



“Farm to Table” Locally Raised Beef

by Deb Price

Tony and Jean Sovis established the Sovis Family Farm in 1958 and to date is the only dairy farm left with an Ovid address. The farm is owned and operated today by Dave and Audrey Sovis. "Back in the day, milk hauler, Glenn Decker had 40 stops on his Ovid milk route," explained Dave. Sovis farms 400 acres, milks a herd of 75 and has 30 beef cattle. They also have chickens and sell farm fresh eggs. The Sovis Farm has offered freezer beef for sale by the quarter, half and whole for twenty years and in the summer of 2019 expanded their business to offer "Farm to Table" locally raised beef by the package.

According to Sovis, there are eight things people should consider when shopping for high quality beef. 1) the animal's diet 2) the animal's living conditions & comfort 3) State Inspection & Licensing 4) the Integrity of the Processing Plant 5) Aging Process of the Meat 6) Type of Packaging 7) Cleanliness & Safety of the Storage Facility 8) Knowing the Origin of the Meat.



"We believe animal comfort is top priority. We maintain groups of 40 or fewer per pasture. Our animals are kept clean and are provided with fresh water and hay at all times which ensures a comfortable, stress-free life," explained Sovis. The animals are fed a farm raised balance of grass forages with limited corn. Alfalfa/grass is produced for winter feed. Alfalfa is a natural source of high protein which gives the animals extra energy they need to endure harsh winter temperatures.

Dave has one full time employee. "Greg Gomez has worked for me for nine years, I couldn't do this without him. I also have had the good fortune of having local Olger family members as employees over the years. Sisters, Abby and Paula work part-time for us today. All of our employees are great with the animals," explained Sovis. Dave and Audrey have two adult sons, Tony and Stephen, who both worked on the family farm as youngsters. The Sovis's also enjoy four grandchildren, ages 3-8.

The "farm to table" locally raised, retail packaged beef include: burger to steaks, roasts and soup bones. They also have oxtail, liver and cheek meat in limited quantities. Currently Dave and Audrey set up each week at remote locations including: NAPA Auto Parts Store on M-21 in Owosso on Thursdays from 3pm-6pm and at Burton Corners (M-21 and Baldwin Road) every Friday from 3pm-6pm. They also set up shop at local festivals and other events. For pricing information visit their facebook page, Sovis Farms Frozen Beef.

You can purchase right from the farm which is located at 8632 W. Mason Road in Ovid. Dave invites you to at call ahead 989-277-7741, let him know you are coming and he will meet you.

See pages 7-19...for Spring Farm Section

Brief Meeting Held by the Ovid-Elsie School Board

by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE - In response to the corona virus and the closing of Michigan's schools Ovid-Elsie Area Schools Board of Education held a brief meeting Monday, March 16, at the administration building. Action was taken to begin a number of the summer projects during the unexpected break.

Under the topic of correspondence officials received a request from David Kirby to donate a thirty-five foot flag pole, and an eight foot by six foot for the football field in memory of his father John Kirby. After very brief discussion the request was approved.

Mr. Craig Coleman, building and grounds director, updated officials on the status of the district buildings. The heat has been turned down in all buildings as a conservation measure. He also reported that cleaning supplies are becoming hard to get, many being placed on back order. In addition, the plan is that after students return sanitizing will take place at the end of each day.

Coleman, also reported that if possible, the construction company that received the bid for the roof at Leonard Elementary School may begin the project the week of Monday, March 23.

Dr. Ryan Cunningham, superintendent, reported that Ovid-Elsie Area Schools will be providing curbside food service for the students Tuesday-Friday and next week Monday-Friday from 11:30-12:30. Pick-up locations are Leonard Elementary the preschool entrance and E.E. Knight the main entrance. There will be no meals during spring break. There will be no admittance into the buildings.

In other actions officials approved the proposed Class of 2020 senior trip, slated for May 17-18, Chicago is the destination. Approved pending students returning to school, CDC guidelines, and actions taken by the State of Michigan.

Next, Mrs. Erin Bancroft, board treasurer, was appointed the represent O-E on the Clinton County RESA board. The alternate will be Mrs. Brooke Wooley.

Mr. Dan Davenport, technology director, presented the bids for the multi-media portion of the bond and grant. This portion includes but not limited to audio, projectors, and speakers. The bid was awarded to Moss Telecommunications, Grand Rapids, Michigan and broken down as follows: bond portion \$190,450 and the grant portion \$72,459. Product will be ordered and installed as it arrives.

Davenport noted on a positive note that on Friday, March 13, ten times the normal rate of books were checked out of the media center by students.

Officials accepted, with regrets, the resignation of athletic director Joel Longstaff who cited that he would like to return to the classroom. The resignation is effective the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Other staff related changes. Ms. Judy Dennison, paraprofessional, will be reassigned to the high school assisting with special education students. A contract was offered to Zach Loynes, paraprofessional, who will be assisting at E.E. Knight Elementary School.

Cunningham discussed the need and possibility for an assistant principle to handle discipline at both elementary schools. It was noted that there have been an increased number of behavior problems in both elementary schools. Discussion followed. The consensus among board members that the position be posted internally.

Finally, it was reported that the administration office would be opened on Friday, March 27 for staff members who wish to take advantage of the Voluntary Severance Package.

Monthly action was taken to approve the consent agenda which included: the meeting agenda, approval of the minutes of the February 19 regular meeting and the closed session; approval of the bills, the monthly financial reports as of February 29, 2020, and a field trip request.

O'Bryant Receives Milestone Chevron Award

The Chevron Award program recognizes Lions for their long-term service, beginning at 10 years and continuing in five year increments until 75 years of service. District Governor, Becky Hamilton presented Ovid Lion member Mike O'Bryant, with his 45 year Milestone Chevron during the clubs monthly meeting in February. O'Bryant also serves as Michigan's District Zone Chairperson, Region 2, Zone 1.

The Chevron Award is aptly named after the chevron symbol in reference to a badge or insignia indicating rank or length of service. The certificate presented to individuals who have earned the award are thanked for their commitment, years of service to the association and the impact made in the community thru projects small and large.

Lion Dave Zell (30 year member), Lion Jack Powell, Lion Dave Porrell and Lion Carl Thornton, all 15 year members, were also recognized at the February meeting. They will be presented their certificates at a future meeting.



Social



Ovid Public Library Closed

The Ovid Public Library Board has closed the Ovid Public Library until at least Monday April 6, 2020, because of the coronavirus. All scheduled activities are cancelled. No fines will be issued during the virus shutdown.

MILLER'S SOFT WATER

For Clean, Rust-Free Water.

Save on Soaps & Detergents

WE RENT OR SELL

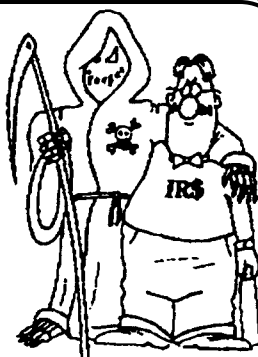
TruSoft Fully Automatic Water

Softening Service

We Service All Makes. (Salt Sales & Deliveries)

9450 E. M-21, Ovid • 989-834-5012

**B
and
B
TAX**



AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Income Tax Service • Electronic Filing

**Offering Investments, Insurance
& Complete Range of Retirement Plans**

Drop off hours will be 8 am to 5 pm

Other hours by appointment

Mailing address is P.O. Box 376, Ovid, MI 48866

DANIEL BUKOVCIK

101 N. MAIN ST., OVID

Phone (989)834-2270

Fax (989)834-2279

Recycling Sites Remain Open

submitted by Kate Neese

The department of Recycling & Waste Management would like to assure everyone in Clinton County that the following drop off recycling services will be continuing, as usual, for the time being. Per the Centers for Disease Control recommendations, please practice social distancing and hand washing to keep yourself and loved ones safe. Please note the recycling drop off center details below:

Both Rural Recycling Sites – located within the Villages of Fowler and Maple Rapids – 24 hours access but residents MUST properly sort materials. No plastic bags and no tanglers (hoses, string lights, etc.) allowed in containers.

St Johns Lions Club Recycling Site – closing on weekends beginning April 3rd. Will be open to the public from 7:00am Monday through 5:00pm Friday. Residents MUST properly sort materials.

Residents are encouraged to contact their municipality directly for additional information on their local recycling services (see attached). Please note, Granger has reported there is currently no disruption or delay in service.

Due to recent Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and State Of Michigan (SOM) guidelines, our department will be suspending the collection of batteries until the week of April 6th. We will reassess the situation at that time.

Both the April 18th RecycleRama event and the Clinton County April 25th Clean Community Event have been canceled.

Also, we encourage everyone to follow Clinton County and Clinton County MI Emergency Services on Facebook for updates and information about County programs and services.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sorting is Important at Clinton County Drop Off Recycling Sites

Clinton County Department of Waste Management would like to remind residents to take the time to properly sort their recyclables into the proper containers at the Rural Recycling Sites. The Rural Recycling Sites are located in Fowler and Maple Rapids. Acceptable materials include all colored glass bottles & jars, metal cans, household plastic containers numbered #1 to #7 (NO Styrofoam or plastic bags please), newspapers, magazines, office paper, junk mail, cardboard and boxboard (NO waxy coated freezer boxes please). Please remember to empty all recyclables before placing them into the proper bin. Contamination has been a problem specifically at the Fowler drop off site in all of the recycling containers.

Please help keep the cost of recycling down and make sure what is put into the bin can be recycled. When in doubt, please contact our office at (989) 224-5186 or email recycle@clinton-county.org or check out our website <https://www.clinton-county.org/196/Waste-Management>.

#RecycleMI #ClintonCountyRecycles

Memorial Healthcare Closed to All Visitors

submitted by Vicki McKay

Under the Executive Order from the Governor of the State of Michigan, Memorial Healthcare is closed to all visitors until April 5, 2020.

We understand that this is a challenging and stressful time. As your healthcare provider we remain committed to providing you the highest quality care as we continue the process of implementing additional measures of prevention and containment of COVID-19. We ask that you continue to follow our website and social media channels to stay up-to-date on any new developments.

MMDHD Confirms First Clinton County Presumptive Positive COVID-19 Case

submitted by Leslie Kinnee

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) has been informed of a presumptive positive COVID-19 case in a Clinton County resident. The specimen will be sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for confirmatory testing.

“We hope this person has a speedy recovery,” said Dr. Jennifer Morse, MMDHD Medical Director. “The Health Department is relying on our communities to work together, be vigilant, and take necessary precautions to slow the spread of illness.”

The Mid-Michigan District Health Department will be contacting those who have been in close contact with the patient and they will be assessed for symptoms and monitored appropriately.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Those experiencing these symptoms and who are at risk of infection (travel to areas with community spread or know exposure to an infected person) should contact their healthcare provider.

Those most at-risk include older adults and those with chronic medical conditions, like heart or lung disease or diabetes.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, residents should wash their hands frequently for twenty seconds, cover coughs and sneezes, stay home when sick, touch their face less, avoid those who are sick and disinfect commonly touched surfaces.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department will provide additional information as it becomes available. Please visit www.mmdhd.org, www.michigan.gov/coronavirus, or www.cdc.gov/COVID-19 for the most up-to-date and accurate information.



Ken Pangborn covers Life

**FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE**

A **Company**

Call today!

(810) 655-4691

6060 Torrey Rd. Ste. G, Flint

kpangbo@fbinsmi.com

Ashley Schools Kindergarten and Pre-School Round-Up RE-SCHEDULED

PRE-SCHOOL:

**Wednesday
April 22
6pm**

KINDERGARTEN:

**Friday
April 24
8:30am - 2:30pm**



Location: Ashley District Library

Children who will be 3 years and 6 months old by September 1, 2020 are eligible for Pre-School. Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2020 (or by Dec. 1, 2020 with waiver) are eligible for Kindergarten. Kindergarten families are asked to call to set up an appointment. 989-847-4000 ext. 1003. Pre-School: ext. 1010

Obituaries

Alden M. "Al" Page

Alden M. "Al" Page, age 88, of Ovid, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 15, 2020, with his son Jim at his side.

He was born on February 23, 1932, the son of C. & Mary Ellen (Mendinal) Page. He married Mary Carney and she passed away in 2011.

He served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. He later went to work for General Motors for 33 years, until he retired. He went on to live in Arizona for over 20 years, before moving back to Ovid, for the last 7 years. He enjoyed gardening, lawn care, visiting friends, and going to garage sales. He attended Shepardsville United Methodist Church and was an avid Detroit Tigers Baseball Fan.

He is survived by his children: Jim Page of Ovid, MI; Ken Page of Arizona; Cheryl Page Delarande of Utah; 4 grandchildren: Corey & Christopher Page and Jason & Sarah Thatcher; and one brother Ivan Page. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Mary, and two brothers: Ray and Charlie; and one sister Doris.

Per Al's wishes cremation has taken place and there will be no services.

Online condolences can be sent at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

submitted by Rebecca Zemla

Applications for the TEFAP are currently being taken by phone. This program provides nutritious food, to low-income residents of Shiawassee County.

New Household applicants must meet the 200% Poverty index. Family size 1 - \$24,980; family size 2 \$33,920; family size 3 \$42,660. For each additional family member add \$8,840.

TEFAP packages for Shiawassee County are not available to those who qualify.

The Process - as it stands right now: you may call Capital Area Community Services, Inc. at 989-723 3115. Once registered via telephone, we will share the process with you for pickup. The process is being put into place to protect you and CACS staff. If you are already registered and did not pick up in February, call us and we will make arrangements for you to pick up.

If you do not already have someone designated to pick up your food, you may call the CACS office 989-723-3115 and let us know who you are designating to pick it up. If you are not registered, please call the office at 989-723-3115 to pre-register.

Available hours are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.



WATKINS BROTHERS
FUNERAL HOMES

OWOSSO • CORUNNA • DURAND
PERRY • LAINGSBURG • BANCROFT

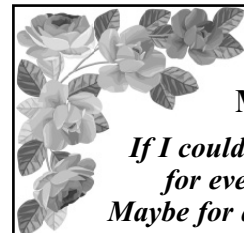
WatkinsFuneralHomes.com

Wade Michael Nieman 11/18/74 - 3/22/10



*10 years since we have seen your
handsome face, your wonderful
smile, and heard your voice.
So many things have changed but
one thing never will.
We loved you then.
We love you now. Will love you
for all of tomorrow.
Always in our hearts.
Your Loving Family*

In Memory of Jamie Butcher Ladisky May 29, 1973 - March 25, 2006



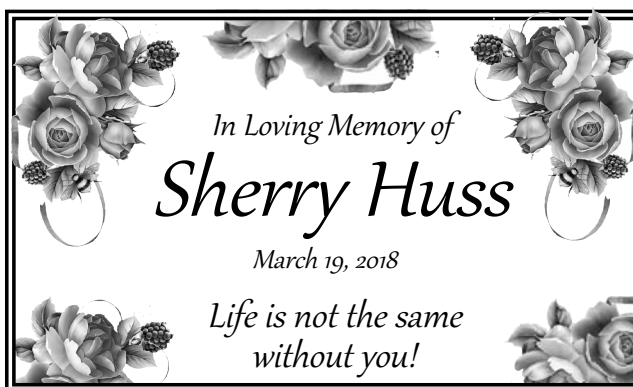
*If I could visit Heaven
for even one day
Maybe for a moment the
pain would go away.
I'd put my arms around you
and whisper words so true
That living life without you is
the hardest thing to do.
No matter how I spend the day, No matter what
I do, No morning dawns or evening falls when
I don't think of you.*



*I love you - I miss you
Mom*

←→ SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing means staying away
from close contact in public spaces.

