

A Look Back...Village of Elsie's Struggles & Community Concerns

by Deb Price

To underscore 2025 as turbulent for the Village of Elsie may be an understatement. It was a year of serious financial concerns, fire department housing concerns, water quality and rates as well as police chief concerns dominated the discussion during council meetings in 2025.

At the end of 2024, the Village of Elsie, found themselves with a substantial deficit. According to Village President, Jason Freeman, they had an approximate \$250,000 surplus in the general fund, and in six months time they were faced with an over \$35,000 deficit. A Forensic Audit was ordered. As a result, a former village employee is being investigated for possible embezzlement according to the Michigan State Police handling the investigation. That investigation is still active.

In March, the council approved a Deficit Elimination Plan with the Woodhull Group which was approved by the State of Michigan. The goal is to be out of the deficit by March of 2026. As of December 9th, the village was compliant in that process.

Village Council challenges continued in April, monthly meetings witnessed a full house of residents in attendance with questions. Water rates were increased, the fire department board was still looking for answers to their concerns regarding the building in which they had been given notice to vacate by the end of November. And due to the financial condition of the Village, the water system itself, did not qualify for grants or water focused loans. A stressful time for everyone involved.

In May, Village officials hoped to have lease information for the Fire Board. Fast forward to August, the fire department building is still at the forefront of discussion. After months of meetings and careful consideration, the Fire Board decided to make the fire departments new home within the Village of Elsie at 300 W. Main Street.

In the last quarter of 2025, community concerns centered around the Police Chief. Concerns of being not only the Chief of Police, but Village Manager, Intrim Clerk and Treasurer.

Questions about salary and hours being worked. It was also suggested that the Village look into having the County provide police coverage. The chiefs driving habits were also a heated topic at many meetings, however, the council stands firmly in their opinion that the chief is here to stay.

Here's to 2026.



2025 a Successful Year of Community Service for Elsie Masonic Lodge #238

by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE – Elsie Masonic Lodge #238 once again dedicated a year to serving the community, with significant support provided to the Elsie Baby Pantry. In 2025, the lodge contributed a total of \$5,227.35 from its monthly pancake breakfasts, along with an additional \$200 in other donations.

The Elsie Masons host a pancake breakfast on the last Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon, with all donations benefiting the Elsie Baby Pantry. The breakfasts are held at the Masonic Community Center, 100 E. Main Street, Elsie. The next pancake breakfast is scheduled for January 31, 2026.

In addition, lodge members conducted a baby wipes and diaper drive, with all items donated to the Elsie Baby Pantry. Other community contributions in 2025 included an \$800 donation to the Elsie Food Pantry, generated through the Fall Festival Breakfast. The lodge also donated bicycles to EE Knight students at each grade level who read the most books, encouraging literacy and achievement.

The Elsie Masonic Community Center is available for rent and serves as an ideal space for showers, birthday parties, and graduation celebrations. For rental information, contact Rodney at 989-666-4838. Those interested in learning more about Elsie Masonic Lodge #238 may also contact Rodney Ridgeway.

Win 2-Tickets to Super Bowl LX in California

submitted by Doug Sturgis

Between January 1-25 when you donate blood with the American Red Cross, you can become eligible to win 2-tickets to Super Bowl LX in California! Here is your chance to be the winner. The Elsie Lions Club is joining with American Red Cross to host community blood drive in Elsie.

The Elsie Lions Club will host a community blood drive with the American Red Cross on January 5, 2026 from 11:00 to 4:45 at the Elsie United Methodist Church.

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

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

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

"We urge community members to donate blood and help ensure that patients in local hospitals have a supply of blood ready and waiting before an emergency occurs. There's no better feeling than knowing that your blood donation may give someone a second chance at life."

The Elsie event continues to gain in popularity for donors in the area. Schedule today, don't miss this opportunity to make a difference. Throughout the (2026) year, several other events are already planned to provide you with the opportunity to donate regularly to the American Red Cross.

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



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Ovid Public Library

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a very happy holiday. Now that the hustle and bustle of the season is over, come into the Ovid Public Library and enjoy a classic movie. We will be showing the movie Casablanca on Wednesday, January 7. Movie time is 1:00 and we will have light snacks available.

On Friday, January 9 we will be having our first Children's Story Hour of the new year. Bring the kids for some wintry stories and a craft. We begin at 10:30.

Adult Booktasting will be held on Monday, January 12 at 1:00. Come join us and share all the amazing books you read over the Christmas holiday. Or find out what others are reading and enjoying.

We will once again be hosting another Crafting With Marilyn. This month we will be making a snowman craft. This is limited to 24 people and will be held on Monday, January 26 at 10:30. There will be a \$10 charge for this class and this will cover all materials. Please call or stop in to get signed up as soon as possible. You won't want to miss this fun event.



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Memorial Healthcare Welcomes Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Specialist to Saginaw

submitted by Dianna Vsetula

Owosso — Memorial Healthcare is pleased to welcome Daniel Duffy, DO, to the Memorial Healthcare Institute for Neuroscience in Saginaw.

Dr. Duffy earned his medical degree from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at Wayne State University. Dr. Duffy also completed an internship at Horizon Health Systems, Bi-County Community Hospital in Warren.

Prior to joining Memorial Healthcare Institute for Neuroscience, Dr. Duffy was a Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Specialist at his own practice in Saginaw. At his practice, he provided comprehensive medical care specializing in physical medicine & rehabilitation, that included managing complex neurological and orthopedic disabling conditions, utilizing advanced techniques such as musculoskeletal ultrasound and electromyography. Dr. Duffy has also conducted significant research as a Principal Research Investigator in advancing knowledge and treatment in the field of neuroscience.

Dr. Duffy is now accepting new patients with most insurances.

To learn more, please visit www.MemorialHealthcare.org/service/neurology.



Dorothy Martinka Celebrating 96th Birthday

Dorothy Martinka is celebrating her 96th birthday on January 14, 2026.

Cards of celebration may be mailed to her at 8000 E. Cleveland Rd., Ashley, MI 48806.



Ovid Historical Society

submitted by Karen Anderson, OHS Secretary

OVID - A Christmas to Remember: On Saturday, December 20, 2025, the Ovid Historical Society held a Christmas Open House in Honor of Mary Meyers 108th Birthday. The beautiful vintage house, located at 131 West Williams St in Ovid, was traditionally decorated with festive lights and collectable holiday decor. Over 50 guests visited the home. The tours took us back to one of the good ol' days with a hard, but simpler lifestyle.

Committees have been diligently working on the Mary Meyer Museum and the surrounding yard for the past year. A small piece of Ovid History is being preserved with the support of community donations and volunteers. Artifacts and original Italian furnishings of the home are being restored and displayed. The acre yard can be seen from Pearl Street, surrounded by 6-foot high wrought iron fence, featuring a lovely gazebo standing in the center of the yard.

An authentic Ovid-built sleigh, filled with gifts, sits in the front yard with twinkling lights wrapped on the front porch. Holiday décor and garland draped the house, and a single bright candle flame in the vintage windows to welcome the night traffic.

The Ovid Historical Society has hosted several 2025 Fundraisers for the upkeep of the donated home. Museum history and more information can be found on OHS Facebook. The membership has grown over the years from five active members to nearly 30 Life-time members. New members and ideas are always welcome.

The next regular business meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 7 pm. Open to guests. Tours and self-guided tours are available prior to or after the meeting and by appointment. Join your community in helping to preserve the history of Ovid.



