

## Ovid-Elsie FFA Chapter Members Receive Multiple State Recognitions

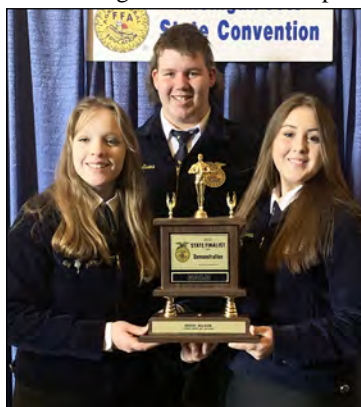


State Degrees- Wyatt Wilcox, Emma Fox, William Harris, Clarisse Fitzpatrick, Paula Olger, and Tori Maynard.

submitted by: Emma Fox

On March 9-11, 2022, the Ovid-Elsie FFA traveled to the campus of Michigan State University for the 94th Michigan FFA State Convention. The FFA Chapter and its members brought home numerous awards. Ovid-Elsie FFA is proud of the hard work by its members this past year and that was rewarded at the 94th Michigan FFA State Convention.

Ovid-Elsie FFA had multiple members compete at the state level with all of them receiving awards. Matthew Whitaker competed in the Extemporaneous public speaking contest and received a silver award, and 8th place overall. Cassidy Harris, Willow Evans, with assistant Harris Evans competed in the Demonstration contest with their demonstration entitled Fine Swine, they received a gold award and 3rd place in the State.



Demo - Willow Evans, Harris Evans, and Cassidy Harris.

Maynard got recognized as the State Runner-Up in the Michigan FFA Crop Management Challenge Soybean Division and was presented this award from representatives of Michigan Agro-Expo.



Silver State Degree- Emma Fox, and Clarisse Fitzpatrick.

Clarisse Fitzpatrick, Emma Fox, William Harris, Tori Maynard, Paula Olger and Wyatt Wilcox received the highest honor given by the Michigan FFA Association, the State FFA Degree. Seniors Clarisse Fitzpatrick, and Emma Fox were recognized for superior leadership skills and FFA involvement with Silver State Degrees. Ovid-Elsie FFA is proud of these seniors and grateful for all they do for our chapter.



Outstanding Junior- Dustin Anderson, and Perrien Rasch.

Ovid-Elsie FFA had members receive the Outstanding Junior Award for meeting the requirements set by the Michigan FFA Association. Those members include: Dustin Anderson, Kya Kurka, and Perrien Rasch.

Ovid-Elsie FFA members received recognition for their high academic achievement. Juniors receive silver and seniors receive gold level status. Kya Kurka and Perrien Rasch received a Silver level award. Clarisse Fitzpatrick, Emma Fox, and Tori Maynard were honored with the Gold award for academic excellence.

Emma Fox, Tori Maynard, and Paula Olger were chosen to represent the Ovid-Elsie FFA Chapter as a delegate to the State FFA Association. Both members traveled to the Michigan Capitol in Lansing with other FFA members from across the State to meet with Michigan legislators.

The chapter is very proud of all of the accomplishments of its members.

See pages 8-14 for our Annual Farm Section



## Easter Egg Hunt

Mark your calendars now for the return of the Ovid Healthcare Centers Easter Egg Hunt to be held on Saturday, April 9th at 11am. Kids ages toddler-6th grade are invited to take part. The Easter Bunny will be on hand to greet kids prizes will be given out. Bring your own Basket to collect the candy filled eggs. For more information call Jill at 989-834-2228

Ovid Healthcare could use your help by donating candy or cash donations to help with the cost of filling the hundreds of eggs filled for kids to find. Donations can be dropped off at the front desk at Ovid Healthcare located at 9480 M-21 in Ovid by Friday, April 1st.



Front Row (Left to Right): President Logan Drummond and Reporter Leslie Bockheim. Back (Left to Right) Vice President Bailey Crocker, Sentinel Dillan Beebe, and Treasurer Gavin Malek.

## Ashley FFA

submitted by Amber McAllister

The Ashley FFA received three awards while attending the State Convention in Lansing. These awards included: National Chapter - Silver Ranking, Superior Chapter, and 3rd Place in the Farm Bureau #SpeakAg Competition.

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

### ELBA TOWNSHIP GRATIOT COUNTY

Elba Township will hold its budget meeting on March 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Hall, 109 S. Oak St., in Ashley.

Madalin C. Morris  
 Township Clerk  
 989-847-2097

### NOTICE LAINGSBURG AREA RESIDENTS PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT ON RIVER ACCESS GRANT APPLICATION

The City of Laingsburg will hold two public hearings to receive input on a River Access Grant Application, the first on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7pm at the Laingsburg Planning Commission Meeting and the second will be Monday, March 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. both will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 114 N. Woodhull Street, Laingsburg, Michigan. The Council is considering a Michigan National Resource Trust Fund, MNRTF, Grant Application to help fund the development of a site located in the 7000 block of Laingsburg Road, adjacent to the bridge, on the north side of the Looking Glass River that will provide universal public access to the Looking Glass River. Improvements to include an easy-to use ADA launch system and access drive with parking areas. This area will be kept natural to preserve current vegetation while offering an opportunity for public access to the Looking Glass River.

The city would like to offer everyone an opportunity provide input on the application. If you are interested in this matter and would like to discuss or provide comment on the project, please attend the public meeting or send a representative. Laingsburg City Hall is barrier free. Any person requiring special assistance should call 517-651-5374 within 24 hours of the meeting.

Paula Willoughby  
 Clerk

Posted at City Hall & Website on March 11, 2022 Posted in the Argus Press on March 13, 2022 Posted in the Meridian Weekly on March 20, 2022

## Social

### Reading Month: Adventures at the Elsie Public Library

*submitted by Ann Trierweiler*

Just a Reminder...March is Reading Month! The Elsie Public Library has been presenting many fun activities, which are designed to help get kids and adults excited to read. This year's theme is Dr. Seuss, and in-library programs are held at 10:30 am on every Saturday in March.

There is also an in-library St. Patrick's Day contest, which can be finished in a matter of minutes. The contest runs through the end of March. There are great prizes to win!!

Remember...we are now a fine free library and all DVDs are free to take out for a week, with many new DVDs available (there are over 3,000 DVDs to choose from at this time). To see all of the new books and DVDs available for you to use, please visit our website at <https://www.elsiepubliclibrary.org/> and click on the library e-catalog.

So, don't miss out on all of the great items, and fun activities available for anyone in Clinton, Shiawassee, or Saginaw Counties, and Elba Township-Gratiot County!

### East Africa Missionaries at Fenmore Baptist

Come join us on March 20th at 11:00 a.m. as East Africa Missionary Kevin Noles will be preaching and present his mission work in Uganda. This will be an exciting glimpse into the African way of life.

Fenmore Baptist is the little brick church north of Elsie at 7888 N. Hollister where the word of God is taught.

### Habitat For Humanity Auction

*submitted by Dawn Parker*

ST. JOHNS – Want to help a good cause while possibly scoring an experience or a gift for yourself?