In Loving Memory of
Sherry Huss
March 19, 2018
*Life is not the same
without you!*

*Memorialize
your loved one*



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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Advertise In Our Church Directory! Call (989) 834-2264

**Bannister United
Methodist Church**
103 Hanvey Street
Pastor: Zella Daniel
Sunday Worship 11:00am

**FAITH FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE CHURCH**
Corner of Price & Chandler, St. Johns
Pastor: John Jakus
Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship Service 10:30am
517-651-6210



Grove Bible Church
Loving God & Loving People
Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 10:45 am, 6 pm
Youth Group 6 pm
Wednesday
AWANA 6:30 pm
Prayer Meeting 7 pm
517-651-5729
www.grovebiblechurch.org
6990 E Price Rd, St. Johns

FENMORE BAPTIST
Preaching the KJV, Traditional Hymns
Sunday School 10am
Jr. Church 11am
Sun. A.M. Worship 11am
Sun. P.M. Worship 6pm
Pastor Ron Lovell
989-842-0068
7888 Hollister Rd, Elsie



**HEARTLAND
CHURCH OVID**
*Join Us Sundays
at 11:00 a.m.*
8440 E. M-21, Ovid
Visit Us Live on
Facebook

**ELSIE UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**
160 W. Main St., Elsie (989) 862-5239
Community Dinner Every Thursday
at 6pm
Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: Ava Euper

**FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH**
163 W. Main St., Elsie
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Roger Numerich

**Duplain
Church of Christ**
5565 E. Colony Rd.
(3 mi. W. of O-E H.S.)
Sunday School
10:00 a.m.
Worship Service
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group
Senior Minister: Chuck Emmert
Associate Minister: Andrew Goodrich
www.duplainchurch.org

United Church of Ovid
Office Hours: 9-Noon Mon - Fri
Sundays am: 10:45 - Hymnsing
11:00 - Worship
131 West Front Street
Ovid, MI 48866 • (989) 834-5958
www.unitedchurchofovid.org
or on Facebook
Rev. Melanie Young

**Eureka Christian
Church**
2619 E. Maple Rapids Rd., Eureka
Sundays:
10:00 a.m. Worship Service and
Children's Church
6:30 p.m. Youth Group
(Sept. - May)
Pastor Keith Whipple:
989-763-9675 (cell)
Office: 989-224-7709

**Middlebury United
Methodist Church**
8100 W. Hibbard Rd., Ovid
989-834-2573
 **Worship Service**
9:30 a.m.
Rev. Melanie Young

**LAINGSBURG
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**
210 CRUM ST.
517-651-5531
Children's Sunday school: 9am
Adult Sunday school: 9am
and 11:45am
Worship: 10am
Pastor Brian West
laingsburgumc@gmail.com

**St. Cyril Catholic
Church**
Bannister
Mass: Sun 10:30am,
Wed. 9:00am,
Word & Communion
Every 3rd Friday at 9am
Confession:
Sun 11:30am
We Welcome You to Come...

Editorial...continued on page 21



Religious Thoughts

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

There is a large amount of uncertainty today, isn't there? With Covid-19, everyday life has been radically changed. Thankfully, God never changes. Hebrews 13:8 says that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Even in very uncertain times, there is a presence, friends. There is always a presence.

The presence of Almighty God. Right here. Right in your midst.

No matter what you are going through.

No matter what question or questions you are dealing with. God knows.

God knows. Jesus, fully human and fully God experienced the death of His friend John the Baptist. He was mocked. Misunderstood. Called names. People were so mad at one time that they tried to throw Him off a cliff!

He was beaten, tortured before He was put on the cross.

So, God knows pain, hurt and frustration because He's been there. These aren't foreign concepts to Him. He's experienced them.

God knows.

God is with you everyday. Through shared experiences and personally through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit if you are a believer in Him.

God is with you every step of the way.

And He is enough.



Have a Question for Andy?

Submit them to:
ask_andy@aol.com

You can also mail or drop questions off to: Meridian Weekly
P.O. Box 11, Ovid, MI 48866

Dear Andy,

Is it really going to be only 3 weeks are children are out of school? What do we tell them is happening? What can we do to help them not fall behind?

Mom & Dad

Dear Mom and Dad and other family providers,

Thank you for your job raising the next generations and encouraging your children academically and socially. Attendance is higher, less absents means students are learning more. State standardized testing scores in reading, math and science are also higher. More scholarships are being awarded. We are at a crucial point in the history of education to offer more to students in the next 20 years than even the last 20 years. A variety of jobs and professions are providing our next generations an opportunity to become contributing adults in our society. Families are stressing education more and their support is vital to our future successes, cures, inventions, medical professionals and teachers. Educators and parents are our strength in helping prepare our children.

Psychologically, we need to not alarm our children, even though this is one of the most serious situations and challenges globally affected, due to the quick spread of the virus and no cure. Depending on the age of your children, it is not necessary to have them hear the news, especially the very young and sensitive people with special needs who are easily stressed or confused. Explain about the flu and help them learn how to keep germs from spreading. Watch for signs which are noted by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for the dangerous coronavirus: high fever; dry cough, trouble breathing, pre-existing autoimmune diseases or have air traveled within the last few months. Your doctor will know if you need to have the COVID-19 test.

To address your questions: 3 weeks could easily become 3 months according to some mathematicians and scientific researchers who are analyzing the movement of the pandemic in other countries. Many schools have already decided to discontinue face to face learning. If that happens in our state, the Department of Education will make accommodations. However, taking personal responsibility to educate your children is a wise step in the right direction so they will not fall behind.

Our school administrators and teachers do not want our students to fall behind so they are encouraging parents and caregivers of children and teens to keep up a routine. At school, students are in a structured environment. Set up a schedule to go to bed and get up at a reasonable time. Sleep is good for us but not sleeping all day which can cause laziness and depression. Have time frames for chores, reading, watching tv, limit electronics, include breaks and lunch and special activities. Allow them to talk on the phone with their friends. Make a chart or to-do list. If you have younger children, they love to play school. Give them assignments and have their siblings or stuffed animal for students if there are no other children available. Play time is also important.

Our local school administration has recommended several educational websites: One of my favorites www.Khanacademy.org. features selections according to grade level and subject matter. Some others recommended include: www.nsa.gov/kids/home.shtml, for reading programs: www.Spellingcity.com, www.ixl.com, www.starfall.com, www.fun-brain.com. Middle school and young adolescent books have comprehension questions on Khootz.com divided up into chapters. Great prep for the PSAT and other assessment exams. Math: www.coolmathgames.com, www.multiplication.com Social Studies: www.teenkidsnews.com and news www.cnn studentnews.org with Carl Azuz. Try www.getepic.com/ and www.brainpop.com.

Plan a card or board game night and pop some popcorn for a family movie night at least once or twice a week. Read a

book together. No matter your age, its fun to listen when someone else is reading an exciting book. Learn their video games. You might be surprised how fun it could be for you... and them. Get some exercise. Go for a walk. Turn on music and dance. Let the kids take turns leading the family in stretches and jumping jacks. Take turns making meals...eating home is going to become the norm. Set up the trampoline...it will be spring and sunny again soon.

Practice social distance but get social at home. Practice preventive hygiene - wash your hands with soap and use an alcohol-based sanitizer. We will survive. Be Safe, Be Healthy and Be Kind. Just a little advice from Andy at andy_andy@aol.com



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

Ever wonder what rocks your world? Not always a good thing to be pensive for the fates may show you.....and your perceptions will change. Age also signifies much in our world. It used to be that the elderly were looked to for wisdom, not so much now..... Yes, there are exceptions; maybe if you are politically connected, or extremely wealthy your wisdom will be sought though I believe that checking out all your advisors would work just as well. Personally I would be more interested with other common folk who have lived through much and are willing to share their experiences, talents, and knowledge. Have you ever noticed that mentors share only what they feel you can assimilate? Seems to be that "need to know" is not just a CIA conundrum.

Have you ever noticed that there is always a missing ingredient in shared recipes.....if not ingredient than maybe method or measure? After all there is a big difference between blend and beat..... Of course this also can be applied to gardening tips, yard tips or mulching advice. We all have a tendency to apply our perception to a situation and sometimes forget to follow the directions as written.....In all honesty; I believe that when we share information that we may not stress important points well. Sometimes information hits us like a backhanded compliment. Think about it.

Have you ever felt like a flock of sheep.....only you are left leaderless, the shepherd is busy rescuing other sheep. This is not the great depression and yet the government has shut down schools, colleges and even churches because of the coronavirus. Folks are panicking and trying to get stocked up on their paper products. At the local Dollar General I watched as some people got a bit aggressive and played a tug of war with toilet paper.

To me it was a sad time, according to the US News & World Report dated March 15, 2020 the fatalities in the United States soared past sixty; then a couple of lines below "about 65 have died". I believe that there are over three hundred and thirty million people living here in the United States there have been a total of sixteen thousand deaths from the common flu. So how does 65 become soaring fatalities? Please do not get me wrong, losing a loved one is hard on us all.....I'm just tired of how the media is portraying the threat.

Have you looked at the new census questionnaire? I have and have become rather curious as to how the information will be used. Now, we are to let the government know where our ancestors come from.....first the race options are Hispanic? White? Or Black/Afro-American? If you are both White and Native American you are to check only one box. What if you are equally both? Then what is our origin.....why is this necessary?

Thank goodness the weather is becoming milder. Be hopeful because it is just a season of the year and spring really is just around the corner. Then there will be different aggravations on their way..... pulling weeds. Stay warm and be positive, it really does help. Hopefully we all will be blessed with good health and our horizons will not be mired with the flu. God bless you.

Crystal Mitchell ©2020

Your Hometown Paper Since 1992



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



I just wanted to say thank you, to everyone involved, in making my benefit on February 29th, a huge success! I'm so touched and humbled by the turnout and support I received, from so many classmates and friends. Dealing with such a scary and helpless diagnosis and prognosis, this benefit assured me that you are all there for me! I'm just so grateful to you all!!

From the gorgeous decorations by Monalisa Rodriguez, the delicious food, made by so many people, and the beautiful gifts for the auction, that were donated by so many friends, I'm extremely touched!

The night ended with two awesome bands, whose members were my classmates, Steve Huffman, Bill Hitchens, and Steve Chapko. Their bands are Sinners and Saints and Bachelors Since Breakfast. They were amazing!

Everything was perfect!

I also want to thank the board members of the American Legion Hall in Elsie, who allowed us to use the hall as my venue.

Finally, I'd like to thank my good friend Janice Houska Gulick! She was the ring leader in all of this! None of this would have ever been possible, if it weren't for her! For that, I will be eternally grateful!

Thank you for fighting this fight with me!

I love you all!

Brenda Nicholas

SOCIAL DISTANCING

AVOID

GROUP GATHERINGS
SLEEP OVERS
PLAY DATES
CONCERTS
THEATRE OUTINGS
ATHLETIC EVENTS
CROWDED RETAIL STORES
MALLS
NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL
BARS & RESTAURANTS

What you need to know about COVID-19

USE CAUTION

VISITING A GROCERY STORE
PICK UP & DELIVERY OF FOOD
PICKING UP MEDICATIONS
PLAYING TENNIS IN A PARK
ESSENTIAL TRAVEL
VISITORS IN YOUR HOME
MASS TRANSIT

SAFE TO DO

TAKE A WALK
GO FOR A HIKE
CLEAN OUT CLOSET
READ A GOOD BOOK
LISTEN TO MUSIC
COOK A MEAL
FAMILY GAME NIGHT
GO FOR A DRIVE
GROUP VIDEO CHATS
STREAM A FAVORITE SHOW
CALL OR TEXT A FRIEND
CALL OR TEXT A ELDERLY NEIGHBOR



Wine and Canvas Night Out

submitted by Cindy
Suggate

Once again the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 248 will be have a Wine and Canvas Night Out. It will be held Friday April 17th at 7:00 pm at the American Legion Post 248 in Laingsburg. The cost is \$30.00 per person and you will need to preregister and pay by April 10th. You may preregister and pay in Dug Out at the American Legion in Laingsburg. It is a great time and it gets you out of the house for a couple of hours.

Arthur Honored for Sales Achievement

Edward J. Arthur, Ovid, Mich., a representative of Modern Woodmen of America, has been named to Modern Woodmen's President's Club.

This distinction recognizes Arthur's high achievement in the sales of financial products to meet families' protection, savings and retirement needs. Arthur ranks among the organization's representatives nationwide.

The local Modern Woodmen office is located at 9790 East M 21 in Ovid. Contact Arthur at 989-834-3300 for more information.

Founded in 1883, Modern Woodmen of America is a fraternal financial services organization offering financial products and fraternal member benefits to individuals and families throughout the United States.



Congratulations Mason!

on qualifying for
State Wrestling Finals

We're all
proud of
you!



20/20 FRAME STYLE SHOW

TUESDAY, MARCH 24
4PM - 8PM

50% OFF FRAMES

HUGO
LizClaiborne
new york
rag & bone
NEW YORK
TIMEX
VERA WANG
EYEWEAR

20-100% OFF LENS OPTIONS

Eye Exams for \$52! Call to schedule, appointments fill up fast!

Laingsburg
Eye Care P.C.

Dr. Marsha Brandon, O.D.
252 E. Grand River, Laingsburg
517-651-6608

In Loving Memory of
Delain B. Reha
Dec. 31, 1933 ~ March 16, 1990

It's been a long 30 years since you left us. Moms and Grandmas are very special people in our lives and we had the best. There wasn't anything you couldn't do--drive combine, tractors, semis, best cook ever, crochet, sew, loved animals, especially deer. I think you could talk to them. You are so very dearly missed by all of us. You were an awesome Mom and dearly loved by your grandkids! Not a day goes by that we don't think

*We miss you Ma - Grammie--
you were a very special lady!*

*Love you,
Robin, Joey, Jason
& Family*

Glory Weekend Rescheduled

submitted by Marsha Numerich

On Friday, May 8th at 6:45pm; Saturday, May 9th 9am-4pm and Sunday May 10th at 9:30pm the First Baptist Church, 163 W. Main St., Elsie will be holding Glory Weekend.

What Is a Glory Weekend?

It's a weekend for a great spiritual upgrade that opens the way to experience a closer walk with God, and to experience increased empowerment in the Holy Spirit to live a victorious Christian life. Brought to you by Holy Spirit Renewal Ministries the weekend is conducted by a team, and includes times of praise and worship, teaching and testimonies, group sharing, fellowship, and prayer ministry. Glory Weekends are designed to fan into flame fresh passion for the Lord in the heart of the believer, to release hope and encouragement in believers and church groups as they seek God's personal and corporate vision and mission.

For more information call 989-862-5680.

COVID-19 Phone Scam

submitted by Leslie Kinnee

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) has learned of scam related to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Some Michiganders have received phone calls from someone claiming to be a nurse following up on recent COVID-19 test results. They are told that they tested positive for COVID-19 and they need to provide their credit card information in order to have antibiotics shipped to them.

This is a scam. If a nurse calls with test results of any kind, she/he will never ask for credit card information. Also, antibiotics are not used to treat COVID-19.

Please visit www.michigan.gov/coronavirus for up-to-date information on Coronavirus (COVID-19).



L-R Pastor Ed Owens, Pastor Roger Numerich and Pastor Ralph Parkin.

Elsie First Baptist News

submitted by Richard Easlick

On Sunday March 15th, the Elsie First Baptist Church held an Installation Service for their Pastor Roger Numerich. Pastor Ed Owens from the American Baptist Convention conducted the service. Retired Pastor Ralph Parkin witnessed the installation and performed the closing prayer. Pastor Roger has been ministering for a year at the Elsie First Baptist Church. Feel free to come visit our new pastor.

