

Arnett Retires from Elsie Area Fire Department

Heath Arnett announced his retirement February 1, 2026 as Assistant Chief of Elsie Area Fire Department. Heath has had 25 years of dedicated service to the Ovid- Elsie community. He has had an exemplary career which started with Ovid- Middlebury Fire Department in 2001 and still remains on their roster today. Heath continued his career with Elsie Area Fire Department in 2010 when his family made Elsie their home. As a member of Elsie Area Fire Department he held rank of Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain and became Assistant Chief in 2024. Service is in his blood having previously served with the Michigan Army National Guard. This was an agonizing decision to make not only for Heath but also for his family.



Heath Arnett



Elsie Area Fire Department has a great group of people that have become family and friends. It was a tough decision to leave them behind. He knows his service to the community is not over it will just be in a different capacity. He wanted to express his deepest gratitude to everyone in the Ovid -Elsie community that have supported him over the past 25 years. His family plans to have an event to celebrate his long career at a later date.

Chocolate Walk in Ovid

On February 13th, from 3pm to 7pm there will be a chocolate walk downtown Ovid, stop by participating businesses and get some chocolate. FREE EVENT!



Participating store fronts are: Main Bar and Grill, B&B Tax & Financial Services, Buk's Party Store, Lori Alley Studios, Ovid Inn (inside VFW Hall), Checkered Flag Cafe, Corner Carousel, The Meridian Weekly and Creekside Hobbies. Some businesses may be open for limited time.

A craft show will be in the VFW hall, we are looking for vendors that would be interested in setting up to sell stuff, a table space cost is \$10 for a 10 by 5 space, space is limited you can send questions and applications to events@ovidmi.org

Laingsburg Lions Free Spaghetti Dinner Returns February 17

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, February 17 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.

Winter Reading Warriors: Recognizing Our December & January Readers of the Month

submitted by Kortney Miller

As the temperatures dropped and the snow began to fall, our local bookworms were just getting warmed up! Leonard Elementary is proud to announce our Readers of the Month for the winter season.



December's Readers of the Month

For December, we recognize 1 student from each class: Young 5's, Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade. Despite the holiday hustle and bustle, our December Readers of the Month managed to devour their favorite books.



January Readers of the Month

Kicking off the New Year with a literary bang, was our January Readers of the Month. They have shown incredible dedication to improving their literacy skills and demonstrating excellent reading habits.

Please join us in congratulating our December and January stellar Readers of the Month. Keep turning those pages!



Bannister BetterLife ZCBJ Lodge #225 will hold their annual Mid winter Jamboree on Sunday, February 22nd at 401 E Main St. Bannister. Doors will open at 11:30 am and a potluck dinner will begin at noon. Table service and coffee will be provided. Guests are welcome to bring other beverages. Following dinner, volunteer musicians will provide an afternoon of ethnic music. Come join us for dancing, singing and visiting with friends. Free admission.

Meridian Weekly

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Social

The Middlebury Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year April 1, 2026-March 31, 2027 at the Township Hall located at 7627 W M21, Ovid, MI on **March 10, 2026 at 6:45 pm.**

*The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at 7627 W M21, Ovid, MI 48866 or by calling Jamie Aldrich, Clerk 989-834-9900

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SAINT CYRIL CZECH-SLOVAK HERITAGE MASS

Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

WELCOMING ALL TO COME CELEBRATE THEIR HERITAGE!

Potluck and Music.

Table service and beverages furnished

For more information call Diane Korienek (989) 307-1776

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Edward Hrymecki Turning 90

Edward Hrymecki will be celebrating his 90th birthday on February 16th.

Help him celebrate by sending cards to Edward Hrymecki at 2074 S Warren Rd., Ovid, MI, 48866

Open Gym Day

The United Church of Ovid, 131 W. Front St., Ovid will be holding an Open Gym Day on Monday, February 16th from 11am-1pm.

If your family is suffering from cabin fever, join us for board games, crafts, basketball or just a place to run.

Diabetes PATH Workshop Starts March 23rd

submitted by Christine T. Histed

Diabetes PATH is a 6-week interactive workshop designed for individuals with diabetes and pre-diabetes. You will learn how to meal plan, balance blood sugar, get physically active, decrease stress, improve energy, create Action Plans, and more!

Workshops will be held at St. Johns Lutheran Church, 4511 E. Sturgis St., St. Johns in the John Room on Mondays, March 23 - April 27, 2026 from 6:00 - 8:30 pm.

Free of charge. Funding provided by Lions Club International and St. Johns Lions Club.

To register: Call Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1465 or e-mail histedc@tcoa.org.

Ovid Township March Board of Review

Meeting Dates Organizational Meeting Only
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

Appeals will be heard:
Monday, March 9, 2026
1 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

LIDGARDASSESSING@COMCAST.NET

Ovid Township Hall
1015 Baese Court, Ovid, MI 48866
(517) 669-1205 (Assessor)

Library News

Elsie Library Adventures

submitted by Ann Trierweiler

Hello again from the Elsie Public Library! I know it's been cold, but what a good time to come and find a few books to kill the time. Maybe not gardening books. I find that can get me a little edgy! "Date with a Book:" is going on through February. We have covered books we think you may enjoy. We give a description of the book, but nothing else. SURPRISE!! Kind of like TINDER! Come in and try one!

Remember that we are closed whenever the Ovid-Elsie schools are closed because of the weather. Also, we will be closed on February 16 for Presidents' Day.

Our Elsie Library Book Club is going to read a classic book this February. We will join the incredible adventures in a "Journey to the Center of the Earth", by Jules Verne. You are welcome to come pick up a book and read along with us. The books should be here by the time our Elsie Library Book Club meets on February 12 at 6 pm.

Our Monthly Crafts for Adults and Teens has been moved to 1 pm., starting on February 19th. We will then continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month, just earlier in the day. The plans for this coming craft time are still not cemented, but in March we will have a patron come in with her leather and help us make keychains or purse charms. There may be a slight fee for materials, but we will keep you posted on the details later.

Our lesson on Reflexology this past Saturday was informative. I enjoyed the interaction as questions were heard and answered. Claire is good at what she is learning, and we have been privileged to have her teach both on minerals of the body and reflexology. Her next lesson will be in April. We will post the details closer to the date.

IQhub has a Science Spectacular on Feb 16th. From 10am to 12 pm. Explore amazing experiments, create your own reactions, and discover the wonders of science through a variety of interactive activities. This event is perfect for sparking curiosity and having a blast with science! Recommended for grades K-5. They are also hosting an Artist Meet and Greet on February 26th from 6-8 pm. They are located at 1130 S. DeWitt Road, St Johns, MI 48879. <https://www.iqhubag.org/>

Remember to check our Facebook page for any closures or program updates.



Chili Cook-off AND Dessert Bake-off
Sunday, February 22, 2026
12:00pm - 2:00pm
@Ashley School Cafeteria
\$5 Donation gets you sampling tickets & you be the judge!
Registration/Info:
Deadline 2/15/26
Hosted by: Ashley PTO



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Art Classes at The Shiawassee Arts Center

submitted by Linda Ruehle

Independent Painting

Instructor: Philip Ruehle, MFA, Artist/Instructor

When: Six week session. Wednesdays, February 25 - April 1; 12-3pm

Age Level: Adult

Fee: Member-\$155 / Non-Member-\$165

(Note there is a 3% processing fee on all credit card purchases)

Receive one-on-one instruction while exploring the painting genre of your choice (still life, landscape, portraiture, non-objective abstract, etc.). This is a great opportunity to experiment with something new or to improve upon something with which you currently find challenging. Students need to bring their own supplies. Mineral spirits will be provided. New session will follow.

Supply list:

Paint: Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Red, Alizarin, Ultramarine Blue, Phthalo Blue

Burnt Sienna, Titanium White, Optional: Viridian Green, Stand Oil (if working in oil)

Slow drying medium (if working in acrylic), Assortment of filbert brushes

Assortment of round brushes, Small fan brush, Canvas or panel (x4) (11 x 14 inches is a suggestion) Palette knife (metal is preferred over plastic), Small glass jar (for oil painters)

Medium to large plastic or glass jar (acrylic painters) and a palette.

