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Spirit of Big A takes Remarkable Twists and Turns Through two Communities



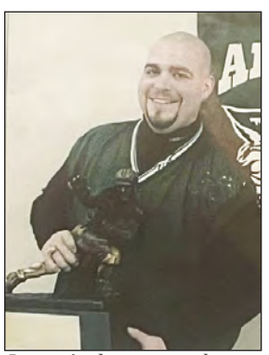
My Turn At Bat
by Tom Turek

LAINGSBURG -- The spirit of Jason Andersen runs through two Michigan high schools through a remarkable scholarship opportunity that is in its second decade.

The spirit lives on. Said spirit moves in mysterious ways. With some remarkable twists and turns, first through Laingsburg, then through Alpena.

Unlikely locales joined in fate, you might ask? Perhaps. Yet Jason Andersen had a way of bringing people together.

"Big A," as he was affectionately known, was a standout football player at LHS -- and by the time he graduated in 1995, was drawing scholarship offers from Division II colleges. After graduating from the Wolfpack, he signed up with Ferris State, where he was an offensive lineman for two seasons.



Jason Andersen was beloved at both Laingsburg and Alpena High Schools throughout his athletic career.

After leaving the Bulldog program, the passion -- the spirit -- for football never left Big A. He took a job as a coordinator for the Lapeer County Mental Health Dept. after graduating from Spring Arbor College with a degree in Family Life Education.

But his autumn and winter afternoons and evenings were dedicated to coaching football and basketball; as an assistant coach at Alpena High School. Parents, players, coaches, colleagues ... everybody loved the guy. That was Big A -- bringing people together. It was just part of who he was.

As I write this, we just passed another milestone with Big A. Tragically, he passed away July 8, 2008 after battling cardiovascular illness. Jason was just 31 years old ... and his death hit like a lightning bolt.

He was survived by his mother, Janice (Putnam) Andersen, and it was she who started a legacy education program honoring Jason -- The Big A Scholarship -- with the unique aspect of helping students both at Laingsburg HS, and Alpena HS.

Two scholarships per year, tying two Michigan communities together, that in 2026 topped the $38,000 mark in total awards presented. Thus far.

The Alpena recipient of the 2026 Big A Scholarship is a standout softball pitcher, name of Paige Samp. She was a Divisioin 1 All-Stater this past prep season. Samp pitched 99 innings and played all over the field for Alpena. When not pitching, she primarily patrolled center field but also saw time in left field, right field, shortstop, and second base. The senior batted .377 with two home runs and five triples. She stole 26 bases this season and tied the school record for career stolen bases with 59.

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Elsie Village Council

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – The regular meeting of the Elsie Village Council was held Tuesday, July 14, 2026. The evening was business as usual.

Officials took Action to approve expenditures totalingm$57,194.44.

Ed White presented a brief park update. White noted that the nets have been installed for pickle ball and tennis. Due to his current work schedule time to devote to the park is limited. His goal is to get the second court painted in mid-August. Members of the community have donated a container and a number balls to be used on the courts. The equipment is available for community use. The park continues to be a priority, grants are being researched and fund raising ideas considered.

Jason Freeman, village president, reported that the Elsie Area Fire/Rescue agreement is on hold pending the adoption and or filing of articles of incorporation and by-laws. Noting this is the advice of legal counsel.

Kelsey Kelly, clerk/treasurer, reported that the Village of Elsie taxes have been sent and can be paid online or in-person. In addition, financial controller Steve Adair has updated the utility billing and the payment system. Ninety-eight residents still need to have new water meters installed; scheduling is becoming a challenge due to the resident schedules.

Police Chief Destinee Bryce presented the June 2026 department activities. The department addressed eleven traffic stops, that resulted in six citations being issued. There were sixty-one calls for service which is an increase from the previous month. Activities included motor carrier enforcement, traffic enforcement, multiple suspicious persons, dog bite, community policing and code enforcement. Code enforcement on going and is progressing in the right correction. Bryce noted that 128 yards of junk were removed during the July large junk pickup day. Recently there have been several reports of dog bites in Elsie. The Clinton County Animal Control has been busy in Elsie and has been a valuable asset. Individuals are encouraged to video tape lose dogs and report them to Animal Control.

The Elsie Police Department has been selected for a lien audit in July/August/September. A Michigan LEIN/NCIC audit is a mandatory compliance review to ensure police departments, courts, and agencies properly manage and secure sensitive criminal justice data. The Michigan State Police (MSP) Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC) typically conducts these audits triennially (every three years).

The audit ensures that sensitive networks and records—such as arrest warrants, stolen property, and criminal histories—are handled securely. The Elsie Police Department has an excellent compliance record.

Bryce, village manager, reported that she has been working with Steve Adair and auditors on the annual audit. Commenting that it will be completed in a timely manner. Miller Legacy delivered the new fire hydrants, 27 were received. They will be installed the last week of August. This will be a two-to-three-week project. The Village received promising news, funding from MEDC with the assistance of LEAP may become available for the Elsie Junior High school site project. Ken Harris is hopeful that the project will soon move forward.

continued on page 3

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Social

Mark Your Calendar National Night Out in Elsie August 4th

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE, MI — Elsie United Methodist Church invites residents and neighbors to come together for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship at the 4th annual Elsie Community Block Party in celebration of National Night Out. The event will take place on Tuesday, August 4, from 6–8 PM on Church Street, between W Main and Pine Streets.