HAVE YOU "HERD" ABOUT THE GREAT DEALS AT SIGNATURE OWOSSO



'16 FORD TAURUS



SAVE \$1,227!

LTD LOADED
MARKET VALUE
\$16,225

BUY NOW!
\$14,998

Stk 19581

'17 FORD C-MAX



SAVE \$1,001!

ENERGI SE
HYBRID
MARKET VALUE
\$15,999

BUY NOW!
\$14,998

Stk 19577

'16 FORD MUSTANG



SAVE \$1,811!

PREMIUM
ECOBOOST
MARKET VALUE
\$22,799

BUY NOW!
\$20,988

Stk 19575

'14 CADILLAC ATS



SAVE \$1,300!

2.0L TURBO
AWD
MARKET VALUE
\$13,798

BUY NOW!
\$12,498

Stk 19534A

'14 FORD FLEX



SAVE \$1,052!

SEL AWD
LEATHER NAV
MARKET VALUE
\$15,950

BUY NOW!
\$14,898

Stk 19489B

'13 LINCOLN MKT



SAVE \$749!

ECOBOOST AWD
MARKET VALUE
\$11,647

BUY NOW!
\$10,898

Stk 810A

'14 JEEP CHEROKEE



SAVE \$1,202!

SPORT
ONLY 40K MILES
MARKET VALUE
\$14,050

BUY NOW!
\$12,848

Stk 19454A

'19 FORD EXPEDITION



SAVE \$3,177!

MAX LTD 4WD
MARKET VALUE
\$53,175

BUY NOW!
\$49,998

Stk 19544

PLUS TAX, TITLE, LIC DOC FEE

Signature Auto Group
Ford LINCOLN OWOSSO

1960 E. Main St., Owosso, MI
(989) 725-2888 ~ 800-364-2868
www.sigautogroup.com

WE'RE OPEN

FOR TAKE-OUT ONLY
6AM - 2PM

* Daily Specials

* Sunday Dinner:

Fried or Smothered Chicken

Turkey & Roast Beef with Dressing

* Friday Night Fish Fry

Fish ~ Chips ~ Cole Slaw

Mary's Country Kitchen

M-21 Ovid
(989) 834-9640



Beauty and Barbershop Directory

If you would like to place your ad in our directory, please call us today at:
(989) 834-2264

Country Styles Hair Studio

Hair Care!

Owner/Stylist Meri Smith

Manicurist/Stylist Erica Nichols

Appointments Suggested

989-862-5848

109 S. Ovid St. Elsie

Open 5 days M. & W. 9-8;

Th. 9-5; Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-1;

Closed Tues. & Sun.

Handicap Accessible

Corner Carousel

133 S. Main St. Ovid

Stylists: Patty Coleson, Colleen Pennell,

Grace Ruckle, Loni Plowman

Full line of Hair & Nail Care Products

Matrix, Paul Mitchell, Malibu, Redken, Biolage

Whirlpool Pedicure Spa

Tanning Facilities • Tanning Lotions • Gift Certificates Available.

Call for an appt.

Mon.-Sat. 834-2587





Meridian Weekly

FARM SECTION 2020

PENNINGTON FARM DRAINAGE

18885 W. Sharon Rd., Oakley

Contact Mike 989-413-1940

Third Generation Drainage Contractors,
With The Most Experience and Best Equipment In The Area.



**Over 100
Years
of Combined
Experience!**

- Farm drainage
- Land Clearing
- Excavating
- GPS mapping and design

**INCREASE YOUR PROFITS
WITH A FARM TILE SYSTEM!**

Give Us A Call Today For Your
Free Estimate on Design & Installation



John
MOOLENAAR
FOR CONGRESS

**Thank you Farmers for Working
Hard to Feed America!**

www.JohnMoolenaarForCongress.com

Paid for by Moolenaar for Congress | PO Box 2192 | Midland, MI 48641

SPRING FARM SECTION

USDA Seeks Applications to Restore Wetlands

EAST LANSING— The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking applications from Michigan landowners who want to restore wetlands on their property. Applications submitted by March 31, 2020, will be considered for selection for the current fiscal year.

Land that formerly contained a wetland but was converted to agricultural use may be eligible for enrollment in the USDA's Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The program provides financial assistance for restoring wetlands and the purchase of long-term or permanent easements from landowners. Landowners enrolled in the program retain ownership of the land and control over access to the property as well as recreational use of the land.

The USDA restores and purchases wetland easements for their environmental benefits. Wetlands improve water quality by filtering water before it enters lakes and rivers. They also store water following heavy rains and snowmelts, reducing the frequency and severity of flood events and recharging ground water. Wetlands also provide valuable habitat for a wide variety of wildlife including fish, waterfowl, raptors, amphibians and many others.

Landowners can find out more about the USDA Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and wetland restoration by contacting their local Natural Resources Conservation Service office. Office contact information is available at www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov.

Explore a Career in Agriculture



The agricultural industry provides a variety of opportunities to professionals interested in this often misunderstood field.

According to the employment resource AGCareers.com, more than 250 career profiles are available to people interested in a career in agriculture. And while jobs in agriculture may not be as prevalent as they were a few centuries ago, when 72 percent of the workforce was employed in farm occupations in the United States, agriculture remains a booming industry that greatly affects the nation's economy. Today, one in 12 American jobs

is depends on agriculture, according to the career resource Payscale.

The following are some potential professions for those considering careers in agriculture.

- **Agricultural business manager:** This person oversees the business operations of a farm by providing organization and leadership during the production process. He or she contacts creditors, selects seeds, buys new equipment, and ensures the distribution of product.

- **Agricultural lawyer:** Attorneys who specialize in agriculture deal with water and environmental issues, represent agricultural labor in disputes, ensure proper marketing techniques are followed, handle real estate and land use issues, and much more.

- **Animal control officer:** These officers enforce local and regional laws that pertain to the treatment and care of animals. They patrol for distressed animals and ensure cruelty-free practices are adhered to.

- **Grain buyer:** Grain buyers build relationships with producers so they can purchase grain for their particular companies. They negotiate purchase agreements, source grain supplies and issue purchase orders.

- **Poultry hatchery manager:** Hatchery managers oversee all of the aspects involved in poultry hatching. These can include management of personnel, handling and sorting of eggs, maintenance of equipment, coordination of pick-ups and deliveries, and overseeing quality control.

- **Soil scientist:** Among the many tasks they might perform, scientists in the field of agriculture test soil samples for minerals and contaminants. By studying the soil, scientists can recommend which crops the land can support, how much livestock can feed in an area and the implications of agriculture on the area as it pertains to managing natural resources.

A career in agriculture presents many exciting opportunities in a number of different applications. It's a vast industry that utilizes professionals with an array of skillsets.



FARM TOUGH

**Gilberts stock a full selection
of Speed Queen Laundry
ready for delivery or pickup!!!**

We Buy Truckloads &
Pass the Savings on to You!!!



7 Year
Parts & Labor
Warranty!

Stk: TR7000WN

Stk: DR7000WE



GILBERTS
HARDWARE & APPLIANCE

113 W. Main Street • Downtown Owosso • 989-723-2330
OPEN: Mon.-Fri. 8am-8pm, Sat. 8am-5:30pm, Sun. 10am-4pm



Headquarters For
Appliances & TVs



AUCTION SERVICE

Serving Mid-Michigan Customers with Honesty & Integrity for Generations

989-288-4600

www.xyzauctionservice.com

**Online Auctions • Business Liquidations • Farm
Machinery • Consignment • Estate • Change of Operation**

**Part of the 1800lastbid.com family with 600,000 +
registered bidders worldwide!**

**8800 E. Lansing Rd. Durand,
Michigan 48429**



SPRING FARM SECTION

How Farmers are Using Drones

The farmers of yesteryear might not be too familiar with their surroundings if they were to visit a modern farm. While the men and women who made their livings as farmers decades ago would no doubt still recognize certain farm features that have withstood the test of time, they might not understand the inner workings of the modern farm, particularly in regard to the role technology now plays within the agricultural sector.



Technology has changed agriculture in myriad ways. The methods farmers employ to produce food and improve the efficiency of their operations has changed as technology has evolved. One of the more noticeable changes that's hard to miss on modern farms is the use of agricultural drones.

Drones have been around for decades. Sometimes referred to as "unmanned aerial vehicles," or "UAVs," drones can be utilized in ways that can save farmers money and protect the planet.

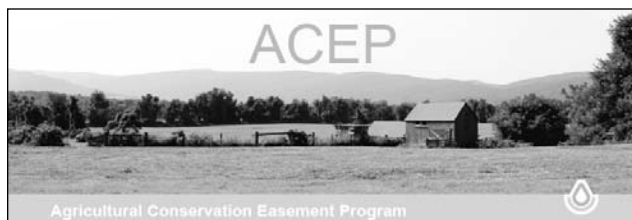
- **Monitor crops:** According to senseFly, the commercial drone subsidiary of Parrot Group, drones can help farmers effectively monitor their crops. With a drone flying overhead, farmers can spot and quickly identify issues affecting their crops before those issues escalate into something larger.

- **Soil analysis:** Another potential benefit of agricultural drones highlights their role in analyzing soil. Agricultural drones utilize complex mapping functions to gather data about the soil, including areas where it might be stressed. That enables farmers to develop accurate soil samples that can be used to guide decisions in regard to irrigation and fertilization.

- **Reduce waste:** SenseFly notes that data gathered by drones can help farmers determine the vigor of their crops at various stages of growth. Such information can prevent over-fertilization and overwatering, thereby reducing waste and runoff, benefitting the planet as a result.

- **Planning:** Drones can be used to collect data on crop growth and health at various times throughout the growing season. That can help farmers develop accurate predictions regarding harvest quality and crop yield, making it easier for them to plan ahead.

Agricultural drones are one of the many examples that illustrate how technology has changed and will continue to change the ways modern farmers conduct business.



USDA Offers Assistance to Protect Agricultural Lands

EAST LANSING – The U.S. Department of Agriculture encourages groups wanting to protect agricultural lands to consider enrolling in its Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. The current deadline for organizations to submit applications for the program is March 31, 2020.

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance to help tribes, land trusts, and other groups protect agricultural lands through the purchase of permanent easements. Agricultural land easements purchased through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program focus on conserving productive agricultural lands and grasslands. Landowners are compensated for enrolling their land in easements.

Land preservation organizations interested in enrolling in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program should contact their local USDA Service Center. Individuals interested in enrolling land in an agricultural land easement should contact a local farmland preservation organization. More information about the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and Agricultural Land Easements is available online at www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov.



- Custom Machining & Fabricating
- Custom Welding

989-277-9756 • 7820 S. Ruess Rd., Owosso
WWW.JSTOOLING.NET

FARM OWNERS



Sovis Insurance Agency
615 W. Broad St. • Chesaning, MI 48616
(989) 845-3400 • www.sovisins.com



Contact Us Today!

Hall Well Drilling

Three
Generations
of Experience

- Rock Wells • Gravel Wells
- Plastic Well Screens

"We Use the Finest Quality Materials"

Submersible, Jet
& Shallow Well
Pump Repair



Jake Hall
(989) 723-1104

Rod Hall
(989) 725-5735

2517 W. Dewey Rd., Owosso

**FREE
ESTIMATES**

MILLER'S REDI-MIX



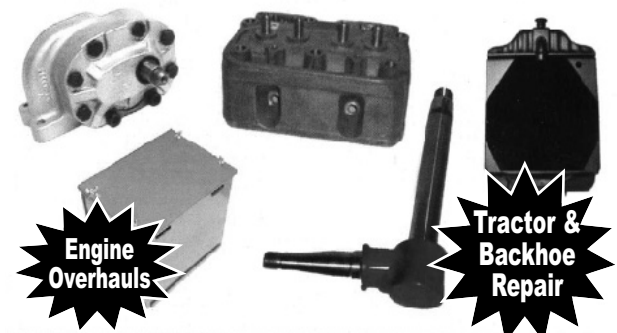
**6218 S. Wright Rd.
Westphalia
(989) 587-6511**

SEE US FIRST!



Owosso Tractor
Repair & Parts

1003 S. Washington, Owosso



Engine
Overhauls

Tractor &
Backhoe
Repair

NEW • USED • REBUILT

- Carburetor Rebuilding
- Magneto Rebuilding
- Hydraulic Pump Rebuilding
- John Deere 2 Cylinder Power Steering Rebuilding & Repair

Local **(989) 729-6567**

**Mackinac Bridge
Antique Tractor Crossing
September 11, 2020**

bob@owossotractorparts.com
jeremy@owossotractorparts.com



www.owossotractorparts.com

APPLEBEE OIL & Propane



989-834-2828

989-224-3875

SPRING Oil Sale

NOW THRU APRIL

Call today for a price quote.

55 gallon drums and 5 gallon pails

SPRING FARM SECTION

What to do Differently in 2020

by Gary Truitt, Michigan Ag Today

With March upon us, it is time to make final preparation for the 2020 growing season. What should growers consider doing differently in 2020? According to Scott Walker with Pioneer, there is not a lot that farmers need to do differently, "I will treat it like any normal year. Let's remember 2019 was an abnormal year." He reminds growers to get their fields in good shape, "We don't want to tear up these fields any more than they already are." Walker says even selection of hybrids should not be influenced by what happened in 2019, "Stick with the plan that you normally go with. If we have to adjust to shorter season varieties, we can do that if conditions warrant."



KEVES

Concrete

**Stamped Concrete
Decorative Concrete**

Driveways - Sidewalks - Floors
Stamped, Colored or Decorative Concrete

Concrete at a Reasonable Price

Serving Owosso Area

989-413-0954

Wet conditions have delayed planting the last 2 years, so growers are very anxious to get the crop in early this year. Walked said improvements in genetics will allow growers to put those seeds in the ground a bit earlier, "The advancements we have made in our breeding program and with our new seed treatment LumiGen — we can really protect the seed while it is in the ground and really protect it all the way through those early growth stages." He added, by planting early, growers can take advantage of increased growing degree days and improve yields.

Local field conditions vary, so Walker said to be sure to consult with your local agronomist or crop consultant.

Maintenance Key to Functioning Farms

The family automobile is not the only piece of equipment that requires routine upkeep to ensure it is operating properly.

Life on a farm can come to a screeching halt if farm equipment is not properly maintained. Farmers invest hundreds of thousands of dollars on agricultural equipment, such as tractors, tillers, hoppers, and dozers. Adhering to maintenance schedules can prevent breakdowns and decrease the need for potentially costly emergency repairs.



Keep it clean

Cleaning the surface of equipment can go a long way toward keeping it operating smoothly. Use a pressure washer to remove caked-on mud and other debris. Titan iron suppliers recommend quickly washing equipment after usage so that substances do not have the chance to harden.

Learn the equipment

Over time, it is possible to employ your senses of sight, sound and even smell to determine if equipment is working properly. Familiarize yourself with the owner's manual so you can troubleshoot minor problems. Any unusual sounds, odors or responses from the gear should be noted.

Routine maintenance checks

Routinely inspect hoses, fittings, and seals to ensure they are in good working condition. Be sure fluids, such as coolant and oil, are at the proper levels. Check and replace filters as needed. Tires need to be properly inflated, and inspect the battery for corrosion or other signs that it may need to be replaced. Check belts for cracks. Tour the exterior of the equipment looking at signals and lights to ensure they are in proper working order. Hardware should be tightened and any missing pieces replaced.

Heavy farm equipment needs motor oil, hydraulic oil and filters changed more frequently than automobiles. Such equipment also may need more frequent lubrication of chains and cables. Always check and inspect equipment prior to jobs requiring heavy and extended usage.

