

Shiawassee County Fair Cancelled for 2020

submitted by Dawn Reha

CORUNNA, MICH – The Shiawassee County Fair Board of Directors has voted to cancel the 2020 fair due to the coronavirus pandemic. The fair was scheduled to take place August 9-15, 2020.

“We took our time making this decision,” Levi Zdunic, president of the fair board, said. “This was not taken lightly. We evaluated all of our options and at the end of the day, the health and safety of our community has to come first.”

Beyond exhibitor and visitor safety, the board of directors cited vendor contract requirements and organizational timelines as factors in the cancellation. Additionally, the fair relies on income from renting the fairgrounds to spring and summer events -- which were largely canceled due to coronavirus concerns.

In preparation for Monday’s board meeting, directors spoke with the Shiawassee County Health Department and the fair’s insurance provider. Both recommended canceling the 2020 event.

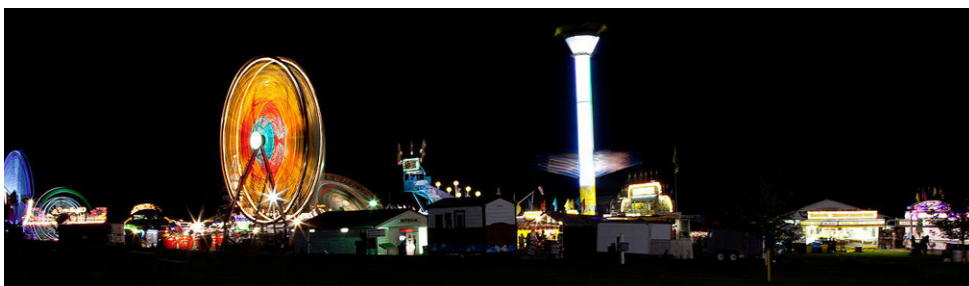
“This is extremely disappointing for all of us,” shared Zdunic, “Our board is made up of parents of exhibitors, 4-H leaders and long-time volunteers. We fully understand the time that our exhibitors put into their projects, as well as the entertainment value that the fair brings to our area.”

One of the board’s major concerns is the number of county youth who have already purchased market animals in preparation for the fair. Zdunic said that the board is committed to helping those youth market their livestock.

“We aren’t one hundred percent sure what that will look like just yet,” he said, “We hope to share a concrete plan to support those youth by the beginning of June. Even though there will be no fair, the kids have put a lot of work into those animal projects and we want to make sure they are still able to profit

from that experience.”

Although the fair office remains closed, the board of directors is managing the fair’s Facebook page and will continue to update exhibitors through that channel.



Memorial Day Events Cancelled

Due to the Stay-at-Home, Stay Safe Policy issued by our Governor, the traditional Memorial Day Services have been cancelled in Elsie, Laingsburg, Ovid and Greenbush Township.

In Elsie, a list of war dead from the Ovid and Elsie area will be on display near the Memorial Monument in Elsie on Monday, May 25th.

We will all miss the traditional gatherings, the speeches, the music by our high school and alumni bands and the special time spent together remembering those who lost their lives fighting for the freedoms we enjoy. We will look forward to returning to those traditions in 2021.

Ovid-Elsie Area Schools Proceedings

by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE – The regular meeting of the Ovid-Elsie Board of Education was held Monday, May 18, 2020, via virtual format. It was an evening to recognize the Class of 2020 both Ovid-Elsie High School and Ovid-Elsie Alternative High School.

Mr. Jason Tokar, Ovid-Elsie High School principal, presented the Class of 2020 Ovid-Elsie High School honor students:

Summa Cum Laude (4.0 +): Shayne Loynes, Madeline Agenda, Drew Ingraham, Mar Montoya-Perez, Lauren Barton, Brook DelBosque, Kaitlyn McGroarty, Ashley Pumford, Kaylee Sutliff, Raygan Fluharty, Ella Sheedlo, Ezra Valentine, Aurora Hall, Josie Nash, Benjamin Maynard, Kayluin Paulus, and Torben Somplazki.

Magna Cum Laude (3.00-3.75): Jeffery Bensinger, Kyren Henning, Mikaela Porubsky, William Schmidfranz, Keah Gruber, Megan Ladiski, Aunstin Nixon, Noah Payne, Richard Ackles, Timothy Grubaugh, Kaylah Root, Justin Moore, Lauren Palus, Jocelynn Holton-Pugh, Cayden Flynn, Chloe Taylor, and Carly Kuhl.

Cum Laude (3.74-3.5): Wyatt Dahlke, Vidalia Wenzlick, Aaron Hurst, Quinn Thornton, Luis Johnson, Jacob Chrenka, Mason Spiess, Hayden, Hebel, Lauren Davis, Emme Koutz, Dawson Coldiron, Sophia Craig, and Trayton Terpening.

Mr Randy Barton, principle Ovid-Elsie Alternative High School, presented the Ovid-Elsie Alternative High School Class of 2020: Ryan Betts, Lillian Hofacker, James Lorenz III, William Holland, Shiann Jordan, Noelani Kvalevog, Gabriel Lorio, Dylan Lowry, Tessa McCreery, and Kaden Orweller. Date of graduation is yet to be determined.

Next, officials recognized the teachers who have completed probationary status: Brian Gavenda, Michael Puffpaff, Justin Vender, and Amanda Badge.

Related employee actions included the announcement of a new employee and an employee contract offered to Jesse Johnson, full-time athletic director.

Craig Coleman, maintenance director, reported that general maintenance projects have been ongoing since March 13. The major bond related building projects will begin June 1, roofing projects, parking lots, auditorium renovations, and building updates.

Officials took formal action to approve two resolutions due to COVID-19 and to be in compliance with executive order 2020-35. Resolution one grants the Superintendent the following temporary powers to address the COVID-19 emergency: policies or provisions of Board policies as the Superintendent deems necessary to comply with the Executive order, which includes but is not limited to providing alternative instruction, adjustments to the curriculum, adjustments to the calendar, adjustments to employee work schedules and work assignments, limited access to property and buildings and hiring of providers and/or partnering with other districts or ISDs. This resolution is in effect for the duration of Executive Order 2020-35, any actions taken will be reported to the Ovid-Elsie Board of Education

The second resolution addressed compliance to Executive Orders 2020-21 and 2020-35 with guidance from appropriate health or government authorities for other effective response and providing temporary powers to the Superintendent that include but are not limited to the continuation of public education, to provide for the health and safety of students and employees, or to respond to direction from appropriate health and government authorities. These actions may include adjustments to curriculum, providing alternative educational program options, adjustments to the calendar; adjustments to employee work schedules and assignments; adjustments to the delivery of school-provided meals; limitations to building and property access. In addition, hiring of providers and/or partnering with other districts; applying to any governmental body for financial or other aid as may be available; and applying to a any governmental body or waiver of regulations or requirements, compliance with which is affected by the COVID-19 emergency. Additionally, the Superintendent has the temporary authority to enter into contracts without board approval for any dollar amount necessary for the purchase of materials, equipment, supplies or services for sanitation, cleaning, technology or other needs directly related to COVID-19, provided such action is consistent with all applicable state and federal laws. As is stated in Resolution one the Superintendent is to keep the Ovid-Elsie Area Schools Board of Education informed of any actions taken and the temporary powers expire with the Executive Orders.

The budget committee reported that there is a possibility the District could lose up to \$870 per pupil in the 2020-2021 school year, a consideration when working on the budget.

