

## Ashley Teacher Selected for NASA Liftoff Institute

Dee Smith, a 1987 Ashley High School Graduate and Ashley Physical Education and Science teacher has been selected for the prestigious Liftoff Summer Institute this summer. This nationally competitive program sponsored by the University of Texas Center for Space Research and Michigan's Space Grant selects teachers who will increase their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math through space education.

Dee Teaches all three levels at Ashley, elementary school, middle and high school. She starts her day with Physical Education in the gym followed by Science with high school students, then PE for elementary students and finishes her day teaching Science to middle school students. This year's Liftoff Educator Institute theme, Moon to Mars: A New Era of Discovery, highlights NASA's Artemis program, which will return humans to the Moon for the first time in more than 50 years and lay the groundwork for future missions to Mars. Educators will explore current priorities in space research, including the growing role of commercial space partners, and examine how these efforts drive innovation both in space and here on Earth.



Dee Smith

### PROGRAM FEATURES:

- Presentations by NASA scientists and engineers
- Hands-on, inquiry-based classroom activities aligned to educational standards
- Career Exploration
- Teacher Feature (sharing of classroom lessons and activities)
- Opportunity to interact with researchers dedicated to space missions

Liftoff is a collaborative effort of the University of Texas Center for Space Research, Space Grant Consortium members and affiliates, NASA, and industry. Teachers apply for Liftoff and are selected competitively. The workshops are organized around an aerospace or space science theme drawn from NASA's diverse engineering and scientific research programs. The weeklong institute features a series of workshops, hands-on activities, field investigations, and presentations by NASA scientists and engineers working on various missions.

We celebrate all that NASA has contributed in the past and will contribute to the future, and the engineering behind its accomplishments at Liftoff 2026. Teachers selected for Liftoff will return to their school districts to not only use materials received in their own classroom, but to train other educators. Educators selected will come together June 22 - June 26 to conduct experiments, hear from NASA subject matter experts and astronauts, and network with other educators while sharing innovative lesson plans and ideas.

The Liftoff workshops prove that the excitement teachers, and more importantly, their students, feel about earth and space science can be used to enrich STEM education and inspire the next generation of explorers.

## Mid-Michigan Police Chief Looks to Court Ruling to Give Michigan Law Enforcement Agencies Protection from "Shop-Hoppers"

submitted by Attorney Mike Nichols

One of the easiest ways to clean up an employment dispute for police officers who leave their departments under questionable circumstances was to "wipe their file clean."

Judge Matthew McGivney, a Livingston County judge, last week issued a ruling that backs police agencies seeking to enforce a new law designed to prevent bad cops from "shop-hopping."

Former officer Jaclyn Allen sued the City of Ovid and its police chief, Lisa Rousseau, in November of 2025. Allen claimed that the city was required to alter the records of her separation from the department in 2023. She resigned while Chief Rousseau was investigating certain matters.

Ovid and Rousseau asked Judge Matt McGivney to dismiss the case. Judge McGivney granted their motion and dismissed the case on March 26, 2026. Judge McGivney was sitting by assignment because the judges in Clinton County recused themselves.

"A little over five years ago, our legislature passed a law that required police chiefs to stand firm by prohibiting us from altering an affidavit that describes the circumstances of an officer's separation," says Rousseau. Rousseau adds, "I know that my fellow chiefs and sheriffs get frustrated when departing officers try to force us to alter the record or wipe the file clean through grievances or lawsuits – Judge McGivney's ruling was clear: the statute does not allow for a court to order us to do that."

Ovid Mayor Mary Perrien says, "Judge McGivney stated that Chief Rousseau was truthful when she reported the circumstances of officer Allen's departure, and we believe that vindicated our chief, our police department, and city government."

The lawsuit also asked for damages from the city and the police chief, with claims arising from statements the Chief made when she answered questions from departments that were considering hiring Allen. "The law has made it clear that we need to be transparent and accurate when we discuss the circumstances of someone's departure," says Rousseau.

The City and Chief Rousseau were represented by The Nichols Law Firm. Mike Nichols filed the motion and argued for the team.



## The Laingsburg Community Singers Celebrate 50 Years

submitted by Jessica Bayer

Laingsburg Community Singers, under the direction of Elizabeth Shomsky, proudly present "Our 50th Anniversary Concert" on Saturday, April 11 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, April 12 at 4 PM. We will perform at the Laingsburg United Methodist Church, 210 N Crum St., Laingsburg MI 48848. Admission is free and donations are greatly appreciated. New Members are welcome with rehearsals beginning in early September of 2026 for our Fall concert in December.

For further information please contact Jessica Bayer at 517-651-7573.



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# Social

## Ovid Historical Society

submitted by Karen Anderson

The monthly meeting for the Ovid Historical Society is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2026 @ 7:00pm located at the Mary Myers Musuem 131 East Williams.

A short business meeting will be conducted with the purpose to sign up volunteers to work at the Summer Fundraisers and activities planned for the 2026 summer.

Ken Miller, History Room Historian, has a "short presentation to explain the benefits of Digital organization and the collections of Ovid area Archives."

If interested in attending, you need not be a member. The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served.



### CITY OF LAINGSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Laingsburg Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Laingsburg City Hall, 114 N Woodhull, Laingsburg, MI 48848.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider a request for a special use and site plan approval for the property located at 7415 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg, Michigan, in the C-2 General Commercial District.

The applicant, Gary Helfman (A-1 Rental), is proposing improvements to expand existing mini-storage facility, including the renovation of an existing building into additional mini-storage and associated site improvements. A copy of the application and site plan is available for review at City Hall during normal business hours.

All interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and provide comments. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk prior to the meeting.

Kim Hamilton, City Clerk  
City of Laingsburg

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## Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

submitted by Adrian Cervini

The Ashley Bank Program will be holding a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday April 12th from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

It will be held in the Ashley High School Cafeteria.

Cost: free will cash donation



## Retired School Personnel to Meet

submitted by Peg Zink

The Clinton-Shiawassee MARSP Meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 111 S. Shiawassee St, Corunna, MI. Luncheon (\$12) is payable at the door. Our program is Fuel For Your Health by Cindy Reichart-Brooks. For reservations, leave your name and number attending by email to rzick5039@gmail.com or call Peg at 517-282-8350 and leave a message by Friday, April 10, 2026 by noon.

## Tri - County Office on Aging Public Input

submitted by Casey Cooper

The Tri-County Office on Aging will hold public hearings to solicit input on its Fiscal Year 2027-2029 Multi-Year Plan (MYP): May 6 at 1:00PM at the Briggs St. Johns Library, May 11 at 11:00AM at the Charlotte Library, and May 14 at 1:00PM at Tri-County Office on Aging (with light refreshments) and on Microsoft Teams. The MYP Summary and more information will be on Tri-County Office on Aging's website (tcoa.org/about) by April 15. Comments will be accepted through May 14. Contact Kate Long to request special accommodation (by May 1), submit written comment (by May 14), or to request a copy: call (517) 887-1348 or write Kate Long at Tri-County Office on Aging, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Building 1, Lansing, MI 48911 or by email to longk@tcoa.org.

## Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction at United Church of Ovid

submitted by Sue Casler

A Chili Cook-off is planned for Saturday, April 18, at 4 pm. The night will sponsor good food, a silent auction, and a fun time with purpose of helping support Summer Church Camp Scholarships (a wonderful and life-changing experience for young and old).

Along with our chili contestants, we will have hot dogs for our non-chili eaters. A large silent auction will add to the fun! If you would like to donate items for the silent auction, contact the church office Mon-Thurs 9am -12noon 989-834-5958.

To sign up your chili recipe call the church office (834-5958). Due to Health Food regulations, we are offering the use of our licensed kitchen for you to come and prepare your chili in. Kitchen will be open during office hours Wed. (9am - 12noon). We'll save an electric plug just for you!

Invite a friend and join us for a bunch of fun!

## Upcoming Events at the Ovid Public Library

Friday, April 10 will be our Children's Story Hour. Our theme for this story hour will be birds as we are looking forward to warmer weather, flowers in bloom and the return of all the summer birds. Ms. Shelly will be reading some bird themed books and we will be making a birdhouse to take home. Story hour begins at 10:30.

