

District Champions

Lady Wolfpack Blitzes Bath Late; Wraps up District Crown, 40-23

BATH -- Laingsburg's girls varsity basketball team went on a dominating 23-6 run to close out the game, bringing home a MHSAA District title trophy to Wolfpackland.

Coach Dan Morrill's Lady Wolves were able to raise the crown after a hard-fought game, prevailing by a final 40-23 count. The two teams came in with identical records (19-4) and had split the CMAC season series.

The Wolfpack won the day with hard-nosed defense. LHS held offensive powerhouse Bath to only 7 points in the first half and 23 for the game, a season low. "I'm very proud of our girls," said Morrill following the gritty win.

LHS senior Mallory Woodbury led all scorers with 14 points; Brooklyn Holm added 12, and Payge Woodworth chipped in 9 for the 'Pack.

Laingsburg advanced to play in the New Lothrop Regional semifinal vs. Pewamo Westphalia, where they fell, 39-24 (see related story).

Explained coach Morrill, "I'm very proud of our girls and it was a true pleasure to coach them this year. Our five seniors were amongst the most coachable group of seniors I have ever worked with. All of them were exceptional teammates, only wanting to work hard and get better.

"Our program will miss them, our community will miss watching them, and I will personally miss them."



Coach Daniel Morrill and his Lady Wolfpack hoist the MHSAA District 95 championship trophy at Bath HS.

The champion team includes: Leah Mills, Brooklyn Holm, Payge Woodworth, Lilli Morrill, Mallory Woodbury, Bella Latuszek, Harper Strouse, Savvy Stirm, Peyton Stahr, Head Coach Daniel Morrill, Assistant Coach Norm Holm. Photo by Burg Sports

Dylan Phillips State Champion



Wolfpack's Phillips Brings Home State Title

A final victory over Dom Sindone of Dundee earned Dylan Phillips that very rarest of wrestling accomplishments:

An individual state championship ... as a freshman.

Full story and more sports on page 12

Where the Bison Roam

by Deb Price

Ashleigh Lerg, is a 4th generation farmer and owner of Humble Beginnings Ranch. She along with her parents, Roger and Kim and her daughter Jamie have strived to change the family farm from industrial farming to a regenerative farm (a practice to improve soil health, increase biodiversity and restore water systems rather than depleting them). Ashleigh's goal, along with the help of her Mother Kim, is to restore the land one acre at a time and return to the way her great-grandfather once farmed, using nature as a guide, with the help of animals, compost and cover crops.



Kim and Ashley Lerg

The 997 acre farm located off M-21, about 1 mile North on Chandler Road was row cropped for over 120 years rotationally between soybeans and corn. Roger still farms 667 acres conventionally and Ashleigh farms 300 acres with her 140 herd of Bison, restoring "dirt" back into soil by planting crop fields, meadows of perennial native grasses and forbes. "I want to restore our farm's ecosystem, work with nature not against it. The chemicals and sprays have not only killed our bad pests, but the good ones too. Industrial farming has left no place for nature or our kids to play in the fields," explained Ashleigh.

She did five years of intense research before putting the bison farm into motion. She attended workshops, roundups and talked with other bison farmers. She also sought advice from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Once all her questions were answered, she purchased her first 15 bison girls (10 one year olds and 5 calves) from a ranch in North Dakota and a bull from a ranch in Indiana in December of 2014. In the summer of 2015 the journey started. The animals are born, raised, and harvested on the ranch. They are free of antibiotics and worming medications. "They love pumpkins and squash, which acts as a natural de-wormer, so feel free to drop off your pumpkins after Halloween," explained Ashleigh.

The cover crops, are planted in May and in August and consists of a 6-10 seed combinations, for the five separate pastures. The bison move from pasture to pasture on "Bison Time", in other words, they move when they are ready and no sooner. The bison are helping to heal the land, as they graze the grasses, they promote healthy grass growing through nipping the tops of the grasses. They leave natural fertilizer for the plants and soil with their dung and urine. Their fur carries the seeds across the land planting new grasses and Forbes. Their hooves, loosen and radiates the soils enabling healthy plant growth.

In addition to the bison, ducks, chickens, brown Chinese geese and "Jake" the turkey can be seen roaming freely on the farm. Farm fresh eggs are available for purchase everyday, duck eggs are available seasonally. Bison meat (ground-roasts-steaks-brisket-ribs-organ meat) along with whole homegrown chickens are also available for purchase.



continued on page 4



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90 Years Young

Gloria House will be celebrating her 90th Birthday on March 23rd. Let's shower her with birthday cards, they can be sent to 139 E. Oak, Street, Ovid, MI 48866.



Ovid Public Library

On Wednesday, March 18 we will be having another Classic Movie. This week's movie will be 'Lullaby of Broadway.' A romantic comedy starring Doris Day and Gene Nelson. Movie time will be 1:00. There will be light snacks available but you are welcome to bring your own.

March is Reading Month and to get you into reading come into the library and get a free book. We have books for all ages from 1-99. Reading boosts vocabulary, reduces stress, and keeps the brain active. What better reason can you have to pick up a book and read.

Laingsburg Lions Springtime Festival Raffle

The Laingsburg Lions Club Springtime Festival Raffle tickets are available for purchase from any Lions Club Member or at The Meridian Weekly office in Ovid. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20, drawing date will be Monday, May 25, 2026 at 3pm at McClintock Park Amphitheater.



Prizes are as follows: 1st-Custom Golf Cart, 2nd-\$1,000 Weekend Get-a-Way, 3rd-\$600 MysteryPrize, 4th- \$500 Cash, 5th-\$400 In Local Business Gift Cards, 6th-\$300 Cash, 7th-\$200 Cash and 8th-\$100 Cash. Need not be present to win, get your tickets today...



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Ovid Healthcare Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt at Ovid Healthcare Center will be held on Saturday, March 28th at 11am. Kids Pre-School & Under as well as 1st-6th graders are welcome to come take part. The Easter Bunny will be hiding eggs, passing out candy and prizes. Mark your calendar now for this fun event. Ovid Healthcare is located at 9480M-21 in Ovid. For more information call 989-834-2228.



Elsie Masonic Lodge members donated to the DREW (Discovering Recreation and Enjoying Wildlife) Foundation

Elsie Masonic Lodge Stives to Support the Community

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – The Elsie Masonic Lodge members strive to make the world a better place and to support local service organizations and foundations to serve the community. Recently the Elsie Mason's provided a \$1,200.00 donation to the DREW (Discovering Recreation and Enjoying Wildlife) Foundation, Ashley Michigan. The mission of the foundation is to enable all people with limited physical and resource abilities disabled veterans, accident victims or born with a condition that limits access, the pleasure of enjoying the uniqueness and beauty of the out-of-doors and nature. They strive to provide equipment to allow the individuals to become as mobile and independent as possible whether they are boating, hiking, fishing, hunting or bird watching. This goal allows these individuals to pursue their out-of-door dreams. This is made possible by aiding in the purchase and delivery of Tracked Wheelchairs. Founders Lynn and Arlene Coleman continue this mission with the assistance of others.

In addition, the Elsie Masonic Lodge members continue to support the Elsie Baby Pantry with a donation only pancake breakfast the last Saturday of each month. The next breakfast is slated for Saturday, March 28, 2026, 8a-Noon, 100 E Main Street, Elsie, Michigan.

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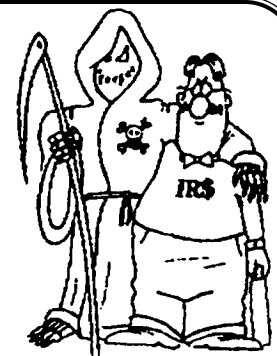
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Village of Elsie

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – The regular meeting of the Elsie Village Council was held Tuesday, March 10, 2026. Action was taken to approve the 2026-2027 budget.