Monthly action was taken to approve the agenda, the minutes of the regular board meeting April 20, 2020, payment of the bills, review and approval of the financial reports, and annual action to renew board policy 5113 to offer School of Choice.

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His Cup Runneth Over

submitted by Jenny Fleischer

We are excited to announce that His Cup Runneth Over will be kicking off their 2020 FREE meal season on June 2. All are welcome and FREE for all who come.

Given the current situation with Covid-19, we are going to be having the soup kitchen parked in one spot and be open to serve meals one day a week, at this time, for this season. We will start out doing a drive up style pick up and will offer porch drop delivery for those who don't have transportation to get to us.

The serving location will be the west parking lot at First Congregational Church at 100 Maple Ave, St. Johns, (across from the post office) from 11 am to 1 pm. every Tuesday thru October. If you are in need of delivery you can call or text 517-388-2005 or 989-544-5764 no later than 11 am each Tuesday.

We feel that this schedule and format for serving, will be a safer option so that the patrons are not gathering near the trailer when coming to get meals. This location and schedule will also allow us to keep our volunteer needs to a minimum given the size restraints in the trailer to maintain safe social distance.

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."
— Joseph Campbell

Virtual Workshop Offered by Tri-County Office on Aging

submitted by Christine Histed

The workshop is free of charge but donations are accepted. To register: Call Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1465

Diabetes PATH (Personal Action Toward Health) is designed for people with diabetes or pre-diabetes. The workshop includes diabetes education in an interactive style. Participants are taught effective tools to better self-manage their condition and its impact on their life.

What: Diabetes PATH workshop

Where: Virtually with Zoom

When: Tuesdays, June 2 – July 7, 2020 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Pre-workshop Zoom orientation Tuesday, May 26 at 1:00 pm

Chronic Pain PATH (Personal Action Toward Health) is designed for individuals with chronic pain. In this virtual workshop, participants are taught effective tools to better self-manage their condition and its impact on their life. We address a variety of topics including fatigue management, dealing with difficult emotions, and pacing & planning. Includes the Moving Easy Program: safe exercises to improve strength, flexibility, and endurance.

What: Chronic Pain PATH workshop

Where: Virtually with Zoom

When: Wednesdays, June 10 – July 15, 2020 from 10:00 am – 12 noon. Pre-workshop Zoom orientation Wednesday, June 3 at 10:00 am

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an interactive workshop designed to help family caregivers take better care of themselves while caring for a family member or friend. This program will give YOU, the family caregiver, tools to: help reduce stress and guilt, communicate effectively, take care of yourself, and much more! This program is not intended for professional caregivers.

What: Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshop

Where: Virtually with Zoom

When: Wednesdays, June 17 – July 22, 2020 from 2:30 – 4:00 pm. Pre-workshop Zoom orientation Wednesday, June 10 at 2:30 pm.



Kebler's Have Successful Turkey Hunt

In late April, the Kebler's went turkey hunting together. It was a successful hunt for them both of them. Becky's turkey, her first, weighed 19.6 pounds and had a 10 1/4 inch beard and 1 inch spurs. Dave's turkey weighed 18 pounds, had a 10 1/4 inch beard and 1 1/8 inch spurs.

St. John's Lions Club Recycling Center Expands Hours

submitted by Roger Dershem

The St. John's Lions Club Recycling Center, 605 N. Swegles St., St. Johns is now OPEN 24 hours Monday thru Friday. No Weekends.

They will be open on Monday, Memorial Day.

Accepted materials: #1 clear plastic bottles, #2 natural plastic bottles, #2 colored plastic bottles (no other plastic except bottles); cardboard, newspapers, styrofoam and metal. Eye glasses and ink cartridges.

We also accept refrigerators, freezers, washers and dryers. Absolutely NO TVS and NO TRASH.

A BIG thank you to everyone for your patience.

Any questions call Roger at (989) 640-1313.



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Cook Family Foundation Announces Scholarship Recipients

submitted by Yvette Collard

OWOSSO — The Cook Family Foundation this week announced 22 area high school seniors from 10 high schools have been awarded scholarships in various amounts to the University of Michigan.

Two students have been awarded one of the highest accolades in the greater Shiawassee County region, the Bruce and Jacqueline Cook Scholarship, which provides four years of tuition to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

An additional 20 students have received scholarships from the Cook Family Foundation, including one recognizing the Foundation's benefactor, Donald Cook.

"We want to celebrate these outstanding students and send them off to college with the recognition they deserve," Foundation President Bruce Cook said.

Mason Collard of Owosso and Kyah Ribble of Perry both were awarded the Bruce and Jacqueline Cook Scholarship, which is funded by its namesakes separately from the Foundation.

High school seniors in the Shiawassee region are nominated each fall and invited on a trip to Ann Arbor.

Winners are selected based on their educational achievement, leadership and scholarly promise.

Collard is the son of Jeff and Yvette Collard. He is the salutatorian of his class at Owosso High School and was a National Merit Commended Scholar as well as a Shiawassee Scholar. He also received the Frederick E. Gould and a Regents Merit Scholarship from the University of Michigan.

Collard was a representative at Boys State and ran track and cross country, in which he was a two-time state qualifier. He plans to major in biology or microbiology in the hope of working in the field of scientific research.

Ribble is the daughter of Lee and Nina Ribble. She graduated from Perry High School third in her class and was a National Merit Commended Scholar, as well as a Shiawassee Scholar. She was the drum major of the marching band, played volleyball and ran track. She plans to major in physics and work toward a doctorate in experimental particle physics.

The Donald Cook Scholarship was awarded to Kerra Hinrichs of New Lothrop. The Donald Cook Scholarship, endowed by the Cook Family Foundation, is awarded by the University of Michigan to a student attending the College of Literature, Science and the Arts and is named after the 1924 graduate of the University of Michigan who established the Foundation with his wife Florence-etta in 1978.

Hinrichs is the daughter of Jon Hinrichs and Jennifer Pemberton. She is the Valedictorian of the 2020 New Lothrop High School class and a Shiawassee Scholar. She served as president of the New Lothrop student council and the FFA. Kerra played volleyball and ran track. She is interested in pursuing a medical career and will major in pre-med at Michigan.

Of the 22 scholarship recipients from the area high schools, six are valedictorians of their class.

Scholarship winners include, from Byron Area High School, Brandon Brozich; from Chesaning Union High School, Katrina Pursche; from Corunna High School, Evan Roka; from Durand High School, Jacob Lockhart; from Laingsburg High School, Anne Claus; from Morrice High School, Alina Stinson; from New Lothrop High School, Kerra Hinrichs and Charles Weber; from Ovid-Elsie Area High School, Shayne Loynes, Benjamin Maynard, Noah Payne, and Ella Sheedlo; from Owosso High School, Mason Collard, Kathleen Dignan, Lynnae Gilman, Noah Jafri, Avery Peplinski, Lucille Popovitch, William Scrimger, and Jorden Sowash; and from Perry High School, Lindsey Bixler and Kyah Ribble.

Two of the scholarship winners, Popovitch (OHS) and Weber (NLHS), graduated from high school in 2019, but deferred their enrollment for one year to pursue experiences in foreign countries.

A dinner to recognize scholarship winners and their families has been canceled. Anne Curzan, dean of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts was the planned speaker. The Cook Family Foundation is investigating whether it can host an alternative event later this summer.