Expect some welding

Have a knowledgeable welder on call to make repairs as needed, or develop your skills to a point where you feel comfortable making your own spot repairs. The experts at Miller, producers of welding equipment, say cleaning the surface area and removing any paint, oil or corrosion from the metal area that needs repairing can make for smooth, durable welds. Multi-process welding generators and accessories can ensure the right welds for repairs in the field or in the shop.

Maintenance on farm equipment helps keep operations running along and protects expensive investments.

MID-MICHIGAN LIME & GYPSUM



FOR LAND SAKES - LIME IT

We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them!

Products Available

- Gypsum • Beet Lime • Dolomite Lime • Poultry Fertilizer
- Municipal Waste Spreading • Total Custom Spreading
- Pen Packed Manure Spreading
- All Spreaders GPS Bar Equipped For Accuracy

Greg DeMott

583 W. Roosevelt Road, Ashley, MI 48806

Bus. 989-838-4103 Fx 989-838-2260 Cell 517-204-3013

Shiawassee County Fair

August 9-15, 2020



- Livestock Shows
- Great Food
- Carnival Rides
- Tractor Pulls
- Country Music Artist - DeWayne Spaw

- Commercial Vendors
- Livestock Auctions Friday & Saturday
- Free Entertainment Nightly
- Grandstand Excitement
- Demolition Derby



Camping & Non-Fair Event Space Available April - October

2900 E. Hibbard Rd., Corunna • 989-743-3611
www.shiawasseeefair.com



SPRING FARM SECTION

Bill to Allow Cover Crops on Prevented Plant Acres in Future

by Michigan Farm Progress

New bipartisan legislation recently was introduced to ensure that farmers can plant beneficial cover crops without facing crop insurance penalties when bad weather prevents them from planting crops for the season.

The Cover Crop Flexibility Act of 2020 was inspired by Sen. Debbie Stabenow and Sen. Gary Peters' successful effort to give flexibility to Michigan farmers after last year's record-setting flooding and wet weather delayed planting.

Currently, crop insurance penalizes farmers for planting cover crops that can be used for livestock grazing or animal feed when farmers can't plant their crops for the season because of bad weather. The bill will permanently lift this restrictive rule and provide certainty if farmers face poor planting conditions again this spring.

The bill was introduced by Stabenow, ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., a longtime member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

"Historic rainfall last year caused many farmers to miss the planting season," Stabenow says. "When extreme weather gets in the way of planting, farmers aren't able to grow beneficial cover crops without facing a crop insurance penalty. This common-sense change permanently fixes that problem and is a win for the environment and for farmers."

Planting cover crops helps farmers get value from their land through grazing and harvesting. It also improves soil productivity and prevents weeds from overgrowing in fields. Cover crops also provide important climate and conservation benefits by storing harmful carbon pollution in the soil and reducing erosion and runoff into the Great Lakes.

Because cover cropping makes farmland more resilient against flooding and drought, it has the potential to lower crop insurance claims, premiums and taxpayer costs.

The Cover Crop Flexibility Act of 2020 is supported by 30 farm and conservation organizations, including the Michigan Agri-Business Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Corn Growers Association, and The Nature Conservancy in Michigan.

"Last year was Michigan's wettest in recorded history, and we remain in a time of above-average precipitation, so this



bipartisan effort by Sen. Debbie Stabenow to help ensure cover crops are an option on acres with prevented planting claims is good news for Michigan agriculture," says Chuck Lippstreu, president of the Michigan Agri-Business Association. "As farmers and their trusted ag retail advisers look to cover crops for both economic and stewardship benefits, the Cover Crop Flexibility Act will provide some added certainty, an important backstop as we start the 2020 planting season."

"This legislation will give farmers some much-needed flexibility in managing their land to deal with unforeseen weather impacts like what we experienced in 2019," says Matt Frostic, president of the Michigan Corn Growers Association. "It also allows us to better protect Michigan's land by strategically using cover crops to improve soil health and fertility, suppress weeds, and reduce soil erosion."

Source: Jess McCarron — press secretary for ranking member Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry — who is solely responsible for the information provided and is wholly owned by the source. Informa Business Media and all its subsidiaries are not responsible for any of the content contained in this information asset.



Ziola Farms



Custom Field Tiling
GPS Controlled
FREE ESTIMATES
Quality & Precision in every foot!

Gene Ziola 989-245-1426
Jeramie Ziola 989-798-4889

S&K FARM AND YARD

Bill Koski, Proprietor
"Fast Reliable Service"

On The Farm
Tire Repair

989-723-2369 3249 S. M-52
Owosso, MI 48867

NOW through MARCH 31st

BUY
3 TIRES
GET THE
4TH FOR \$1



Service Special!

10% OFF*

*10% off service repairs over \$100

OIL CHANGE PACKAGES!*
Buy 3 get 1 FREE!

*See dealer for details

Slingerland
CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM FIAT

989-743-6331
www.slingerlandcars.com

On a farm, you
don't work 9 to 5.

Neither do we.

Let a local independent agent help you
cover all you've worked so hard to build.



THE BEST LOCAL
INSURANCE AGENCY

Ovid Service Agency
Ovid • (989) 834-2288

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

SPRING FARM SECTION

When you sit down for dinner, thank a farmer.



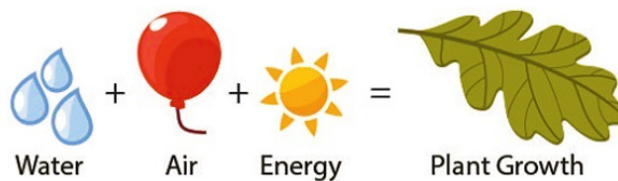
See Us For A Full Range
of Cover Crop Seeds!



MICHIGAN LIVESTOCK SERVICE INC.
110 N. MAIN, OVID • 989-834-2661

Did You Know?

Oxygen is essential for the roots of grass to breathe and grow strong enough to support healthy lawns. But according to the Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, compacted soil can produce a decrease in oxygen content that can make it hard for roots to thrive. Soil compaction can result from a number of activities, including walking on grass or driving or parking vehicles on grass. When soil is compacted, it breaks into small particles that reduce the amount of pore space in the soil. That makes it hard for water, oxygen and nutrients to get through, threatening the strength of the roots and putting the grass in jeopardy. Aerating a lawn can help homeowners foster strong root growth and healthy grass. When to aerate may be contingent upon local climate, so homeowners who suspect the soil in their yards is compact should consult with a local landscaping professional to determine the best time to aerate their lawns.



*A roof over your head is
the most important aspect
of your home*

**FULL GUARANTEE
FROM START TO FINISH**

**Metal Roofing • Flat Roofing • Shingle
Roofing • Siding • Gutters**



702 N. Washington St., Owosso

•• 989-634-1205 ••



Managing Corn and Soybeans in On-Farm Storage

by Michael Staton, MSU Extension

Challenging harvest conditions last fall has led to grain being stored on-farm with higher than normal moisture content. A March 31 webinar will provide information for maximizing grain quality and minimizing health and safety risks.

One of the residual effects of the 2019 growing season is that we have some wetter than normal grain in on-farm storage. This situation poses two threats to producers. The first threat is that the quality of the grain will be reduced if the bins are not managed properly. The second is that wet grain significantly increases the risk for grain bin accidents to occur. An upcoming webinar will address both issues.

Managing Corn and Soybeans in On-farm Storage to Maximize Grain Quality and Reduce Safety Hazards will be held Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 9 to 10 a.m. Ken Hellevang, agricultural engineer at North Dakota State University, will present his latest recommendations for managing corn and soybeans in on-farm storage to maximize grain quality and reduce safety hazards.

Specific topics include natural air drying, safe storage periods, drying soybeans with supplemental heat and grain bin safety procedures. Ample time has been allocated for Hellevang to answer specific questions from participants.

Register online for the webinar. You will receive reminder emails one week, one day and one hour before the webinar. All questions should be directed to me by phone at 269-673-0370 ext. 2562 or by email at staton@msu.edu.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/newsletters>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/experts>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).



**Ken Pangborn
covers Farm**

Call today!

(810) 655-4691

6060 Torrey Rd. Ste. G, Flint

kpanbo@fbinsmi.com



SPRING FARM SECTION

Protect Your Nitrogen in an Early Spring

by Corteva Agriscience

Experts say we could see an early spring in 2020. This prediction has to do with the abnormal weather conditions that have taken place over the last few months — what is being called an open winter.

According to Mike Koenigs, market development specialist, Illinois, Corteva Agriscience, an open winter is when warmer conditions lead to a lack of frost in the soil, allowing moisture to soak in.

“So far, it’s been a warmer-than-average winter, and there is little to no frost in the soil,” Koenigs said. “In a normal, average winter, by early December, we have frozen soil to where it can’t absorb any moisture. When there’s no frost, moisture can still soak in. Therefore, if we don’t get a lot of frost in the soil, that means the soil can dry out and warm up quicker, potentially leading to an early spring.”

While most rejoice at the thought of an early spring and the chance for more temperate conditions to return, those conditions come with some challenges. For one, frozen soil allows for better protection of nitrogen. Mild winters and early springs provide numerous opportunities for nitrate loss via leaching and denitrification.

This year, however, many farmers and retailers were not able to apply nitrogen in the fall due to weather. “The fall of 2018 and 2019 were both significantly wetter than normal,” Koenigs said. “Because of that, it delayed harvest, made it difficult to do fall tillage and fall fertilizer applications were wildly delayed or missed.”

If fall nitrogen applications were missed, spring applications will be crucial. Koenigs says it also will be crucial to protect applied nitrogen with a nitrogen stabilizer.

As farmers look to the upcoming growing season, some best practices include:

Create a nutrient management plan – Work out in advance how much nitrogen and, roughly, when you’ll apply. Stick with that plan, even if corn prices change.

Know your soil – If you’re working with a wet piece of soil that is prone to loss, split up your applications. For example, it might be a good idea to apply nitrogen in spring and then the rest during sidedress.

Use a nitrogen stabilizer – This is an important step to take no matter when you apply nitrogen. N-Serve® and Instinct® nitrogen stabilizers can prevent leaching from the root zone by 16%*.

In all, the projected early spring doesn’t have to be alarming if farmers and retailers closely monitor conditions in their area and are prepared to make appropriate actions in their nutrient management plan, including use of a nitrogen stabilizer.

“N-Serve will keep the nitrogen in the root zone, where the corn needs it later in the season, so nitrogen applications can be made earlier. Earlier applications of nitrogen can potentially help reduce soil compaction,” Koenigs said.



PRE-SEASON BLOWOUT

SAVE UP TO \$500*

* SEE LINK FOR DETAILS

Cobalt/LE (\$250 Instant, \$250 Mail-In I \$500 Total) zero turn mower models in-stock. Eligible purchase amounts do not include attachments, accessories, dealer set-up fee or sales tax. The qualifying products must be purchased between 2/21/20 and 3/31/20. To receive the mail-in rebate in the form of a Visa prepaid card submit a completed mail-in rebate certificate, original or copy of purchase receipt dated between 2/21/20 and 3/31/20. Mail-in rebate certificates are available at the selling dealer and www.simplicitymfg.com. Instant rebate is from a dealer at the time of purchase.

MIDSTATE

SALES & SERVICE

3251 W. M-21 • ST. JOHNS

(1/4 mile West of DeWitt Rd.)

989-224-2711 or 1-800-582-8152

www.simplicitymfg.com

170001H

We Do STEEL ROOFS
on HIGH BARNS.
FREE Estimates!

Ask for John
(616) 527-3635



RAKE IN THE CASH
UP TO \$1,500 OFF SELECT MODELS



Meeting the Challenge of
Varying Field Conditions

Large working widths, fast working speeds and increased maneuverability allow for outstanding productivity with these single-rotor mounted and trailed rotary rakes.

Hofferbert Sales, Inc.

Since 1958

200 N. Maple St., Bannister
(989) 862-5300

Your livelihood has
been built through
hard work and integrity.

Trust your insurance
to a company built on
these same values.

THE BEST LOCAL
INSURANCE AGENCY

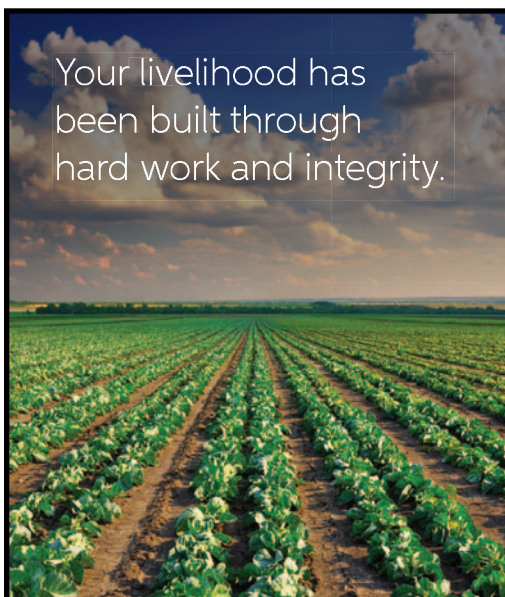
McKenzie & Crosby
Insurance Agency

St. Johns • 989-224-2479

www.mckenziecrosby.com

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS



FERRALL'S TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL

Spring Deep Root Fertilization
and
Injection



WE HAVE 3 ISA
CERTIFIED ARBORIST
ON STAFF FOR COMPLETE
TREE HEALTH CARE

Old Fashion Service with
Modern Technology

FERRALL'S TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL

"Tree Health MI Dept. of Agriculture Licensed"
Experienced • Equipped • Insured
(989) 666-0561 or (989) 862-4453
www.ferrallstree.com

SPRING FARM SECTION

March as Michigan Food and Ag Month

submitted by Jennifer Holton

LANSING – Governor Gretchen Whitmer has proclaimed March as Michigan Food and Agriculture Month, to honor and celebrate Michigan's farmers, the diversity of products grown and processed in our state, and the partnerships that keep our food and agriculture industry thriving. Michigan's wide array of crops, fresh water supply, unique geographic location, rich and varied soil types, various microclimates created by the state's proximity to the Great Lakes, and our dedicated producers and processors make Michigan the ideal location for food and agriculture businesses.

"When we talk about food and agriculture, most people still tend to envision rustic red barns, mom-and-pop pie-stands along the roadside, or maybe our favorite hometown diners and grocery stores," said Gov. Whitmer. "The reality is that Michigan's food and agriculture industry is a national powerhouse. It is responsible for 805,000 jobs, and it generates more than \$104 billion to our state's economy. Countries around the world buy our products for their quality and safety. Innovators and entrepreneurs continue to choose Michigan for their operations. In March, we recognize every person and every business that help make Michigan's food and ag industry what it is today."

"I invite you to join the celebration by following MDARD on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook," said Gary McDowell, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development director. "Throughout the entire month of March, you'll see posts featuring Michigan crops, Michigan food and agriculture businesses, and MDARD employees who help support and grow our industry. We will also highlight nutrition tips during National Nutrition Month, and safety information for our farmers and businesses during Severe Weather Preparedness Week."



The Role of Technology in Agriculture

Modern industry is driven by technology. Advancements in technology have changed how business is conducted, with some industries undergoing dramatic changes since the dawn of the 21st century.

While agriculture might not be the first industry people think of when reflecting on the changing nature of industry, The National Institute of Food and Agriculture notes that modern farms are vastly different than those from a few decades ago.

Farmers have long relied on technology to make their operations as efficient, productive and profitable as possible. Precision agriculture, which refers to technological advances designed to propel agriculture into the modern, computerized and information-based world, is helping the agricultural sector become more profitable and efficient while also improving safety and making agriculture more eco-friendly. In addition, the NIFA notes that the modern agricultural industry employs technology such as robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images, and global positioning systems.