On Wednesday, April 15 we will once again be having another health class presented by Jackie Medley, RN, BSN, CN, ND. This month's class is 'Let's Talk Detox!' If you want to know more, come and join her at 5 pm. Everyone is welcome.

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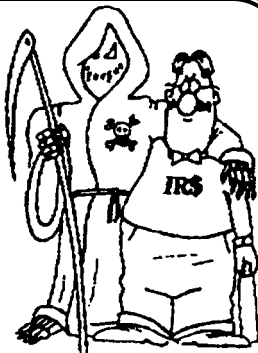
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## Celebrate Spring with the 5 R's

submitted by Ellen Link

Finally, spring is on its way! Of course, with it come a plethora of spring-related chores like cleaning out the garage or basement, readying the yard for gardening, etc. Just please keep in mind that things do not get thrown away: there is no "away" other than the landfill. Instead, focus on the 5 R's (actually, there are now more R's): Refuse (e.g., plastic bags), Reduce, Reuse, then Recycle, and Rot (compost). So, Rethink!

The Greater Laingsburg Recyclers want to help you do that in any way they can. Recycling collections for April will take place, as usual, the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (April 7 and 21), 4-6 p.m., and 2nd and 4th Saturdays (April 11 and 25), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. And don't forget that Laingsburg's Red Thunder Robotics team will continue their FOOD DRIVES for the Laingsburg Food Bank at our fourth-Saturday collections. Especially needed are saltine crackers, ramen noodles, cereal and toilet paper.

April 22 is Earth Day, a reminder to us all to protect the planet that sustains us. To honor that, the GLR will host another community park and roadside clean-up on Saturday, April 26 from 1-3 pm. Come with friends and family to McClintock Park; clean-up supplies will be provided. Plus, FREE compost/food scrap starter kit buckets will be available at the event!

Speaking of composting: Did you know that food waste constitutes almost 20 percent of the waste stream, of which only one percent is composted? GLR volunteer Linda Applebee, who spearheads our program, reported that together we have diverted 7,252 pounds of food waste from the landfill—the equivalent of preventing 18,855 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions. That's comparable to the annual emissions of two gasoline-powered passenger vehicles. And we're just getting started! But we need to make it financially sustainable, so beginning April 1 the GLR will be increasing the suggested donation for bags to 2 for \$1.00 to offset our cost of running the program. However, you are not required to buy your BPI-certified bags from us or even use bags.

Spring is also the season for special county-wide collections to recycle or properly dispose of hard to recycle household-generated waste items. Clinton County (989-224-5186) will hold its Clean Community Event this year on Saturday, May 2; registration is required. Materials they'll accept will include household hazardous waste, farm and landscaping chemicals, motor oil & antifreeze, electronic waste, and car & light truck tires (limits apply).

Shiawassee County will hold its Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, July 18, 9 am – 1 pm, on Chippewa Trail—just north of VG's Grocery in Owosso; no appointment is required. The complete list of what they'll be accepting, available on their website (health.shiawassee.net) or by calling (989) 743-2390, does NOT include latex paint, used motor oil, tires, explosives or smoke detectors.

Don't put off until an iffy tomorrow what you can do today to make a sustainable future in your own backyard. Questions? Comments? Brilliant ideas? Call Terry or Ellen Link at (517) 651-2005 or Beth Lange at 651-6437. Or visit our Facebook page or website (<https://recycle-laingsburg.wixsite.com/mysite>).



### Victor Township Clinton County, Michigan 6843 E. Alward Road, Laingsburg, MI 48848 Proposed Board Minutes of March 10, 2026

The regular board meeting of Victor Township was called to order by Supervisor Wiswasser at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a roll call of Board members in attendance. Present: Wiswasser, Prange, Pesch, Sayles. Absent: Willoughby. 6 citizens were in attendance.

**Public Comment:** Commissioner Fickes noted items to consider for the Hall Phase 2 remodel, including improved kitchen flow, enhanced acoustics, and adequate storage. She emphasized these elements should be addressed in the design.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Prange and seconded by Sayles, to approve February 10, 2026, agenda with additions of resignation of Planning Commissioner, Tom Mitchell and Road Commission Contracts for 2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Presentation of Hall Phase 2:** Jon Slack, c2ae project manager, updated the board on the progress with the remodel of the kitchen, bathrooms, hallway, and large meeting room. A power point of these items was presented. Changes were discussed. Bidding process is ongoing and will end soon.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Pesch, and seconded by Sayles, to approve February 10, 2026, regular board meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Prange and seconded by Pesch to accept the March 2026 Treasurer's report. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Approval of Bills and Payroll:** Motion by Prange and seconded by Sayles to disburse February 2026 bills. (Paid March 10, 2026) Roll call: Members voting yes: Prange, Wiswasser, Pesch, Sayles. Motion carried. Checks# 12798-12825, in the amount of \$22,792.20.

Motion by Pesch, and seconded by Prange, to disburse February 2026 payroll and payroll related expenses. (Paid March 10, 2026) Roll call: Members voting yes: Wiswasser, Pesch, Sayles, Prange. Motion carried. Checks# 13347-13356 in the amount of \$20,945.06.

**Clinton County Sheriff Report:** Deputy Nelson reported on police presence in Victor Township and noted that response times to calls have been favorable. The issue of delivery vehicles parking on the road was addressed.

**Clinton County Commissioner – District 1 - Commissioner Nicole Fickes**

Some of the items discussed are as follows:

- Ms. Fickes, a member of the Parks and Green Space Commission, reported that they are looking at putting signage at the boat launches across the Looking Glass River with information regarding invasive aquatic plant control, boat washing, etc. Victor has a boat launch at Babcock Landing.
- Broadband expansion work is ongoing. Installation is around 66% complete. Project must be completed by December 2026. Anyone who has issues with the construction including damage remedies can call (517) 265-3927 or email FTROACentral@ftr.com
- Jail renovation projects are underway; immediate problems are being addressed first.
- The topic of data centers is being discussed.
- County Board of Commissioners meetings are recorded and available to watch on YouTube. Visit <https://www.clinton-county.org> for calendars, meeting agendas, minutes, and other county information.

#### Reports:

- **Planning:** The hall renovation project phase 2 is underway. The Planning Commissioners discussed the survey regarding the Township Master Plan.
- **Laingsburg Public Library:** The library will host author Jillian Arly on April 8, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, Laingsburg. Check out the library's Facebook page for more information.
- **Briggs District Library:** There are many programs provided, some of which are Bookaholics Book Club at East Olive and at Briggs, Fairy Tale Fun at Riley Township Hall and Creative Writing Workshop in March and April. Visit <https://www.briggsdistrictlibrary.org> for more information.
- **LSW Fire/EMS:** Victor Township's payment is due in April 2026
- **Maintenance:** Tree Project at Stilson Cemetery is complete. Other projects including window replacement in the office were discussed.
- **Cemetery Director:** The Office Administrator has completed updating the right to burial deed documents.
- **Correspondence:** Received and placed on file.

#### New Business:

**Planning Commissioner resignation:** The Victor Township Board accepts the resignation of Planning Commission member Tom Mitchell with regret. We appreciate your contributions to the planning commission, your hard work and dedication to the Township and wish Tom the best in his future endeavors.

**General Appropriations Resolution 2026-03-03:** Motion by Sayles and seconded by Pesch to adopt the 2026-2027 General Appropriations Act. Roll call: Members voting yes: Pesch, Sayles, Prange, Wiswasser. Motion carried.

**Salary Resolution 2026-03-02:** Motion by Sayles and seconded by Wiswasser to approve the salary for the township clerk position at \$29,500. Roll call: Members voting yes: Sayles, Prange, Pesch, Wiswasser. Motion carried.

**Township Insurance:** Motion by Prange and seconded by Pesch to approve the quote from Acrisure for the 2026-2027 township insurance including cyber protection. Roll call: Members voting yes: Prange, Wiswasser, Sayles, Pesch. Motion carried.

**Resolution 2026-03-01 One-Year Moratorium on Data Centers in Clinton County:** Motion by Sayles, seconded by Prange, to adopt Resolution 2026-03-01 and send a copy to Clinton County Board of Commissioners. Roll call: Members voting yes: Prange, Wiswasser, Pesch, Sayles. Motion carried.