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.

ELSIE LIONS CLUB 32nd WILD GAME DINNER

Monday, January 12th, 6pm
Elsie American Legion Hall

Please bring a wild or tame dish to pass and your own table service.

Potatoes, rolls, milk and coffee will be provided.



EVERETT SMITH
Guest Speaker



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 door.

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A Look Back Through 2025

District Champions

March 9, 2025



Ovid-Elsie Boys Varsity Basketball

Team Includes: Jackson Custer, Joie Fabus, Javen Belill, Tryce Tokar, Travis Milner Jr., Owen Long, Mike Bancroft, Jake Bowen, Braxton O'Bryant, Tucker Loynes, Dalton Jordan, Jayce Herblet, Manager Nolan Rasch, Head coach Canyon Walker, Asst. Coach Jason Walker, Manager Joe Bancroft.

Scott Miller Builds Farming Legacy. Master Farmers: The Fourth-Generation Elsie-area Farmer is Grounded in Family

March 16, 2025



(l-r): Damien Miller, in front Case Miller, Kortney Miller, Jane Miller, Scott Miller, Braelynn Holmes, in front Paisley Miller, Randi Holmes, Kenleigh Holmes, Annistyn Holmes
Courtesy photo

Thelens' Teamwork Makes the Farm Work

March 23, 2025



Lee and Marilyn Thelen in front of their farm. Photo by Jennifer Kiel, reprinted with permission from Michigan Farmer/Farm Progress



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Virginia "Gini" Marie Weiderer

Virginia "Gini" Marie Weiderer, age 67, of Ovid, MI, passed away Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at her home with family near her.

Virginia was born in Owosso, Michigan on February 24, 1958, the daughter of Charles E. and Georgiana L. (Critikos) Weiderer. Gini graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School, with the class of 1976. She went on to receive her bachelor's degree in business administration from Baker College in Owosso.

Gini was employed with the State of Michigan for many years, working in Lansing from home. Gini enjoyed bowling at Tri-Ami and playing cards & board games with family.

She is survived by siblings: Charles and Nadine Weiderer of Tampa, FL; Steve and Mary Weiderer of Owosso, MI; and David Weiderer of Ovid, MI; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by parents, Georgiana Weiderer, Charles Edward (Erma) Weiderer, one brother Michael Weiderer, one sister Debra Vaclavik, her grandparents, and many aunts and uncles.

Funeral Services will be held at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI, at 1:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, with visitation prior from 11:00 A.M. until the time of the service at the funeral home. A private family burial will take place at a later date at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Owosso, MI.

Memorials may be made to the wishes of Gini's family. Online condolences may be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, Michigan.



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Obituaries

Doris Elaine VanDeusen

Doris Elaine VanDeusen, age 82, of Elsie, MI, passed away Friday, December 26, 2025.

Doris was born in St. Johns, Michigan on January 6, 1943, the daughter of Edwin and Theda (McCullough) Rademacher. She was a graduate of Rodney B. Wilson High School in St. Johns. She married Calvin Lewis VanDeusen, on November 23, 1963, in Ovid, MI. They were blessed with fifty-nine years of marriage, prior to his passing on April 25, 2023.

Doris loved to cook, tend to her flowers, watch the birds and collecting antiques. She loved her family deeply, her grandchildren, nieces and nephews were a joy to her heart. Doris attended all of her grandchildren's activities. She was known to call her family with all the new knowledge and words that she discovered, making sure her family was observant to all the wonders around. Doris was devoted deeply to her family and her faith.

She is survived by her children: Kyle and Vicki VanDeusen, and Penny and Scott Winans; her grandchildren: Hunter and Tara Winans, Hayden and KayLee Winans, Hudson Winans, and Mitch and Taylor Fabus; her great-grandchildren: Caroline, Claire, and JW Fabus, and baby Winans on the way; sister Shirley Russell; brother-in-law Joe Bancroft; brother-in-law Jack VanDeusen; sisters-in-law: Georgene VanDeusen, Clara VanDeusen, Kathy VanDeusen, Marie VanDeusen, Pat and Bert Leland, Linda and John Bona; many nieces and nephews. Doris was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her four sisters, many sisters and brothers-in-law.

There will be no services held at this time.

Memorials may be made to a Charity of Donor's Choice in Doris' honor. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



Wilma Jean Ferrall

Wilma Jean Ferrall, age 90, of Elsie, MI, passed away Saturday, December 27, 2025, at University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Clinton, St. Johns, MI.

Wilma was born in Clinton County, Michigan on December 4, 1935, the daughter of Howard and Mildred Marie (MacDonald) VanHorn. She graduated from Elsie High School, and would go on to become a stay-at-home mom to three wonderful children. On March 12, 1955, she married Robert Jay "Bob" Ferrall at the Church of Christ Parsonage in Stockbridge, MI by Rev. Lombard. They were blessed with 67 years of marriage prior to his passing on April 2, 2022.

Every summer, Wilma and Bob loved taking camping and motorcycle trips with other members of the Chapter U Gold Wing Riders. She was known to be a prankster by her family, always playing tricks on her grandchildren. After her children had grown up, Wilma spent much of her time cleaning homes, taking care of the elderly, and doing arts and crafts. She always looked forward to the holidays because of how much she loved spending time with her family. Wilma loved having her family around, whether it is up north at the cabin, the trailer in Florida, or her home in the Michigan countryside.

She is survived by her children: Mona Jean Ferrall of Bannister, MI; Richard J. (Carolyn) Ferrall of Bannister, MI; and Cindy Jo Ferrall of Eaton Rapids, MI. She is also survived by her grandchildren: William Hansen II, Roger Hansen II, Robert J. Ferrall II, Angela Tracy, Melissa (Will) Harper, Walter (Amy) Ferrall, Tanna LaHaie, and Race (Jena) LaHaie; her great-grandchildren: Elizabeth, Alexis, Rhema, Isaac, Luke, Aedon (Percy), Liam, Addalynn, Nora, Allie (Jordan), JoJo, Harley, Nala, Kaylee, Parker, and Carson; great-great grandchild: River; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Robert Jay "Bob" Ferrall; great-granddaughter Allie Harper; and all of her siblings.

Funeral Services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI, on Friday, January 2, 2026, with Pastor Keith Whipple officiating. Burial has taken place at Eureka Cemetery, Eureka, MI.

Memorials in Wilma's honor may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. 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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Pastor Phillip Rogers

Laingsburg United Methodist Church

210 Crum St., Laingsburg
517-651-5531

Worship Service: 10:30am
Pastor:
Kendra Holcomb - Densmore

Middlebury United Methodist Church

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

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

Bannister United Methodist Church

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

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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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Sunday Worship 10:00am
Pastor: Dr. Tom Rundel
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Obituaries

Editorial...cont' on page 7

Janice Elaine Roy

Janice Elaine Roy, 82, of Ovid, MI, passed away Sunday, December 28, 2025, at University of Michigan Health-Sparrow-Clinton, St. Johns, MI.

Janice was born in Laingsburg, MI, on September 8, 1943, the daughter of Paul H. and Alice Jean (Bolton) Schray. She graduated from Laingsburg High School, with the class of 1962. She would go on to raise four wonderful children. After they all graduated, she would spend 15 years working for Walmart until she retired. On October 6, 1962, Janice married Norman Wayne Roy at the Laingsburg United Methodist Church. They were blessed with nearly 31 years of marriage prior to his passing on September 23, 1993.