The evening will feature live music and entertainment from community favorites Jack and Tess Clarkson, plus free food for all attendees. This year's theme is "Summer & the Tropics"—so break out your favorite Hawaiian shirts, sunglasses, and flip-flops, lawn chairs and come ready for fun!

"This event is all about bringing our community together and strengthening the connections between neighbors, first responders, and local services," said organizers. "We encourage everyone to bring their families, meet someone new, and enjoy a great evening in Elsie."

In the event of rain, festivities will be moved indoors to the Elsie United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.



Celebrating Fifty Years of Czech and Slovak Heritage

submitted by Joanne Fornusek

The public is invited to the annual Czechoslovakian Harvest Festival at the ZCBJ Hall, 401 E. Main Street in Bannister, on Sunday, August 2, 2026.

Beginning in Bannister in 1976, this event seeks to celebrate and preserve old world heritage and traditions of harvest time in Czechoslovakia. A dinner consisting of breaded chicken, ham, dressing, dumplings and cabbage, potatoes and gravy, kolache and all the other trimmings will be served from 11:30 AM until 2:00 P M. Adult dinners will be $15, children under twelve $5, and preschoolers are free. Chairman, Ed Fornusek, reports that opening ceremonies begin at 2:30 PM as costumed participants march onto an outdoor platform carrying decorated rakes, wreaths and scythes.

Traditional dances will be performed by members of the Bannister ZCBJ Czechoslovakian Folk Dancers under the direction of Diane Bradley. There will be free drawings for children's bikes, as well as drawings for teen and adult prizes. The YELL! Youth group will host free games for children following the program. A dance will begin at 4:00 PM with music by Herbie Schroeder and the Good Times Band. The beer tent will open at noon and food will be available throughout the day.

Admission is FREE.

Elsie Library Adventures

submitted by Ann Trierweiler

Elsie Public Library greets you in some extreme weather conditions. It seems like we go from sleet to heat in 4.2 seconds.

The reading program ended with a carnival. There were all kinds of challenges, lots of fun and face painting. The heat couldn't win against the water balloons and ice cream! Our theme this year was "Unearth a Story," and our Wednesday afternoons were packed with listening to cool books and making different craft projects. The girls came up with some amazing ideas! Thank you, Olyvia and Paula.

The Reading Challenge is going to be finished soon. There have been two drawing for the teens and adults. The winners each won a $25.00 Walmart gift card! There is one more drawing before the challenge ends on July 20. Get your books in before opening on Monday. Stick with it, guys.

Quite a few people took up the challenge to read more books this summer. It is never too hot or too cold to read a book. Every child who finished the Challenge is going to be taking home a prize from the prize showcase, or prize collection located in the library. WOOHOO!

BUT still, we are not through with the summer programs! Clinton County Farm Bureau has volunteered to continue the Wednesday 2 pm children's program. July 22nd will be their first program and they will continue until August 12th. This program continues the "Unearth a Story" theme. It will be a great learning curve for our young gardeners. The lessons will include seed identification, seed art, composting, and planting. Last year our Susie Pross did an excellent job teaching and entertaining. I cannot wait to see this year's program! There will be books, crafts and food.

The "Ice Cream for Books" begins on July 27th. Come in and take a book out…draw a number and you could win a free Blue Moon Ice Cream cone…thanks so much to The Blue Moon Ice Cream Shop in Ovid. You are greatly appreciated.

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page for details about the Elsie Public Library shenanigans!

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CITY OF LAINGSBURG
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST
FOR THE AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION
TO BE HELD AUGUST 4, 2026

A public accuracy test for the AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION to be held AUGUST 4, 2026, will be conducted on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Hall Office located at 114 N. Woodhull Street, Laingsburg, Michigan.

The public accuracy test is conducted to assure that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the ballots of the election are in conformance with the procedures prescribed by law.

Kim Hamilton
Laingsburg City Clerk

Big A... from front

Paige made the decision to continue her softball career, collegiately, at Madonna University, the 2026 NAIA National Champions. Recently, at orientation on the Madonna campus, she met her roommate for the first time: Harper Strouse. From Laingsburg High School.

Harper Strouse. Whose parents, Steve and Crystal, were friends of Jason Andersen's at LHS, back in the early/mid 1990s.

Harper Strouse. The catcher. Who will be Paige Samp's batterymate for the Madonna Crusaders.

Big A's spirit lives on. That spirit moves in very, very mysterious ways.

Laingsburg Movies in the Park Series Features "IF" on July 22

LAINGSBURG -- Family fun is the focal point as the Laingsburg Downtown Development Authority (DDA) returns its popular "Movies in the Park" series this summer.

Family-friendly showings under the stars will feature a new movie each week. Bring your blanket, bug spray and a few dollars to purchase concessions. The movies begin at dusk at the McClintock Park Amphitheater. Concessions will be available at the pavilion.

The movies run each Wednesday starting at dusk.

This week's (July 22nd) offering is "IF." Bea, a 12-year-old girl, moves into her grandmother's apartment in New York while her father undergoes heart surgery. She discovers a hidden world of imaginary friends, or IFs, and embarks on a journey of friendship and adventure.

Bring the family and enjoy a great flick this Wednesday evening.

Music in the Park Series Showcases New Creation, then Sudden Impact Band

LAINGSBURG -- Join the fun with the Laingsburg Business and Community Association (LBCA) as they present "Music In The Park" at the McClintock Park Pavilion / Amphitheater on summer Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

The Music in the Park committee has introduced an amazing line up this year. The 2026 Summer Series will be on Thursday nights ending on August 13th. The LBCA will host a community market and food vendors will be on hand. If event has to be moved due to weather they will let you know on the LBCA Facebook page.

