, Lila Esch, Raegan Cousineau, Samantha Knoblauch, Paige Erickson, Aleigha Highfield. Head Coach: John Hill. Asst. Coach: Geoff Heyd. Photo by Emma Heyd



Ovid-Elsie Varsity Baseball



Team includes: Sean Silapatkul, Blake Fabus, Joe Zuniga, Jaxon Ladiski, Javen Belill, Corbyn Janes, Jayce Herblet, Brody Howard, Clayton Fruchey, Hunter Long, Tucker Loynes, Daniel Topping, Lance Wiktorowski, Jake Bowen, Coach Ben Skoczylas, Coach Mike Loynes, Coach Luke Martin. Photo by Mid-Michigan Area Athletic News

BACK TO THE FUTURE THE MUSICAL

'Back to the Future the Musical' at Wharton Center

submitted by Tara Peplowski

EAST LANSING, MI—Lead producer Colin Ingram, together with Robert Zemeckis and Bob Gale, the creators of the Back to the Future film trilogy, and Wharton Center for Performing Arts, are thrilled to announce that BACK TO THE FUTURE: The Musical will arrive in East Lansing this January as part of the 2025-26 Broadway Season. This spectacular live experience based on the Universal Pictures/Amblin Entertainment film has thrilled millions worldwide, with its destination now set for the Cobb Great Hall from January 13 to January 18, 2026. Tickets are available now as part of the Broadway Series at Wharton Center supported by MSU Federal Credit Union through the Wharton Center Ticket Office, online at whartoncenter.com, or by calling 517.432.2000 or 1.800.WHARTON. SeatGeek is the only official partner of the Wharton Center Ticket Office.

Peters Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Strengthen and Expand Mental Health Services in Michigan's Rural Communities

submitted by Doug Lindblom

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI) introduced bipartisan legislation to strengthen and expand mental health services in Michigan's rural communities. The Expand the Behavioral Health Workforce Now Act – which Peters introduced with U.S. Senator Steve Daines (R-MT) – aims to help states grow their behavioral health workforce, particularly in rural areas, to ensure mental health resources are accessible across the state. Specifically, the bill would require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to issue guidance for states on ways to increase education, training, recruitment, and retention of mental health and substance-use disorder providers under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

"I'm proud to join my colleague in leading this bipartisan bill to help ensure all Michiganders can access quality mental health care from trained professionals. With the demand for mental health support higher than ever before, this common-sense legislation would help states strengthen this critical workforce to expand the mental health services available in rural and underserved communities," said Senator Peters.

The Expand the Behavioral Health Workforce Now Act is supported by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

Peters has been a consistent advocate for mental health care, supporting policies that expand access to quality, affordable treatment. Earlier this year, Peters introduced a bipartisan bill that would increase access to care in areas experiencing shortages of mental health care professionals. In 2024, Peters also cosponsored bipartisan legislation to expand access to tele-mental health care.



MSU Concerts Highlight Early Baroque and Renaissance Repertoire from Europ

submitted by Michael Sundermann

EAST LANSING —The Michigan State University College of Music concludes its 2025-2026 Taylor Johnston Early Music Series with two January concerts that spotlight the vibrant traditions of Renaissance and early Baroque Europe. Presented at Fairchild Theatre, these performances feature internationally recognized guest ensembles and offer audiences a vivid introduction to early music performed on era-specific instruments.

The first concert, Dark Horse Consort, "The Sounds of St. Mark's," takes place Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Returning to MSU for the first time since its 2018 appearance, Dark Horse Consort presents a program inspired by the musical traditions of St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. Featuring works by Giovanni Gabrieli, Giovanni Picchi, and Dario Castello, the program highlights the ceremonial brass music of the late Renaissance and early Baroque, known for its bold contrasts, echo effects, and sense of musical space. Performed on period brass instruments, with strings, theorbo, and organ, the concert reflects the grandeur and drama that defined sacred music in Venice.

The series concludes with Ciaramella, "The Winds of the Renaissance," on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 7:30 p.m., also at Fairchild Theatre. This program features Ciaramella, an ensemble dedicated to reviving the lively wind traditions of the 15th and 16th centuries. Drawing from medieval and early Renaissance repertoire, Ciaramella performs on historical instruments including shawm, sackbut, recorder, and hurdy-gurdy, bringing to life music once heard in courts, streets, and civic celebrations across Europe.