While most of the students plan on attending the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor this fall, several of the students will be attending UM-Dearborn. The Foundation provides scholarship support to high-achieving students attending any of the University of Michigan campuses.

Elsie United Methodist Church Offers Two Service Options

submitted by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE - Due to the COVID-19 emergency and the "Shelter In Place" order Elsie United Methodist Church is offering two service options. 9:30am a call in platform; 669-265-1954; and 11 pm for live worship on Facebook Live using the following link: https://www.facebook.com/pg/TrinityUMCCofRosevilleMI48066/posts/?ref=page_internal.



Mason Collard and Kyah Ribble



Kerra Hinrichs

Michigan Voters will Receive Applications to Vote by Mail

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson announced that all registered voters in Michigan will receive an application to vote by mail in the August and November elections.

Of the 7.7 million registered voters in the state, about 1.3 million are on the permanent absent voter list, and their local election clerk mails them applications ahead of every election. Additionally, some jurisdictions are mailing applications to all local registered voters. The Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections has ensured all remaining registered voters receive an application.

"We appreciate that some clerks are proactively protecting public health by mailing applications to all their registered voters, and we are fulfilling our responsibility to provide all voters equal access," said Benson. "We know from the elections that took place this month that during the pandemic Michiganders want to safely vote."

Record-breaking turnout was recorded in the approximately 50 elections held across 33 counties on May 5, with nearly 25 percent of eligible voters casting ballots and 99 percent of them doing so by mail or in a drop box. From 2010 to 2019, average turnout in local elections in May was 12 percent.

The application mailing from the Bureau of Elections includes a cover letter with instructions from Secretary Benson. Once a voter signs their application, they can mail it or email a photo of it to their local clerk, whose contact information is included on the application. The application is also available for download at Michigan.gov/Vote. At the same website, voters can also register and join the permanent absent voter list so they always have the option to vote by mail.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO KEEP US SAFE

We're hearing a lot about protests these days but not hearing enough of the good. So, to all those who are staying home... to all those who are wearing masks... to all those who are trying to social distance. Thank you! You are my new heroes.

In addition, my deepest gratitude also goes out to all the 1st responders, front line workers, and otherwise essential employees who are risking your own health and well-being while trying to help the rest of us. Thank you. You will always be heroes.

Finally, to my personal heroes--the 1st responders and front-line/essential workers closest to my own heart, Sascha, Rob, Craig, Juston, Heather, Gary--I don't say it often enough. THANK YOU. You mean the world to me.

*May you ALL stay safe.
Liz Garrett*



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO KEEP US SAFE

LIVE AUCTION SATURDAY May 30, 2020 – 10:00 A.M.

James and Ruth Seals Estate 215 N. Farr St. Ashley, MI

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Call MISS DIG 811 in Advance of Projects

submitted by Matt Helms

LANSING, MICH. The Michigan Public Service Commission today asked Michiganders — from homeowners doing backyard projects to businesses engaging in major construction — to not wait until the last minute to have underground utilities marked by MISS DIG 811.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed an executive order allowing construction projects to resume May 7 after being put on hold as part of her Stay Home, Stay Safe efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Construction can resume provided that employers adopt best practices to protect their workers from infection.

With spring weather arriving and homeowners turning to backyard projects, and with companies resuming construction, there's pent-up demand for location marking for buried utilities including natural gas, telecommunications, electricity, water and sewer lines.

MISS DIG 811, Michigan's nonprofit statewide underground utility safety notification system, is asking anyone doing big or small projects that involve digging to place calls to 811 or fill out a request online at www.call811.com up to two weeks in advance to make use of the 14-day window allotted under state law.

Anyone excavating is required by law to contact MISS DIG 811 no later than 72 hours in advance so that utilities can be marked by trained workers with spray paint or colored flags.

Underground utility lines in Michigan are damaged during digging activities every year, causing service disruptions and putting lives and property at risk.

For more information go to www.call811.com or see the MPSC's consumer tip on safe digging.



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Obituaries

Carl David Bornemann

Carl David Bornemann, 72, of Ashley, MI, passed away peacefully Monday, May 18, 2020, at his daughter's home.

Carl was born in Cincinnati, OH on January 3, 1948, the son of Herman and Viola (Grosser) Bornemann. He graduated from Corunna High School and studied agriculture at MSU. Carl proudly served his country in the United States Army.

On August 21, 1971, Carl married Mary Jane Kral at St. Cyril's Catholic Church, Bannister, MI. Carl and Mary Jane were blessed with 48 years of marriage, 3 daughters, 3 sons-in-law, and 11 grandchildren. They enjoyed traveling with their family and friends. Carl was very proud of his family and loved them all immensely!

Carl was a natural teacher/instructor in everything he did and shared his knowledge with many. He had a gift for repairing and improving things and helping anyone with a need. Carl retired from J.I. Case as a Service Rep in 2008 after 35 years. He enjoyed bee keeping, farming, flying his trike, and driving his Model T.

Carl is survived by his wife Mary Jane, 2 daughters: Melissa (Reggie) Osborn of Howell, and Kristin (Jason) McCammon of Grand Ledge; son-in-law John Gruca of Highland, 11 grandchildren: Carley, Jacklynn and Ashley Gruca; Ava, Alex, Gabe and Victoria Osborn; and Jaydin, Bryce, Anabelle, and Levi McCammon. He is also survived by 4 siblings: Jerry (Sally Passwaters) Bornemann, Allen (Kay) Bornemann, Gail (Craig) Holder, and Rodney Bornemann. Carl was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Shawna Gruca, and sister-in-law Peggy Bornemann.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Cyril's Catholic Church, Bannister, MI, on Friday, May 22, 2020 with Rev. Fr. Thom Kowalczyk officiating. Burial with full military honors will follow at Riverside Cemetery, Elsie, MI.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the wishes of the family. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Carl's obituary at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI.



Emergency Relief for Veterans

submitted by Andy Henion

LANSING - Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Administration is giving Michigan counties the option of using state County Veteran Service Fund (CVSF) grants directly for COVID-19 emergency assistance to veterans and their families.

The move, facilitated by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA), will allow veterans in participating counties to make vehicle and home repairs, pay medical expenses, buy groceries and personal care items and meet other needs determined emergent. As part of this County Veteran Service Fund Emergency Relief (CVSF-ER) effort, the MVAA has also teamed with Midwest retailer Meijer to provide grocery vouchers to veterans in participating counties.

"We will do everything in our power to support Michigan's veterans and their families who are struggling financially because of the global COVID-19 pandemic," Governor Whitmer said. "We're encouraging counties to use these state-appropriated funds to provide direct relief for these brave men and women to help them put food on the table for their families, make essential repairs to their homes and vehicles, pay doctor bills and meet other basic needs."

As the state's coordinating agency for Michigan's more than 550,000 veterans and their families, the MVAA facilitates \$6.4 million in CVSF grants to County Veterans Service Offices.

The emergency relief is available to counties that were previously approved for CVSF grants but now want to amend the grants to offer emergency relief directly to veterans. Some counties were slated to spend CVSF grants on veteran outreach and activities but were unable due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The emergency relief is also available to counties that either did not qualify or chose not to apply for CVSF grants.

Counties have the option of administering the CVSF-ER grant themselves or having MVAA act as their fiduciary and administer the funds directly to veterans on their behalf.

