



OE swimmer Sam Harden shatters long standing record in the 100 Breaststroke.

## Ovid-Elsie's Harden Shatters 100 Breaststroke Record with 1:06.03 Clocking

ST. JOHNS — In a double-dual varsity swim meet here February 15, Ovid-Elsie senior Sam Harden broke the Marauder 100 breaststroke record.

The Marauders were competing against both the host Redwings and Dewitt at the St Johns pool.

"Sam swam the youth age group with the St Johns Sea Lions, so he was competing against people he knew," said coach Karl Dahlke. "Specifically St Johns' senior Koy Grams has been a friendly rival of Sam's for many years.

"Sam led the majority of the race but Koy refused to give up. Koy closed in on Sam's lead in the last length. In the end, both looked up at the clock waiting for the time to post ... then the time of 1:06.03 went up in both of their lanes. They had tied down to the nearest 100th of a second," Dahlke said of the dramatic finish. The Redwings won the team score results, 124-108 over O-E.

Harden shattered the record that was set by Steve Huffman in 1985.

"Sam is still looking at making bigger drops in his times, with his sights on making a state cut-off time," said coach Dahlke. "Congratulations and good luck to Sam."

## Meet the Artists Night at the IQhub

*submitted by Sue Kadlek*

A very special guest exhibit will be at the IQhub until February 24th. Art Explosion!, presented by Sparrow Clinton Hospital, returned after thousands of visitors enjoyed the unique exhibit in 2019. The guest exhibit has been open since November 30, 2021 and will conclude on February 24, 2022. Admission to Art Explosion! is free.

The public is invited to the Artist Meet & Greet night on February 24th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres will be served. Visit with the artists and hear about their inspiration for each exhibit in Art Explosion!. Attendees may vote for their favorite piece of artwork and many pieces are available for purchase.

"Local artists have filled the IQhub with some amazing creations! Various displays include paintings, drawings, wood carvings, metal sculpture, photography and jewelry. Join us on February 24th to celebrate and appreciate the wonderful talent of these gifted artists," said Troy Bancroft, Chairman of the IQhub Board.

Special thanks to Mercantile Bank for supporting Art Explosion! as the Canvas Sponsor and to Butler Financial Group for being the Paint Sponsor. For more information on Art Explosion!, please contact the IQhub at 989-227-3847 or email [IQ.hub@agroliquid.com](mailto:IQ.hub@agroliquid.com). Additional information can be found on the IQhub's website at [www.iqhubag.org](http://www.iqhubag.org). The IQhub is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to be a free educational center for agricultural history, innovation and exploration.



## Rep. Filler Named 'Legislator of the Year' by Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police

*submitted by Christina Doerr*

State Rep. Graham Filler was recently named one of the 2021 Legislators of the Year by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

Filler, a former assistant attorney general, is serving his second term in the Michigan House representing people in Clinton and Gratiot counties. He was recognized for his work to improve the criminal justice system as chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

In 2021, Filler backed efforts to provide additional funding for local law enforcement agencies and offer more tools for officer recruitment and retention. He also sponsored legislation to protect the rights and privacy of crime victims and spoke out against legislation that would have destroyed Michigan's truth-in-sentencing system.

"I am incredibly honored to such great support from our chiefs of police," said Filler, of DeWitt. "The men and women in uniform who protect our communities have all my respect. Supporting law enforcement and making sure they have the resources they need to protect the public must always be a priority."



State Rep. Graham Filler is shown with St. Johns Police Chief David Kirk.

## 32nd Annual Walk for Warmth

*submitted by Rebecca Zemla*

Capital Area Community Services, Inc. announces its 32nd annual Walk for Warmth will take place on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at the Owosso Community Center (Shiawassee Council on Aging), 300 N. Washington Street, Owosso. Registration opens at 9:00 a.m., the Walk begins at 9:30 a.m.

Walk for Warmth is a statewide effort to raise public awareness of people experiencing heat-related emergencies. Funds are raised through contributions from individuals, businesses, civic organizations, clubs and church groups and are used to assist area residents with heat-related emergencies. With the rising costs of basic needs, which creates an economic hardship currently being experienced by many local residents and the changes in State and Federal funding, the need for heat-related assistance has become far greater than service agencies and churches can resolve without additional resources, such as Walk for Warmth. 100% of the funds raised through the Shiawassee County Walk are used to assist low-income households within Shiawassee County.

With the high number of local families needing heat-related assistance, the support of area businesses, individuals and civic groups is critical. Please consider assisting by having a group or individual represent your business/organization in the Walk or make a onetime contribution.

Donations can be mailed to: CACS, Shiawassee County Access Center, 1845 Corunna Avenue, Owosso, MI 48867.

For further information please contact our office at 989-723-3115. Pledge sheets are now available.

Thank you for your consideration in helping to keep families warm this winter and prevent homelessness due to home heating related emergencies.



## Meridian Weekly

Deborah Price Owner/Publisher [meridianweekly.com](http://meridianweekly.com)

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**Robert "Bob" Wilber**  
Sunday, Feb. 20th



**Birthday Wishes**  
Can be Sent to  
Him at  
404 E. High St.  
Ovid, MI 48866

**Friday Fish Frys Will Be**  
March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8 & 15.

**Friday Night Fish Fry**  
Every Friday Night  
Serving 4:00-7:00pm

2-Piece Cod  
3-Piece Beer  
Battered Cod

All Dinners include: Potato,  
Applesauce, Cole Slaw, Roll & Dessert



Dine In or  
Take Out Available

Monday - Thursday 7am til 3pm  
Friday 7am til 7pm  
Friday Night Fish Fry 4-7pm  
(989) 227-2233  
111 W. Higham, St. Johns

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## Social

### Ovid Public Library News

The Ovid Public Library will be having the Classic Movie on Wednesday, February 23. This week we will be showing the original Death on the Nile starring Peter Ustinov, Bette Davis, Mia Farrow and Angela Lansbury. The movie starts at 1:00.

The Ovid Public Library has a limited number of Michigan tax forms. We do not have any federal forms. If you are looking for a specific form you can print them out at the library.

### Dairy Festival Meeting

The Dairy Festival is fast approaching and volunteers are needed to have the festival become a reality. Are you willing to be involved in this community activity? There are many ways and areas where help is needed.

Please consider being a volunteer for this project. A meeting will be held to discuss the future of the festival on Monday February 28th at 7:30 pm. at Foo-Gee's in Elsie. Some long time volunteers need to step back for various reasons but will help in a smaller way.

PLEASE put this date on your calendar and attend the meeting pertaining to the future of the Dairy Festival. If you can't make the meeting but are interested in helping please contact Carolyn Long at 989-277-4826 or [carolyn.long@century21.com](mailto:carolyn.long@century21.com).

### Meridian Weekly Office Hours:

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

Deadline for Advertising & Editorial Submissions  
4:00pm Every Thursday

Thank you all!!