Ed White, presented a village park update. White completed and provided the park improvement/master plan. The plan had a focus on the resurfacing of the walking path and estimates were included within the master plan. White is seeking grants for park improvements. In his investigation he found an old dump site that is in dire need of clean-up. An EGLE grant is in progress to assist with the clean-up. Alternate methods of cleanup were discussed. In addition, when warmer weather hits, the basketball and pickle ball courts will be finished.

The Clinton Area Ambulance Service update presented by Kory Witt, trustee. The 2026-2027 budget was presented for approval. Witt noted that costs of and funding emergency services is becoming a major concern for small communities. Action was taken to approve the budgets as presented.

Kelsey Kelly, clerk/treasurer, presented an update on her training and the status of updating the website to make it ADA compliant to meet the State deadline. A lot of factors are contributing to the positive outlook for the financial future of the Village of Elsie. Three-day office hours were continued for the next budget year.

Chief Destinee Bryce, presented the monthly report. She reported that the complaints have decreased for the month. Thirty-five calls were addressed. The calls involved five traffic stops with one citation issued, one domestic complaint, traffic and motor carrier enforcement, and community engagement at EE Knight. Tornado warning system testing will begin April 4, however, if emergency occurs the system is fully functional. Golf cart permits have been ordered and will be available in the near future.

D Bryce presented the monthly manager's report. Numerous grant funding is being pursued for the water system including the congressional requests. Training and educational opportunities are being capitalized upon. The budget process has been intense with very positive results, and a conservative plan will continue to be utilized for the next fiscal year. The village wide large item pick-up is tentative scheduled for Saturday, June 27 due to the change of the annual Dairy Festival.

Chris Ormes, Department of Public Works, reported that the tri-annual evaluation of the lagoons and discharge information has been completed. A number of maintenance items will be addressed. In addition, vegetation concerns will be addressed. Meter replacement is an ongoing project.

Action items included the approval of expenditures totaling \$128,478.11. It was noted that the monthly expenditures included the bobcat.

Action was taken to approve the 2026-2027 fiscal budget, noting that a public hearing was held prior to the regular council meetings. The public hearing allowed residents to ask questions and comment.

Officials approved the resolution 26-0001, 80%/20% employer/employee health care option. An overview was presented during the budget public hearing.

Next, officials approved the MERS defined benefit amendment, and the vesting for the police chief. Bryce requested that the vesting period be changed from 10 years to 8 years. In addition, she will receive a 2% raise.

Officials reviewed the library agreement and engaged in a discussion regarding the contribution. Mrs. Ann Trierweiler, lead librarian, was present to explain the District Library and the agreement. It was noted that changes in the agreement would involve negotiations with all entities involved, Duplain Township, Village of Elsie and the Elsie Public Library board. Freeman, indicated that he will support the current agreement. Discussion followed. Official approved the current agreement for one more year with a 4-3 vote. Opposing the motion Mark Helt, Kory Witt, Sam Frink, based upon the current financial status of the village.

Action was taken to address the water and sewer rates for 2026-2027. Elsie is working towards meeting the requirements for grant funding to upgrade the water system and much of the criteria is based upon water rates and system sustainability. Officials approved \$1.00 increase per 1,000 gallons on the water and \$1.01 per 1,000 gallons on the sewer side.

Additional comments and public comment included a number of issues. Ed White, as a member of the Elsie Dairy Festival, requested that trustee Witt ask the fire department to clean the streets in the very near future. In addition, Riverside Cemetery cleanup was scheduled for April 18, 2026, 10 am, all flowers should be removed from the grace sites prior to the cleanup.

An ordinance committee meeting was scheduled for March 19, 2026, 6:30 pm, at the Elsie Village Business office.

David Finch wrapped up the evening with a number of comments. First, he reminded officials that Robert's Rules guides the village public meetings. Officials should avoid addressing or debating or being combative with people who attend, just listen. In addition, he excited that code violations are being addressed and enforced. Many of the downtown buildings are in poor shape, some may need to be condemned. Consider developing a five-year master plan. Finch is in the process of developing a business plan and to consider a business in the area.

Officials commented that they encourage public engagement, and it is difficult not to respond to questions when they are asked.

Benefit to be Held for Landon Leach

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – The Elsie Masonic Lodge will host a donation-based fundraiser for the Landon Leach family on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 5–8 p.m. at the Masonic Community Center on East Main Street in Elsie, Michigan. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served, with the cost being a freewill donation.

In October 2025, Landon Leach was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of brain cancer. In just a few short months, the disease has taken his vision and led to seizures, blood clots, and severe weakness. Despite these significant challenges, Landon continues to fight with strength and determination. He is also the father of a young family.

Proceeds from this benefit will help the family with mounting medical expenses, allowing them to focus on what matters most—time together and supporting Landon in his fight. The community is encouraged to attend and show their support.

Village of Elsie Budget Hearing

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – The public hearing regarding the 2026-2027 fiscal budget was held Tuesday, March 10, 2026. The Village is hopeful to be out of deficit by the middle of the 2026-27 fiscal year, which is a very positive step for the financial sustainability of the community.

It was projected that the contingency at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year would be \$6,097. However, approximately \$30,000 is the actual contingency. Raises will be necessary this year, 2% across the board.

A lot of factors are contributing to the positive outlook for the financial future of the Village of Elsie. Currently running at 14% fund balance, with a goal of 25% fund balance at the end of the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The budget reflects a pay raise for staff, noting that DPW staff were working for \$14.00 per hour with no overtime. Health insurance was changed to save money, MML liability and property insurance only increased \$3,000 instead of the projected \$5,000.

A general overview of the budget was presented and then opened up for questions and public comment.

Friends of Laingsburg Public Library

A fundraiser for the Friends of Laingsburg Public Library will be held March 22-28 in combination with Schuler Books Book Days.

Designate your Schuler Book Days purchase at the checkout and 20% of the proceeds will benefit the Laingsburg Public Library. Use the assigned web promo code for online purchases.

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Spring Farm Section

Humble Beginnings Ranch ... cont' from front page



Humble Beginnings Ranch also offers a "Farm Camp" where kids can become a farmer for a week with hands-on learning to care for animals, explore nature, while forming new friendships. Other camp features include: art and science projects, water slide & games and interactive learning activities. The camps run from Monday-Thursday from 8am-4pm every other week during the summer. For camp pricing and additional information call or text Ashleigh at 989-627-2462 or by email humblebeginningsranchllc@gmail.com. The farm is located at 4151 E. Walker Rd., St. Johns, MI 48879.

NUTRITIONAL COMPARISONS

Per 100 Gram (3.5 oz.) Serving Cooked Meat

Source: USDA National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference. Updated January 2013

SPECIES	FAT G	PROTEIN G	CALORIES KCAL	CHOLESTEROL MG	IRON MG	VITAMIN B-12 MCG
BISON	2.42	28.44	143	82	3.42	2.86
Beef (Choice)	18.54	27.21	283	87	2.72	2.50
Beef (Select)	8.09	29.89	201	86	2.99	2.64
Pork	9.21	27.51	201	84	1.0	0.68
Chicken (Skinless)	7.41	28.93	190	89	1.21	0.33
Sockeye Salmon	6.69	25.40	169	84	0.50	5.67

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Spring Farm Section

MDARD Opens Application for 2026 Agriculture Exporter of the Year Award

submitted by Lynsey Mukomel

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) announced today that it will accept applications for the 2026 Michigan Agriculture Exporter of the Year Award now through 5 p.m. ET on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

“By exporting nearly \$3 billion of food, agriculture and forestry products each year, Michigan companies have made our state world-famous for everything from apples and tart cherries to dry beans and dairy products,” said MDARD Director Tim Boring. “This award recognizes the hard work of producers, manufacturers and shippers whose export activities help create good-paying jobs for Michiganders and drive Michigan’s economy forward.”

Each year, MDARD recognizes a leading food, agriculture or forest product business that has demonstrated success in export growth. Eligibility is open to Michigan producers, manufacturers or shippers that are actively pursuing international markets. More than 50 percent of the company’s exported products must be grown, processed or manufactured in Michigan as part of the requirements. Companies of all sizes are encouraged to apply.