**Road Contracts:** Motion by Wiswasser and seconded by Pesch to approve the 2026-2027 road projects from Clinton County Road Commission in the amount of \$297,125.25. Supervisor and Clerk to sign contracts. Roll call: Members voting yes: Wiswasser, Pesch, Sayles, Prange. Motion carried.

#### Public Comment:

Motion by Wiswasser and seconded by Sayles to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried. Copies of Contracts, Resolutions, Agreements, Budget Amendments, and Minutes are on the Victor Township Website ([www.victortwp.org](http://www.victortwp.org)) and at the Clerk's office in the Township Hall

Lianne Prange  
Victor Township Clerk

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### Victor Township Clinton County, Michigan 6843 Alward Road, Laingsburg, Michigan Proposed Minutes from March 10, 2026 Budget Public Hearing

The Budget Public Hearing for FY 2026-2027 of the Victor Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Wiswasser at 6:00 p.m. Pledge to the flag was given.

Roll Call: Sayles, Wiswasser, Pesch, Prange. Absent: Willoughby.

No citizens present

No public comment

**Agenda:** Motion by Prange and seconded by Sayles to approve the budget hearing agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### New Business:

2026-2027 Budget Public Hearing: Motion by Sayles and seconded by Pesch to open the public hearing at 6:03 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2026-2027 budget submitted by the Supervisor and discussed items requiring clarification.

Motion by Sayles, seconded by Pesch, to close the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

**Extended Public Comment:** None

Motion by Sayles, seconded by Prange to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Motion All in favor. Motion carried.

Lianne Prange  
Victor Township Clerk

*During a time of grieving, we discover how much our family and friends mean to us. Thank you for the love, sympathy and kindness you extended.*

*The Family of Bob Risley*



## Ashley Country Christmas Plans Casino Bus Trip

submitted by Keith Salisbury

Ashley Country Christmas is again hosting an April casino bus trip fundraiser to FireKeepers Casino in Battle Creek. The trip will take place on Saturday, April 25.

The bus will leave at noon from the Ashley High School parking lot. A second pick-up will be at the St. Johns park-and-ride location next to the southbound US 127 exit ramp on M-21 at approximately 12:15. On the return trip, the bus will stop in St. Johns before ending up at Ashley, around 7:30 p.m.

The cost of the trip is \$55, with participants receiving \$20 for free play plus a \$5 promotion. There will also be raffles on the bus for a homemade quilt, 50/50 and more.

There are only 56 seats available, so call Jane at (517) 281-6456 to reserve a seat. Payment must be received by Friday, April 10. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used for Ashley Country Christmas activities.

## Obituaries

### Joan Oberlin

Our beloved mother, Joan Oberlin, went to be with the Lord on March 28, 2026, at the age of 95.

Joan was born on January 25, 1931, to Norm and Elizabeth Juenker in Eagle, Michigan. She graduated from Grand Ledge High School and went on to dedicate many years of service to her community. Joan worked as a bus driver and Administrative Dispatcher for Waverly Schools in Lansing, Michigan. She later worked in admissions at Metropolitan Hospital in Lakeview, Michigan, and at Spectrum Health Kelsey in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Joan was a proud and active member of her community. She served as Past President of the VFW #701 Auxiliary in Lansing and was also the owner of C-Joan's Ceramics in Lansing. She also found great joy in spending time with her family and lovingly caring for her furry and feathered companions.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Claude Oberlin; her daughter, Susan; her parents, Norm and Elizabeth Juenker; and her stepmother, Hazel Juenker.

Joan will be deeply missed by her loving family, including her sister, Patricia (Paul) Dadd of Mentor, Ohio; and her children: Beth (Ed) Morton of Elsie, Michigan; Claude Jr. "Butch" (Lynette) Oberlin of Perry, Michigan; Norm (Barb) Oberlin of Gaylord, Michigan; Tim (Carey) Oberlin of DeWitt, Michigan; and Paul (Jeanne) Oberlin of Owosso, Michigan.

She is also survived by her cherished grandchildren: Renee (Will) Baese; Leslie (John III) Fabus; Danielle (Will) Knickerbocker; Chad (Kelley) Oberlin; Michelle (Jeff) Hanes; Kamron (Shanon) Oberlin; Joseph (Angela) Oberlin; Troy (Sarah) Oberlin; Andy (Sarah) Oberlin; Nicole Bradley; Brandon (Brandy) Bradley; Cameron (Miranda) Bradley; Rena (Nathan) Sims; Pearl Oberlin; Mitch (Christian) Combs; and Kelli (fiancé Tyler Vincent) Combs.

Her legacy continues through her many great-grandchildren: Clarissa, Will Jr., Maxwell, and Lucas Baese; John IV and Madeline Fabus; Grace, Sophie, and Caleb Knickerbocker; Alexis and Nicholas Oberlin; Lauren, Sydney, and Valerie Hanes; Joey, Tyler, and Grant Oberlin; K.J. (Aimee) Oberlin, Audrey (Sam) Tennant, Jayden, and Aleah Oberlin; Corbin and Riley Oberlin; Evangeline and Isabelle Oberlin; Hudson and Mac Combs; Briar Huizenga; Jaron and Jaleigh Bradley; Quintin, Hope, and Benjamin Bradley; and Brentin, Bentley, and Marshall Sims. She was also blessed with great-great-grandchildren: Harmony and Stephon Savoy, and Rayden and Juniper Tennant.

Joan is further survived by her nieces: Leanne (Ian) Huckaby, Elizabeth (Seth) Iverson, and Charlene Dadd; along with great-nieces and nephews Marlee and Bergan Huckaby, and Owen Iverson.

A private funeral service will be held at a later time for immediate family. Arrangements are being handled by Watkins Brothers Funeral Homes, Perry Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Joan's memory to the Alzheimer's Association, the Shiawassee Humane Society, or your local animal control.



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Pastor:

Kendra Holcomb - Densmore

### Middlebury United Methodist Church

8100 W. Hibbard Rd., Ovid

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

### Bannister United Methodist Church

103 Harvey Street  
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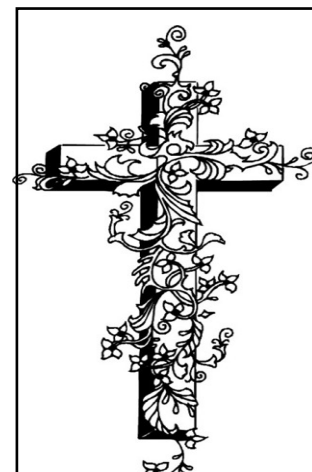
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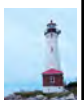
Angela Miller

*Healing Hugs*



**In Loving Memory of Harold & Margaret Morence**  
April 19, 2011 April 4, 2023

We miss you everyday  
Love, Your Family



# Editorial



## The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster  
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

### Armadillos

Maybe you have heard the buzz lately on social media and within hunting and wildlife/outdoor chat rooms about the possibility of armadillos in Michigan. How on earth did this crazy urban legend start and where is the proof? It didn't take too long to track down a Bridge Michigan article from late January that quotes Natural Resources Commissioner John Walters suggesting at the week's previous meeting of taking steps to let people "kill them here."

You are probably wondering if there are really armadillos in Michigan. Well, between 1989 and 2002 the MDNR has five confirmed roadkill samples tested by the MDNR's Wildlife Disease Lab. Two were from Ottawa County, and one each from Ionia, Luce, and Saginaw counties.

Also, there was a confirmed photo from Sanilac County posted on iNaturalist. So six examples but none of them living proof. Did they fall off of southern originating semi-trucks or are they no longer desirable pets and discarded and reported as roadkill samples?

Armadillos originated in Texas around the 1840's after migrating from Mexico and records indicate their arrival in Florida in the 1920's. Since then they have continued to migrate northward and eastward and may have even gone so far North as Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana. As climate change has occurred they have traveled where it is warm and wet. Despite

Michigan's cold winters, officials from the MDNR are predicting their legitimate arrival across the southern stateline in the near future. But then again these are the same fold that have colleagues claiming that there isn't a breeding population of Michigan cougars and wolves don't exist in the lower peninsula despite the MDNR doing wolf count surveys in the lower peninsula. Of course, there is also that wolf shot near the I-94 corridor in southern Michigan.