**To All Who**  
**Sent Me**  
**Birthday Cards**  
**and Helped Me**  
**Celebrate My**  
**90th Birthday.**  
**I Appreciate**  
**All of You!**

**Doris Kibby**



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Areas Largest**  
**Indoor Flea Market.**  
**Saturday, March**  
**26th 9am-4pm**  
**St. Charles**  
**High School,**  
**891 W. Walnut St.**  
**(714) 376-2008**

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Drop off hours will be 8 am to 5 pm  
Other hours by appointment  
Mailing address is P.O. Box 376, Ovid, MI 48866

**DANIEL BUKOVCIK**  
**101 N. MAIN ST., OVID**  
**Phone (989)834-2270**  
**Fax (989)834-2279**

### Fish Fry Returns at Holy Family Catholic Church

It's almost time for the first Fish Fry Dinner at Holy Family Catholic Church in Ovid. On Feb. 25th, the first In Person Dinner will be served by the Holy Family Activities Club! Or take the meal home. Make plans to join us.

The menu includes: 2 kinds of fish (fried & baked), cheesy potatoes, french fries, baked beans, corn, green beans, orange salad, drink and cookie. All servers will be masked and gloved for your safety.

Dinners will again be served on March 11th, 25th and April 8th. Prices will be \$14 for adults, Children: 12-6 yrs. old, \$7 and kids under 5, FREE!

Support your community by joining us for dinner, hope to see you for any of the dinners.

### Shiawassee County Moves Up in County Health Rankings

*submitted by Grace Czubachowski*

Shiawassee County has moved up in the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps report completed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Last year, Shiawassee County ranked 41st in health outcomes and this year has moved up to 31st. The health factor ranking moved from 28th to 24th. County Health Rankings provide data, evidence, guidance, and examples to build awareness of the multiple factors that influence health and support community leaders working to improve health and increase health equity.

Communities can use the County Health Rankings to support health initiatives through health care providers, community organizations, policy makers and government agencies.

The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program helps communities identify and implement programs and policies to help people live healthier lives in their home, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

The health outcomes are based on an equal weighting of length and quality of life, and the health factors are based on weighted scores for health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment. The health outcomes released in the report represent what health factors influence the overall health in our county.

### Elba Township Ford Cemetery

Just a reminder that all flowers must be removed from the grave sites by March 15th. Flowers can be replaced again starting April 1st.

*Madalin Morris*  
Township Clerk  
989-847-2097



**ST. JOHNS K of C #3281**

1108 N. US-27

**2022 Fish Fry Schedule**

**No Advance Orders...Drive Thru Only**  
**One Line from North Drive**

**4:00 pm to 6:30 pm Fridays**

**March 4th - April 8th TAKE OUT ONLY**



limited Take Out Items: \$12 each

1. Fried Fish w/Steak Fries or
  2. Baked Fish w/Baked Potato
- des include: Green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, dinner roll)

# MDHHS Pilot Program That Will Clear the Way for More Families to Receive Money-Saving Weatherization Services

*submitted by Bob Wheaton*  
LANSING, Mich. – More low-income Michigan families will be able to now take advantage of a program that provides free home weatherization to reduce energy costs by an average of \$283 per year.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has \$5 million available from the U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program to pay for home repairs that are sometimes needed before weatherization services can be provided.

Many homes in a state of disrepair cannot take advantage of weatherization funds. Those situations would often lead to a deferral – where an otherwise eligible home would not receive weatherization repairs or services because the materials installed could be compromised.

“Weatherizing homes is a great way to reduce energy costs for Michiganders and prevent low-income families from having to worry about affording their bills and staying warm and safe,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. “Many families have suffered financial hardships due to the pandemic and have put off maintenance that needs to be addressed before their homes can be weatherized. I urge these families to take advantage of these new services that will lower their costs and keep them warm. We will continue finding ways to put Michiganders first and help them have the resources they need to thrive.”

The MDHHS Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity administers the U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program, which benefits approximately 1,300 low-income families annually in Michigan. Community Action Agencies and non-profit organizations provide weatherization services at the local level.

Services funded by the pre-weatherization deferral dollars may include construction, reconstruction, improvement or repair of single-family and multi-family residential buildings to correct health and safety conditions as identified by the weatherization assistance program’s energy audit. Typical housing conditions that can lead to deferrals include mold and moisture damage, knob and tube wiring issues, other electrical issues, grading issues, roof damage, structural issues, plumbing issues, pest issues, ventilation issues, asbestos issues and radon.

“MDHHS wants to help as many residents as possible weatherize their homes to save money and energy,” said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. “High energy costs can cause families to fall behind on their utility bills or be forced to pay their energy bills with money that could otherwise be spent on nutritious food or other needs. No one should be ineligible for cost-saving weatherization assistance due to costly needed repairs.”

In a weatherization job, trained professionals known as energy auditors use computerized software and advanced diagnostic equipment such as blower doors and infrared cameras to create a comprehensive energy analysis of the home. This analysis determines the most cost-effective measures to install in each home. The energy auditor creates a customized work order so trained contractors and crew members can install the identified energy-efficient and health and safety measures.

These measures include items such as insulation, blower-door-guided air sealing of key leakage junctures, and installations such as lighting and water saving measures.

Health and safety issues such as elevated levels of carbon monoxide, moisture problems, mold, ventilation needs, and heating systems safety and efficiency are also addressed. There is growing evidence that the program provides benefits beyond energy savings. Improved indoor air quality and appropriate ventilation strate-

gies lead to healthier living conditions in weatherized homes, which often lead to reduced asthma triggers and fewer doctor visits.

Anyone interested in applying for the Weatherization Assistance Program, even if they may have a reason for deferral, can contact their local provider. Eligibility is based on household income and home condition.

Training for those working in the Weatherization Assistance Program is provided by the Michigan Training and Education Center. For more information about the training, visit [www.MichiganTEC.org](http://www.MichiganTEC.org).

## CITY OF LAINGSBURG CITY COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Laingsburg City Council will conduct a public hearing on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall, 114 N. Woodhull St, Laingsburg, Michigan to receive comment on adoption of an ordinance approving amendments to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Plan, which includes the Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing (TIFA) Plan. No changes are proposed for the district boundaries which are defined below

The downtown development area is generally defined by the commercial corridor along Grand River Road from West Street to High Street. The district includes the school property, City offices, McClintock Park, and several residential areas. The full legal description is on file at City Hall.

Maps, plats, and a description of the development plan, including the method of relocating families and individuals who may be displaced from the area, are available for public inspection at City Hall, 114 N. Woodhull St, Laingsburg, Michigan and on the City of Laingsburg website at [www.laingsburg.us](http://www.laingsburg.us). There are no plans to relocate or displace families or individuals in this plan. Written comments may be mailed to the City of Laingsburg, City Clerk, at PC) Box 178, Laingsburg, Michigan 48848 All mailed written comments must be received by the City of Laingsburg by Friday, March 4, 2022. Comments can also be voiced at the public hearing. All aspects of the development plan will be open for discussion at the public hearing; and other information that the governing body considers appropriate. The City of Laingsburg is a barrier free facility. Notice of availability of special services is hereby given. A 24-hour advance notice is required. Please contact the City of Laingsburg at (517) 651-6101, to ensure the availability of such special services.

