



My Turn At Bat

by Tom Turek

Class. Pure Class

That's one -- OK, two -- words that fit to an old-English 'D' our beloved, and now late, Al Kaline.

The announcement of the death of Mr. Tiger on April 6, on top of everything else we're dealing with in these

trying COVID-19 pandemic times, was a particularly cruel punch in the gut.

For those of you old enough to know, to remember -- and for all of you who aren't -- Class is in session, good readers.

Pure Class.

Here's the stat line: Al Kaline signed with the Tigers as an 18-year old kid. He manned right field for 22 years with the Tigers, the only team he ever played for, before retiring in 1974. On June 18, 1953, a day after he had graduated from Baltimore South High School, and on the day he was preparing to go to his high school prom, Kaline sat at his kitchen table with his father and a Tigers' scout and put his name on a big league contract. Detroit gave him \$15,000 as a signing bonus and a \$20,000 in salary over three years.

Kaline was an 18-time All-Star, 10-time Gold Glove winner, won the 1955 batting title (.340), and was a vital member of the 1968 World Series champions. He retired after just crossing the 3,000-hit threshold and only one long ball shy of 400 home runs. In 1980 he became only the 10th player inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. He made the AL All-Star Team a truly incredible 13 years in a row. He set the standard in baseball for his fielding and throwing prowess as a right fielder.

Class. In math class, that's the significant data, the numbers you could crunch.

But Al Kaline was so, so much more.

One of the reasons we hold so true to the people we admire is that we use them as role models. For some, that would be a teacher. For some, it's a celebrity. For some, it's an athlete.

For me, Al Kaline was all of those things.

Number Six taught us how to strive for excellence, while showing humility in our achievements. Long after his playing days, he remained with the Tigers as an announcer, and as a baseball ambassador.

Class. Perhaps the most famous story of Kaline's days with the Tabbies -- a true display of his humility -- came after the 1970 season. The club's front office attempted to make him the first Tiger to sign a \$100,000 contract (\$631,306 in today's dollars). Kaline turned it down, saying he did not feel like he deserved it after hitting .278 with 21 home runs in 1970.

The following year, he hit .294 and got his raise to the six-figure club.

Another story we should not forget is what Kaline and the Tigers meant to the city of Detroit. In turbulent times among race riots and anti-war protests in the late 1960s, Detroit burned -- some of the city to the ground -- during the Detroit riots in the summer of '67.

Class. Along came the '68 Tigers and united the city with their championship ways, winning the World Series in 7 games over the St. Louis Cardinals. Kaline was right there beside Mickey Lolich and Willie Horton and Mickey Stanley and Jim Northrup and Norm Cash as heroes for the Tigers. Mr. Tiger finished that postseason by hitting .379 (11-for-29) with two home runs and eight RBIs.

One humorous anecdote: Al was so famous in our eyes as kids that we thought they named alkaline batteries after him. We were wrong, of course, but I still chuckle when I see that word on a new package of double-A's.

Class was in session with Al Kaline in Detroit. What he gave his adopted city and the entire state of Michigan is a legacy that cannot be measured.

But it won't be forgotten. We cannot replace some legends, but we can strive to emulate them.

Class. Pure Class. Thanks, Mr. Tiger, for everything. Generations of fans throughout Michigan are in mourning.



DuPlain Township Proceedings

by Dawn D. Levey

DUPLAIN - The new norm is virtual meetings during these challenging times, DuPlain Township held its second tele-conference meeting Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 pm, DuPlain Township Hall. It should be noted that Bruce Levey, supervisor, was on site. Officials addressed necessary action items.

Bruce Levey, supervisor, reminded officials that the language for the millage requests for the EMS renewal and the proposed road millage is due May 12, 2020.

Officials took action to approve the Clinton County Road Commission road contracts for the 2020-2021 fiscal year:

Contract #	Service	Cost
497.006.067010	Chloride-Mineral Well Brine	\$17,508.75
497.006.067020	Various-Foliar Brush Spray	\$6,074.61
497.006.067030	Various-Overband/Crack Fill	\$2,980.80
497.006.067040	Spot Gravel	\$15,728.00
497.006.067050	Maple Rapids Rd- Chandler to Watson	\$15,248.75
497.006.067060	French Rd-Shepardsville to Upton	\$15,435.00
497.006.067070	Sevy Rd-Chandler-Watson	\$15,435.00
497.006.067080	Chandler rd - Ridge to Maple Rapids	\$7,717.50
497.006.067090	Ridge Rd-Watson to St. Clair	\$15,435.00
Grand Total		\$111,563.47

Dennis Baese, trustee and Elsie Area Fire Representative, reported that the department is taking extra safety precautions due to the COVID-19. In addition, meetings and training sessions have been suspended. Officials noted that Elsie Area Fire Rescue has been supporting the community by providing assistance to the Elsie Food Bank, to the area senior citizens and to children that have birthdays by providing drive byes on their special day.

Bruce Levey reported that Clinton Area Ambulance Service has had encounters with COVID-19 patients, all employees have been tested with no positive results. Also, due to the health risk employees are receiving hazard compensation.

Under the agenda item public comment Mr. Douglas Sturgis reported that the Business Expo that was scheduled for the end of May has been postponed indefinitely.

Finally, action was taken to approve expenditures totaling \$3,128.48.

Monthly action was taken to approve the agenda as presented, the minutes of the March 11, 2020 Public Hearing addressing the 2020-2021 budget and the March 11 regular meeting minutes, followed by approval of the financial reports.



Attention O-E Seniors and Parents

With the class of 2020 missing out on some of the best months of their senior year we find it important to give them a little extra recognition and support.

Sandy Litomisky of Racer Girl Graphics, along with the help of the Ovid Carriage days, and Elsie Dairy Festival would like to do just that. Now thru April 21, 2020 any O-E senior that submits a photo to us will receive one per student 24x18, 1 sided yard sign free of charge.