The Michigan Agriculture Exporter of the Year was first awarded in 2006. Recent winners include Cooperative Elevator Company in the Thumb Region; Banks Hardwoods in southwest Michigan; and Zeeland Farm Services in west Michigan. Information on previous winners is available on the Michigan Ag Exporter of the Year Award Recipients web page.

For more information, please visit the MDARD Ag Exporter of the Year webpage or contact International Marketing Program Coordinator Holly Gaffney.

USDA Announces Grants to Boost Rural Business Innovation

submitted by Alec Lloyd

East Lansing — The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development today announced the availability of funding for the Value-Added Producer Grants program, which helps agricultural producers turn raw commodities into higher-value products, expand market opportunities, and strengthen rural economies. Applications are due by 1 p.m. Eastern Time on April 15, 2026.

The Value-Added Producer Grants program supports planning activities, such as feasibility studies, business plans, and marketing strategies, or working capital needs, including processing, packaging, advertising, inventory, and personnel.

“Value-Added Producer Grants help small rural businesses take basic crops and convert them to a higher-value product on site, capturing more of the added value in rural communities,” said Rural Development Michigan State Director Dom Restuccia. “This encompasses everything from turning grapes into wine or making milk into ice cream.”

USDA Rural Development invests in rural America with loans, grants, and loan guarantees to promote rural prosperity. Learn more at www.rd.usda.gov.



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<p>\$71,499</p> <p>2025 CHEVY EXPRESS 3500 6.6L gas V8, w/11' Knapheide alum. KUV, keyless entry. Stk. #3675</p>	<p>\$68,249</p> <p>2026 CHEVY 3500HD W/T 4x4, 6.6L gas V8, w/9' Reading service body. Stk. #3806</p>	<p>\$62,499</p> <p>2025 CHEVY EXPRESS 3500 6.6L V8 w/Knapheide steel KUV w/remote locks. Stk. #3661</p>	<p>\$52,499</p> <p>2025 CHEVY EXPRESS 2500 6.6L V8, upfitted cargo. Stk. #3649</p>
<p>\$62,499</p> <p>2025 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD CREW CAB W/T 4x4, 6.6L gas w/Monroe 8' service body. Stk. #3458</p>	<p>\$63,249</p> <p>2026 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD DBL. CAB W/T 4x4, 6.6L gas V8, w/Reading 8' service body. Stk. #3931</p>	<p>\$88,499</p> <p>2025 CHEVY SILVERADO 3500HD W/T 4x4, 6.6L diesel, w/11' Reading enclosed service body w/remote locks. Stk. #3791</p>	<p>\$70,249</p> <p>2026 CHEVY 3500HD W/T 4x4, 6.6L gas V8, w/Monroe 9' steel dropside dump. Stk. #3834</p>
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Elsie United Methodist Church Sets Lenten Service Schedule

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE — The Elsie United Methodist Church, 160 W. Main Street in Elsie, has announced its 2026 Lenten and Easter worship schedule. Community members are invited to attend and participate in these special services.

A Maundy Thursday worship service will be held Thursday, April 2, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) at Elsie United Methodist Church.

A Good Friday worship service is scheduled for Friday, April 3, at 2:00 p.m. The location is still to be determined, as the service may be held jointly with another local church. An updated announcement will be shared once the location is finalized. If the service is held only with Elsie and Shepardsville United Methodist Church, it will take place at Elsie United Methodist Church.

A Easter Son-Rise (early morning) service will be held Sunday, April 5, at 7:30 a.m. at Elsie United Methodist Church, with an Easter breakfast fellowship to follow.

The Easter Sunday worship service will also be held Sunday, April 5, at 9:30 a.m. at Elsie United Methodist Church. A service will be held at Shepardsville United Methodist Church at 11:00 a.m.

All are welcome and encouraged to celebrate the Lenten season and Easter with the congregations of Elsie and Shepardsville United Methodist churches

Obituaries...cont' on page 7

James Lee Galloway

James Lee Galloway, age 67, of St. Johns, MI, passed away Sunday, March 8, 2026.

James was born in Carson City, Michigan on August 10, 1958, the son of Albert and Maxine (Stine) Galloway. He was a graduate of St. Johns High School, with the Class of 1976.

Jim was a lifelong farmer. He owned an equipment business called Galloway Sales, Inc. in St. Johns. Jim was a classic car enthusiast. He enjoyed snowmobiling and watching NASCAR races.

He is survived by his wife Debbie Galloway; son Jamison Galloway; step-daughter Mandi, and Paul Beasinger; mother Maxine Galloway; sister Jean Galloway; sister Jan Galloway; many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. Jim was preceded in death by his father Albert Galloway, and his sister Jane (Greg) Mayott.

A Memorial Visitation was held at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Ithaca, MI, on Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 11:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to Clinton County Humane Society. Online condolences may be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Ithaca, Michigan.



Arthur Calvin "Art" Porubsky

Arthur Calvin "Art" Porubsky, a longtime resident of St. Johns, Michigan, died at his winter home in Leesburg, Florida on March 8, 2026, at the age of 81.

Art was born on October 2, 1944, in Levering, Michigan, the son of Emil and Ethel (Searles) Porubsky. He grew up in Ashley, Michigan, where he attended school before completing his senior year at Elsie High School, graduating with the Class of 1964. Shortly thereafter, he began what would become a long and respected career as a skilled tradesman with General Motors. Art started with General Motors in January of 1965 and devoted more than forty years to his work.

On June 19, 1965, he married Mary Katherine Wright at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Hubbardston. Together they built a life centered around family, faith, and hard work, sharing more than sixty years of marriage.

Art and Mary were faithful members of St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Johns, where his Catholic faith remained an important part of his life. In retirement, he and Mary spent their winters in Leesburg, Florida, a tradition they enjoyed for many years.

Art had a knack for finding treasures and was well known for attending auction sales and flea markets. He especially enjoyed buying toy tractors, fixing them up, and reselling them. He was a familiar face at the flea markets in Clare and at Burley Park each year.

Music was another passion of his. He loved all kinds of music, especially country, and counted Waylon Jennings and Johnny Cash among his favorites. He passed that love of music along to his children. Art also enjoyed a good game of cards, watching football, and cheering on his beloved Detroit Tigers as a loyal and passionate fan.

In addition to Mary, his beloved wife of over sixty years, he leaves his children, Marty (Terri) Porubsky, Rick Porubsky, Angie (the late Darrell) Fahey, Kelly (Greg) Houlihan, and Jennifer Porubsky; his grandchildren, Charlie, Evan, and Derek Porubsky, Jace Rozankovich, and Molly, Sydney, and Gwen Houlihan; his sisters-in-law, Betty (Paul) Fernholz, Donna (Keith) Graham, Julie (the late Dan) Smith, and Sheila Wright; his siblings, Rose Dudash, Carol (Terry) Good, Cheryl Fisher, Toni (Terry Ornelas) Porubsky, Robin (Eric) Gill, and Dan (Debra) Porubsky; along with numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members, and many dear friends. He was preceded in death by his sons, Craig, Terry, and Jeffrey Porubsky; his son-in-law Darrell Fahey, and brother-in-law, Joe Wright.

Visitation will be held at McGeehan Funeral Home, Keck-Coleman Chapel, 1500 Waterford Parkway, St. Johns, on Monday, March 16, from 5-7 p.m., with a Vigil Service and Rosary at 7 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 109 Linden Street, St. Johns, on Tuesday, March 17, at 11 a.m., with visitation beginning at the church at 10 a.m. The Rev. Fr. Michael Williams will officiate. Burial will follow at Mt. Rest Cemetery. Following the committal service at the cemetery, a luncheon will be held at Columbian Hall.

Memorials may be made in his name to St. Joseph Catholic School. The family was served by the McGeehan Funeral Home Keck-Coleman Chapel.



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Obituaries

Joyce Elaine Friedman

Joyce Elaine Friedman, age 83 of Ovid, passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, March 7, 2026, surrounded by her family.

Born on January 11, 1943, in Lansing, Michigan, Joyce, affectionately known as Joy by those who knew her best, was a cherished daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend.