This notice is provided pursuant to the requirements of Act 57 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2018.

*Paula Willoughby*  
City Clerk

## Victor Township 2022 Board of Review

The Board of Review will meet on the following dates for the purpose of hearing 2022 assessment appeals:

**Wednesday, March 16th**  
**3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**  
**Call for an appointment**

**Thursday, March 17th**  
**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Call for an appointment**

To Schedule an Appointment call (517) 204-3752. The Board of Review will accept letters of appeals until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 17, 2022.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2022 are as follows:

### Victor Township

Agricultural	46.27.	1.08061	Commercial	48.68	1.02712
Residential	46.88.	1.06655.	Developmental	NC	N/A
Industrial	46.84	.06746.	Personal Property	50.00	1.0000

Beth Botke  
Assessor

## ELBA TOWNSHIP GRATIOT COUNTY

Elba Township Board of Review Organization  
Meeting will be held at the Township office at  
109 W. Oak St. in Ashley.

**Tuesday, March 8, 2022 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.**

### Organizational Meeting

Elba Township Board of Review will be held at the  
Township office at 109 W. Oak St. in Ashley.

**Monday, March 14, 2022**  
**from 1pm to 5:00pm & 6:00pm to 9:00pm**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2022**  
**from 9:00am to 12:00 Noon & 1:00pm to 4:00pm**

*Madalin Morris*  
*Elba Township Clerk*

## CITY OF OVID SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING February 14, 2022

The Full set of the Minutes for the Public Hearing & Regular meeting may be viewed or acquired at the Municipal Building located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid.

Mayor Pro-Ten Perrien opened the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Miss Hibbard, Mr. Starn, Mr. Brown, Ms. Perrien, Mr. Williams and Mr. Ordiway

**ABSENT:** Mr. Lasher.

**EX OFFICIOS:** Present: Ron Gwizdala – Chief of Police, Rich Simpson – DPW Superintendent, Liza Kusnier- Treasurer and Josy Medina – Clerk.

**VISITORS:** None.

**AGENDA:** A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Williams to approve the agenda as printed.

### MOTION CARRIED

**MINUTES:** Discussion was held. A motion was made by Miss Hibbard, second by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes of Regular meeting held on January 10, 2022 as corrected.

### MOTION CARRIED

**CHECK REGISTRY:** A motion was made by Mr. Williams, second by Mr. Starn to approve the check/invoice registry for checks in the period of January 12th, thru February 15, 2022 as presented upon receiving a performance bond and Payment bond from Thornton & Sons.

### MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Starn, second by Mr. Ordiway to approve the invoice from G. A. Hunt and to authorize the Clerk to release check for payment.

### MOTION CARRIED

**TREASURER:** Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Starn, second by Miss Hibbard to renew the city's Investment policy as written.

### MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Williams, second by Mr. Brown to accept the Treasurer, Police and DPW reports as presented.

### MOTION CARRIED

### OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Miss Hibbard to approve the agreement with REVIZE and to authorize the Mayor Pro-Tem to sign.

### MOTION CARRIED

**PERSONNEL:** Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Williams, second by Mr. Brown to approve the new Part-Time & Full-Time pay rates effective 2/14/2022 as discussed.

### MOTION CARRIED

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Williams, second by Mr. Hibbard to appoint Lori Alley to the Planning Commission.

### MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Starn, second by Mr. Williams to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

### MOTION CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Williams, second by Mr. Brown to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm.

### MOTION CARRIED

*Josefina Medina, Clerk*  
*City of Ovid*





# Editorial



## A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

Dang it, my computer crashed... and I know this how? It told me, I had my suspicions because the screen was wonky. It looked like a picture clouded over the edges...like a storm on the move this morning. The center was fine but the rest of the screen looked like a violent storm without the lightening. This is a new experience for me, I have never had a computer crash on me before this. I have worked with computers prior to them becoming desk top versions, yes I worked on them when they filled a room and I was a lowly keypunch operator.

So far I have had a rather busy week filled with surprise visits and interesting conversations. Of course there were the changes of venue that seem to crop up from time to time. The cookie decorating was moved from Saturday to Sunday afternoon and there were fewer folks involved which was fine for me. Even though I gave away the contents of a huge pot of Mother-in-law Tongue, I still have another pot to break down. I'd best be getting it done shortly or the roots will be breaking another pot. Of course the new potting soil is sitting on the ground next to the driveway. I was tired when I brought it home and needed to get it out of the pickup so it ended up on the ground, that was weeks ago and I haven't picked up the bags yet. And they are considerably more heavy because they have lain there and pulled in more moisture. After carrying the new battery for the pickup I decided that I wasn't up to picking up the potting soil which would be at least forty pounds when dry and maybe sixty pounds when wet. I'm getting a bit soft in my dotage. I will probably go to the shed and get my wagon and put the bags on it and roll them to the deck where I won't need to carry them far. Sounds like a workable plan.

Saturday evening, Andrew, one of William's best friends came over to help me sort out passwords and other issues on the gaming computer. Andrew will be back to remove William's information from the computer so that I may sell or give it away whichever floats my boat. I'm not interested in having a gaming computer because the only game that I ever played other than solitaire was a farm game that was on Facebook. I joined to play the game not to get involved with the social media. I certainly sound like a curmudgeon this morning. I agreed to have the fiber optics installed so that William could have the internet speed that he needed. On second thought, maybe I should learn how to use the gaming computer...it's a thought.

Sunday was nice, my family was a four generational study at church. It was very comfy have us all in one pew. I don't have a big family but we are pleasantly close to each other. After fellowship, Ryan, Isabella and I came home to decorate Valentine cookies. We made pink, lavender and white frosted cookies with numerous sprinkle and sugar varieties to finish the cookies. I had Ryan who will be graduating as an RN in April, go upstairs and take the dozen remaining quarts of canned potatoes home with her. I kept a few cookies and sent the rest home with them and that should have been nearly four dozen. I had put a couple of pieces of pottery filled with venison and vegetables into the oven before church and they were ready when we finished the cookies so we had a nice luncheon before they headed back home. It was a good visit.

Sunday was also 'Superbowl' and I benefited because Diane and Brent had friends over to watch the game. I was invited to share the food and enjoyed some conversation before the start of the game. Then I came back home with a full stomach. I honestly don't know who won. I spent the evening being entertained by the little heathens. On Monday I left some cookies for my mail carrier and headed up to St Louis for Prudence to be groomed. Per usual, she looks rather sassy when done. Finally

I now have the Ford pickup ready for sale but am in a quandary, maybe I should use it as a down payment on a car. Don't get me wrong, I love my Silverado and won't be parting with it but I would like to drive something with better gas mileage and more passenger space. I know, if wishes were horses then beggars would ride...next week I would like to regale you about the attack of the shredders.