Please submit your photo and students name to racergirlgraphics@yahoo.com. Please note these must be high resolution original digital image in jpeg format. The quality of the photo sent will be the quality of the photo. No compressed image from social media or photos of a photo. We must be able to enlarge the photo to 24x18.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Sandy at 517-719-4733.

Social

Stepping Up to Help

With many of the lives in our community affected by the Corona virus, the Ovid Lions Club has stepped up to help by donating \$1,000 to the Elsie Food Bank. The food bank in Elsie is located at 225 S. Ovid Street in Elsie and is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8am-9:30am for curbside pick-up only at this time. When you come to the food bank, workers are asking that you not get out of your car, they will bring a pre-filled box to your vehicle.



Due to the Covid-19 epidemic, the Greater Lansing Food Bank has advised that only monetary donations be made to the Elsie Food Bank at this time. Persons able to make a donation may do so by sending to Elsie Food Bank, PO Box 311, Elsie, MI 48831.

The Ovid Lions Club also has volunteers available to grocery shop or pick-up needed prescriptions for shut-in Senior Citizens or high-risk individuals who should not go out in public due to COVID-19. If you are an individual that could use this service, please call Judy Perrien at (989)834-5225 or email Mary Perrien at perrien41@msn.com. to schedule for this service.

You will need to provide a grocery list. Lions volunteers will shop at Village Food Pride or Dollar General in Ovid then bring to your door. Payment can be made by check once the groceries have been delivered. Lions volunteers will not enter your home and will practice safe social distancing and or wear person protection equipment.

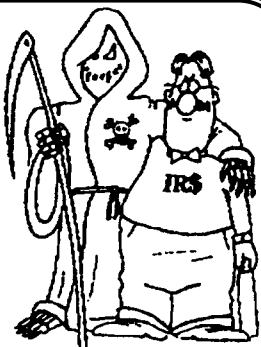
Return of the Romans Banquet Postponed

Due to the current health situation, we have decided to indefinitely postpone this years' annual Return of the Romans Banquet.

It's currently scheduled for June of 2020. If we determine that is safe to reschedule, an announcement will be made.

Thank you for understanding and please stay healthy.

**B
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AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

NOTICE

Due to the STATE SHUT DOWN we cannot see any clients until April 30, 2020.

You can drop your taxes off thru the door drop-slot and we will complete them.

If you were scheduled for an appointment from 3/24 thru 4/13 please drop off your tax information. We hope to resume after the shut-down is lifted.

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Laingsburg Schools Seeking Applications for Board of Education Vacancy

submitted by Krissy Pratt

The Laingsburg Community School District is seeking applications for the current vacant position on the board of education. An individual will be appointed to fill the vacant position until the November 3, 2020 elections have been held and certified and a newly elected individual has been sworn-in to fill the remainder of this position's term.

Interested persons must submit a letter expressing interest in the board position and their qualifications for the position to the district office no later than 12:00 p.m. on April 24, 2020.

Following a review of the submitted materials, the board will schedule interviews with selected candidates. Not all candidates for the board vacancy will be interviewed. If you have any questions concerning the role of the board of education and the responsibilities of a board member, please contact Matt Shastal, Superintendent of Schools, at Laingsburg Community Schools.

Recycling on Hold for April

submitted by Ellen Link

As it has almost everywhere else, COVID-19 has canceled the April recycling drive in Laingsburg. (The same is true for the MSU and East Lansing recycling drop-offs.) To get updates on our plans and for more information on recycling and waste reduction tips, please go to our Facebook page. The challenges we are all facing right now are unprecedented, so adapting to them must proceed one day at a time.

In the meantime, the GLR is pursuing a grant from EGLE to establish a permanent recycling site in Laingsburg. To that end, we need letters of support from local municipalities, institutions and organizations, and must come up with approximately \$20,000 in matching funds. We encourage those who appreciate the importance of recycling and other methods of waste reduction and who use our recycling service to voice their support with their elected officials and other leaders. Our patrons come from two counties encompassing several cities and townships.

If anyone would like to contribute to this cause and/or write a letter of support, please contact Terry Link (517-651-2005/link@msu.edu) or Dave Draggoo (651-6846/ddraggool@gmail.com) as soon as possible. We presently have a grant deadline of April 28, though we are hoping the state will push that back under these extraordinary circumstances.

Public Notice: Virtual Council Meeting due to COVID-19

In the interest of protecting public health and facilitating compliance with the State of Michigan's Stay Home-Stay Safe Order, the Elsie Village Council will hold a virtual meeting, permitted by Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-15, with the sole purpose to conduct essential business necessary to ensure that village operations continue without interruption during the COVID 19 pandemic. Individuals interested in participating in the virtual meeting can do so through telephone via the magicJack meeting platform. (see details below)

The Village will post access information necessary for participation for every meeting which shall include the meeting identification number, access password, and access telephone number on our website (www.elsie.org) and our Facebook Page.

At this point in time, the regular Village Council meeting on April 14th is scheduled to be held virtually. The Village President, Village Clerk, and Village Manager will be at the Elsie Public Library hosting the call, all other Council Members, Members of the public and members of the Press will need to call into the Village council meeting to participate. (instructions below)

The Village Council will be utilizing the normal agenda format for the virtual meetings. Individuals are not required to identify themselves unless they wish to speak during the regular public comment times identified on the agenda. At that point, to participate the individual will be required to give their name and address as is required at all Village Council meetings.

Individuals who may have questions regarding the virtual meetings are encouraged to contact the Village Manager Shane Grinnell at 989-862-4273 ext. 7 or manager@elsie.org

To access the 7:00pm April 14th 2020 Council meeting:

1) Dial phone number 1-305-848-8888

2) Push 1 to enter a conference call

3) enter conference number 1258624273 then push #

Once in the conference call PLEASE push MUTE on your phone. This will reduce background noise. If you would like to speak at the appropriate time you may do so by unmuting your phone. Meetings will be audio only.