"The County Veteran Service Fund Emergency Relief program highlights our commitment to ensure that the needs of our veterans and their families continue to be met during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond," said MVAA Director Zaneta Adams. "This program will get much-needed assistance directly into the hands of veterans, either through the County Veterans Services Offices or through the MVAA, which is available to veterans and their families 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-MICH-VET."

Through the emergency relief effort, MVAA is teaming up with Meijer to offer \$50 and \$100 grocery vouchers to eligible veterans in counties that opt into the voucher program. Vouchers can only be used to purchase food, paper products, laundry and household cleaning products, health and beauty care items and pet food.

In counties where MVAA has been given permission to act as fiduciary, MVAA will distribute vouchers directly to veterans. In that case, MVAA's limit on the vouchers is \$500 (no more than \$250 per month).

Meijer worked closely with MVAA to ensure CVSF-ER purchasing guidelines were met on the vouchers and is assuming the cost of printing the vouchers.

"Meijer is committed to enriching lives in the communities we serve, and that holds especially true in today's new normal," Meijer President and CEO Rick Keyes said. "We are pleased to partner once again with the State of Michigan to ensure that veterans and their families can purchase the essentials they need."

Counties interested in applying for a CVSF-ER grant can contact the MVAA's Karen Rowlader at RowladerK@michigan.gov or Marie Douville at DouvilleM@michigan.gov.

Editorial continue on page 10

Religious Thoughts

by Phil Hoppersberger
Graham Community Church

“Kitchen Kisses”

“But only a few things are necessary, really only one... (Luke 10:42).”

“I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages.” What did the great preacher Charles Spurgeon mean by this? Our answer is two miles from Jerusalem, in a small town called Bethany, where Luke, the Gentile doctor, probably the only Gentile author of a New Testament book, records a clue for us.

Jesus stayed in Bethany several times at the home of two sisters, Martha and Mary. Luke records it in his Gospel in chapter 10, and there’s a lot to glean, but the point to catch, the paramount lesson, is this...don’t be so busy and worried with life that you ignore Jesus.

The older sister, Martha, reproved Mary, who was not helping her with all the kitchen preparations for their important guest...appearing to be lazy for just sitting around “listening to the Lord’s word, seated at His feet.” But Jesus corrected His hostess. “You are worried and bothered about so many things,” Jesus told Martha. “But Mary has chosen the good part” because she was quietly spending time with Jesus.

Back to Spurgeon, and being dashed against the rocks by the world’s problems. The great preacher meant that worries and busyness could have two results. The first is natural...it’s a negative reaction; we get upset, anxious, and frustrated when the storms of life smash into us. Like Martha, we miss the point, not kissing their push to Jesus.

Spurgeon commends his own spiritual growth with the second and preferred reaction, a supernatural response that drove him to his knees...talking with Him (in prayer) and listening to His words (reading the Bible). Getting bashed with busyness and worries can be good if it drives you to the Rock of Ages, to worship Jesus Christ...Who is in control.

Whether you know Jesus or don’t, He is saying that only a few things are necessary today, really only one...and that is this—be with Him. You can ready yourself each day for the world’s waves with His help, His comforting words, and not rush off unprepared and vulnerable. Your bothers and worries can be positives, loving shoves into His arms.

Beware your “kitchen” distraction that keeps you from Him, the “really only one.” Is it your job, your family, or your tasks? Identify it, and put it second to a daily time alone with Him, even 30 minutes can alter your view of the worst wave crashes, even death.

Getting sick and dying is a real wave, and it happened to the brother of Martha and Mary. Death-dashed, they sent for Jesus. Four days later, Jesus arrived, and raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11). They were driven to Him for help. A reminder that “really only one” thing is necessary each day, to worship, which in the Greek means, “draw near to kiss.” So leave the kitchen, and worship the One, Who controls even the waves (Matthew 8:27).



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

Hope for Adults with Special Needs

Dear Andy,

My son is a wonderful, well behaved 37-year boy/man with autism and cognitive disabilities. He is outgoing and personable, and, in his mind, everyone is his friend that he just saw yesterday. He was recently assigned to a group home with 2 non-verbal young men. We have been looking for a more compatible place for him to live. In the past year he has been hospitalized 2 times and needed a one-on-one full-time caretaker. The group home is not staffed to offer the medical care he has needed. As his mother, of course I kept him at my home. Over the years he has always stayed up to 6 weeks with me when he needed post-surgical care.

When the state of Michigan discontinued the day programs for adolescents over the age of 26, where he had a job, sports, activities, and a place to feel productive every day, we called it a “retirement”, but he wanted another job. So, I would go to his group home and pick him up every day. Got him a computer so he can pretend to process insurance claims and find homes for lost dogs and pets. We have been together nearly everyday of his life since he was placed in a group home at age 18.

His dad would pick him up every other Saturday and we shared holidays until his Dad was diagnosed with COVID 19 Coronavirus. The group home decided it was best for me to quarantine him in my home until all of us got our results. Of course, no one wanted our son to be a carrier after being with his Dad and taking the virus back to the group home. My son and I tested negative. After 6 weeks with me respecting the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order, the group home has called and told me I needed to bring my son back to the home or they could lose their funding.

My son has said he never wants to go back there because at mom’s house he can sleep all night, the others wake him several times a night. We eat good food and are enjoying life--having fun, going for walks, cooking together, playing games and watching “quite” TV. He does not understand why he has to be back at the home. He feels he is being punished for something and he is not adjusting. He is very upset. They let me keep him through Mother’s Day and now I cannot see him any more due to the state regulations to “no visitors.”

I feel they have put him in harms way with staff who travel to their own homes and other group homes. He was safer with me. We had a perfect routine with family support for our outside needs. Do you have any idea what I can do?

Devastated Mom

Dear Loving mom,

It is an emotional time for everyone. To assure you of the group home policy, they have a state mandated protocol. The plan to keep the staff and the residents safe from being exposed to the virus is top priority. It certainly does sound as if he has less contact with others while he was staying with you but the

plan in place is working at other group homes and nursing homes.

You are allowed to call him every day and he can call you. Ask the staff questions about his behavior and health ie fever or cough; and assure them you are available if they have any problems. Most autistic personalities need a routine. Review his routine with him on the telephone and stay positive. Be full of optimistic hope. Sounds like he does not have a true concept of time....so tell him. “Soon” only when he asks.

The Governor announced this week it is ok for people to gather in groups of 10. Stores are opening with 10 allowed with social distancing unless it is close family. You should be able to be together soon and can start taking him again during the days. Start out slowly and keep a safe routine, wearing masks and continuing to disinfect. Staff does not want to be exposed any more than they want the residents to be exposed.

I hope you find a better living situation for him soon. And I would like to remind you that you are a special person and mom for continuing with the care and responsibilities of your adult son. Many are left to the group homes and they do not have the training to offer the opportunities the transition centers did prior to the closing last year. There are many families who desperately need the respite and young disabled adults who need the daily program. On you day off you might want to get involved with a support group who are lobbying for the transition centers to reopen. Advocates are creating other services for adults with disabilities.

Michigan has nearly 10 million residents and apx 1.9 has a disability with special needs. Search for other day programs and transition opportunities <https://www.michigan.gov/disability> or The MENTOR Network: Their mission belief is that every person has the capability to thrive and be productive in the community. Their services specialize in recognizing the complex needs and accommodations of adults with disabilities. For more information: <https://www.thementornetwork.com/who-we-serve/adults-with-intellectual-and-development-disabilities>.