Beginner's Oil Painting Workshop with Anita Brett

Anita currently has an exhibit of her paintings in the gallery at The Shiawassee Arts Center that will be up until February 28 Saturday, March 7, 2026 at 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM EST

In this four hour workshop Anita Brett will supply the equipment and canvases needed to complete an 8x8 oil painting. She will provide information to understand the importance of underpainting, color theory, composition and blocking in colors, to complete a painting of a single flower (provided by you) or a flower in a vase. Bring a small, empty pizza box to transport your wet painting.

Intermediate Oil Painting Workshop with Anita Brett

Saturday, March 7, 2026 at 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM EST

In this four hour workshop, paints, canvases and brushes will be provided to complete an 8x8" canvas in oil. Choose your subject matter in the areas of portraiture of a human, an animal, or a house. You will be instructed in composition, color

theory, brushwork, lost and found lines, and values individually as we work alongside one another to complete our paintings. Please bring a clear, color photocopy of an 8x8" subject to paint and an empty pizza box for transport of your painting.



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SCIOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING DRAFT JANUARY 12, 2026

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Matthews, @ 7:00 p.m.

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

GUESTS PRESENT: 14

AGENDA APPROVAL: On a motion by Palmer, seconded by Reed—Motion approved by all. The agenda was approved with changes. New business item "Resolution" added by Kim Palmer.

MEETING MINUTE APPROVAL: On a motion by Reed, seconded by Parker-Wing. The Board approved the December 2025 meeting minutes as written. Supervisor Matthews stated that going forward, PA116 should no longer be discussed in the meeting minutes and said that some meeting attendees do not want their names to be published in the newspaper. It was acknowledged by the Board that guest names would be omitted for newspaper publishing; however, Cindy Garber said she has discussed with meeting attendees that their request for anonymity in meeting minutes cannot be sustained if they engage in public comment, as a name must appear in reference to a question or statement as a part of legal requirements for public meeting minutes. Thad Rose clarified his comments to say his written words appeared out of context to the full discussion. When he stated, "Everyone has an opinion whether it's legal or not". The full discussion referred to "Whether you (the person making the statement) believe the information being shared is legal". He was not personally claiming that anyone's statement or opinion was true or untrue; and no one at the meeting claimed to be a lawyer when he asked that question. He simply meant every person has a right to express their opinion.

TREASURER REPORT APPROVAL: On a motion by Reed, seconded by Matthews—Motion approved by all. The Board approved the Treasurer report and placed it on file. General Fund Balance \$90,755.53; Tax Fund Balance \$198,416.26; CD Fund Balance \$34,725.77.

PUBLIC COMMENT—1st: None

COUNTY & PUBLIC OFFICIAL REPORTS:

• Laingsburg Public Library: Sarah Mattson followed up with the Library's lawyer concerning the December 2025 discussion with the Sciota Board members. State statutes recently established new terms funding public libraries. Sciota Township can no longer contribute a sum of their choosing. If the Library doesn't get support from the Laingsburg local governments, Laingsburg Public Library will not receive State of Michigan matching funds. The Library will be sending out letters to all Laingsburg patrons for awareness of changes in government funding.

• Shiawassee County District 6 Commissioner, Cindy Garber, says Animal control has been reestablished at the County Humane Society (SCHS) on Hibbard road. The County didn't have a choice but to reopen the animal shelter in-house because arrangements with Ingham County's Capital Area Humane Society (CAHS) and Genesee County Animal Shelter (GCAC) were unsuccessful. The SCHS has discussed requesting contributions from townships and contracting with the public on a daily rate for each day the animal has been confined. Cindy says it a "Learn as we go" mentality. She spent (2) weeks during the holidays getting rid of 20 years-worth of outdated records. The County E911 department may need to implement a surcharge (increase) for services. This would require a ballot proposal should the surcharge be approved. Dispatchers have a tough job navigating (4) monitors while typing, listening, and dispatching emergency services. The jobs become more complicated as technology improves.

• Laingsburg Public Library and LSW Emergency Services Reporting: Diane Baclawski gave updates on the state of the Library and LSW happenings for the month of November 2025. The LSW November statistics were 55 ambulance and 35 fire runs for a total of 701/yr. ambulance calls and 385/yr. fire calls. Paula Willoughby completed their budget, and they may have come up with a way to purchase a new fire truck. The Library has a new exhibit concerning sled dogs from January 7th - March 27th. There is an online calendar of events scheduled, and 'home-schooled children' Parent's meeting dates are January 21-26.

BOARD REPORTS: Supervisor Matthews says we cannot afford to take \$24K out of our general fund budget to match the State of Michigan's required matching funds for the Laingsburg Public Library. Discussion ensued. Clerk Parker-Wing says she's had a busy December including a death in the family and with the holidays. She has been working on catching up with Township business. Treasurer Palmer says winter taxes are still coming in. She fixed a BS&A software snafu for winter property taxes. She spoke to (4) different departments before finding one that could help. Trustees Reed had no news to share and Trustee Vondrasek was absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

• On a motion by Parker-Wing, seconded by Palmer—Motion approved by all. The Board approved retaining "The Cleaning Authority" janitorial service, with a bi-monthly (every other month) cleaning contract for cleaning the Township hall. The Clerk will look into matching up a cleaning schedule for the months prior to the 2026 elections so as to keep cleaning costs minimal this year. A roll call vote was held. YES: Palmer, Jamie, Reed, Matthews. NO: None. ABSENT: Vondrasek.

• Camera/Surveillance Equipment: The Board agreed to get quotes for a hall camera system. The Clerk sent Greg Pierce an email for quotes about costs associated with installing a camera system with NVR. Discussion ensued. Supervisor Matthews agreed to investigate camera options along with Trustee Reed for discussion at the February 2026 Board meeting.

• MTPP Grant submission (On hold): The fall 2025 camera/surveillance bid was not awarded to Sciota Township. Subject to be tabled until the new award period begins spring 2026.

• Clerk Duty Reassignments: As of December 8, 2025, the Office of the Clerk returned non-statutory duties of cemetery plot sales and management to the Board for reassignment.

• Carolyn Johnston, of Garrison Road, offered to oversee a historical project from the Clerk's office regarding Putnam Cemetery to compile printed information into electronic records for prior purchases, grave burials, grave markers, or any other information to be electronically recorded. The Clerk will contact

Carolyn to discuss the project.

• Newspaper Meeting Minutes: DRAFT meeting minutes will be submitted to the Meridian Weekly monthly. Subject tabled—To be revisited in January and/or February 2026.

NEW BUSINESS:

• Deputy Clerk, Linda Knoblauch, resigned her position with the Clerk's office effective January 11, 2026. The Clerk confirmed the new Deputy Clerk position was accepted by Kenneth Wing, beginning January 12, 2026.

• On a motion by Matthews, seconded by Reed—Motion approved by all. The Supervisor approved Thad Rose as an alternate member of the Board of Review, beginning January 2026. Thad Rose will replace Carla Dilday. A roll call vote was taken.

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

• On a motion by Palmer, seconded by Reed—Motion approved by all. The Board approved payment for (6) training sessions at \$125 per person. Training will be held remotely at the Sciota Township Hall in February 2026 (date TBD by Traci Buxton, Chair). Training for Buxton, Koerner III, Baclawski, Casler, Rose, and Matthews. A roll call vote was taken. YES—Palmer, Reed, Parker-Wing, Matthews. NO—None. ABSENT—Vondrasek.

• On a motion by Parker-Wing, seconded by Palmer—Motion approved by all. The Board approved video recording of Board meetings by the Clerk which will be uploaded to Sciota Township's website for public viewing. Meetings will be live-streamed when available. The hall camera system is currently being investigated and may incorporate videotaping meetings in the future.