This week's performance showcases New Creation from 6 to 7 p.m., and the Sudden Impact Band from 7 to 9 p.m., sponsored by Rathbun Public Relations and Better Done Disposal.

Reminder to Interested Candidates

by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE – To interested Elsie Village residents the deadline is quickly approaching to run for village office. All filings must be submitted by Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 4 pm. Candidate packets are available at the Duplain Township office, 145 W Main Street, Elsie. Office hours are Monday, July 20, 9a-1p and Tuesday, July 21, 1-5p, or make an appointment 517-927-6258.

Elsie... from front

Elsie did not qualify for the State Revolving Fund which is based upon a point system, Elsie scored 24 points. The funds sought were to improve the village water system. Bryce will continue to reach out for funding and research the possibilities. The water project that was developed and presented to officials is good for four years.

Bryce commented that Larry Melvin should be acknowledged and thanked for the work he does at Heroes Park and around the Village. Melvin volunteers his time and equipment to enhance the village. Jim Hyland, village resident, is the driving force behind Heroes Park. Hyland feels that there is a need for two additional statues, the statues will complete the park. He has commented that he is willing to pay for one and to seek contributions for the second. However, if the Village will pick-up the statues in Wisconsin or an organization would pick-up he may purchase the second. Those interested are encouraged to call the Village business office.

Finally, the Elsie Dairy Festival was a great success. Attendance was up and with more vendors as well. Thankyou to the Elsie Area Fire Department for cleaning the streets and the Elsie Dairy Festival Committee for a successful festival. There was apprehension regarding the change of dates however, June was a good choice.

Chris Ormes, DPW, reported that twelve meters were installed and that scheduling is becoming an issue; residents need to call and make special arrangements. Water in the park continues to be an issue and is being addressed. The mini-excavator could arrive anytime and the new employee has started and seems to be a good fit.

Officials took action to set an ordinance committee meeting for August 6, 2026, 6:30p.

Officials agreed to close Church Street near the Elsie United Methodist Church, Tuesday, August 4, 3-8 p for the National Night Out celebration.

Don Peterson, village residence and retired Elsie fire fighter, inquired to what will happen to the old fire hydrants once they are replaced. Discussion followed with no definitive decision.

Free Skin Cancer Screening Coming to Owosso Speedway

submitted by Dianna Vsetula

Owosso — Memorial Healthcare is partnering with Owosso Speedway to offer free skin cancer screenings to the public on Wednesday, August 26, from 9 AM to 3 PM. The screenings will take place at Owosso Speedway prior to the Michigan 300 ASA STARS National Series race at 6 PM.

As part of Memorial Healthcare's commitment to accessible, community-based care, the organization's expert dermatology team will provide free skin cancer screenings aboard its mobile health unit. The event is designed to encourage early detection and increase awareness of the importance of routine skin cancer screenings.

Early detection is one of the most effective tools in the fight against skin cancer. During previous community screening events, healthcare professionals have identified potentially concerning lesions, allowing individuals to seek timely follow-up care and treatment.

Spots are limited, and advance registration is required. Register online at https://bit.ly/2026SkinScreeningSignUp or call (989) 720-CARE (2273).

Cooling Center in Elsie

by Dawn D Levey



With the current stretch of extremely hot weather, Elsie United Methodist Church, located at 160 W. Main Street, is serving as the community's designated cooling center.

The cooling center is open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please use the Church Street entrance.

Community members are welcome to stop in to cool off, take a break from the heat, relax, or enjoy a comfortable place to walk indoors.

Everyone is welcome. Please stay safe and take precautions during these dangerously hot days.

Duplain Township

Notice is hereby given that the Public Accuracy Test of the Electronic Tabulating Equipment will be held Monday, July 20, 2026, 1 pm, Duplain Township Hall, 145 W Main Street, Elsie, MI.
The purpose is to demonstrate to the public that the votes cast will be accurately counted in accordance with MCL168.798.

Dawn D Levey
Duplain Township Clerk
517-927-6258
duplaintwpclerk@gmail.com

Fairfield Township Millage Proposals

Emergency Services Millage

The Fairfield Township Board has announced plans to seek a millage increase to support the continued delivery of local fire, rescue, and ambulance services amid rising operational costs.

Fairfield Township has formally entered into the Elsie Area Fire Authority agreement in partnership with Duplain Township, ensuring the continuation of fire and rescue services within the community. Additionally, Chapin Township has elected to contract with the Authority for similar services, further expanding its regional role.

Financial pressures have increased significantly in recent years. The Elsie Area Fire Department is now responsible for expenses such as rent, utilities, and insurance—costs that were previously covered by the Village of Elsie. While the department remains located within the village limits, the shift in financial responsibility has created added strain on its operating budget.

Compounding these challenges, Fairfield Township officials have also been notified by Owosso Ambulance Service of an impending increase in annual service contributions due to escalating operational costs. Currently, Fairfield Township property owners pay 1.5 mills to fund emergency services. To maintain the quality and reliability of fire and medical response, the Township Board is proposing an additional 1.0 mill increase, which would bring the total to 2.5 mills.

Township officials emphasize their commitment to ensuring high-quality emergency services for all residents and encourage community involvement in the decision-making process.