Thank you for your inquiry and remember You Are Not Alone. Ask_andy@aol.com

NOTICE CITY OF OVID

The City of Ovid will be conducting a Special meeting to review and adopt the proposed resolution for setting the City's millage rates and special assessments.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 7 pm in the Council Chambers Room at City Hall, located at 114 E. Front Street.

Josefina Medina, Clerk
City of Ovid



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NOTICE CITY OF OVID

This notice is to inform the voters, who live in the City of Ovid, whom would like to vote by Absentee Ballot in the August 4, 2020 Primary Election and/or the November 3, 2020 General Election must first submit an Absent Voter Application.

Contact your CITY CLERK at the City Municipal Building located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid, or call at 989-834-5550 and request that an application for an absentee ballot to be sent to you or to be placed on the City's permanent Absentee voter list.

A written request can be made and must list your voting address within the City where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, and your signature.

Josefina, Clerk
City of Ovid

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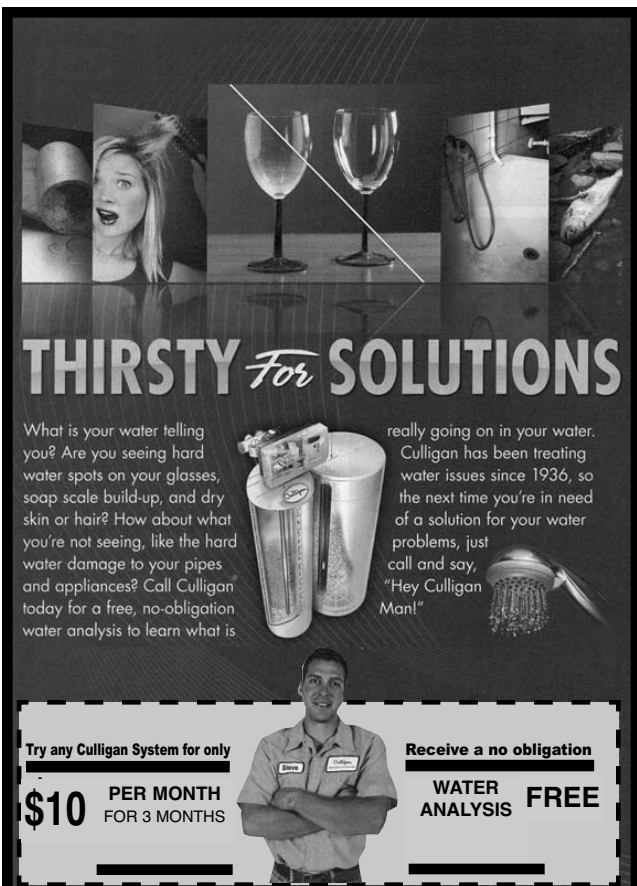
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Importance of Breath

by **LeeAnna Woods**
Licensed Therapist, Reiki Master and Owner
of Healing Feather Wellness
www.HealingFeatherWellness.com
(810) 339-0260

People breathe naturally all the time without thinking about it. But they might not necessarily be meeting the needs of their body through the way they're using their breath.

Breathing is what provides the body with the required oxygen intake needed to sustain life. Each inhale a person takes, feeds oxygen to the lungs and is distributed throughout the body creating energy within.

As each breath is exhaled, it releases the waste called carbon dioxide, from the lungs and removes it from the body. This helps provide one type of balance inside the human body for a better quality of life.

This is one reason why it's so vital to breathe properly. Essentially, each inhalation provides the body with energy, while every exhalation disposes the toxic waste to keep our body functional.

Issues occur when a person's breathing pattern is shallow and/or fast the majority of the time. When one's breath is used incorrectly like this, it can increase the person's anxiety, panic attacks, and contributes to their headaches, muscle tension and fatigue, or even other health issues.

When we breathe correctly the breath can function as a way to calm the body and relax oneself. It's known to reduce anxiety, tension and improve memory, when executed properly.

There are a few different types of breathing patterns that people typically use. Here are some examples:

Chest breathing:

This type of breathing is when the ribs expand and the chest rises and falls. Everything below remains still.

Abdominal breathing:

This type of breathing is when the stomach rises and falls, while the upper body remains still.

Diaphragmatic breathing:

This breathing is done by expanding the diaphragm and includes the movement of both the lower and upper parts. The abdominal, ribs and chest, all rise and fall simultaneously with this breathing. Diaphragmatic breathing is an exercise that helps strengthen the diaphragm muscle, improving a person's breathing. Some associate diaphragm breathing with belly breathing. This type of breath is used in the majority of meditations or relaxation techniques.

To figure out what type of breathing you do, try laying on your back with your knees bent in a comfortable position. Notice how your breathing. Is it short or long breaths and are those breaths fast or slow? Now take in a slow, long breath and exhale in the same way. This is known as a deep breath. Notice which is moving, your stomach or chest. At this point you should recognize how you are breathing and this is probably your normally breathe.

With this knowledge you now can try breathing the few different ways mentioned above and feel the difference in each.

After feeling the difference in these types of breathing patterns, can you guess which is the anatomically correct way to breathe? Hint; It's probably not the way you normally breathe. In fact, most people do not breathe properly.

To utilize the function of breathing correctly you should breathe from the diaphragm. When breathing this way, the diaphragm will widen, expanding the rib cage and opening the body 360 degrees around that area.

The body's shoulders should not raise up towards the ears when inhaling or breathing. If they do, it's an incorrect way of breathing. Although many people breathe this way. What they don't realize is, this incorrect pattern of breathing can be contributing to the increase of their anxiety, panic attacks, fatigue, tension, muscle tightness and headaches, along with other health issues.

Being aware of the way you breathe is crucial for your body's health. As is getting plenty of fresh air from the outdoors.

More people are finding out how good they feel after they've been using a proper form of breathing. They're becoming aware of how the breath is an important part of life. Those who practice yoga and meditation know the benefits very well, as it is used during each of these practices.

If you're needing help on breathing better, you can always try taking a yoga or meditation class. The instructors should be able to guide you through the techniques of the breath in either of these practices.

When you begin to breathe properly, you'll notice having more energy and feeling better. It's amazing how something we do constantly, without thinking about, can have such an effect on our body and life, but it does.

So, let's stop taking our air supply for granted and just breathe... correctly.

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www.HealingFeatherWellness.com

Managing Contact Tracing

submitted by *Lynn Sutfin*

LANSING - The State of Michigan has approved contracts to rapidly expand Michigan's contact tracing efforts, a critical next step in its COVID-19 response. The state is partnering with Rock Connections, LLC for volunteer management and Deloitte for technology integration in support of the COVID-19 contact tracing.

Contact tracing involves identifying individuals affected by COVID-19 and interviewing friends, families and other close contacts about their symptoms and health. Rock Connections will oversee volunteer staff who will call identified close contacts for daily check-ins. Calls will be made seven days a week for the next six to 12 months. During these calls, volunteers will provide information about steps that exposed individuals should take to monitor their health and prevent the spread of COVID-19. They will also log responses to determine if these individuals are symptomatic for COVID-19 and need to be referred to other public health teams for additional follow-up.

More than 3,500 volunteers have completed contact tracing training and are ready to begin aiding local health departments. This workforce will help speed up the process and provide support to local health departments already conducting contact tracing statewide.