• On a motion by Parker-Wing, seconded by Palmer—Motion approved by all. The Board approved salary resolution RES #2026-02 for the Office of Supervisor—an increase in compensation is warranted for the Office of Supervisor to adequately compensate and retain the current official with a

yearly wage increase tied to prevailing wages paid in the current labor market for similar positions. Beginning fiscal year 2026-27, it is the intention of the Sciota Township Board to assess a yearly, minimum CPI Inflation Rate Multiplier to the position of Supervisor to create a system of compensation that retains competent individuals and attracts qualified candidates to seek local government office. The 2026-27 wage adjustment is linked to the State of Michigan's minimum CPI Inflation Rate Multiplier as set in statute in MCL 211.34. The multiplier 1.027 (rate) x \$14,338.84 (current wage) = \$14,726.00 (new wage), an increase of \$387.15. A roll call vote was taken YES—Palmer, Reed, Parker-Wing, Matthews. NO—None. ABSENT—Vondrasek.

• On a motion by Palmer, seconded by Reed—Motion approved by all. The Board approved salary resolution RES #2026-03 for the Office of Clerk—an increase in compensation is warranted for the Office of Clerk to adequately compensate and retain the current official with a yearly wage increase tied to prevailing wages paid in the current labor market for similar positions. Beginning fiscal year 2026-27, it is the intention of the Sciota Township Board to assess a yearly, minimum CPI Inflation Rate Multiplier to the position of Clerk to create a system of compensation that retains competent individuals and attracts qualified candidates to seek local government office. The 2026-27 wage adjustment is linked to the State of Michigan's minimum CPI Inflation Rate Multiplier as set in statute in MCL 211.34. The multiplier 1.027 (rate) x \$14,838.84 (current wage) = \$15,239.50 (new wage), an increase of \$400.66. A roll call vote was taken YES—Reed, Palmer, Parker-Wing, Matthews. NO—None. ABSENT—Vondrasek.

• On a motion by Matthews, seconded by Parker-Wing—Motion approved by all. The Board approved salary resolution RES #2026-04 for the Office of Treasurer—an increase in compensation is warranted for the Office of Treasurer to adequately compensate and retain the current official with a yearly wage increase tied to prevailing wages paid in the current labor market for similar positions. Beginning fiscal year 2026-27, it is the intention of the Sciota Township Board to assess a yearly, minimum CPI Inflation Rate Multiplier to the position of Treasurer to create a system of compensation that retains competent individuals and attracts qualified candidates to seek local government office. This increase is linked to the State of Michigan's minimum CPI Inflation Rate Multiplier as set in statute in MCL 211.34. The 2026-27 multiplier 1.027 (rate) x \$14,838.84 (current wage) = \$15,239.50 (new wage), an increase of \$400.66. A roll call vote was taken YES—Parker-Wing, Reed, Palmer, Matthews. NO—None. ABSENT—Vondrasek.

• On a motion by Matthews, seconded by Reed—Motion approved by all. The Board approved spending up to \$200 on printer ink and supplies for the Treasurer's office. A roll call vote was taken YES—Reed, Palmer, Parker-Wing, Matthews. NO—None. ABSENT—Vondrasek.

• On a motion by Palmer, seconded by Reed—Motion approved by all. The Board rescinded resolution, RES #2025-06.

• On a motion by Palmer, seconded by Matthews—Motion approved by all. The Board approved the Clerk's purchase of Microsoft 365 Personal for \$100 (recurring) and the latest Adobe Acrobat software for purchase through Shumaker Technology. If Adobe Acrobat is not available through Shumaker, the Clerk may purchase separately. A roll call vote was taken. YES—Matthews, Palmer, Reed, Parker-Wing. NO—None. ABSENT—Vondrasek.

• The Sciota Township Board approved 2026 Board meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT—2nd:

None

BILL PAYMENT APPROVAL: Palmer moved to pay the bills, seconded by Reed—Motion approved by all. Payroll = \$5,412.58 and expenses = \$5,846.78. Checks used: #11579 - #11595.

ADJOURNMENT: Parker-Wing moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Palmer—Motion approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Submitted by: Jamie Parker-Wing

Sciota Township Clerk

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

Obituaries

Kathryn Edna "Kathy" Tyler

Kathryn Edna "Kathy" Tyler, age 68, of Elsie, MI, passed away Friday, January 30, 2026, at University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Lansing, MI.

Kathy was born in Lansing, Michigan on March 12, 1957, the daughter of George Robert and Dorothy Gene (Walker) Harmon. Kathy graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School with the class of 1975. She married Jack Leroy Tyler on December 24, 1977, in Elsie, MI. They were blessed with 45 years of marriage, prior to his passing on February 15, 2023.

Kathy and Jack owned and operated Tyler's Diner from 2001-2009, in Elsie where they made many lifelong friendships. They served as grand marshals for the Elsie Dairy Festival in 2008. She loved caning chairs, crocheting, Taco Tuesday with friends and monthly breakfast gatherings with the George family. She was a member of the Elsie United Methodist Church where she helped with funeral luncheons and was a member of the Spile Dam Club. Kathy will be remembered for her willingness to help where needed and being a friend to everyone.

She is survived by her children: Donna Smith, Elizabeth and Timothy Heinze, Shayne and Debbie Tyler, her grandchildren: Serina, Alex (LaTonya), Jacinda (Alex), Shelbie (Ben), Jasmine and Kariana and great-grandchildren Ava, Ezra and David. She is also survived by her siblings: Richard Harmon, Mary and Rex Tyler, Bill and Tammi Harmon, sister-in-law Jacqueline Souders. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Jack, her grandchildren: Tyler, Katie and Faith Heinze and her brother Frank Harmon.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the National Niemann Pick Disease Foundation. Online condolences may be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



Luke Alan Plowman

On January 27, 2026, Luke Alan Plowman, peacefully passed away at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor after he bravely fought numerous medical issues in the hopes of pursuing a new liver. He soared like an eagle and flew alongside of the Lord's angels to his forever home in Heaven.

Luke, age 42 was born to Kathie Plowman and the late Terry Plowman on October 10, 1983. He graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School with the class of 2002.

Luke was a fun loving guy with many friends. He liked to cook and would entertain friends and family with what he called "Friends-giving". He also worked as a cook for the last seven years at the Knob Hill Tavern.

In the spring and summer you would find Luke disc golfing or kayaking with friends, fishing with his kids and at backyard barbecues around the fire pit at home. He was fond of camping, especially along Lake Michigan. He spent much time learning about tropical fish and successfully set up a large salt water fish tank in his home. Growing up, Luke lived in Port Orange, Florida soaking up the warm sunny weather and waves in the Atlantic Ocean. He began his high school years at Ovid-Elsie when he and his mother moved home to Michigan.

Luke was preceded in death by his father Terry Lynn Plowman, his sister Lindsay Plowman, and grandparents: Phil and Jean West and Floyd and Doris Kibby.

Those left behind to miss and cherish his memory are his mother and stepfather Kathie and Dave Dunham, his loving life partner Erica Kelley, two children: Logan age 13, Alli Mae age 4 and step-daughter Charlie age 8. In addition, Luke will be missed by Logan's mother Heidi Parks and family, his three brothers Alex and Jason Plowman and Domenic Sinicropi along with aunts and uncles and many cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held for family and friends at the Knob Hill Tavern, 8430 S. US Hwy 27 in DeWitt at 1:00 P.M. on Sunday, February 15, 2026.

Memorials may be made to the wishes of the family. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



Church Directory

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Watch Sunday Service on
YouTube at [elsiebaptist](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs1eibaptist)
Pastor Phillip Rogers

Laingsburg United Methodist Church

210 Crum St., Laingsburg
517-651-5531

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

Middlebury United Methodist Church

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

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

Bannister United Methodist Church

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

FAITH FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

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

ELSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

First Congregational Church Laingsburg

401 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg
(517) 651-6741
Sunday Worship 10:00am
Pastor: Dr. Tom Rundel
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Diana Maxine Munson

Diana Maxine Munson, of Elsie, Michigan, went to be with her Lord and Savior on January 30, 2026, at home, surrounded by her loving family. She was 82 years old.

Born on April 6, 1943, Diana was the second of five children born to Donald and Wanda (Apsey) Dietrich. She graduated from St. Johns High School in 1961.