If you do, then toggle over (and yes, I said toggle) to Clinton-Gratiot Habitat for Humanity's (CGHFH) Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/HabitatClinton>) to check out the items in the organization's latest online silent auction.

The auction will open on Thursday, May 19 with a Facebook Live event (time to be determined) and close with another live event on Thursday, June 2. Bids will be accepted through the Facebook page, via e-mail with your name, address and phone number to [director@cghabitat.org](mailto:director@cghabitat.org) or by phone to (989) 227-1771

Featured auction items include a 10-foot sit-on kayak from KL Outdoors of Muskegon valued at \$400, an "Life Up North" package that includes a night's stay in a Northern Michigan bed and breakfast and a VIP tasting at L. Mawby Vineyards in Suttons Bay.

The auction is being held in conjunction with the "2022 No-Show Gala," a virtual event where CGHFH supporters will be encouraged to purchase "tickets" (\$35 each) or sponsor a "table" (\$200) without the need to dress up or "get pretty" for a formal event.

All proceeds from the auction and the "gala" will help CGHFH pursue its core mission of providing safe, decent and affordable housing for people in need, build accessibility ramps and carry out critical home repairs designed to keep peoples in their homes longer.

For more information on what Habitat does and how you can request help, call (989) 227-1771.

### Last Chance This Year to Visit a Family Heirloom Holiday Village

*by Karen Anderson, Free-lance writer*

OWOSSO - As March wraps up winter like a Lion and the cold snow melts away, the Mr. and Mrs. Harrand-Davis family are spending 2 full weeks packing away their several thousand-piece Holiday Christmas Village collection. If you would still like to visit the display, they have opened their home for private viewings until the end of March. Appointment only. No cost.

The collection includes rare antiques and collectable pieces. Mrs. Dora Etta Sidwell Flury (1892 – 1967) acquired her first piece which was a Flurry© Church original, a namesake of their grandmother, over a hundred years ago. The Flury family arrived at Ellis Island from Switzerland and settled in Cooksville, Tennessee.

The family has continued to build the village to become a proud showpiece coveted by many eclectic antique collectors. "Last chance to experience this opportunity," stated Davis... "until next year, of course." "We are proud to be the historian and keepers of this family heirloom and excited to share it with others as the village grows."

The excitement of a charming look at the past will even stir the imaginations of novice non-collectors. Everything you can imagine in an old-fashioned village, including a town carnival featuring authentic looking carousels and a working miniature popcorn popper can be viewed by calling Becky at 989-472-7475 for an appointment.

### The Easter Bunny is Coming Soon

The annual City of St. Johns Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2022 – rain or shine – at the St. Johns City Park.

The Easter Bunny will be at the event for photo opportunities. These activities will take place in the pavilion beginning at 12:30 p.m.

The City Police siren will sound at 1:00 p.m. to start the "organized mayhem." of the egg hunt. Only kids are allowed in the Egg Patch. NO ADULTS PLEASE.

There is one egg in each age group that has a special ticket in it to win an Easter Basket filled with goodies, so open your eggs while you are there to claim your prize.

# B and B TAX



### AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

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**& Complete Range of Retirement Plans**

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

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

**Friday Fish Frys Will Be**  
**March 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**

### Beauty and Barbershop Directory

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

### Country Styles Hair Studio

Hair Care!  
*Owner/Stylist Meri Smith*  
*Manicurist/Stylist Erica Nichols*  
 Appointments Suggested  
 989-862-5848  
 109 S. Ovid St. Elsie  
 Open 5 days M. & W. 9-8;  
 Th. 9-5; Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-1;  
 Closed Tues. & Sun.  
 Handicap Accessible

### Corner Carousel

133 S. Main St. Ovid

Stylists: Patty Coleson, Colleen Pennell,  
 Grace Ruckle, Loni Plowman  
 Full line of Hair & Nail Care Products

**Matrix, Paul Mitchell, Malibu, Redken, Biolage**

Whirlpool Pedicure Spa  
 Tanning Facilities • Tanning Lotions • Gift Certificates Available.  
 Call for an appt.  
 Mon.-Sat. 834-2587



RESOLUTION NO. 2022-3-2  
DECLARATION OF INTENT TO MAKE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.  
REESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT  
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

At a regular meeting of the Victor Township Board of Trustees held in the Township Hall, 6843 Alward Road, Laingsburg, Michigan on the 14th day of March, 2022.

PRESENT: J. Conklin, Willoughby, Townsend, Fickes and A. Conklin

ABSENT: None

The following Preamble and Resolution were offered by A. Conklin and supported by Willoughby.

WHEREAS, Victor Township has received a petition represented to be from more than twenty percent (20%) of the record owners of real property near Round Lake, requesting the eradication or control of the aquatic weeds and plants in Round Lake, to be funded by special assessment; and

WHEREAS, Victor Township has received an estimate of the cost of a five (5) year weed eradication/control program for Round Lake; and

WHEREAS, Victor Township deems it advisable to tentatively reestablish the special assessment district consisting of the territory described in Exhibit A, located in Clinton County, Michigan, for the purpose of carrying over funds from the special assessment district to continue the eradication or control of aquatic weeds and plants in Round Lake, and a special assessment roll to defray the cost thereof pursuant to Act 188 of 1954, as amended (MCL 41.721 et seq)); and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to hold a public hearing in connection with said action;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The estimate of cost of a five (5) year weed eradication program for Round Lake shall be filed with the Township Clerk.
2. The Township tentatively intends to proceed with the petitioned improvement.
3. The reestablishment of the special assessment district consisting of the territory described in Exhibit A is hereby reestablished for the purpose of, to include the carryover of any unexpended (surplus) funds from the existing special assessment district, to defray the cost of eradicating or controlling the aquatic weeds and plants in Round Lake during the program years 2022 through 2026, by assessment during the years 2022 through 2026.
4. That the Township Board shall hold a public hearing on any objections to the petition, the project, the cost estimates, the approval of the carryover of any unexpended (surplus) funds from the existing special assessment district to the ROUND LAKE AQUATIC MANAGEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 2022-01 and the proposed reestablished special assessment district on April 11, 2022, at 7:00 pm at a meeting of the Township Board at the Victor Township Hall at the Victor Township Hall, 6843 Alward Road, Laingsburg, Michigan; and
5. The Clerk shall cause a Notice of Public Hearing to consider and hear on any objections to the petition, the project, the cost estimates, the approval of the carryover of any unexpended (surplus) funds from the existing special assessment district to the ROUND LAKE AQUATIC MANAGEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 2022-01, to be published twice in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township, the first publication to be not less than ten (10) days before the date of said public hearing, at the Victor Township Hall, 6843 Alward Road, Laingsburg, Michigan.
6. The Clerk shall also provide notice of said hearing, by first class mail, to all owners of all parcels or parties in interest concerning said property in the area described, as said persons shall appear on the last local tax roll, i.e., as established after the last Board of Review with subsequent amendments, and said notice shall be mailed not less than ten (10) days before the date of said hearing.
7. That all Resolutions and parts of Resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Upon a roll call vote, the following voted:

AYES: J. Conklin, Willoughby, Townsend, Fickes and A. Conklin. NAYES: None, ABSENT: None

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the Resolution duly adopted.

