

Memorial Healthcare Institutes Visitor Restrictions

submitted by Vicki McKay

Owosso – For the safety of our patients, staff, and volunteers, Memorial Healthcare has implemented visitor restrictions for the entire hospital including its Long-Term Care units in an effort to protect and contain the spread of the flu. These restrictions are effective immediately and will remain in place until further notice.

The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services has increased the Michigan flu code to “widespread” due to increases in lab-confirmed flu in the state. Seasonal flu viruses can be detected year-round; however, seasonal flu activity often begins as early as October and November and can continue to occur as late as May.

“Visitors are being asked not to visit if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms: runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, cough, headache, fever, nausea/vomiting, body aches, and diarrhea,” says Megan Smith, MSN, RN, Director of Quality & Safety at Memorial Healthcare.

No visitors aged 12 and under will be permitted in the facility, EVEN WITH NO SYMPTOMS, unless that child is coming into the hospital for a service. If children are accompanying an adult, who is healthy and here to visit, they will be asked to wait in the front lobby or cafeteria supervised by another adult that is a family member/friend.

People often use the term “flu” to describe any kind of mild illness, such as a cold or a stomach virus that has symptoms like the flu, but the real flu is different. “The flu causes a fever, body aches, a headache, a dry cough, and a sore or dry throat. You will probably feel tired and less hungry than usual. The symptoms usually are the worst for the first three or four days, but it can take one to two weeks to get completely better,” says Smith.

The flu is spread from person to person up to six feet away, through droplets when coughing, sneezing, or talking and can live on hard surfaces for 24 hours. It’s important to know that people who have the flu are contagious for a day prior to symptoms developing and up to five to seven days after becoming sick.

The most important thing you can do to protect yourself is to get the flu vaccine. For those six months and older the vaccine protects against three or four viruses that research suggests will be the most common. If you get the flu vaccine but still catch the flu, your symptoms will be milder.

“Other ways to protect yourself against the flu include washing your hands; avoiding close contact with people that are sick; covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs; and limiting contact with others if you become ill. If you do get the flu, you should remain home until you are symptom-free for at least 24 hours (except to seek medical care),” adds Smith.

“Memorial Healthcare’s Board of Trustees, administration, medical staff, and employees take this issue very seriously,” says Brian L. Long, FACHE, Memorial Healthcare President/CEO. “I am proud to state that 99.8% of our over 1,300 employees received the flu vaccine in preparation for this year’s flu season.”

“We sincerely appreciate the community’s support in our continued efforts to protect our patients, their family members, our employees, volunteers and physicians,” says Long.

To stay up-to-date on visitor restrictions, follow Memorial’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MemorialHealthcare.



DuPlain Township Meeting January 2020

by Dawn D. Levey

DUPLAIN - DuPlain Township held the first meeting of 2020 on January 8, at the Township Hall located at 145 W. Main Street. The evening was highlighted by the approval of the DuPlain Township Cemetery Ordinance and resolutions to increase the salaries of elected officials.

The Clinton County Sheriff’s report was presented by Deputy Steve Naert. The only noteworthy incident was the fatal house fire on Hall Road, located on the border of DuPlain Township. In addition, a brief discussion was held on the road conditions in late fall, he reported that the complaints were investigated. This was a county wide issue due to the unusually wet fall.

Officials have worked for approximately two-months preparing the DuPlain Township Cemetery Ordinance, the action was prompted by the unauthorized internment of remains and the need for clear guidelines moving forward. The ordinance addresses the number of cremations remains that can be interned on one burial site and internment of cremains, the size of monuments, winter burials, purchase price of lots for residents of DuPlain Township \$250.00 and non-residents \$500.00, prohibited activities and maintenance issues. The ordinance was adopted unanimously. The ordinance will become effective 30 days after a synopsis is printed in the local paper and a copy of the ordinance will be available upon request.

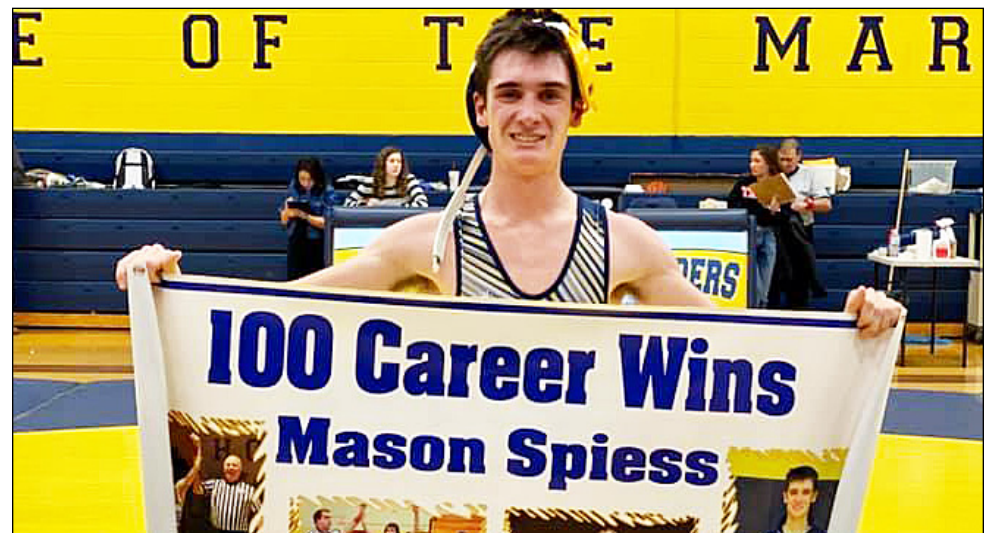
Officials took formation action to move forward to establish a website with the assistance of New Look Computer and Data.

Dennis Baese, trustee, presented the Elsie Fire Association reorganization update and monthly report. The next work session is slated for January 29, 2020, 6 pm at the Fire Base, officials are encouraged to attend. The monthly report included 4 fire runs, 1 in DuPlain Township; the rescue team responded to 11 runs, 5 in DuPlain Township. Total calls for 2109 were 78 fire runs and 183 rescue runs. Like many small departments Elsie Fire Association is short staffed and seeking interested individuals who would be interested in joining the department.

Action was taken to pass resolutions that would increase elected official’s salaries. Officials commented that this is always a difficult decision. The rational was to align salaries with townships the size of DuPlain, it was also noted that there have not been raises in approximately three years. The proposal was to increase salaries by 3.6%. In addition, deputy supervisor and clerk will receive \$400 annually and \$13.00 per hour for the deputy treasurer.

Dates were set for the annual budget hearing that was slated for Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 pm at the Township Hall, 145 W. Main, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 pm and the annual meeting Saturday, March 28, 2020. 10 am. also at the Township Hall.

Monthly action was taken to approve the agenda with the additions of budget hearing, millage proposal for roads and EMS, the minutes of the December 2019 meeting and the financial statements. In addition, officials approved expenditures totaling \$8,650.50.



Mason Spiess Wins 100th Match

submitted by Kyle Spiess

Mason Spiess won his 100th match as an Ovid Elsie Marauder Wednesday January 8th against Montrose. “It was bittersweet for it to happen at home in front of friends and family on senior night” said Coach Spiess. Mason is the sixth Spiess to reach the century mark wrestling in high school, so it is a family tradition. The whole night was awesome for me because I was part of it as a dad and coach. Congratulations Mason on your accomplishment and we can’t wait to watch you finish out your senior season!

Meridian Weekly

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Free Spaghetti Dinner

The Laingsburg Lions Club will be holding a free spaghetti dinner on Tuesday, January 21st from 5-7 p.m.

It will be held at the Laingsburg United Methodist Church located at 210 Crum St.

Take outs are available.

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Elsie Baby Pantry 2020 Information

The Elsie Baby Pantry, located at 150 E. Main, is open the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This outreach serves Clinton County and its' surrounding area.

Holidays and inclement weather causing Ovid-Elsie Schools to close will also close the pantry.

Baby items offered free of charge include; diapers, wipes, baby food, formula, bedding, toiletries, equipment** of newer cribs, pac'n plays, strollers, and high chairs. In addition, clothing items (maternity and children's clothing sizes preemie through 7/8) are available. Also free are feminine products. Items vary each month and are intended to supplement what you need, not to be your primary source for baby supplies.

If you wish to donate new or slightly-used items that are listed above, they may be delivered during pantry hours or to the Elsie United Methodist Church (west entrance) anytime.

We cannot accept bassinets, singing bassinets/cradles, bouncers, car seats, table-mounted toddler chairs, stuffed animals, or toys with small parts.

Questions should be directed to Lyla at 989-862-5846.

Laingsburg Community Singers New Members Welcome

submitted by Cathy Chubb

Laingsburg Community Singers would like to invite you to join us for Spring 2020. We are a community choir, established in 1976, that performs a variety of music. Rehearsals for our spring 2020 concerts (April 18 and 19) begin on January 14 and are held on Tuesdays, 7-9:30pm, St. Isidore Catholic Church, 310 Crum St., Laingsburg MI under the direction of Steven Easterling. Auditions are not required.

If you have any questions, please contact Steven Easterling at 810-624-5485 or Janice Hurst at 517-651-5937.