In her spare time, Janice loved crafting, whether it'd be quilting, sewing, knitting, or crocheting. She also loved listening to old-time Christian, and could often be seen on the dance floor with Norman at wedding receptions and polkas.

She is survived by her children: Valarie (Bonnie) Patrick, of Ovid, MI; Tom (Kim) Roy of Lake, MI; and Chris (Eddie) Stewart of Ovid, MI. She is also survived by her siblings: Kenneth Schray, Julie Bush, and Paulette (Jacob) Fowler; her grandchildren: BreAnna, Brittany, Bobbi, Jordan, Max, Randee, and JD; her great-grandchildren: Colt, Paislie, Emarsyn, Wren, Walker, Graham, Vinnie, Samara, Xavier, Wyatt, and Weston; and many nieces, nephews, and in-laws. Janice was preceded in death by her parents; husband Norman; son Scott Roy; son-in-law Rich Micka; sister-in-law Phyllis Schray; infant brother Tom Schray; and her brother Dale Schray.

Funeral Services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes – Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI, on Saturday, January 3, 2026. Burial has taken place at Middlebury Township Cemetery, Middlebury Twp., MI.

Memorials may be made to American Heart Association. Online condolences may be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes – Houghton Chapel, Ovid, Michigan.



Sharon Joan Altvator

Sharon Joan Altvator, age 88, of St. Johns, MI, passed away Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at Grace Haven Assisted Living, St. Johns, MI.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Johns, MI, at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, January 9, 2026, with Rev. Fr. Michael Williams presiding. Burial will take place at Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid, MI at a later date. Visitation will be held on Friday from 10:00 A.M. until the time of the service at the church.

Sharon was born in Middlebury Township near Ovid, Michigan on June 25, 1937, the daughter of Joe and Violet (Brincefield) Jacobs. She married Robert Judd Altvator on March 2, 1954 and they celebrated 65 years of marriage before his passing on November 11, 2019.

Robert was a lifelong farmer and Sharon was always by his side helping around the homestead. She had a bountiful vegetable garden, always canning her harvest and sharing with family and friends. Sharon spent many years operating her own residential cleaning business. Sharon enjoyed flower gardening, knitting and time spent camping at Houghton Lake. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Johns, MI.

She is survived by her sons: Kim Altvator of St. Johns, MI; and Mark and Frances Altvator of St. Johns, MI, her grandchildren: Paul Altvator of Cedar Rapids, IA; and Amanda and Aaron Demmon of Dixon, CA; and great-grandsons: Kadin Demmon and Uriah Altvator. She was preceded in death by her father Joe Jacobs, mother Violet Vitek and step-father Martin Vitek, husband Robert Altvator, her brother Douglas Jacobs and nephew Michael Jacobs.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Johns, MI, at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, January 9, 2026, with Rev. Fr. Michael Williams presiding. Burial will take place at Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid, MI at a later date. Visitation will be held on Friday from 10:00 A.M. until the time of the service at the church.

Memorials may be made to Capital Area Humane Society, 7095 West Grand River Lansing, MI 48906 or CorsoCare Hospice, Suite 150, Milford, MI 48381. Online condolences may be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns, Michigan.



Tomorrow is New Year's Eve, and I have spent the last forty-eight hours blissfully snuggled down watching movies, reading books, and working on a puzzle. Oh, yes I have also been eating leftovers from our Christmas feast

which was last Saturday. Of course Miss Prudence has also had more than her normal lap time and is doing well, especially since she had landed poorly on her right front paw and was carefully hobbling around. Yes, I did a great deal of easing her onto and off my lap as needed. Carried her to her water bowl, gave her some of the meat to chomp on and kept her as contented as possible. She is responding well so now I won't have to get up in the middle of the night for a drink of water and a walk. What I didn't do was go out to the old milk house and check on the light bulb in the well house. You guessed it, I'm without water this morning. The toilet flushed and I washed my hands without any indication of the problem. I even started a batch of clothes in the washer. Please note, I did say started. I was ready to jump into the shower when the lack of water became evident. All of that darn harsh high winds did their thing and apparently my light on the pump went out, hence no water. It is a correctable issue, I just have to go to town as a scuzz bum...No-longer an issue, checked with my granddaughter and I can zip over to the house and use their shower. Having family within a three mile radius comes in very handy at times. So, I'm gathering my stuff and hitting the road for cleanliness.

I feel much better and nice and clean again. Also I got to visit with both Diane and Noah while sipping my morning coffee. After which I stopped back home to check on Prudence, all was well, so I headed out to do some banking, grocery shopping, and stocking up on paper products. Of course I did pick up a couple of heat lamp bulbs to ensure the return of my water. One was to be lodged on the top shelf of my laundry room for next year's replacement. Last year I paid only five dollars and ninety-nine cents for one bulb plus tax. This year I had to pay fifteen dollars and ninety-seven cents for each bulb. Extreme inflation. Wahoo, after forty-five minutes of waiting (after replacing the heat bulb) I now have water flowing from my well. That is definitely a yahoo moment!!! I'm thinking of using heat tapes just need the time to ask cousin Kenny what he thinks...

Like I said, I had banking to do and it is done. A few items to restock my cupboards and a few more to whip up a nice deep dish pizza for Friday. I am making a bit of headway, because I did pick up a couple more totes for storage. As it were, I did check out the clearance aisles while shopping. I have a tote of greenery and such for making craft items. I have a tendency to look at items and envision how I could use them to enchant and enhance their original purpose. Sounds like an overly active ego to me.

Plus the crafters in my life will be pleased with what I have purchased. I dropped the clean towels and aprons off at MGs Perx and Pastries and did a quick inventory of what was needed for next week. I also picked up our monthly receipts and accounting paper to make December sales entries. Of course I grabbed the calculator.

My sister called me on my way home and told me that she would be visiting me at or around 3:00 this afternoon. We had a great chat and I finally got around to fixing me a lunch, Pru helped me to eat it. I have taken care of my purchases and have a load of laundry being washed. The dishes are in the sink soaking so that cleaning them will be a cinch. The washer is on the last spin, then the clothes will be moved over to the dryer. Now I just need to realign the contents of a couple of totes that the craft items will be easier to find and address. I believe that both my granddaughter and great granddaughter will be happy with the possibilities.

May your New Year be filled with many exciting options among which I hope will be peace, contentment, good health and prosperity. May God bless you all daily. Smile and enjoy your gifts.

Crystal Mitchell©2025



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONSTRUCT SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY – WALKER ROAD SOLAR FARM

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Walker Road Solar Farm LLC is planning to apply to the Michigan Public Service Commission for approval to develop, construct, own, and operate an approximately 150-megawatt Solar Energy Facility located in Bingham Township, Clinton County ("Project"). Walker Road Solar Farm LLC will hold a public meeting to consider public comment on its site plan for the Project as follows:

January 21, 2026
6:00 P.M.

Bingham Township Hall
2057 North Lansing Street, St. Johns, MI 48879

An electronic copy of the site plan for the Project is available at <https://www.swcavirtualpublicinvolvement.com/walker-road-solar>.

All aspects of the Project are open for discussion at the public meeting and all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. If you would prefer to send written comments for consideration, please forward them prior to the public meeting to J. Kevin Cole at walkerroadsolar@rwe.com. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the public meeting should contact J. Kevin Cole at walkerroadsolar@rwe.com at least seven (7) calendar days in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.