Together, these concerts reflect the Taylor Johnston Early Music Series' commitment to presenting early music in ways that feel immediate, engaging, and closely connected to its historical roots. Through performance practices shaped by period instruments and source materials, both ensembles invite audiences to experience the character and color of early European music firsthand.

The Taylor Johnston Early Music Series is generously supported by the Taylor Johnston Early Music Series Endowment, established by the late Taylor Johnston, a longtime MSU professor whose passion for early music created a lasting legacy at the College of Music.

Tickets: Reserved seating tickets purchased at the door are \$19 for adults, \$17 for seniors (age 60 and older), and \$9 for students with ID and anyone under 18. Tickets may also be purchased online at music.msu.edu/events or by calling (517) 353-5340; tickets purchased online or by phone include a \$1.50 processing fee.

More information about the Taylor Johnston Early Music Series and other MSU College of Music events is available at music.msu.edu/events.



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

Estate of
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TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent
TYLER A. PEASE
Died on December 6, 2025
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased will be forever barred unless presented to Michele Pease, 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.

Michele Pease
9520 Woodworth
Ovid, MI 48866

(01-11)

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 January 21, 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. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Lenny Thayer, and Michelle Thayer, Husband and Wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Success Mortgage Partners, Inc., a Michigan Corporation, its successors and assigns Foreclosing Assignee: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC Date of Mortgage: August 20, 2020 Date of Mortgage Recording: February 18, 2021 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: \$332,712.22 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Township of Bath, Clinton County, Michigan, and are described as: A parcel of land in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 3, T5N, R1W, Bath Township, Clinton County, Michigan, the surveyed boundary of said parcel described as: Commencing at the Southwest corner of said Section 3; thence North 89° 27' 48" East along the South line of said Section 3 a distance of 1578.65 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence North 00° 29' 36" West 373.37 feet; thence North 89° 27' 48" East parallel with said South line 78.62 feet; thence North 00° 16' 45" West 75.00 feet; thence North 89° 27' 48" East parallel with said South line 225.00 feet; thence South 28° 3r 06" East 111.19 feet; thence South 00° 16' 45" East 350.28 feet to said South line; thence South 89° 27' 48" West along said South line 355.00 feet to the point of beginning. Commonly Known as: 7337 Howe Rd., Bath, MI 48808 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: 12/21/2025 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 321747

(12-21)(01-11)



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Michigan Wheat Program's 2026 Winter Wheat-Tastic Wheat Wisdom Wednesday Webinar Series

submitted by Jody Pollok-Newsom

Lansing – The Michigan Wheat Program has lined up three wheat-tastic “Wheat Wisdom” webinars for this January and February. All three webinars focus on marketing.

Marketing is a very broad topic that covers many aspects of a grower's operation. Winter is a good time to invest a little research into learning what's new in wheat marketing and what tools are available to support the bottom line. To help growers expand and hone their marketing horizons, the Michigan Wheat Program is excited to bring winter webinars to growers.

“We are all experiencing tough markets right now, so it made sense to bring back our wheat-tastic webinars with a special focus on marketing information for Michigan wheat farmers,” said Jeffery Krohn, the Owendale farmer who chairs the nine-member Michigan Wheat Program (MWP) Board of Directors. “We on the Board are excited to hear what our experts have to share to help each of us with our bottom line.”

The webinars are free and take place every other Wednesday over the Zoom format. Watch them live and chime in with questions or comments during the 60-minute sessions with some of our favorite wheat headliners – who are outstanding in their field (naturally)!

MWP executive director Jody Pollok-Newsom worked with not only Michigan State University's wheat specialist, Dennis Pennington, but also the MSU Extension wheat team of Jenna Falor and Monica Jean to identify the exciting speaker line-up, which is as follows:

Weds., Jan 21, 7-8 pm – Wheat marketing is essential in this climate! By Angie Setzer, Consus Consulting, Michigan. Join Angie to get the latest information on what is happening in the markets and what is on the horizon. Tuning in will allow you to prepare for what's best for you.