Road Millage Renewal

Township officials are requesting a renewal of the 2.0 mills currently being levied for roads. The road millage is only a renewal with no increase being sought.

Residents are invited to share their input by contacting township officials, submitting written comments, or attending monthly board meetings. Meetings are being held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at 7988 W. Henderson Road in Elsie. Additional information can also be requested via email at rzemlajr@gmail.com.

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"Five Day Club" Coming to the Connection in Laingsburg

submitted by Lori Johnson

Your child is invited to attend a fun club for boys and girls ages 5 to 12! "Five Day Club" meets for 90 minutes every day for five days. Clubs are sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship, a Bible centered ministry serving in over 190 counties around the world.

All teachers and helpers have been trained and screened to ensure your child's protection. (Parents are welcome to attend.)This is a free club. We will share Bible lessons, memory verses, songs, prizes, fun activities and great games. July 27 through the 31st, 2026 from 10:30 AM to noon located at the Connection at 120 East Grand River in Laingsburg.

For more information check on our website at www.laingsburgclotheslineconnection.org.



Obituaries

Sandra Louise "Sandy" Jorae



Sandra Louise "Sandy" Jorae passed away on July 8, 2026, at her home in Grayling, Michigan, with her husband, Nicholas "Nick" Jorae, by her side.

Born to Grace and Don Burkett in Gladwin, Michigan, Sandy grew up with deep northern Michigan roots. She attended Grayling High School and later worked for the Grayling Police Department, where she formed many lasting friendships over the years.

She was preceded in death by her stepson, Nicholas Jorae.

Sandy is survived by her husband, Nicholas "Nick" Jorae; her brother Bruce Burkett and sister in law Marcy Burkett; her daughter, Carmen Sue Miller; her son in law, Dean Miller; her granddaughter, Logan McDonald, and her husband, Nick McDonald; and her cherished great-granddaughter, Laine McDonald.

Nothing brought Sandy more joy in life than her daughter, Carmen Sue Miller. She was endlessly proud of the woman Carmen became and loved her more than anything. That bond was the center of her life.

Sandy and Nick shared many wonderful years together, making countless memories on the water. Whether it was long summer days spent boating or simply enjoying the peacefulness of the lake, those moments were among her favorites. She also treasured the time she spent caring for her granddaughter, Logan, creating a bond that remained special throughout her life.

Sandy was spirited, funny, and unapologetically herself. She had a sharp wit, a stubborn streak, and just the right amount of spice. If she had an opinion, you were probably going to hear it, and those who knew and loved her wouldn't have wanted it any other way. She had a way of making people laugh, keeping everyone on their toes, and making sure family gatherings were never boring.

She was the matriarch of the family, and nothing brought her more joy than having everyone together, especially on Christmas morning at the lake house. The holidays were her favorite, and every Christmas, Thanksgiving, and family gathering at the lake house will forever bring thoughts of Sandy. It's hard to imagine those celebrations without hearing what Sandy would have had to say. Though her chair may be empty, her presence will always be felt around the table and in the traditions she loved most.

She lived life her own way, loved her family in her own way, and left her mark on everyone who knew her. Her humor, her strength, and her spicy soul will never be forgotten.

Condolences can be shared at www.sorensonlockwood.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home.

Editorial...cont' on page 5



Religious Thoughts

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

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."- Matthew 26:28

We all have heard of contracts, but what about a covenant?

In the Bible there are many covenants that God makes with His people- both on the individual level and corporately. But what is a covenant and how is it different than a contract?

Diane Ferreira writes in the article, "Weekly Deep Dive - Covenant Is More Than a Contract"-

"A contract exists to spell out exactly what happens if somebody flakes. Who owes what, how the whole thing ends if it ends badly. Biblical covenant has some of that same DNA...[but a] covenant does something a contract was never built to do. It doesn't just spell out an exchange. It makes you belong to somebody."

We can say that a covenant equals relationship. So Jesus' death and resurrection makes the way for a relationship between God and all who choose to enter it.

As 1 John 3:1 says, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

The only way to become a child of God and enter into a personal relationship with Him is to ask God for forgiveness for your sins; for all the wrong things you have done. Believe that Jesus was fully human and fully God, that He died on the cross for your sins and rose bodily from the dead. When you do this, you will enter into that precious covenant with God and He will forgive you. God will never turn you away.

Church Directory

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Pastor Phillip Rogers

Laingsburg United Methodist Church
210 Crum St., Laingsburg
517-651-5531
Worship Service: 10:30am
Pastor:
Kendra Holcomb - Densmore

Middlebury United Methodist Church
8100 W. Hibbard Rd., Ovid
Minister:
Pastor Kendra Holcomb-Densmore
Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

First Congregational Church Laingsburg
401 E, Grand River Road, Laingsburg
(517) 651-6741
Sunday Worship 10:00am
Pastor: Dr. Tom Rundel
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Bannister United Methodist Church
103 Hanvey Street
Pastor: Zella Daniel
Sunday Worship 11:15am

ELSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
160 W. Main St., Elsi e(989) 862-5239
Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: JD Paik

Ashley United Methodist Church
112 North New Street,
Pastor Zella Daniel
(Office Phone 989-862-4392)
Email: abp.pastor@gmail.com
Adult Bible Class: 9:00 am
Worship Service: 10:00 am

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The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Magnum Ballistics Fest Range Day

About a month ago the Weekly Sportsman was attending a Central Michigan University parent orientation or as they called it "supporter" orientation. After less than ten minutes, the Weekly Sportsman had heard enough and snuck out to visit an old professor. After a short visit in the history department it was off to check out a local gunshop named Magnum Ballistics. While perusing the shop the Weekly Sportsman happened upon a flyer for a vendor range day in early July. This was their first such event and coincided with a five year anniversary of being in business. Planned participants included Daniel Defense, CZ, GEMTECH, Rugged Suppressors, Beretta/SAKO, SIG SAUER, Trijicon, Detroit Gun Works, Jagerwerks, and Smith & Wesson.