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A Look Back Through 2025

Five OE Athletes Sign Letters of Intent

March 30, 2025



Ben Wildes



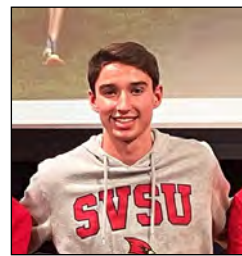
Kayden Ehle



Jake Bowen



Tryce Tokar



Clay Powell

Ovid-Elsie Running Legend Seeking to 'Win the Day' on Trading Floor

April 13, 2025

Maverick Darling



Ovid-Elsie Area Schools Selects Mark Horak to Lead District

May 4, 2025



Firefighters and Auxiliary from Ashley, Maple Rapids and St. Johns welcomed home fellow firefighter Jim Hunnicutt in Ovid.

Jim Hunnicutt



A Fond Farewell to Sage Market from the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers

April 6, 2025



Mark Horak



Sage Market Store Manager Cindy Arthur

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Editorial...cont' on page 11

HAPPY 2026 NEW YEAR

Dear Andy, It's the New Year again, and I have written out a set of goals and achievements I would love to conquer. However, as I am writing and reviewing my list of resolutions and goals, it appears to be nearly and exactly like last year's list. I am pondering to not make any new lists and just try to work on last year's...IF I CAN FIND IT. I have many interests and so many things I want to do. I just do not know where to start. Any Suggestions? Self-Proclaimed Procrastinator



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

Dear Self, and I mean myself included,

Procrastination is an overused description for not accomplishing what you may perceive as a menial task or an outstanding accomplishment with too low or too high expectations. Often, many over achiever's think they need certain boxes to organize or just specific unnecessary supplies to begin or tackle a project. As I see it, we probably just need a trash bag or two. Don't be a "procrastinator-perfectionist."

Avoiding tasks or goals is often a fear of failure. Too much of our time is filled with too many other priorities. Take time for you... to achieve what you want to complete. If you're going to make a list, make it about what you accomplished in the past year. You might be surprised and likely deserve the accolades more than you give yourself credit for completing. Recognize what you have done, not what you have not done.

Instead of lists of resolutions and goals this year, make Vision Board. Use images from magazines with the picture of the house or car, and the vacation you want. Make a collage of images with symbols or pictures. If you wish to make a quilt, place a picture of a quilt on your board. Use positive words that represent your goals, such as health or exercise. Post pictures on your board of exercise equipment or runners with new shoes. Watch for advertisements that represent your dreams and plans for the next year. Want to go on a cruise, post a picture of a ship. Want a more organized office, cut out pictures of the bookshelf or desk you desire. Want to read more books, want to write a book, or work your way up on the ladder in your job. Visualize your dream and aspirations.

According to Vision Board experts, a board will activate your subconscious mind to help you reach your aspirations and help you stay focused on your goals. A visual picture will make your goals appear more realistic. Hang your Vision Board where you can see it every day. In your bathroom or kitchen on a framed poster or corkboard. Add more visuals as you add or make changes. Sitting down with some magazines and scissors will be a fun project. And at least the planning for you projects will be accomplished. Much better than a list you lost from last year. Have fun and make your dreams and wishes come true by visual reminders of what you want and deserve. Andy @ ask_andy@aol.com

Save The Date

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.



Protect your family's peace of mind

Life insurance can cover costly funeral expenses

When Amy's brother-in-law died unexpectedly in a car accident, her sister took on the burdens of grief and single parenting - and thousands of dollars of medical and funeral costs. Amy worried if her own family could handle the kind of expenses her sister faced.

Life insurance can provide peace of mind for you and the loved ones you leave behind. The income tax-free death benefit can help pay for your funeral and any other expenses associated with your death.

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

Let's start the conversation.



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



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Editorial



Editorials are welcome. 250 words
or less.
Email to: news@meridianweekly.com
Must include name.

DRAFT: SCIOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING - DECEMBER 8, 2025

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Matthews, @ 7:02 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthews, Parker-Wing, Palmer (attended 7:00-7:25pm), Reed, Vondrasek.

GUESTS PRESENT: Kay Nickols, Diane Baclawski, Rene Mahoney, Ken Wing, Kyle Austin, Carolyn Johnston, Thad Rose, George Koerner, Cindy Garber, Lucy Matthews.

AGENDA APPROVAL: On a motion by Palmer, seconded by Vondrasek—Motion approved by all. The agenda was approved as written.

MEETING MINUTE APPROVAL: On a motion by Palmer, seconded by Parker-Wing. The Board approved the November 2025 meeting minutes as written.

TREASURER REPORT APPROVAL: On a motion by Parker-Wing, seconded by Reed. The Board approved the Treasurer report and placed it on file—Motion approved by all. General Fund Balance \$94,920.44; Tax Fund Balance \$16,475.60; CD Fund Balance \$34,717.21.

PUBLIC COMMENT—1st:

- Diane Baclawski opposed Clerk Parker-Wing's November 2025 Board minutes which stated the Planning Commission's meeting minutes were incorrect as written and the statement should be either edited or removed. Baclawski said the meeting minutes were correct as written and were updated to reflect changes that occurred after the October 1st Planning Commission meeting. Clerk Parker-Wing explained that her contention with the Planning Commissions' October meeting minutes was the false narrative asterisked (*) at the bottom of page #1 which stated Supervisor Matthews contacted the Commission secretary to say he did not know about procedural changes to PA116 document submissions prior to October 7th. The Clerk passed out written text message exchanges between the Clerk/Supervisor to all meeting attendees to show the entire dialogue with the Supervisor began on September 30, 2025.
- Carolyn Johnston stated that minutes are a statement of what has been said at a meeting. If something changes, those minutes can be updated with an addendum to add or clarify a subject—that is the correct procedure to reflect a change in meeting minutes. Removing information from minutes is censorship. What is said at a public meeting should be published—we need to follow the law. Kyle Austin stated that he videotaped the Supervisor using his Township position to condemn another township official at the March 2025 Annual meeting. It is against the law to use the floor of a township hall meeting, or position as a local government official to publicly condemn another person. Kay Nickols said that November 2025 newspaper publicized meeting minutes did not indicate the minutes were a DRAFT. The Clerk thanked her for the information. Thad Rose stated that in the last few meetings he's attended everyone seemed to have a legal opinion and asked the attendees if anyone had a law degree. Carolyn Johnston stated that she did not have a law degree, but she knows the rules of parliamentary procedure. Thad Rose stated that everyone has a right to their opinion and to make a statement whether it's legal or not. A public official can say anything they want at a public forum—it's their right to do so just as it is yours. An argument ensued concerning a person's right to condemn or say anything they want about another person at a public forum. The Supervisor Matthews called 911 to report a disorderly meeting. He asked that a deputy to be sent to the township hall.
- Rene Mahoney took the floor to say, she agreed in general with Thad Rose, but she's been coming to meetings for a year now, initially to observe the process, but became furious with what she encountered. She's seen the Board humiliate the Clerk, down her, insult her, and yelled at to, "shut up" by Supervisor Matthews. The Clerk has been targeted by the Board and has been shown nothing but disrespect—which is not necessary or warranted. Mahoney said that when she tries to speak she is silenced and told to wait her turn; however, anyone else can say whatever they want at any time and not be silenced. Mahoney said if they treated each other with respect we wouldn't be in this situation. Kyle Austin wants to see implementation of online meetings. The township residents asked for meetings to be videotaped for public record and viewing at the March 2025 Annual Meeting.