Weds., Feb. 4 – Planting wheat makes cents for growers in crop rotation. Dennis Pennington, MSU, and Joanna Follings, Ontario Ministry of Ag, Food and Agribusiness in Ontario, share the results of research looking into the benefits of wheat in a crop rotation.

“When we started looking at all of the aspects of marketing that we could cover – and the Board thought needed to be covered – we decided we couldn't squeeze all the marketing topics into our Winter Annual Meeting coming up on February 17th in Frankenmuth,” said Jody Pollok-Newsom.

“So, we've bundled up our popular Wheat-tastic Winter Webinars for January and February, as a lead-in to the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 17. Breaking up those sessions gives growers some time to think about each marketing topic separately,” Pollok-Newsom said.

Each session is a 40-minute presentation and 20 minutes for audience questions. There are no CCA or RUP credits. (But you can get some at the Michigan Wheat Program's Winter Annual Meeting!)

Admission to the Michigan Wheat Program webinars and Winter Annual Meeting are free of charge to Michigan wheat farmers and friends of the Michigan wheat industry. Advance registration is required. Registration for the webinars is available now on our website at www.miwheat.org. Scroll down to the “Sign up Now” section and click the link to register. Once registered, you will receive an email confirmation. The Monday prior to the webinars, you will receive a reminder email with the link and instructions to access the Zoom.

The Michigan Wheat Program is funded by nearly 8,000 farmers who grow wheat in 50 of Michigan's 83 counties. The Michigan Wheat Program board seeks to promote the state's wheat industry by funding and supporting the strategic priorities of wheat farmers working with input suppliers, seed producers, millers, end users and consumers. Research on wheat production practices and grower education has been a continued focus for the organization. For more information on the Michigan Wheat Program visit its website at www.miwheat.org.



Most deer harvested, pictured is Vice President and Doe Derby Chairperson Caleb Stewart and Board Member Zach Wagner who brought in 30 deer.



Heaviest Doe, pictured is Vice President and Doe Derby Chairperson Caleb Stewart with new member Mike Voisinet who's doe was 127 pounds.

Clinton County Farm Bureau Doe Derby Provides Over 3,000 Pounds of Venison to Local Food Banks

submitted by Suzzy Pross

St. Johns, Mich. — December 21, 2025 — The Clinton County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce the success of its Doe Derby, held on December 21, 2025, which helped provide a significant donation of locally sourced protein to families in need across Clinton County.

A total of 72 deer were harvested during the event, resulting in more than 3020 pounds of venison. The meat will be donated to the Greater Lansing Food Bank and will be distributed to Clinton County food banks through the Hunters Feeding Michigan program.

Hunters Feeding Michigan is a statewide partnership between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Food Bank Council of Michigan, and the Feeding America network, working together to ensure donated deer are safely processed and delivered to food assistance programs throughout the state.

“The Doe Derby demonstrates how agriculture, conservation, and community service can come together for a greater good,” said a representative of the Clinton County Farm Bureau. “This event supports responsible wildlife management while helping provide nutritious food to neighbors who need it most.”

The hunters were rewarded for their harvest with prizes for the most deer brought in, the largest doe and several other door prizes were given out.

The Clinton County Farm Bureau extends sincere appreciation to the event sponsors whose support made this effort possible, including Davis Meat Packing of St. Johns, Michigan Farm Bureau Insurance Agents for Change, French/Silm/Weber Agency, Fuerstenau/Burkett Agency, Voisinet Farms of Laingsburg, and Ending Childhood Hunger in Michigan Foundation. Special thanks are also extended to the participating hunters and processors for their commitment to giving back to the community.

Through the combined efforts of sponsors, volunteers, and partners, the Clinton County Farm Bureau's Doe Derby continues to make a meaningful impact by helping stock food pantry shelves during a time of increased need.

For more information about Clinton County Farm Bureau or future community initiatives, please contact the Clinton County Farm Bureau office at 989-224-9536 or clintoncounty@ctyfb.com.

About Clinton County Farm Bureau

Clinton County Farm Bureau is dedicated to supporting local agriculture, fostering community partnerships, and addressing the needs of Clinton County through education, advocacy, and service.



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