Amanda L Conklin, Clerk

Victor Township

Clinton County, Michigan

CERTIFICATE

I, Amanda Conklin, the duly appointed and acting Clerk of the Township of Victor, hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true copy of an Excerpt of the Minutes of a regular meeting of the Victor Township Board, Clinton County, Michigan, held on March 14, 2022, at which meeting four members were present as indicated in said minutes and voted as therein set forth; that said meeting was held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Michigan, and the foregoing Excerpt contains all material pertinent to the ROUND LAKE AQUATIC MANAGEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 2022-01.

Amanda Conklin, Victor Township Clerk

EXHIBIT A  
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-2-001

DECLARATION OF INTENT TO MAKE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS & REESTABLISHMENT OF  
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The total land area within Victor Township, County of Clinton, State of Michigan, described as being lands abutting Round Lake and/or located within the Hickory Hill, Oakdale or Barrett Shores Subdivisions, and/or abutting Oakdale and/or located north of the Round Lake shoreline and south of Round Lake Road, between St. Clair Road and Oakdale.

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## 2022 Fish Fry Schedule

**No Advance Orders...Drive Thru Only  
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**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**

(Sides include: Green beans, coleslaw,  
applesauce, dinner roll)  
**0 Trans Fat Oil Used**

## LAFCU Welcomes Three New Employees

*submitted by Jan Jenkins*

LANSING, Mich. — LAFCU has welcomed three employees to the Michigan credit union. They are Britney Weber, digital and graphic designer; Ahmed Issawi, IT manager; and Kyle Anderson, security engineer.

As digital and graphic designer, Weber supports the LAFCU marketing department by providing visual concepts and images that help communicate the credit union's products, services and initiatives.

The Fowler native comes to LAFCU with more than five years' experience in digital marketing, graphic design and social media, having worked for several retail companies. She is a published photographer and designer in several magazines.

Weber earned an associate degree in photographic technology at Certeret Community College, Morehead City, North Carolina, and graduated with honors.

She helps coach the girls JV volleyball and varsity girls track teams at her alma mater, Fowler High School.

IT Manager Issawi leads the information technology department with responsibilities that include administration, policy, staff supervision, local area network (LAN) functions, and compliance with regulatory security guidelines.



*Britney Weber*



*Ahmed Issawi*

Most of his 16 years of experience in IT was garnered at Michigan State University, where he was most recently IT manager for product services. He has also worked for a telecommunications company and has been a guest speaker at several international IT conferences.

Issawi earned a master's degree in strategic communication with a specialty in digital media and data analytics; a bachelor's degree in information and technology management; and a certification in business systems focused on business information systems — all at MSU.

He also holds additional certifications in diversity, equity and inclusion, support center, desktop support, and ITIL 2.0 and 3.0.

The Mason resident is an officer of the Great Lakes chapter of Information Technology Senior Management Forum (ITSMF) and is a volunteer youth soccer coach in the Lansing area.

Anderson as security engineer works to guard the credit union's systems and software against all types of cybercrime, including hacking, malware, ransomware and insider threats.

He has more than 10 years of experience in IT. He worked about three years for an insurance company, first as network systems administrator then as GRC (governance, risk and compliance) analyst. For more than seven years, he was in the U.S. Navy, last serving as information systems technician lead petty officer.

Anderson earned a bachelor's degree in information technology with a minor in network technology: Cisco at Capella University, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and an associate degree in computer science at Troy University, Troy, Alabama. The East Lansing resident also holds a Cisco certification in networking essentials and has completed multiple IT training courses while in the Navy.



*Kyle Anderson*

## State Gas Tax Relief for Residents

*submitted by Christina Doerr*

State Rep. Ben Frederick and the Michigan House on Wednesday approved a plan to suspend the state's tax on gasoline and diesel fuels to provide immediate financial relief to Michigan drivers.

Frederick, of Owosso, said Michigan's gas and diesel taxes are among the highest in the nation at 27 cents per gallon. The plan approved Wednesday removes the tax for the next six months.

"With gas prices soaring, families are facing a lot of uncertainty as their budgets get tighter and tighter," Frederick said. "By suspending the state gas tax, we provide direct relief to people when they need it most."

Under the plan approved by the House, Michigan drivers stand to save approximately \$750 million between April 1 and Sept. 30, which is more than they would save from a pause in the smaller federal fuel tax. Giving drivers a break from both fuel taxes would amount to 45-cents per gallon savings.

The House also adopted a resolution calling on the governor and attorney general to support energy independence, including ending their opposition to the Great Lakes tunnel project.

A recent study by the Consumers Energy Alliance shows just how critical Line 5 is to Michigan's energy independence. If the pipeline were shut down, Michigan families and businesses would spend at least \$1.8 billion a year more on gasoline and diesel and more than 6,500 Michigan jobs would be in jeopardy.

"As fuel prices climb higher and higher, I shudder to think about the devastating effect shutting down Line 5 would have on Michigan families if the governor got her way," Frederick said. "We must continue to move forward with the tunnel project and encourage the safe operation of Line 5."

House Bill 5570 now advances to the Senate, where a vote is planned next week to send the measure to the governor's desk.



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## Editorial cont' on page 7



### Religious Thoughts

by Chris Hearn  
www.letsmeetgod.com

Have you ever gone through a time in your life and you wondered, "Lord, why?" "Lord, why me?"

Maybe you are going through such a situation in your life right now. It could be the loss of a job or financial crisis. Serious illness like cancer. Divorce. Death of a loved one. Concern about inflation or the war in Ukraine.

And you think, "Lord, why? Why me? This doesn't make any sense! Am I being punished for something?"

If you're going through such a time, then I have some encouraging news for you. While it's impossible for me to say why you are going through a hard time right now, there are five possible reasons why God lets such things happen to us:

1. We can receive God's comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, "Praise be to the God

and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

Notice the words- ALL comfort. ALL our troubles. ANY trouble. God is the God of all comfort. Not the God of some comfort or just a little bit of comfort, but of all comfort. He comforts us in all of our troubles. Not in some of our troubles, but not others, but in all our troubles.

2. We can comfort others. As verse 4 above says, "...we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

There is nothing quite as powerful as a true, "I've been there" testimony. When you can come alongside someone and honestly say, "Need help kicking the habit? I've been there. Let me help you."

"Struggling with the pain and loss of a miscarriage? Let me tell you a little secret- so am I. Let's talk."

3. We can be there for someone. Even if we haven't experienced the problem that the person whom you know is going through, we can still help.

We can lend a listening ear. Spend time with someone. Help out with a home project or buy groceries or make a meal.

4. We can share Christ with those who don't know Him. All people have problems in this life. The atheist has problems. The Muslim. The seeker. The Buddhist. Everyone has problems and most everyone goes through a crisis or through the mill now and then.

From our bad experiences, we can share those with others who are going through trials and point them to Christ.

5. We can rely more on God. 2 Corinthians 1:8b-9 says, "We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

Getting knocked down by life is one way that God can shake us out of our prideful self-reliance and help us turn to Him. When we have nothing else to rely on for help, God wants for us to turn to Him so He can help us.