There are pros and cons to an armadillo population. They love to eat ants and cockroaches but carry diseases like leprosy, parasitic worms, and rabies. So if you are going to cook it, make sure it is well done and be prepared for a pork or rabbit texture with a duck like flavor.

-WS



**Have a Question for Andy?**  
Submit them to:  
ask\_andy@aol.com  
You can also mail or drop questions off to: Meridian Weekly  
P.O. Box 11, Ovid, MI 48866

Dear Andy,

I am 74 years old, in excellent health, and sound of mind. I recently was backing out of a tight parking spot in a city parking structure and clipped my driver's left side mirror. I am active in my community, attend, participate work on committees, and hold positions of office. I am committed to making my life have meaning by making contributions while I still can. And, I have fun social activities with my many friends. I usually spend my evenings at home, but when I am out after dark, the glare from other vehicles bothers me. Other than that, I have no other difficulties. I have never had a serious accident or caused an accident, and I do not want to. As an intelligent, sane and active single woman, retired but not tired, I want to keep my driver's license. My adult children think I should consider giving up my driving. I am not ready. What can I do?

Good Driver

Dear Good Driver,

I respect your concerns. As for your adult children, they are understandably worried about your safety and well-being. The state has a request to implement a driving test law for drivers 75 and over when they renew. The proposal is in legislation. That law will give assurance to many concerned individuals, including your family. Always be ready to do a self-assessment or ask to be tested.

Your inquiry sounds as if you are an educated individual and are aware of your surroundings. However, sometimes we are not aware of our own decline. We need to know that there will come a day for a person to find other transportation; such as car-pooling, public transportation and family. When it is time, to give up some of your independence, there are certainly options.

What some do not know...backing out of a tight spot, there are occasionally accidents. Sounds like when you were looking back to your right when you hit a support post underneath the structure. It happens more than you might think. If that is the only accident you have ever had, I say "Hallelujah" and keep on driving safely.

As for difficulty with bright lights, I spoke to a Driver's Ed teacher and he recommended dimming your interior lights at night. My best recommendation is to wear LVIOE eyewear at night and on glare snowy days. This brand has an outstanding option for amber vision glasses that can be worn over your prescription glasses. It takes away the glow and glare to give you a clearer view. I received them for a Christmas gift and have given me the safe option to see and drive safely at night. You can order them on: ecrepservice@hotmail.com or email: sherifang15923eu1@163.com OR fly to Midrid, Spain, where they are manufactured, one of my most favorite Cities in Europe. Let me know, I will go with you. Thanks for writing to me, today. Andy at ask\_andy@aol.com or askandyforadvice@gmail.com



## Religious Thoughts

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

The Lord says, "It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them."

- Hosea 11:3-4

Some people would like to believe in God, to enter into a personal relationship with Him, but they are afraid that God will punish them for their sins. That God would be angry with them and would just love to make them feel horrible. But this is the exact opposite from how God would act if you came to believe in Him.

All that God does, He does from a motive of love. We know about love, we know what love is and we know how to love all because of God. It all comes from Him.

Because God wants to have a loving relationship with you, it is one that by definition cannot be forced. Some teach that God chooses whom to give salvation to, but this is not true. All people can believe in God, but they must make that decision.

When it comes to interacting with us, God's way is never to coerce or to force someone to do something. That goes against the very definition of love. As the saying goes, "one who is forced against their will is of the same opinion still." So why should this be any different with God working on our hearts?

Since God is love, God works in other ways on the human heart. He convinces us through reason. He appeals to our emotions. He leads and guides us into the truth.

Throughout the gospels we see first John the Baptist and then Jesus calling people to repentance and faith; to believe in and to follow God. Over and over the call goes out, but no one is forced. No one is forced or conscripted to follow Jesus.

Jesus says, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

- John 7:37-38

The call goes out, and you must make the decision whether or not to believe and follow or to reject that call. The call of the gospel is for you to acknowledge that you are a sinner before a holy and righteous God and that this sin separates you from God. But God, in His love and mercy, freely gave His Son to die on the cross for your sins and rise bodily from the dead as the one, full and final payment for all of your sins. Big and small. Past, present and future.

What is your decision today?

## Ovid Township Residents

Letter to the Editor:

I just want to let you know how the Ovid Township Board is supporting you.

During the March 26 regular township board meeting, the 2026-2027 budget was being finalized. Two of the items being voted on were 2.8% Cost of Living (pay raises) increases for the Clerk and the Treasurer. During discussion, Clerk Claudia and Treasurer Nancy both stated that they view the COL or pay raises as a "thank you" from the community for the hard work and large number of hours required to do their jobs. They also pointed out that they do not participate in a Retirement program.

During Public Comments, Connie Kioski presented a data sheet which compared the other townships within the county, showing the parcel sizes and salaries of the Clerk and Treasurer. This study, completed on her own time, showed that the Ovid Township Clerk and Treasurer are both paid, sometimes by as much as \$6,000.00 more than any of the other townships. This was true even for townships with parcels the same size as Ovid. Connie then stated that she believed there should not be any pay raises approved this year.

Also during Public Comment, Keith Jones stated that with taxes going up, cost of gas and food going up, did not see how the board could justify pay raises.

Trustees Kurt Wolf and Bobby Byles both stated that their job was to support the public. They had been contacted by several township residents and asked to not approve any pay raises. Both Kurt and Bobby stated they could not justify approving pay raises from taxpayer funds when the taxpayers were facing increased taxes and other costs. They stated that they appreciate the excellent jobs the Clerk and Treasurer both do.

Previously, both Trustees Kurt and Bobby, and Supervisor Jennings West had already declined pay raises.

When the vote was taken, the Clerk and Treasurer both voted yes for their pay raises, and Jennings, Bobby, and Kurt all voted no. Result: there will not be any raises for the board this year. Because the township residents spoke up, board members listened and acted. Thank You Ovid Township Board members for your support!

Gravel Pit Update: As of 3/23, the County Planning and Zoning office confirmed that the Barks family has completed the purchase of the property on South Hollister Road and it remains agricultural property. I will be monitoring this for any future developments and provide updates as they occur.

We would sure appreciate your attendance/and input at our Board meetings, 6pm on the 4th Thursday of the month!

Respectfully,  
William Keith Jones

## Purse Party Bingo to Benefit Respite Volunteers

submitted by Helen Howard

The Respite Volunteer Purse Party Bingo will be held Thurs. May 14th at the Owosso Knights of Columbus Hall located at 1259 E. M-21. Doors open at 5:30 pm and games begin at 6 pm. For each bingo game, the prize is a purse with a retail value of at least \$45. Advance Tickets are \$20, or \$25 the day of the event, if tickets are still available. With the tickets purchased, 20 bingo cards to play 20 games are included. Guests are encouraged to bring their own snacks. Tie-breaker prizes and door prizes provided. This is an Adults-Only event. License #V11600.

Tickets are on sale weekdays 9am- 3pm at the Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee office, the historic brick home east of Memorial Healthcare hospital at 710 W. King St., Owosso. The main entrance is on the parking lot (north) side.

Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee provides case management, education and support to adults with health challenges in Shiawassee County, and help to the family members caring for the person. The program then matches a volunteer with each person to provide friendly visiting, usually weekly. The program also provides education about all the other in-home services, senior services, support groups, and financial help that is available for both frail elderly persons and multi-generational families caring for the person.

For more information about Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee services, volunteer opportunities and this event, please call 989-725-1127

## A Night of Laughter

On Saturday, April 11th, the Laingsburg American Legion will present "A Night of Laughter". Doors will open at 6pm, the show will start at 7pm. Advance ticket price is \$20, \$25 at the door, get your tickets early as space is limited to 150. Tickets are at the Legion Dugout as well as at Sunday breakfast. Snacks will be provided and a cash bar will be available, a 50/50 raffle will be held. All proceeds from this show will go towards the Parking Lot project for Post 248. Join them for a night of fun and a laugh.