If it sounds complicated, that's because it is. For example, modern sensors can detect soil conditions, potentially producing hundreds of readings per second. These sensors help farmers know the best possible time to plant seeds so they can reach their full potential. That improves both the efficiency of modern farms as well as their output.

The NIFA also notes that agricultural technology has reduced waste. For instance, thanks to agricultural technology, farmers no longer have to apply water, fertilizers and pesticides uniformly across entire fields. Technology has shown that farmers can simply target specific areas or even treat individual plants differently. That saves time and allows farmers to use only minimal quantities of water, fertilizer and pesticides. In addition, according to the NIFA, employing agricultural technology in this fashion leads to higher crop productivity and reduces runoff of chemicals into rivers and groundwater, thereby reducing the farm's impact on local ecosystems.

Modern farms are technological marvels where various technologies are being employed to produce crops more efficiently and safely than ever before.

DESIGNED FOR TRUE VERTICAL TILLAGE



EXCELERATOR® 8005 VERTICAL TILLAGE SYSTEM

- Excalibur® blade captures and sizes residue
- Adjustable gang angle varies soil movement and residue mixing
- Star Wheel™ treaders aggressively mix soil and residue while sizing clods
- 24/7® dual range conditioner provides final clod sizing and firming

11' to 50' WORKING WIDTHS



KuhnNorthAmerica.com

**LLOYD MILLER
& SONS, INC.**
TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT COMPANY
989-743-4049
3695 E. M-21, Corunna
www.lloydmillrandsons.com

B.R.A.T.T.S. LLC

- Big Rig
- Auto
- Truck & Trailer Service

Rob Burl & Duane Call
Owners
6990 W. M-21, Ovid



(989) 729-0700

SPRING FARM SECTION



Michigan Corn Growers Confident in a Better 2020 for Ethanol

by Ashely Davenport

Jim Zook, Michigan Corn Growers Association executive director, was one of several MCGA representative at Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Texas. Despite coming off a rough 2019 Zook said the mood at the nation's largest farmer-led conference was full of renewed optimism.

"The attitude seems to be a little better—it's seems like maybe we have hit bottom," said Zook. "Maybe we're going to stabilize and then come back up a bit. I think that we start to see a little bit of a renewed optimism that we didn't see last year."

One of several issues that Zook discussed both on both the state and national level was ethanol. With more electric vehicles preparing to come on the market, the corn and ethanol industry is at one of the most critical times in regard to ethanol demand.

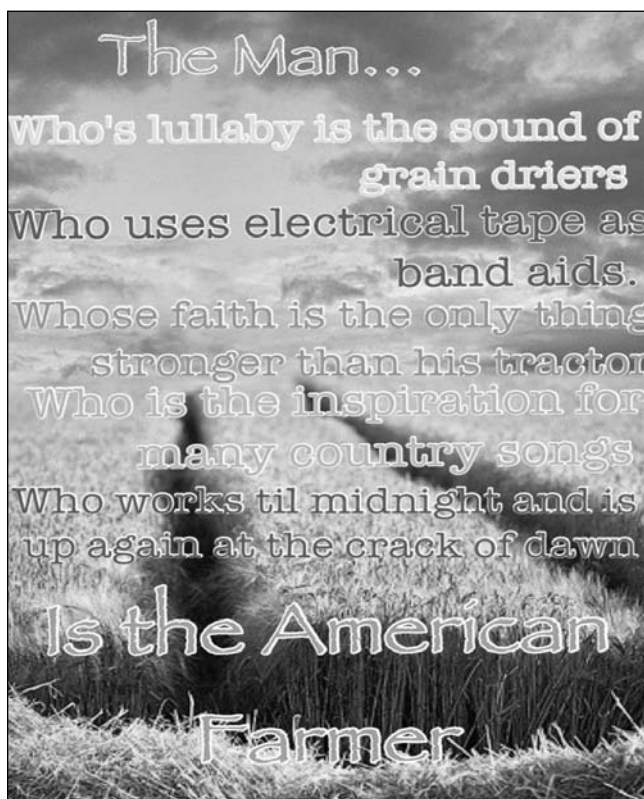
"We've had a lot of discussion around breaking down all the barriers so we can still keep liquid fuels in our supply, and that we can make sure we still have ethanol and gasoline being used," said Zook. "There's still a lot of discussions that are going on right now—a lot of things behind the scenes that our growers may not be aware of. That's why we're here—to do that work, and then we'll let you know what we've been doing once we have the opportunity."

Last month, Zook was in India alongside U.S. Grains Council to promote ethanol. The U.S. is in the process of negotiating a new trade deal with India. Zook is optimistic it will happen soon, and there will be a benefit to the ethanol industry.

"The India trade deal that they're trying to get, we believe it's going to happen because India is not going to put all their eggs in one basket with China," he said. "They are looking to diversify where their product comes from, and quite frankly, we have strong hope that we'll see ethanol being exported into India on a consistent basis."

Between all of the issues that could negatively impact agriculture this year, such as the coronavirus outbreak or it being a presidential election, Zook remains an optimist.

"There's a lot of things that are happening right now that in 60 days, 90 days, we may have answers, or we may not have answers," he said. "We're in one of the most interesting times in America—there is hope. There's a strong sense of hope for agriculture, and we believe it's going to be positive moving forward."



Farm & Truck Tires

"In the Field and on the Farm Sales and Service"

Serving you with all Major Brands
of Farm and Truck Tires

TERRY'S TIRE

45+ Years
Experience

(989) 723-6881

(989) 666-0746

Holes - N - More - LLC

6 in. 12 in. 18 in. 24 in. 30 in. Holes

Bobcat Service of All Types

Concrete Tear-Out and Replace
New Concrete Flat Work
Preparation for Concrete



"Your Hole is Our Goal"
Insured

Cell
517
896-5261

Ron Keck



FUOSS GRAVEL COMPANY

"Serving Mid-Michigan For Over 50 Years
Wholesale and Retail"

- Washed Sand & Stone
- Mason Sand
- Processed Road Gravel
- Crushed Concrete
- Limestone

- Drain Field Stone
- Crushed Brick Bits
- Lava Rock
- 1" Roofing Stone
- Screened Black Dirt

We
Have Cow
Sand!



BUY DIRECT FROM THE PIT - 2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!

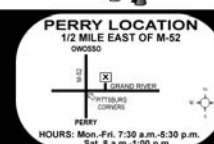
VISA

MasterCard

We Deliver!

725-2084

1-800-968-7797



COFFIELD

- Baler Twine
- Lubricants
- Bio Diesel
- Gasoline

We'll Bend Over
Backwards to Earn
Your Business!



Farm • Home • Commercial • Delivery
Fuel Oil Furnaces ~ Sales & Service

989-634-5623 • 989-288-6756 • 800-337-1633

4786 E. Lansing Rd. • Bancroft

www.coffield.com ~ coffieldoil@gmail.com



MR. HAIL IS COMING

Since 1893

There's one thing we know. It's senseless to lose what
you have worked to grow.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL

989-868-4722 • 1-800-345-SAHR

Check our our web page: www.sahrcropinsurance.com Email: sahrcrop@sahrcropinsurance.com
Crop Insurance Specialists. Service is done on your farm.

Ask for Agents Michael, Ron, Sandy, Dan, Bee, Bernie, Aaron, Dave, Gary, Duane and Amy.

SAHR CROP INSURANCE AGENCY

9839 Saginaw St., Reese, MI

SPRING FARM SECTION

Excitement Surrounds Michigan Dairy Plant Progress

by Carla Wardin

It's impossible to miss it. It's giant, there's continual traffic in and out, and even if you haven't driven by it on the highway, everyone's talking about it.

In November, Glanbia Nutritionals, Dairy Farmers of America, and Select Milk Producers Inc. are opening a cheese plant in St. Johns, Mich. The project, which was announced with much fanfare in August 2018, will process 8 million pounds of milk a day.

Construction is evident at the 375,000-square-foot facility in the St. Johns Industrial Park along U.S. Route 127. The park already is home to many businesses, including Save-A-Lot Distribution Center, Quest Software, Spicer Group, Martin-Brower, and DRB Transport.

The \$555 million project is by Glanbia, an Irish food and nutrition company. The facility adjacent belongs to Proliant Dairy Ingredients, an Iowa company that will process whey. The joint venture will be called MWC.

Glanbia has been working with the same standard business model since the 1900s, running the business side of the process, while depending on dairy companies to guarantee the milk arrives each day.

The milk will be processed into cheese, whey and permeate, with little waste.

To make the project possible, the infrastructure needed updating. Consumers Energy expects to complete work by March 30 on the Technical Drive substation, which will power Glanbia, Proliant and a wastewater treatment plant.

Consumers Energy is installing more than 23,800 feet of steel for natural gas, and it has already completed 8,472 feet of steel pipe on Scott Road supplying natural gas to the development. The company expects to have the natural gas system in service by April 1.

The Walker Road rehabilitation project (U.S. Route 127 to Scott Road) is 80% complete. The utilities are installed, and the majority of the road construction is complete. A St. Johns Big Ditch relocation and industrial park detention basin construction projects also were completed.

St. Johns is improving portions of Tolles Road and Technical Drive in the industrial park to accommodate the additional traffic.

The St. Johns dairy plant construction is 61% complete. It will process 8 million pounds of milk a day.

CHEESE PLANT: The St. Johns dairy plant construction is 61% complete. It will process 8 million pounds of milk a day.

Dave J. Kudwa, deputy city manager of St. Johns, says, "We're hopeful the weather will cooperate with us this spring, so we can complete this project as soon as possible. Our goal was to have all of the public infrastructure improvements completed by July 1, and we are on track to meet that date."

The plant currently is 61% complete. The building is sealed, and workers are installing the machines and running the electrical.

Community members both expect and hope the plant will stimulate growth in the area.

When a business looking for hundreds of employees comes

into a community, it has implications for many supplemental industries. For example, county residents and real estate agents have noticed a change in housing availability.

ANTICIPATION BUILDS: Michigan dairy farmers are looking forward to having another central location to take their milk.

Dairy farmers in Michigan are looking forward to having another central location in the state to take their milk.

"Processing has been lacking here in Michigan," says Jennifer Lewis, District 2 director on the Michigan Farm Bureau board. "As a dairy farmer and Michigan Farm Bureau member, I am pleased to see this type of expansion and hope there will be more to come. Anytime we can add value to the products that are produced in Michigan is an added bonus to the tremendous farmers of this state who strive each and every day to provide consumers with exceptional quality foods."

Planners estimate the project will generate 280 jobs. The companies have been holding job fairs around the mid-Michigan area, and will continue to do so this year. Open positions include jobs in administration, human resources, finance, engineering, mechanical, environmental, logistics and more.

Kate Studley, human resource business partner for MWC/Glanbia, says, "We're looking for employees with a good attitude and a strong work ethic. If you have those two qualities, we'll be able to train you for the majority of available positions."

In February, MWC held a second job fair in St. Johns, and the organizers were pleased with the turnout.

"We had over 800 applicants," Studley says. "We were more than excited. We had everyone from people who had just graduated, to people with their M.A.s and Ph.D.s."

Acclimating new employees to the world of dairy is something the human resources department is taking seriously.

"We're glad there's so much excitement around the project, and we're looking forward to 2020," Studley says.

Wardin and her husband own and operate a sixth-generation dairy farm in St. Johns, Mich.





McAllister's
Bacon Ridge Farm

 16212 Ridge Rd. Oakley, MI
FREEZER PORK • FEEDER PIGS • HOG ROASTING
 Jeremy McAllister - 989-666-0206 - Amber McAllister

TRI-COUNTY OIL
SALE
 Good thru April 30th Matt Fabus Good thru April 30th
989-862-5746


Shell Rotella 15w40 Triple Protection CJ-4
 Drum - \$621.50

 **Universal Tractor Hydraulic Fluid**
 Drum - \$434.50

Kendall D3 15w40 C14 
 Drum - \$492.25

Kendall D3XA 15w40 CJ4
 Drum - \$583.55


Kendall Hyken 052 Tractor Hydraulic
 Drum - \$497.20

 **Citgo 600 15w40 CJ4**
 Drum - \$544.50


Citgo 600 30w
 Drum - \$588.50

Citgo Transgard Tractor Fluid
 Drum - \$492.25

Conoco Phillips Super HD 15w40 C14
 Drum - \$497.20

Conoco Powertran Tractor Hydraulic 
 Drum - \$493.90

ProGuard Premium 15-40 CJ-4
 Drum - \$433.95

 **ProGuard SAE 30w**
 Drum - \$445.50

ProGuard Tractor Hydraulic
 Drum - \$371.25

For Other Oils Please Call
No Drum Deposit FREE DELIVERY

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK! **ATM MACHINE**


BLIGHT PROPANE, INC.
PRODUCTS & SERVICE YOU CAN DEPEND ON SINCE 1960!
 4530 E. Lansing Rd., Bancroft
 989-634-9156 Toll Free 1-888-926-8645

DEWEY'S TRADING POST
 104 S. Maple Ave., Maple Rapids • 989-682-4158
 Monday-Saturday: 8am-7pm, Closed Sunday
 WIC • Bridge Card • Visa • MasterCard • Discover • American Express
 Debit Card & Chamber Bucks Gift Certificates



Variety of Frozen Fish
 Homemade Smoked Sausages
 Boneless & Breaded Pork
 USDA Choice Steak
 Fresh Ground Hamburger
 Deli Meats & Cheese

Bulk Dry Goods
German Bologna

Fresh, Frozen Meat Bundles

Call us for specific bundle contents. **Meat Bundles consist of Chicken, Beef, Pork, Hot Dogs**
Please Order Meat Bundles 24 Hours in Advance **35#, 40#, 45#, 50#, 55#**

SPRING FARM SECTION



The Various Benefits of Farm-to-Table

Few things are more satisfying than biting into a fresh tomato right from the garden or seasoning a meal with herbs picked from a windowsill greenhouse. Restaurants recognize the value of such experiences, and more and more are relying on locally sourced products in their kitchens.

The farm-to-table movement is not new, but it has gained momentum as consumers become increasingly enamored with the flavor and environmental impact of locally sourced foods. The National Restaurant Association found that farm-to-table food was one of its top 10 trends for 2015. Furthermore, the group says that one in five consumers are willing to pay more for local food, and 41 percent admit that locally sourced ingredients influence their decisions when choosing where to dine.

Newcomers to the farm-to-table dining experience may not understand all the fuss surrounding this popular trend. The following are some of the key benefits of farm-to-table.

- **Peak freshness and ripeness:** Local produce ripens on the plant and can be harvested at the last possible minute before it turns up on a plate. This helps ensure that it contains the highest amount of nutrients and flavor, according to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Food that has to travel further is often picked well before it is ready, ripening on the way to stores or other vendors.

- **Better for the environment:** Food that needn't travel far before reaching diners' plates saves roughly 500 gallons of diesel fuel to haul produce a distance of 1,500 miles. This conserves fossil fuels and prevents harmful emissions from entering the atmosphere.

- **Supports neighboring farms:** Supporting farm-to-table restaurants and other eateries keeps business local in two different ways. It not only benefits local restaurants, but it also directly supports neighboring farms, fisheries and other suppliers.

- **Accessibility to seasonal choices:** Farm-to-table eating provides a wide variety of in-season foods. This can translate into tastier foods because they are grown and harvested during their optimal growing season.

- **Reduces factory farming:** According to O.info, the informational resource powered by Overstock.com, farm-to-table and local farming can reduce reliance on large, profit-driven corporations that may focus on maximum production over animal health and welfare. Local farms may be more inclined to treat their animals well and institute sustainable practices.