Joy was the loving daughter of Henry Washington and Maxine Loraine (Morris) Proper and grew up alongside her sister, Loretta Cartwright, in Lansing. Her life was enriched by the bonds of family and friendship from her earliest days. Joy's heart found its match when she married Louis August Friedman on her 21st birthday, January 11, 1964, in East Lansing, Michigan. She attended St. Isidore Catholic Church alongside her beloved husband for many years. Dedicating countless hours to volunteering for funeral lunches at the parish. Their union was a testament to true love and partnership until Louis's untimely passing in 1998. This year would have marked 62 years of togetherness; now, after 28 years apart, they are united once again for eternity.

A proud graduate of DeWitt High School, Class of 1960, Joy dedicated her life to nurturing and caring for others. Her career as a nurse's aide was a natural extension of her innate compassion and desire to help those in need.

An avid card player, Joy's skill at the game of euchre was well-known throughout different towns. She competed in big euchre tournaments and even clinched the first-place title, a testament to her sharp mind and competitive spirit. Saturday nights were reserved for card games with her family, a tradition that created laughter and cherished memories.

The legacy of Joy's kind and selfless spirit is carried on by her loving daughters, Kimberly Friedman of Ovid, Tammy Friedman of Ovid, Jamie (Victor) Medina of Ovid, and Tanya (John) Cartwright of Lansing; her grandchildren, Joshua (Michelle) Friedman of St. Johns, Brian Engels of Ovid, Ashlee (Daniel) Williams of Potterville, Lewis Ward of Lansing, Zachary (Ava) Ward of Lansing, and Savannah Ward of Lansing. The light of Joy's life expanded with the birth of her great-grandson, Daniel James "DJ" Williams, who brought immense happiness to her later years. DJ's performances of song and dance for his great grandma, alongside his favorite ladybug statue, will remain a cherished memory for the family.

Joy was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Louis, her parents, her sister, many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends, including her best friend of 78 years, Phyllis Daggy. Both graduates of DeWitt High School, Joy and Phyllis shared countless moments of laughter and the occasional mischievous adventure, all of which shaped Joy's vibrant life.

A funeral service to honor and celebrate her life was held on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at Watkins Brothers Funeral Homes, 203 E. First North St., Laingsburg, MI 48848. Rev. Dr. Tom Rundel officiated.

She will be laid to rest privately at Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery,

Memorials in Joy's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research at stjude.org.

Online condolences, memories, and photos may be shared at www.watkinsfuneralhomes.com.



Daniel "Danny" Mark Ball

Daniel "Danny" Mark Ball, 65, of Ovid, MI, passed away at his home on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, with his wife and beloved dog, Toby, by his side.

Danny was born in Jackson, MI on January 11, 1961. He was the son of Dennis Hubert Ball and Dolores Jean (Payne) McCabe. He graduated from Holt High School with the class of 1979.

On September 23, 1989, Danny married the love of his life and reason for his existence, Kristin (Bennett) Ball, at St. Therese Catholic Church in Lansing, MI. They spent over 36 years together building their family, golfing, camping, and going to antique festivals and flea markets. Danny and Kristin also loved traveling to Colorado and Florida to visit family.

Danny worked in paint repair for General Motors for over 25 years. He served as a committee man for UAW Local #602. Danny loved golfing, especially with family and friends. He also organized and played in his union golf league for almost three decades.

Danny built their family home in 1994 where they raised their sons. It has been a wonderful place to live to this day. He was great with his hands and loved working on projects for those who mattered most to him. You knew Danny loved you if he built your deck, tiled your bathroom, or installed your hardwood floor. He will be remembered as someone who was always willing to help when needed. There was never a time when he didn't show up for the people he loved.

He shared his love of hunting with his sons. Many fall days were spent together duck hunting at Maple River and Shiawassee River State game areas. He also enjoyed deer hunting with family and friends. He built a skeet thrower in their back field, and they spent many hours shooting together.

Danny was a proud father and grandfather. He took advantage of every opportunity to spend precious time with his sons and granddaughters.

Danny was baptized and entered the Catholic faith in 1997. He was member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Johns.

He is survived by his loving wife Kristin; children David Ball, and Dennis (Kandice) Ball; granddaughters: Eloise Ball and Emma Ball; siblings BJ (Jerry) Lynch, Jodi Surline, and Mary Harwood; sisters and brothers-in-law Amy (Joe) Rice, Brenda (John) Saenz, and Kevin Bennett; and mother-in-law Jean Bennett. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Danny was preceded in death by his father Dennis Ball and step-mother Barbara Ball; mother Dolores McCabe and step-father Grant McCabe; and brother Kevin Ball.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Johns, MI, at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, March 20, 2026, with Rev. Fr. Michael Williams presiding. Burial will take place at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Lansing, MI. Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026 from 4:00-7:00 P.M. at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel in St. Johns, MI. A Vigil Service will be held at 6:00 P.M. that evening.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Danny's honor may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Johns, MI

Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, St. Johns, MI



Editorial

Welcoming Spring

If you've been weary of winter, you'll be happy to know that spring is approaching! The spring equinox is March 20, 2026. In other words, the first day of spring. The spring equinox is the astronomical start of spring, when the sun crosses the celestial equator, resulting in the return of warmer weather and longer days.

While the wintertime is an essential period in the natural world, it causes feelings of depression and gloom for many people. The cold weather causes people to stay indoors often. The reduced sunlight exposure leads to lower vitamin D and serotonin levels. However, the sunny skies of spring encourage more time outdoors, having the opposite effect. The spring season is known to bring feelings of hope and growth, as it coincides with nature's time of blooming after the winter. Animals coming out of hibernation, birds migrating back from the south, green leaves growing back on trees, and flowers blooming, all affirm the idea of the light after dark.

As the natural world brightens and spring fever arises, it's a perfect time to start planning how to spend your spring and make the most of it. The nice weather provides many different opportunities to enjoy nature and pick up new hobbies! Starting off simple, you can walk or bike outdoors to enjoy the fresh air and warm sun. You can hike scenic trails to explore scenery. The beautiful colors and plants make a great occasion to pick up photography as well. You can have a picnic at a park. You can go feed ducks to welcome their return from their migration (feed them seeds or corn, not bread, as it is bad for their health). Other birds returning from their winter journey make it a good time to start bird watching! It lets you learn about different birds by identifying and tracking species. You can build or buy a bird house for your backyard. You can start a garden there too!

Springtime is a time of renewal and new beginnings for all on the planet. Engaging in these outdoor ventures strengthens connection to nature and nourishes mental and physical health. This spring, remember to stop and smell the roses!



Planet Perspectives

by Alison Kozlowski

There Is Never a Good Time To Say Goodbye

Dear Andy, Our 18-year-old family dog has been lethargic and acting old for the last couple of months. Maybe it's the weather. We took her to the Vet and she gave us meds to make her "final" days comfortable. We cannot decide if we should have her put down or continue to spend more money on expensive x-rays, blood work and testing or procedures to prolong her life. How do we know when is the right time to say goodbye? Dog Days Nearly Gone

Dear Dog Days, I know you love your family pet very much. They are a member of the family and it is difficult to let go. There is no good time to say goodbye. If money is no object, Michigan State University Veterinary Clinic has specialists in cancer, heart, or any organ that might be failing. If you decide not to spend what could thousands of dollars, you're going to feel bad because it's just money. However, when a dog starts to decline, it can happen quickly and if you wait until the discomfort is painful and you cannot handle seeing her in pain; it's also going to feel bad; either choice, you're going to feel bad. Sadly, it may be time to euthanize your pet. Your local veterinarian can help you in making the decision.