A Few Pricey Words

by Deb Price

Happy Birthday Little Sister

As many of you know I have eight amazing sisters and one very special brother. On Easter Sunday, my sister Irene Wyrick will be celebrating her birthday. As many of you also know, our Mom, Violet is a resident at Welcome Home in Owosso and on Hospice. None of us are able to visit her due to the Corona virus.



Irene has made special visits to the facility (meeting staff at the door) to drop off special treats for the residents, and sharing project ideas and materials. As some of you may remember reading, she took a baby lamb for the residents to enjoy. Irene is a tender hearted soul who quietly does for others. She along with myself are the closest in proximity to the facility in Owosso and have the most contact with staff and hospice nurses. Don't get me wrong, all my siblings are engaged and help in many ways but Irene is the go to person.

She sends awesome birthday cards, carefully chosen to fit ALL nine of us on our birthdays. She is known as the Apple Lady in Byron. She is special! I hope she doesn't get too mad at me for shining a light on her, I just want to wish her the happiest birthday, especially since I didn't get her card in the mail!

Love you Sis...

Ovid Historical Society

submitted by Roger Matthies

Welcome Spring! We are happy for the changing season but due to the current health crisis we are postponing our April meeting.

Regular monthly meetings will resume when conditions permit. Be safe.

Wine and Canvas Event

submitted by Cindy

Suggate

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 248 in Laingsburg has decided to cancel our Wine and Canvas event for Friday April 17th.

We hope to reschedule once all of the uncertainties of the Coronavirus have taken care of themselves. We will be rescheduling and will get that info out as soon as possible.

Take care everyone.

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Tips for Managing Stress During the COVID-19 Pandemic

by Jennifer Kiel, Michigan Farmer

It's no secret that farmers, ranchers and rural Americans are struggling. They have been dealing with a depressed farm economy for the past seven years, and with the arrival of COVID-19, it adds another layer of adversity.

As the pandemic cripples the U.S., it may trigger a tipping point for farmers already battling the fear of the unknown — weather, market availability, commodity prices, pests, weeds, and now their own health, as well as the health of family members and workers.

Contracting the disease and being sidelined during a crucial time of the year is very concerning, but also because the virus has been known to be more brutal for the older population. For American farmers, the average age is 58.

Bankruptcies, foreclosures, depression and even suicide are some of the tragic consequences of these pressures.

While COVID-19 has idled many professions, farming will and must continue to move forward. The pressure to provide the feed, food, fuel and fiber for Americans and the world is a constant, regardless of the world's perils.

When it seems as though things are out of control, focus on what you can control, advises Adrienne DeSutter, who is an agriculture wellness advocate with a master's degree in counseling.

"For example, you may not be able to control who contracts COVID-19, but you can control preventative measures, like limiting employee hours together on the farm, regular hand-washing, and keeping machinery and tools disinfected," she says. "Having information about the situation is an important way to figure out what you can do, but limiting your exposure to news and social media can also be helpful to minimize extra anxiety."

According to Jeff Fant, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's disaster assessment and recovery agent, when it comes to personal stress levels, what people are now experiencing is no different than the stress one would feel during a natural disaster.

"After 25 years of dealing with high-stress situations myself, I would tell people the single most important thing they can practice is self-care," says Fant, who previously worked as a senior disaster program manager for the American Red Cross in San Angelo, Texas.

"Self-care is not just physical things like hand-washing and social distancing, but caring for one's self mentally. Right now, people have a fear of the unknown and anxiety about what could happen to family, friends and themselves."

While society strives to keep 6 feet between individuals, Fant says, "Don't quarantine yourself from social contact, just physical contact. Keeping in touch with friends and family benefits everyone and is a crucial part of self-care."

Normal responses

Fant says anger, anxiety, depression and fear all are normal responses to stressful situations. He shared these suggestions

on managing those feelings:

Practice self-care. Find ways to relax and unwind. If there is a hobby you can do at home, make sure you have the supplies and tools that you'll need in advance.

Use the buddy system. Whether it is a spouse or best friend, have someone you can honestly express your emotions to.

Be a friend. Call and check on others' emotional and physical well-being. If you have the capability, video chat with friends and loved ones who live outside your household.

Keep your mind occupied. Do not let it stagnate on fear, anger or worry.

Maintain your health. Try to eat right, get fresh air, stay hydrated and get some physical activity, even if that is just walking around your block, yard or living room.

Stay informed, but don't leave the TV on. Receiving non-stop news about COVID-19 on your TV or smartphone will just add to your stress. Do not share information you can't prove to be true on social media. You do not want to instill unnecessary fear or worry in others.

Don't worry. There is no point in worrying about things that aren't true and are unlikely to happen, so make sure the information you are getting is from a legitimate site.

Most farmers can benefit from identifying three things they are grateful for in each day, DeSutter advises. "There are thousands of ways to destress, and since everyone is different, you have to find out what works best for you," she says.

If stress begins to affect the ability to function on a daily basis, it may be time to seek professional help. Visiting with your primary care doctor is a great place to start, DeSutter says, or you can see a mental health professional (such as a social worker or psychologist) without being referred by a doctor.

"Therapy is beneficial for anyone who wants to lead a better life, whether that's due to a mental health condition like depression or anxiety, or just a desire to work through any issue you may be facing," DeSutter says. "Talking about what you're thinking and feeling is one of the best ways to cope with

any stress, whether that's with a therapist or an empathetic friend."

Since 2017, Michigan State University Extension, as well as other Extension services across the U.S., has been offering mental health first aid training to both its own staff and external organizations to help recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health problems.

Telehealth (a virtual doctor or therapy visit) is becoming more widely available during this pandemic, as many states have temporarily loosened regulations to allow more providers the capability to offer these services.

"People who need help the most are often least likely to ask for it, and we can save lives if we continue to stay vigilant for signs of crisis in ourselves and others," DeSutter adds.

If the situation is potentially life-threatening, get immediate emergency assistance by dialing 911.