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Guided by our respected infection-prevention experts and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we have taken a number of steps to ensure our facilities remain safe places for you to confidently receive care.



SCHEDULING OF APPOINTMENTS

Each patient's individual circumstances will be evaluated by their provider to determine how soon that patient should return for in-person care or if their needs can be met with a virtual visit. Please contact your Memorial Healthcare provider to schedule your next appointment.



SCREENING

All staff, patients and caregivers will enter the hospital at designated entry points. Anyone entering our facilities will be screened prior to entering or at point of contact. We test all patients scheduled for surgery for COVID-19, regardless of whether or not they have symptoms.



FACE MASKS

All patients, caregivers, and employees **will wear** a face mask while in any Memorial Healthcare facility. If you have a face mask, you may bring your own. If you don't have one, a mask will be provided to you.



ENHANCED CLEANING OF HIGH-CONTACT AREAS

Areas such as waiting rooms, lobbies, and restrooms are cleaned often, with special attention to frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, armrests, and handrails. All exam rooms are fully cleaned and disinfected between patients.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Many locations will have a physical barrier at patient contact locations and new markers on the floors will show where people should stand for check-in and check-out. We have rearranged furniture in waiting areas to maximize space between patients, and we are scheduling appointments to reduce the number of people in our clinics at all times.



PATIENT FLOW

Many of our Memorial Medical Associates offices have altered the flow of traffic to adhere to social distancing guidelines.



HAND SANITIZER

Everyone is asked to sanitize their hands when they enter a Memorial Healthcare building. Hand sanitizer is available at each entrance and at numerous locations throughout each building.



COVID-19 PATIENT CARE

We are isolating patients who have tested positive or show symptoms of COVID-19 to specific treatment areas, and we have care teams assigned only to COVID-19 patients. Employees working in COVID-19 care and screening areas are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) including masks, gloves, gowns and eye protection. Our staff is trained in the proper use of PPE and we are experts in patient safety.

To learn more about our safety initiatives, please visit:

www.MemorialHealthcare.org/keeping-you-safe



LAFB Says Thanks to Donators

submitted by Linda Culpepper

A BIG THANK YOU to all who have sent donations in the mail or on PayPal! Thank you also for the notes of encouragement! We are so privileged to have the support of our community and different communities supporting the Laingsburg Area Food Bank!

If you would still like to donate, you can utilize the PayPal Account, at: [PayPal.me/LAFB48848](https://www.paypal.com/US/meridianweekly). It's not too late! All cash donations are greatly appreciated and used wisely.

If you would like to volunteer your time, we would love to have you aboard! Volunteers make it happen!

Without volunteers we would not be able to operate. We have awesome volunteers and it is so good to see new faces come in to help.

LAFB has been grateful for food product donations in the past. Until we are given approval to start accepting donated food products, we are required to say "no" right now. LAFB understands Covid-19 regulations and how important it is to keep our family and friends safe.

If you have questions about LAFB services, donations or volunteering, please contact Linda Culpepper at 517-285-0789.

Bat Found in Shiawassee County Tested Positive for Rabies

submitted by Grace Czubachowski

On May 18, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) laboratory confirmed that a bat found in Shiawassee County tested positive for rabies. Rabies can only be confirmed with laboratory testing.



Rabies is most commonly transmitted by a rabid animal scratch or bite. Most reported cases occur in wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes.

If a bat is found inside the home, the Shiawassee County Health Department recommends safely collecting the bat and following these guidelines:

- Wear leather gloves. A bat should never be handled with bare hands.
- Place a clear container over the bat, slide a piece of sturdy cardboard under the container, and firmly secure the cardboard or the lid to the container with tape.
- A dead bat should be submitted for rabies testing. Do not crush the bat or put the bat into the freezer.
- Contact the Communicable Disease Nurse at the Shiawassee County Health Department at 989-743-2356. If the Health Department is closed, keep the bat cold until it can be taken to the Health Department.

Most people know when they have been bitten. However, exposure can occur without an individual knowing they have been scratched or bitten, especially with bats. Bats have small teeth and tiny claws, making it difficult for an exposure to be detected.

A sleeping person awakened to a bat in the room is considered exposed. It is also considered an exposure when a bat is found in a room with an unattended child, or a mentally impaired or intoxicated person. Under such circumstances, it is very important to capture the bat for testing.

If a pet has been exposed, it is important to capture the bat and submit it for testing. If this cannot be done, follow up with your veterinarian or Disease Surveillance at 989-743-2356. All cats and dogs must have current rabies vaccinations.

Death from the disease is most frequently a result of individuals being unaware of their exposure, or from failure to seek medical attention after being bitten or scratched. On average 2-3 people in the United States die each year due to rabies.



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Invasive Species

submitted by Donna Kanan

It is a great time to look for invasive species on your property! But what exactly is an invasive species?

Many people call certain plants invasive because they are weedy and a nuisance. Poison ivy, pokeweed, and wild grapevines are sometimes called invasive for this reason. Yet these species are native to our state, and therefore cannot be considered true invasive species. In order to be considered invasive in Michigan, it can't be native to Michigan!

While being non-native is a requirement for an invasive species, this does not mean that every non-native species is invasive. Ginkgo trees, for example, are often planted in parks, along streets, and in yards. They are native to China, but they are not considered invasive.

Why is that? Well, to be considered invasive, a species must cause harm – or possibly cause harm – to our environment, economy, or human health. Giant hogweed fits the bill because if you touch it, it can cause horrible rashes and even blindness. Less dramatically, phragmites and autumn olive shade out our native species, thus damaging our environment.

You probably see invasive plants all the time without knowing what you're looking at. Drive along M-52 from the south end of the county to the north end, and you'll see invasive honeysuckle, tree of heaven, phragmites, and a slew of other invasive plants. Some species – like autumn olive – are so widespread that complete eradication is essentially impossible, and we now work to mitigate their negative effects on the environment as much as we can.

Invasive insects are also a big problem, although they are often harder to spot. You've probably seen the many ash trees killed by the tiny emerald ash borer over the past couple of decades. Other invasive insects are looming on the horizon as well, such as the spotted lanternfly that has slowly been spreading westward from eastern Pennsylvania. Spotted lanternfly and other invasive insects have a big impact not only on our environment, but on our economy as well.

So, what can you do to fight invasive species? A lot!

When it comes to invasive insects, one of the most important things you can do is to not move firewood. If you're going on a trip up north, don't take firewood with you from home; instead, buy it from the campground or a nearby dealer. Buying wood that has been heat-treated based on USDA standards adds another layer of protection to our trees and other plants.

It's also best to make sure you're not accidentally planting invasive species. Some plant species – such as Japanese knotweed – are illegal to grow and sell in Michigan, but many invasive plants can still be purchased from nurseries, greenhouses, and other plant sellers. If you're thinking about doing some gardening or tree planting this year, it's best to first do a little research on the plants you want to plant.

You should also utilize your local conservation district, of course! The Shiawassee Conservation District can help you identify invasive plants on your property and guide you through the process of removing them. While our office is currently not open to the public due to the COVID 19 outbreak, we are still working hard to provide you with technical assistance. You can call us at 989-723-8263 ext. 3 with any questions about invasive species and how to identify or manage them! Be sure to also like us on Facebook for information on invasive species and other conservation programs and events we offer!