National Diabetes Prevention Program Offered at Memorial

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

Owosso – The Memorial Healthcare Community Wellness, Nutrition and Diabetes Center and the MSU Extension will be presenting the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) on Tuesdays, beginning January 28, 2020 (January 28 is a FREE information session). Groups meet for 16 weekly sessions and six monthly follow-up sessions with a trained Lifestyle Coach from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

The NDPP is a program proven to motivate and support people at risk for developing diabetes and those with prediabetes to make practical, real-life changes and cut their risk for developing type 2 Diabetes by more than half. The program can show you how to make better food choices, be more physically active and find helpful ways to cope with problems and stress.

This Pre-Diabetes Class will be held at the Memorial Healthcare Community Wellness, Nutrition and Diabetes Center at 317 S. Elm Street, Suite 202, Owosso. The actual cost of the class is \$650, but with the support of Michigan State University Extension and Memorial Healthcare, the cost of this class is reduced to \$50 per person. Financial assistance may be available upon request.

For more information, please call the Memorial Diabetes & Nutritional Counseling Center at: (989) 729-4700 or Sean Knurek, MSU Extension Educator at: (989) 743-2254. Register online: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/NDPPOwosso2020/> or contact Sean Knurek at knurekse@msu.edu.

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Walk for Warmth
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Shiawassee County Walk for Warmth

The Shiawassee County Walk for Warmth will take place on Saturday, February 22, 2020.

Registration for the 3 mile walk will be at the Shiawassee Council on Aging, 300 N. Washington St., Owosso and begin 9:00am and the walk will start at 9:30am.

Breakfast will be open to the public. A small donation is appreciated. Also face painting, photos with Buckle Bear, Penguin, Fox and Snowman.

This is the 30th Anniversary of this walk benefiting Shiawassee County. 100% of monies raised stays in the county.

Help Capital Area Community Services, Inc. raise dollars to assist low income families, seniors and those with disabilities who live in Shiawassee County. All monies raised provide heat and related utilities to people in Shiawassee County.

For questions please call 989-723-3115. Visit us on Facebook @capital area community services. Or on the website www.cacs-inc.org


GED and Pathways Adult Education January Workshop

submitted by Troy Napier

Pathways Adult Education can help you to improve your reading, writing, and math skills. Each student works in an individualized program tailored just for the areas that you need. Pathways can help you to complete your GED or high school diploma. Learn more at a free workshop on Tuesday, January 14 when you will learn more about the Pathways program and where to study on your own for the GED. It will be from 9:30 am - 10:30 am in room 1421 on the second floor. It will be held in the Curwood Building on the main campus of Baker College. Park in the small lot off of Gute Street.

For more information, contact Pathways Adult Education at 989-729-3620.

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Columbarium Added to Options at Riverside Cemetery

submitted by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE - With more and more people opting for cremation the Elsie Village Council took action to purchase a columbarium to offer another option for interment. The decision was prompted by requests to purchase sites within the mausoleum which has no sites available and after researching area cemeteries who have taken the same action.

The columbarium has 24 niches on each side making it possible to intern 48 individual cremated remains. The cost for village residents is \$600 per niche, \$100 to open/close, \$300 for engraving and \$70 to add a symbol. It was noted that current or retired military, emergency medical services and fire there is no charge for the symbol engraving. Shane Grinnell, village manager, noted that a family can intern two individuals per niche. The columbarium provides an economic option.

There are special fees for opening and closing on weekends and holidays. In addition, costs vary between residents and non-residents for cemetery plots, niches, and other services. For more information contact the Village of Elsie or visit the website www.elsie.org.

Brochures will be available at the Elsie Village business office, 125 W. Main Street, 989-862-4273, after the first of the year. Also, cemetery information is available on the village web site, www.elsie.org.



Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee Opportunities

submitted by Helen Howard

Since this is our busiest time of year, to try to find available volunteers for all those asking for the help of Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee, we are offering to schedule Respite Volunteer Trainings here at our office in Owosso, or at another location, at a mutually convenient time. There are multiple volunteer opportunities; help here in the office, help prepare for events like the St. Patrick's Party, help post flyers and talk with people about our program in their own community, and of course be matched with a person & caregiving family in their own community. This time of year, we often need substitute volunteers to fill in for other volunteers going on vacation. This is a great opportunity to try out volunteering with someone. 989-725-1127

Two fundraisers coming up:

Tickets for the Respite Volunteer St. Patrick's Party, which is Fri. March 13th at D'Mar are likely to be on sale in Feb. at the Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee office, 710 W. King St., Owosso, use the parking lot side (north) entrance. Seeking donations of new items, gift baskets, gift certificates & sponsorships. The event includes meal, canned raffle, Live Auction & live music. Tickets will be \$40. 989-725-1127

Tickets for the Respite Volunteer Spring Purse Party Bingo, which is Thurs. April 23rd at the Knights of Columbus in Owosso are likely to be on sale in early March at the Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee office, 710 W. King St., Owosso, use the parking lot side (north) entrance. Seeking donations of new purses of a retail value of \$45. or higher. 20 bingo games, for each game a specific purse is the prize. Snacks, tie breakers, and door prizes provided. Tickets are sold in advance, \$15. or if still available \$20 the day of the event. 989-725-1127

Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.

--Helen Keller

Health Department Offers Free Radon Testing

submitted by Leslie Kinnear

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) is encouraging residents to test their homes for radon and is offering free test kits to those living in Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm counties.

Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. According to Liz Braddock, MMDHD Environmental Health Division Director, if you breathe radon, it will increase your chances for developing lung cancer.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas in the environment that can rise to dangerous levels in homes, especially in the winter when windows remain closed.

Radon forms when small amounts of radium and uranium start to break down in the ground. It then enters homes through cracks in walls, basement floors, foundations and other openings. The gas becomes dangerous when it gets trapped indoors and builds to high levels. Any home, new or old, could have a radon problem. This invisible gas has no smell and causes no immediate symptoms, so testing is the only way to know if radon has invaded your home.

Get your free test kit by contacting MMDHD:

Clinton County Branch Office: 1307 E. Townsend Road, St. Johns. Phone: 989-227-3110.

Gratiot County Branch Office: 151 Commerce Drive, Ithaca. Phone: 989-875-1002.

Montcalm County Branch Office: 615 N. State Street, Stanton. Phone: 989-831-3607.

For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/radon.

Memorial Healthcare Foundation to Host 2020 Gala

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

Owosso – Memorial Healthcare Foundation will be hosting its annual 2020 Gala event at the Lebowsky Center on Saturday, February 1. This year's theme celebrates "The Emerald City" from the movie, "The Wizard of Oz."

The Gala event begins in Munchkinland at 6:30 pm with cocktails. At 7:30pm we will enter the Emerald City where an elegant multi-course dinner will be served, along with specialty desserts, an open bar and dancing for \$190 per person. Can't make it for dinner? Join us for the "Over the Rainbow" after-glow party at 9:00 pm and enjoy specialty desserts, an open bar and dancing for \$75 per person.

"Emerald City" sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting the Foundation office which is located at 1637 W. Main Street in Owosso. For more information or to purchase your tickets, please contact the Foundation office at: (989) 729-4675 or visit the website at www.memorialhealthcarefoundation.org or text Welcometooz to 243-725 and follow the prompts.

MMDHD Immunization Clinic

submitted by Linda Gronda

The Mid-Michigan District Health Department Immunization Clinics are to be held as follows:

Mid-Michigan District Health Department, 1307 E. Townsend Road, St. Johns, MI 48879

January 13, 16 & 27: 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Immunizations will be available for adults and children eight weeks of age through adulthood, appointments are preferred. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (989) 224-2195, Option 5, Monday through Friday.

Laingsburg School Board of Education Meeting

submitted by Krissy Pratt

Laingsburg Community Schools Board of Education will conduct a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. The meeting will begin at 7:00p.m., in the high school large group room.

The major tentative agenda items for this meeting include the following: Organizational Meeting- Election of Officers, School Board Recognition, 2019/20 Budget Update, 2020/21 Preliminary Budget Discussion, Legislative update, Building Reports, Board Policy and Bylaws Update, Personnel and any other business that may properly come before the board.

Board meetings are open to the public. Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in this meeting.

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DeVries Hosting Annual Sleigh Ride and Fireside Supper Fundraiser

submitted by Torey Caviston

Owosso – DeVries Nature Conservancy will be hosting its ninth annual Sleigh Ride and Fireside Supper Fundraiser on January 11 and 25. The fundraising event has become a community tradition. All of the proceeds are used to support DeVries programs and projects.

Guests will enjoy a 30 minute horse-drawn sleigh ride along the beautiful wooded trails at DeVries, then warm up by the fire with a hearty Italian meal provided by Roma's Back Door. Hot chocolate and gourmet brownies complete the experience.

Admission for the Sleigh Ride and Fireside Suppers is \$40 per adult and \$20 per child under 10. The sleigh accommodates 14, which is perfect for church groups, social clubs, and extended family outings. In the event of unfavorable snow conditions, a horse-drawn wagon will be used instead of the sleigh.