Last Saturday the Weekly Sportsman and a friend spent the day at Black Creek Conservation Club participating in the advertised vendor day. The cost was a Ben Franklin, but that didn't seem too bad when you considered that there were raffles, tickets to shoot 150 rounds, a swag bag which was a range bag stuffed with all sorts of goodies, and a free hat and t-shirt from the Trijicon booth. The Weekly Sportsman went with a few questions for the Trijicon staff along with looking for some knowledge on suppressors.

Trijicon folks were asked for the best red dot for 10//22 rifles and they recommended the RCR or the RMR. The second question was the best Accupoint scope for low light and without hesitation they suggested the 2.5-10x56. Sig Sauer had many AR-15 rifles to shoot but the winner was the MCX Rattler LT in 300 Blackout with a suppressor as it was pretty quiet when shooting a 200 grain bullet. When asked about ideal game species for that cartridge and upper receiver they all answered feral hogs simultaneously. Rugged Suppressors had two products on display for .22 rifles; the Oculus 22 and the Mustang 22. Both work with .22 long rifle ammo but the extra $50 for the Oculus 22 also allows 22 WMR, 17 HMR, 17 WSM, and the 5.7x28mm. The Weekly Sportsman was able to shoot a Ruger Mk IV 22/45 fitted with an Oculus 22 without wearing any hearing protection and all that could be heard was the action cycling. Jagerworks had a Henry H27 Homesteader Carbine chambered in 9mm with a suppressor. There were no questions needing answered after the Weekly Sportsman went through four mags. Quiet and accurate!

Expect some field test reports in the near future. -WS



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

It is plausible that I may be getting my energy flow up to a full current. I slept well last night even though the house only cooled down to seventy-nine degrees. Must be regaining my 'tough gal' status. I woke up at four forty-five and felt more positive then I have been in a long while. I hope that it is not a fluke but an updated version of how I should be thriving. I actually had a nice lunch in the St John's park with an interesting group of ladies that I worked with many years ago. I was thrilled that I made it to the pavilion in a fairly timely manner, I didn't bring lunch because I had grabbed a piece of fruit and filled my water jug up with ice and well water. I did enjoy the gabfest, they are an interesting group of ladies.

When the group broke up, I headed to my bank to make some deposits. After cashing a birthday check I made way to St Vincent's to do some "thrifting". I bought me a couple of Fostoria dishes and a basket full of craft supplies plus a couple of pieces of Christmas décor. My Grandmother had lots of Fostoria dishes and gave each of her granddaughters a few of these wonderful collectibles. They may not be considered valuable today but they still are beautiful and fill me with happy memories as I view them. I finally went home after making a quick stop at the shop to bag and tag a few edibles. The garden got watered as did the grow boxes that sit on the deck. No doubt, I should have mowed the lawn as it drastically needs to be cut… Instead I took a short nap which invigorated me even in this dreadful Canadian smoke.

I did clean eight quarts of strawberries and put them into the freezer. I will probably make them into freezer jam just not today. The shop aprons, towels and dish rags are in the washer and I need to get them dried, folded, and returned to the shop. I also had to grab some rhubarb, shredded carrots, and blueberries out of my freezer to thaw for some more baking in the morning. I'm looking forward to another very 'functional' day, it is cooler this morning, I slept well again and I have fed the cats, taken meds, emptied the dryer, filled a basket with 'take mes' to load into the car for the shop and am about to get into the shower… It will be a good day, may God bless you well with possibilities and may your day be filled with smiles.

Crystal Mitchell©2026

Editorial...cont' on page 8



Editorials are welcome. 200 words or less.
Email to: news@meridianweekly.com.
Must include name.



Carriage Days Thank You

The Ovid Carriage Days Committee would like to THANK the following for their help in making our move from September to July a truly successful one. To the City of Ovid, thanks for allowing us to take over the streets. To Dalton Perrien, the Director of the DPW, your willingness to jump in help wherever needed was appreciated beyond measure. Thank you Chief Rousseau & Officer Watson for keeping us safe. To Wesley Eppard and his team, the car show was fantastic, thank you. To Tim & Amber Jacob's, owners of Native Amusements, thank you for a great experience, you and your employees were very professional and friendly. We look forward to having you back next year.

To our sponsors: Michigan Milk Producers, Ovid Iron & Metal, Modern Woodmen, Main Street Pizza, Journey Credit Union, Smith Family Funeral Homes, Meridian Weekly, Custom Heating & Plumbing, Main Bar, Stay Dry, Fleis&Vandenbrink, Sloan's Septic Tank Service, Ferrall's Tree Service, Al's Aerial Spraying, Rowe Professional, Village Food Pride, Miller Soft Water and D2 Storage, we tank you for your continued support of the festival.

Lastly, thanks to the entertainers and bands, vendors, wrestlers, Ovid Lions Club, Chloe & Pete Taylor, Jim the Woodcarver, United Church of Ovid and all who came to support the 2026 Ovid Carriage Days Festival. See you all next year.