- **Learn about the community:** A person might live in an area and never know that a local vineyard is in the vicinity or that a producer of straight-from-the-hive honey is nearby. Exploring farm-to-table resources can open people's eyes to local businesses doing great work in and around their communities.

Farm-to-table is a popular movement that people are embracing for various reasons.

Legislators Receive 'Accurate Ag' Books for March is Reading Month

by Nicole Sevrey Michigan Farm Bureau

Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) recently distributed "Accurate Ag" books to members of the State House and Senate agriculture policy committees, encouraging lawmakers to read them to schoolchildren in their respective districts during March is Reading Month.

The sixth year of this tradition saw MFB Legislative Counsel Rebecca Park distributing copies of "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car" by Peggy Thomas. With obvious Michigan roots, the book describes Henry Ford's drive to incorporate soybeans into his life and work to support ailing farmers after the Great Depression. The book earned the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's 13th Book of the Year award.

"This is a perfect story to read to kids during March is Reading Month," said Rep. Julie Alexander, chair of the House Agriculture Committee. "Thank you, to Michigan Farm Bureau for promoting agricultural innovation and one of Michigan's commodities: soybeans."

Sen. Kevin Daley, chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, said he looks forward to "taking the book to classrooms around his district to share just how important farmers are to their everyday lives."

Other books presented in recent years include:

2019: "Right This Very Minute: A Table-to-Farm Book About Food and Farming" by Lisl H. Detlefsen

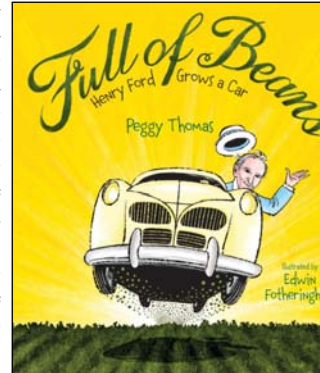
2018: "John Deere, That's Who!" by Tracy Nelson Maurer

2017: "Sleep Tight Farm" by Eugenie Doyle

2016: "First Peas to the Table" by Susan Grigsby

Note: To date, the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has identified nearly 500 "Accurate Ag Books" that portray the industry accurately and often debunk misinformation about how American farmers produce the food we eat.

As a member of the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization, Michigan Farm Bureau is home to the state's Agriculture in the Classroom programming. Through the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture, the program provides agriculture-based lesson materials for teachers and farmer-volunteers to teach across all grade levels.



From the City to the Country!



Contact Tammy Arthur your local Laingsburg realtor to get your Free Market Analysis this Spring on your home. I specialize in all homes from the City to the Country!

Re/MAX Dewitt
Real Estate Professionals
12775 Escanaba Dr Ste 1
Dewitt, MI 48820
517-624-2723 Office
517-599-3394 Cell



Tammy Arthur, Realtor

BUILDING A POLE BARN? Need a New Metal Roof?

- EVERLAST Metal Roofing, Siding, Trim, and Accessories
- Haas Garage Doors - Installation Available!
- Contractors Welcome!

Call Us At:
989-455-4005



Metal Roofing For Pros

www.2LProviders.com

"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field."

— President Dwight D. Eisenhower

QUALITY
WORK
SINCE
1985

Clark's Tractor Service

ALL
MAKES
AND
MODELS!

Spring is near, let's get in gear!
CALL US FOR ALL YOUR REPAIR NEEDS



\$50 Off
Pick up & Delivery
offer expires 4/30/20

517-589-8000
2511 Bellevue Rd., Leslie, MI



- Tractor Repair
- Farm Machinery
- Heavy Equipment Repair
- Lawn & Garden Equipment
- Hydraulic & Transmission Repair
- Welding

Hours Mon.-Fri. 8-5
Sat. by appt.
Doug Perry, Owner

710 S. CHIPMAN ST.
OWOSSO
fax 989-729-6559

MasterCard VISA

Draw Tite Hitches, Meyer Plows, Wiring,
Repair, Truck & Car Accessories
PH 989-725-9977

SPRING FARM SECTION

March is Frost Seeding Month

by Kim Cassida, MSU Extension

March is the month across much of Michigan to improve pastures by frost-seeding legumes like clovers or some grasses into them. Frost-seedings are most successful when the seed is broadcast approximately 45 days before grass growth begins in your area.

Frost-seeding is the practice of broadcasting seeds of improved varieties of red clover, white clover, birdsfoot trefoil or some grasses in late winter across grasslands. The freezing and thawing action of the soil surface over the following weeks helps to incorporate the seed into the top soil layer, thus providing good soil-to-seed contact and stimulating early germination.

Both research and farmer experience has shown frost-seeding with legumes to be a simple, inexpensive and environmentally-friendly method of pasture improvement. It can also be used on hayfields if spring grass competition is controlled. Field demonstrations conducted with red and white clover by Michigan State University Extension show that an investment in seed, inoculant and starter fertilizer at \$35 to \$45 per acre can increase the yield of unimproved pastures by 0.8 to 1.5 tons per acre dry hay equivalent for a \$12 to \$15 per acre annual cost, assuming three-year clover longevity. Frost-seeding is so much more economical than applying nitrogen fertilizer that even if one year's frost-seeding fails because of weather conditions, you can afford to do it again next year and it will still be cheaper than applying nitrogen every year.

However, frost-seeding is not foolproof. It must be done properly to have a high degree of success. Below are guidelines to make frost-seeding successful.

Frost-seeding works best on loam or clay-based soils; sandy soils will not work as well because there is not enough soil movement during freeze-thaw cycles on sands. For sandy soils, use a no-till or conventional grain drill to apply the seed into the pasture sod in April.

Because it requires freeze-thaw action in the soil, frost-seeding is less effective in areas where snowpack does not melt before night temperatures are consistently above freezing.

Graze the pasture short in late fall to weaken the grasses present so they will not be as aggressive next spring, and to expose more soil to provide better soil to seed contact next spring.

Soil test the pasture to make sure fertility is adequate, paying special attention to phosphorus as young seedlings need phosphorus for good seedling root growth.

Shoot for a 60 percent grass, 40 percent legume mix in the final pasture stand as this balance will provide optimum pasture growth and forage quality without raising the risk of animal bloat too high.

To attain these mix percentages, frost-seed 8 pounds per acre of red clover or 1-2 pounds per acre of white clover; do not apply both red and white clover in the same year because of the competition they give each other and, combined, they raise the risk of bloat.

If the legume choice is birdsfoot trefoil, seed 10-12 pounds per acre as bloat is not an issue with trefoil and it does not establish as easily as the clovers.

Use improved varieties of these seeds (the best variety the seed company has) as these varieties seem to be more aggressive and catch better than cheaper bin run varieties, and they usually last longer in the stand.

Frost-seeding is better done on a little snow cover as it is easier to see the spread pattern on top of the snow—usually mid- to late March is good for much of Michigan.

Let the pasture grow up to 8-10 inches tall and graze it down tight. Let it grow up to this level again and graze it tight again. Clover tolerates shade from the competing grass for a while, but if the grass gets too thick and tall, which most grass stands do in spring, the young clover seedlings need some chance to receive sunlight to catch up. If frost-seeding on a hayfield, take first cut as early as possible to reduce shading on the new clover seedlings.

Continuous grazing is not good for new clover seedlings. After grazing, the seedlings need a chance to grow, so rotating the animals to another pasture is advised.

Do not fertilize the frost-seeded pasture with nitrogen fertilizer the first spring of seeding as it will create too much grass competition for the clover seedlings. Usually by mid-summer the clovers are visible and can handle the grass competition, so small amounts of nitrogen could be applied, if needed, at that time.

Red clovers will last two to three years normally in a stand. White clovers will persist two to four years. Evaluate pastures in late summer to early fall, if rainfall is adequate, to determine if a frost-seeding of legumes will be needed next spring.

Grasses that can be frost-seeded include annual and Italian ryegrass, perennial ryegrass and festulolium. Keep in mind that frost-seeding with grasses has lower success rate than with legumes because lightweight, irregularly shaped grass seeds do not work into soil as easily.

If weeds are a problem in a pasture, think about soil testing, applying necessary lime or fertilizers, and spraying a labeled herbicide for weeds, if necessary, a year before frost-seeding. Most herbicides that control pasture weeds will also kill clovers that you frost-seeded.

Frost-seeding pastures with improved legume and grass varieties is a very economical way of improving pasture yield and quality. When done properly and followed by adequate summer rains, it can be successful.

Additional resources: MSU Extension Bulletin E2185, Frost-Seeding - An Effective Forage Establishment Practice for Michigan by Kim Cassida and Jerry Lindquist

MSU Forage Connection. For more information, contact MSU Extension forage and cover crop specialist Kim Cassida at cassida@msu.edu.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/newsletters>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/experts>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).



Agriculture and the Economy

Though it's easy to look at the tech industry and think this increasingly influential sector is what makes the world go round, something closer to the very core of the Earth may be what's driving your economy.

The agricultural sector plays a strategic role in a nation's economic development and prosperity. From the earliest days, agriculture has been heralded as playing a crucial role in North American culture. Farmers who grow produce and raise livestock for meats and other products have long exemplified what it means to work hard and take initiatives to be self-sufficient.

The symbiotic nature of agriculture and the economy is noticeable when examining the ups and downs of each. This is because food production and the potential of agriculture extends beyond the fields and local food stands. These resources impact supply chains and other markets. A strong agriculture base influences other employment sectors like food manufacturing, biotechnology, hospitality, machinery building, and much more, while a weak agriculture can adversely affect those sectors.

While it can be difficult for residents of developed nations to visualize agriculture's effect, one only needs to turn to impoverished and developing nations to see just how big an impact agriculture can have on an economy. Agriculture provides food and raw materials, eventually creating demand for goods produced in non-agricultural sectors. Also, food provides nutrition that can serve as the foundation of a healthy nation. Earning a living in agriculture strengthens purchasing power, which fuels other markets. Eventually, farming can pave the way for development, including roads, markets, shipping services, exporting, and many other sectors.

Agriculture is an important economic building block. An especially important sector, the agricultural industry, when supported, can contribute greatly to sustained economic growth.



Milk and Grain Marketing Series Offers Strategies to Optimize Farm Profitability

by Paul Gross

The commodity price outlook in 2020 for corn, soybeans, wheat, milk and meat is filled with uncertainty. Weather, trade, tariffs, land rental rates and input costs all contribute to this uncertainty. Being a good producer is only part to the equation for farm success. Marketing skills are becoming just as important as production skill for the farm to be profitable.

As we enter into a new year, it's a good time to improve your marketing skills. The volatility and uncertainty in the market makes us realize how important it is to have a well thought out plan in place now so we can pull the trigger when the market gives us an opportunity to sell at a profit.

To assist farmers making marketing decisions, a Milk and Grain Marketing Series started March 10, 2020, and will meet quarterly on June 9, Sept. 8 and Dec. 8. Fred Hinkley, Michigan State University Extension educator emeritus and marketing specialist, will provide insight and outlook on the milk and grain markets and suggest strategies to minimize financial risk.

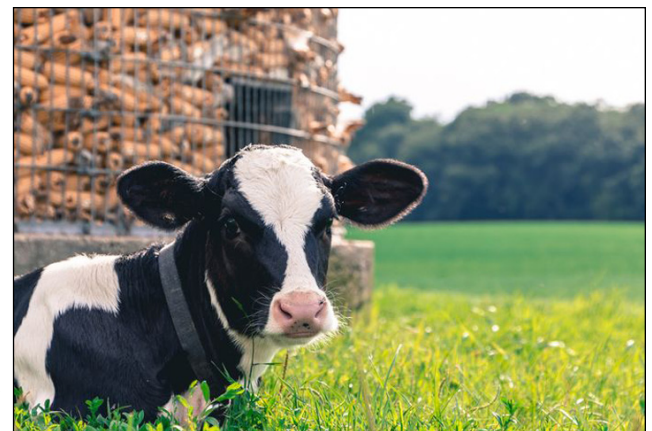
Agriculture markets are more volatile than ever. For most farms, profits are largely determined by how well you market your production. Now more than ever your farm's future success depends on your ability to understand the markets and use the basic marketing tools.

The meetings will be held at the Isabella County Building Room 320, 200 N. Main Street, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost for attending these meetings will be \$400 per farm. This will cover all four meetings and will not limit the number from each farm/agribusiness that may attend.

Pre-registration is encouraged by March 5. You can register for the program online at Milk and Grain Marketing Series 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 989-317-4079, 989-560-1371 or grossp@msu.edu.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/newsletters>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/experts>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).



SPRING FARM SECTION

20 Michigan Agriculture Facts You Might Not Have Known

by Barbara Ann Siemen

Michigan is known for many things, but maybe the most under-the-radar industry is the state's diverse agriculture scene. Michigan farming not only provides consumers with food and fiber on nearly 10 million acres of farmland, but it also lays the foundation for a dynamic food and agriculture industry, making it one of our state's critical economic drivers, substantially contributing to our state's economy each year.

Guest blogger Barbara Ann Siemen, known as Farm Barbie, shares 20 little known facts about freshly grown Michigan food and agriculture.

I've always been in love with Michigan. I believe it is unparalleled in its diversity of seasons, activities, and food! We are a very active family; we enjoy many things Michigan has to offer including camping, water sports, snowmobiling, and of course, food and farming! On our farm, we produce dairy, beef, corn, wheat, and sugar beets, but I'm always interested in learning more about other commodities.

Did you know Michigan farmers produce 300 different types of food and agricultural products? Michigan is also home to many national brands that you know, love, and trust. Check out this list which highlights some of Michigan's lesser known areas of agriculture.

1. Sugar: Michigan Sugar Company processes sugar for Pioneer, Big Chief, and more than 20 other private labels. Sugar is an important ingredient for all types of goodies, like those made at Bon Bon Bon, located in Hamtramck. Our farm grows sugar beets, which are harvested in autumn.



2. Cherries: The National Cherry Festival is held in Traverse City every year. Michigan ranks 1st in the nation for tart cherry production, and 4th for sweet cherries. Check out this website for more info on Michigan cherry wines. I like to drink a little tart cherry juice right before bedtime.



3. Milk: Michigan ranks 6th in the nation for the production of milk, but Michigan dairy farmers also contribute to other products such as Hudsonville ice cream, Kraft cheese, Yoplait yogurt, Michigan Made cottage cheese, and Country Fresh sour cream.

4. Beans: Michigan is 1st in the nation for production of dry black beans, cranberry beans, and small red beans, and 2nd for the production of all dry beans. Bush's Beans, based in Tennessee, buys beans from Michigan!

5. Potatoes: Michigan is the nation's leading producer of potatoes for potato chip processing. Better Made Chips are a favorite Michigan brand. We like taking a bag of chips with us on the boat, or in the camper in the summer.



6. Grapes: Michigan has over 140 commercial wineries and more than 3,000 acres of wine grape vineyards. The state's number 1 planted variety is Riesling.

7. Asparagus: Michigan ranks #1 in the nation for asparagus production. Unlike asparagus from other states, Michigan asparagus is hand-snapped above the ground (or harvested by hand), resulting in a more tender and flavorful product.

8. Eggs: Michigan egg farmers supply all the eggs to McDonald's restaurants east of the Mississippi River. My kids take care of a small flock of laying hens, and they produce enough for us, and a few neighbors, family members, and friends.

9. Blueberries: Michigan ranks number 3 nationally for the production of blueberries - and fewer than 600 Michigan family farms do it all. That's amazing!

10. Cucumbers: Michigan ranks number 1 in the nation for

production of cucumbers for pickling, and 3rd for fresh market cucumbers.