Reservations are required to attend and are available for purchase through Eventbrite. To reserve your spots, go to www.devriesnature.eventbrite.com and follow the instructions to pay with a credit or debit card. You can also stop by the Nature Center to pay with cash or check.

DeVries Nature Conservancy is located at 2635 North M-52, ¼-mile north of the Northside Animal Hospital. Signs will direct guests to parking near the Nature Center.

For more information, call (989) 723-3365 or visit www.devriesnature.org.



Peppermint Creek Theatre Company Announces Opening of "Gloria"

submitted by Chad Badgero

Lansing – Peppermint Creek Theatre Company is proud to announce the two-week run of the brutally funny new play, Gloria, by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, which was a finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize.

Gloria is a funny, trenchant, and powerful play that follows an ambitious group of editorial assistants at a notorious Manhattan magazine, each of whom hopes for a starry life of letters and a book deal before they turn thirty. But when an ordinary humdrum workday becomes anything but, the stakes for who will get to tell their own story become higher than ever.

A finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize, the New York Times called Gloria "[A] whip-smart satire of fear and loathing...GLORIA is to the New York publishing business what David Mamet's Speed-the-Plow is to the Hollywood film industry." And the New York Post raved, "All you need to know is that the biting funny and fierce GLORIA is one of [2016's] best shows. What playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins says about American society, the media and how we package celebrity and tragedy is as spot-on as it is depressing." Gloria is a rare example of a contemporary play that keeps audiences constantly guessing where it's headed and is not to be easily forgotten.

Peppermint Creek Guest Director, Ben Cassidy, speaks about what drew him to this new play, "Before I could even figure out what Gloria was about, the sharp dialogue hooked me. I had never read a script so modern, relevant, and FUNNY! When you finally realize what's happening, the show takes an intense turn and pushes these already aggressive characters to another level."

Cassidy continued, "With a script plush with topical conversations like the clashing of generations, race insensitivity, and how tragedy is presented in media – there is no doubt audiences will leave Gloria wanting to talk more about it."

The production will take place at Peppermint Creek's performance venue at Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing MI 48933. The show will run Thursday, January 16 - Sunday, January 19, and Thursday, January 23 - Sunday, January 26, 2020. Show times are (week one) Thursday and Friday at 8pm, Saturday and Sunday at 2pm; (week two) Thursday - Saturday at 8pm, and Sunday at 2pm. Tickets can be ordered online at www.peppermintcreek.org, and are \$15 general admission, and \$10 for students/seniors 65+/military.

This production is generously underwritten by Foster Swift Collins and Smith Law Firm, Sam & Mary Austin, and Karen and Jerry Jennings.

To purchase tickets, visit www.peppermintcreek.org. Follow "PCTC" on Facebook. Press photos are available on request.



Ovid-Elsie Sports Booster
in collaboration with Marauder Wrestling Presents



OVID-ELSIE'S 6th ANNUAL REVERSE RAFFLE

Saturday, March 4, 2020

5:00 p.m. (doors open at 4)

Elsie's American Legion Hall

Only 250 Tickets will be sold!

Raffle tickets are \$50

Each ticket includes one entrance into the raffle and one all you can eat and drink (beer and wine) dinner. You must be 21 to attend.

A total of \$6,400 will be paid out!
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Pictured (l-r), Drew Curry, Practice Manager, MMA, Brian Long, FACHE, President and CEO, Jessica Fanous and Jim Barb, Chief Experience Officer

Fanous Named Memorial Healthcare December Employee of the Month

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

Owosso – Memorial Healthcare is pleased to announce, Jessica Fanous, Registered Radiology Technologist in the Mid-Michigan Orthopedics office as our December Employee of the Month. Jessica has been employed with Memorial Healthcare since 2013.

According to her winning nomination, “Jessica begins each day with a goal to be ahead of the game and ready to go when each patient arrives. She always has a smile on her face and shares kind words with each of the patients to provide an all-around great experience. Jessica takes her job to the extreme when it comes to patient care and satisfaction by being so sweet and gentle. She makes me proud to work in our department.”

Jessica is married and lives in Grand Blanc with a first baby on the way (due February 24, 2020). Her hobbies include spending time outdoors camping throughout our beautiful state and making crafts (candles and lotions). Some interesting facts about Jessica are: she taught herself how to play the Ukulele from watching YouTube videos, has ridden an ostrich, and went shark cage diving in South Africa. Jessica’s dream is to travel and see as much of the world as she can while she still can.

“I love what I do, where I work, and who I work with. Those things make it a breeze to have a great attitude and make a difference in my workplace. It’s a high honor to be recognized as Employee of the Month. Thank you,” said Jessica.

Memorial Healthcare Welcomes Ophthalmologist

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

Owosso – Please join us in welcoming Dr. Donna Qahwash to Memorial Healthcare! Dr. Qahwash is currently practicing at Memorial Healthcare Ophthalmology located at our Durand primary and urgent care facility.

Dr. Qahwash is a board certified ophthalmic surgeon who earned a Bachelor of Science degree with honors in medical technology and a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, both from Michigan State University. She is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Osteopathic Association, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and the American Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery Division.

Dr. Qahwash offers Ophthalmology expertise in cataract surgery, refractive and laser; Lasik surgery; management and treatment of glaucoma; minimally invasive glaucoma surgery; routine exams for diabetic patients and patients on high risk medications; macular degeneration; eyelid surgery; dry eye treatment and management and more.

Dr. Qahwash is currently accepting new patients with most insurances. Appointments can be made by calling (989) 288-3300. For more information about Dr. Qahwash, visit www.memorialhealthcare.org/provider/donna-qahwash-do/.



L-R Elsie Lion President Ike Hunt, Lion Velmar Green and Margaret Green

Elsie Lions Club

submitted by Richard Easlick

The Elsie Lions Club held it's annual Christmas dinner and the highlight of the evening was Lion Velmar Green accepting his 55 Year Lions Milestone Chevron Award from Elsie Lion President Ike Hunt. This Chevron Award is presented by Lions Club International. Velmar's commitment to providing many years of service as a member of our association is honorable and commendable, as he has touched the lives of many. From the smallest project to the largest undertaking, Velmar's years of service has made an impact in our community.

The Elsie Lions Club congratulates Lion Velmar Green on reaching this milestone and wish you many more happy and healthy years to come.



*Book Signing and
Women's Book Club
Discussion*

**Tuesday, Jan. 14
3:30 - 8 p.m.
(Book Club 5:30-6:30 pm)**

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Winter Activities Slated at Ashley Sportsman Club

submitted by Dawn D. Levey

Bannister - Annual public events have been scheduled at Ashley Sportsmans Club located at 8554 S. Mason Rd, Bannister. Winter events kick-off with Painting at the Lodge, Saturday, January 18, 6-8 pm. All materials will be provided for the "wintery landscape." In addition, refreshments and soft drinks are included. Participants may bring adult beverages. The cost of the event is \$30, to register and for more information call (517)204-4075 or e-mail ashleysportsmansclub@gmail.com.

The ASC annual Squirrel Hunt will be held Sunday, January 26. Two-person teams, \$20, 10 squirrel harvest limit for team. Registration will be held from 6:30-10 am and weigh-ins from 3-4 pm. For details and a list of the rules please contact (517)204-4075 or e-mail ashleysportsmansclub@gmail.com. The more participants the larger the monetary prize.

ASC will hold the Annual Wild Game Dinner, Saturday, February 1, 2020, the purpose of the event to support conservation. Doors open at 4 pm, dinner at 6 pm, guest speaker (to be announced) immediately following. The cost of the event is a wild game dish, main dish, or a dessert. Table service and water provided. There will be games and activities, the public is encouraged to attend this fun-filled event.

All events take place at the club located at 8554 S. Mason Rd., for more information and to inquire about membership call (517)204-4075 or e-mail ashleysportsmansclub@gmail.com.

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Obituaries

Josephine Sheldon

Josephine Sheldon, age 86, of Owosso, MI, passed away Monday, January 6, 2020, at her home.

Josephine was born in Ithaca, Michigan on March 9, 1933, the daughter of Edward Ornelas and Mary (Luna) Ornelas. She graduated from Ovid High School with the class of 1952. She was married to William Sheldon. She was a member of the First Baptist Church, Ovid, MI.

Jo worked for Universal Electric in Owosso for over 40 years. She loved polka music, and was an avid sports fan, mostly football, and men and women's basketball, but what she loved most was softball. Jo was a great softball player with pitching as her specialty. She played for teams in Ovid and Owosso from 1959-1966, leading teams to several wins and championships. She also loved NASCAR and attended several races. Her favorite driver was Jeff Gordon.

She is survived by her daughters: Billiejo Sheldon of Jackson, MI; and Susan Sheldon of Owosso, MI; grandchildren: Richard and Tasha Call of Rock Springs, WY; Ariel Call of Owosso, MI; Jennifer Call of Summerville, SC; Jessica McGuire of Seattle, WA; Marci Rowe of Jackson, MI; Jammie Al-Din of Jackson, MI; sisters: Anita Kiter of Owosso, MI; Emma Gordoa of Glendale, AZ; and Rosemary Ornelas of Ovid, MI. She is also survived by 11 great-grandchildren with two more on the way, and 3 step-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and siblings: Helen Martinez, Edward Ornelas, Eliso "Chum" Ornelas, Oscar Ornelas, and Alfred Ornelas.