Jesus knew temptation. Jesus knew pain, heartache and struggle. Rejection. Poverty. The death of a loved one in both His dad and John the Baptist. Yet Jesus never sinned. He was always faithful to the Lord. Knowing this, what is our response when we need help? We can turn to Jesus and ask for help. We can turn to Jesus when we are struggling or hurting.

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are- yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." - Hebrews 4:15-16

### Looking for Classmates

The OE Class of 1972 will be celebrating their 50th class reunion on September 24th and are looking to locate the following classmates: Starlet Mitchell, Lola Hobbs and Rita Justice. Anyone with information as to their whereabouts please email Dave Wyrick at dwyrick@msu.edu.

### Greater Laingsburg Recyclers

LAINGSBURG — The Greater Laingsburg Community Recycling Center will be open from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. 1 p.m. March 26 and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. March 29.

Materials accepted include: Newspaper and phone books; tin and scrap metal; aluminum (separate); corrugated cardboard (include brown paper bags here); boxboard; mixed office paper and junk mail; magazines; books; No. 1 plastics, clear and transparent green or blue only (bottles and jars — no clamshells, takeout, berries and salad containers); No. 2 plastics (milk jugs/cloudy separated from solid color containers); No. 5 "tub" plastics (yogurt, sour cream, etc.); household batteries (separate into regular, rechargeable, lithium and button); glass bottles and jars (all colors); electronics (\$5 fee for flat screens); empty inkjets from Canon, Brother and HP; and dental care products (toothbrushes, spent toothpaste tubes, floss containers).

GLR doesn't accept plastic bags or polystyrene/styrofoam; the latter is accepted at the St. Johns Lions, Meridian Township and East Lansing sites. Meijer, Kroger and Walmart also take bags.

For more information, call (517) 651-2005, or (517) 651-6437.

### Happy 95th Birthday On March 31st Irene Medina



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### Ashley Pre-School Registration

For 2022-2023 School Year

Tuesday, March 22, 2022  
6 p.m.

Ashley School Media Center

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Call the School at (989) 847-4000 Ext. 103



**Documentation Needed:** Child's Original Birth Certificate  
- Proof of Residency - Shot Record/Health Appraisal



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Online condolences may be made at [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com). The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.

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



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Mass: Sun 10:30am,  
Wed. 9:00am

**Confession:**  
Sun 11:30am

## We Welcome You to Come...

Those we love never truly leave us. There are things that death cannot touch...

~Jack Thorne

***Memorialize your loved one in The Weekly***  
**989-834-2264**



## Faith Focus

by Phil Hoppersberger  
Graham Community Church

### “But God”

*“And without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).”*

“Men to the left, women to the right. Men to the left, women to the right.”

Indifference. That was the blasé tone of the Nazi commands to the Jews at the Auschwitz train depot. Hate implies some emotion exists, but indifference has no feeling at all.

Indifference also typifies our view of God. If we're honest, we don't care if He's real. You may contest that, but a true litmus test of what you love is your expenditure of time and money (Matthew 6:21). If He's real, the greatest Being ever, and loves you, then it's stupefying that we ignore Him; but then again, a corpse is pretty hard to impress.

The Bible says that's because we're dead, a spiritual corpse, a dead soul, which explains our lackadaisical God attitude. Sin killed it and us. “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1).” A disinterest in seeking God confirms this truth, “no one seeks God (Romans 3:11).” Deep down, we don't trust Him to have our best interests at heart, so we dismiss Him. But God, thankfully, cared, and loved us anyway.

God puts a supreme value on trust, what the Bible calls Faith, the “conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).” He gave us a wake up-nudge when He became a man, and Jesus reaffirmed faith's importance, asking us to believe that He and the Father were one and the same. So why does a loving God put a premium on trust and faith?

Trust is the core of a relationship. It implies a dependency, and in this case that He knows better than we do, “a rewarder of those who seek Him.” As a father, I want my child's trust when I tell them to do something, or to avoid something dangerous, to believe that I instruct them out of love. To question me is heartbreaking. To ignore me is even worse, but if I love them then I must let them choose to obey me, and to trust me.

So it is with our Heavenly Father who says sin separates us from Him (Isaiah 59:2). Our indifference confirms it; we don't believe Him. But God, despite our hurtful attitude, not only said He loves us, He demonstrated it when He died for our sins. He came after us, even though we didn't care (Luke 19:10). Jesus knew that, and He still came. When God “buted in,” it meant His Son would die, for you, and yet most of us still ignore Him.

Romans 5:8 says, “But God demonstrates His own love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” And Ephesians 2:4-5, “But God being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.” But God – two words to change your life's direction, if you trust Him, “a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Or just stay indifferent, as His love allows you to choose to do. “Men to the left. Women to the right.”

**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

### Funeral Flowers

Dear Andy,

My great aunt recently passed away. Our family sent flowers which cost \$80.00. We had four siblings to divide the amount but that still seems like a lot of money, considering there was plenty of flowers and plants from her church friends and her immediate family at the funeral. I felt obligated when my out-of-state sister suggested we send a plant or flowers. What do you think is the appropriate thing to do?

And now how do I politely collect the money I fronted for the purchase of the flowers? They were beautiful and everyone was pleased with the thoughtful gesture from our family. I was the only one who was able to attend, so I took a picture of the flowers and sent them to my other siblings via cell phone. It has been several weeks, and no one has reimbursed me.

### Baffled Bro

Dear Baffled Bro,

Condolences on your loss of an obviously special family member. This is a subject matter that should be talked about at a time when you are not under pressure to feel “obligated.” The next time you are together or sooner...set up a group telephone call to discuss the matter. Decide with your siblings how you want to handle those kinds of situations to avoid conflict or hard feelings. It is likely there will be more situations where you will want to do something special at the loss of a loved one, or a special occasion such as a wedding, a baby shower or a graduation.

Twenty dollars times four is an affordable amount for most people....but unless you know for certain, it would be impolite to insist on each of them sending you money. Try a friendly reminder...it is possible they forgot.

Your attendance at the funeral and a gentle hug is the best thing to do. If you cannot make the visitation or funeral because you are out of state, a plant or flower arrangements are appropriate and nice. Another less expensive idea is to give a garden stone, often with a comforting message etched into the stone or a framed keepsake picture with a sentimental verse. It is not the amount of money you spend. It is the thoughtfulness you give.

Many people make a donation, in the name of your loved one, or just send a sympathy card. A charity or monetary contribution to a charity will often be suggested in the obituary or funeral home posting. Funerals, weddings, mile-stone birthdays and anniversaries, and baby showers are typically not low-budget events. Gifts from a group are more affordable when you go in together, but not always possible financially.

My #1 advice: when you have the opportunity, bring a plant or bouquet of flowers to your loved ones while they are still living. That will always be appreciated and remembered.