May your days be filled with good conversations and experiences and with God's blessings. Crystal Mitchell©2022



## Faith Focus

by Phil Hoppersberger  
Graham Community Church

“31, 102”

*“If you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me (John 5:46).”*

There's nothing like writing a perfect movie line. “ET phone home.” “Shaken, not stirred.” “Adrian!” “I'll be back.” “Feel lucky, punk?” “Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn.” “I'm your huckleberry.” For a writer, that's the cherry on top of a good script, especially if it's the very last line, like in The Apartment: “Well, nobody's perfect.”

I try to come up with one when I'm writing all the time – a great line that will live forever in Hollywood, and the shorter, the better. Here's a few favorites, in three words or less:

**The Blind Side:** A very wealthy Sandra Bullock shows their adopted son from the street his new bedroom. He's stunned, says he never had one before, so she asks, “What? A room to yourself?” Looking down at it, with pitiful puppy eyes, Michael says, “A bed.”

**Hoosiers:** Basketball coach Gene Hackman tells Buddy to play good defense in the game, and stick with their best player like chewing gum. When Buddy comes back to the bench after a successful stint, he says to Hackman with a straight face, “It was Dentyne.”

**Casablanca:** A mysterious Rick answers Louis as to why he's in Casablanca, but Rick doesn't want to reveal his past, so he says he came for the waters. Louis corrects him with, “We're in the desert.” Without missing a beat, Bogie says, “I was misinformed.”

**The Undeclared:** John Wayne exposes two shady Federal horse agents as thieves, and when the big one goes for his gun, Wayne slugs him. The smaller crook pleads, “I didn't do anything.” The Duke says, “You should have.” Then punches him in the face.

Jesus has a memorable line too. Well, He had a lot of them, since He wrote the Bible, but there's one three-word line in the 31,102 verses in the Bible that really nails His life's mission. Any guesses what it is? There's a hint in the Book of Hebrews, chapter 10.

Israel tried to keep the Law of Moses, to be made right with God, to deal with their sin by blood (Leviticus 17:11), but it was never intended as a permanent solution (that's why they did it every year). The Temple, the sacrifices, and their Feasts were reminders that they needed forgiveness, “Well, nobody's perfect,” all symbols pointing to the Messiah.

These temporary sacrifices were finished, “once for all time,” when the Passover Lamb was not an animal, but a perfect God-man. As John the Baptizer said when he saw Jesus, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World.” That's His mission.

All Jewish blood sacrifices for sin ended when Rome destroyed the Temple in 70 A.D. According to the Law of Moses without shedding blood all sin remains, but the good news is that it's not needed if you take Jesus' sacrifice as your own. Now, can you guess His famous three-word line? Just give up and it'll all make perfect sense (John 19:30).



## The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster  
[theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com](mailto:theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com)

## 2022 Upcoming Wildlife Banquet Dinners

2/19-Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Bath, Joel Korson, 517-614-3845  
2/24-MSU Ducks Unlimited Event, Lansing, Tom Rondeau, 248-990-5741  
3/12-National Wild Turkey Federation, Durand, Jason Defrenn, 810-625-7567  
3/11 & 3/12-Flint Safari Club International, Flint, sciflint.org  
3/18 & 3/19-Lansing Safari Club International, Bath, lansingsci.com  
3/19-Mid Shiawassee Ducks Unlimited Dinner, Durand, Tonya Conrad, 989-413-5519  
3/19-Life in Christ Sportsmen's Dinner, Owosso, 989-729-1972  
3/19-Shiawassee Pheasants Forever, Burt, Anthony Best, 810-223-4587  
3/26-Whitetails Unlimited Banquet, Chesaning, Chris Sloan, 989-284-9193  
4/15-Red Cedar Ducks Unlimited Dinner, East Lansing, Richard Jess, 517-862-2814  
4/15-National Wild Turkey Federation, Bath, MichaelArnold, 810-650-3331  
4/23-Shiawassee ConservationAssoc Education Dinner, Owosso, 989-725-7588  
4/30-Pheasants Forever Pint Night, Lansing, Brad Brunken, [bradleybrunken@sncglobal.net](mailto:bradleybrunken@sncglobal.net)

-WS



## Religious Thoughts

by Chris Hearn  
[www.letsmeetgod.com](http://www.letsmeetgod.com)

Believers in Jesus Christ are to give financially to their local church and to various charities, people, organizations, etc. as we are led by the Lord.

The amount that we give is up to you and God. The Old Testament amount of giving 10% is no longer in force today (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:3, 10-11, 9:7), so this is something that we should enter into prayer over and let God lead us as to the amount, or the percentage, that we give.

Remember that financial giving is almost always about the state of our hearts, rather than the actual amount we give. One person gives 5% of their income and for them it's a real stretch. Another gives 30% and is actually giving less than the Lord would like. Everyone's different.

As you give, keep in mind that God will want to stretch you from time to time in this area. It's how He grows us in our faith and in our trust in Him. God will challenge us in a loving, friendly way so we will grow to be more like Him.

Like other Christian disciplines, when we give financially we are growing to become more Christ-like.

When we give, we are saying that we are trusting in God (and also in His Word, the Bible) that He will take care of us. We are trusting that God will bless us and take care of our basic needs.

Giving helps keep us from greed. When we give, we are keeping a bit less for ourselves.

Giving financially helps us to become more others centered. We are looking to the needs of others.

Giving also points people to the Savior.

As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “...your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” - 2 Corinthians 9:11



## “BIG A” Memorial Scholarship Applications Available

submitted by Janice Andersen

“BIG A” (Jason E. Andersen) Memorial Scholarship Applications for 2022 are available at the Counselors Offices at both the Laingsburg High School and Alpena High School

Scholarships are being offered at the Laingsburg High School for all eligible graduating seniors in memory of BIG A (Jason E. Andersen) a former 1995 LHS graduate and son of Janice Putnam Andersen and the late Eugene Andersen. Additional scholarships will also be available at Alpena High School where Jason was a Coach and Counselor.

Prior to the passing of Jason at a young age of 31, Jason was a former Director of Alpena’s Boys and Girls Club, Alpena’s Youth Center and Coached many students at Alpena Schools in both football and basketball along with counseling at risk students. His legacy of helping many students in need is being continued through the financial assistance via the scholarships at his former alma mater high school and Alpena High School. To qualify, students must be a graduating senior in good standing. Also, participation in school based and non-school based activities will be considered in addition to their future study area/goals and any special circumstances that they may have encountered in their life.

Applications are available for pick up at the Counselors Office at Laingsburg High School. All LHS applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. Friday, April 22, 2022, or postmarked by April 22, 2022 and mailed to BIG A Scholarship, %Janice Andersen, 514 E. Broad Street, Chesaning, MI 48616, to be considered. Questions can be referred to 989-666-2696.



### Blood Drive

The Duplain Church of Christ, 5565 E. Colony Rd., St. Johns will be holding a Blood Drive on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

For information or to make an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code DUPLAINCOC) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

## USDA Set Cut-Off Date for Stewardship Applications

submitted by Brian Buehler

EAST LANSING, Feb. 14, 2022 — A U.S. Department of Agriculture program that provides annual payments for land stewardship is available to Michigan farmers and non-industrial private forest owners. Applications for the USDA Conservation Stewardship Program must be submitted by March 15, 2022, to be eligible for the current selection period.