A Dogs Prayer to you – Thank you, my beloved friend for your kind treatment. No heart in the entire world is more grateful for your kindness and love for me. Your voice is the sweetest music to my ears, as you must know by my fierce wagging tail, when your footsteps fall upon my waiting ear, I am always near and hope you never cease talking to me for I will always be listening. You keep me safe from the cold and bitter world; there is no greater glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet to keep you company. You keep my pan filled with fresh water, even though I could not tell you I am thirsty. You fed me good food so I have energy to play and walk by your side. I was always willing and able to protect you with my life had there ever been a need. Remember our walks and all our talks. I will always treasure them. Now that I am no longer in good health and we know I am dying, do not make a heroic effort to keep me going; I am not having fun anymore. Please see that my life is gently taken as I leave this earth, knowing with my last breath I draw that my fate was safest in your hands. Goodbye, my friend, I loved you unconditionally. Your dog forever. P.S. All Dogs go to Heaven, remember?

Dear Reader, I am so sorry for your sadness. When I look into my pets eyes, I feel a friend and see a living soul. One day we all have to say goodbye. Read a book entitled: Signs from Pets in the After Life by Lynn Regan. You may find some comfort in reading it.

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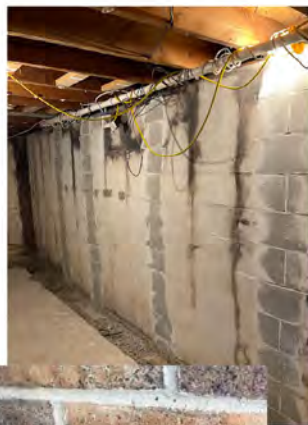
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Spring Farm Section

Michigan Wheat Producers to Vote on Program Continuation

submitted by Lynsey Mukomel

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) announced today that it will conduct a referendum on the Michigan Wheat Program from Monday, February 9 through Friday, February 20, 2026.

MDARD organizes referenda every five years for commodity organizations enabled by Public Act 232 of 1965. The Michigan Wheat Program sunsets this year and wheat producers now have the opportunity to vote on continuing the program. Michigan producers eligible to vote in this year's referendum are those who:

Have produced any market wheat in quantity beyond that person's own family use.

Have a value at first point-of-sale of more than \$800 in any one growing season within the past three years.

MDARD mailed ballots for the referendum to Michigan wheat producers on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. Eligible producers with questions, or those who do not receive a ballot, should contact MDARD at P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909, or call toll-free (800) 292-3939. Eligible producers may also request a ballot by sending an e-mail to Guardiolaj1@michigan.gov.

All ballots must be received in the MDARD Lansing office or postmarked no later than Friday, February 20, 2026.

The Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act (P.A. 232 of 1965) enables the creation of programs to promote the profitable production, marketing and utilization of agriculture commodities produced in Michigan. These programs must be approved via referendum every five years by more than 50 percent of voting commodity producers whose collective output represents more than 50 percent of the volume of the affected agricultural commodity produced in Michigan. Approved programs use producer assessments or check-offs to fund their research, education and marketing activities.

The Michigan Wheat Program was established by a referendum of the state's wheat producers in June 2011. Majorities of voting wheat producers supported the program's continuation via referenda held in 2016 and 2021.

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Spring Farm Section

MDHHS and MDARD Urge Pesticides Caution

submitted by Lynn Sutfin

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) are warning residents to avoid purchasing unregistered pesticides containing dichlorvos (DDVP), including brand names “Sniper” and “Nopest.”

Despite their potentially harmful health effects, “Sniper” and “Nopest” remain available for purchase via online marketplaces, where they are marketed as insecticides for home use. These and other pesticides that contain highly concentrated DDVP are responsible for recent poisonings in Michigan. Consumers should be aware that not all pesticides purchased online are registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or are safe to use at home. Neither “Sniper” or “Nopest” are registered by EPA.

“These recent cases are a serious reminder that unregistered or illegal pesticide products can pose significant risks to public health,” said MDARD Director Tim Boring. “MDARD urges residents to take simple steps, such as checking for an EPA registration number and following label directions, to protect themselves, their families and the environment.”

Pesticides are any substance used to kill or repel pests to reduce the damage they cause. They include disinfectants, fungicides, insecticides, herbicides and animal repellants.

If you become sick after being exposed to pesticides, contact Poison Control at 800-222-1222 or call your health care provider. If you become severely ill or have a hard time breathing, call 911 or go to the emergency room.

Pesticide poisoning symptoms include:

Eye, nose and/or throat irritation, headache, nausea, seizures, shortness of breath, skin irritation, coma, death.

Risk of pesticide poisoning depends on the following:

Toxicity, length of exposure, amount of pesticide, type of exposure, such as breathing it in, getting it in the eyes or on the skin, or eating or drinking it. To avoid serious injury or illness when using pesticides purchase pesticides with an EPA Registration Number (“EPA Reg. No.”) and an EPA Establishment Number (“EPA Est. No.”) on the label. These are tested to make sure they do not cause major risks to human health or the environment when used as directed.

Read and follow the label, wear required protective clothing and equipment such as gloves, eye protection or masks. Do not spray pesticides outdoors when it is windy, wipe, rather than spray, disinfectant products indoors. Wash hands and clothing after using pesticides. Store pesticides in a safe place away from children and pets.

Residents who discover they have unregistered pesticides in their possession should immediately dispose of these products using the following steps:

Wear protective clothing, gloves and a face mask, and double bag the bottle or container in heavy plastic, add sand, dirt or kitty litter to the bag, if possible, especially if the bottle is leaking. Contact the local waste management company to find out where to safely dispose of the container. Do not let children or pets near the pesticide. Do not pour the pesticide down the drain. For more information about pesticides, visit: MDHHS pesticide illness webpage.

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MDARD Announces Grant Opportunities for County Fairs and Expositions

submitted by Lynsey Mukomel
 LANSING – The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) announced today that it will accept applications for county fair and exposition grants until 5 p.m. ET on March 18, 2026.

“County fairs and expos are a summer and fall tradition cherished by millions of Michiganders,” said MDARD Director Tim Boring. “These infrastructure and expo grants help ensure these annual opportunities for people to experience all things agriculture can continue and grow for years to come.”

MDARD’s County Fairs Capital Improvement Grant Program administers grants of up to \$100,000 for building renovations, infrastructure upgrades or capital improvements that enhance the productivity, usefulness or longevity of fairground facilities. To be eligible for this grant program, prospective applicants must:

- Be a fair incorporated under Act 80 of 1855, or
- Be a county owned and operated fair operating under Act 11 of 1929, and

Must not have received an award in 2025.
 MDARD’s Livestock and Commodity Exposition Competitive Grant Program administers grants of up to \$25,000 to fairs, festivals or expositions for activities including promotions, awards and premiums. To be eligible for this grant program, events must meet the required number of exhibitors:

All-species shows must have at least 200 exhibitors.
 Single breed shows or light horse shows must have at least 500 exhibitors.

Applications for both grant programs will be subject to a competitive process with review by an evaluation committee. Grant proposals must be submitted via the MiAgGrants online grant portal no later than 5 p.m. ET on Wednesday, March 18, 2026. Funding will be issued on a cost reimbursement basis with 50% cash match required.

According to the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, Michigan’s 86 county fairs attract more than 4.5 million attendees annually. Since Fiscal Year 2019, MDARD has delivered more than \$7.9 million in grant funding to help county fairs build grandstands, livestock barns, campground facilities and other infrastructure as well as to help expositions promote Michigan livestock and agricultural commodities.

Visit MDARD’s County Fairs Capital Improvement Grants web page and MDARD’s Livestock and Commodity Exposition Competitive Grants web page for grant application details and submission criteria.

For more information about submitting grants via the MiAgGrants portal, visit the MiAgGrants web page.

For information about additional funding opportunities, please visit MDARD’s grant web page.



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Clinton County Farm Bureau Scholarship Applications Now Open

The 2026 Clinton County Farm Bureau Scholarship application is now open. It can be found at this link, <https://www.michfb.com/clinton-county-farm-bureau/resources>. All the requirements are listed on the application. Deadline to return this back to our office is April 1, 2026. Please contact our members services office with any questions at 989-224-9536.