Funeral Services were held at the First Baptist Church of Ovid, on Saturday, January 11, 2020, with Pastor Tim Dickenson and Pastor Robert Metevia officiating. Burial will take place at Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid, MI.

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



Shiawassee County FAN Chapter Open Forum

submitted by Cheryl Young

Shiawassee County Families Against Narcotics (FAN) Chapter has been created to assist with providing support and education to the community about the severity of drugs and addiction. The reality of drugs and addiction taking over our community needs to come to an end. A group of concerned community organizers came together in realization of the epidemic surrounding drug use in Shiawassee County and are here to raise awareness, along with bringing hope that YOU ARE NOT ALONE in this fight.

According to Shiawassee County Health and Wellness, 5% of 7th graders and 11% of the high schoolers in Shiawassee County reported taking a prescription drug not prescribed to them within the past month alone.

The Shiawassee County FAN Chapter will be working with other organizations in the community to battle this epidemic. The Shiawassee County FAN Chapter will be working with individuals seeking help, who are not currently in the criminal justice system. We want to enact programs that can assist these individuals as well as their family members. Shiawassee County FAN Chapter will provide the community with support, education and the resources to help with this ever growing problem.

We would love to have as much of the community stand with us at our first community open forum Thursday, January 16th at 7:00 pm at the Owosso High School Media Center room. We will be holding open forums for the community to participate and learn about how to stop this epidemic as well as provide a strong support network for individuals and their families. Please join us to learn more about who we are and meet the board members of the Shiawassee County FAN Chapter.

We will be meeting every third Thursday of the month at the same location and time for anyone wishing to participate or those wishing to seek help.

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Editorial



A Note from the Superintendent

Dr. Ryan Cunningham

To the Ovid-Elsie Community:

Happy New Year! As we round the corner and head into 2020, I wanted to take an opportunity to update the community on the many great things happening at Ovid-Elsie Area Schools.

In the Spring of 2019, voters blessed us with the passing of a bond extension. Over the past few months, we have been working diligently with architects, construction management and contractors to ready ourselves for an extremely busy summer.

In addition to the bond extension, Ovid-Elsie was fortunate to receive two grants last spring as well – the Thompson Foundation Technology Grant and the Michigan State Police School Safety Grant. The Technology Grant will total around \$700,000 and will provide our staff with unprecedented professional development and a complete refresh of devices throughout the District, essentially allowing Ovid-Elsie to become a 1:1 (student to device) District! With the MSP School Safety Grant (approximately \$250,000), we are upgrading our “Boot” systems, adding cameras and hardening exteriors.

Ovid-Elsie Area Schools is also exploring the utilization of solar arrays to reduce energy costs. Our initial projections indicate that our District will save nearly \$3.5 million in energy costs over the life of our solar project. Stay tuned!

All of this is super exciting, but what is even more exciting is the teaching and learning that take place every day in the classrooms throughout the District. Student achievement continues to rise as we explore new methodologies to deliver instruction, personalize instruction and engage students to be active participants in their learning. In addition, we’ve continued to expand course offerings at the High School and now offer multiple Advanced Placement courses, Dual Credit courses and online options. Those courses have helped several students enter college with most of their freshmen year completed! Recently, our 6th rotation of freshmen (over two years) graduated from the Dale Carnegie Course. That graduation signifies over 250 students not only receiving free college credit, but working on how to improve relationships with family and friends and gain a tremendous amount of personal confidence and self-worth. This is absolutely amazing work by our staff, students and administration and I congratulate and thank all of them.

At this point in the year I would be remiss if I didn’t remind everyone to make sure that your information is up-to-date in PowerSchool. With inclement weather sure to come, notifications will be sent out through the school messaging system. The fastest and most accurate way to find out about delays or cancellations, is to make sure your settings are correct.

Finally, I want to extend my most sincere congratulations to all of our fall sports, athletes and clubs and wish our winter participants “best of luck” in their current and upcoming seasons. Whether you’re on a sports team, a member of band, choir, drama, FFA, Robotics, or any other club – the time and effort that you put in is important and as a District we are thankful for all of your efforts.

As always, should have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to talk with your teachers, building principals, etc. Our doors are always open and we welcome your comments and feedback.

Here’s to a prosperous and blessed 2020!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ryan L. Cunningham, Superintendent, Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

The Meridian Weekly is revamping our website so bare with us if you read us online! It will have some new exciting aspects to it and you will be able read the whole paper on line!!



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

It is already Thursday afternoon, about twoI have already had a full day, only been up since four. What did I do wrong? I’m exhausted and don’t have much to show for it. I did three loads of laundry, emptied the dishwasher that was filled the good dishes and silverware, restacked the dishes in the company cupboard and put the silverware back in its case. I also worked at the office for half a day and had lunch with the Sunshine Club.

Furthermore I peeled enough potatoes to fill the large crockpot with mashed potatoes prepared with cream cheese, butter and sour cream. They were received well at the luncheon.....but I still have too many left over. I wonder if I can make potato donuts with them? Pancakes? Or I could scramble them up with eggs and bacon and they would make a good meal. Speaking of eggs, I forgot to make my weekly order, drat!!! Must be that my mind is wondering and wandering again.

Tomorrow morning I will be up and at it early.....I need to get one hundred loaves of bread made, from scratch. Then bagged and tagged for delivery on Saturday morning. I do so hope that my thinking cap is on straight and that I have figured out how to get it done in a timely fashion. I only have one oven, and it is standard sizethis will get interesting. Maybe I could skip writing this week and focus on finishing the “Bread & Bells” initiative. Or maybe not.....

Ran out of fuel oil on Monday, I was less than happy.....fortunately the house didn’t get too cold. Meaning that I couldn’t see my breath but a nice comforter made things cozy, so it was a good time to curl up with a book. It is only the 9th day of the New Year and I’m already sick of the political campaigns both those on the television and those that have invaded my mailbox. Oh, joy! Have you heard about the latest scam? Text messages are being sent...saying that you have been drafted and if you ignore the message you will spend six years in prison. There is no draft at this time. The last time it was used was during the Viet Nam conflict which was an undeclared war.

While at the luncheon, our hostess mentioned putting up her Christmas décor. I winced because I not only didn’t get much put up because the contractors left the Friday before Christmas....but I hadn’t taken any down yet. I’m enjoying them and would be happy to leave them up for a while. I really do enjoy the lights on the tree and the décor that has accumulated through the years. I’m especially fond of the four plates that Mom used to put up on the walls every Yuletide Season, they are identical, and bring back good memories. Like the year that Santa’s sleigh tipped over and he had to go back to the North Pole to fill up his sleigh. He also got to take three live chickens in his bag from our farm; I do believe that he was getting the makings of Christmas dinner. I had fished the plates out of a garbage bag that the estate managers had pitched them.

Oops, I need to get back into gear. I have some thank you notes to write and get sent out in the morning mail. My friend from Laingsburg, Therese is very good at sending out notes. I should focus on being more like her. Sounds like a good plan to me. Be uncommon and share your common sense, may God bless you daily.

Crystal Mitchell©2020

Do you have an opinion about something? In 250 words or less send us a Letter to the Editor! Include your name and phone number.



in The Weekly
phone: 989-834-2264
fax: 989-834-2066
news@meridianweekly.com



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

Andy,

My wife and I received notices from our medical collections agency with a balance of zero. I called the collections agencies and they had no idea why and were unable to give me any information. We have had several years of unbelievable medical issues including cancer treatment co-pays. We have been paying what we could, when we could. In the last couple of weeks I have heard other friends say the same thing. By any chance have you heard of this happening or who could have paid for the balances.

Ron T.

Dear Ron,

As a matter of fact, I do know about this. I was unable to reach anyone as to why letters were not sent prior to this joyous New Years gift to you and many other deserving recipients to let them know. Staring out the new year without any old medical debt is blessing to be appreciated.

Your benefactor is the Northpointe Community Church of DeWitt, Michigan. They bought and paid off medical debt for 3,800 families living in Clinton County and the 48848 Zip Code. It was their gift back to the community to forgive the debts of those residents who had medical balances in collections. The gift included the Laingsburg zip code because they have 47 families who are members in their church. If you do not have a church...you might want to visit this one.

The church's Pastor Rick Rubel and the Benevolent Committee are pleased to have negotiated with a non profit group to reconcile nearly 4 million dollars of medical debt in our community. No strings attached. I would suggest that if you are a recipient of this awesome gift, send a thank you note to the church and pay it forward. The power of giving will bring more joy than you can imagine.

Thank you for writing. In this snowy new year...take time to send me a note to let me know that you are enjoying and reading this column. Send your suggestions or comments to ask_andy@aol.com

Habitat Looking for Donations

Letter to the Editor:

As we say good-bye to 2019, let us revel in our blessings, our families, our friends and our faith. Let us also remember that there are still those in need.

There is still time to make your end of the year donation to help those who need safe, decent and affordable housing most.

Habitat builds houses WITH partner families. One will be built in Ithaca and one in St Johns in 2020. We need your help (these families need your help) to make this happen.