Thank you for sharing your concerns. It is something we all think about when the event occurs but do not always have a pre-planned agreement. Ask\_andy@aol.com or askandyforadvice@gmail.com. Andy

P.S. Mail the memory card from the funeral or church program to those who cannot attend as a thoughtful gesture or as a reminder your sibs owe Money? If you don't get reimbursed, let it go. It's not worth the upset. Ask someone else to pay the next time. Sometimes you have to take turns with your sibs or friends.



## The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster  
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

### Brenke Fish Ladder

Fish ladders, sometimes called fishways, are constructed near dams and allow migrating adult fish to go upstream to spawn. Often simple in design, they are small stepped pools that allow fish to easily jump from pool to pool in ascending height to bypass a dam or other obstruction in a river. There are a couple of these ladders along the Grand River as it stretches from Lake Michigan to the dam at Moore Park (184 miles) in Lansing. The Grand River's Brenke Fish Ladder, built in 1981 and located in Lansing's Old Town, is clearly one of the most aesthetically pleasing fish ladders in all of Michigan. Year round the Brenke, along with adjoining Burchard Park, is a place to visit and spend some quality down time. Within less than a two minute walk there are several wonderful places to grab some grub and enjoy an outdoor meal in the park.

Breakfast burritos from Pablos and bbq from MEAT just can't be beat. Expect to see salmon in the fall, steelhead from fall through spring, and walleye in early spring.

If you want to see the annual walleye migration now is the time to visit this location. Don't plan on fishing for walleye right now as the season closed on March 15th and doesn't reopen until April 24th. An acquaintance of the Weekly Sportsman, James J. from Lansing, was fishing just downstream from the ladder on Monday the 14th and caught a 22 inch male walleye making its way upstream. He used an Eagle Claw 1/4 oz ball head jig fitted with a Zoom swimmin super fluke jr. colored in white ice. The bottom of the river is quite rocky so James favors picking a medium current and bouncing the lure off the bottom rocks.

-WS

# Editorial

## CITY OF OVID SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING March 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:** Ordiway, Williams, Hibbard, Starn, Brown and Perrien

**ABSENT:** Mr. Lasher.

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

**VISITORS:** Deb Price, Kam Washburn, Val Vail-Shirey and Chris Stewart.

Kam Washburn gave an update on what was happening at the County level and he announced his retirement for this year. You can read the update in the full set of minutes.

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

### MOTION CARRIED

**MINUTES:** Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Starn to approve the minutes of Regular meeting held on February 14, 2022 as corrected.

### MOTION CARRIED

**CHECK REGISTRY:** A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Williams to approve the check/invoice registry for checks in the period of February 16th thru March 15, 2022.

### MOTION CARRIED

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Val Vail-Shirey introduced herself as a candidate for district 1. You can read about Mrs. Vail-Shirey in the full set of minutes.

**TREASURER and POLICE:** You can read the reports for the Treasurer, Police in the full set of minutes.

**DPW:** Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Williams, second by Miss Hibbard to roll over the remaining leave time for Rich Simpson at the time of his anniversary.

### MOTION CARRIED

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

### MOTION CARRIED

1. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Starn to authorize Mr. Simpson to order the mosquito spray as requested.

### MOTION CARRIED

2. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Miss Hibbard to have ROWE inspect the two bridges.

### MOTION CARRIED

3. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Williams to partner with the MIDHHS on the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program and to authorize the Mayor Pro-Tem to sign.

### MOTION CARRIED

4. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Brown, second by Miss Hibbard to accept the proposal from Day Starr to update the city's phone system and New Look to do the work for the ethernet and to authorize the Mayor Pro-Tem to sign the agreement to do this change.

### MOTION CARRIED

**FINANCE:** A motion was made by Mr. Williams, second by Mr. Starn change the language in the personnel policy in section 8.5 and then to accept the two new job descriptions and the pay scales for the DPW Seasonal and DPW Full Part-Time employees as presented and to accept the mileage reimbursement rate of .58 per mile and to accept the increase on the Election Inspectors pay rate as discussed. Roll call was taken as follows: YEAS: Mr. Ordiway, Miss Hibbard, Mr. Williams, Mr. Starn and Mr. Brown. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Mr. Lasher & ABSTAIN: Ms. Perrien.

### MOTION CARRIED

Discussion was held on the new patrol vehicle. A motion was made by Mr. Williams, second by Mr. Brown to authorize the Chief of Police to purchase the new patrol vehicle when it becomes available.

### MOTION CARRIED

**PARK & REC./HALLS & GROUNDS:** A motion was made by Brown, second by Miss Hibbard to spend up to \$2,500 for equipment for Ackley & Little League fields and purchased by the city.

### MOTION CARRIED

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mr. Chris Stewart introduced himself as a candidate for the State Representative in District 75. You can read about Mr. Stewart in the full set of minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Miss Hibbard to close the meeting at 8:37pm.

Josefina Medina, Clerk  
City of Ovid

# NEWS FOR FARMERS

## Wilcox Heritage Farm...An Organic Farm in Ovid



Kevin Wilcox pictured here at the Heritage Farm sign.

by Deb Price

Wilcox Heritage Farm is an organic farm located on South Shepardsville Road in Ovid. Owner Kevin Wilcox farms 200 acres on the same land his parents Bob & Margie Wilcox established in April of 1953 as a dairy and crop farm.

Kevin graduated from Ovid-Elsie in 1996 and went on to Michigan State University where he earned his degree in Dairy Technology. His first year in organic farming was in 2014. Three years previously, he worked to transition the ground, readying it for the organic process. "My Dad did not farm organically, my mentor was Rod Keiger, a neighboring

farm owner who grows organically," explained Wilcox. Organic farming is an agricultural system the uses fertilizers of organic origin such as compost, manure and green manure crops. It places emphasis on techniques such as crop rotation and companion planting.

The small family farm raises organic and transitional crops (corn, soybeans and wheat) pastured meat, fresh farm eggs and straw. The crops are raised from non-GMO and organic seeds and are never treated with any harmful chemicals. Kevin buys his seeds locally from Michigan Livestock in Ovid and Quality Ag Products in St Johns. Most of the crops are certified organic. The ones that are not are transitional, which means they are grown the same way as organic crops, but not yet certified. To grow organically, one must be passionate about the process. According to Kevin, the hardest part of the process is weed control. He uses three types of equipment to control weeds, a cultivator, a rotary hoe and flame weeding system.

The meat products they raise are Large Black Hogs, a docile heritage breed of swine originating in England. They have a stellar reputation of mothering abilities which extends to the boars as well who often tend to the young. "I had a boar named Boss, I compared him to that of a dog. He was very friendly and loved getting attention, he especially loved having his ears scratched. He was a great hog," explained Wilcox. The average litter is between 9-12 piglets. Typically the black hog breed grows slower than other breeds. The outcome claims to be is a more robust, flavorful meat. Heritage Farm also raises pastured poultry. "Our animals are pastured and fed organic and or non-GMO feed. They have never been treated with hormones and we grind and mix our feed on site. I believe in giving our animals the best life possible before they are sent to be processed," said Wilcox. Their meat is processed by USDA inspected processing plants. "We never sell anything that we wouldn't eat ourselves. We cook and test our meat products before we sell to the public" explained Wilcox. They sell pork by the whole or half by special order. You can purchase pork by the piece or poultry directly from the farm with an appointment.