Suicide prevention resources

Here are some numbers to call for assistance:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Farm Aid Hotline, 800-FARM-AID (327-6243), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT Monday-Friday

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 800-273-TALK (8255), 24 hours

211, a comprehensive hotline that connects callers with local resources



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Thank you for supporting these local businesses at a time that they need your community support and patronage. The Lions are assisted by these businesses every year and while we rely on them in this endeavor.



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989-763-9675 (cell)
Office: 989-224-7709

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989-834-2573



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9:30 a.m.
Rev. Melanie Young

Bannister United Methodist Church

103 Harvey Street
Pastor: Zella Daniel
Sunday Worship 11:00am

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
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www.duplainchurch.org

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Pastor: Ava Williams

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and 11:45am
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Pastor Brian West
laingsburgumc@gmail.com

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Obituaries

Lois Arlene Poff

Lois Arlene Poff, age 88, of Ashley, MI, passed away Saturday, April 4, 2020, at her home surrounded by her family.

Lois was born in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania on December 29, 1931, the daughter of Paul M. and May M. (Shetron) Myers. She graduated in 1950 from Enola High School, Enola, Pennsylvania. She married her high school sweetheart, Harold Kenneth "Pete" Poff on April 20, 1952 in Biloxi, Mississippi. Pete passed away on November 17, 2018.

Lois worked as an IBM key punch operator in Harrisburg, PA while her husband Pete attended Shippensburg State Teachers College. They then moved to Kirksville, MO where she ran a day care for children whose parents attended medical school. Later when they moved to Ashley she worked alongside her husband Pete for many years at the Ashley Clinic as the office manager.

She enjoyed knitting, crafting and golfing. She loved attending her grandchildren's and great grandchildren's school and sporting events. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Johns, MI.

She is survived by her children: Cynthia Butler of Madison, NC;

Douglas and Nancy Poff of St. Johns, MI; Mark and Tammy Poff of Tucson, AZ; grandchildren: David and Erin Poff, Danny and Abbey Poff, Matt and Monica Poff, Nick Poff, Casey and Karolynn Poff, Joey and Kristie Poff, Jenny and Brad Pruett, and Ashley Milhizer, 17 great-grandchildren and one more on the way. She is also survived by her sister Janet Kepler, her brother John Myers, and niece Emily Stambaugh. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Pete, son-in-law Shirley Butler, and sisters: Erva Mae, and Pauline.

Cremation has taken place, a memorial service and time of visitation will be held at a later date at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Ithaca, MI.

Memorials may be made to St. Joseph Catholic School, 201 E. Cass Street St. Johns, MI 48879, Ithaca's Senior Activity Building, 1011 E. North St., Ithaca MI 48847 or Ithaca Community Food Pantry, 218 E. Newark St, Ithaca, MI 48847. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneral-homes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Ithaca, Michigan.

Fenner Nature Center's Earth Day Extravaganza Canceled

submitted by Alexa Seeger

Due to rapidly evolving current events, abundance of caution, volunteer workday is canceled at Fenner Nature Center.

It was scheduled for April 18th.

Fenner Nature Center is located at 2020 E. Mt. Hope Avenue in Lansing.

For more information, visit Fenner Nature Center on the web at www.mynaturecenter.org. Or call us at 517-483-4224.



Mark M. Stammersky

June 17, 1974

Easter Sunday April 8, 2012

*It's been eight years
and alot of tears.
Death leaves a heartache
that no on can heal.
Love leaves memories
that no one can steal.
We miss you so much
We wish we could touch.
We know that you are
near we feel when you
are here.*

*Your smile
we will always treasure.
It brought us so
much pleasure.*

We love and miss you

*Dad, Mom & Jeff,
Teresa-Ruby-Jack,
Susan-Kevin-Jordan-
Madalin-Sophie,
Grandma Stammersky*

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A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

I hope that this finds you all doing well.....meaning I hope that you are in good health. The restrictions that have been put on us are necessary and more than a bit disturbing. I've started recounting my blessings daily.....I'm thankful that I live out in the country where my nearest neighbor is at least a quarter of a mile from my home. Social distancing is not much of a problem.....it is not unusual for me to stay home a week at a time. I'm happy as long as I can go outside and work in the yard or my garden. I can speak to my children and grandchildren whenever I pick up a phone.....which I also use to keep tabs on my friends and neighbors. To be honest, what I don't like is being told that I can or cannot do something.... These instructions gnaw viciously at my independent streak.

I also do not like standing in line at the local Wal Mart and hear the cashier tell another customer that garden seeds are not essentials. I felt as if the other customer was being judged and measured by the cashier's standards which probably did not include raising and processing their own food. The cashier's world and mine are miles apart, I got the impression that she was one of those folks who believed that if you needed something all you have to do is go to the store and buy it. Fortunately the other customer did get her garden seeds but it was a rather interesting scene. Unfortunately many customers believe that all they need can be found at the local grocery store.....and are clueless as to how it got there or where it came from. Just a thought....And why isn't anyone buying soda being told that it is not essential?

Isabella has been working her charm again, as only a five year old can. To help out her Mama who is still working full time in the local emergency room, her Grandmother was to have her overnight. This of course delighted both of them plus Zach who wanted to show off his mesh bottomed wagon. After all he would have to tote his younger cousin around the yard. The kids are enjoying the outdoors and Diane is enjoying their vitality. Anyhow, this morning Diane received a text to see if Isabella could spend another night.....of course the answer was yes. The correct response delighted Isabella but she tried to negotiate another "three sleeps".....Diane told her one.....Izzy held up two fingers and let her know that "two sleeps" would be more acceptable. Grandma Diane firmly told Izzy "one sleep". Izzy just shrugged her shoulders and accepted Grandma's terms.

I did get a bit excited yesterday when I was finally able to have my signature notarized.....I have been trying to have it done since the end of March. So now I will be appearing on the August primary ballot. True I will be running as a 'public servant' and not as a 'politician'. Though I will need to reach out to the folks in my area, hopefully I will manage to get out and meet some folks even though the Coronavirus has put a kibosh on seeking votes.