Through the Conservation Stewardship Program, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service helps farmers and forestland owners earn payments for implementing new conservation activities while maintaining agricultural production on their land. CSP also encourages adoption of new technologies and management practices. Program participants enter into 5-year contracts that encompass the entire farming or forest operation.

The Conservation Stewardship Program is offered in Michigan on a continuous basis. The program provides many benefits including increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to weather extremes. The program is for working lands including cropland, pastureland, nonindustrial private forest land and includes land under the jurisdiction of an American Indian tribe.

For additional information about the Conservation Stewardship Program, contact your local USDA Service Center. Producers can also apply online using the farmers.gov portal. Visitors wishing to conduct business with NRCS, Farm Service Agency, or any other USDA Service Center agency should call ahead to schedule an appointment.

## Family Fun Nights

Starting this February Vineyard Creative Arts Theatre will be offering Family Fun Night.

The event will be Sat. Sat. February 26 from 4-8pm.

There is no Cost for this event.

Snacks & Drinks will be sold

There will be a movie available (TBD), many board games available to play.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The building is now handicap accessible with a lift



## MYLSF Scholarship Award Application Deadline May 15

submitted by Chelsea Lewis-Parisio

Lansing, MI- Since 2000, the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund (MYLSF) has awarded \$675,630 in scholarships and educational awards to outstanding youth who have exhibited at the premier livestock events in the state of Michigan. In 2021, there was \$32,500 in scholarships awarded.

In 2022, a select number of applicants may be offered an opportunity to be interviewed, at the discretion of the MYLSF, prior to the Sale-Abration event for larger scholarship awards up to \$5,000.

To be eligible for either the MYLSF general scholarship or the statewide scholarship, the applicant must be a resident of Michigan and a graduating high school senior or a high school graduate continuing their education at an accredited institution in the year in which they are applying.

For the general MYLSF scholarship, the applicant must be a youth exhibitor at the Michigan Livestock Expo, the Michigan Dairy Expo or the former Michigan State Fair, for a minimum of three calendar years prior to the year of application. For the statewide scholarship, an applicant must be a youth exhibitor at a local, county, or statewide exhibition for a minimum of three years prior to the year of application.

Specific proceeds from the Michigan Livestock Expo Sale-Abration auction as well as charitable donations help fund the scholarships. The fund is governed by a 11-member board comprised of volunteers from Michigan’s agricultural community. Also, in 2021 approximately \$15,000 was deposited into the Michigan Education Saving Plans for youth exhibitors who compete in judging and showmanship events at the Michigan Livestock Expo on the Michigan State University campus.

The 2021 MYLSF local scholarship winners were:

\$2,000 scholarship: Nathan Scovill of Laingsburg

\$1,500 scholarship: Alexander Scovill of Laingsburg;

\$1,000 scholarship: Cami Harris of Ovid

Applications and qualification requirements for the MYLSF and the statewide scholarship can be obtained at [www.michigan.gov/mdard-mylsf](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard-mylsf). Applications must be submitted electronically no later than Sunday, May 15, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Haarer, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development’s Producer Security Section Manager, at 517-896-2236 or [haarerj@michigan.gov](mailto:haarerj@michigan.gov); or Ernie Birchmeier, Michigan Farm Bureau’s Livestock & Dairy Specialist, at 517-679-5335 or [ebirchm@michfb.com](mailto:ebirchm@michfb.com).

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# Home Improvement

## Low-Cost Ways to Revamp Living Areas

Home improvement projects require substantial financial investment. But just because a homeowner wants to bring a fresh look indoors doesn't mean he or she has to break the bank along the way.

Living rooms are some of the most frequently used spaces in a home, and they can use an update from time to time to stay on trend or to make the area more functional for a changing family dynamic. Here are some budget-friendly ideas for breathing new life into living room designs.



- Establish the budget. Homeowners should figure out how many dollars they can designate to a living room makeover before purchasing supplies or hiring out the work. Figure out the scope of the remodel, visit stores or suppliers to price out materials, get estimates from contractors, and then plan for some unforeseen circumstances along the way to determine if this type of renovation is affordable. If not, scale things back until the project more closely aligns with your budget.

- Change the paint color. Lighter and brighter colors are on trend. A can or two of paint can do wonders for updating a space without a large financial commitment. Pair that new paint color with new window coverings and complementary throw pillows to pull the theme together with minimal expense.

- Update the flooring. Tired, outdated carpeting or other flooring can use an overhaul. While solid hardwood flooring may be preferable, there are many types of laminate flooring that mimic the looks of popular wood colors and styles for a fraction of the cost. Plus, many are sold at home improvement retailers and even at warehouse clubs or online for reasonable prices. Laminate flooring also may be a potential DIY job for a skilled homeowner, saving even more money.

- Introduce a fireplace. Fireplaces were once hot commodities, but that popularity waned in the 1970s and 1980s. Homeowners with chimneys may discover a fireplace was boarded over and the bare bones still exist that can be renovated to bring back character. There also are ventless freestanding units that are quite affordable that can mimic the look of a built-in fireplace.

- Reupholster instead of replace furniture. There's no need to throw away quality furniture if the fabric is the only thing impeding design. New upholstery or even a slipcover can update designs.

- Conquer clutter. Rather than adding something to the living room, remove clutter to give the room a more airy feel. This can instantly change the look of the room. Use cord covers to tame plugs for electronics and remove unnecessary furniture from the room.

- Improve lighting. Another easy and often inexpensive fix is to change lighting fixtures, including using brighter, more energy efficient LED bulbs, and to assess lighting needs to eliminate dark corners of rooms that can make the space seem drab.

Living room spaces in need of an update often can benefit from improvements that go easy on the wallet.

## How to Cut Cost on Home Renovations

- Assess the merit of the project. Remodeling magazine annually publishes a "Cost vs. Value Report" that lists the average cost and return on investment homeowners can expect of various types of projects. If you're planning to sell your home soon, it may be best to focus on repairs and renovations that will generate the most substantial ROI.

- Hire a contractor. Even avid do-it-yourselfers can sometimes benefit from a contractor's expertise, particularly for complex tasks. Don't waste money by trying tough jobs yourself; rely on an experienced contractor who can get supplies for less money and will do the job right the first time. Compare bids from several different contractors and figure out the best value.

- Refurbish existing features. Rather than a complete gut and rebuild, figure out where you can revitalize existing fixtures and more. For example, refinishing existing cabinets can save you up to 50 percent compared with the cost of new cabinetry, according to Angi (formerly Angie's List), a cost comparison and business review resource.

- Choose midgrade materials. Certain materials may be all the rage but they come with a higher price tag. Angi reports that granite counters could be \$60 to \$100 per square foot. However, a composite or laminate that looks like granite and wears well may be \$10 to 40 per square foot. Figure out where you can choose middle-of-the-road materials for maximum value.

- Avoid peak seasons. You'll pay more to install a deck or a pool right before the outdoor entertaining season. There also may be a premium to get work done right before a major holiday. Therefore, consult the calendar to find an off time for a renovation and book it then to save.