Rep. Tim Kelly Secures $910,000 for New Elsie Area Fire Department Station

submitted by Samantha Zielinski

State Rep. Tim Kelly today announced the inclusion of $910,000 in the state budget to help build a permanent fire station for the Elsie Area Fire Department, providing firefighters with a dedicated facility to better serve residents across the region.

"Our firefighters put themselves on the line every day to protect our communities," Kelly said. "They deserve a permanent home that allows them to respond quickly, train effectively and safely house the equipment they rely on to save lives. I'm proud to have secured this funding to help make that happen."

The Elsie Area Fire Department is currently operating out of a temporary building provided by a local business owner. The station provides fire protection and emergency response for the village of Elsie and Duplain, Fairfield and Chapin townships, serving more than 52,000 residents across approximately 75 square miles. The department also supports mutual aid operations throughout nearly 600 square miles, strengthening emergency response across the surrounding region.

A permanent fire station will improve emergency response by providing secure storage for equipment, dedicated space for firefighter training and a central location for emergency operations. The project is expected to take 12 to 18 months to complete once funding is awarded.

"Public safety is one of government's most important responsibilities," Kelly said. "This investment will help ensure families throughout the Elsie area continue to receive the fast, reliable emergency services they count on while supporting the firefighters who answer the call whenever they're needed."

OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 8:30am - 12 Noon
Wednesday: Thursday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Friday: Closed

The Meridian Weekly
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Ovid Carriage Days 2026



















Photos by Dean Paxton and Carriage Days Committee

See next weeks Meridian Weekly for more memories



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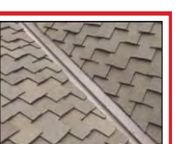
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The "Beatles" are Headed back to St. Johns on July 22nd

submitted by Bill Tennant

John, Paul, George and Ringo are headed back to St Johns in the form of Toppermost, one of the most popular Beatle Tribute Bands, who will be making their 13th appearance at the William E. Tennant Performance Shell in the beautiful City Park. This fun evening with some of the greatest music ever written will take place on Wednesday, July 22nd starting at 7:00 sharp!

"Toppermost is definitely one of our most popular groups – we have one of our largest crowds of the summer when they perform," said Bill Tennant, chair of the series committee. "We rarely have groups back more than 2 years in a row, but the Beatles and Elvis have been such hits over the years, those 2 concerts are a must each year! Toppermost is based in Florida now, but they still come up to Michigan the month of July and tour every year."

Formed in 2007 by four Michigan musicians who loved the Beatles, Toppermost performs many of the hits from 1962 – 1970. They perform with authentic costumes, instruments and voices. Their combined acting and musicianship will have you smiling and moving all night long!

The Concert in the Park series is co-sponsored by the Clinton County Arts Council and the City of St. Johns. There are 11 other businesses and organizations who are special season sponsors this year. "We are highlighting the 'Journey Federal Credit Union' for their sponsorship at this concert," says Tennant. "We are grateful to Journey for their support of this year's concert series."

Bring a chair or blanket – visit the Lion's Club Food Trailer - the concert takes place rain or shine. The concert is free, but donations are greatly appreciated and needed to support the series each year. We do pass the buckets at intermission.

So, set your GPS to 801 W Park St, and enjoy an evening of great music! The CCAC receives funding from the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Elsie Class of 1961

Members of the Elsie High School Class of 1961 were able to meet on Friday, July 10th at the Elsie Methodist Church. Classmates enjoyed dinner and conversation, as well as sharing stories and photos. Thanks goes out to all those involved in organizing this event!

Laingsburg Library Summerfest

by Lori Johnson

The Friends of the Laingsburg Public Library invite you to a FREE, fun-filled Open House at the Laingsburg Library on July 25 at 11:00 a.m.

Bring the whole family for an exciting performance and interactive activities with BubblesRFun, face painting, children's gift bags, and snacks. There's something for everyone to enjoy!

We hope you'll join us for this special community event!



OE Class of 1976

submitted by Dan Quine

Attendees at the 50th Class Reunion, OE Class of 1976 held at Colony School House on July 11th. 42 alumni attend. A silent auction of donated items and raised $2,500 to be donated to OE HS Scholarship to be applied toward OE graduates pursuing careers in Agricultural Studies or in pursuit of Trades.









Sports

Quintet of Tracksters - Three from O-E, Two from Laingsburg - Lead All-Area Honorees

OWOSSO -- A quintet of standout thinclads -- three from Ovid-Elsie and two from Laingsburg -- lead the local honorees on the 2026 All-Shiawassee Area Boys Track Team.

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

A trio of Marauders -- Brock Spitzley, Marshall Leavitt and Travis Milner -- join Keaton Dietz and Grey Sequin from LHS atop the local leader board.

Superlative field athlete Oliver Long from Morrice was the All-Area Athlete of the Year. A senior, Long capped off a legendary career at Morrice with his third consecutive Division 4 state title in the shot put with a throw of 61 feet, 0.5 inches. He had a throw of 61'3" at the Greater Lansing Honor Roll Meet of Champions May 26 that marked the longest in the state this season, regardless of division.

Spitzley was selected to the 1st Team. The Marauder senior was one of the premier disc throwers in the state, launching it 176'7" on May 9 at the Punch-a-Hole meet. He captured first at regionals (166'3") and took third at the MHSAA State Finals (158'10").