Heritage Farm also has a flour mill and sifter where he and his wife Ruth make their own wheat flour. Ruth also has a food wagon, she attends local events like the rodeo at Tom's Western and other events where she sells homemade waffles, brats, syrups and jams. Catering is also offered for weddings and other special events.

The couple share 6 children who also contribute to the family farm business. The farm is located at 2305 S. Shepardsville Road in Ovid. For more information or to make an appointment call 989-834-2387.



Kevin is pictured here with one of his Black Hog piglets.

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## Spring Farm Section

### Hay Production 101 is Back by Popular Demand in 2022

by Kim Cassida, MSU Extension

Year after year, the market for good hay in Michigan outstrips supply, leading to dependable prices for hay growers who put in the time it takes to manage this demanding crop. Recent market conditions let row crop growers see an opportunity to add a legume rotation that provides its own nitrogen and a valuable hay crop that is in demand. Dairy, beef, sheep, goat producers and horse owners may want to grow their own forage so they have better control over supply and nutritional quality. However, hay is a challenging crop that is not for everyone. As with any other agricultural enterprise, there are many things to learn.

Michigan State University Extension is once again holding Hay Production 101, a short course to help farmers interested in learning how to grow hay. The main objective of our team of MSU Extension specialists and educators is to assist newcomers to the world of hay, but there is value here also for those looking to improve an existing hay operation. Management recommendations will focus on the Great Lakes region.

This is an online course taught as six sessions using Zoom every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m. beginning March 22, 2022. Sessions may be attended in real time and will also be recorded for future viewing by registrants. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions and interact with instructors in each live session.

Topics covered will include: Economics and marketing, What to grow: species and varieties, Fertility and soil management, Hayfield establishment and renovation, Pest management: weeds, insects and disease, Harvest management: all the steps from timing the harvest to post-harvest processing and storage. Pre-registration is required in order to receive the session link.

For more information about the course, contact Kim Cassida at cassida@msu.edu.

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

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### Funding for Global Youth Service Day Volunteer Projects

submitted by Jason Alexander

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Community Service Commission, in partnership with Youth Service America, is pleased to announce the availability of volunteer project funding to Michigan organizations that engage youth for Global Youth Service Day, April 29-May 1.

Grants range from \$100 to \$1,000, depending on the number of youth volunteers engaged, with applications reviewed based on their demonstrated effort to engage youth in the development and implementation of the Global Youth Service Day projects. Preference will be given to volunteer projects that address environmental issues, climate change and equity and justice, but projects may address any community need.

“We are proud to support organizations that will lift up youth and help them learn the power of volunteerism,” said Michigan Community Service Commission Executive Director Ginna Holmes. “We encourage everyone to help youth serve during the month of April.”

Last year, the Michigan Community Service Commission funded 58 projects, engaging nearly 5,000 youth volunteers.

The application deadline is March 18. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://www.research.net/r/2022GYSD>.

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# Spring Farm Section

## Ag Outlook Still Strong but Concern Growing Among Ag Bankers

by Andy Eubank

The agricultural economic outlook for 2022 remains solid. Cortney Cowley is a senior economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. She says while things look good on the surface, there will be things to watch out for this year.

"Very strong conditions overall, but, on the other hand, a sharp increase in production costs is weighing on expectations for 2022," Cowley says. "And so, on the surface, everything looks really good, very strong. There could be, you know, little drip and the agricultural economy in the form of input cost that can start adding pressure moving forward. And so, ag credit conditions are strong and have been supported by high commodity prices and strong demand for U.S. Ag products, both domestically and internationally."

She says rural bankers are concerned about risks this year.

Cowley calls the current agricultural outlook for 2022 a paradox.

## Michigan Potato Growers Unanimously Approve Continuation Referendum

submitted by Jennifer Holton

LANSING, MI - Michigan's potato growers have approved a referendum to continue the Michigan Potato Industry Commission.



The Michigan Potato Industry Commission was designed to promote the potato industry through research, promotion, advertising, and market development and expansion. By law, the program must be renewed every five years.

The Commission will continue for an additional five years beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2027. Currently, the grower assessment is 4 ½ cents, not to exceed 5 ½ cents, per hundredweight and 1 ½ cents for the first handler (shipper). The assessment rate is established annually by the Commission.

A total of 15 ballots were cast in the referendum. Of the 15 ballots received to vote for the continuation of the Michigan Potato Industry Commission, all fifteen producers voted yes

(100 percent) representing 7,740,900 hundredweight (100 percent), a unanimous decision.

For renewal of the program and its activities, more than 50 percent of the voting producers, representing more than 50 percent of hundredweight produced by those voting, must have approved it.

For more information, visit <https://www.mipotato.com/>.

"It's very interesting to see the juxtaposition or paradox of really strong conditions but also concerns about inflation, higher input costs, so, farm balance sheets are strong. There's a willingness to spend farm working capital but higher input costs are an issue. There's a lack of things to buy, and so that's been a constraint. Drought still seems to be a significant issue in a lot of parts of the country, both the north and western United States."



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# Spring Farm Section

## Pandemic Assistance Deadline Extended for Hog Producers

by Farm News Media

Hog producers who sold hogs through a spot market sale during the COVID-19 pandemic now have until April 15, 2022, to submit their applications for USDA's Spot Market Hog Pandemic Program (SMHPP).

The program was created to help hog producers who sold through negotiated sales during the lowest point of market prices — from April 16, 2020, through Sept. 1, 2020.

SMHPP includes up to \$50 million in funding as part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative, with the goal of addressing gaps in previous assistance for hog producers.

Along with extending the application deadline, USDA said it will also be making changes to some aspects of the program itself.

"In response to stakeholder feedback and our analysis of the program to date, we will be making adjustments to clarify the definition of a spot market sale and to hog eligibility, while including documentation requirements to prevent erroneous payments," FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux said in a statement.

"We'll be announcing those updates soon and want to assure hog producers that there will be ample time to submit their applications for assistance."

To be eligible for SMHPP, a producer must be a person or legal entity who has ownership in the hogs and whose production facilities are in the United States. Contract producers, federal, state and local governments, including public schools and packers are not eligible for SMHPP.

SMHPP payments will be calculated by multiplying the number of head of eligible hogs, not to exceed 10,000 head, by the payment rate of \$54 per head. FSA will issue payments to eligible hog producers as applications are received and approved.

Eligible hog producers can apply for SMHPP by completing the FSA-940, Spot Market Hog Pandemic Program application. Applications can be submitted to the FSA office at any USDA Service Center nationwide by mail, fax, hand delivery or via electronic means.

To find your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator). Hog producers can also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee who can offer help.

Visit [farmers.gov/smhpp](https://farmers.gov/smhpp) for more information on how to apply.



## GreenStone Donates \$20,000 Through Member Grown Outreach

by Michigan Ag Today

To celebrate GreenStone's milestone of returning \$115 million to members on Patronage Day, GreenStone is donating a total of \$20,000 to local organizations and charities through the Member Grown Outreach program.