Life is challenging at times but it keeps us moving forward.....even the detours help us to appreciate the views. May God bless and keep you, and may your views be both beautiful and discerning.

Crystal Mitchell©2020



Religious Thoughts

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

There's a lot of talk about washing hands today and for good reason. It is one of a few ways to try and keep oneself safe from catching the coronavirus.

This led me to think about washing as depicted in the Bible. Of course, much could be said on the subject, so let's narrow it down to one scene. A scene that occurred this very week, Passion Week; the last week of Christ's life on earth.

John records in his Gospel that during the Passover meal (aka "The Last Supper"), Jesus washed His disciples' feet.

This was shocking because it was a task done by the lowliest of servants. If you got this job, it meant that you weren't very high in the servant pecking order in the household.

As you can imagine, this was not a very enjoyable task in and of itself. Plus the disciples would have worn sandals that left the tops of their feet exposed, not shoes like we have today which cover the entire foot. The roads were dusty and one

would have to watch out for "land mines" dropped by various animals.

All this adds up to a task that Jesus did to show His disciples (and us today) that we should have a servant attitude.

But there is more going on here.

Jesus is doing the washing to all who choose to partake. Peter at first balks at being washed by Jesus, but then agrees when Jesus says that if Peter doesn't allow it, then he can not have any part with Jesus.

This does not mean that washing feet imparts salvation, but it does point to the fact that people can choose whether or not they want to be with Christ. Specifically and ultimately, whether or not they want for God to wash them of their sins.

There are two ways to look at the washing or cleansing from our sin that God provides. One is if you do not personally know God. If so, let me ask you, what is keeping you from being washed clean by the blood of Christ?

As the hymn, "'Are You Washed in the Blood?" asks-

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing pow'r?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

And

Lay aside the garments that are stained with sin,

And be washed in the blood of the Lamb;

There's a fountain flowing for the soul unclean,

O be washed in the blood of the Lamb.

If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, may I ask, "How is your walk with the Lord? Are you living for the Lord or holding on to some secret sin? Is there something that you need to bring to God? Something positive that you could do better or start doing for the Lord?"

If the former, join David in praying to the Lord, "Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin...Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow." - Psalm 51:2-7

If the latter, ask God for strength, courage, wisdom, whatever it may be that you need to step out in faith in God to do His will.

Laingsburg Area Food Bank Desperately Needs Funding

submitted by Linda Culpepper

Laingsburg's Area Food Bank would like to thank all the individuals and businesses who have donated either money or products to help those in our community who are experiencing hard times. We would also like to thank our WONDERFUL volunteers who love to come out and help. Without you, we couldn't do it.

In 2019, we serviced 44,000 individuals with food and personal care products That number was up from 33,000 in 2018. This year, the Corona Virus has put many people out of work. Even though the State of Michigan will be paying unemployment checks, several of our families have not seen income in several weeks. In February, we served 99 individuals. In March, we served 248 individuals. The need is there and we really need help in the financial department.LAFB is run from donations. We have seen a decrease in money donations and have been able to continue with the money we had. Now we are facing a financial dilemma. We are hoping you can help.

The Laingsburg Area Food Bank is located at the Laingsburg United Methodist Church on Crum Street. People in need of food can come to the Food Bank on Mondays from 1:00 pm -3:00 pm or Thursdays from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. All you need is a current form of identification that shows your Laingsburg address. Only question you will hear is, "How many in your family?", so our volunteers can get your products pulled . We are having to follow a new procedure to keep all involved safe. You can stay in your vehicle and pull up to the ramp entrance of the church. Volunteers will get your products and bring them out to the table. You can then pack your products in your vehicle.

If you are interested in making a contribution please send it to the Laingsburg Area Food Bank, 210 Crum Street, Laingsburg, Michigan 48848 ANY questions, or if you would like to become a volunteer, please call Linda Culpepper @ 517-285-0789.



Editorial



City of Ovid Teleconference for City Council Meeting

submitted by Josefina Medina, Clerk

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the meeting the City of Ovid City Council scheduled for April 13, 2020 starting at 7:00 pm will be conducted remotely via teleconference call (by phone) due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Join teleconference number is 1-712-832-8330. You then will be prompted to put in the access code number: 514 5651 and give your name. You then will be connected.

All public comments will be addressed at the end of the meeting. If you have any questions please contact the City office at 989-834-5550 for more information or go to www.ovidmi.org or Facebook at City of Ovid.

Public Notice: Virtual Council Meeting Due to COVID-19

submitted by Shane E. Grinnell, Village Manager

In the interest of protecting public health and facilitating compliance with the State of Michigan's Stay Home-Stay Safe Order, the Elsie Village Council will hold a virtual meeting, permitted by Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-15, with the sole purpose to conduct essential business necessary to ensure that village operations continue without interruption during the COVID 19 pandemic. Individuals interested in participating in the virtual meeting can do so through telephone via the magicJack meeting platform. (see details below)

The Village will post access information necessary for participation for every meeting which shall include the meeting identification number, access password, and access telephone number on our website (www.elsie.org) and our Facebook Page.

At this point in time, the regular Village Council meeting on April 14th is scheduled to be held virtually. The Village President, Village Clerk, and Village Manager will be at the Elsie Public Library hosting the call, all other Council Members, Members of the public and members of the Press will need to call into the Village council meeting to participate. (instructions below)

The Village Council will be utilizing the normal agenda format for the virtual meetings. Individuals are not required to identify themselves unless they wish to speak during the regular public comment times identified on the agenda. At that point, to participate the individual will be required to give their name and address as is required at all Village Council meetings.

Individuals who may have questions regarding the virtual meetings are encouraged to contact the Village Manager Shane Grinnell at 989-862-4273 ext. 7 or manager@elsie.org

To access the 7:00pm April 14th 2020 Council meeting:

- 1) Dial phone number 1-305-848-8888
- 2) Push 1 to enter a conference call
- 3) enter conference number 1258624273 then push #

Once in the conference call PLEASE push MUTE on your phone. This will reduce background noise. If you would like to speak at the appropriate time you may do so by unmuting your phone. Meetings will be audio only.