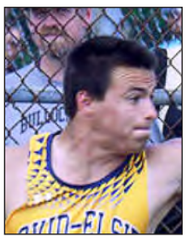
Milner, a junior, was a multi-event state qualifier, getting to the State Finals in the 400, 400 relay and 800 relay. He was All-State in the 800 relay, finishing seventh at the D3 state meet along with Owen Long, Wyatt Lover and Leavitt. Milner was also a regional runner-up in the 400 relay alongside Lover, Long and Jackson Custer.

Leavitt, another junior that will return next season for O-E, Marshall Leavitt, junior, Ovid-Elsie qualified for the State Finals in the 400 and 800 relay. He took 10th in the 400 (:50.75) and was a part of the All-State 800 relay squad.

For Laingsburg, Dietz was the CMAC champion in the 300 hurdles (:41.62) and was a part of the 1,600 relay team that broke a 46-year-old school record at the CMAC Championship Meet (3:31.52) along with James Foltz, Logan Robinson and Carson Helmer. Dietz will run the hurdles collegiately next year at Spring Arbor University.

Record-breaking sprinter Sequin, a junior for the Wolfpack, broke the school record in the 100 (:11.06) and was a part of the state-qualifying 1,600 relay team with Logan Robinson, James Foltz and Carson Helmer that took 14th at the D3 state meet (3:32.13).

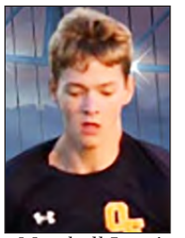
Brian Borgman's Wolves were also feted with three athletes on the Honorable Mention team: field specialist Charles Dehnert, Charleston Crisp in the relays and pole vault, and sprinter Leandro Dolega-Caceres.



Brock Spitzley



Travis Milner



Marshall Leavitt



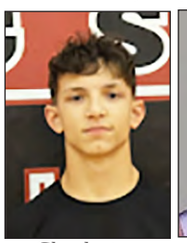
Keaton Dietz



Grey Sequin



Charles Dehnert



Charleston Crisp



Leandro Delega-Caceres



Dan Merrill of Laingbsurg recently got a Hole-In-One on hole #14 at Pine Hills. He used his Callaway driver on the 229 yard hole, his Callaway E.R.C. Ball found the cup off the tee. It was witnessed by his son, Sydney.

Congrats Dan.

Laingsburg Wolfpack

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Editorial

Ask Andy

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

BE POSITIVE. BE KIND, SMILE

Dear Andy, I grew up in the Poodle Skirt Era and was known as one of the town's most stylish gals. I recently saw a young lady coming out of Walmart. I could not help but not notice a tall beautiful person decked out from her styled lavender hair to her clunky black high heal boots. She was just adorable. It looked as if she spent hours getting ready for her day. She was so grateful I took the time to compliment her; she just glowed with a beautiful smile. She had straight teeth but they looked as if she had not brushed them since she was twelve. They were not decayed, they were white on the ends but the plaque was fuzzy and gross. Should I have said something to her regarding her dental hygiene?

Concerned Old Lady,

Dear Beautiful Lady, …my answer is clearly and absolutely … "NO"! All generations go through a rebellious period during their youth. Sometimes, it was style. Puffed sleeves, mini skirts, hippie headbands, Madris (my favorite), short shorts, Raggy Demin shorts, half shirts showing the belly button. Perhaps she was on her way to the Dentist…or just rebelling from an overzealous pressure of 'teeth brushing parents' OR maybe she has not learned dential hygine yet!

Readers: Let people learn the hard way or from their own experiences. Not always our job!

Giving a compliment or a grateful list of appreciations and then a BUT, or For Future Reference, or HOWEVER,…will negate the compliment. We, as a negative society, think we need to be in control of another person's behavior or habits. If we were all the same, what a boring life we would live. We need to treat others as we would like to be treated. AND, often we need to bite our lip and give positive vibes. Let's look on the bright side and walk on the sunny side of the street. There is no such thing as Positive Criticism. So, Just Be Positive. Be Kind. Smile Sincerely.

My dear old lady, you did the right thing by not pointing out the obvious.

Thank you for asking Andy @askandyforadvice or ask_andy@aol.com. Andy

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Mark Your Calendars to Help Red Thunder Robotics and Greater Laingsburg Recyclers Continue their Commitment to Supporting the Laingsburg Food Bank

submitted by Leigh Seger

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world." — Margaret Mead



Red Thunder Robotics has been generously hosted this year by the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers at its recycling facility each month, providing a convenient location for the team to lead food drives benefiting the Laingsburg Food Bank.

As summer activities, vacations, and busy schedules fill many residents' calendars, opportunities to donate can often be overlooked. Through this ongoing partnership, both organizations hope to remind community members that even a small contribution can make a significant difference for local families in need.

And that's where you can help. It's as easy as making a quick note of it on your calendar and stopping by to drop off a few items. And while you're at it, it's a great time to make good on that New Year's resolution to start volunteering!

Since 1989, the GLR has always been operated by volunteers, and they welcome your help anytime. Located at 7500 Woodbury Road in Laingsburg, it's a convenient location that makes it easy to be a good steward of our environment. Come join the fun!

Planning on being at the annual Lions Club Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, July 25th? Even better! Stop by the Red Thunder Robotics tent and they'll have a donation box out and ready to accept your many acts of kindness through donations of non-perishable food items. Come enjoy your community and give generously!