## Shiawassee County Demonstrates for Democracy

submitted by Marcia Bird

Over 200 people from Shiawassee County and their friends attended the No Kings 3 peaceful protest at Curwood Castle in Owosso on Saturday, March 28th as part of a national campaign to address Democracy in the United States. Over 8 million people participated in 3,200 No Kings 3 events throughout all 50 states and in over a dozen other countries across Europe, Latin America and Australia. Events focused on the need to increase Democratic Values in local, state, national and international legislation and actions.



Photos compliments of Aaron Ray & Joanne Carlson

The Shiawassee County Democratic Party combined the national mobilize.us efforts with our local heritage, labeling it No Kings 3 – Not at our Castle. The group met by the studio of James Oliver Curwood, Conservationist and great grandson of an Indigenous Grandmother, embracing the movement's focus on our environment and diversity. Bailey Leppert, SCDP Chair of Membership & Candidate Development, spoke about Voter Registration, Precinct Delegate expansion & support, Election Safety, and Early, Mail-in and In-person Voting in Michigan. She is working to identify prospective local candidates and encourage people to attend the next Run Local conversation and training on May 2nd from 10AM to 12PM in Owosso. To register, email candidatechair@shiwasseedems.org.

The SCDP Community Outreach Committee shared information about upcoming events. Join our parade participation in the Laingsburg Springfest, Durand Railroad Days, Corunna 4th of July & Ovid Carriage Days wagon and walking units. SCDP assists MDOT in highway clean-up on M52 near the Bennington Township Hall and provides quarterly food drives to address Food Insecurity. Contact vicechair@shiwasseedems.org

The SCDP 30th Annual Signature Pasta & Politics Dinner will be held on April 24th at the Z Hall in Owosso. Discounted tickets are available for teens & young adults under 22 and adults with income and disability barriers. Contact chair@shiwasseedems.org

## Laingsburg 2026 Euchre Winners Announced

by Karen Anderson, Correspondent

LAINGSBURG: Over 100 players and guests attended the 11th Annual Laingsburg Euchre League end-of-winter season at the American Legion Hall Post 248, on Wednesday, April 1, 2026. An outstanding Prime Rib Dinner was served to recognize the winners of the twelve-week Wednesday night games. The Euchre games began the first week of January, playing through the end of March with recognition and prizes for winners achieving the most sets, loners and of course, last place honors. It had to be somebody. Good Luck next year.



(l - r): Brad Schlicher, George Gavenda, Douglas Foster

Organizers Brad Schlicher and George Gavenda, gave a special recognition to the dedicated, hard-working kitchen staff, Liz Smith and Janet Walker, from Laingsburg. A welcome and thank you for the outstanding 5-foot Charcutier board created by Debbie McClaren and Stacy King, new players in the league. A special thank you to the volunteers who helped organize, set up, clean up, wash dishes and provide food during the weekly sessions for the 80 players who participated.



Top 10 players of the 2026 Euchre League: Douglas Foster 1st place, Brad Schlicher 2nd, Joe Anderson 3rd, George Gavenda 4th, Emmet Howland 5th, Beverly Allen 6th, Rachel Dugan 7th, Susan Hurst 8th, Kathy Freed 9th, and Paula Willowby 10th place.

Congratulations to the top 10 players for 2026 who were into the money winners: Douglas Foster 1st place, Brad Schlicher 2nd, Joe Anderson 3rd, George Gavenda 4th, Emmet Howland 5th, Beverly Allen 6th, Rachel Dugan 7th, Susan Hurst 8th, Kathy Freed 9th, and Paula Willowby 10th place.

The Laingsburg League is hosting a Cross City-Cross County Euchre Challenge with the Owosso Conservation Euchre league at 7:00 on Wednesday, April 8th. The trophy is currently standing tall at Post 248 in Laingsburg.



George Gavenda, Post Commander Alex Hagerty, Brad Schlicher receiving a \$1,500 donation

Sincere condolences to the families and friends of Roger Dennis and Shelly Whitehas, who died suddenly and passed away during the 2026 season.

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## Capital City Ringers' Annual Spring Concerts

submitted by Shannon Donnally Quinn

The Capital City Ringers' Annual Spring Concerts--"Handbells Rock"--will be at the following dates, times, and locations:

- Capital City Ringers' Annual Spring Concerts--"Handbells Rock"
- Sunday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.
- Eastminster Presbyterian Church
- 1315 Abbot Rd.
- East Lansing, MI 48823
- Capital City Ringers' Annual Spring Concerts--"Handbells Rock"
- Monday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.
- Delta Presbyterian Church
- 6100 W. Michigan Ave.
- Lansing, MI 48917

Join CCR and Music Director Mark Loring for a rockin' family-friendly concert! For info, www.capitalcityringers.com/events.html or call 517/321-3221.

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# Sports

## 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



Travis Milner

Joie Fabus

Julian Medina

## Marauder Boys Basketball Program Lands Trio on 202526 All-MMAC Team

OVID-ELSIE -- A trio of Marauder notables head up the Ovid-Elsie contingent on the 2025-26 All Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) boys basketball team.

Standout guard Travis Milner, Jr. was named to the All-Conference team for the second-straight year, moving up from 2nd Team honors in 2025 to 1st Team plaudits in 2026.

Milner led Canyon Walker's team with a 17.6 scoring average, along the way hitting a team-high 68% from the charity stripe. He added 66 steals and a Marauder-leading 70 assists to his repertoire,

Joie Fabus and Julian Medina Honorable Mention selectees to the 2026 squad. Fabius averaged 8.3 ppg while dealing 42 assists, nabbing 20 steals and 98 rebounds -- 38 off the offensive glass.

Medina hit 41% of his shots from the floor while averaging 6.7 points. He added 13 assists, 37 total rebounds and 36 steals to his 2026 statline.

Walker's Marauders capped the regular season on a two-game winning streak to finish 11-11, then advanced to the District Final on their home floor opposite Pewamo-Westphalia.

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

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

**Let's start the conversation.**

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

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## OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed

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

Friday: Closed

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## It's Time to "Get in the Swing"

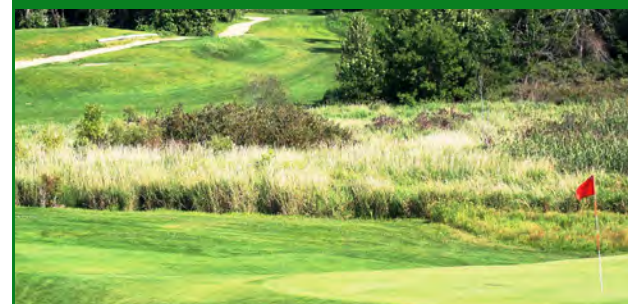
### Pine Hills Golf Course 2026

**LEAGUES NOW FORMING TO BEGIN EARLY MAY:**

- Sunday Morning Men's League
- Sunday Evening Junior League 5-7
- Monday Morning Two-Person Scramble League
- Monday Night Guys and Dolls League
- Monday Night Couples Scramble League
- Tuesday Morning Ladies League
- Tuesday Night Men's League
- Wednesday Morning Scramble League
- Wednesday Night Scramble League (Full)
- Thursday Morning Junior League (Newer Golfers)
- Thursday Night Ladies League
- Thursday Night Individual League (Handicapped)

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# Sports Schedules

## Ashley/Fulton Boys Baseball

April 9: Merrill DH	H*	4:00pm
April 13: Sacred Heart DH	A	4:00pm
April 22: Breckenridge DH	A	4:00pm
April 27: Carson City DH	H*	4:00pm
May 1: St. Charles DH	A	4:00pm
May 5: Coleman DH	A	4:00pm
May 11: Montabella DH	H*	4:00pm
May 15: Vestaburg DH	H*	4:00pm

\*Indicates at Fulton High School

## Ashley/Fulton Softball

April 9: Merrill	H*	4:00pm
April 13: Sacred Heart	A	4:00pm
April 22: Breckenridge	A	4:00pm
April 27: Carson City Crystal	H*	4:00pm
May 1: St. Charles	A	4:00pm
May 5: Coleman	A	4:00pm
May 11: Montabella	H*	4:00pm
May 15: Vestaburg	H*	4:00pm