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Sports



OE Wrestling Academic All-State Team

submitted by Kyle Spiess

Congratulations goes out to the Ovid Elsie Wrestling team for achieving Academic all state as a team. Not only did the team achieve all state honors, they had the 8th highest team grade point average in division 3 for wrestling. Teams must have a 3.2 gpa or higher to even be nominated. "This is the 2nd time in my three year coaching career that we made academic all state, that makes me very happy as a coach to see the kids succeed on and off the mat!" Congrats to the OE wrestlers; Mason Spiess, Cecilia Eldridge, Sam Grubaugh, Aubrey Arnett, Max Spiess, Gavyn Perry, Landon Stoneman, Zac Miller, Hunter Blacker, Coleten Towsley Wagner, Brekn Rundell, Eric Perry, Trenton Hurst, Rudy Morales, Luke Follett, and Kameron Arnett.

Mason Spiess received individual academic all state honors. He qualified for the individual state meet and had a 3.5 or higher gpa. This is a huge accomplishment for any wrestler. Mason is headed to Lake Superior State university next year to study Fisheries and Wildlife management.



Mason Spiess

MHSAA Cancels Remainder of 2019-20 Winter and Spring Seasons

EAST LANSING — The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) has canceled the remainder of the 2019-20 winter and spring sports seasons.

MHSAA said in a press release April 3 the move to canceled the sports season were in compliance with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive order extending the closure of all public and private K-12 schools and requiring districts to switch to distant learning.

This will be the first school year to not see MHSAA Finals played in multiple sports since 1942-43, when World War II led to the elimination of finals in most sports.

The MHSAA on March 12 suspended its girls and boys basketball, girls gymnastics, boys ice hockey and boys swimming & diving tournaments amid COVID-19 concerns. All activity in all sports was halted March 13.

"We are heartbroken to not be able to provide these opportunities for Michigan's student-athletes, and especially seniors. We continue to hear from dozens asking us to hold out hope. But safety always must come first, and Gov. Whitmer is making courageous decisions to safeguard the people of our state," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "We understand as much as anyone how much school sports mean to athletes and their communities. We had ideas and hopes for finishing Winter and Spring and helping bring some sort of normalcy after this long break. But this is the correct decision, and we will play our part in bringing schools and communities together again when the time is right."

"For now, we cannot state strongly enough that all students, staffs and others follow the guidelines established to slow the spread of this virus – we all must do our part."

Because the five winter sports were not able to conclude with finals, no champions will be awarded in those sports for 2019-20. However, championships won at earlier rounds of those tournaments (District or Regional) will continue to stand.

The MHSAA will provide additional guidelines and other information to this unusual off-season preparations for the fall 2020 season begin.



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Editorial

HAPPY EASTER!

To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Greetings!

I cannot express how much I miss you all during this time of sheltering in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. It especially is difficult during one of our most Sacred times of Celebration & Renewal, EASTER.

I am well and pray that you all are doing well also. Every morning I pray that the Lord keep His mighty Right Hand on you all and Bless you in a mighty way! I pray multiple times a day for God to remind you that He has put a hedge of protection around you, His people, His children, His Redeemed! This is in Job:1:10, this hedge is on every side for us too!

It is hard to be away from you all physically, but when I pray for you, I envision each and every one of you in my mind, individually, as I pray. It cheers my heart and my spirit. It can be a difficult time for those of us with and without people or family to share our "shelter in place" time. That said I would like to encourage your heart and spirit with some words and scriptures from Billy Graham.

Billy was on the road so much, especially at the beginning of his career, after he married his wife, Ruth. He would be gone for months at a time. He would miss her and his children so deeply that this is what he shared with how he would be encouraged.

"I will give you a little recipe I have found for conquering loneliness. First, I am never lonely when I am praying, for this brings me into companionship with the greatest friend of all – Jesus Christ. He said, 'I call you not servants, but friends' (John 15:15). Then, I am never lonely when I am reading the Bible. I read it every day – whole chapters of it. Nothing dissolves loneliness like a session with God's Word." - Billy Graham

He also said this, "I am never lonely when I am sharing Him with others. There is great exhilaration in talking to others about Christ. This is something we can all do." - Billy Graham

Truer words have never been spoken. This is something we all can do! Call each other on the phone, share your testimonies with each other, share your scripture readings or favorite stories from the Bible with each other, share how Jesus death, resurrection, and life cut away the bonds of sin and slavery. Share how Jesus gift of Life and Salvation through Grace allowed His light to shine inside of you so brightly that you couldn't help but be comforted, loved, and protected.

He did this for all of us, not because we were or are perfect, but because He loved us first, so we would learn to love Him, the Perfect One, that lives inside of us and continues to Perfect us.

Let me share some other scriptures from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for comfort and this burden that we all share, while confined in our homes! Satan would have you feel burdened, while Jesus wants us to feel loved and comforted by His continued presence in our hearts.

Proverbs 3:5&6 KJV "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths."

Hebrews 13:5 & 6 KJV "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my

helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

Matthew 28:20 KJV "Lo, I am with you always, and even unto the end of the world."

I Corinthians 1:9 KJV "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

Proverbs 18:24 KJV "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

Jesus is faithful, he will never leave you and has a hedge of protection all around you! God's Got This!!

I love you dearly my friends, you are my family, and I will continue to pray for you daily!

IN CHRIST'S SERVICE, Pastor Zella



Cracked Pot's Corner

by Pastor Zella
United Methodist Church

Kitchen Countertop Gardening: Part 2 Microgreens

If you are ready to step up from growing fresh produce from garden scraps then consider microgreen gardening. A word of caution, before you continue reading, microgreen gardening is contagious and can quickly turn your kitchen and other rooms into a micro-farming operation. Most readers have probably heard of or sampled alfalfa sprouts or bean sprouts at a salad bar and maybe even on a deli style sandwich. The problem with sprouts is that they are very work intensive to grow and if sanitary measures are not followed they can often be the host to E. Coli and Salmonella. Enter a safer method... microgreens.