In 1962, Diana married and became the proud mother of three daughters: Roberta, Kathleen, and Michele.

On October 21, 2000, Diana married Gary Munson, the love of her life. The two shared a marriage many people dreamed of—full of unconditional love, respect, loyalty, and companionship. They rarely spent time apart. Diana and Gary retired together in 2006 from Ovid-Elsie Schools, where Diana spent 33 years as a bus driver and Gary worked as a bus mechanic. Gary was also her favorite hunting and fishing partner. They loved summers at Houghton Lake fishing, and in the fall, you could find them hunting at the Munson family farm outside Elsie. Their love story was full of adventure and laughter.

Diana is survived by her beloved husband, Gary Munson; her daughters, Roberta "Robi" (Daniel) Bull, Kathleen (Kip) Miller, and Michele (Jim Jr.) Tepin; stepdaughters, Lori Munson and Darlene (Joe) Crawford; grandchildren Rebecca Nelson, Sarah (Chris) Scott, Dakotah (Cheyenne) Smith, Samantha Marshall (fiancé Jacob Patsey), Stone Miller, Storm Miller, James (Mariah) Tepin, Tara (Jackson Percy) Tepin, Tonya Tepin, Wyatt Munson, Cheyenne Munson, Derek (Becca) Munson, Nicole Holder, and Garrett Holder; 10 great-grandchildren; siblings Susan Leonard, Ann Wilson, and Duane (Nancy) Dietrich and her favorite canine companion, Louise, as well as many extended family members and dear friends.

A Funeral Service was on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at Church of the Living Word, 1100 N. Ovid Road, Ovid. Private burial at Fairfield Township Cemetery.

The family was served by the McGeehan Funeral Home.



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Obituaries

C. Velmar Green

C. Velmar Green, age 88, of Elsie, Michigan passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, surrounded by his family.

He is survived by his daughter, Margery and her husband Mark VanAtta, and son Craig Green and his wife Darcy. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Kelvin, Justin (Erin), and Corbie, and brother-in-law Brad Henderson. He is predeceased by his wife Margaret and their infant daughter Jennifer, his parents Merle and Hope Green, his brother and sister-in-law M. Duane and Grace Green, his son-in-law Wayne Webster, and his sister-in-law Margery Henderson.

Velmar was raised on his family farm in Elsie, graduating as Valedictorian from Elsie High School in 1955, before attending Michigan State where he graduated from the honors collage Suma-Cum-Laude, in 1959. During his youth he worked on the farm and also rode the railcars, showing Green Meadow Farms' Holsteins at some of the most prestigious shows across the country. After graduating college he and his brother Duane came back to the farm to work side by side with their father Merle. He married Margaret Ann Gill February 24 1968, after knowing each other from early childhood, and was blessed with 55 years of marriage.

Velmar's passion for agriculture continued as he assumed increasing responsibility within industry, trade, and government appointments. He served on the Michigan Milk Producers Association board for 42 years, as chairman of the Michigan Commission on Agriculture & Rural Development, and was inducted into the Michigan Farmers Hall of fame. He was also recognized as Dairyman of the year at the World Dairy Expo in 2013.

Velmar traveled extensively during his tenure on the boards of National Beef, MPPA, and National Milk Producers Federation. His passion for seeing and learning about the world continued later in life as he and Margaret developed a passion for cruising, a hobby they shared with their grandson Justin and great nephew Ben. His love of showing and judging cows continued throughout his life and his grandson Kelvin and granddaughter Corbie are continuing that legacy today.

Funeral Services will be held at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI, on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 11:00 A.M. with Pastor Carol Kusnier officiating. Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery, Elsie, MI. Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2026, from 2-8 P.M. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Elsie Lions Club, 9294 East French Road, Elsie, MI 48831 or the Michigan Junior Holstein Association at 4825 Lake Ave. Lowell, MI 49331.



Cleo Evonne Droste

Cleo Evonne Droste of St. Johns, Michigan passed away peacefully on January 30, 2026, at the age of 90.

A celebration of her life for family and friends will be held Memorial Day weekend, with details to be announced at a later date.

Von, as her friends came to call her, was born in St. Johns on April 28, 1935, to the late Harley and Marion Hefty. A graduate of the class of 1953, from Rodney B. Wilson High School, she married Edward Tomasek on January 2, 1954, and they built a simple but happy life together in St. Johns. Never having a career outside the home, her full-time role as a farmer's wife and mother of five kept her busy. Raising five children on a farm, four of whom were boys, created no shortage of mishaps. Mothering kept her on her toes, but she did so with grace and grit, and a lot of patience. Von lost her first love after 40 years of marriage to Parkinson's and Lou Gehrig's disease; Edward was just 64. Several years later she reunited with a high school sweetheart, Jim Droste. They enjoyed 11 years of marriage before Jim passed away at the age of 79 from a heart attack.

Although Von never moved from St. Johns, she enjoyed traveling. Whether it was spending summers at Chippewa Lake where she and Edward owned a vacation resort or traveling to various states to visit their daughter LouAnn who was the only child to move away, Von appreciated seeing new parts of the country. However, she was always happy and ready to come back home, where she was most content sitting and watching the birds and other wildlife out her living room window. She had a love-hate relationship with the snow, and although one of her most favorite things was planting a garden each spring, she would never think to move away from those Michigan winters.

Von cooked and baked everything from scratch and loved nothing more than fresh vegetables from her garden. She had a basement full of canned goods, and her grandchildren could often be found sneaking a jar or two of homemade pickles or strawberry jam, both of which could be easily devoured in one sitting. Pies, specifically rhubarb and lemon, and sugar cookies were some of her specialties, and she was always asked to bring either, or both, to family gatherings.

Other hobbies Von enjoyed were playing cards and visiting the casino. Although she never gambled much, she loved sitting around after dinner in a competitive game of euchre or golf with a pile of quarters or spending a day at Soaring Eagle. Playing cards around her kitchen table is a shared memory for most of her family and friends and many of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren learned their early math skills by keeping score on pads of scratch paper.

Von was also a talented seamstress and crafter. During their marriage, she and Edward would often create crafts together, he doing the woodwork and she finishing off with the painting. Whether it was wood, ceramic, stained glass or a number of other mediums, she loved creating and was always trying something new that she had seen advertised in her latest craft magazine or on QVC. There was also always a designated sewing room in her house where piles of fabric, any color thread and usually an "in-progress" baby blanket for the newest grandchild could be found. Her blankets and quilts are cherished treasures by family members.

In addition to her parents and two husbands, Von is preceded in death by her son, Ronald Tomasek.

She will be greatly missed by her children: Paul Tomasek (Jeanne), Brian Tomasek (Terri), LouAnn Rudziensky (Edward), and Greg Tomasek (Jamie); daughter-in-law Debra May, honorary son Daryl Smith (Pam), and the Droste kids. Von was the proud grandmother to: Josh Tomasek (Kari), Rob Tomasek, Kristin Tomasek, Abby Melling, Brianna Hardaker (Rob), Brandi Tomasek, Ashley Covert (Nate), Lindsey Reha (Nick), Megan Grecu (Nick), Kati Everett (Stephen), Lexie Deming (Ian) and John Paul Tomasek, and great-grandmother to twenty two great-grandchildren who brought her endless joy.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes – Osgood Chapel, St. Johns, Michigan.



Editorial



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com



Six More Weeks of Winter??

Our furry little friends, Woody from Howell and Phil from Punxsutawney, predicted another six weeks of winter on Groundhog Day this last Monday. Woody barely came out of her house and into the gently falling snow. Of course their accuracy rate according to NOAA is only only 35% in the last twenty years which means they are twice as likely to be wrong as they are right.

Right??? For what it is worth, among 74 groundhog or similar animal weather prognosticators 39 to 35 have predicted a longer winter so maybe Woody and Phil will get it right this year. As for the Weekly Sportsman, plans are being made to venture to Puxatawney next year with some friends to report on the festivities and check off another item on the ole bucket list.

-WS

Elsie United Methodist Church Warming Center

by Dawn D Levey

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

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

"All are welcome," church representatives emphasized.

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

Editorial



Editorials are welcome. 250 words or less.