We will continue our house repair programs, wheelchair ramps and accessibility programs, our neighborhood revitalization programs and financial education. It is not enough for us to just build houses, but to make safe, decent and affordable housing available for everyone. Because we can all agree that everyone deserves, at minimum, a safe place to lay their head at night.

Won’t you be part of this mission?

Here are some ways to help:

\$21.99 buys a box of nails

\$44.85 buys door knobs for all bedrooms and bathrooms in a Habitat house

\$107.21 buys a sink and vanity for the bathroom

\$125.72 buys hand rails for a wheelchair ramp

\$148.00 buys a door

\$251.79 buys drywall for the ceilings

\$528.98 buys sheeting for a roof repair

\$1507 buys prison-built cabinets for the kitchen

\$3700 buys the siding for a Habitat house

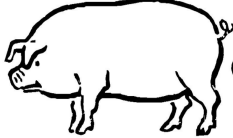
\$5000 sponsors the cost of a whole room in a Habitat house

Every donation matters! Every donation helps someone in our community! You can be a life-changer!

Thank you in advance for your donation.

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Did You Know?

While flowers certainly add beauty and a wonderful aroma to wedding ceremonies and receptions, there are other reasons behind their inclusion in such festivities. In ancient Rome, brides carried or wore flower garlands because the Romans believed flowers signified hope, fertility and new beginnings.

In the Middle Ages, brides did not carry flowers, but rather strong-smelling spices and herbs. The rationale was that the herbs and spices would drive away bad luck and evil spirits. Flowers also served another practical purpose.

In eras when bathing was a luxury, different flowers and herbs helped mask body odors. It wasn't until the Victorian era, when flowers were used to symbolize romantic love, that they became part of wedding ceremonies, according to Modern Weddings magazine.

**Make a Statement With Your Wedding Cake**

Brides and grooms may pour over every detail of their weddings, but few components of the festivities may be as fun, especially for foodies, as deciding what the wedding cake will look like. Couples who want to deliver show-stopping visuals often express some measure of their creativity and personalities through statement wedding cakes.

Many couples now eschew the classic three-tiered white cake in favor of a dessert that garners instant attention. Whether the cake is brightly colored or hand-painted, a towering architectural marvel or shimmering in metallics, couples are opting to make a statement with their confections. Apart from clever cake-toppers, here are ways to stand apart when dessert is served.

- According to the Perfect Wedding Guide, a rising trend in cakes is to cover a white or naked cake with translucent glaze tinted in the couple's wedding colors. This artistic expression can be especially stunning in boho-chic weddings.

- Statement tiers also are popular. The cake may be traditional in nearly every way, but couples then set the cake apart by featuring an elaborate design or a different hue in one tier.

- Martha Stewart Weddings advises that more than just color can be used to make a statement. Lifelike sugar flowers can really set cakes apart. Guests may not be sure if they can consume all aspects of some cakes. But delicate sugar flowers taste as good as they look.

- Hand-painted tiles on a cake are another way to add panache. A bride and groom may be inspired by a European vacation or the stained-glass effects of religious windows and want to add that feel to the tiers of the cake.

- Sometimes a statement comes by way of texture. Even an all-white cake can be dressed up with interesting textural effects. Ruffles, lace, embossing, and 3-D rosettes are different textural components that can be incorporated in cake designs.

- Couples also may want to tell their unique stories with cake. Individual tiers designed to reflect various milestone moments from the couple's relationship can be quite engaging.

- Capitalizing on the trend of edgier weddings, couples may opt for darker hues on their cakes — even a black tier — or nontraditional geometric shapes to the cake itself or its design elements.

Statement cakes can really say something about the couple getting married. Much like other wedding elements, cakes provide a window into the minds of happy couples.

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5 Ways to Cut Wedding Reception Costs

submitted by

Weddings have a tendency to be expensive endeavors. According to The Knot's 2018 Real Weddings Study, the national average cost of a wedding is \$33,931. Nearly half of that (\$15,439) is spent on the reception venue alone.

As expensive as wedding receptions can be, couples should know that there are many ways to reduce reception costs without sacrificing fun.

1. Choose foods wisely

Pour over the details of catering costs. The Knot says the average price for catering will be \$68 per person. If you opt for an appetizers and cocktails reception, you may be able to shave several dollars off the bill. Look closely at the pricing for buffet versus plated meals. Buffet service often means having a greater quantity of food on hand, which could drive up the cost. Find out if the catering hall can work with your budget to provide cost-conscious options, like familiar comfort foods instead of gourmet fare.

2. Serve a custom-made cocktail

A themed drink, such as punch or a classic spirit with a reimagined, wedding-friendly name, can be less expensive than offering full open bar service. Some couples also opt to pay for only wine and beer rather than a full open bar that includes liquor and mixed drinks.

3. Book a weeknight

Weekend weddings are easier on guests' schedules, but not on couples' budgets. Couples can save thousands of dollars by hosting weeknight weddings instead of weekend affairs. Book the venue from Monday through Friday, as even Sunday prices have escalated. The further away from the weekend, the lower the prices tend to be.

4. Fake the cake

The Knot indicates a wedding cake runs roughly \$530. Consider displaying a mock cake for photos and then serve a sheet cake during dessert hour. Decorating foam tiers to look like an extravagant cake can save a few hundred dollars, and guests won't know the difference when they're biting into a delicious, less costly dessert.

5. Skip the extras

Reception venues may upcharge for all the little details, such as linens in custom colors or chair covers. If you can live without these extras, do so. Ask for a list of itemized extras so you can assess what you want to pay for and what you'd prefer to avoid.

Wedding receptions are costly, but there are many ways to save money and still enjoy a memorable evening.



Did You Know?

A first dance song at the wedding reception often sets the tone for the upcoming festivities and can exemplify just how newlyweds feel about each other.

Couples may agonize over which song to choose, but there are many different resources available that can help couples narrow down their options. Spotify, the popular streaming music service, has compiled a list of the most popular wedding songs for 2018, based on global respondents.

Their top pick was "Perfect," by Ed Sheeran, a song that many might suspect was composed with wedding dances in mind. Sheeran's "Thinking Out Loud," Etta James' "At Last," John Legend's "All of Me," and Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love" filled out the remaining top five spots on Spotify's list.

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Is a Valentine's Day Proposal Right for You?

Valentine's Day is a special day when thoughts turn to love and romance. Couples contemplating tying the knot may feel like Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to pop the question and begin their journeys toward marriage.



Even though Valentine's Day is a very popular day to propose, it's tricky to keep such a proposal from becoming a cliché. By considering some dos and don'ts, Valentine's Day proposals can be unique.

DO ensure that you're both on the same page. It's one thing for couples who have already been talking about marriage to build on the romance of Valentine's Day with a proposal. But it's quite another if this is a push to wow him or her and you don't have the same goals; it may not go according to plan. Couples are urged to have honest conversations about key topics (i.e., children, compatibility, finances, living arrangements) to see if marriage is a desire they both share.

DON'T overlook the element of surprise for the proposal. Sure it is easy to have a waiter bring the ring after a meal at a favorite restaurant, but it can be even more special to catch your sweetheart off guard. Why not propose before you get to the restaurant, such as in front of where you first met, and then you can enjoy your meal without butterflies?

DO consider your sweetheart's personality before the proposal. A shy person may not like the attention of a crowd. However, someone who loves to be the center of attention may feel that more is merrier.

DON'T go overboard with the details. One or two big surprises is all it takes. The more details, the more things that can potentially go wrong, which can adversely affect the overall proposal.

DO get input from friends and family, but do not feel pressured to do it exactly as they say. A close friend can help select a ring or contribute to the surprise by keeping the special someone unaware of the plans at hand. Having a helper can make the proposal go more smoothly.

DON'T feel pressured to propose on Valentine's Day or a birthday, Christmas, or other big holiday because it's "what you're supposed to do." A proposal and a marriage are unique to each couple, and individuals should abide by their preferences when making such important decisions. Only propose when it feels completely right.

Valentine's Day can be a perfect day to propose if the timing and planning is right.



A Push for Private Vows

Weddings are very special occasions for two people who are in love. That's why many couples want close family and friends nearby when they tie the knot. But even the happiest couples may express some nervousness about one particular part of traditional wedding ceremonies.

Wedding vows are a way for couples to profess their love for each other. However, many couples who want to write their own vows are hesitant to say them aloud in front of an audience. If couples are intimidated by a heartfelt recital of their vows in front of a crowd, then exchanging vows in private may be for them.

Wedding planners and industry experts say that private vows have become very popular. While the vows do not replace the public exchange that seals the marriage from a legal standpoint, they can be words shared in a private moment before the actual ceremony itself. A quiet moment alone allows couples to shed private tears and share a special moment before they make haste for the altar.

The Knot, a premier wedding planning resource, notes that there are many reasons to share private vows.

- You do not like being in the spotlight or become shy in front of crowds.
- There are words you would like to share with your future spouse that are deeply private, and you don't want to express those feelings to every person at the wedding.
- You do not want to censor your thoughts or words.
- You desire an intimately private and personal moment together before all of the fanfare and rush of the wedding.
- You'd like to recite loving words in a native language that some guests may not understand.
- You desire the potential for some very great candid photos if you invite the photographer to be there at a distance.
- You want to create a lasting memory that is only yours as a couple to share.