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Shiawassee County Foundation Receives Consumers Energy Foundation Grant

submitted by Lora Phelps

OWOSSO – The Shiawassee Community Foundation has received a \$10,000 grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation supporting the Community Cares COVID-19 Fund. The Community Cares Fund was created to assist non-profit organizations in Shiawassee County that are experiencing hardships during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Consumers Energy is dedicated to ensuring all Michigan residents thrive economically and have access to programs that assist them with basic needs and resources," said Carolyn Bloodworth, secretary/treasurer, Consumers Energy Foundation. "We are proud to support the Shiawassee Community Foundation and other nonprofits in the Shiawassee County region who are playing a critical role in addressing the needs of those most affected by COVID-19."

The Shiawassee Community Foundation is providing funding through its Community Cares COVID-19 Fund. This unrestricted grant funding assists nonprofit organizations who are struggling to survive and are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and the economic impact of the community. Organizations eligible for funding need to demonstrate that they are facing new and unmet financial burdens because of this crisis.

"The Shiawassee Community Foundation would like to thank the Consumers Energy Foundation for its generosity in helping our community," said Kim Renwick, executive director of the Shiawassee Community Foundation. "We are eager to assist the nonprofits making a difference in our area and this funding will help to make a meaning impact in our relief efforts."

For eligibility requirements or other information about how to apply for a grant from the Community Cares COVID-19 fund, visit www.shiacf.org/grants.

Those interested in making a financial contribution to the Community Cares Fund should visit www.shiacf.org/donate for more information.

May is National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

submitted by Tracy Wimmer

LANSING – In recognition of May as national Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson is encouraging motorists to take extra precautions and "look twice" for motorcyclists, especially on city streets and at intersections.

"One of the most common misconceptions among drivers is that most motorcycle crashes happen on highways," Benson said. "But crash statistics tell a different story. Motorcyclists are most likely to be involved in a crash with another vehicle on urban and suburban streets and at intersections."

A rider and motorcycle present a smaller profile compared to the size of most cars and trucks, meaning drivers miss them or do not immediately identify them as part of the traffic mix, with vehicles turning left at intersections being a particular risk. Motorists often fail to see an approaching rider in the oncoming lane and turn in front of them. That is why it is critical drivers be especially attentive in known high-risk crash areas, such as when making left turns and on city streets.

For more information on motorcycle safety and awareness, visit Michigan.gov/LookTwice.



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Sports

Athlete of the Week: Accolades Keep Rolling in for LHS' Kara Mahoney

LAINGSBURG — The accolades keep pouring in for Wolfpack senior Kara Mahoney.

Kara Mahoney doubles as a basketball and softball standout for the Wolfpack. Most recently, she was named Shiawassee Area "Athlete of the Week" by the Owosso-Argus Press.

The 5-foot-11 senior was the leading scorer for the Wolfpack girls basketball team, averaging 13 points per game.

In softball, Mahoney powered a school-record 10 home runs last spring and helped Laingsburg capture a district championship last spring. The first-team Division 3 All-State shortstop batted .545 with 55 hits — 26 going for extra bases.

Asked to name her favorite, she was diplomatic.

"It depends on what time of the year it is and what sport I'm doing," Mahoney said. "I try and give it my all — in either sport."

Mahoney has signed her letter of intent to play softball at Lansing Community College, which wants her to play first base.

Her senior basketball season ended in a Division 3 loss to Byron in the District Finals.

"She understands the game well and she helped us to stay organized on the court," Laingsburg head coach Doug Hurst said. "She was capable of playing any position on the court, from point guard to shooting guard to forward. She played wing and point guard very well. Kara has a really soft shooting touch and has great range. She's 5-foot-11 and really could be a forward, but she really shows a lot of finesse around the basket."

Mahoney, who averaged three assists per game, said she loves to pass the ball — maybe more so than scoring.

"I like to be able to move the ball around to my teammates and give them the open shot," Mahoney said. "We took our season as far as we could go and left it all on the court."

She averaged 12 points per game in 2018-19 and was named to the Shiawassee All-Area second team in 2018-19, after helping the Wolfpack reach the regional semifinals.

In softball, Mahoney was a first-team All-Area selection in 2019.

She set the school record for most home runs in a season during the district championship game against Bath — won 14-9 by the Wolfpack.

In that district finale, Mahoney homered, drove in three runs and walked four times.

Playing without injured pitching ace Elena Kozachik for much of the season because of a leg injury, Laingsburg finished

a modest 17-21. The Wolfpack fell 3-0 to Kent City in the regional semifinals.

Mahoney's assault on the career home run record was cut short by the MHSAA's cancellation of the 2020 season.

Laingsburg softball coach Jeff Cheadle said Mahoney is one of the best hitters he's had. Mahoney struck out just once last spring, drawing 33 walks. She also had 14 stolen bases and 48 RBIs.

"She's a pure hitter," Cheadle said. "She hits with power and also hits for average. She's not the fastest kid in the world. So they are legitimate hits. She's also a very hard worker. She's very dedicated to softball — actually in all the sports she has competed in."



MDARD Offers Guidance to U-Pick Operations

submitted by Jennifer Holton

LANSING - As warmer weather approaches, so does Michigan's U-pick season. Farm operations across the state are working so they can safely open and operate in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) outlined key protocols that U-pick operations should be implementing to protect themselves and their customers.

A couple of key items to note, with the full list available online:

Operators must develop a COVID-19 preparedness and response plan and make it readily available to employees and customers; train employees; and supervise implementation as outlined in 2020-91.

U-pick operations must screen staff daily for symptoms and those with symptoms should not be permitted to work until they subside.

They will need to provide and require the use of personal protective equipment such as gloves, goggles, face shields, and face coverings as appropriate for the activity being performed.

Limit in-person interaction with clients and patrons to the maximum extent possible, and bar any such interaction in which people cannot maintain six feet of distance from one another.

Customers must take steps to maintain social distancing in sale and retail areas and in fields. Spacing out guests in U-pick areas is critical to the safety of all guests. A minimum of six feet between guests must always be maintained. This also means avoiding crowds waiting to enter sales or field areas and providing for six feet between each guest standing in any lines.

Family units should stay together and six feet apart from others. Customers should only be accompanied with family members and should limit the numbers in their groups.

Marauders Shayne Loynes, Justin Moore Lead MMAC on All-State Div. 2 Team

DETROIT -- Ovid-Elsie standouts Shayne Loynes and Justin Moore led their league -- the MMAC -- representation in All-State boys basketball voting, as announced by the Detroit Free Press.

The Free Press published their All-State selections earlier this month, with Carlos "Scooby" Johnson of Benton Harbor named Michigan's "Mr. Basketball" for the 2019-2020 season, narrowly beating out Flint Beecher's Jalen Terry for the award. Johnson, a 6'6" power forward, will be playing his college basketball at Butler.

The local players in Division 2 were led by the Ovid-Elsie duo of Loynes and Moore. Corunna's Cole Mieske was also honored. All were Honorable Mention selections.

Loynes, a senior point guard, averaged 17.7 points and 5.5 assists and also made 54 3-pointers, shooting 39% from beyond the arc. Loynes added 2.5 steals and 3.1 rebounds per game. Loynes helped lend a hand in 56 varsity wins, a school record.

Moore, a senior 6-foot-3 center, scored 16.6 points and grabbed 10.9 rebounds. A strong inside presence, Moore shot 59 percent from the floor (139 of 236), adding 2.0 steals and 2.2 assists per game.