Email to: news@meridianweekly.com.

Must include name.



Mark Your Calendar for Fundraiser Valentines Dance

On February 14th the American Legion Post 502 will beholding a Valentine's Day Dance to raise money for a new roof on their building.

Silent auction from 6:30-9pm. Timeless band will be playing from 8-11pm.

Dessert bar and water provided. BYOB

Tickets are \$15 each or 2/\$25.

Door prize winner will be drawn at the end of the night, no need to be present. 50/50 raffle.

If you are interested in donating, sponsoring, or ticket information contact: Mark & Jen Thorton (989) 307-2010/(989) 292-2726. Steve & Barb Sutliff (989) 492-6553/(989) 492-6552.



What Does a Rose Symbolize?

A rose doesn't stand for one thing; it's a versatile symbol representing love, beauty, passion, and romance (especially red roses), but also carries meanings like friendship (yellow), purity (white), secrecy, and new beginnings, with specific colors and contexts adding layers like gratitude, enchantment, or even farewell. The meaning often depends on the rose's color, with different hues communicating various sentiments from deep affection to admiration.

Common Meanings by Color:

Red: Love, romance, passion, courage.

Yellow: Friendship, joy, happiness, new beginnings.

White: Purity, innocence, reverence, new beginnings (weddings).

Pink: Gratitude, admiration, gentleness, joy (light pink) or thankfulness (dark pink).

Orange: Enthusiasm, desire, fascination, energy.

Lavender/Purple: Enchantment, mystery, majesty, love at first sight.

Black: Farewell, death, significant change.

Other Symbolic Meanings:

Secrecy: The phrase "sub rosa" (under the rose) signifies confidentiality, stemming from ancient practices of hanging roses in meeting rooms.

Christianity: The rose symbolizes the Virgin Mary, often called the "rose without thorns," representing purity and the fall from Eden.

Socialism: The red rose with a fist is a symbol for socialist and social democratic parties, representing hope and commitment to a better future.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 8:30am - 12 Noon

Wednesday: Thursday: 8:30am-4:00pm

Friday: Closed

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Editorial

Have you ever taken the read on a situation and been wrong? It may have been something simple and just ended up with an ironic twist. Or possibly you were getting a wake up call and plainly missed the meaning of the situation? The last week



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

in January was a direct hit on my waning finances. Poor Prudence was limping and gimping around and had become a bit snippy and I felt as if I had been a very poor pet parent. Add on the loss of water which occurred when the water pump froze in the bitter weather that we were having. Top it off with refilling the propane tank, get my drift? I was extremely frustrated over being tapped out, these scenarios just did not fit with my view of what should be done. Now skip to the first day of February, the sun is shining and temperatures are not indecently bitter. Not a bad start for me but a bit difficult one for Prudence, the antibiotics that she needed were above the capabilities of the Walmart pharmacy. I finally started calling other pharmacies and made contact with the one at Kroger where I finally found what was needed. I asked Walmart to send the prescription over to Kroger, Pru needed it and Walmart had failed to fill it for four days because it wasn't coming in. As soon (within an hour) as Kroger got (the prescription) I got a call to tell me that they only had the pill in a capsule and not a tablet as the prescription ordered. I contacted the veterinary clinic for the information needed and the clinic re faxed the script to Kroger. I am very happy that Pru has the necessary medicine but disgusted with the time wasted waiting to do a recheck call daily after two...the script was in on Thursday but unavailable at Walmart on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday no deliveries, etc. I picked it up on Tuesday at Krogers after two because there were short a few capsules.

Happily for me, Pru is improving but still a bit snippy, but she is back to wagging her tail and nolonger gimps... Tuesday after ten in the evening I lose water again. So I didn't get my shower and hoped that I was clean enough not to be offensive to others on Wednesday. I was up at 4:30 and headed out the door for the shop at 5:50 AM... First I grabbed my walking sticks because I had to check out the water pump in the milkhouse and had some deep snow to wade through. I threw my purse and phone into the front seat of my car and crossed the yard. I could hear the water pump running and knew that I would have to enter the building and unplug both it and heater. As I stepped forward to unhook the milkhouse door I stepped into a puddle of ankle deep very cold water. Granted it was a mild nineteen degrees out there and the wind was not blowing and it was not snowing but the water made everything more difficult. I got into the building, pulled the string on the light above the pump enclosure. Water was splashing loudly, I unplugged the water pump and then the heater the area was flooded. I left the light on and eased out the door, shut and secured the latch. On my second step away from the door I slipped and fell on the ground. I do believe that the air got a bit blue.

I was very ticked off because I fell and even more so because my knees wouldn't flex so that I could stand. The car was sitting across the driveway, about seventy-five feet away from me. I felt helpless...

Then I started crawling on my hands and knees... I was glad that I had my gloves on and felt like a wuss because my knees hurt. Dumb me, I tried calling for help which did help to vent my frustration...

then I prayed and got that surge of determination that I so desperately wanted and needed. I curled my hands into fists and walked on them, had a problem lifting my left leg to bring it forward but it finally limbered up a bit. It took me about twenty minutes to crawl to the car... I opened the driver's door and leaned into get my phone. While doing so I saw a vehicle headed east on Roosevelt, I tried yelling and honking my horn but apparently wasn't visible. They never slowed down... I called my cousin Kenny and asked for help, he would be out in a few minutes. I was thankful. I then tried to get into my car again... I did say try, on the third attempt after grabbing the steering wheel with my right hand and the door with my left, I coaxed my right knee into bending enough to leverage myself onto the seat. What a wonderful moment!!! I eased my right leg in and had to get the left to follow by grabbing my pantleg and lifted my left leg into place. Started the heater and relaxed. The heat poured into my space as soon as I got the door shut. And I thanked God that I had the strength to make the trek and the determination to do so. I am one thankful person with cushy knees and arms a bit sore and I earned a few bruises. But I am functional and the discomfort will pass. I called Kenny and told him that I was in my car and was heading for the shop. Of course he thought that I was nuts and I may have been but I had expectations to resolve. I made it by 6:30 and was delighted that the shop was warm. I worked on making coffee, warming the gravy and trying to get my jeans dried off. They were soaking wet from mid thigh to cuff and both of my shoes were soaking wet but I was back to being functional... May we all pass these tests and tribulations that are thrown our way. May God bless you with appreciation and may your lives be filled with smiles and the affection. Be careful.

Crystal Mitchell©2026

Consumers Energy Continues Efforts to Lower Natural Gas Prices

submitted by Megan D. Kirk

JACKSON – As winter temperatures fall across Michigan, Consumers Energy customers are seeing something different from national headlines: lower natural gas prices. Through smart planning and Michigan's extensive underground storage system, Consumers Energy is keeping energy costs within reach for customers across the state.

By purchasing natural gas during the summer when prices are lowest and storing it for winter use, Consumers Energy delivers meaningful savings to customers. As a result, residential natural gas rates are 28% below the national average. Consumers Energy also does not profit from the cost of gas – passing on savings directly to our customers.

"Families are facing real pressure from rising costs – groceries, housing, healthcare and more – energy shouldn't add to that burden," said LeeRoy Wells, senior vice president and president of gas delivery. "No one should have to choose between heating their home and buying groceries. That's why we work year-round to keep costs down – and why we're ready to help connect customers with real savings and solutions."

To further support Michigan families during extreme cold weather, Consumers Energy is doing more than working to keep costs down – we're also here to help when customers need additional support.

Last week, Consumers Energy announced a \$5 million investment to help customers and communities across Michigan access bill assistance through trusted local community partners. If you're worried about your bill, you don't have to navigate it alone. Consumers Energy is here to support our customers and walk through options designed to keep energy costs within reach.

Customers can act today by visiting: ConsumersEnergy.com/assistance

"Keeping energy within reach means planning ahead, passing savings on, and showing up for customers when it matters most," Wells added. That's the work Consumers Energy delivers everyday – and you can count on us to deliver for Michigan.