- Do some prep work. You might be able to save by doing some of the demolition and preparatory work yourself. For example, you can tear up old carpeting before the installation of new tile floors. Perhaps you can mend and patch up walls before a paint job.

- Buy a display item. Former showroom kitchens and baths often are sourced at a fraction of their recommended retail prices, according to Real Homes, a home remodel guide based in the United Kingdom. Retailers often update their displays and you may score existing showroom items at a discount.

Renovations can be expensive, but there are many different ways to cut costs.

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Sports



Front: Coach Matt Fabus. Back row (l-r): Gracie Schultz, Karina Custer, Morgan Douglass, Ashland Particka, Olivia Burt, Kloe Bigelow.

Another Conference Champions for O-E Girls Bowling Team

The Ovid-Elsie Varsity girls bowling teams finished 7-0 this season for another championship. Both teams went up against Byron. The girls won 28.5-1.5. High scores included Gracie Schultz 221, 222; Morgan Douglass 151, 193; Ashland Particka 135, 182; Olivia Burt 150. The girls had 712, 867 games for Petersons. Very nice games, that is what is needed as they move on Regionals. The boys also had great Peterson scores of 809, 777. It is a good time to click and keep moving forward. High games for the boys included Austin Smith 180, 147; Gunnar Barrett 143; Tobin Clark 157, 213; Branden Grieder 163, 146; Hunter Maxa 166. Next up is Bentle in a non-conference match Feb. 19th at Colonial Lanes. Regionals are Feb. 25 & 26 at Essexville Alert Lanes. Team on Friday, Singles on Saturday.



Tobin Clark Austin Smith

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Ashley Jelinek Jenna Wirt Alexyss McAllister Savannah Beebe Allyson Emmendorfer Savanna Denman

Comets from Coleman Beat Lady Bears

Ashley took on the best team in the league in Coleman this week taking a loss. "Coleman is one of the best teams in our league and played a strong first half taking advantage of slow rotations in our zone defense. We made an adjustment and switched to man-to-man defense and played much more solid on the defensive end" commented Coach Shaw. Ashleigh Jelinek lead the way with 11 points and 4 steals, Jenna Wirt added 10 points and Savannah Beebe chipped in a bucket.

Ashley Loses to Montabella

The Lady Bears had to travel to Montabella to play the Mustangs on a Saturday in a make up game after a busy day helping with the younger girls' basketball program. "Playing on Saturdays can be tough as it can be a total change in routine, and we didn't come out of the gate real well and found ourselves down big early and we could never dig ourselves out of the hole" said Coach Shaw. Ashleigh Jelinek had 9 points, 8 rebounds and 2 blocks. Jenna Wirt scored 6 points and had 6 rebounds and Alexyss McAllister scored 3 points.

Bears Battle Wolverines

The Ashley Lady Bears hosted the Wolverines from Vestaburg in a league match-up this week. They played a great 3 quarters but had a scoring slump in the second quarter that made it hard to catch back up. "The second quarter was tough on us tonight as we were only able to score 2 points and that put us down 11 at the halftime break. We fought hard in the second half, cutting the lead to 8 with 2 minute to go but just didn't have enough gas to get over the hump" exclaimed Coach Shaw. Jenna Wirt lead the way with 18 points and 8 rebounds, Ashleigh Jelinek scores 8 points and had 5 rebounds, Savannah Beebe scored 3 points, Allyson Emmendorfer scored a bucket and Savanna Denman scored a free throw.



Zander Woodruff Eli Woodruff Jacob Essenberg Brayden Thomas

Wolfpack Defense Stymies Potterville in CMAC Boys Basketball Action

LAINGSBURG -- Laingsburg used "defensive energy," said coach Daniel Morrill, to get past Potterville in a CMAC match up on February 16. The final score had Morrill's Wolfpack on top, 63-31. The win was the 8th in 12 games for LHS this season. Laingsburg's Zander Woodruff had 16 and led all scorers. Jacob Essenberg added 14 for the Pack and Eli Woodruff and Brayden Thomas both chipped in 8. Spencer Fedewa had 10 for Potterville.



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# Sports



Front row (l-r) : Sophomore Bryce Smith (2nd), Junior Sean Divine (3rd), and Junior Mikey Brooks (1st). Back row (l-r): Coach Borgman, Sophomore Jack Borgman (4th), Junior Aden Baynes (1st), Junior Kyle Boettcher (2nd), Sophomore Seth Sivak (3rd), Coach Baynes

## Wolfpack Advances 7 Grapplers to MHSAA Regional Finals

WESTLAND — The Laingsburg varsity wrestling team advanced 7 individuals to the MHSAA Regional Finals.

Congratulations go out to:

Aden Baynes - 1st Place  
Mikey Brooks - 1st place  
Bryce Smith - 2nd place  
Kyle Boettcher - 2nd place  
Sean Divine - 3rd place  
Seth Sivak - 3rd place  
Jack Borgman - 4th place

Baynes and Brooks each won individual district titles Saturday at Lutheran Westland High School.

Baynes (33-3) was first at 130 pounds, collecting a 16-5 major decision victory over Jeffrey McGuire of Lutheran Westland. Brooks (34-2) was the 189-pound champion. He pinned Michael Tuomi of Lutheran Northwest in 1:02.

Coach Shawn Baynes' Wolfpack got second-place finishes from Bryce Smith (145) and Kyle Boettcher (152). Placing third were teammates Sean Divine (215) and Seth Sivak (160). Jack Borgman was also a qualifier for Regionals, fourth at 152.

## Marauders use 'lazer focus' to Maintain One-Game Lead in MMAC Boys Basketball Race

DURAND — There was no stumbling in the Marauders' stride this time around.

"We were laser-focused," said Ovid-Elsie head coach Josh Latz, as his O-E varsity boys basketball team rolled past the host Railroaders, 70-49, to maintain a one-game lead in the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) race here February 11.

O-E climbed to a 11-1 record in the league, 14-1 overall. The Chesaning Indians (10-2, 14-2) stayed hot on the Marauders' heels with a 69-47 home victory over Byron.

The Marauders eeked out a 37-31 home win over the Railroaders in December. Then, on February 4, O-E dropped its only game thus far, 50-42 at Chesaning.

That sluggish play wouldn't be the case this time. Durand trailed 23-7 after one quarter of play, then cut the deficit to 23-14 with 6:10 left in the first half. Ovid-Elsie found its stride to lead 36-23 at halftime before extending the lead to 20 after three quarters, 56-36.

OVID-ELSIE SCORING: Braxton Stenger 1 0-0 2, Axel Newell 5 1-1 12, Logan Thompson 7 4-5 19, Clay Wittenberg 6 3-4 17, Adam Barton 4 1-3 10, Dylan Carman 1 1-2 3, Gunner McCreery 0 0-2 0, Jake Tomasek 2 0-0 4, Colin Fluharty 1 1-2 3.