COUNTY & PUBLIC OFFICIAL REPORTS:

- District 6 Commissioner, Cindy Garber, says Shiawassee County has moved ahead with the Pleasant View 20-bed expansion. The updated Pleasant View facility will be used for medical recoupment as well as full-time convalescent

care for the aging population. The County purchased a Ford Explorer with funding received from the State of Michigan's opioid lawsuit. The SUV will be used to help residents in the drug core get to/from counseling and recovery coach visits, as well as for drop-in appointments for the veteran community. The County hired a retired police officer to drive the SUV, and they're looking to get a surveillance camera in the vehicle. The Humane Society and Shelter are up and running. The County will be implementing a fee schedule for animal services.

- Diane Baclawski gave updates on the state of the Laingsburg Public Library and LSW happenings for the month of October 2025.

BOARD REPORTS:

- Supervisor Matthews had no news to share
- Clerk Parker-Wing was curious what "no paper" meant that was written on the guest sign in sheet from November 2025. She has been working on keeping up with reports, retirement issues, and everyday items.
- Treasurer Palmer was absent
- Trustees Reed and Vondrasek had no news to share.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Janitorial Service (On hold): The Clerk noted that Kellie Hudson of "Wicked Cleaning Solutions" has not responded to the Clerk's email nor texts concerning the purchase of a bond for her business. (RE: November 2025, the cleaning business had not purchased a bond nor insurance. The Board asked Kellie to return in December 2025 when a contract could be signed after proof of bonding and insurance was presented). The Board discussed various cleaning services and possible schedules.
- Camera/Surveillance Equipment (On hold): The fall 2025 camera surveillance bid was not awarded to Sciota Township. Subject tabled until the new award period starts in spring 2026. Discussion ensued.
- Newspaper Meeting Minutes: DRAFT meeting minutes will be submitted to the Meridian Weekly monthly. Subject tabled—To be revisited in January or February 2026.

NEW BUSINESS:

- On a motion by Vondrasek, seconded by Reed—Motion approved by all. The Board approved a land division request for the K Robinson as approved by the Sciota Township Planning Commission on 12/01/2025. The approved land split created, parcel #009-23-200-009-03 (2.39 acres) split from parent parcel #009-23-200-010. A roll call vote was taken.

YES: Parker-Wing, Reed, Vondrasek, Matthews. NO: None. ABSENT: Palmer.

- On a motion by Reed, seconded by Matthews—Motion approved by all. The Board reconfirmed Planning Commission • The Board scheduled the 2026 Budget Workshop at Sciota Township Hall on January 12, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- On a motion by Matthews, seconded by Vondrasek—Motion approved by all. The Supervisor nominated the 2025 Board of Review members as: Traci Buxton (Chair), Clyde Casler (alternate), Carla Dilday (alternate), Diane Baclawski, Floyd Koerner III.
- On a motion by Parker-Wing, seconded by Vondrasek—Motion approved by all. The Board approved Resolution #2026-01 Poverty Exemption Guidelines as signed by the Board: Yes: Matthews, Parker-Wing, Vondrasek, Reed. NO: None. ABSENT: Palmer.

• Clerk Duty Reassignments: To ensure the Clerk's core (statutory) duties can be met within the time constraints allotted for the position, and to ensure each non-statutory duty receives the attention it needs.

- The Clerk's office has returned the duty of cemetery plot sales and management to the Board for reassignment.
- The Clerk's office has returned the general fund fiscal year budget to the Supervisor's office.

PUBLIC COMMENT—2nd: None

BILL PAYMENT APPROVAL: Vondrasek moved to pay the bills, seconded by Reed—Motion approved by all. Payroll = \$4,932.36 and expenses = \$1,045.16. Checks used: #11567 - #11578.

ADJOURNMENT: Vondrasek moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Reed—Motion approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

*Submitted by: Jamie Parker-Wing
Sciota Township Clerk*

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES CAN BE SEEN ON OUR WEBSITE <https://sciotatownship.net/meeting-minutes/>

Sports



Ovid-Elsie Boys Freshman Basketball

Front row (l-r): Cade Fabus, Logan Strachota, Brady Latz, Thayden Raish, Brady Fabus. Back row (l-r): River Minarik, Phillip Kidd, Trey Palatka, Joey Kozlowski, Samuel Kennedy, Gabe Lohr. Missing: Kane Pupava, Coach Shane Mills. Photo by Ortmann Productions, Inc. *Brady Fabus was misidentified in the original publication of the OE Freshman Basketball Team*

2nd-3rd-4th Place Clockings for Marauder Swim Team in Home Meet Opposite Holly

OID-ELSIE -- The Marauder swim team dropped a 114-60 nod to Holly here December 15, but Karl Dahlke's O-E swimmers established multiple 2nd, 3rd and 4th place finishes despite the loss.

Leading the O-E effort was senior Marshall Leavitt.

Leavitt brought home four silver finishes, Robert Kebler 2, Dylan Henning one and Metta Newell a bronze in the early-season action.

Leavitt's 2nd place finishes came in the 500 freestyle (6:54.92), the 200 individual medley (2:56.94), leading off the 400 freestyle relay (1:04.61) and in the fly portion of the 200 medley relay (:32.72).

Kebler swam 2nd in the 100 freestyle (1:12.71) and anchored the 2nd place 200 freestyle relay (:29.00). He also placed 3rd in the 50 freestyle (:29.96). Henning swam the third leg of the 3rd-place 100 freestyle quartet in 1:14.40. He was runner-up with the 200 freestyle relay team (:31.10). He also swam the fly 4th leg of the 4th-place 200 medley relay (:37.17) team and was 6th in the 100 backstroke (1:40.89).

Newell led off the 3rd-place 200 freestyle relay team with :40.23 leg; then finished 4th in the 100 fly (2:02.40) and anchored the 4th-place 200 medley relay team (:39.32).

Holiday Bowling for O-E

submitted by Matt Fabus

Richfield Bowl in Flint held a mix doubles tournament on December 28th.

100 teams would make up the field, bowlers would bowl 2 regular games and 2 Bakers.

Brooke and Devyn Pugsley would take 3rd place after the 1st round. The top 32 teams moved on to 2nd round.

The second round bowlers would bowl two bakers and total pins win and move on to the next round.

Pugsley would bowl against Flushing. O-E 159, 182 for 341 and Flushing 128, 156 for 284 to make top 16.

Next round Lapeer 211-209 for 420 and O-E 165, 141 for 306. Pugsleys came up short of making the Top 8.

Overall great day of O-E bowling with 100 teams making up the field.



Marauder wrestling competitors at the Ionia Invitational along with coaches Spencer Sillman and CJ Krum.

Ovid-Elsie Places Five Wrestlers with top 4 Finishes at Ionia Invitational

IONIA -- Ovid-Elsie's varsity grappling team performed with notable strength at the Ionia Wrestling Invitational here December 20.

Big congratulations went out to the 8 Marauder wrestlers who competed -- five of them placing in the Top Four.