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Sports

Tokar Scores 32, Lady Marauders Sidetrack Durand Railroaders, 62-56

OVID-ELSIE — Kendal Tokar poured in 32 points, and Ovid-Elsie's girls basketball team headed off the Durand Railroaders, 62-56, in MMAC girls basketball action.

The win secured Shaun McKinney's Lady Marauders (11-2, 9-1 MMAC) a game back of New Lothrop (9-0) for first place in the conference. The two teams met again last Friday at Ovid-Elsie HS.

Alyson Moore added 13 points for O-E.

Durand (9-5, 7-3 MMAC) was paced by Raine Smith's 15 points while Taylor Carlson added 12 and Montana Spaulding tallied 11.



Durand players couldn't hold off O-E Kendal Tokar as she scored 32 points for the night.

Photo by Denise Burgess

Ovid-Elsie girls head into critical league showdown after 52-41 win over Indians

CHESANING -- Kendal Tokar dropped in four three-point bombs, leading all scorers with 23 points, leading Ovid-Elsie to a clutch MMAC girls basketball win here February 2.

Alyson Moore complemented Tokar's performance with 17 points, and Kortlynn Loynes added 8, the Lady Marauders moving to 12-2 overall and 10-1 in conference play with a solid 52-41 victory.

The game opened a crucial week in league play for Shaun McKinney's Marauders, who faced a Friday night showdown with MMAC-leading New Lothrop.

Chesaning's Indians fell to 5-6 in conference play, 6-8 overall.



Ovid-Elsie Bowling

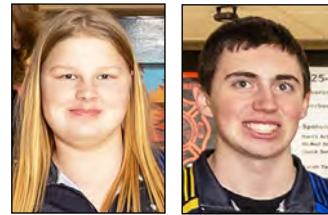
submitted by Matt Fabus
The OE Varsity bowlers were at Fenton Lanes January 31st going up against New Lothrop.

Both teams were on the losing side.

Girls 12-18 with scores of Abby Orweller, 195-159; Tori Dennis 159, 166; Haylee Arnett 201, 161; Brooke Pugsley 212, 225.

The boys 1.5 - 28.5 with games of Byron Odenbaugh 145; Collin Jullie 148, 161; Brady Latz 139; Teagan Ignash 162, 147; Devyn Pugsley 159, 157.

Next up Lakeville at Colonial Lanes, Feb. 7th and Singles Tournament, Feb. 8th same place.



Haylee Arnett Teagan Ignash

Phillips Maintains #1 State Ranking, Leading LHS Wrestlers at Lakewood

LAKESWOOD -- Laingsburg wrestler Dylan Phillips elevated his standout season, qualifying as a candidate for Lansing Area Athlete of the Week, after a championship showing at the Lakewood (Lake Odessa) Viking Invitational.

Phillips opened the tournament as the #1-ranked grappler in the state at 113 lbs.

Eli Stier (3rd), Cooper Mund (4th) and Cameron Betts (3rd) joined Dylan on the podium as placers at the Viking Invite. It was the first time Betts had placed on the podium in his varsity career at LHS.

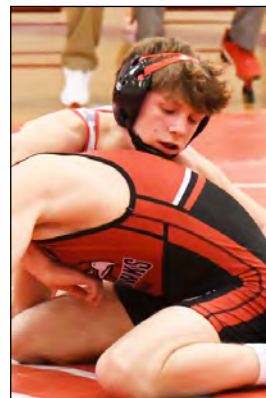
Phillips rolled to three-straight victories, yielding just one point on the day. He scored a 3-0 victory in the quarterfinal over Caledonia's Colton Sorrell, then a 15-zip thrashing of Lakewood's Austin Rohrbacher in the semifinals. The title match was no contest, the Wolfpack standout taking a 10-1 fall over Rene Gonzalez of the Mason Bulldogs. Phillips is 28-1 this season.

Stier at 106 lbs. opened his tournament with a bye, then scored a 6-3 decision over Jameson McElmurray from Mason. In the 106 semifinals, Stier dropped a 9-2 nod to Dakota Harmer from host Lakewood.

At 120 lbs., Mund's tourney started with a 8-5 loss to Stephen Aldrich of Lakewood-Lake Odessa. Fighting through the consolation rounds, Mund shut out Joey Mancuso of Wayland 3-0, then dominated Isaac Darling-Romain of Portage Northern, 14-1. In the third place match, Mund dropped a narrow 5-3 decision in a rematch with Stephen Aldrich.

At 165, Betts opened with a 16-2 domination of Daniel Downs (Swartz Creek) in the quarterfinal. Following was a 16-1 technical fall to Boone Smith (Mason) in the semi's. Betts advanced to the 3rd place match with a 5-3, 1:44 fall over Jacob Dunn (Caledonia). Third place honors went to the Wolfpack wrestler with a narrow 6-5 decision over Lakewood's Chase Livermore.

Also wrestling for LHS but not placing was Charles Dehnert at 215 lbs.



Laingsburg's Dylan Phillips ranked #1 grappler in the state at 113lbs, won all three matches at Lakewood to win invitational in the 113lbs. division.

Photo by Burg Sports

Veterans Shine in Double-Overtime; Wolfpack Girls Stun Fowler 71-66

FOWLER —The Laingsburg girls varsity basketball team snuck off with a win in double overtime here -- after being down 32-18 at halftime.

Lilli Morrill was the difference maker for the Lady Wolves in the second half and overtime, scoring 18 of her team-high 22 points and grabbing 13 rebounds, leading her team to a 71-66 conference win. Morrill led the 'Pack back, despite being hobbled by an ankle injury late in the game, "... only to come back in double overtime and help us finish the task," said veteran coach Dan Morrill.

Brooklyn Holm added a steady 19 points, including 8 in the extra periods. Payge Woodworth and Harper Strouse chipped in with 10 each, while Mallory Woodbury added 8.

For Fowler (3-5 CMAC, 3-8 overall), Isabella Halfmann had a game-high 29 and Selena Stump added 15.

LHS improved to 11-2 and 8-2 in the CMAC, a game-and-a-half back of league-leading Pewamo-Westphalia (9-2, 8-0) and a game behind second-place Bath (9-1, 7-1).

Wolfpack ratchets up defense, rolls to 56-30 girls basketball victory

LAINGSBURG -- "We tightened up on defense in the second half," explained veteran coach Daniel Morrill, after his Lady Wolfpack extended a 7-point halftime lead to win going away over (Flint) Carman-Ainsworth.

The 56-30 victory showcased senior Mallory Woodbury leading all scorers with 22 points.

The non-league win was the 12th in 14 games for the Wolves, and dropped the visiting Cavaliers to 7-8 overall.

Woodbury drilled 7 points in the opening quarter as the hosts opened up a quick 15-9 lead. LHS extended that to 27-20 at halftime -- but the Cavs were hanging tough.

Woodbury then dropped 11 points on the guests in the third stanza, the Wolfpack blowing the game open with a 14-4 run.

In addition to her playmaking efforts, point guard Payge Woodworth added 10 points for the red-and-white. Brooklyn Holm chipped in with 9. Lilli Morrill controlled the boards with 12 rebounds for Laingsburg.

For Carman-Ainsworth, Britney Jones led the Cavaliers with 10 tallies.

Wolfpack girls keep it rolling with 48-18 thrashing of Potterville cagers

POTTERVILLE -- Mallory Woodbury poured in 17 points and Laingsburg's girls basketball team continued to roll here February 4, with a dominant 48-18 CMAC triumph over the Lady Vikings.

Brooklyn Holm added 14, while the Wolfpack relied on stingy defense all night to improve their record to 13-2 overall, 9-2 in the league.

Aubrey Gasch scored 7 for the Vikings, who slumped to 1-10 in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC), 1-12 overall.



Wolfpack guard Leah Mills forces a turnover from Carman-Ainsworth sophomore Stephanie White during the Wolves' 56-30 victory Monday night at LHS.

Photo by Burg Sports

Coaches please remember to send in your weekly sports results!

tomturek20032003 @ yahoo.com or
news@meridianweekly.com

Sports

Ovid-Elsie's Balanced Attack Leads the Way to a 47-37 Win Over Montrose

OVID-ELSIE -- Ovid-Elsie's varsity boys basketball team delivered an impressive 47-37 home victory over Montrose, improving their record to 6-8 " ... in what proved to be a complete team effort," said coach Canyon Walker.