\* Indicates at Fulton High School

## Ashley Track and Field

April 7: Carson City	A	TBA
April 11: Freeland	A	TBA
April 15: Hemlock	A	TBA
April 18: Breckenridge	A	TBA
April 22: Carson City	A	4:00pm
April 27: Montabella	A	4:00pm
May 6: Coleman	A	4:00pm
May 8: Laingsburg	A	TBA
May 9: Fulton	A	TBA
May 16: Fowler	A	TBA
May 19: Fulton	A	4:00pm

## St. Johns/OE Boys Lacrosse

April 9: Haslett	A	5:00pm
April 10: St Johns Middle S	H	5:30pm
April 13: OE High S	H	6:00pm
April 14: Okemos	A	7:00pm
April 21: DeWitt	A	5:30pm
April 23: Holt	A	5:00pm
April 24: Bay City Central	A	6:00pm
April 27: St. Johns Middle S	H	6:00pm
April 28: East Lansing	A	7:30pm
April 30: St. Johns Middle S	H	5:00pm
May 4: Ortonville	A	7:00pm
May 6: Battle Creek	A	6:00pm

## St. Johns/OE Girls Lacrosse

April 9: St. Johns HS	H	5:30pm
April 14: Okemos	A	5:30pm
April 16: Holly	A	6:00pm
April 21: DeWitt	A	7:00pm
April 23: Holt	A	7:00pm
April 24: Walled Lake Central	A	6:00pm
April 28: East Lansing	A	6:00pm
April 30: St. Johns HS	H	5:30pm
May 1: Jenison	A	6:30pm
May 6: St. Johns HS	H	6:00pm
May 8: Holly	A	6:00pm
May 11: St. Johns HS	H	6:00pm

## Distracted Driving Awareness Month Will Focus on Enforcing Michigan's Hand-Free Law

submitted by Dennis Raymo

With a rise in the use of handheld devices by drivers on Michigan roadways and in support of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, police agencies throughout the state are teaming up with the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) for a high-visibility enforcement effort during the month of April.

A recent observational study from Michigan State University (MSU) found that mobile device use by drivers increased from 5.2 percent in 2024 to 5.7 percent in 2025. The OHSP works with MSU each year to collect data to determine annual handheld device use rates on Michigan roads.

Throughout the month, police officers will be enforcing Michigan's Hands-Free Law, which took effect on June 30, 2023. The goal of this initiative is to reduce traffic crashes, injuries and deaths caused by distracted driving, especially those involving the use of a mobile device.

According to Michigan Traffic Crash Facts, motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver decreased by 4.6 percent from 15,136 in 2023 to 14,439 in 2024. However, the number of fatalities in distraction-involved crashes increased 10 percent from 59 fatalities in 2023 to 65 in 2024.

"While fewer distracted-driving crashes is encouraging news, the increase in mobile device use and distracted-driving-related fatalities is alarming," said Alicia Sledge, OHSP director. "Nearly 300 people have died in distraction-involved crashes in Michigan from 2020 to 2024. That should concern every roadway user and underscores the need for people to embrace safer-driving habits."

Jim Santilli, CEO of the National Transportation Safety Organization, said stopping the use of handheld devices while driving must be a priority to keep all roadway users safe.

"Distracted driving is not an accident—it is a deliberate choice that can inflict lasting harm on families," Santilli said. "Safer roads rely on all of us committing to drive without distractions."

Distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on our roads, with cell phone use the most common distraction. Other risky actions include adjusting the radio or GPS, applying makeup, eating and drinking.

"Any activity that takes your eyes off the road and your hands off the wheel is extremely reckless and can have devastating consequences," Santilli said.

Violating Michigan's Hands-Free Law can be costly: For the first offense, a \$100 ticket and/or 16 hours of community service; for the second offense, a \$250 ticket and/or 24 hours of community service; and for a third offense within a three-year-period, the driver must complete a driving-improvement course.

This enforcement is a part of the SAFER by 2030 initiative. SAFER (Statewide Action to Reduce Fatalities Encountered on our Roadways) by 2030 is a collaborative effort by state agencies and traffic safety partners to reduce traffic fatalities on Michigan roadways by 30 percent by the year 2030. Educational efforts by SAFER by 2030 partner agencies include the posting of Hands-Free Law signs at rest stops and Welcome Centers by the Michigan Department of Transportation, the OHSP's distracted-driving paid media campaign, and the Kiefer Foundation's "Just Drive Simulator" for high schools.

For more information about distracted driving and Michigan's Hands-Free Law, visit [www.michigan.gov/DistractedDriving](http://www.michigan.gov/DistractedDriving). To learn more about SAFER by 2030, visit [www.michigan.gov/SAFERby2030](http://www.michigan.gov/SAFERby2030).

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## Consumers Energy’s Reliability Action Plan Provides Dollars to Power a Stronger Michigan Electric Grid

submitted by Brian M. Wheeler

JACKSON – Consumers Energy today received the green light to carry out new upgrades to secure Michigan’s electric grid, a major investment that will keep the lights on more dependably for close to 2 million Michigan homes and businesses.

The company’s 2026 Reliability Action Plan provides the dollars that will power grid improvements across communities like Grand Rapids, Flint, Lansing and Northern Michigan, which have been recovering from this month’s massive winter storm.

Since 2021, our average electric customer experienced an hour less time in the dark in normal conditions. That’s a 28% drop, one of the biggest in the nation over that time.

“Consumers Energy is helping our customers by securing the grid and giving them the tools to reduce and manage their bills. Our Reliability Action Plan represents an investment that will lead to fewer and shorter power outages,” said Greg Salisbury, Consumers Energy’s senior vice president of electric distribution. “At the same time, we understand the impact of rising costs, so we will continue to help people lower and manage bills while making upgrades to power their lives more reliably.”

The plan approval by the Michigan Public Service Commission ends a nearly year-long process. Last June, Consumers Energy offered the Reliability Action Plan to the commission to secure the grid that is built around additional customer investment.

About 75 cents of every customer dollar goes directly back into securing the grid. Consumers Energy will:

- Double the number of miles this decade where Consumers Energy trims trees.
- Bury more power lines this year to protect them from storms and threats that cause outages.
- Install poles that withstand stronger winds and storms.
- Add technology that instantly reacts to interruptions.
- Secure our grid against physical and cyber threats.

“With spring now starting, Consumers Energy is helping customers on the heels of last season’s cold. Consumers Energy continues to reach out to seniors and other customers whose bills have been most affected by the cold. We will continue more direct outreach that helps people make payments and take steps to lower future bills. The company also provided \$5 million to 11 nonprofit organizations to help people with energy bills.

Consumers Energy plans to file its 2027 Reliability Action Plan in June, to continue making investments that secure the grid. The company will notify the Michigan Public Service Commission next week to start that process.

## MDARD Shares Food Safety Reminders for Spring

submitted by Lynsey Mukomel

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is reminding Michiganders to keep food safety in mind as they prepare meals for family and friends this spring.

Taking a few simple precautions to keep your food safe and your guests healthy:

**Wash Hands Frequently:** Handwashing is one of the most important steps to prevent food-borne illness. Research shows that handwashing lowers the rates of certain respiratory and gastrointestinal infections up to 23 and 48 percent, respectively. Hands should be thoroughly washed with soap and warm, running water before, during and after preparing food; after using the restroom or blowing your nose; and after returning to the kitchen if you leave during food preparation.

**Clean and Separate:** Start with a clean kitchen by washing all surfaces and utensils and use separate cutting boards and utensils for raw meats and other foods.

**Eggs:** Hard-boiled eggs should not be left at room temperature. Instead, refrigerate them until it’s time for them to be served. Cook all egg dishes until firm and set. If you plan to consume painted or dyed eggs, make sure to use food-grade dye. For those who use real eggs for an egg hunt, these should not be consumed after the hunt. Instead prepare two sets of eggs – one for the hunt and one for the feast.

**Meats:** Ham, brisket, lamb, and poultry are often on dinner tables. Keep in mind that various meats require different techniques of preparation. Use a food thermometer to ensure the meat is thoroughly cooked to a safe minimum internal temperature. Plan ahead to allow enough time for meat to thaw safely and cook thoroughly before serving. Follow thawing and cooking instructions on the label.