Top placers for coach Spencer Sillman's Marauders were Will Baese 2nd place at 126 lbs.; Jeremiah Stewart 2nd place at 175 lbs., Levi Stewart 3rd place at 132 lbs., Landen VanConant 3rd place at 150 lbs., and Jayden Ford 4th place at 190 lbs.

The Ovid-Elsie community is proud of all the hard work and determination the team showed.

Wolfpack Wrestlers Phillips, Stier Spark Season-Opening Effort at LE Invitational

LANSING -- Laingsburg wrestlers in the two lower weight classes sparked the Wolfpack varsity wrestling team's effort at the season-opening Lansing Eastern Invitational.

Dylan Phillips, ranked #10 statewide at 113 lbs. as a freshman, and Eli Stier, a standout at 106 lbs. each swept the field in their individual weight classes for coach Trent LaShauy's Wolfpack.

The Wolves continued a heavy early-season slate on Saturday at the Detroit Catholic Central Wrestling Invitational.



(l-r): Dylan Phillips and Eli Stier

Ovid- Elsie Conference Bowling

submitted by Matt Fabus

Galaxy Lanes was the setting for the Varsity Bowling.

O-E would go up against Chesaning. Both teams would have a perfect day, winning 30-0 for both.

Girls high scores: Abby Orweller 128; Victoria Dennis 131; Haylee Arnett 126, 134; Brooke Pugsley 168, 138.

Boys high scores: Byron Odenbaugh 194, 146; Collin Jullie 145-124; Micah Ladiski 145; Teagan Ignash 142, 157; Devyn 204, 204.

Next up will be January 3rd at Riverbend in Corunna against Mt. Morris.

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Sports

O-E's O'Bryant, Campbell, Topping, Medina and Wolfpack's Caceres Lead Local Contingent on All-Area Football Team

OWOSSO — Ovid-Elsie's Braxton O'Bryant, Dannika Campbell, Daniel Topping, Julian Medina and Laingsburg speedster Leandro Dolega-Caceres lead the local contingent on the 2025 All-Shiawassee Area Football Team.

The honor squad is named annually by the sports department at the Owosso Argus-Press.

Liam Patrick of Owosso took home this year's top honor, as the Shiawassee All-Area Player of the Year. Patrick led the 6-3 Trojans to their first MHSAA playoff appearance in 14 seasons.

The local contingent was led by Ovid-Elsie's Braxton O'Bryant, Dannika Campbell, Daniel Topping and Julian Medina, and Laingsburg's Leandro Dolega-Caceres -- all named to the 1st Team

In addition, O-E's Owen Long, Brock Spitzley, Daniel Olger and Chandler Hart-Butcher were selected to the Honorable Mention squad.

Laingsburg also landed Waylon Rowley and Landon Freeman on the elite team, as Honorable Mention choices.

For the First Teamers:

O'Bryant, 6-foot-2 and 290 pounds, towered over many of his opponents, and his teammates. He was a four-year varsity player and a three-year starter at left tackle for the Marauders. He was named second-team all-state by the AP.

Campbell, a place kicking specialist and the area's Player of the Year in girls soccer, carried her talents over to the gridiron. Dannika was 4-for-6 on field goals this season and 8-of-11 for her career. She had a long of 37 yards this season and was 43-for-46 on extra points.

Topping had 26 tackles and 11 tackles for a loss this season. O-E coach Travis Long called Topping the Marauders' most improved player.

Medina made a big impact as a first-year starter. He had two interceptions and 12 pass breakups. He also returned a blocked field goal for a touchdown in the Marauders' Week 6 win over Birch Run.

Dolego-Caceres had 48 total tackles for coach Brian Borgman's Wolfpack. An interception in Week 3 was a critical play in the LHS victory at Perry. Perhaps the fastest player in the CMAC, Leandro was a constant threat on special teams to go the distance with a punt or kickoff return.

Wolfpack's Devereaux is All-Area Top Cross-Country Runner for 2025; Multiple O-E and LHS Standouts are Honored

LAINGSBURG -- Wolfpack senior standout Noah Devereaux completed a sterling LHS career by taking home perhaps his top honor:

All-Area Cross-Country Runner of the Year.

The award for 2025, presented annually by the Owosso Argus-Press, showcases the top cross-country athletes from across Shiawassee County. Devereaux joined teammate Austin Hodges and Ovid-Elsie's Will Baese and Josh Miller on the honor squad.

It was Devereaux, however, that topped the field.

Devereaux ran a personal-record time of 16:19 Sept. 20 at the Chargers Autumn Sunrise Invite at Grand Rapids Covenant Christian High School, which he won. He also qualified for the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 3 state meet at Michigan International Speedway for the fourth-consecutive year, punching his ticket for this year's meet with a seventh-place finish (17:17) at the MHSAA Regional at Bath HS. He came three seconds shy of matching his PR at the state meet, taking 35th, five spots away from earning all-state honors.

This year's state meet featured both his fastest time at the meet as well as his highest finish. His previous high was 38th (16:43) his sophomore season in 2023.

Devereaux will run track in the spring, then plans to attend Lansing Community College to study business administration after high school.

Hodges, a sophomore, qualified for the MHSAA State Meet with a 15th-place finish at the D-3 Bath regional (17:50). He ran a 17:45 at the state meet (171st), nearly matching his PR from the Apples to Apples invite Sept. 24 (17:45).

Miller, a senior at Ovid-Elsie and Baese, a Marauder freshman, were named to the All-Area Honorable Mention contingent.

SCIOTA TOWNSHIP

Notice of Annual Budget Workshop

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Sciota Township Board will hold a public budget workshop for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. This workshop will be held at 6:00 pm on Monday, January 12, 2026, at the Sciota Township Hall, 3990 Leland Road, Laingsburg, MI. The Sciota Township Board meeting will follow the budget workshop, beginning at or around 7:00 p.m. The Sciota Township Board will provide reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities upon 5-day notice to the Clerk via USPS mail, by telephoning 517-651-5286, or by emailing clerk@sciotatownship.net.

**NOTE: Meetings may be cancelled, rescheduled, and additional special meetings may be scheduled, as needed, on 18 hours' notice as permitted by Section 5(4) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.265(4).

Jamie Parker-Wing
Sciota Township Clerk

Upcoming Blood Drive in Elsie

The Elsie Lions Club will be hosting another Blood Drive on Monday, January 5, 2026 at the Elsie United Methodist Church. To schedule an appointment log onto RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code Elsie) or call 800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767). Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Victor Township

Clinton County, Michigan

6843 E. Alward Road, Laingsburg, MI 48848

Proposed Board Minutes of December 9, 2025

The regular board meeting of Victor Township was called to order by Supervisor Wiswasser at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a roll call of Board members in attendance.

Present: Wiswasser, Prange, Willoughby, Pesch. Absent: Sayles

13 citizens were in attendance.

Public Comment: none

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Willoughby and seconded by Pesch to approve December 9, 2025, agenda, with addition of budget amendments. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Pesch and seconded by Willoughby to approve November 11, 2025, regular meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Prange and seconded by Pesch to accept December 2025 Treasurer's report. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills and Payroll: Motion by Willoughby and seconded by Pesch to disburse November 2025 bills. (Paid December 9, 2025) Roll call: Members voting yes: Pesch, Prange, Willoughby, Wiswasser. Members voting no: None. Members absent: Sayles. Motion carried. Checks# 12730-12760, in the amount of \$31,193.98.