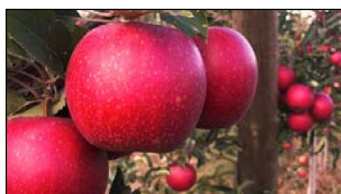
11. Maple Syrup: Maple syrup production is the oldest agricultural enterprise in the United States, with early spring the ideal time to tap trees. Battel's Sugar Bush, which is near me, is hosting a tour and pancake breakfast as part of Michigan Maple Weekend.



12. Christmas trees: Michigan supplies nearly 2 million Christmas trees annually to the national market. Real Christmas trees are so beautiful! I love driving past Christmas tree farms in the winter months. There are approximately 25-30 million real Christmas trees sold each year in the U.S., according to the National Christmas Tree Association.



13. Apples: Apples are one of the largest and most valuable fruit crops in Michigan. The state slices more apples than any other state for use in pies. Michigan also processes apples into applesauce, fresh and shelf-stable apple cider, and apple juice, such as Indian Summer juice, which is made in Michigan too! My family loves a cup of fresh cider with a doughnut in autumn.



14. Wheat: Michigan wheat farmers contribute to the national market in a big way, too. In fact, one of the top 5 counties for producing wheat is Huron, which is where I live! Wheat is used in products from Michigan brands such as Kellogg's cereals, Aunt Millie's breads, and Jiffy mixes.



15. Squash: Michigan produces more squash than any other state and is the fourth-highest fresh carrot producing state in the country, which is good for Michigan companies such as Gerber baby foods. Squash and carrots were favorites with my kids when they were babies!

16. Tomatoes: Michigan is 5th in the nation for production of tomatoes. This is good news for me because I love using fresh tomatoes for pico de gallo, which is an easy bbq party dish.

17. Cranberries: Cranberries are grown in Michigan too! I never knew that! Michigan has 280 acres of cranberries and they are harvested every year from September through November.

18. Peaches: Fresh Michigan peaches are available from early July to mid September, with popular and new varieties including the Red Haven Peach and Michigan Flamin' Fury. Look out, Georgia! Michigan ranks 8th in the nation for peach production.



19. Honey: Michigan honey bees are busy little bees! Beekeepers harvest Michigan honey in summer or early fall, but some continue throughout the year, making the sweet treat available for consumers year round.



20. Farmers Markets: Michigan is 3rd in the nation for farmers markets, supplying farm fresh products to Michiganders every week. Port Austin is a huge farmer's market in the Thumb, where I live. The market is very busy in the summer months!

As you can see, there's so much to love about Michigan! Whether it is the seasons, a multitude of outdoor activities, or the vast array of agricultural products, I believe Pure Michigan is the finest in the nation! I could go on and on about Michigan agriculture and Michigan farming, but to find out more for yourself, visit MichiganAgriculture.com.

About the Author: Barbara Ann Siemen, known as Farm Barbie, is a city girl turned country chick, thanks to falling in love with a farmer. She's a stay at home mom and professional farmer's wife. She's also an amateur photographer, chef, and fashionista and an aspiring children's book author.

Venetian Blind Co of Mid Mich, LLC
Everything for Your Windows
Except the View
Eric Brown, Certified Professional Installer
10% OFF ANY ORDER With This Coupon
989.666.0445
VenetianBlindLLC@yahoo.com • Fax 989-834-6252

SLOAN'S
Family Owned & Operated Since 1965
Septic Tank Service
• Portable Restrooms • Commercial/Residential
• Septic Tank Cleaning • Drain Cleaning
Licensed & Insured
Call (989) 845-6280 • Chesaning

BECKS PROPANE
www.beckspropane.com
989-224-6825
"Michigan's Trusted Propane & LP Gas Company"

Sports



Jake Christie
1st Team All Conference



Aden Baynes
1st Team All Conference



Caleb Boettcher
1st Team All Conference



Michael Brooks
1st Team All Conference



Jacob Hummel
1st Team All Conference



Noah Gentry
2nd Team All Conference



Devin Nash
2nd Team All Conference



Sean Divine
2nd Team All Conference

Wolfpack Dominates CMAC Wrestling Awards

LAINGSBURG -- The Wolfpack wrestling team completed a solid 2019-20 season -- just three points shy of a second-consecutive MHSAA District championship -- by dominating All-Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) awards voting.

Coach Shawn Baynes' Wolves landed nine grapplers on the all-league team, including five first-teamers, in voting by the league's coaches.

Jake Christie, Kyle Boettcher, Aden Baynes, Caleb Boettcher, Michael Brooks and Jacob Hummel were all 1st Team honorees for the 'Pack. In addition, Noah Gentry, Devin Nash, Scottie Brewer and Sean Divine were named to the 2nd Team.

With a roster laden with underclassmen, the future looks bright for coach Baynes and his Wolfpack mat team. The complete All-CMAC team:

1ST TEAM

- 103 -- Riley Hinds, Fulton-Middleton
- 112 -- Blake Baker, Dansville
- 119 -- Jake Christie, Laingsburg
- 125 -- Kyle Boettcher, Laingsburg
- 130 -- Logan Kehres, Dansville
- 135 -- Aden Baynes, Laingsburg
- 140 -- Owen Christmas, Bath
- 145 -- Caleb Boettcher, Laingsburg
- 152 -- Patrick Alwood, Fulton-Middleton
- 160 -- Michael Brooks, Laingsburg
- 171 -- Connor Bramble, Dansville
- 189 -- Gideon Smith, Bath
- 215 -- Jacob Hummel, Laingsburg
- 285 -- Mason Potter, Saranac

2ND TEAM

- 103 -- Nathan Prines, Saranac
- 112 -- Perry Shadig, Dansville
- 119 -- Collin Hagerman, Bath
- 125 -- Joe Kadwbeski, Dansville
- 130 -- Noah Gentry, Laingsburg
- 135 -- Jaden Dietz, Dansville
- 140 -- Austin McIntire, Fulton-Middleton
- 145 -- Holden May, Dansville
- 152 -- Devin Nash, Laingsburg
- 160 -- Elliot Beck, Fulton-Middleton
- 171 -- Scottie Brewer, Laingsburg (No photo available)
- 189 -- Sean Divine, Laingsburg
- 215 -- Matthew Frantz, Dansville
- 285 -- Griffin Kus, Fulton-Middleton



Winter Sports Coaches: If you have your All-Conference information please submit them!
We want to honor all our high school athletics.

O-E Athletic Department

submitted by Rebecca Powell

The Ovid-Elsie Athletic Department is looking to update the Girls Basketball Record Board. Many of the records have been identified but we are specifically looking for statistics from players who played under the following coaches, as some stats and records may be inadvertently missing. If you played for or are one of the following coaches, please submit all of the stats that you have from your past seasons:

Coaches: Bob Laney, Doug Long, Doug Waldie, and Don Berndt.

Further, any and all stats from any other season will be accepted and reviewed.

These may be faxed, emailed or mailed to: Jason Tokar, email: Jason.Tokar@OvidElsie.org, fax: (989) 834-2717

Ovid-Elsie High School, 8989 E. Colony Rd., Elsie, MI 48831.

Laingsburg Places Four on All-CMAC Boys Team

LAINGSBURG -- Coach Daniel Morrill's Wolfpack boys basketball team celebrated its CMAC championship season by placing a quartet of players on the All-Central Michigan Athletic Conference team.

LHS capped a 15-1 league season, 18-3 overall, with two players -- the Hawes brothers -- as 1st Team selections. Gabe Hawes was the top overall vote-getter in voting by the league's nine coaches.

Gabe Hawes, a senior, led the Wolves at 18.7 ppg, 4.2 assists, 4 rebounds and 2.1 steals per game, in 24 minutes on average.

Zach Hawes, a junior, averaged 12.4 ppg, 4.4 rebounds, 3.2 assists, 2 steals and 1.2 blocks per game. He averaged 22 minutes per tilt and played about 3/4 weeks with a significant back/hip injury that limited his minutes and production.

Gabe is up for all-state recognition as well. "In addition to his glowing statistics, it should be noted that his shooting percentages were extremely high. Gabe shot 47% from the 3point line and 83% from the FT line," said coach Morrill.

In addiiton, Laingsburg landed guard Connor Thomas and forward Colt Wurm on the Honorable Mention contingent.

Final Standings

- Pewamo-Westphalia 15-1
- Laingsburg 15-1
- Pottersville 13-3
- Fulton 8-8
- Bath 8-8
- Dansville 7-9
- Fowler 5-11
- Portland St. Pats 1-15
- Saranac 1-15

1st Team

- Gavin Parry - Bath
- Carter Pline - Fowler
- Grant Batis - Fulton
- Gabe Hawes - Laingsburg
- Zach Hawes - Laingsburg
- Aaron Bearss - Pewamo-Westphalia
- Cole Krause - Pottersville

2nd Team

- Sam Onan - Bath
- Cody Luce - Dansville
- Travis Hungerford - Fulton
- Kyle Stump - Pewamo-Westphalia
- Keegan Smith - Pewamo-Westphalia
- Nathen Martin Pewamo-Westphalia
- Nate Ackley - Pottersville

Honorable Mention

- Isaiah Cender - Bath
- Carson Voss - Dansville
- Brycen Halfmann - Fowler
- Sam Iung - Fulton
- Connor Thomas - Laingsburg
- Curt Wurm - Laingsburg
- Jacob Pung - Pewamo-Westphalia
- Ethan Dunning - Pottersville
- Will McPherson - Saranac
- Connor Cross - Portland St. Pats - Kellen Smith - Saranac



Gabe Hawes
1st Team All Conference



Zach Hawes
1st Team All Conference



Connor Thomas
Honorable Mention



Colt Wurm
Honorable Mention



Editorial

ITEOTWAWKI

Well the last ten days have been very interesting for our local community but it certainly is not the beginning of the end of the world. The Weekly Sportsman can speak firsthand about the efforts being undertaken by local government and community partners to face this COVID-19 pandemic headon. Of course, these efforts will only work if you do your part.

Most readers have probably already heard that you need to prepare and not panic. Meaning simply stock up but don't horde. Practice social distancing and this is done by keeping a distance of six feet from other individuals. Think back to your first middle school dance and not your high school prom. Lastly, the message continues to be community separation in order to flatten the curve to prevent the current medical infrastructure from being inundated and collapsing.

Now, on another note the Weekly Sportsman would like to speak directly to all you brothers and sisters of kindred spirit. We are often labeled as preppers, hoarders, backwoods, country folk, sportsmen, and even practitioners of self-reliance or self-sufficiency. Now is not the time to gloat, brag, or say I told you so but instead it is time to help and share. If you have extra fruit, vegetables, or protein in the freezer it is time to be community minded. Check with neighbors and friends and find out if they are in need. If for no other reason it keeps the community at home and not in a panic at a grocery store. Check with others before heading into town to get supplies in case you .

Step back for a minute and put the current crisis in perspective. Yes, this is a very dangerous virus and should be taken seriously because many will get sick and some will perish. Unlike other national emergencies there is no life threatening weather, civil unrest, damaged infrastructure, or shortages of gas, fresh water, food, and energy. Americans are resilient by nature and are known to come together in times of need to overcome what at times may seem impossible. If you are still in doubt about the future of our community after reading this column then please take a moment and restore your faith by listening to Hank Jr.'s "Country Boy Can Survive."

-WS

Rep. Filler Votes to Provide \$125M More for Michigan's Coronavirus Response

submitted by Christina Guenther

Rep. Graham Filler tonight voted in favor of a new emergency budget plan adding another \$125 million to help the state of Michigan and local communities respond to coronavirus.

The measure brings the total state funding approved to \$150 million, including the \$25 million approved by the Legislature last week. The plan will provide \$50 million for immediate needs such as virus monitoring and testing, \$50 million for critical health care providers to expand capacity for coronavirus response, and \$50 million to keep in reserve for when necessary.

The measure also will make it easier to use federal assistance related to coronavirus.

"Michigan is facing an unprecedented health crisis, and we must make sure Sparrow and McLaren Greater Lansing, as well as our community health clinics, have the resources they need to address it," said Filler, of DeWitt. "As the husband of a physician, I feel this crisis deeply. I know our health care workers are on the front lines caring for our community. We must make sure they have the proper resources to do their jobs effectively, and that oversight is provided to ensure this funding goes directly to where it is needed most."

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. Prevention steps include:

Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.

Avoid contact with people who are sick.

If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.

Stay at least 6 feet away from others when in a public setting.

Reliable information about COVID-19 can be found at www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus and www.CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

Rep. Filler said people with questions or concerns about state government, as well as residents who need help, can reach his office by calling (517) 373-1778 or emailing GrahamFiller@house.mi.gov.

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster

theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Meeting Dates and Times

Laingsburg Lions Club - Next meeting will be March 25th 6-7pm, at Twilligers Tavern, Downtown Laingsburg.

Greenbush Township - Meets the fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting will be held, Monday, March 23rd at 7p.m. at the Township Hall, 1993 E. French Rd., St. Johns.

St. Johns Camera Club - Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be held, Tuesday, March 24th at 7p.m. at the Township Hall, 1993 E. French Rd., St. Johns.

Laingsburg American Legion Service Officer - Monday, April 6th at Post Home.

City of Laingsburg - Meets the first Monday of each month. The next meeting will be Monday, April 6th at 7pm at 114 Woodhull St. Laingsburg.

Woodhull Township - Meets the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 8th at 7pm at 7315 W. Beard Rd., Shaftsbury.

Fairfield Township - Meets the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 9th at 7pm at the Township Hall.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Weekly Service Directory...Where People Find What They're Looking For! 2

Scharnweber Well Drilling

517-651-2211

Family Owned Business

Serving the Laingsburg & Surrounding Communities for Over 20 Years.

Pump Technician **DAVE'S GENERAL REPAIR** Furnace Technician

HEATING • COOLING • PLUMBING

Sales & Service
989-834-5554

DAVE BENO
Ovid, MI
Cell # 989-798-7052

Answering Service Available

LONG'S Transmissions

- Automatic
- Manual • Foreign
- Domestic
- 4-Wheel Drive

210 N. Lyon St.
Owosso
(989) 723-5580



Applebee Oil & Propane

108 N. Mill St.,
Ovid
989-834-2828 or
800-882-0876



Ovid-Elsie Animal Clinic

3900 N. Hollister Rd.
Ovid, MI
989-834-5333

Ovid Lions/VFW Hall

214 S. Main St., Ovid
Available for rental.
(989) 834-2551

PERU Handyman & Landscaping

Now Scheduling Small Indoor Projects
Bathrooms • Flooring • Kitchens

Ray Peru
(989) 251- 8531

Competitive Rates
Quality Work

MICHIGAN LIVESTOCK SERVICE

Serving the Farm Community



989-834-2661

110 N. Main St., Ovid
M-F 9:30-3:30pm; Sat. 9:30-12:30pm

Advertise Your Business Here

only \$22 per week!

For More Info:
989-834-2264

Doody Well Drilling

New Wells (Steel & Plastic) • Clean Water Systems
• Certified Pump Repair • Well Replacement & Repair



State of Michigan #1616 Full Insured

517-651-5914

5624 W. Grand River Rd. LAINGSBURG

Advertise weekly at the low, low rate of \$22 for a single directory or \$32 for a double directory, will buy your space in The Weekly Service Directory with a circulation of 11,000 papers! Run your ad weekly, and change it as needed!

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Weekly Service Directory...Where People
Find What They're Looking For!