"We win showcased excellent ball movement, strong defensive play, and clutch shooting when it mattered most, giving our team -- and fans -- plenty to celebrate."

With the win, the Marauders improved to 6-4 in MMAC league play, picking up a game on the Rams (7-3). Montrose slipped to 9-4 overall with the loss.

The game started with Montrose jumping out to an early 10-4 lead, but O-E's Braylen Ehle sparked a tremendous comeback with a personal 8-point scoring streak late in the first quarter. Ehle connected on back-to-back three-pointers and added a two-pointer to give the Marauders their first lead at 12-10, finishing the night with 8 points on 3-of-7 shooting, including 2-of-6 from beyond the arc.

The second quarter belonged to Chase Fabus, who took control by knocking down clutch free throws and field goals to help build a 24-19 halftime advantage. Fabus finished with 10 points, shooting 3-of-9 from the field while going a perfect 4-of-4 from the free-throw line.

O-E's Travis Milner stepped up as the game's leading scorer with 15 points, showing great determination despite a challenging shooting night from the field (4-of-17). His perfect 6-of-6 performance from the free-throw line proved crucial, especially during a strong fourth-quarter stretch where he scored 7 points to help seal the victory.

Dalton Jordan provided excellent efficiency with 7 points on just 2 field goal attempts, going 2-of-2 from the field and adding 3-of-6 from the charity stripe.

The balanced scoring attack also included 4 points from Joie Fabus.

Indians roll past Ovid-Elsie in MMAC basketball action, 57-30

CHESANING -- Joie Fabus led the way with nine points and Travis Milner chipped in with eight, but it was Chesaning's defense that set the tone in a 57-30 MMAC win over Ovid-Elsie.

Carpenter Darling got O-E rolling with five quick points in the opening quarter, yet Chesaning pulled away for an early 13-8 lead and never looked back.

The boys basketball victory avenged a December, 51-40 loss for the Indians at Ovid-Elsie HS. The loss dropped O-E to 7-5 in MMAC play, 7-9 overall, with Chesaning moving to 9-3, 12-5 overall.

The hosts slapped a suffocating trap defense on the Marauders, rolling to a 25-14 halftime lead, then putting the game away with a 10-0 run in the third quarter. It was 43-20 after three quarters.

Canyon Walker's Marauders returned to league action Friday night opposite New Lothrop.



O-E's Travis Milner making a drive to the basket, was high scorer against Montrose with 15 points.

Photo by Denise Burgess

Fowler Keeps CMAC Boys Basketball Title Hopes Alive with 56-34 Win at Laingsburg

LAINGSBURG -- The Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) boys basketball race comes down to -- as it has so often has through the decades -- Fowler and Pewamo-Westphalia.

This, after Fowler romped into Laingsburg and escaped with a 56-34 victory that dropped the host Wolfpack to 7-6 in conference play.

The top of the CMAC looked like this: Fowler, with the best overall record at 16-1, but 11-1 in conference play; P-W, at 12-2, but a perfect 12-0 mark in the league. The neighboring, long-time rivals met Thursday night in Fowler to determine bragging rights for 2026.

At LHS, the Eagles left little doubt about any kind of "trap" game, blitzing the Wolves with a 17-10 first quarter run. The visitors led 30-19 at halftime and 40-29 heading into the fourth quarter -- then ran away from the 'Pack with a 16-5 run over the final 8:00.

Dylan Pline and Isaac Thelen led a balanced Bird attack with 15 and 13 points, respectively. Joe Epkey added 10 for the victors.

Jake Rivet led LHS with 10 points. Leandro Dolega-Caceres scored 8, Kollin Bentley-Barr 4, Josiah Hawes 3, Everett Rodriguez 3, Cooper Morr 2, Landon Freeman 2, Collin Logghe one and Nathan Malone one for coach Tim Beebe's Wolfpack.

IAF shoots well, holds off determined Wolfpack effort in 54-40 basketball win

LAINGSBURG -- Saturday night was the night for ... well ... shooting when the International Academy of Flint (IAF) visited LHS for a rare boys basketball weekend game.

The Phoenix kept their unbeaten season alive at 14-0, turning back a determined Wolfpack effort in a 54-40 victory. The loss dropped the Wolves to 7-10 overall.

Shooting 44% from the floor -- including 35% from behind the arc -- the Phoenix rallied from a 9-8 first quarter deficit to blitz the hosts over the next two quarters. IAF rallied to a 30-22 halftime lead, then upped it to 46-29 entering the final period.

Everett Rodriguez and Leandro Dolega-Caceres led the red-and-white in scoring, each with 8 points. Jake Rivet hit for 7, Landon Freeman 7, Josiah Hawes 6, Colton Heaton 2 and Collin Logghe 2 in the non-league loss.

Looking for Ovid Centennial Photos for Future Publication

submitted by Ken Miller

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





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Listening Session

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February 10th, 6-7PM

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




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CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

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 3/18/2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Names of Mortgagor(s): Richard D. Stokes. Original mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Nationstar Mortgage LLC DBA Greenlight Loans. Date of mortgage: 6/21/2016. Mortgage recorded on 7/6/2016 as Document No. 5242775. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): UMB Bank, National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as legal title trustee for PRL Title Trust I. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: \$125,659.74 Mortgage premises: Situated in Clinton County, and described as: THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF CLINTON, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: THE NORTH 250 FEET OF THE WEST 8 RODS OF THE EAST 32 RODS OF THE NORTH 68 RODS OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 29, TSN, R1W, BATH TOWNSHIP, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, TOGETHER WITH DRIVEWAY RIGHTS OVER THE WEST 14 FEET OF THE WEST 8 RODS OF THE EAST 32 RODS OF THE NORTH 68 RODS OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 29, SUBJECT TO JOINT AND RECIPROCAL DUTIES AS TO SAID DRIVEWAY. Commonly known as 5409 Ann Drive, Bath, MI 48808. The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days after the statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241, the redemption period will be 1 month from the date of such sale. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes pursuant to MCL 600.3240(16), the redemption period is 1 year from the date of such sale. The redemption period may be extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Date of Notice: 02/15/2026. Codilis & Moody, P.C. 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (313) 536-2500. This law firm is a debt collector. C&M File 23-26-00007

(02-15)(03-08)

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on FEBRUARY 25, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Joseph E. Clark and Elizabeth Ann Clark, a husband and wife, to The Huntington National Bank, Mortgagee, dated October 31, 2019 and recorded November 8, 2019 in Instrument Number 5285841 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on August 29, 2022, in Instrument Number 5328533, Clinton County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety-One Thousand One Hundred Fifty and 65/100 Dollars (\$91,150.65). Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Clinton County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on FEBRUARY 25, 2026.

Said premises are located in the Township of Olive, Clinton County Michigan, and are described as: That part of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 17, Olive Township, Clinton County, Michigan, beginning on the Section line at a point 790 feet East of the North 1/4 post, running thence east 132.0 feet on the section line; thence Southerly 165.0 feet parallel with North-South 1/4 line; thence West 132 feet; thence Northerly 165 feet to the point of beginning subject to highway right of way. 2343 W Jason Rd, Dewitt, Michigan 48820 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. Dated: January 25, 2026 File No. 26-000531 Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084 Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(01-25)(02-15)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on March 4, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Brian Beck and Wendy Beck, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Washington Mutual Bank Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Citibank, N.A., as Trustee, in trust for registered Holders of WaMu Asset-Backed Certificates WaMu Series 2007-HE3 Trust Date of Mortgage: March 27, 2007 Date of Mortgage Recording: April 6, 2007

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$161,300.39 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Watertown, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: That part of the South 7 1/2 acres of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 27, Town 5 North, Range 3 West, Watertown Township, Clinton County, Michigan, described as: Beginning on the East line of Section 27, at a point 668.00 feet North of the East 1/4 corner of Section 27, Town 5 North, Range 3 West, thence North 87 degrees 33 minutes 30 seconds West 330.3 feet; thence North 185.93 feet; thence East 330.00 feet; thence South 200.00 feet on the East line of Section 27 to the point of beginning Common street address (if any): 15320 S Lowell Rd, Lansing, MI 48906-9344 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16). If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: January 25, 2026 Trott Law, P.C. 31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 642-2515