Motion by Willoughby and seconded by Wiswasser to disburse November 2025 payroll and payroll related expenses (Paid December 9, 2025). Roll call: Members voting yes: Prange, Willoughby, Pesch, Wiswasser. Members voting no: None. Members absent: Sayles. Motion carried. Checks# 13313-13328 in the amount of \$14,933.54.

Clinton County Commissioner District 1: Commissioner Nicole Fickes reported that, as a member of the Parks and Greenspace Committee, she is pleased to share that Clinton County was awarded a DNR Recreation Passport Grant in the amount of \$150,000 for Phase 1 trail development at Clinton Trails County Park, located in Riley Township. The Clinton Trails County Park Master Plan, approved in October, outlines Phase 1 development as well as potential future phases. Additional information is available at https://www.clinton-county.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_10232025-1912

Planning: The board is working on the repair of the cold storage building in Reed Cemetery and requests more time to complete the project.

Laingsburg Public Library: Sara Mattson, library board member, gave an update on the library. Learn more about happenings on the library's Facebook page @laingsburgpubliclibrary

Briggs District Library: Kendel Darragh reported on the many programs available to patrons of the Briggs District Library. She noted that the Library offers programs at East Olive Community Center including a "Bookaholics Book Club" and Family Fun at East Olive Community Center. Additional information is available at www.briggsdistrictlibrary.org, on Facebook at facebook.com/BriggsLibrarySt.Johns, and on Instagram at instagram.com/BriggsDistrictLibrary. The Library is located at 108 Railroad Street, St. Johns.

LSW Fire/EMS: Supervisor Wiswasser reported that because Victor Township will pay the same rate as Woodhull Township for both fire and ambulance services, Victor Township will pay \$120,000 less per year than it would if the current Taxable Value of Victor Township were used.

Maintenance & Facilities: Tree branches to be removed in Stillson sometime in January, weather permitting.

Cemetery Director Report: Issues are being addressed; one issue has been resolved and one remains outstanding.

Unfinished Business: MI-CLASS: Willoughby gave additional information on Michigan Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (Michigan CLASS). Motion by Prange and seconded by Wiswasser to adopt Resolution 2025-12-01, Victor Township Investment of Township Funds. Roll call: Members voting yes: Prange, Wiswasser, Pesch, Willoughby. Members voting no: None. Members absent: Sayles. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Township Hall Remodel Phase II: Trustee Pesch reported that a meeting with C2AE will be held in December, the project will go out for bids in January 2026, and construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2026.

New Business:

Resolution 2025-12-02: Resolution Adopting Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions to be implemented by the Board of Review. Motion by Willoughby and seconded by Prange to adopt Resolution 2025-12-02. Roll call: Members voting yes: Wiswasser, Prange, Willoughby, Pesch. Members voting no: None. Members absent: Sayles. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Ordinance Review: Willoughby moved seconded by Wiswasser to have Trustee Pesch work with the Planning Commission in ordinance codification review for the Township. Roll call: Members voting yes: Pesch, Prange, Willoughby, Wiswasser. Members voting no: None. Members absent: Sayles.

Wiswasser moved seconded by Pesch to have the township planning commission draft a kennel and/or barking dog ordinance that would serve the residents of Victor Township in an inclusive manner and preserve quality of life issues for the residents. Discussion on the issue regarding kennel complaints and petition received by citizens of the township.

Supervisor Wiswasser spoke with the interim planning director at Clinton County Clinton County and was told that the county has no enforceable ordinance regarding private kennels, only a definition at this time. Roll call: Members voting yes: Prange, Wiswasser, Pesch, Willoughby. Members voting no: None. Members absent: Sayles.

2026 Holiday Schedule: The 2026 Holiday schedule when the Township offices will be closed for business is posted on the township bulletin boards and on the township website.

Budget Amendments: Willoughby moved seconded by Pesch to approve submitted budget amendments provided by the Clerk. Roll call: Members voting yes: Willoughby, Prange, Pesch, Wiswasser. Members voting no: None. Members absent: Sayles.

2026 Township Meeting Dates: Willoughby moved seconded by Pesch to approve the 2026 Board meeting dates. All in favor. Motion carried.

Wiswasser moved seconded by Pesch to adjourn at: 8:44 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried

Copies of Resolutions, Agreements, Budget Amendments, and Minutes are on the Victor Township Website (www.victortwp.org) and at the Clerk's office in the Township Hall

Lianne Prange, Victor Township Clerk

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CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

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

CASE NO: 25-32753-NC
In the matter of Carrie Elizabeth-Marshall Buss
TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable) whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: Carrie Elizabeth-Marshall Buss has filed a petition for name change. A name change hearing will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. at 100 E. State Street, 4th Floor Courtroom St. Johns, Michigan 48879, before Judge Lisa Sullivan to change the name of Carrie Elizabeth-Marshall Buss to Carrie Elizabeth-Marshall (01-04)

CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

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

CASE NO: 25-32691-DE
Estate of JOANNE C. ALDRICH
Date of Birth: December 23, 1930
TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent JOANNE C. ALDRICH Died on March 30, 2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased will be forever barred unless presented to John E. Aldrich, 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.

John E. Aldrich
3514 W. Higgins Lake Dr.
Roscommon, MI 48653
(419) 651-9289
Jeffrey T. Landon P74077
P.O. Box 766
Jackson, MI 49204
(517) 787-9481

(01-04)

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

CASE NO: 25-32719-DE
Estate of KEITH EDWARD ALDRICH
Date of Birth: October 13, 1929
TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent KEITH EDWARD ALDRICH Died on October 7, 2012. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased will be forever barred unless presented to John E. Aldrich, 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.

John E. Aldrich
3514 W. Higgins Lake Dr.
Roscommon, MI 48653
(419) 651-9289
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(01-04)

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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 JANUARY 14, 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 Vicki Lee Jewell, an unmarried woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Countrywide Bank, N.A., Mortgagee, dated September 19, 2006 and recorded October 9, 2006 in Instrument Number 5107245 Clinton County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-One and 17/100 Dollars (\$80,661.17). 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 JANUARY 14, 2026. Said premises are located in the City of Dewitt, Clinton County Michigan, and are described as: Lot 221, Assessor's Plat of City of DeWitt-North, City of DeWitt, Clinton County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber 8 of Plats, Page 1, Clinton County Records, 302 E Main St, 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: December 14, 2025. File No. 25-015093. Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC. Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084. Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400.

(12-14)(01-04)

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)

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 14, 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 INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Sherrie L. Preston-Foess, a single woman, whose address is 603 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906, as original Mortgagee, to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A GMAC MORTGAGE CORPORATION, being a mortgage dated February 7, 2007, and recorded on February 27, 2007 with Document Number 5113264, Clinton County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated August 21, 2025 and recorded on August 21, 2025 and given document number 5356893 in Clinton County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY AND 46/100 DOLLARS (\$25,990.46). Said premises are situated in the Township of DeWitt, County of Clinton, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOT (s) 15 AND 16, AUTO PARK, A SUB-DIVISION OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 33, TOWN 5 NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 33. Street Address: 603 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906 The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: December 14, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6607

(12-14)(01-04)

Editorial

Another Historic Laingsburg Swarthout Deer Camp

Deer Camp at Twin Lakes North of Roscommon. Note the partial buck on the right side of the buck pole possibly used for camp venison. First Photo: A. T. Swarthout Second Photo: (L to R) Frank Swarthout (son of A. T. Swarthout), Harry Austin, Ernest Leland, and Herbert Austin.