Microgreens are simply small seedlings (hundreds or even thousands) grown closely together in trays on mediums such as dirt, paper towel, and even coconut fiber mats. Most microgreens are harvested within 10-14 days of planting although some are quicker and some take a lot longer. The principle is rather simple and basic, plant a bunch of seeds and harvest while tender and full of concentrated energy and nutrition. They can be used solely as salads or as topping on sandwiches or garnishes to main entrees. Most seeds can be used for microgreens but some work better than others such as peas, sunflowers, popcorn, broccoli, and radishes. Even rice, lentils, dry beans, and quinoa tucked away in your pantry can be grown with moderate success. The Weekly Sportsman prefers to use small recycled deli style plastic bowls and trays as growing containers for numerous reasons; if a planting fails then a lot of seed is not wasted and secondly each container works as a nice sized serving.

To start, poke a hole in the bottom of a container for drainage. Next, fill the container with your preferred medium and then soak the medium with water. Sprinkle seeds on top of the medium remembering that less is more and then stack several containers on top of each other. This not only provides seed to soil pressure contact but also provides darkness for germination purposes. Maybe even place a towel over the entire stack of containers for added darkness. After 4-5 days most types of seed will have sprouted and containers should be unstacked and placed in sunlight or under a grow light. Water once or twice a day as needed and be amazed as your green crop grows before your eyes.

Sunflowers

Hands down the easiest to grow and probably the cheapest to purchase at the local mill or feed store. Black oil seeds work best and should be rinsed several times and soaked for about 24 hours. These sprout well on all mediums but the one downside is that the hulls make quite a mess when they separate from the green shoots. Taste is very similar to sunflower oil with a hint of nuttiness.

Popcorn

Similar to sunflowers, soak popcorn for about 24 hours and plant in the same manner. Popcorn is the only microgreen that you don't really want to expose to sunlight. When the containers are unstacked place them under larger containers create constant darkness. The popcorn microgreens will actually be yellow in color and have the flavor of fresh sweet corn.

Peas

Soak pea seeds the same as sunflowers and corn and follow the normal growing procedure. Pea microgreens should be harvested when under 6 inches tall as they quickly start to get tough. The best part about growing pea microgreens is that they are usually good for about 3-4 cuttings kind of like an alfalfa field. Taste is crunchy and of course fresh pea in flavor.

Broccoli

No need to soak broccoli seeds just sprinkle them on the moist media and stack. Expert very strong white shoots and green leaves with a spicy kick. Plan on two quality cuttings before the shoots start to discolor and become brown.

Radishes

Grow just like broccoli and expect two to three cuttings before they turn just like broccoli. Expect red microgreens with a mild radish flavor. Probably quickest to harvest microgreen there is which isn't surprising because full grown radishes are ready normally in 21 days.

Start small and work on perfecting your growing skills before going into large scale production and then move on toward succession plantings. As mentioned earlier, be careful as soon you will have a room full of grow containers and be making harvests before every meal.

-WS



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

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If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.
~ Henry David Thoreau

Editorial

Reschedule Spring, Passover and Easter Celebrations



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, Easter weekend has traditionally been my families major “get-togethers” with communion, church, brunch, coloring of eggs and jelly bean trails and a big Ham Dinner to celebrate Spring. It is my turn to host; and I am just so sad about this “Stay at Home” order. My mother is older and does not understand why we cannot visit her at her assisted living and why we are not going to bring her home for Easter. If none of us have the influenza and we are all family, what’s the difference between 10 or 25 people? K.T.

Dear Andy, We only had 17 people show up for our Seder on the Eve of Passover? I thought places of worship were exempt from the large group gatherings. Are we supposed to give up our spiritual or family traditions? Sarah

Dear Andy, My handicapped son does not understand why we cannot go anywhere and why we are having Easter egg hunt in our apartment? Mommy

Dear Andy, I am staying home and have followed all the guidelines recommended by the CDC and Governor Whitmore. As I read and hear about all the first responders and people doing something to help, I feel as if I am doing nothing. What can I do to feel more productive or to help fight the virus? Tom

Dear KT, Sarah, and Mommy and Tom,

Several inquiries this week... Understandably, we all have concerns; however, keeping distances from others and staying home is helping fight the corona virus. We will all have an opportunity to give back to our communities and families soon. Let’s have our traditional gatherings be later this Spring or early Summer when this is all over. Yes, I know grandma misses the family. Facetime with her and others to stay in touch. These extra precautions must be taken seriously, especially with older adults and any one with underlying chronic medical conditions who are at a higher risk.

No Sarah. No one is exempt from being exposed to the coronavirus even at a place of worship. We do not give up on our Spiritual or Religious traditions and celebrating as a family. An assembly of believers can be scheduled at another date or on FaceTime. The hard truth is from today’s headlines there are over 14,800 corona-virus related deaths in the U.S. Thousands of others who have the virus but a milder version that is not fatal but contagious. Many families have a much deeper sadness than we can ever imagine dealing with, other than rescheduling a holiday dinner. They are waiting until they can give a proper goodbye or a funeral when the quarantine is lifted. The virus is real and there are too many unknowns. We must self-quarantine and take precautions by wearing masks, gloves and using disinfectants if we are going to the grocery store or providing an “essential” job. This is the time we desperately need to turn to our faiths and find hope and joy in the scriptures.

Spring is a time for a new season. Let’s all pray for the rebirth of our world without the virus and fears. Pray for joy and be grateful for what we have. Change the dates for planned activities. The spring rains will green up our grass, the flowers will still bloom, and the birds will chirp in the morning with the cooing of the Dove and the Peepers will croak in the evenings. Outdoor egg hunts, traditions and family are worth waiting for on another day.