While Red Thunder Robotics is known for inspiring students through STEM education, teamwork, and innovation, this award-winning team also places a strong emphasis on community service. Greater Laingsburg Recyclers shares that commitment through environmental stewardship and community outreach initiatives that strengthen the community beyond recycling efforts.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Pancake Breakfast (and volunteering at the recycling center)!

CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

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

CASE NO: 26-32938-DE
ESTATE of
SANDRA A. KILBOURN, DECEASED
Date of Birth: May 5, 1949
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent,
SANDRA A. KILBOURN,
died on December 5, 2025.
Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Morgan N. Hutson, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 E. State Street, Suite 4300, St. Johns, Michigan 48879 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Morgan N. Hutson
6250 Pine Hollow Drive
East Lansing, Michigan 48823
(517) 290-6360
Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.
Douglas A. Mielock P42924
313 South Washington Square
Lansing, Michigan 48933
(517) 371-8203

(07/19)



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 August 19, 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): Catherine Alexander, A Single Woman and Bradley Lewis Parish, A Single Man As Joint Tenants with Full Rights of Survivorship Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: April 3, 2025 Recorded on April 4, 2025, in Document No. 5353001, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Five and 87/100 Dollars ($148,195.87) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Clinton County, and described as: Commencing 938.4 feet West of the center of Lansing Street on the South line of Park Avenue in the City of St Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, running thence South 10 rods, thence East 50 feet, thence North 10 rods, thence West to the place of beginning, all in Section 17, Town 7 North, Range 2 West, Clinton County Records. Commonly known as 607 W Park St, Saint Johns, MI 48879 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. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC 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

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

CASE NO: 26-32922-DE
Estate of
CAROL S. GIBBONS
Date of Birth: May 19, 1945
TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent,
CAROL S. GIBBONS
Died on December 10, 2025
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Keith Gibbons, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 East State Street, Suite 4300, St. Johns, MI 48879 and the personal representative within four months after the date of publication.

Keith Gibbons
255 Victor St.
Fowler, MI 48835
(989) 307-3702
Alexa B. Prat P83426
201 E. State St.
St. Johns, MI 48879
(989) 224-9449

(07/19)

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

Trust of
STORM A. SPELLMAN, Trust NO. 1 dated April 29, 2026.
Date of Birth: July 6, 1942
NOTICE TO CREDITORS/ ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Your interest in this matter may be barred or affected by the following:
The decedent,
STORM A. SPELLMAN,
lived in St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan and died on June 6, 2026.
Creditors of the deceased are further notified that all claims against the trust or estate of Storm A. Spellman, will be forever barred unless presented to Tracie A. Nelson, named trustee at the adress below within four months within four months after the date of publication of this notice.
This notice is published pursuant to MCL.700.7608. If a probate estate is opened in the future for the decedent, this notice is intended to satisfy the requiements of MCL.700.3801.

Tracie A. Nelson, Trustee
5880 N. Rich Rd.
Alma, MI 48801
(989) 763-1204

(07/19)

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ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC, MAY BE DEEMED A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, GA 30004 ph:470-321-7112 Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CLINTON County, starting promptly at 10:00 A.M. on August 05, 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): MELODY J CRANDALL. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by MELODY J. CRANDALL to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS MORTGAGEE, AS NOMINEE FOR QUICKEN LOANS INC, for a mortgage dated June 24, 2013, and recorded on August 19, 2013, as Document Number 5205233 in the Clinton County Register of Deeds. Said mortgage was assigned by said Mortgagee to U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF CITIGROUP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2021-RP2, as documented by an assignment dated May 14, 2026, and recorded on May 20, 2026, as Document Number 5364813 in the CLINTON County Register of Deeds, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $109,360.46. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the Circuit Court within CLINTON County, Michigan on August 05, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. Said premises are located in the city of EAGLE in CLINTON County, Michigan and are described as: LAND SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF EAGLE IN THE COUNTY OF CLINTON IN THE STATE OF MI COMMENCING AT THE NW CORNER OF SECTION 12, T5N, R4W, THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 00'21" E, 662.61 FEET ALONG THE NORTH SECTION LINE OF SAID SECTION 12 AND THE CENTER OF HOWE ROAD TO THE NW CORNER OF THE E 1/2 OF W 1/2 OF NW 1/4 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PARCEL, THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 89 DEGREES 00'21" E, 302.81 FEET ALONG THE NORTH SECTION LINE OF SAID SECTION 12 AND CENTER OF HOWE ROAD, THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 30'11" E, 600.00 FEET THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 00'17" W, 302.81 FEET,THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 30' 11" W, 600.00 FEET ON THE WEST LINE OF THE E1/2 OF W 1/2 OF NW 1/4 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING Property Address: 10763W HOWE RD., EAGLE, MI 48822 Tax ID No. 070-012-200-024-01, also referenced as 070-012-200-024-00 The redemption period shall be Six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If this 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 sale or to the Mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF CITIGROUP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2021-RP2, Mortgagee/Assignee July 5, 2026 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Attorney for Mortgagee/Assignee 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Telephone: 470-321-7112 Facsimile: 404-393-1425 Service Email: MIFCLTeam@raslg.com

(07-05)(07-26)

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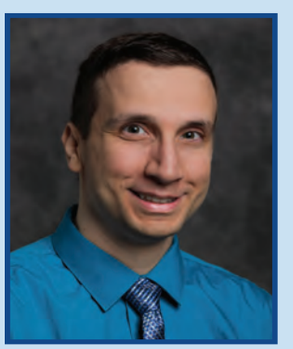
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