The popularity of private vows exchanged before a wedding ceremony is growing. This growing trend provides yet another way for couples to personalize their weddings.

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Sports



Loynes Awarded Burlsworth Character Award

Congratulations to Ovid-Elsie Varsity Football Player Shayne Loynes for being awarded the Burlsworth Character Award. This award honors High School Seniors who display High Character and Sportsmanship in High School Football. Shayne was a captain of this year's Marauder Football Team. He was selected 2nd Team All-Conference and on the Argus Press All-Area Team.

Wolfpack Grapplers Compete at NL Hall of Fame Tourney

NEW LOTHROP -- The host Hornets scored 166 team points and easily grabbed the title from their own, annual Hall of Fame wrestling tournament here January 4.

NL's Justin Carnahan (11-0) won the 189 class on a technical fall to pace the team victory. The Hornets also featured freshman Daven Lockwood (8-5) and junior Andrew Krupp (9-3), who finished second at 103 and 130, respectively.

Austin Barnete was one of six Hornets to finish third including: sophomore Alex Wolford (7-4), who won at 125 by fall; junior Jackson Knieper (5-7), who won at 140 by fall; and junior Cam Orr (9-2), who won at 215 by major decision. New Lothrop sophomore Isiah Pasik (10-1) defeated Chesaning sophomore Brenden Quakenbush (8-4) by fall to also capture third place in the 285 bracket.

Three other local schools were also featured in competition -- Laingsburg, Corunna and Chesaning.

Chesaning did the best of the three; finishing in sixth with 91.5 points. Corunna finished in the bottom half of the tourney, coming in 16th with 34.5 points.

As for Laingsburg, it was a rough day for the Wolfpack as it finished last with seven points. The Wolfpack did not have any wrestlers place.

Lady Bears Lose to Huskies

by Ashleigh Shaw

The Lady Bears traveled to neighboring Breckenridge to take on the Huskies in a conference match up. Both teams came out slow as the scoring was at a minimum for half of the first quarter, but by the time the quarter ended Breckenridge was up 16-12. The Lady Bears struggled with turnovers beginning in the second quarter and by half time they were down 35-12. The turnovers struggle continued for the Bears and they struggled to score going down 46-17 at the end of the third quarter and losing the game 61-19.

"We struggle quite a bit with turnovers that Breckenridge was able to create with their defensive pressure and length. We've got to be able to take better care of the basketball and rebound the ball better" expressed Coach Shaw.

Ashley Gavenda led the team with 10 points, Isabel Kremer added 5 points and 10 rebounds, Kellie Brown added 2 points, Korryn Brown had 2 points and 4 steals and Mackenzie Stoneman had 9 rebounds.



Seniors (back row l-r) Mason Spiess, Zach Miller; front Eric Perry and Trenton Hurst

Ovid-Elsie Wrestling

submitted by Kyle Spiess

OE fell to Montrose, OE 25 vs Montrose 48, in their debut conference dual meet of the season. Mason Spiess, Max Spiess, Zach Miller, Eric Perry and Trenton Tj Hurst all won for OE.

"All four seniors on the team won on senior night. That is something they will remember for the rest of their lives so that was a great part of the night". It was a loss as a team but we had many small victories and learned lots.

Ashley Boys Take Loss From Breckenridge

by Ashleigh Shaw

The Ashley boys came out onto the floor a little rusty having the Holiday Break. In a home game against the Huskies from Breckenridge, the Bears came out having a tough time scoring the ball. At the end of the first quarter the Huskies led 14-8. Ashley continued to struggle scoring only putting up 5 points in the second quarter while Breckenridge put up 19 and the Bears went into the locker room down 33-13.

The Bears came out in the third quarter ready to score and put up 22 points, but struggled still to catch up as the Huskies scored 18 as well. As the fourth quarter began Ashley still did not score the ball well only scoring 8 points and losing the game 66-43.

Cole Keller scored 14 points and had 3 rebounds, Brennen Felton scored 12 points and had 4 rebounds while, Korvin Bradley scored 8 points and had 5 steals.

Bears Lose to Wolverines

Ashley traveled to Vestaburg in a league match up to take on the Wolverines Thursday night. Ashley struggled most of the game and could never get much of a lead as they were playing catch up more of the night. Korvin Bradley scored 25 points but it wasn't enough as the Bears took the loss 61-49.

Along with Bradley's 25 points he also added 5 rebounds and 9 steals. Brennen Felton scored 7 points and had 2 rebounds.

Ashley Football All-State Honor

by Ashleigh Shaw

Aaron Drummond a junior on the Ashley 8-man Division 2 football team was honored with being selected to the All-State team this year on the offensive line. His Coach Kevin Saylor said this about Drummond, "Aaron was our eraser, he was always in the right place at the right time and that with so many young guys on the team, he erased a lot of their mistakes. I couldn't have asked for a better kid to coach. He is very coachable, very smart and willing to work on his own skills while helping everyone else around him."

Congratulations to Aaron Drummond on a great season!



Aaron Drummond

Lady Marauders Crush Lakeville 54-6

by Tim Zwick

ELSIE -- The Lady Marauders kicked off the new decade with a dominating 54-6 victory over the Lakeville Falcons in a MMAC tilt played here on January 7th. O-E now stands 5-3 overall and 2-2 in conference action.

Ovid-Elsie streaked

out to a 24-4 first quarter lead and the rout was on. The hosts led by as many as 49 points in the lopsided win. O-E out rebounded the Falcons 22-6 and shot 46% from 3-point range.

Lauren Barton had a game high 14 points to lead the Lady Marauders. Caitlyn Walter was also in double figures, notching 11 points to go along with five rebounds. All in all, 10 different Marauders scored in the game.

"I thought we executed very well tonight despite the score," noted head coach Ryan Cunningham.



Lauren Barton



Caitlyn Walter

Gabe Hawes Shines: Wolfpack Boys Overwhelm Saranac 69-47

SARANAC --

Pulling together through a week of controversy, after playing on "two of the toughest floors in the league," said coach Dan Morrill, Laingsburg's boys basketball team scored a big CMAC victory here Thursday night.

The Wolfpack entered the preceding Tuesday night game at Potterville rated #1 in the state, with both teams undefeated. The PHS scorebook at the end of the game showed Potterville winning by a point - but the official score is under protest with the MHSAA. Laingsburg believes there is an error in the home team's (the official game) book, hence the controversy that swirled when the Wolves boarded the bus to Saranac on Thursday.

Stay tuned: an official ruling will be announced on the Potterville game at a later date. There was no disputing, however, the Wolfpack's dominance at Saranac in a 69-47 Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) victory.

"Saranac is a hard place to play," said coach Morrill. "They were winless last year and took us to overtime here. They always play hard ... I thought we were a little out of sync to start the game, but we showed true senior leadership and got a big win."

Laingsburg is either 5-0 or 4-1, 3-0 or 2-1 in the CMAC, based on the Potterville ruling. Senior Gabe Hawes led the way, shocking the Redskins directly after the opening tip. Hawes scored 15 of the Wolves' 18 points in the first quarter, and LHS rolled to a 18-5 lead to start the contest.

The 'Pack led 36-11 at halftime and 52-29 entering the final quarter.

Hawes finished as the game's leading scorer, with 29 points. Zach Hawes added 10, Colt Wurm 6, Austin Randall 6, Connor Thomas 5, Jesse Gugel 5, Josh Baker 4, Aidan Soeltner 3 and Zach Fortino one to the winning ledger.

Gugel pulled down a game-high 8 rebounds for LHS.

Morrill's Wolfpack returns to CMAC play this Monday, hosting Bath, and Thursday, playing host to Portland St. Patrick.



Gabe Hawes



Zach Hawes

Coaches please remember to get your results in so your teams can be included in the Weekly! news@meridianweekly.com

Sports



(l-r): Lizzy Underhill, Madison Schneider, Morgan Douglass, Coach Matt Fabus, Chloe Taylor, Mikayla Kelley, Jocelynn Holton-Pugh.

O-E Bowling

submitted by Matt Fabus

On January 4th the boys and girls varsity bowling teams were at Fenton Lanes against Byron.

The girls won 25-5. High scores for the girls included Chloe Taylor 151, 208; Morgan Douglass 146, Jocelynn Holton-Pugh 140, 200; Mikayla Kelley 192, 180; Lizzy Underhill 169, 182.

The boys lost 8-22. High scores included Tom Terpening 164; Steve Zedemont 169, 161, Eian Bushard 185; Tray Terpening 158, 152, Corbin Kelley 232, 151.

Both teams bowled January 5th at Capitol Lanes in Owosso in the Lylia Furnish Classic.

The bowling format was 12 baker games, cut to top 8.

Out of 20 boys teams OE finished 12th for the day.

The girls qualified 5th out of 13 girls teams. The OE Girls won the first round of two baker games 170+142=312 against Swartz Creek 139+137=276.

Round two OE 192+159=351 against Flint Kearsley 176+196=372, missing the championship round by 21 pins. Ovid-Elsie would settle for third place medals.