Money will be directed to groups based on GreenStone member votes at their local branch under one of these categories: health and wellness, local disaster relief, or sustainability and environment. This is the fourth year GreenStone has donated through this program.

On March 17, 2022, the GreenStone board of directors is increasing the patronage return to \$115 million. GreenStone members will receive their Patronage in the form of dividend checks on St. Patrick's Day.

"This marks 17 years of returning a total of \$720 million back to our members," said Dave Armstrong, GreenStone CEO and President. "As a cooperative, we're here to provide a depend-

able, competitive, and responsible source of credit and financial services to our owners. We've been focused on that for over one hundred years, and we continue to stay very focused on that today as well. Anything we can do to reduce our members' overall cost of borrowing, we will do, and Patronage is one of those tools."

GreenStone members are invited to visit their local branch on March 17 to vote for which charity they choose, plus participate in the Patronage Day celebration. For more information about the Patronage Day, visit our website

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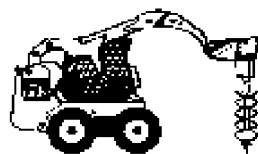


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# Spring Farm Section

## Did You Know?

Farmers and growers face a significant threat in the years to come as industrial agriculture operations continue to expand. According to the National Resources Defense Council, industrial agriculture is the large-scale, intensive production of crops and animals. Such operations make it more difficult for small farmers and growers to turn a profit, and they often involve the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The use of such products poses an additional threat to small farmers and growers, as the Union of Concerned Scientists notes that the heavy application of fertilizers and pesticides accelerates soil erosion and increases pest problems. Consumers concerned by the effects of industrial agriculture on the environment and on small farmers' and growers' ability to earn a good living can support efforts such as regenerative farming and organic farms.

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## MDARD Director Gary McDowell Selects Sarah Lucas as Deputy of the Newly Created Office of Rural Development

submitted by Jennifer Holton

Lansing - Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director Gary McDowell is pleased to announce the selection of Sarah Lucas to lead the newly created Office of Rural Development, effective Monday, April 18.

In January, Governor Gretchen Whitmer established the Office of Rural Development within MDARD via Executive Directive 2022-01 to focus on the strategic needs of rural Michigan, including economic and workforce development, infrastructure, public health, and environmental sustainability.

"Having spent most of her career in small towns and rural areas in northwest Lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, Sarah has deep connection and understanding of the challenges facing our rural communities. Her 20 plus years of passion and experience will serve Michiganders well," said McDowell. "Rural Michigan is a fundamental part of Michigan's economy. This new office will play a crucial role in supporting MDARD's efforts and leading new ones as we work together to build a more prosperous rural economy."

As the Deputy for Rural Development, Lucas will serve as the state's point of contact for community leaders on urgent rural issues. By creating the Office of Rural Development, the Whitmer-Gilchrist Administration recognizes the unique challenges and opportunities in the state's rural communities, as well as the need to implement sound policies and investments that put Michiganders first.

"Through inclusive collaboration, we are committed to investing in our rural communities and businesses through job creation, infrastructure and housing expansion, and environmental sustainability" added McDowell. "Sarah will be laser-focused on reinvigorating Michigan's rural economies and being their partner on the critical issues they are facing."

Lucas, AICP, has a 20-year career in community and economic development in small communities and rural areas in



Sarah Lucas

Michigan, leading a variety of cross-sector initiatives and planning efforts resulting in long-lasting coalitions, local and state policy change, and enhanced regional capacity for growth and investment. Previously she served as the CEO of the Lake Superior Community Partnership, Marquette County's leading resource and advocate for economic development.

Prior to her work with Lake Superior Community Partnership, Sarah served as the Community Development Director for Networks Northwest, a 10-county regional planning agency in Northwest Lower Michigan; led the development of Housing North, a regional organization devoted to policy and communications solutions to housing needs in Northwest Lower Michigan; and, after relocating to Marquette in 2020, worked with the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region to develop a regional economic development plan for "building back stronger" in the region's post-pandemic economy.

Additionally, Lucas serves on several regional and statewide boards, including the Community and Economic Development Association of Michigan, the Economic Development Leaders of Michigan, and the Michigan Association of Planning, where she currently serves as Board President.

She is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and is currently an MPA candidate at Northern Michigan University. She lives in Marquette with her husband and their three boys.

For more information, please visit the website at Michigan.gov/MDARD-ORD. If you're looking to contact the Office of Rural Development, please send an email to MDARD-ORD@michigan.gov.

## Did You Know?

Agricultural technology, often referred to as "AgTech," is playing an increasingly bigger role on modern farms, and that role is evident when examining AgTech startups' growing access to venture capital. Data from PitchBook and the National Venture Capital Association's PitchBook-NVCA Venture Monitor, a quarterly report on venture capital activity in the entrepreneurial ecosystem, indicates that AgTech startups received \$6.1 billion in VC investments in 2020. That reflects a nearly 60 percent increase in investment over 2019. Weaknesses in the agricultural and food supply chain revealed during the pandemic undoubtedly drove some of that investment. Widespread recognition of a need for improvements within the agricultural sector so it can meet the demands of a global population that the United Nations estimates will increase by two billion people by 2050 also likely contributed to the considerable rise in VC investment in AgTech startups.

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# Spring Farm Section

## Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series to Kick Off New Growing Season March 31, 2022

by Philip Kaatz, Michigan State University Extension

This free weekly series for farmers and agribusinesses focuses on a wide array of relevant field crop pest and crop management topics during the growing season.

With the start of spring, farmers should get ready for a new season of highs and probably some lows as the growing season starts to unfold. Farmers prepare during fall, winter and early spring for what lies ahead, but it's always the unknown that keeps it interesting and fresh. Ultimately, the fact that every year is different keeps producers coming back for more year after year. Farming is a profession that requires a certain amount of faith concerning things beyond our control such as weather, potential pests and crop prices.

To assist farmers as they prepare for potential issues and concerns during the growing season, Michigan State University Extension will host the Field Crops Virtual Breakfast series beginning Thursday, March 31, through Sept. 22, 7 to 8 a.m. This weekly, Thursday morning webinar is in its fifth year. Farmers, agribusiness personnel and others interested in agriculture can interact with MSU Extension specialists and educators to get answers for their questions.

Not matter whether you are an experienced farmers or a beginner just starting out, participants can expect to learn something to add value to their farm. An added benefit is that Michigan pesticide applicators or Certified Crop Advisors can easily accumulate credits over the summer to help recertify their credential if they attend enough sessions.

Topic areas are loosely established at the beginning of the series based on historical trends. However, the Virtual Breakfast Series is flexible, fluid and able to adapt when issues arise due to unforeseen growing conditions. Each week features a timely, 20-minute topic from an MSU specialist followed by Jeff Andresen, MSU Extension climatologist, presenting a 15-minute weather summary and forecast.

Following the weather, restricted use pesticide (RUP) applicators receive the information to one RUP credit (1A, 1B, Comm or Priv Core) and Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) can receive one continuing education unit (CEU). After RUP and CCA credit information, attendees can leave or stay for a less formal discussion with farmers, educators and specialists that



lasts until 8 a.m.