These photos were given to Dave Nickols in January of 2008 by his cousin Steven E. Swarthout. Both are Great-Grandsons of A.T. Swarthout (1865-1929). These photos hung on the wall for many years at Dave's gunshop, "Mid Michigan Guns & Gear", located in downtown Bath, MI.



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com



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Recycling and Beyond in the New Year

submitted by Ellen Link

Cardboard anyone? The Greater Laingsburg Recyclers are awash in it, as our usual intake—already immense—is magnified following the holidays. But bring it on! And don't forget all your other no longer needed recyclable items (please check our guidelines and sort, sort, sort), during any of our usual hours: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (January 6 and 20), 4-6 p.m., and 2nd and 4th Saturdays (January 10 and 24), 9 a.m.-1 p.m. All are welcome (especially new volunteers!). Details can be found online or call (see below) for information on the many items we accept. In 2025 we kept approximately 210,000 lb. of recyclables out of the landfill!

Please be aware of our weather policy: To protect our generous volunteers, we will be closed if temperatures are predicted to be 15 degrees or lower or road conditions are deemed hazardous. The wind chill from the wind that whips through the recycling facility when the doors open can be cruel.

Speaking of weather, we are all becoming aware of the erratic weather changes that are becoming commonplace. Recycling doesn't seem like something that would play a big part in combatting climate change but it does, partly by promoting an understanding of our need to protect the environment.

For example, becoming aware of how the overall environmental effects of plastics and the chemicals of which they are composed affect us all can help each of us strive to change the outcome. Learning more about microplastics, now found everywhere in the world including in our bodies, that result from our widespread use of plastics is essential. Did you know that, according to an article from Wired (wired.com), “people who drink water from [plastic water bottles] on a daily basis ingest far more microplastics than those who don't”? Follow that up with studies on how the thousands of chemicals used to make plastics, some of which are deemed endocrine disruptors, foul our environment and the health of humans and animals alike and it's not a pretty picture.

Michigan is one state that, despite our low recycling rate, takes environmental concerns somewhat seriously. There is talk that we may soon see legislation promoting a stronger bottle bill. EPR—Extended Producer Responsibility, wherein the producer is responsible for the end-of-life remains of its products—is also being considered as an essential component of turning to a “Circular Economy” (one in which materials are kept in use for as long as possible, as opposed to being single-use throw-aways).

It all boils down to what kind of world we want to live in. The GLR's motto is all about “creating a sustainable future in our own backyards.” For the sake of our families, community and those who come after us, we hope you'll join us in this worthy endeavor.

Questions, comments or ideas? 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 have a happy new year.

Questions, comments or ideas? 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. We wish you all healthy, happy holidays and a sustainable future in our own backyards.



Sports

Ovid-Elsie Cage Teams Launch Annual Holiday Showcase; the M-21 Classic

Lady Marauders shut down defending state champion Fowler in 51-37 convincer

OVID- ELSIE — The Marauder athletic department has launched a holiday basketball showcase.

The first annual M-21 Classic was held at Ovid-Elsie High School over the Christmas break. Four local rival schools -- all located along the M-21 corridor in mid-Michigan -- hit the court for both boys and girls basketball games.

The four-team field featured Ovid-Elsie taking on Fowler, and St. Johns squaring off with the Owosso Trojans.

Marauder 2nd-year girls basketball coach and athletic director, Shaun McKinney, explained the goal is have the showcase be an annual event where host team changes each year. “The plan for it is to rotate every year who you play and who hosts,” he said. “Hopefully it's something that's marked on the calendar people in the community every year.” There's a possibility that other teams along M-21, such as Corunna and Ionia, could be added in the future to make it a six-team showcase.

In the first girls game, St. Johns scored a 49-40 win over Owosso.

The Lady Marauders dominated a Fowler team, 51-37, when the holiday hosts hit the floor. Playing a long portion of the contest without senior leader Dannika Campbell, McKinney's charges coughed up an early 10-2 lead to fall behind, 19-18, at halftime.

Kortlynn Loynes' double-double (14 points, 11 rebounds from the 6'2" center) got the hosts back in the game. And with Kendal Tokar dealing out 9 assists, the Marauders went often to Ally Moore's outside game to pull away from the Eagles.

Moore scored 19 points to lead all scorers. Campbell added nine points before exiting the holiday showcase.

Fowler remained winless at 0-4 with the non-league loss. The Marauders won for the fifth time in six games.

Male Marauders drop heart-wrenching 44-41 nod to Fowler in Holiday Classic

OVID-ELSIE -- A battle-back Marauder boys basketball team came up just short in a gut-wrenching loss to Fowler in the first-ever M-21 Classic.

The 45-41 loss dropped Canyon Walker's O-E cagers to 1-6 -- after making a serious run to hand the unbeaten Eagles (7-0) their first loss of the 2025-26 season. “Every loss, besides the Elk Rapids game, has been within 10 points,” Walker said. “We are growing every day. I have full confidence in these guys. “Were only seven games in, and I think we're starting to really come over that edge of us being a very good team.”

The host Marauders delivered several body blows to Fowler, leading 15-9 after the first quarter and 21-18 at the intermission. When the Eagles rallied to take the lead early in the third quarter, O-E had yet another answer, leading 35-33 after three quarters.

With a thin 43-41 lead in the final seconds, the Eagles drilled two free throws with :4.8 seconds left for the four-point win.

Travis Milner led the Marauders with 20 points and Joie Fabus added 11. Also, said Walker, “I want to give credit to our bigs — Braxton O'Bryant, Dalton Jordan and Carpenter Darling. They really took away (Fowler's) bigs. On film, we saw that Fowler really liked to work through their post players, and that's what we scouted for. I want to give credit to our post defenders, they were really solid today.”



Ally Moore tossed in 19 points to lead the Lady Marauders to victory



Travis Milner scored 20 points to lead the Marauder boys

Marauder Girls Grab Top Spot in Early-Season MMAC Race, 60-21

MONTROSE -- Ovid-Elsie's girls basketball team unleashed a withering defensive effort here in the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) opener for 2025-26.

Isabella Phillips drew four offensive charging fouls from the Rams, leading a Marauder 'D' that barely let the hosts crack the 20-point mark. Conversely, the Ovid-Elsie offense was rolling.

A 60-21 victory put the Lady Marauders in first place in the MMAC -- and they haven't looked back through the Christmas break, staying unbeaten in league play.

Kendal Tokar also helped spark the defensive gem with 8 steals. She also led the offensive fireworks with 21 points and 6 assists. Allison Veith popped in 7 points for the Marauders.

Montrose fell to 0-1, 0-2 overall with the loss.

Lady Marauders keep Chesaning cagers winless on the season with 56-35 win

OVID-ELSIE — Dannika Campbell amassed 18 points and 6 rebounds, and Ovid-Elsie's varsity girls basketball team rolled to a 21-point MMAC victory over visiting Chesaning.

Shaun McKinney's Marauders kept the Indians winless at 0-2 in MMAC action, 0-3 overall with a 56-35 triumph. Allison Veith contributed 6 rebounds as O-E stayed atop the league at 2-0, 2-1 overall.

Lydia Tithof had a 14-point, 11-rebound double-double but it wasn't enough for the Lady Tribe. Savanna Conklin had nine points and Jordyn Butcher added six for CHS.

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