1

Bills HEATING & COOLING
Sales & Service

204 S. Main Street, P.O. Box
463, Ovid, MI 48866
(989) 834-6288
www.billsheatingcooling.com

Fireplaces
Licensed and Insured

Ron's Seamless Gutters & More

• Roofing • Siding • Kitchens • Baths • Decks • Pole Barns
• Wood Basements • Concrete/Flatwork
• Interior/Exterior Painting • Skidster Work

Ron Orweller Serving Clinton & Shiawassee Counties **(989) 640-8258**

Thornton & Sons Construction & Design Inc.

Licensed Builder
Lead Certified Renovator
Veterans Affairs Approved

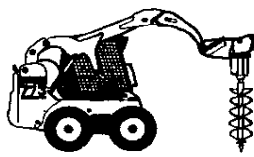
• Remodeling Specialists • Kitchens • Bathrooms
• Wood Basements • New Homes • Architectural Design

Phone: 989-862-4889

Holes - N - More - LLC

6 in. 12 in. 18 in. 24 in. 30 in. Holes

Bobcat Service of All Types



"Your Hole is Our Goal!"
Insured

Concrete Tear-Out and Replace
New Concrete Flat Work
Preparation for Concrete

Ron Keck

Cell 517-896-5261

BLAINE JUNK REMOVAL

Residential or
Commercial

Call Jay:
517-980-0468

Miller/Bartz

Septic
2 Locations
Ovid



834-2733

Owosso

743-5055

200 ft. of hose

FERRALL'S TREE

Tree Trimming & Removal, Inc.

"Old Fashioned Service with Modern Technology"

3 ISA CERTIFIED ARBORISTS ON STAFF



Experienced • Equipped • Insured

Stump Removal

989-862-4453 ~ 989-666-0561

CURBSIDE GARBAGE SERVICE

We beat all LOCAL competitors rates **GUARANTEED!**



Buying all scrap metals:
Autos & Junk Equipment.
One stop for all your
recycling & waste needs.

Owosso: **989-725-8062**

SPECIALTY SALVAGE

FREE Curb Cart Rental For Seniors.
Serving Clinton • Gratiot • Saginaw Counties.



• Full Service
Auto Repair

9779 M-21, Ovid
(989) 834-5031

Advertise weekly at the low, low rate of \$22 for a single directory or \$32 for a double directory, will buy your space in The Weekly Service Directory with a circulation of 11,000 papers! Run your ad weekly, and change it as needed!

CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

APT FOR RENT

FOR RENT: March Special!
Large one bedroom apartment
in Elsie. Heat included. Call
989-862-4227.

1512tf

ELSIE: Efficiency apartment,
2nd floor. All utilities included.
No smoking or pets. \$450/mo.
plus deposit. Ed Thornton 989-
862-4889

1497tf

AUCTION

SCHLUCKEBIER FARM:
Auction in Frankenmuth, MI has
been POSTPONED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE! Sherwood
Auction Service 989-763-7157.

www.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com

CPM

ONLINE FARM AUCTION:

Preview March 28, 10-6. 3300
Nichols Rd., Lennon 48449. '66
Mustang, '07 Silverado, IH 1660
Axial Flow Combine, Tractors,
Trucks, Tools **BID March 26-30**
at NarhiAUCTIONS.com
810-266-6474

CPM

FARM

WE INSTALL: Steel roofs on
high barns. Free estimates. Ask
for John 616-527-3635

1512t12

FOR SALE

QUEEN MATTRESS SETS:
Starting at \$199. Marr's
Furniture, 1544 E. M-21,
Owosso (across from Walmart).
Phone 989-723-5436

1517

AMISH BUILT: mini cabins or
storage sheds delivered to your
site anywhere in Michigan!
Starting at \$2,500.00.
mynextbarn.com
989-832-1866

CPM

BUILT BEST BARN:
Michigan's Largest Pole Barn
Company Best Quality, Best
Service, ORDER NOW for
BEST PRICING!
License/Insured.
1-877-802-9591 (Office).
989-205-2534 (Cell).

CPM

METAL ROOFING: Regular
and shingle style, HALF OFF
ON SPECIAL COLORS! Also,
lifetime asphalt shingles avail-
able. Licensed and insured
builders. Quality work for 40
years! 517-575-3695

CPM

FOAM SHEETS: (Below
Anyone). Under Concrete
Foam, Pole Barn Foam, All
Sizes & Thickness - ALL
TYPES. Free Delivery
Anywhere in Quantity. 800-262-
5774 www.williamsinsulation-
inc.com

CPM

**ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEAN-
ING:** Forever! LeafFilter, the
most advanced debris-blocking
gutter protection. Schedule a
FREE LeafFilter estimate today!
%15 off Entire Purchase. 10%
Senior & Military Discounts. Call
1-844-369-2501

CPM

LAND WANTED

WANTED: Farm land wanted to
rent for 2020 & beyond. Also
farm land to purchase on land
contract. Contact Don Cuthbert
at (517) 881-1724, or e-mail
don.cuthbert@yahoo.com.

1450tf

MISCELLANEOUS

**STAY IN YOUR HOME
LONGER:** with an American
Standard Walk-In Bathtub.
Receive up to \$1,500 off, includ-
ing a free toilet, and a lifetime
warranty on the tub and installa-
tion! Call us at 1-855-271-8452

CPM

MEET SINGLES: right now! No
paid operators, just real people
like you. Browse greetings,
exchange messages and con-
nect live. Try it free. Call now:
855-247-5909

CPM

OXYGEN: Anytime. Anywhere.
No tanks to refill. No deliveries.
The All-New Inogen One G4 is
only 2.8 pounds! FAA
approved! FREE info kit:
855-970-1066

CPM

**STOP STRUGGLING ON THE
STAIRS:** Give your life a lift with
an ACORN STAIRLIFT! Call
now for \$250 OFF your sailift
purchase and FREE DVD &
brochure! 1-855-280-6240

CPM

**VACATION CABINS FOR
RENT:** in Canada. Fish for
abundant walleye, perch, north-
ern pike. Boats, motors, gaso-
line included. For free brochure
call Hugh 1-800-426-2550
www.CanadianFishing.com

CPM

ADJUSTABLE BED: Brand
New with Imcomfort gel memory
foam mattress. Retail Cost
\$3,995.00, sacrifice for \$575.00.
Call for showing or delivery:
989-615-2951.

CPM

**DONATE YOUR CAR TO
CHARITY:** Receive maximum
value of write off for your taxes.
Running or not! All conditions
accepted. Free pickup. Call for
details. 855-413-9672

CPM

POND STOCKING

FISH FOR STOCKING: Most
varieties, pond - lakes. Laggis'
Fish Farm. (269) 628-2056,
days or (269) 624-6215,
evenings.

1514t12

SERVICES

MARK'S LAWN CARE: Now
scheduling for lawn mowing and
rototilling. call 989-862-4192

1517t2

DIRECTV: Switch and Save!
\$39.99/month. Select All-
Included Package. 155
Channels. 1000s of
Shows/Movies On Demand.
FREE Genie HD DVR Upgrade.
Premium movie channels,
FREE for 3 mos! Call 1-888-
351-0154

CPM

SERVICES

**HANDYMAN SNOW
REMOVAL:** Driveways and
sidewalks. Also will haul away
junk. Call Jim 517-881-9977.

1499tf

REACH ACROSS MI: with a
MegaMarket Statewide
Classified Ad! Over 1.9 million
weekly in-home circulation just
\$249 per week! Buy 3 ads -
Get 1 Free! Call 800-783.0267

CPM

**J & M WELL DRILLING &
Service, Inc.** Emergency
Service. Perry 517-675-5956
Owosso 989-743-5626
Point of Sale Work, 5" PVC
Well Drilling, Well Repairs,
Pumps and Tanks,
Chlorinating and Testing.
www.waterhelpnow.com. TF

FERRALL'S FIREWOOD:
Good quality hardwood.
\$50/face cord plus delivery.
Family owned & operated since
1978. (989) 862-4453; (989)
666-0561. 1156tf

A PLACE FOR MOM: has
helped over a million families
find senior living. Our trusted
local advisors help solutions to
your unique needs at NO COST
TO YOU! Call 517-348-0526.

CPM

EARTHLINK HIGH SPEED:
Internet. As Low As
\$14.95/month (for the first 3
months.) Reliable High Speed
Fiber Optic Technology. Stream
Videos, Music and More! Call
Earthlink Today!
1-844-275-3510

CPM

DENTAL INSURANCE: From
Physicians Mutual Insurance
Company. NOT just a discount
plan, REAL coverage for [350]
procedures. Call 1-877-253-
3162 for details.
www.dental50plus.com/55

CPM

**BECOME A PUBLISHED
AUTHOR:** Publications sold at
all major secular & specialty
Christian bookstores. CALL
Christian Faith Publishing for
your FREE author submission
kit. 1-866-945-3813

CPM

DISH NETWORK: \$59.99 For
190 Channels! Add High Speed
Internet for ONLY
\$19.95/month. Call Today for
\$100 Gift Card! Best Value &
Technology. FREE Installation.
Call 1-866-950-6757 (some
restrictions apply)

CPM

WANTED

CASH FOR CARS: We Buy
Any Condition Vehicle, 2002
and Newer. Competitive Offer!
Nationwide FREE Pick Up! Call
Now For a Free Quote!
888-366-5659

CPM



Photo Credit: Michael Jordan, David-Lorne Photographic

Newly Inducted Shiawassee Scholars, Class of 2024

submitted by Renee Dotson

On March 10, fifty-one grade students officially became Shiawassee Scholars at D'Mar Conference and Banquet Center. The Shiawassee Scholars program started in 1999 and has recognized over 1,000 Scholars! The new Class of 2024 Shiawassee Scholars are from Byron, Corunna, Durand, Home Schooled, Laingsburg, New Lothrop, Owosso, Perry and St. Paul. Pictured here are: Braden Andrejack, Cameron Ballard, Josie Bauman, Brynne Birchmeier, Emma Bishop, Clayton Brown, Liliana Bruff, Kayla Brunner, Allen Cole, Sara Dammann, Rylee Elkins, Aaron Ernst, Laine Freidel, Noah Fryer, Hunter Gillen, Quentin Goodwill, Makenzie Hall, Thomas Harris, Elizabeth Heslip, Kaitlyn Kingsbury, Jaedyn Kline, Jaylei Kramer, Bryce Kuchar, Joseph Kulhanek, Grace Leasher, Haydn McDonnell, Paige McPherson, Claire Milton, Elijah Morgan, Taylor Muzer, Jorja Napier, Madison Reeder, Lillia Reid, Alana Riddell, Kaylin Robertson, Marissa Rowe, Audrey Rowley, Jaidyn Sadler, Piper Seguin, Quinn Skarich, Mason Stark, Calena Stevens, Richard Stuart, Jude Suchyta, Colton Symons, Raegan Taylor, Logan Vowell, Brody Webb, Brynn Wilson, Sierra Wright, and Joshua Zuckschwerdt.

The Shiawassee Scholars Program provides resources and support to academically talented high school students to reach their full potential. The Program is a partnership between the Cook Family Foundation and the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District. Shiawassee Scholars are identified in eighth grade by achieving the highest scores in the county on the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test). By identifying and recognizing academically talented students early, the Shiawassee Scholars program seeks to encourage students to continue to pursue academically challenging activities during their high school years. Students participate in several programs; these new scholars will spend three days on a Big Ten University Campus, practice their test taking skills, and attend several informational sessions regarding planning for college and career, dual enrollment options and accelerated academic programs.





HEATING & COOLING

REBATES and TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE

Licensed & Insured

Laingsburg ~ 517-282-4347 ~ 517-651-2233



30 Years Trial Experience

LAW OFFICE OF

Patrick Marutiak

1028 E. MAIN, OWOSSO ~ 989-725-8118

AGGRESSIVE TRIAL ATTORNEY

- Social Security Disability
- Workers Compensation
- Auto Accidents • All Injury Claims

SPECIALIZING IN

PERSONAL INJURY

No Fee Unless You Collect

FREE CONSULTATION

MSU Music Public Events

submitted by Michael Sundermann

In accordance with Governor Whitmer's emergency declaration and protocols set by Michigan State University, as of Thursday, March 12, all College of Music public events have been suspended through the remainder of the spring semester.

On March 11, the state announced confirmed COVID-19 cases in Michigan and advised against public gatherings of 100 or more people. MSU announced the suspension of face-to-face instruction and moved to virtual instruction until April 20. These actions and precautionary measures directly impact our event schedule. A suspension of our remaining events this semester is necessary because the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and the entire MSU community comes first.

Certain suspended events are being evaluated to determine if they can be rescheduled next academic year. College leadership is working with students and faculty to help ensure remaining academic requirements will be fulfilled this semester.

The statewide response to COVID-19 is ongoing and changing rapidly. For the latest information from MSU, go to <https://msu.edu/coronavirus/>. Updates from the MSU College of Music will be posted at <http://www.music.msu.edu/>.

An FAQ will be posted on our site soon. For all media outlets who publish information about our public events, please update your listings to reflect this change.

Contact: MSU College of Music Communications Office, Michael Sundermann, 517-353-2043, sunderm7@msu.edu. Rick Seguin, 517-353-9958, seguinr@msu.edu



LAINGSBURG FAMILIES

FOOD SERVICE FOR OUR STUDENTS

Starting on Friday, March 20, through Friday, April 3, Laingsburg Community Schools will provide food service meals (breakfast and lunch) on Tuesdays and Fridays for ALL children, 18 years of age and under, free of charge.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MEALS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CURBSIDE PICK UP AT OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER (ECEC) LOCATED AT 320 GRAND RIVER, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 11 AM – 1 PM ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS.



PLEASE UTILIZE THE DRIVE OFF OF WOODHULL STREET AND PULL UP TO THE CAFETERIA DOOR. THERE WILL BE NO CAFETERIA DINING AVAILABLE.

Sparrow Health System Preparedness

For over 20 years Sparrow has cared for our community. As concerns about Coronavirus are raised in our community, Sparrow is leading the way to provide exceptional care, as it's always done, every hour of every day.

Sparrow enacted its Incident Command Center weeks ago, long before the first case was identified in the Midwest. We've been planning our response, acquiring supplies and communicating with our Physicians and Caregivers. Like all outstanding Level 1 Trauma Centers, we were ready before the need was required. We've worked closely with our colleagues in the local health coalition to help the community prepare, and when the need arises, Sparrow will stand ready to help our community manage through the moment and maintain its health.

As we stand ready, we need your help. Our best efforts are prevention. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued an Executive Order restricting visitors to healthcare facilities through April 5. Restricted visitation will be in effect for all people, including family and friends. Some exceptions can be made for end-of-life situations or other extenuating circumstances.

While this will be difficult, it provides the greatest assurance that your loved one will remain safe and recover quickly. We are screening everyone, including Caregivers. It's the best way to protect your family and ours.

As you've heard, there is no vaccine at this time for COVID-19. That means prevention is our best method to stop the spread and keep the community safe. We are in step with the Centers for Disease Control in asking to:

*Wash your hands often for 20 seconds (singing Happy Birthday twice!) If there is no soap and water, use an alcohol sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

* Stay 6 feet from others. You don't know who has a cough right away. This is social distancing, and it works.

* The virus enters our body through our eyes, nose and mouth. Don't touch your face, and your chance of getting sick drops.

* Stay home if you become ill, have a fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

* Cover your cough.

* Clean frequently touched items like doorknobs with a household cleaner.

Your health and the health of your family are our greatest concern. We're here to help. It is what we've done for over 20 years.

For up-to-date information please visit Sparrow.org/Coronavirus.



Matthew W. Rush
President, Sparrow Eaton Hospital



Anthony Marl, DO
Chief of Staff, Sparrow Eaton Hospital