**Side Dishes:** The rule of thumb for side dishes is to keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. Bacteria grow most rapidly in the danger zone temperature range between 40°F and 140°F, doubling in number in as little as 20 minutes. If possible, place cooked hot foods in chafing dishes, preheated steam tables, warming trays or slow cookers. Place cold foods in containers on ice. Whether served hot or cold, never keep food out of the refrigerator for more than two hours.

**Leftovers:** If food has not been left at room temperature for more than two hours, leftovers can be safely refrigerated or frozen to be enjoyed later. Store leftover food in small, shallow containers in the refrigerator or freezer for later use. Shallow containers help cool leftovers more quickly than storing them in large containers. Leftovers should be consumed within four days. If you want to keep leftovers longer, freeze them within that four-day period. Frozen food stays safe indefinitely, though the quality may decrease over time. If you store leftovers in the freezer, they will be of best quality within two to six months. Always reheat leftovers to an internal temperature of 165°F, using a food thermometer.

For more tips and resources regarding food safety, visit [www.Michigan.gov/foodsafety](http://www.Michigan.gov/foodsafety).



# JOIN US FOR OEYBS FIELD CLEAN UP

Let’s come together to keep our ballfields—and our community—clean, safe, and ready for play! As we prepare for the upcoming baseball and softball season, we’re teaming up to pick up litter, groom the grounds, and bring our fields back to life.

DATE	TIME	PLACE
11 April	9:00 AM	Ovid and Elsie Fields



## 2026 Elsie Dairy Festival T-Shirt Design Contest

**Open contest to all students attending  
E.E. Knight and Leonard Elementary**



**Image can use 1-2 colors.**  
**Image can be submitted in pdf.**  
**Image can be submitted by mail.**  
**Include: Name and age in submission.**

**All submissions will be voted on by  
The Elsie Dairy Festival Committee**

**Entries due by  
APRIL 17, 2026**

**Winner will be announced:  
MAY 1, 2026**

**Winner will receive a carnival bracelet (good for 1 day of rides), free t-shirt and 1 free ice cream voucher.**



**SCAN QR TO EMAIL or  
Mailed entries sent to:**  
Quinn Passmore  
3001 S. Meridian Rd.  
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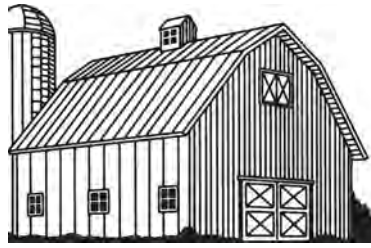


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## HALL RENTALS

**NEWLY REFURNISHED HALL:** \$650 and \$350 for 1/2 hall rental. St. Johns K of C. Call rental agent Diane Smith (989) 227-2233 or (989) 620-1693. EOW

**ELSIE:** Elsie American Legion Hall Rental. 220 S. Ovid, St., Elsie. Call for more information 989-494-6987. 1538 EOW

## OUTDOOR FURNACE

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9/30/26

## ESTATE SALE

**TREASURERS ESTATE SALE:** Living Estate Sale, Randy Jensen, 645 Curwood Road, Owosso, MI 48867. April 8th, 10am-5pm; April 9th & 10th, 9am-5pm; April 11th, 9am-3pm. Sign up sheet, first day. Newly built tool shed, Powered Miller Grandfather Clock, Pampered Chef, Boyd Bears, leather recliner, Vintage toys, Green Depression child's tea set, band saw, Craftsman table saw, tools and more. estatesales.net, estatesales.com 1832

## ELECTRICAL

**LENON ELECTRIC & SON:** 989-640-5169. Residential, Commercial. Emergency Calls. 24 Hour Service. Licensed & Insured. EOW



## 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 May 6, 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): Jerold Makara, single  
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns  
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): MID-FIRST BANK  
Date of Mortgage: June 9, 2023  
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 15, 2023  
Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$146,896.38  
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Elsie, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: Lots 1, 2, 13 and 14, B.D. Hicks Addition to the Village of Elsie, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 48 of Deeds, Page 415.  
Common street address (if any): 315 W Main St, Elsie, MI 48831-9806  
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: April 5, 2026  
Trott Law, P.C.  
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 642-2515

1589150  
(04-05)(04-26)

## SERVICES

**J & M WELL DRILLING & Service, Inc.** Emergency Service. Perry 517-675-5956  
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## CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

### STATE OF MICHIGAN 29TH JUDICIAL COURT COUNTY OF CLINTON NOTICE TO CREDITORS ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATE SERVICE

Case No: 25-12651-CH  
Hon. Cori E. Barkman  
Plaintiff's Name:  
CC VALLEY ESTATES PROPERTY, LLC c/o Swistak Levine, P.C.  
Plaintiff's Attorney:  
Jarrett E. Levine (P71902)  
30833 Northwestern Hwy. Ste. 120 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 851-8000  
Defendants Name:  
MARCIA LYNN VANBUREN  
62 Neetie Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48906  
THE COURT FINDS:  
1. Service of process upon the defendant, MARCIA LYNN VANBUREN, cannot reasonable be made as provided in MCR 2.105 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.  
IT IS ORDERED:  
2. Service of the summons and complaint and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).  
a. First-class mail to 62 Neetie Ave. Lansing, MI 48906  
b. Tacking or firmly affixing to the door at 62 Neetie Ave. Lansing, MI 48906  
d. Other: Certified mail return receipt requested to the last known address of: 62 Neetie Ave., Lansing, MI 48906  
and by publishing for three consecutive weeks in the Meridian Weekly pursuant to MCR 2.106  
(04-05/04-19)

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# CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

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

CASE NO: 26-32829-DE  
Estate of  
**LESTER J. MORGAN**  
Date of birth: July 6, 1937  
**NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS:**  
The Decedent  
**LESTER J. MORGAN**  
Died: March 7, 2026  
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Dawn Sands, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 East State Street, Suite 4300, St. Johns, MI 48879 within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Dawn Sands  
22560 Canyon Way  
Colfax, California 95713  
(530) 401-2825

(04-05)

## STATE OF MICHIGAN 29TH JUDICIAL COURT COUNTY OF CLINTON NOTICE TO CREDITORS ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATE SERVICE

Case No: 25-12622-CH  
Hon. Cori E. Barkman  
Plaintiff's Name:  
Fifth Third Bank, National Association  
as successor by merger to Fifth Third  
Mortgage Company  
c/o Plaintiff's attorney  
Plaintiff's Attorney:  
Sogol I. Plagany (P69690)  
Orlans Lawn Group PLLC  
P.O. Box 5041  
Troy, MI 48007  
248-502-1359

Defendants Name:  
Matthew L. Sedore, et al.  
**THE COURT FINDS:**  
1. Service of process upon the defendant, Tracy Sedore, cannot reasonable be made as provided in MCR 2.105 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.

**IT IS ORDERED:**  
2. Service of the summons and complaint and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).  
a. First-class mail to 12815 S. Hinman Road, Eagle, MI 48822  
b. Tacking or firmly affixing to the door at 12815 S. Hinman Road, Eagle, MI 48822  
d. Other: Publishing for three consecutive weeks in the Meridian Weekly pursuant to MCR 2.106 (D) and via certified mail return receipt requested to the last known address of: 12815 S. Hinman Road, Eagle, MI 48822

(03-29/04-12)

## STATE OF MICHIGAN 29TH JUDICIAL COURT COUNTY OF CLINTON NOTICE TO CREDITORS ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATE SERVICE

Case No: 25-12622-CH  
Hon. Cori E. Barkman  
Plaintiff's Name:  
Fifth Third Bank, National Association  
as successor by merger to Fifth Third  
Mortgage Company  
c/o Plaintiff's attorney  
Plaintiff's Attorney:  
Sogol I. Plagany (P69690)  
Orlans Lawn Group PLLC  
P.O. Box 5041  
Troy, MI 48007  
248-502-1359  
Defendants Name:  
Matthew L. Sedore, et al.  
**THE COURT FINDS:**  
1. Service of process upon the defendant, Matthew L. Sedore, cannot reasonable be made as provided in MCR 2.105 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.