Corbin Kelley

Eian Bushard

Wolfpack's Koenig named as Honorable Mention to All-Area Volleyball

OWOSSO -- Corunna's Elizabeth Norris can add another accolade to her high school athletic career, as she was named The Owosso Argus-Press All-Area Volleyball Player of the Year for the second year in a row.

Locally, Laingburg's Kayla Koenig joined seven players from Owosso, Morrice, New Lothrop, Chesaning, Durand and Corunna on the All-Shiawassee Area Honorable Mention team, as selected by the Owosso-Argus Press.

Koenig was a middle hitter for first-year coach J.J. Strieff's Wolfpack, after starting the season as an outside hitter. She was one of seven graduating seniors for the Wolves, along with Adriana Gruhn, setter; Bailee Keener, outside hitter; Grace Koenig, defensive



Kayla Koenig All-Area Honorable Mention

specialist; Lauren Hanna, right side hitter; Savannah Olmstead, defensive specialist; and Victoria Dedic, middle hitter.

Norris, the 2019 All-Area POY is just the latest accomplishment in Norris' impressive high school career. She made an impact early on, earning second team All-GAC Red honors her freshmen year. By her sophomore season, she had worked her way up to first team All-GAC and was a team captain.



Shayne Loynes

Justin Moore

Dylan Carman

Jackson Thornton

Cal Byrnes

O-E Boys Basketball Takes Down LakeVille 59-37

by Tim Zwick

ELSIE -- The Marauders boys basketball team got the new year off on the right foot with a convincing 59-37 win over Mid-Michigan Activities Conference foe LakeVille in a game played here January 7th. Ovid-Elsie remains undefeated at 5-0 overall and sits atop the MMAC with a 4-0 slate.

O-E jumped out to an early 21-7 first quarter lead before stepping on the gas and pushing the bulge to 45-13 at the intermission. The hosts cruised home in the second half as 10 different players hit the scoring column.

Shayne Loynes paced the Marauders attack with 13 points while dishing out eight assists. Justin Moore added 12 points, eight rebounds and four steals. Jackson Thornton, Dylan Carman and Cal Byrnes all chipped in with six points each. Thornton also hauled down five rebounds. Kendall Burkhardt led LakeVille with 10 points.

"We played good defense and we were unselfish," noted O-E head coach Josh Latz. "We were happy with our first-half performance."



Kara Mahoney

Erica Wade

Grace Graham

Lorna Strieff



Bree Schlaack

Saige Wurm

Gabby Paquet

Lady Wolfpack Shakes off Rust, Keeps Pace in CMAC

LAINGSBURG -- It was a long holiday layoff for coach Doug Hurst's Lady Wolfpack basketball team ... but they came back strong.

Kara Mahoney made 13 of 14 free-throw attempts, finishing with 23 points as the Wolves defeated Pottersville, 49-25, in January 8 Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) play. Kara added five rebounds, four assists, four steals and two blocks.

The 'Pack moved to 6-2 overall, and kept pace with the CMAC leaders at 3-1, with the dominant win. LHS got eight points from Erica Wade and seven from Grace Graham. Graham added nine rebounds, five steals and four assists. Wade had seven steals and four rebounds. Lorna Strieff added 4 points, Bree Schlaack 4, Saige Wurm 2 and Gabby Paquet one point in the romp.

"Basically this was our first game in three weeks," said coach Hurst. "I thought we played real well with 22 steals. We also had some turnovers. We've had some scrimmages but you just can't duplicate what a game is like."

Pottersville's Vikings fell to 5-3 overall and 3-2 in the circuit. Sierra Kendrick led the Vikes with 9 points.



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Friends Receives Grant to Conduct Public Education Programs

submitted by Lorraine Austin

CORUNNA – One of the reasons the Friends’ organization was formed was to share their appreciation and knowledge of the Shiawassee River with others. With a new grant, the Friends of the Shiawassee River will take a step forward in 2020 with a major public education program about climate change and its impact on our watershed. The outreach effort will focus on actions that can be taken that enhance the health of the Shiawassee River no matter the extent of impacts caused by extreme weather events.

The Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA) Program, sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has awarded the Friends funding to help them build a knowledge base and share practical information with those impacted by changing water levels resulting from increased storm events and droughts. The Friends organization was one of only 12 grant recipients (for a complete list of grantees and more details on the grants program, visit <http://glisa.umich.edu/news/glisa-announces-12-winners-2019-small-grants-competition>).

“We are here to serve the residents of the watershed, and this grant will help us all be better stewards of the river and its natural resources,” said Friends Executive Director Lorraine Austin. “We’re especially interested in taking a local look at what is happening in our own backyards.”

The Friends of the Shiawassee River will hold three education forums on the impacts of extreme weather events throughout the diverse Shiawassee River Watershed to inform and engage three different groups:

- 1) local governments and residential landowners along the River;
- 2) farmers, agricultural landowners, and conservation organizations;
- 3) recreational users of the River, including anglers, hunters, paddlers and wildlife advocates.

With the help of scientists, the Friends will provide the best information available about increased precipitation, the increased likelihood of storm events, rising summer and winter temperatures, droughts, and other weather changes. Workshop participants will work together to design and carry out a project to address a local problem or opportunity.

The GLISA team working on the project have local roots. “Having grown up in Corunna and having watched my uncle fish along the Shiawassee River all of his life, I am excited to work with the Friends of the Shiawassee River and local residents to protect these resources that have played, and continue to play, such an important role in the lives of the local communities,” said Dr. Frank Marsik of the University of Michigan and GLISA liaison to the Friends.

The GLISA team at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan will analyze climate data and provide an analysis of climate change in the Shiawassee River watershed that will be presented at all three workshops. At each workshop, organizations with relevant expertise will present potential solutions that can be undertaken by watershed residents, landowners, local governments, community nonprofits, and recreational organizations.

“People in the Great Lakes region understand that climate change is about more than increases in temperature and rainfall across the region. As a result of these changes in our climate, our wetlands and other sensitive ecosystems are seeing changes, as well,” said Marsik. “Increases in rainfall can lead to increases in soil erosion and run-off into rivers and streams. Temperature changes are leading to shifts in vegetation and habitat for wildlife.”

Other partners in the project include the Michigan Association of Planning, the Michigan Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network, the Shiawassee Conservation District, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Partners for Fish & Wildlife.

For more information about the Friends, visit their website at www.ShiawasseeRiver.org or email info@shiawasseeiver.org. The Friends also posts regular updates on their Facebook page and Twitter feed (FOSR_Tweets).

Rep. Filler Named ‘Freshman Legislator of the Year’ by MIRS

submitted by Christina Guenther

State Rep. Graham Filler of DeWitt was recently selected “Freshman Legislator of the Year” by the Michigan Information & Research Service (MIRS).

According to MIRS, Filler “was recognized for chairing a panel that moved out 35 pieces of legislation that are already public acts, a little less than a quarter of every Public Act in 2019. He oversaw reforms on civil asset forfeiture and raising the age of when teenagers can be charged as adults to 18.”

Filler was selected from among 45 members of the Michigan House and 30 members of the Senate who served their first year in 2019. MIRS, an influential state Capitol newsletter, selects a freshman legislator of the year every two years.

“I wanted to serve as a state representative to enact good policies that move Michigan forward – and it’s great to be recognized for that,” Filler said.

Filler, who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, has been the driving force behind several criminal justice reforms that advanced this year.

He helped sponsor a plan to end the antiquated policy of treating all 17-year-olds as adults in the criminal justice system, which was signed into law in October. Trying 17-year-olds in juvenile court will allow troubled teens to receive the age-appropriate services they need, making them less likely to become repeat offenders.

The freshman legislator also is spearheading a plan to expand Michigan’s expungement laws and give hundreds of thousands of residents with old, low-level convictions a new opportunity to start fresh. The legislation received overwhelming bipartisan support in the House and is currently under consideration in the Senate.

Filler, a former assistant attorney general, was elected to represent the House’s 93rd District in November 2018. The district includes Clinton County and portions of Gratiot County, including the city of Ithaca and the townships of Sumner, Arcada, New Haven, North Shade, Newark, Fulton, Washington, North Star, Elba, Hamilton, Lafayette and Wheeler.



Preparing for Winter Storm

submitted by Brian Wheeler

Consumers Energy is prepared for what is expected to be a devastating winter storm beginning early Saturday. Freezing rain is expected to begin across much of south central Michigan Saturday morning and continue for several hours. Forecasts are still being updated but as much as one-half to one inch of ice accumulation is possible in a general area from I-94 north to U.S. 10. A half inch of ice can add as much as 500 pounds to a span of power lines. Also accompanying the ice will be gusty winds and heavy snow in Northern Michigan.

This storm will likely lead to downed wires and power outages that could last several days. Hazardous road conditions during and immediately after the storm may delay restoration and damage assessment work as we keep safety our top priority.

Consumers Energy reminds the public to stay at least 25 feet away from a downed wire and anything it is touching. Report downed wires by calling 9-1-1 and Consumers Energy at 800-477-5050. Always assume a downed wire, even if not arcing and sparking, is energized. Our crews are ready to respond as quickly as possible, to make situations safe and restore power.