1583042
(01-25)(02-15)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Connor Tracy and Kelly Tracy, (the "Owners") having failed to pay assessments required under the terms and conditions of the Bylaws of Nottingham Fields Condominium (the "Lien Claimant"), a condominium project as established by the Master Deed, recorded October 2, 2006 in Document Number 5106948, both inclusive, as amended, Clinton County Records, as evidenced by a Statement of Lien dated May 30, 2025, and recorded May 30, 2025 in Document No. 5354524, Clinton County Records. As of the date hereof, there is outstanding and unpaid on account of said assessment the sum of Three Thousand Seventy-Four and 59/100 Dollars (\$3,074.59), which sum is exclusive of interest, costs, attorney fees, expenses of collection, and future assessments. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 a.m. EST, on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The premises are located in the Township of Watertown, Clinton County, Michigan and are described as: Unit No. 44, Phase 2, 15217 Loxley Lane, Lansing, MI 48906, a unit in Nottingham Fields Condominium as established by Master Deed, recorded October 2, 2006, in Document Number 5106948, both inclusive, as amended, Clinton County Records, subject to, in accordance with, and together with all rights, privileges, duties and restrictions imposed, reserved or granted in said Master Deed, and also subject to easements and restrictions of record. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. NOTTINGHAM FIELDS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Dated: January 14, 2026 By: McKenna S. Rivers (P86383) Attorney for Lien Claimant 1700 E. Beltline, NE, Suite 200 Grand Rapids, MI 49525 (616) 726-2209

(01-18)(02-15)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR

ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Under the power of sale contained herein in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised 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 a cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on March 18, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Flip 3, LLC, original mortgagor, to Oaktree Funding Corp., dated January 18, 2024, and recorded January 19, 2024 in 5341667, in Clinton County records, Michigan, and assigned to U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE OF THE LB-IGLOO SERIES VI TRUST, by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on May 22, 2025 in 5354322, and assigned to U.S. BANK TRUST, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR LB-DWELLING SERIES VI TRUST by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on August 13, 2025 in 5356631, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twelve Thousand Eight-Hundred Ninety-Four and

99/100 dollars (\$112,894.99). Said premises are situated in the Township of Dewitt, County of Clinton, State of Michigan, and described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of the West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 33, Town 5 North, Range 2 West, DeWitt Township, Clinton County, Michigan; thence North 880 feet; thence West 1549 feet; thence North 93 feet and West 471.4 feet to a Point of Beginning in the center of Turner Road, said Point also being located 852.88 feet West of the South 1/4 corner of Section 33 to the intersection at Sheridan Road and North 10 degrees 22 minutes 49 seconds East, 120.00 feet on the center of Turner Road; thence East 187.56 feet; thence South 116 feet along a fence line; thence West 212.56 feet to the Point of Beginning. Property Address: 16779 Turner Road Lansing, Michigan 48906 Parcel No.: 050-033-400-041-00 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 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 under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: February 1, 2026 For more information, please call: (513) 444-4100 Sotile and Barile PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 394 Wards Corner Boulevard, Suite 180 Loveland, OH 45140 File MF2511012 - FLIP 3, LLC (Commercial) - DA

(02-01)(02-22)

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

ELECTA E. GALEY LIVING TRUST Dated November 16, 2010 Date of birth: April 1, 1926 NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent ELECTA E. GALEY who lived at 1070 West Webb Road, Dewitt, MI 48820 Died on May 22, 2025 The decedent, Grantor, established the ELECTA E. GALEY LIVING TRUST dated November 16, 2010. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate and trust will be forever barred unless presented to MARCIA E. HARRINGTON-GALEY, Trustee and Nominated Personal Representative of the Estate, at 6003 Orchard Court, Lansing, MI 48911, (517) 282-5830 or the Attorney for Trustee at 30500 Van Dyke, Suite 100, Warren, MI 48093 within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

MARCIA E. HARRINGTON-GALEY 6003 Orchard Ct. Lansing, MI 48911 (517) 282-5830 Law Offices of Benjamin T. Vader Benjamin T. Vader, esq. 30500 Van Dyle Ave. STE. 100 Warren, MI 48093 (586) 268-4463

(02-08)



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Clinton County Waste Management Meeting

submitted by Kate Neese

The Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) will be holding a public meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 5:45pm in the Clinton County Courthouse Board of Commissioners Room to continue the Materials Management Plan process.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 5:45pm in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Clinton County Courthouse. MMPC meeting agendas and minutes will be regularly posted on the Clinton County website: www.clinton-county.org/1075/Materials-Management-Planning-Committee.

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

Ovid Historical Society History Room Hours Change

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

Applications Sought for \$10K LAFCU Innovation for Education Grant

submitted by Ines Tomic
LANSING, Mich. —

From calming corners to robotics labs, Michigan classrooms are being transformed in powerful ways — and LAFCU is ready to help make the next big idea a reality. The credit union has opened applications for its 2026 LAFCU Innovation for Education (LIFE) Grant, awarding \$10,000 to a K-12 school project that enhances learning, creativity and student well-being.

Schools interested in applying are encouraged to complete the online application at www.lafcu.com/life and to submit a three- to five-minute video explaining how the funds would be used and the impact the project would have on students and staff.

Teachers, administrators, parent-teacher organizations, and school clubs or councils may apply on behalf of their schools. Applications will be accepted now through May 1.

The LIFE Grant may be used for innovative projects that strengthen the overall student learning experience. Past and potential uses include improvements such as flexible seating, updated technology, equipment upgrades, STEM tools, social-emotional learning supports, sensory spaces, and other enhancements designed to support engagement, creativity, and well-being.

“Schools often struggle to secure funding for essential improvements,” said Shelia Scott, LAFCU community financial education and business development officer. “This grant helps create learning environments where students feel supported, engaged, and excited to learn.”

Last year’s recipient, Ellis Elementary School in Belding, used its \$10,000 award to expand calming spaces, add flexible seating, and integrate sensory tools that support social-emotional development for its K-2 students. View their winning video here.

“As a community, we are so grateful,” said Nicole Stoner, school counselor at Ellis Elementary. “These tools really help empower our students to be the best version of themselves, and it’s all thanks to LAFCU and this grant. The best part is that the impact goes beyond today; it will create lasting change that benefits future generations of students.”

Teachers reported measurable improvements in student focus, behavior regulation, and classroom engagement as a result of the new sensory paths, flexible seating, and calming resources.

The 2024 LIFE Grant recipient, Perry Upper Elementary School, used its award to upgrade its STEM learning spaces. STEM teacher Eric Bentley transformed his classroom with programmable robots, engineering kits, sensory seating, and an under-sea-themed mural to create a more immersive, hands-on learning environment. View their winning video here.



LAFCU LIFE Grant 2024 Recipient — At Perry Upper Elementary School, STEM equipment funded by the 2024 LAFCU Innovation for Education (LIFE) Grant enhances hands-on instruction and encourages student engagement.

“This grant truly transformed my classroom,” Bentley said. “It gave my students hands-on learning opportunities that sparked creativity and problem-solving. The programmable robots and engineering resources have made STEM concepts more interactive, while the mural turned our space into a vibrant, inspiring environment that fuels curiosity and exploration. I’m incredibly grateful to LAFCU for making this possible.”

Scott said visiting past recipients highlights the grant’s impact. “It’s incredible to see how educators use these funds to build safe, innovative spaces where students can thrive,” she said. “Whether it’s calming corners or robotics labs, the results show how powerful the right tools can be.”

Now in its third year, the LIFE Grant reflects LAFCU’s ongoing commitment to Michigan schools through its Pathway to Financial Transformation initiative.

Pathway to Financial Transformation is LAFCU’s long-term community initiative focused on strengthening financial stability, expanding access to education and resources, and helping individuals and families build a stronger future.



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