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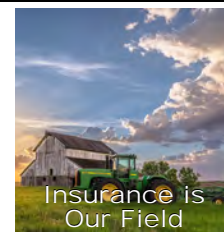
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**CITY OF OVID
Draft
Regular Meeting
March 9, 2026**

Open Regular Meeting:

Mayor M. Perrien called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid, Michigan.

Roll Call:

Present: M. Soliz, L. Perrien, M. Olger, M. Perrien, E. Brown, M. Jones, E. Starn.

Absent: None

Guests:

There were 9 people in attendance

Agenda:

Motioned by Council Member E. Brown and supported by Council Member L. Perrien to approve the agenda as presented. Carried on a voice vote.

Minutes:

Motioned by Council Member E. Brown and supported by Council Member L. Perrien to approve the minutes from February 9th regular and closed; February 16th, 2026 Special Meeting; March 2nd Special Meeting; March 4th Public Hearing as presented. Carried on a voice vote.

Invoice/Check Register:

Motioned by Council Member E. Brown and supported by Council Member L. Perrien to approve the invoice/check register from February 11th, 2026 through March 10th, 2026 for a total of \$30,810.11. Carried on a voice vote.

County Commissioner: 7:04 pm – 7:08 pm Nicole Fickies briefed the board on the county activities.

Police Report:

Motion by Council Member M. Olger and supported by Council Member M. Soliz to purchase furniture for the Police department for no more \$2,500.00. Carried on voice vote.

Report Motion:

Motioned by Council Member E. Brown and supported by Council Member M. Olger to accept receipt of the reports from Treasurer, Attorney, and Police. Carried on a voice vote.

Open Public Comment: Opened 7:20 pm Closed: 7:20 pm – none

New Business:

a. CAASA Budget Approval: Motioned by Council Member E. Brown and supported by Council Member M. Perrien to approve the 2026-2027 CAASA budget at \$17.00 per capita as presented and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the approval. Carried on voice vote.

b. 2026-02 Resolution MMPA IFT Application Approval: Mayor read the resolution. Motioned by Council Member E. Brown and supported by Council Member L. Perrien to adopt Resolution 2026-02 MMPA IFT Application Approval. Roll Call Vote: Upon roll call vote the following voted YES: M. Soliz, L. Perrien, M. Olger, M. Perrien, E. Brown, M. Jones, E. Starn Upon roll call vote the following voted NO:

Absent: None

c. MMPA IFT Agreement: Presently in the MMPA attorney hands, will need a special meeting to vote on the Agreement. Special meeting will be set on Monday 16th at 7:00 pm to vote on this issue.

d. Election Commission: Motioned by Council Member E. Brown and supported by Council Member M. Soliz to appoint the following to the Election Commission: City Clerk, Mayor M. Perrien and L. Perrien.

Carried on voice vote.

e. Street Administrator: Motioned by Council Member E. Starn and supported by Council Member E. Brown to Adopt Resolution 2026-03 Street Administrator and appoint Mayor as Street Administrator.

Roll Call Vote:

Upon roll call vote the following voted YES: M. Soliz, L. Perrien, M. Olger, M. Perrien, E. Brown, M. Jones, E. Starn Upon roll call vote the following voted NO: None

Absent: None

f. Mercantile Bank Card Limit: Motioned by Council Member E. Starn and supported by Council Member M. Olger to approve the increase of the City of Ovid blanket credit card limit to \$10,000.00 from \$5,000.00. Carried on voice vote.

g. Approve Huron Environmental Contract: Motioned by Council Member E. Starn and supported Council Member L. Perrien to approve the Huron Environmental Contract with the recommended change by Atty Gould under Terms and conditions adding early termination clause and to give the Mayor authorization to sign the contract. Carried on voice vote

h. Appoint an alternate to BOR:

Motioned by Council Member M. Perrien and supported by Council Member E. Brown to appoint the following people to the City of Ovid's Board of Review: Kim Williams, Andrea Ordiway, Wells Monroe and Michael O'Bryant. Carried on voice vote.

i. USDA Estimate #8: Motioned by Council Member L. Perrien and supported by Council Member M. Olger to approve USDA pay estimate # 8 in an amount of \$5,659.50 and authorize the mayor to sign all necessary documents. Carried on voice vote.

j. West Shore Contract: Motioned by Council Member E. Brown and supported by Council Member L. Perrien to enter into contract with West Shore Services for Inspection and Preventative Maintenance for the Community alert system for an amount of \$475.00 per site without battery replacement and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.

k. Art Walk: Motioned by Council Member L. Perrien and supported by Council Member E. Starn to approve the Art Walk STEPP activity for July 25, 2026 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm for downtown sidewalks. Carried on voice vote.

l. Farmer's Market: Motioned by Council Member E. Starn and supported by Council Member M. Soliz to approve establishment of a farmer's market in the City of Ovid from May to October on Thursdays from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Carried on voice vote.

a. CAASA- Council Member E. Brown briefed the board on CAASA activity. Discussed the future funding of CAASA. Articles of Incorporation still need to be update. Council discussed the upcoming expiring emergency millage.

Adjournment-

Motioned by Council Member E. Brown and supported by Council Member M. Olger to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm. Carried on a voice vote.

*Respectfully submitted by
Susan Tomasek Swan*

Clerk

Full minutes can be viewed at www.ovidmi.org or at City Hall, 114 E. Front St. during lobby hours.

**CITY OF OVID
Draft
Special Meeting
March 2, 2026**

Open Regular Meeting:

Mayor M. Perrien called the Special Meeting to order at 5:31 pm in the Council Chambers located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid, Michigan.

Roll Call:

M. Soliz, L. Perrien-arrived at 5:44 pm, M. Olger-Arrived 5:33 pm, M. Perrien, E. Brown, M. Jones, E. Starn

Guests:

There were 5 people in attendance.

Agenda:

Motioned by Council Member M. Soliz and supported by Council Member E. Brown to approve the agenda as written. Carried on voice vote.

Open Public Comment: Opened 5:32 pm Closed: 5:32 pm None

New Business:

a. Personnel Issue- Motioned by Council Member L. Perrien and supported by Council Member M. Olger to accept the Personnel Committee recommendation of 30-day suspension with recommendation of termination effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

Upon roll call vote the following voted YES: M. Soliz, L. Perrien, M. Olger, M. Perrien, M. Jones

Upon roll call vote the following voted NO: E. Brown, E. Starn

Motion carried.

Final Comments: none

Adjournment-

Motioned by Council Member L. Perrien and supported by Council Member E. Brown to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm.

Carried on a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm

*Respectfully submitted by
Susan Tomasek Swan*

Clerk

Full minutes can be viewed on www.ovidmi.org or at City Hall, 114 E. Front St. during lobby hours.

**CITY OF OVID
Draft Approved
Public Hearing
March 4, 2026**

Open Public Hearing:

Mayor M. Perrien called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid, Michigan.

Roll Call:

Present: M. Soliz-ABSENT, L. Perrien-ABSENT, M. Olger, M. Perrien, E.

Brown, M. Jones-ABSENT, E. Starn.

Absent:

Guests:

There were 7 people in attendance.

Purpose of the Public Hearing:

Mayor Perrien stated the purpose of the public hearing is to hear public comments on the application for an Industrial Facilities Tax (IFT) Exemption Certificate located at 430 W. Williams St., Ovid, MI, property ID #580-000-043-050-00 (formerly 580-120-001-001-00, 580-000-043-015-00, 580-000-043-010-00, 580-000-043-005-00).

Public Comments: Open 7:02 pm Closed 7:03pm Three people spoke for support of the IFT for MMPA.

Presentation of the Application: 7:03 pm to 7:18 pm – Atty Gould reviewed the application and pointed out some issues with the application. Atty Gould stated the council will make a decision on Monday, March 9th at 7:00 pm at the regular meeting.

Final Comments: Council Member E. Brown asked clarification questions.

Adjournment-

Motioned by Council Member E. Starn and seconded by Council Member E. Brown to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm. Carried on a voice vote.

*Respectfully submitted by
Susan Tomasek Swan*

Clerk

Full minutes can be viewed at www.ovidmi.org or at City Hall, 114 E. Front St. during lobby hours.