Consumers Energy encourages the media to visit the Consumers Energy Outage Center at www.ConsumersEnergy.com/OutageCenter for the latest on storm restoration times, tips on what customers can do before, during and after a storm and how customers can sign up for free outage alerts.

In addition to being aware of possible downed wires, the public is reminded, if they lose power, to never use a generator in an attached garage, basement, enclosed patio or near any air intakes. Doing so could cause a generator to produce hazardous levels of carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless and deadly gas. Portable generators should be operated 25 feet outside of any building, away from windows, doors and vents.

Members of the media can contact Consumers Energy Media Relations 24/7 by calling 1-800-557-4625.

Scammers Using Fake Letters in Collections Scam

submitted by Ron Leix

LANSING – Michigan taxpayers with past-due tax debts should be aware of an aggressive scam that’s making the rounds through the U.S. Postal Service, according to the Michigan Department of Treasury (Treasury).

In the scheme, taxpayers receive what appears to be a government-looking letter about an overdue tax bill, asking individuals to immediately contact a toll-free number to resolve a state tax debt. The letter aggressively threatens to seize a taxpayer’s assets — including property and Social Security benefits — if the state tax debt is not settled.

The piece of correspondence appears credible to the taxpayer because it uses specific personal facts about their real outstanding tax debt that’s pulled directly from publicly available information. The scammer’s letter attempts to lure the taxpayer into a situation where they could make a payment to a criminal.

The state Treasury Department corresponds with taxpayers through official letters sent through the U.S. Postal Service, providing several options to resolve an outstanding debt and information outlining taxpayer rights.

Taxpayers who receive a letter from a scammer or have questions about their state debts should call Treasury’s Collections Service Center at 517-636-5265. A customer service representative can log the scam, verify outstanding state debts and provide flexible payment options.

To learn more about Michigan’s taxes and the collections process, go to www.michigan.gov/taxes or follow the state Treasury Department on Twitter at @MITreasury.

Elizabeth Charles Emerging Artist Scholarship Fund

submitted by Barb Whitney

Elizabeth Charles believed in the arts as a vehicle for self-expression and as a means to develop a deeper understanding of our humanity. As a student, she actively championed human equity and diversity. The scholarship fund was established by Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center and Elizabeth’s father, Norm Charles. Funding is provided by Norm Charles, Phyllis Mellon, and additional funders who seek to continue her championship by supporting emerging Michigan artists and amplifying their voices through a monetary award and promotions.

The Elizabeth Charles Emerging Artist Scholarship is part of the Michigan Collegiate Art Exhibition and designed to support emerging artists studying the visual arts seeking to establish a professional presence or enhance an emerging presence. Preference will be given to artists with a vision for or emphasis on enhancing awareness and equity across race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or ethnicity. Annually awarded funds provide up to \$1,000 through a competitive scholarship award.

For more information about the Elizabeth Charles Emerging Artist Scholarship, please visit: www.lansingartgallery.org. Scholarship and Exhibition Submission Deadline (online only): January 23, 2020 at 11:59 PM. For questions please contact Exhibitions and Gallery Sales Director Katrina M. Daniels at katrina@lansingartgallery.org.

For more information about planned giving, or if you would like to consider building an endowment to support Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, please contact Executive Director Barb Whitney at barb@lansingartgallery.org.

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Editorial

Hunting with Hunter

A few months ago Elsie resident Tim Riegle read the Weekly Sportsman's column about the Michigan Pheasant Hunting Initiative (MPHI). Of special interest to him was the Learn to Hunt Pheasant Mentored Hunt event being held on December 14th. This was a joint effort held by the DNR and the MPHI. Tim called and registered himself and eighth grade neighbor Hunter Hufnagle.

The Weekly Sportsman visited with Tim and Hunter the morning of the event at the Saginaw



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster

theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com



Hunter Hufnagle

Field & Stream Club which is located just a mile northwest from the intersection of M-52 and M-46. After newbie hunters were signed in and completed a short survey it was on to practice with some clay pigeons. Next was some classroom time with DNR's Upland Game Bird Specialist Al Stewart with a Michigan Pheasant 101 presentation. Some local DNR conservation officers participated in a safety briefing and then lunch was served. Following the consumption of tasty sub sandwiches all of the hunters boarded vehicles and caravanned south to the Saginaw State Game Area near St. Charles located just east of M-52.

When each group of four hunters and their team leader arrived at designated fields they were greeted by their guide and dog handler. The habitat consisted mostly of long flat fields with tall prairie grass and some shorter fescue. Prior to the teams arriving rooster pheasants were released to supplement the wild population. Because this hunt was during the late season and not on

a game preserve the limit was two male roosters per hunter. The Weekly Sportsman's group was guided by Steve Shine and his daughter Fiona of Haslett and their German Wirehaired Pointer. After almost a two mile hunt through the thick grass the group had seven roosters in game pouches which was just under the legal limit.

After gear and guns were stowed it was off to the DNR Field Office in downtown St. Charles located on Spruce Street alongside the Bad River. All participants completed a post hunting survey and snacked on some more sub sandwiches. The first time pheasant hunters were given lessons on the many different methods to dress gamebirds. The Weekly Sportsman was able to locate Hunter with his two birds and he was all smiles. A lot of work went into this event to make it a success but the real thanks and deserved appreciation goes to hunting mentors like Tim Riegle. Individuals like him who serve as mentors helping youth not only become interested in different types of hunting and fishing but also enjoying their experiences is what it will take for heritage sports and our traditions to continue. Thank you Tim!

-WS



Tom Riegle and Hunter Hufnagle

Meeting Dates and Times

City of Ovid - Meets the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held January 13th at 7pm at City Hall, 114 E. Front St., Ovid.

Sciota Township - Meets the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held January 13th at 7pm at the township hall located at 3990 Leland Rd., Laingsburg.

Victor Township - Now Meets the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held January 13th at 7pm at 6843 Alward Rd., Laingsburg.

Village of Elsie - Meets the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be held January 14th at 7pm at 145 W.Main St., Elsie.

Go Positive - Meets January 14th at 6:45 a.m. at Agro Liquid in St. Johns, 3055 W. M-21.

Laingsburg School Board - Meets the third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 15th at 7p.m. in the high school large meeting room, 8008 Woodbury Rd., Laingsburg.

Ashley School Board - Meets the third Monday of the month. The next meeting will be Monday, January 20th at 7pm. at 104 N. New St., Ashley.

Ovid-Elsie School Board - Meets the third Monday of each month. The next meeting will be Monday, January 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the Information Center at the high school 8989 E. Colony Rd., Elsie.

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Big Brothers Big Sisters Ask All to Make the BIG Resolution

submitted by Persis Sopariwala

January is National Mentoring Month, and Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region is celebrating the volunteers who are serving as mentors ("Bigs") to community youth ("Littles"). In addition, we are encouraging Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, and Shiawassee County members to make the BIG Resolution, and consider volunteering as a Big in the New Year!

Every January, the news is full of the same resolutions: eating healthier, hitting the gym more often, etc. This year, Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region is offering a new, BIG resolution: resolve to become a Big Brother or Big Sister! Volunteering by itself carries numerous positive health advantages, and being a Big Brother or Big Sister is an enjoyable and fulfilling volunteer experience that truly makes a difference in the lives of youth in your community.

"Bettering yourself in the New Year is a great goal," says Rich Howard, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region. "But we know people are also thinking about how to better their community and how to make sure that when they reflect on the year, they know they made a difference. Mentorship is a great way not only to make a difference in your own life, but to make a difference in the life of someone else."

Across our five-county service area, there are approximately 60 youth who have completed the application process for our program, and are waiting to be matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister. However, when you also factor in the amount of youth who are somewhere in the application process to join our program, that number jumps to just over 600. In order to help these youth reach their full potential, more adult volunteers are needed to serve as Bigs. Bigs are personally and thoughtfully matched with a Little in their community, and meet with their Little 2-4 times a month, over the course of one year. Bigs are not required to spend any money while spending time with their Little, and can share the kinds of activities they already like to do.

Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, and Shiawassee County residents can get involved during National Mentoring Month by calling our office at 517-372-0160 or emailing our office at 0196inquiries@bbbsmcr.org. For more information on Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region, please feel free to visit our website at www.bbbsmcr.org and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BBBSMCR.



Ovid Lions Cheese Sale Continues

This year, the cheese is supplied from Natural Way Cheese, a company located in Clare, Michigan. There are eleven varieties, Monterey Jack, Horseradish Gouda, Hot Pepper Jack, Colby Jack, Brick, Colby, Marbled Cheddar, Pepper Jack, Habanero Colby Jack, Gouda, Cheddar and Hickory Smokey White Cheddar.

The cheese is available for \$4.00 for an 8 ounce package or two packages for \$7.00. Swiss is \$8 for one pound package. To order by phone, call Mary at (989)251-8517. The Meridian Weekly will also have the cheese for sale at their office in downtown Ovid. Thank you in advance for your support of the Ovid Lions Club and their fundraising effort.



*With the inclement weather in the area
 please bundle up, have a flashlight
 handy, extra blankets and food!*