During the “Stay at Home” I am working on the projects I thought would take a month of Sundays to complete. Now we have a month of Saturdays. Keeping a routine and making daily plans for projects, planning meals, game time, movies and relaxation. Routine will make the time go easier especially for those who have a lost sense of time or limited understanding of what is going on. Don’t scare your children or special needs individuals, with too much detail. Most of us will adjust to a different or slower lifestyle. I will be doing some research to find out what people can do to help fight the fight, other than staying home. I have never been lost for something to do; my list today is 3 pages long. If anyone has any ideas, please email them to Andy.

Be Safe. Be Joyful. Be Kind. Thanks for your emails to: ask_andy@aol.com

Correction from last week’s column: Better Safe Than Sorry - Please follow US recommendations and warning from World Health Organization (WHO), Center for Disease (CDC), National Health Services (NHS) and most of all, listen to your Governor. Local news may be more helpful to ease your worry with information that directly affects you and your family. Governors are making educated and wise recommendations for their specific up-to-date needs for their individual state.



Celebrating Holidays In Shiawassee County During COVID-19

submitted by Grace Czubachowski

Holidays are a popular time for family and friends to gather with one another, however, this year celebrating holidays like Easter and birthdays will be different. As Michigan COVID-19 cases continue to rise, it is important to avoid gathering with people outside of your household. The Shiawassee County Health Department understands that this will be difficult for families with holiday traditions.

The Shiawassee County Health Department encourages residents to do their part by staying home and staying safe. Governor Gretchen Whitmer released the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order requiring all Michiganders must stay in their homes unless they are part of critical infrastructure workforce, engaged in outdoor activity where you can maintain social distancing of 6 feet or more, or performing tasks necessary to the health and safety of themselves or their family, like going to the hospital or the grocery store.

This year show you care for your community by not gathering in groups to celebrate. The Shiawassee County Health Department has shared some ideas of how you can celebrate holidays together:

- Use chalk to decorate your sidewalk or driveway
- Put eggs in your front lawn or windows
- Stream an Easter service using Zoom or Facebook Live
- Prepare a meal together, share what you are grateful for over the phone
- Do an indoor or backyard scavenger hunt for baskets and eggs
- Share your favorite holiday memory on social media
- Create holiday themed arts and crafts
- Call a relative, friend, or neighbor and check in to see how they are doing
- Bake a cake
- Have a virtual birthday party
- Make a new holiday tradition

The Shiawassee County Health Department knows these are trying times, but as a community we can slow the spread of COVID-19 by not gathering together. Connect with loved ones virtually to protect one another and reach out to those you may know are struggling.

You are not alone; we are all in this together.



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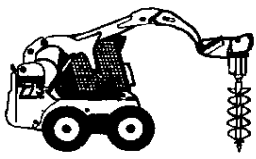
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Shattuck Speciality Advertising Offers Support to Frontline Works

submitted by Mo Shattuck

Shattuck Specialty Advertising, in collaboration with the United Way, is offering yard signs to show support of all Frontline workers currently serving in important roles in our community. "These essential individuals in Healthcare, grocery stores, trucking, public safety, and many other areas, are working tirelessly to help keep basic services available as we fight the COVID-19 virus. We need to make sure they know they are appreciated for their efforts. We have partnered with the United Way in an effort to not only recognize these individuals but to help the community as well," said Mo Shattuck, President of Shattuck Specialty Advertising. 20% of the proceeds from yard signs sales will go to the Shiawassee County Essential Needs Fund. This fund has been established to provide financial assistance for essential needs in Shiawassee County. "Dollars collected through the new fund will be given to the Shiawassee Emergency Operations Center for distribution through a community-led process," according to the United Way.

Signs can be purchased by contacting Shattuck Specialty Advertising at 989 723-2491 or on the web at frontlineworkers.itemorder.com The cost is \$15ea. Due to Social Distancing guidelines prepayment is required by credit/debit card. You will be contacted when the sign is available.

Shattuck Specialty Advertising is a leading distributor of promotional materials, apparel, and signage located in Owosso Michigan.

Annual Congressional Art Competition Moves Online

submitted by David Russell

Congressman John Moolenaar's office released updated information for the annual Congressional Art Competition in the Fourth District.

The new process for the annual contest will allow students across the Fourth District to showcase their artistic talents and stay safe.

In past years, participants have been required to physically submit their artwork to the office. This year, participants will be required to submit their entries electronically. Any student who wishes to participate in the 2020 Congressional Art Competition needs to email the following to Luke Derheim in Congressman Moolenaar's office at Luke.Derheim@mail.house.gov no later than Friday, April 30, 2020:

A clear photo of the artwork by itself

A clear photo of the student holding their entry

A scan or photo of the completed student information release form

All other guidelines for the competition remain the same and can be found at Moolenaar.House.Gov, along with the student information release form.

All submissions will be displayed on Moolenaar's website at Moolenaar.House.Gov for the month of May and winners will be announced on May 11. Moolenaar's office will then make arrangements with the winners for transporting the winning entry to Washington as well as the regional winning entries to the district office locations.

Congressman John Moolenaar represents Michigan's Fourth Congressional District, which is made up of Clare, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Osceola, Roscommon, Shiawassee, and Wexford counties, and parts of Montcalm and Saginaw counties.

2020 Spring Tree Sale Canceled

submitted by Donna Kanan

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Shiawassee Conservation District regrettably announces the cancellation of its 2020 Spring Tree Sale.

"This decision was not made lightly," said Shiawassee Conservation District Board Chairman Josh Crambell. "The spring tree sale is both an important way the Conservation District puts conservation on the land, and a major fundraiser for us. Our top priority, however, is the safety of our staff and volunteers, which forced us to make this decision."

Customers who have already paid for their trees will receive a full refund. Conservation District staff will be contacting customers individually with details. The Conservation District will announce further updates as this situation develops.

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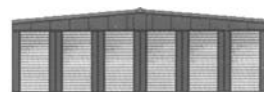
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- (2) Drive to front of store and hand list to one of our associates.
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- (5) Associate will deliver groceries to your vehicle.
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- (7) Never leave your vehicle

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