**CLINTON
COUNTY LEGALS**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CLINTON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE CHANT FAMILY TRUST**

In the matter of

The Chant Family Trust

Date of Death: February 16, 2026

Date of Birth: October 8, 1939

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Decedent Settlor and original Trustee Linda Lee Chant, who lived at 6952 South Airport Rd., St. Johns, MI 48879 died on February 16, 2026, creditors of Decedent are notified that all claims against the decedent's estate will be forever barred unless presented to one or all of the Co-trustees:

Kevin Bailey, 4152 W. Centerline Rd., St. Johns, MI 48879

Lori G. Thelen, 7575 S. Airport Rd., DeWitt, MI 48820

Chris Chant, 4503 W. Jason Rd., DeWitt, MI 48820

within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Curtis L. Zaleski (P53534)

Attorney for Trustee

535 E. Main Street

Owosso, MI 48867

(989) 723-8166

(03-15)

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY CLINTON
PROBATE
LETTER OF AUTHORITY
FOR PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**

CASE NO: 23-31945-DE

Estate of **WALTER LEE CARTER**

TO: Richard Allen Carter

14107 Wood Road

Lansing, MI 48906

(517) 285-6524

You have been appointed and qualified as personal representative of the estate on March 11, 2024. You are authorized to perform all acts authorized by law unless exceptions are specified below.

This letter expires: March 11, 2027
March 4, 2026

(03-15)

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Sports

Wolfpack's Phillips Brings Home State Title; LHS, O-E Grapplers Impress at MHSAA Finals

DETROIT -- A final victory over Dom Sindone of Dundee earned Dylan Phillips that very rarest of wrestling accomplishments:

An individual state championship ... as a freshman.

Phillips dominated the final match, 9-2, capping a brilliant freshman season for coach Trent LaShauy's Wolfpack at 52-1.

Dylan opened his surge with a 19-2 technical fall over Dart Finn (27-18 record, Boyne City). In the quarterfinals, he eliminated Pierce Moran (45-15, Yale) with a 9-5 decision. The semifinals saw Phillips roll past Montrose's Brysen Briggs by a 13-5 major decision.

Said coach LaShauy, "This one was special for me, as I coached my high school coach's son to win a state title in dominant fashion as a freshman. He had a terrific season with a record of 52-1. He shows everyone around him including me that hard work, determination, faith, and a good plan can help you accomplish anything."

"Although I am the coach, he is the real leader. I am grateful that I have the opportunity to be in this young man's corner and I am excited for his future on and off the mat."

In a rare State Finals twist, the Wolves actually qualified two grapplers in the same 106 lb. weight class -- Phillips and fellow freshman Eli Stier.

Stier won the first match in his Ford Field debut, by technical fall (17-0) over Alden Beyer of Shelby. He then lost a tough 2-0 nod to Briggs of Montrose, and ended his postseason run with a 6-4 loss to Derek Potvin of Negaunee.

Ovid-Elsie's Will Baese (51-11) lost a heartbreaker, 3-0, to Ayden Ringler (36-2) of Grand Rapids Catholic Central in the third place match. Earlier, Baese eluded Luke Kainniainen (51-9) by a 15-12 decision in his opening match. Baese advanced to the 120 lb. semifinals by virtue of a 12-8 nod over Brady Demorin (36-4, Gladwin). Will was then relegated to the consolation bracket after a 14-0 loss to Danny Vaneeckhou (42-9) or Erie-Mason.

In the girls state finals, also held at Ford Field, Ava Juhas of Ovid-Elsie (115 lbs., 24-6) did not place.

Lady Pirates Take it to Wolfpack for a Third Time, Oust Them from Regionals

NEW LOTHROP -- Pick your poison. Pewamo-Westphalia's girls basketball team is lethal in so many ways.

The Lady Pirates made it a three-sweep of Laingsburg in the opening game of the MHSAA Regional here March 9, opening up a 22-point lead, then cruising to a 39-24 victory.

The win moved the Pirates into the Regional Final, opposite the Stockbridge Panthers, at 23-2. An outstanding Wolfpack season culminated at 20-5, District trophy in hand.

It's tough to beat a team three times in one season, but that's exactly what the Lady Buccaneers did, after sweeping the CMAC series with Laingsburg in 2025-26.

"P-W doesn't have any deficiencies, but most importantly, they don't make mistakes on the defensive end," said veteran Wolfpack coach Dan Morrill. "They have height, strength, speed, and athleticism. They are a complete basketball team. I will be surprised if they get much resistance from anyone on their way to the Breslin. They are very well coached."

Laingsburg's defensive effort wasn't shabby, either, as only four Pirates made the scoring sheet.

After trailing early 12-2 -- and as much as 27-5 early in the third quarter -- the Wolfgirls dug down deep and won the second half, outscoring the Pirates 19-12, including an 8-0 run sparked by senior sharpshooter Mallory Woodbury.

Lilli Morrill battled inside the entire game, leading LHS in rebounds and in points with 11. Woodbury hit for 7, Harper Strouse 3, Brooklyn Holm 2 and Payge Woodworth one point.

The Pirates doubled up on Wolfpack leading scorer Holm just about everywhere she went on the court. The relentless pressure ended up with LHS not hitting a single three-point shot for the game.

"Our girls competed very well and always do," explained Morrill. "One thing I learned about our team this year is that they never give up. We were down 14 at halftime at Fowler earlier in the year and came back to win in double overtime, a testament to this team's determination."

"Tonight, every basket we scored was challenged. Nothing was easy, it was a true heavy-weight battle and they were a little stronger. It is a good bar for our program to measure itself by and it was important for our young girls to experience it."

"If we want to beat these elite teams, we will have to put in more time in the offseason and keep more of our athletes playing basketball in our schools."



WOLFPACK JUMPING-JACK senior Harper Strouse battles for position with P-W's Alonna Thelen. Thelen led the Pirates with 16 points -- 10 in the first half -- as P-W advanced to a Regional date with Stockbridge.

Photo by Burg Sports



Laingsburg Freshman Dylan Phillips



Ovid-Elsie Freshman Will Baese



Laingsburg Freshman Eli Stier

Ovid-Elsie Senior Ava Juhas

Photos by Frank Goodrich



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

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Sports

Pewamo-Westphalia at its Best: Ovid-Elsie Ousted in District Final

OID-ELSIE -- When Pewamo-Westphalia is at its girls basketball best, the Pirates are one tough out.

In the MHSAA District Final here March 6, the Pirates came out and scorched the nets from long range. After that, they played stifling defense and dominated the rebounding game.

In between, the host Marauders played with all the skill, panache and hustle they could muster. They played their hearts out to the final buzzer. Alas, P-W advanced in the MHSAA postseason, District trophy in hand, following a 50-24 victory.

The Pirates (22-2) hit 5 of the first 6 three-pointers they attempted -- on O-E's home floor -- rallying from an early 9-8 deficit by going on a 16-0 romp to silence a stunned home crowd with a 29-14 halftime lead.

"The girls left it all on the floor ... for their third game in five days, they walked away knowing they didn't take any plays off," explained 2nd-year O-E coach Shaun McKinney. "We knew coming in was a loaded district with two top ten teams in the state and our rival in Chesaning.

"I think we play P-W on a normal week, it might look a little different but that's the post-season and you have to play the cards you have. Overall the girls gave me everything and at the end of the day that's all you can ask for as a coach."

With a commanding lead in hand, Steve Eklund's P-W crew then turned to what they do best: defend. The Marauders (16-7) were limited to a single field goal in the second half, just one Alyson Moore free throw in the third quarter, to fall behind 37-15 lead down the stretch.

"P-W is a very well coached team with a long history of success," said McKinney. "I thought we executed our game plan from a defensive standpoint for about 95% of the first half, unfortunately the 5% we messed up rotations they made us pay the price."

Moore paced the Marauders with nine points while Dannika Campbell and Tokar each added six.