**IT IS ORDERED:**  
2. Service of the summons and complaint and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).  
a. First-class mail to 12815 S. Hinman Road, Eagle, MI 48822  
b. Tacking or firmly affixing to the door at 12815 S. Hinman Road, Eagle, MI 48822  
d. Other: Publishing for three consecutive weeks in the Meridian Weekly pursuant to MCR 2.106 (D) and via certified mail return receipt requested to the last known address of: 12815 S. Hinman Road, Eagle, MI 48822

(03-29/04-12)

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

The Theis Family Trust,  
dated October 1, 1997  
**NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS:**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:**  
The decedent, **MARIE R. THEIS**  
who lived at 10185 Centerline Road,  
Fowler, Michigan 48835  
Died: February 8, 2026  
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to the THEIS FAMILY TRUST dated October 1, 1997 within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Charles L. Theis  
2581 Meadow Wood Drive  
East Lansing, Michigan 48823  
(517) 881-9950  
Pratt Law, PC  
Alexa B. Pratt P83426  
201 E. State Street  
St. Johns, MI 48879  
(989) 224-9449

(04-05)

## 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 29, 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): Justin Keibler, an unmarried man  
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns  
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services LLC  
Date of Mortgage: March 5, 2021  
Date of Mortgage Recording: March 9, 2021  
Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$160,504.59

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Saint Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 31, Briggs-Stoller Subdivision, City of St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 6, Clinton County Records.

Common street address (if any): 505 S Traver St, Saint Johns, MI 48879-2041  
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: March 29, 2026  
Trott Law, P.C.  
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
(248) 642-2515

1588972  
(03-29)(04-19)

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# CLASSIFIEDS DIRECTORY

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**ELSIE 2 Bedroom 2nd floor.** All utilities included. No smoking. No pets. \$1,000 deposit. \$1,000/mth. Call Ed Thornton  
989-862-4889. 1829f

## AUCTION

**Estate of Steven Easterling Online Auction:** Bid on Harley Electra Glide, boats, Jayco camper, baby grand piano, music gear, Ethan Allen furniture, and tools. Visit Bid.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com or call Joe at 1-800-835-0495. CPM

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## LAFCU to Host Free Shred Day Event April 25

submitted by Ines Tomic

LANSING. — With tax season in full swing, many individuals are sorting through financial records, receipts and old statements—often uncovering documents that are no longer needed but still contain sensitive personal information. Properly disposing of these materials is an important step in protecting against identity theft.

To support the community during this time, LAFCU will host its annual Shred Day, offering a safe and convenient way to destroy confidential documents. The free event will take place Saturday, April 25, at LAFCU's headquarters/West Lansing Branch, 106 N. Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. A mobile shredding truck will be on-site from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., securely shredding documents for attendees.

Millions of Americans are affected by identity theft each year, often due to improperly discarded documents that contain personal or financial information. Shred Day helps reduce that risk by ensuring sensitive materials are destroyed safely and efficiently.

LAFCU encourages community members to bring items such as old tax documents, receipts, bills, insurance statements, address labels, and financial records that include account numbers, Social Security numbers, or other identifying details. Each participant may drop off up to four banker's boxes of materials.

"Tax season is a natural time for people to go through important paperwork and determine what they no longer need," said Alyssa Troub, LAFCU's digital marketing and community engagement specialist. "Shred Day offers a simple, secure way to dispose of those documents while helping protect against identity theft and providing peace of mind."

**Extended Hours**



**8am - 7pm  
Thru April**

**Formerly Ovid Cafe - Downtown Ovid**  
**989-834-3039**

**Starting Tuesday, April 7th • Open 8am-7pm**  
**WEEKEND BUFFET**  
**Starting Soon!**

## Basketball legacy runs deep, through father, daughter, and coach at LHS

LAINGSBURG -- A path, 37 years in the blazing, just culminated in another trophy added to the LHS hardware case.

The trail -- call it 'Wolfpack Trace' -- winds back to a chilly day, just before Thanksgiving, in November 1989.

Pat Rosenquist, the Laingsburg athletic director at the time, faced a dilemma. Her varsity basketball coach, Terry Breneman, had resigned abruptly to take over the head job at his native Pinckney HS. Just days before the season started, she hired an applicant with zero head coaching experience, fresh out of Hope College and Okemos High School.

Pat Rosenquist hired Greg Mitchell. A new era in Wolfpack lore was born ... really, out of desperation, a season on the brink, with no head coach. And that's where we begin our story.

Here's the back-story: Wolfpack teams were hardly known for any kind of basketball success. They won a District title in 1954 behind star scorer Jerry Clark, then went on a 22-year tournament drought before the fast-breaking teams of coach Harry Walters won back-to-back District crowns in 1976-77. They then went on another 22-year hibernation without any notable postseason success.

Most of those post-season disappointments were of the one-and-done variety.

Enter Greg Mitchell. The former Okemos Chieftain standout had grown up in a program that bred success, ruling the Lansing-area hardwood in the early 1980s under mentor Stan Stolz. Mitchell brought a different mentality to Laingsburg. He coached-up quick, fast, athletic players with ball skills who could run the court, rebound, yet still shoot the '3' -- a novel idea with the inception of the three-point arc after the 1985-86 season.

Yet it was on the defensive end where the Wolfpack made its mark. Mitchell coached a relentless, no-mas style, where opponents were locked down, most nights limited to the sub-50 point mark. The style of play was exhausting. If a player got gassed, Mitchell's bench went deep. Gone were the days of 5 or 6 guys getting all the minutes.

One of coach Mitchell's earliest proteges was a tall, lean center, name of Daniel Morrill. A two-time All-CMAC player as the Wolfpack's on-the-court leader, Morrill was



Steve and Harper Strouse

part of building the foundation that led to District titles in 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2011, 2013, 2015 ... a little before Morrill's time, but he learned plenty.

Coach Mitchell says this: "When he got into coaching, Dan did a great job of leading humbly and positively and showed great respect for the game of basketball as a whole. Regardless, if his teams won or lost, either result demonstrated class and respect for the opponents. He is a great teacher of the game and always find a way for his teams to be competitive even if they are not as talented. He has a great mind for the game and always gets the most out of his players."

After college and a few other coaching stops, he returned to LHS and coach on Mitchell's staff. Later, he would get his first head coaching job piloting the LHS girls program.

"Most people don't realize coach Mitchell's influence through every facet of athletics at Laingsburg High School," says Morrill, who recently guided his Lady Wolfpack to another District championship. "He was dedicated to seeing every team succeed ... and he personally followed up on that. No one would have the ability to coach each and every team, but he put every resource, his passion, behind every coach and player. Coach Mitchell built a legacy that continues ... and will continue for a very long time."

While the boys program flourished, so did the girls. The LHS administration kept everything close to home. Under yet another former Wolfpack notable, Doug Hurst, the Lady Wolfpack embarked on a 12-year record of 124-80 with two CMAC titles, three District crowns, a Regional championship and a MHSAA Quarterfinals appearance at MSU's Breslin Center. "Doug was a tremendous asset to the program," says Morrill, "And his teams proved that. The legacy just kept continuing."

Enter into the story another LHS standout. Steve Strouse had the privilege to play under Mitchell for four years, 1998-1999-2000-01. Says Mitchell, "The 2000-01 team truly solidified the tradition of Wolfpack Basketball by winning the first of consecutive CMAC championships. Without question, the 1996-97 team put our program on the map, but the 2000-01 and that following year (2001-02, Regional Champs) were the teams that changed how our program was viewed and respected."

Which brings us to our final stop along Wolfpack Trace: graduating senior Harper Strouse. She made her first appearance on the All-CMAC squad this season, as the team's leading rebounder at nearly 7 per game, nearly four ppg, while also averaging 1.7 steals. More importantly, she was one of the cogs that led Morrill's team -- yes, that Dan Morrill -- to a 20-5 record and another trip to the MHSAA Regionals.

Harper is a protegee of Dan Morrill, who excelled under coach Mitchell, and is the daughter of Steve Strouse, who excelled under ... coach Mitchell. Her team's District title came on the 25th anniversary of ... her father's.

Wolfpack Trace keeps getting longer. And stronger.



## My Turn At Bat

by Tom Turek



**LAINGSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

# KINDERGARTEN Round Up

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