Here is the complete Division 2 Dream Team:

First team

Kobe Bufkin, Grand Rapids Christian

Tyson Davis, Goodrich

Brad Simonsen, Houghton (captain)

Pierre Brooks, Detroit Douglass

Ke'Ontae Barnes, Muskegon Orchard View

Second team

Jaylen Hodges, Bridgeport

Mykel Bingham, Grand Rapids Catholic Central

Colin Golson, Ferndale

Charlie Woodhams, Otsego

Mason Docks, Williamston

Third team

Hunter Soper, Croswell-Lexington

Brendan Young, Fowlerville

Ryan Corner, Allendale

Jack Karasinski, Grand Rapids Catholic Central

Wyran Williams, Detroit Henry Ford

Honorable mention

Peyton LaCombe, Ludington; Zavion McClendon,

Detroit Douglass; Nate Blasko, Kalkaska; Daveyon Henderson, Richmond; Tyler Johnson, Croswell-Lexington; Pete Calcaterra, Boyne City; Aidan Brehm, Boyne City; Chase Wilson, Sparta; Quindarius Davis, Benton Harbor; Orlando Lovejoy, Summit Academy; John Mistretta, Marine City; Jack Kammer, Marine City; Colin Moldenhauer, Lutheran North. Damon Terrelle, Detroit CMA; Chris Young, Buchanan; Rane Castor, Gladstone; Zac Velthouse, Hudsonville Unity Christian; Corey Thompson, Frankenmuth; Travis Hill, Onsted; Ross Stofflet, Chelsea; Aidan Rubio, Goodrich; Dallas Bolster, Dundee; Shayne Loynes, Ovid-Elsie; Solomon White, Forest Hill Eastern; Justin Moore, Ovid-Elsie; Rae-Quan Funches, Harper Creek. Carter Hudson, Escanaba; Peyton Fedell, Escanaba; Parker Ellifritz, Three Rivers; Quinn Zickert, Benzie Central; Chris Hall, Stockbridge; Tracy Holbrook, Lansing Eastern; Jayland Randall, Chandler Park; Cole Mieske, Corunna; Merik Hodgins, Ogemaw Heights; Curtis Jackson, Harper Woods; DJ Voltz, Carrollton.



#15 Justin Moore



#0 Shayne Loynes

'Dear Evan Hansen' to Reschedule Wharton Center Appearance to August 2021

submitted by Bob Hoffman

EAST LANSING — As we continue to navigate the widespread suspension of live events during this global health crisis, for the health and safety of our community, the engagement of DEAR EVAN HANSEN, originally scheduled for June 6-21, 2020 will not proceed as planned. It has been rescheduled for August 3-8, 2021.

Patrons with who previously purchased tickets to DEAR EVAN HANSEN are encouraged to hold onto those tickets. They will be honored for the new date. Simply mark your calendar and your tickets with the new date and arrive on that date with the original tickets. Ticket holders interested in a refund can email wharton@msu.edu to receive information on how to proceed. Refund requests must be received no later than Wednesday, May 27, 2020.

Refunds will be issued using the same method as the original payment. Tickets purchased with cash, check or gift cards/gift certificates will be issued a check from Michigan State University. Please note, tickets purchased through a third-party cannot be refunded by Wharton Center. If you have any questions, please email the Ticket Office at wharton@msu.edu.

For the latest information from Michigan State University regarding COVID-19 visit <https://msu.edu/coronavirus/>.

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Editorial

Late Spring Season Turkeys

Crunch time... down to the wire... high noon... final countdown... at the buzzer. Call it what you may but there is only one week left of spring turkey season in Unit ZZ which is located on private property in southern lower Michigan. It has been an interesting and diverse season since it started on April 18th from snowy cold blustery mornings to calm and sunny 70 degree afternoons. If you still have a tag then it is time to switch up tactics and practice some different fieldcraft skills.

Maybe you had ambitions for a large tom but now is the time to lower expectations and possibly maybe even consider harvesting a young jake. Think of this last week in similar ways to how deer are hunted in December. Just like post-rut deer, tom turkey's breeding urges are starting to wane and food is foremost on their mind. Mistakes made by inexperienced hunters have educated toms and they are less likely to fall for decoy and calling tactics. A tom may still respond to early season tactics but not as fast and aggressively. The hunter must scout for food sources and not hens. Find a food source and you will find toms looking for their next meal.

What kind of food are you looking for? The Weekly Sportsman has always had good luck finding oak trees along an edge of soybean or corn fields not yet tilled or sprayed and plentiful with dandelions. In addition to making some fine homemade wine these pesky little yellow flowers are like crack for turkeys. Once they start feeding they can't stop. The Weekly Sportsman is amazed how many times dandelions are found inside turkeys, along with soybeans, kernels of corn, and acorns. The common denominator is always dandelions. First find the right field edge with an approachable route via cover. Next, pattern a tom's behavior and then flank him using cover and prepare to ambush while he forages. It is very unlikely you will get a close shot so tote along a patterned choked shotgun with magnum loads that will reach out quite a distance. Don't try to bring the tom to you with calls and instead look for food sources and go to the tom!

-WS

There is a word that strikes fear into the hearts of both Christian and non-Christian alike. Because of this fear, both groups of people try to avoid it at all costs. It is a word met with skepticism and dread. That word is, "witnessing."

This is ironic, for Christianity isn't about fear, rather, it's about love, joy and peace. It's also about His followers having the same desire that God has; for all people to hear about salvation and come to know God personally.

It is difficult for many of us to share our faith. If you are one of those people, be encouraged that God knows that it is tough for you. God understands and wants to help you overcome whatever it is that is keeping you from sharing your faith in Him.

We should ask God for boldness, courage and strength to help us feel better about talking to others about Him. We can also ask God for opportunities to share.

Even though there is currently less social interaction going on nowadays, God can still open doors for us to tell people the Gospel. These hidden opportunities are God using us as we go through our average, ordinary days. God takes our average and ordinary days and turns them into someone encountering the living God.

It could be the cashier at a local store, seeing someone as you go on a walk, spending extra time with a neighbor, getting the oil in the car changed, chatting with the person who delivers your mail or packages, etc.

Let's pray for God to open our eyes to opportunities to tell others about Him. They may well be encounters that we would have never thought of in the past, but God can help us to see them with new eyes. This is when we are looking for and being aware of times when we can talk to others about the Lord.

God will do it. God wants for others to know Him, so He will open a door for you to share about Himself when you pray for one to be open.

Sure, this may sound a little scary, but also very exciting! What an honor and privilege it is to be used by God to tell others about Himself.

Community Action Agencies Expand Programs

submitted by Bob Wheaton

LANSING- Michigan families hit hard by the financial and health-related impacts of COVID-19 will benefit from a \$450,000 Consumers Energy Foundation grant to eight community action agencies working to meet the emergency needs of low- and moderate-income residents in 43 counties.

The grant will support agencies trying to keep up with a huge increase in requests for assistance during the pandemic.

"The beauty of community action is that we're nimble," said Lisa Bolen, executive director of Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency, which provides core services such as food and emergency and short-term housing to individuals and families in 11 counties. Her agency will receive \$200,000 and will likely spend part of it on a vehicle, as COVID-19 issues have significantly increased requests for food delivered to residents' homes. In April, food programs in Bolen's region reported a 46 percent increase in food distribution and a 76 percent increase in requests for home-delivered meals.



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com



Religious Thoughts

by Chris Hearn
tohearn@yahoo.com
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