DURAND SCORING: Gabe Lynn 5 0-0 13, Austin Kelley 3 2-2 11, Dylan McDonald 3 1-2 7, Jaxon Smith 2 0-0 4, Mason Panchek 1 0-0 2, Markell Tate 1 0-0 2, Carson LePage 1 0-0 3, Alex Bruni 2 0-0 5, Gavin Wells 1 0-0 2.



Logan Thompson



Axel Newell



Clay Wittenberg



Adam Barton

## Lady Marauders Closing in on Perfect Regular Season; Win at Durand 58-36

DURAND — Braeden Tokar had a game high 16 points to lead Ovid-Elsie past Durand (11-6, 7-5 MMAC) in a conference showdown on the road Friday night. The Lady Marauders would prevail 58-36 and improve to 16-0 (12-0 MMAC).

Caitlyn Walter, despite missing most of the first half due to foul trouble chipped in with 13 points and 3 assists while Ava Bates filled the stat sheet with 12 points, 7 rebounds and 7 steals. Evalyn Cole added 9 points, 4 assists and 2 steals while Hailee Campbell scored 5 points, grabbed 4 rebounds, 3 assists and 4 steals. Braylon Byrnes rounded out the Marauder scoring with 3 points. Tokar also added 6 rebounds.

"Durand gave us a great test tonight," said Marauder head coach Ryan Cunningham. "They handled our press fairly well and made some big shots."

Durand, shooting nearly 42% from the field ended up turning the ball over 28 times which led to 19 Ovid-Elsie steals. The Lady Marauders also handed out 16 assists on 21 made Hailee Campbell Braylon Byrnes baskets and out rebounded the Railroaders 31-26.

"They have size and great guard play," noted Cunningham. "They actually match up really well with us. But we're still without Kiah (Longoria) and that's a huge piece to our team puzzle. She provides us with another scorer and she's an outstanding defender."

The Lady Marauders used quarter scoring runs of 16-7, 16-10, 10-8, and 16-11 and led by as many as 26 and 32-17 at half.

"They just seemed to keep hanging around so you have to give them credit for coming up with a great game plan and executing it," said Cunningham. "We need to be tested as we head into the tournament in a couple of weeks."

The win guaranteed O-E at least a share of the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) title - something that has long eluded the Marauders. The last conference title was in 1984. A win against Mt. Morris gives Ovid-Elsie the title outright.



Caitlyn Walter



Ava Bates



## Wolfpack Girls Fall to 6-8 with CMAC Loss at Dansville

DANSVILLE — Returning to CMAC girls basketball action on February 8, Laingsburg dropped a 51-34 nod Dansville.

Coach Doug Hurst's Lady Wolves fell to 6-8 overall with the loss. After the Aggies grabbed an early 11-7 lead, LHS rallied to trail just 20-18 at the halftime break. Dansville then put the contest away with a 16-9 run in the third quarter, and a 15-7 advantage in the final period.

Laingsburg's Ellie Baynes led the way with 16 points and 3 steals. Lorna Strieff added 7 pts., 10 rebs.; Bella Strieff 4 pts.; Kyleigh Luna, Brooke Putnam and Brenna Highfield each with 2.

### Lady Wolves take on P-W for 2nd time in two weeks; nip the Pirates 35-33

LAINGSBURG — Pewamo-Westphalia traveled to Laingsburg for the two schools' second game in two weeks, and the host Wolfpack avenged an earlier 34-18 loss to the Pirates.

Coach Doug Hurst's Wolfpack used a 28-22 run over the first three quarters, then held off the Lady Bucs in the 4th stanza for a 35-33 CMAC victory on February 10.

"It was senior night for us and a very special night for us," said coach Hurst. "All the girls came together and played well and with a purpose. Knowing we didn't play well the first time around, we made the most of the chance for payback and played better vs. P-W. It was a great showing for our seniors."

Lorna Strieff led LHS with 15 points and 10 rebounds. Julia Starr contributed 11 points and 3 assists; Ellie Baynes 5 points; Erica Wade 2 points; and Bella Strieff and Kyleigh Luna one point each.

### Loss to Potterville dips Wolfpack girls to 6-11

POTTERVILLE — Potterville nipped the Laingsburg girls varsity basketball team here, 41-40, on February 15.

The loss lowered coach Doug Hurst's Wolfpack to 4-7 in the CMAC and 6-11 overall. The host Vikings improved to 6-7 and 9-8.

"We played a solid 1st quarter and a bad 2nd quarter," said coach Hurst. "We made some adjustments at halftime and played a much better 2nd half. We just can't seem to put four full quarters together as often as we need to."

"We are a very young team as for varsity experience and it seems to bite us once in awhile, but we continue to show improvement. We have had multiple games decided by single digits that just haven't gone our way, but we're in the games. This is all part of growing for the future."

Ellie Baynes led LHS with 14 points, 10 rebounds and 3 steals. Julia Starr added 12 points and 4 steals; Lorna Stieff 7 points and 6 rebounds; Ella Merrell 6 points and 3 rebounds; and Kyleigh Luna 5 rebounds.



Ellie Baynes



Lorna Strieff

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## Shiawassee Community Foundation Fall Grant Awards

*submitted by Lora Phelps*

The Shiawassee Community Foundation has awarded 11 fall grants to various non-profits. These grants were made available through eight of the foundation's grant funds. Combined, the grants total \$52,733.00. We would like to thank all our fund representatives, donors, and community supporters for making these grants possible and as always, thank you to the non-profit recipients in our area who work tirelessly to make sure the community has necessary resources and local needs are met.

The Fall 2021 grant recipients are as follows:

The PFC Shane Cantu Memorial Fund was established to benefit qualifying charitable organizations, schools, health and human service organizations, municipalities, and other governmental entities to support veterans' programs and projects in the Shiawassee County area.

• Shiawassee Family YMCA- \$2,950.00

o Operation Salute- opportunities for Veterans that combine fitness/wellness and social engagement to create healthy mind, body, and spirit.

The Kailey Elizabeth Jordan Memorial Fund was established to provide scholarships to accredited Michigan horse camps to allow Michigan handicapped or terminally ill children who love horses and would benefit from therapeutic horseback riding.

• Offering Alternative Therapy with Smiles, OATS- \$3,000.00

o Therapeutic riding lessons for youth in Michigan

The Memorial Healthcare and Memorial Healthcare Foundation Fund was established to provide support for health education activities and programs proposed by other community organizations that are designed to enhance community health and wellness.

• The ARC Mid-Michigan- \$5,000.00

o Support for after school programs and summer day camp

• Shiawassee County Families Against Narcotics- \$5,000.00

o 9/11 Run Drugs Out of Town event, FAN awareness

• Shiawassee County Health Department- \$4,874.00

o Safe Sleep for Babies in Shiawassee County initiative

• Voices for Children Advocacy Center- \$22,803.00

o Support for mental health services for child abuse survivors

The Montgomery Family Fund was established to support conservation, recreation, the arts and children or individuals with special needs.

• The ARC Mid-Michigan- \$866.00

o Support for after school programs and summer day camp

The Playground Restoration and Maintenance Fund was established by the Cook Family Foundation to provide materials and supplies to volunteer groups who commit to repair or enhance public playgrounds and other recreational facilities for youth in Shiawassee County.