"In the first half tonight, I thought our defense was very good," he said. "We got out of alignment a couple of times, but that's what we spoke about with the girls yesterday and really since the postseason started -- every game, the margin for error keeps getting smaller. And against a team like that, you can't make many mistakes without getting score on.

"I was extremely proud of the girls' fight and togetherness all week - I thought our defense, which was our backbone all week, was great. Offensively, we got off to a good start but they made getting easy shots difficult as the game went on. After all that (physical expenditure) on defense, we didn't have the energy to grind for easy looks."

O-E will graduate seniors McKenzie Keck, Campbell, Isabella Phillips and Moore. Said McKinney, "I am very thankful for the graduating seniors in many ways. I only had them for two years but I felt like the relationships that were built in such a short time was what allowed them to trust and believe in my philosophies and for me to coach them and challenge them daily.

"I thought we were just starting to hit our stride as a team, but I hope that all 4 take the lessons learned and the many tough conversations into their spring sports to lead those groups."



O-E senior Dannika Campbell scoops and scores past P-W defender Brenna Thelen.

5th Annual Laingsburg Alumni Legacy Award Golf Outing Tees Off 2026 Season

LAINGSBURG — You're a Laingsburg High School alumnus. You love the place. LHS was a springboard to your success in life. Wolfpack red runs in your blood.

What better way to leave your legacy than to get involved with the Laingsburg Alumni Legacy Award (LALA)? This Laingsburg success story in the making has already awarded more than \$15,000 in scholarships to LHS graduating seniors.

And if you're an avid golfer, this year's event helps tee-off the 2026 golf outing season.

The 5th annual LALA Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, April 18 at Pine Hills Golf Course, as a major fundraiser for the scholarship fund. The format is a four-person scramble, at \$60 per player or \$240 per team. Lunch will be served on the turn; there are notable prizes for 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place teams; also hole prizes and a 50/50 raffle.

To sign up for golf or for more information, contact Tom Turek at 517-282-1528. Sign-up forms are also available at the Pine Hills clubhouse, on the Laingsburg Community Page on Facebook, and on the Laingsburg Sports Boosters page on Facebook.

Laingsburg KofC Blood Drive

submitted by Fred Brusio

The Laingsburg Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Isidore Church, 310 Crum St., Laingsburg, MI on Monday, March 16, from 1:00pm to 7:00pm. Walk ins will be accepted, but it is recommended that you schedule an appointment at redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive, Zip Code 48848. Or call 1-800 RED CROSS

CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CLINTON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S TRUST

The JENNY L. ADAMS LAW
LIVING TRUST

Dated January 18, 2017

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Decedent JENNY L. ADAMS, who lived at 710 E. Walker Street, St. Johns, Michigan 48879.

Died: January 15, 2026

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased will be forever barred unless presented to the Trustees of the

JENNY L. ADAMS LIVING TRUST

dated January 18, 2017 within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Mary Beth Adams-Rosenbaum

6227 W. Parks Road

St. Johns, Michigan 48879

(989) 224-0403

Pratt Law, PC

Alexa B. Pratt, P83426

201 E. State Street

St. Johns MI 48879

(989) 224-9449

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CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CLINTON COUNTY
 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 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. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Mitchell M. Wood and Courtney A. Wood, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns Date of mortgage: November 24, 2021 Recorded on December 3, 2021, in Document No. 5318963, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Union Home Mortgage Corp. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Three Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Three and 46/100 Dollars (\$355,003.46) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Clinton County, and described as: Beginning at a point on the East line of Section 9, Town 5 North, Range 1 West, Bath Township, Clinton County, Michigan, South 00 degrees 16 minutes 40 seconds East, 440.00 feet from the East quarter corner of said Section and South 89 degrees 37 minutes 58 seconds West, 1873.42 feet, thence South 25 degrees, 03 minutes 29 seconds West, 322.84 feet, thence North 79 degrees 09 minutes 21 seconds West, 279.51 feet, thence North 10 degrees 50 minutes 42 seconds East, 97.94 feet, thence North 78 degrees 46 minutes 53 seconds West 305.73 feet to the Centerline of Angle Road; thence along said centerline North 35 degrees 55 minutes 32 seconds East, 98.95 feet; thence North 89 degrees 37 minutes 58 seconds East 634.67 feet to the point of beginning Commonly known as 12601 Angle Rd, Bath, MI 48808 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the date of such sale, whichever is later; or unless 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. Union Home Mortgage Corp. Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CLINTON COUNTY
 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 April 15, 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: Mortgagor(s): Evelyn D'Haene, an unmarried woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns Date of mortgage: March 7, 2023 Recorded on March 15, 2023, in Document No. 5333539, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Forty-Three Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Seven and 05/100 Dollars (\$143,527.05) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Clinton County, and described as: Parcel 1 Lot 91 and the East 5 feet in width of Lot 92, of SUPERVISOR'S PLAT OF VALLEY FARMS NO. 2, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats on Page 42. Parcel 2 The West 80 feet of Lot 92, of SUPERVISOR'S PLAT OF VALLEY FARMS NO. 2, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats on Page 42. Commonly known as 1401 and 1403 Bennett, Lansing, MI 48906 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless 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. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale will be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. 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 been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CLINTON COUNTY
 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 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. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Cesar Del Bosque Ortiz and Vlinda Del Bosque Ortiz, Husband and Wife Original Mortgagee: Argent Mortgage Company, LLC Date of mortgage: December 10, 2004 Recorded on December 27, 2004, in Document No. 5071773, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee for Park Place Securities, Inc. Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2005-WCH1 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Nine and 95/100 Dollars (\$100,989.95) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Clinton County, and described as: A parcel of land beginning 330 feet South of the Northwest corner of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 13, Town 7 North, Range 1 West, Ovid Township, Clinton County, Michigan; thence South 150 feet; thence East 303 feet; thence North 150 feet; thence West to the point of beginning. Commonly known as 1741 S Meridian Rd, Ovid, MI 48866 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless 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. Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee for Park Place Securities, Inc. Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2005-WCH1 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

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CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

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 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.

MORTGAGE INFORMATION:

Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Jill L. Lugten, an unmarried woman, whose address is 1116 West Wieland Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906, as original Mortgages, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for AmeriFirst Financial Corporation, being a mortgage dated July 20, 2020, and recorded on July 22, 2020 with Document Number 5295510, Clinton County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated December 21, 2022 and recorded on December 29, 2022 and given document number 5331921 in Clinton County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE AND 21/100 DOLLARS (\$131,553.21). Said premises are situated in the Township of Dewitt, County of Clinton, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lot 43, Supervisors Plat of Valley Farms #1, According to the Recorded Plat thereof as Recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 41, Clinton County Records. Street Address: 1116 West Wieland Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906 The redemption period shall be 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 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: February 22, 2026 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 26 7007

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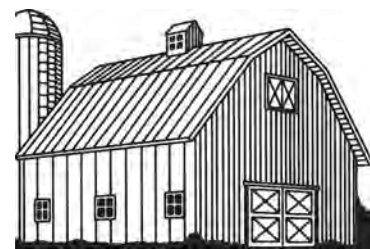
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Memorial Healthcare

WENDY KING, MD Internal Medicine

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Wendy King to Memorial Healthcare and to the Perry community!

Dr. King earned her medical degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine and graduated in the top 10% of her class. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Michigan State University Associated Hospitals and was awarded "Outstanding Senior Resident."

Prior to joining Memorial Healthcare, Dr. King practiced at Wyoming VA Clinic in Wyoming, Michigan providing outpatient care to a large veteran population with a focus on women's health. Dr. King also practiced at the former Owosso Medical Group, and as a Hospitalist at Memorial Healthcare.

Dr. King has over 20 years of a dedicated experience providing comprehensive care to adult patients. Throughout her career, she has specialized in preventive care, chronic disease management, and feels it is important to work closely with patients to develop personalized treatment plans that support long-term health and wellness. Her decades of experience enable her to approach each case with insight and precision, while maintaining a strong focus on patient education and collaborative decision-making.

Dr. King is now accepting new adult patients with most insurances.

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