• Corunna Public Schools- \$1,240.00

o Louise Peacock Children's Services Pre-K play system

The Debra Wegman Memorial Fund was established to support programs focusing on health-care, education, arts and theatre, community improvement, ministry and spiritual enrichment, beautification projects (especially water-related projects), youth programs, senior programs, or other unmet charitable needs.

• Shiawassee Council on Aging- \$5,000.00

o Mobile arts program

• Michigan Laborers' Training & Apprenticeship Institute- \$1,000.00

o Playground equipment and maintenance at CrossPointe Kids Playground in Perry

The Russell and Annabelle Woodard Family Fund was established to benefit family, youth, beautification, and preservation projects in Shiawassee County.

• Michigan Laborers' Training & Apprenticeship Institute- \$1,000.00

o Playground equipment and maintenance at CrossPointe Kids Playground in Perry

For any questions or further information regarding a fund, go to [www.shiacf.org](http://www.shiacf.org) or contact our office at 989-725-1093.

## MI Food & Agriculture Companines Experiencing International Growth

*submitted by Chelsea Lewis-Parisio*

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development is launching a search for the 2022 Michigan's 'Ag Exporter of the Year.' Each year, the department recognizes a leading food or agriculture exporter by presenting the "Michigan Ag Exporter of the Year" award to a deserving company that demonstrates success in export growth.

Companies of all sizes are encouraged to apply. Eligibility is limited to Michigan food, agriculture, and forest products producers, manufacturers, or shippers aggressively pursuing international markets and increasing export sales. Products must be over 50 percent grown, processed, or manufactured in Michigan. The Michigan Ag Exporter of the Year award was first awarded in 2006. Previous winners include Citizens Elevator, Kamps Hardwoods, Sklarczyk Seed Farm, Dr. John's Candies, Bayside Best Beans, Star of the West Milling, Continental Dairy, Connor Sports, Graceland Fruit, Cherry Central, Zeeland Farm Service, Walters Gardens, Honee Bear Canning, Cooperative Elevator Company, and Michigan Apple Committee.

Applications are due by 5:00 pm Eastern time on Friday, April 15, 2022 For more information, and an application, visit, [www.michigan.gov/agexport](http://www.michigan.gov/agexport) or contact Nate Engle at 517-388-5708

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

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## LAFCU Earns 3 National Marketing Awards

*submitted by Jan Jenkins*

LANSING — Two LAFCU programs have been recognized in the 19th Annual Service Industry Advertising Awards competition, one earning awards in two categories. Both programs earned a Gold award, the highest in the category.

The categories and winning LAFCU programs are:

Total Public Relations Campaign category

Gold — LAFCU Listen & Learn Program

Silver — LAFCU Act with Love & Equality Art Initiative

Equality & Diversity category

Gold — LAFCU Act with Love & Equality Art Initiative

“These unique programs have community outreach and support in common,” said Kelli Ellsworth Etchison, LAFCU chief marketing officer and chief diversity officer. “One was born out of the pandemic and the need to help children develop good reading habits even when they could not physically be in school. The other initiative sprung from racial tensions and unrest surrounding the murder of George Floyd and others.

“We share these awards with many incredibly talented people and community-minded

organizations and businesses that joined our effort to positively impact the people of Michigan.”

The SIAA competition recognizes advertising excellence of service industry providers. Of the more than 1,200 entries, about 12 percent earned Gold awards. Judges reviewed entries for execution, creativity, quality, consumer appeal and overall breakthrough content.

Both programs were supported by strategic public relations campaigns that included member communications materials created by LAFCU and extensive media coverage garnered through a partnership with Publicom Inc., Okemos.

More about the programs:

LAFCU Listen & Learn Program is a virtual reading program created to support kids, age 12 and under, and their parents following the shift by schools from in-person to virtual classes.

The ongoing program encourages reading in fun, interesting and informative ways through live, interactive, online events, each about 30 minutes in length. LAFCU produced the events in-house in partnership with community organizations, groups and businesses, such as libraries, schools, a zoo, a science museum, a dance troupe, a beekeeping business and a reindeer farm.

Recorded versions are on LAFCU’s YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/LAFCU-L-L>, along with additional readings of children’s books promoted during the live events. The additional readings are also accessible via phone.

LAFCU Act with Love & Equality Art Initiative is designed to make healing and empathy top-of-mind following the turbulence of 2020 — the pandemic, politics, calls for social justice.

A call for artistic depictions of 10 “healing” words resulted in 10 powerful pieces of artwork. They have been displayed on billboards across the state — pro bono by three billboard companies — and on digital platforms to spark reflection and conversation, and as a 24/7 reminder of what’s truly important in life. Several organizations, including the Lansing Lugnuts and Eaton Theatre, also shared the images on their platforms. The art can be viewed at [www.lafcu.com/art](http://www.lafcu.com/art).



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## Grand Opening of the Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) for Adults

*submitted by Steven Vernon*

St. Johns, MI – March 01, 2022 – Cedar Creek Hospital officially opened its new Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) which offers specialized treatment specifically designed to address the needs and challenges of adults. This population requires support when transitioning from an inpatient psychiatric facility to home or to prevent the need for inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.

Cedar Creek’s PHP is an acute outpatient program that utilizes individual and group therapy, trauma informed care, medication management and health services, and a variety of evidence-based treatment interventions to serve adults struggling with mental and emotional wellness. PHP will build upon the same resiliency skills used to overcome past challenges to help improve one’s quality of life at home, at work, and in their communities.

“We are excited to be able to offer intensive, mental health services for adults on an outpatient basis so that individuals can receive the benefit of treatment while being able to return to their home at the end of the day,” said Jenn Briere, MSW/LMSW, Director of Outpatient Services, Cedar Creek Hospital. “Having an additional treatment option like this in the community will provide access to quality mental health services that has not otherwise been available in this region.”

PHP includes a mix of traditional and alternative therapies and treatments such as dialectical behavior therapy skills, cognitive behavioral therapy, pet therapy, expressive arts, nutrition, medication education, and treatment for co-occurring disorders. Patients may transition to our PHP immediately following an inpatient admission or may utilize PHP to prevent hospitalization. Programming is offered Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and includes lunch, beverages, and snacks. Our goal is to help adults improve daily functioning so they can return to their home, job, and everyday life activities.

About Cedar Creek Hospital

Cedar Creek Hospital provides treatment to teens and adults struggling with emotional or behavioral health issues. Following an initial free assessment by a licensed counselor, patients receive a personalized treatment plan that can include individual, group, and recreational therapies. We encourage family education and participation to allow involvement for all who want to be part of the healing process. Prior to discharge, we will work with local community resources to help ensure our patients receive continued support for recovery. To learn more, visit: <https://cedarcreekhospital.com/> and follow us <https://www.facebook.com/CedarCreekHospital> and <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cedar-creek-hospital-of-michigan/>

Cedar Creek Hospital is credentialed with most insurance companies, including Blue Cross Blue Shield, Medicaid, and Medicare.