"Thank you; this is part of my Thursday morning routine during the growing season. You are doing a great job!"

-If you are unable to sign up online, call the Lapeer County MSU Extension office at 810-667-0341.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>.



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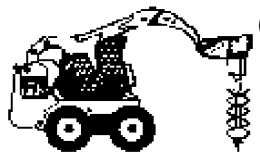
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# Spring Farm Section

## New MSU Research Showcases Innovative Method to Develop More Accurate Corn Yield Predications

by Michigan Farm News

Newly published

Michigan State University research shows that incorporating in-season water deficit information into remote sensing-based crop models drastically improves corn yield predictions.

The findings were published in Remote Sensing of Environment, a leading journal in the field.

The project was led by Bruno Basso, an MSU Foundation professor in the departments of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, as well as the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station.

Alongside Basso was his graduate student Guanyuan Shuai.

Yield predictions are of great importance, from national and international food supply chains to the individual grower. In addition to ensuring food security, highly consequential financial decisions are made based on this information. Growers must decide how much fertilizer and other inputs to apply to their fields, for example, an area in which costs have soared for numerous reasons, including climate change and global conflict.

"An accurate knowledge of yield predictions before the end of the season is of paramount importance for grain prices, which affects profitability for farmers, as well as commodity traders and food companies," Basso said.

Historical weather forecasts and crop yields from a given location are often used to predict the next season's performance, but there are flaws in this methodology. This can be unsettling when growers are searching for as much certainty as possible.

"Farmers can now receive high-resolution weather information on their tablets and smartphones, but the U.S. Department of Agriculture yield outlooks are at the county level, so farmers can't really use them to forecast yields on their fields," Basso said.

"What farmers need is knowledge to better manage and predict yields at the field and sub-field levels. We know that circumstances vary within a field, even a small one of a few acres, let alone operations that include thousands of acres.

"It's important that farmers have confidence in the data they use to make decisions, and we're trying to help them improve that decision-making process at the right scale. Farmers are interested in profitability, which is also linked to environmental sustainability."

For the project, Basso and Shuai evaluated 352 fields of varying sizes in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. The team collected climate and soil data, in addition to more than 2,500 yield maps over several years — 2006 to 2019 — directly from farmers.

They obtained high-resolution images from the private company Planet, the European Space Agency and NASA, along with digital elevation models from the U.S. Geological Survey dataset.

The images were used in part to calculate the green chlorophyll vegetation index, an indication of plant vigor that measures the chlorophyll content in leaves based on infrared and near-infrared imagery.

Basso and Shuai then implemented the System Approach to Land Use Sustainability (SALUS) program, which models crop, nutrient, soil and water conditions each day over many years using different management techniques. SALUS provided the daily crop drought index (CDI), designed to highlight the effect in-season water shortages has on crops.

"We found that the inclusion of the CDI substantially improved the accuracy of in-season predictions," Basso said. "We showed that the greatest improvements in predictions were observed in the driest year, 2012. We also showed that the subfield spatial variations of corn yield are better captured with the inclusion of CDI for most fields."

Basso believes that subfield-level analyses are a promising way to ensure accurate and precise predictions, and that decisions should be made based on real-time data rather than historical guidelines alone. He said that while some technology is being adopted broadly, the pace at which this is occurring must be expedited.

"Even if you use remote sensing imagery on your fields, that alone isn't enough," Basso said. "Once the canopy of the field comes close together, which occurs a month after planting or so, remote sensing will only see the top layer of those leaves, as one big green layer. Two months later, it will see the same big green layer but won't be able to capture that the leaves and the plant have grown significantly below the canopy.

"Our novel, integrated approach of coupling crop-modeled water stress with high-resolution images is trying to remove this limitation in remote sensing image analysis. This approach provides more reliable and timely information for farmer cost savings and environmental protection."

This research was supported in part by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture; the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center; the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science, Biological and Environmental Research program; and MSU AgBioResearch.



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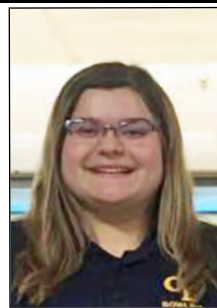
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# Sports



Gracie Schultz



Morgan Douglass



Hunter Maxa



Coach Matt Fabus

## Ovid-Elsie Bowling All-Conference

Three OE bowlers were named to the All-Conference Team for MMAC during the 2021-2022 season.

Gracie Schultz and Morgan Douglass were 1st Team Girls. Hunter Maxa was Honorable Mention for the boys.

Coach Matt Fabus was voted MMAC Girls Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season.

## Ashley Basketball All-Conference Honors

by Ashleigh Shaw

Both the Ashley boys' basketball team and the girls' basketball team had two players selected to the all-conference teams. Seniors Jenna Wirt and Ashleigh Jelinek were selected for the girls. Wirt was selected to second team. This season Jenna averaged 10.9 points, 6.6 rebounds, 2 assists and 1.2 steals. For her varsity four-year career, Wirt appeared in 64 games, scoring 542 points, grabbing 334 rebounds and she also tallied 69 steals and 67 assists. Ashleigh Jelinek received honorable mention all-conference. For her season she averaged 7 points, 6 rebounds, 2.3 steals and 2 blocks per game. Jelinek finishes her 4-year career appearing in 49 games, scoring 230 points, and grabbing 245 rebounds. She also had 72 steals and 52 blocks.

Evan Litwiller (no photo available) and Logan Dummond were selected for all-conferences on honors for the boys and both were selected to the honorable mention team.

Congratulations to the players who were selected.



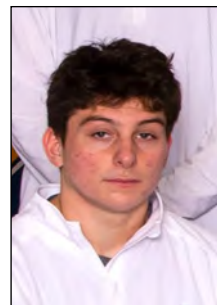
Jenna Wirt



Ashleigh Jelinek



Evan Litwiller



Logan Dummond

## Bath Eliminates Wolfpack from MHSAA Tournament Boys Basketball Action, 54-48

DANSVILLE — Bath completed a 12-9 Laingsburg varsity boys basketball season with a 54-48 win in the MHSAA District Finals here March 11.

"It was two pretty good teams playing against each other," veteran Wolfpack coach Dan Morrill said. "It kind of comes down to a couple of balls rolling out for us, and a couple rolled in for them. I don't think one team played any harder than the other."

LHS stayed close the entire contest, but in the end not enough of those big shots fell for the Wolfpack. They outscored the Bees from the field, connecting on 17 field goals to 15 for the Bees, but BHS stepped up big-time at the free throw line. The Bees connected on 21-of-27 charity shots, with leading scorer Ethan Swanson making 14-of-17.

Swanson finished the contest with 20 points to lead all scorers, as the blue-and-white built a narrow 41-36 lead entering the final quarter.

"We have a ton of respect for Bath," Morrill explained after the hard-fought loss. "They're well-coached and have a lot of seniors that have done good things this year. We were a little bit short tonight, but I loved how our kids competed to give themselves a chance to win."

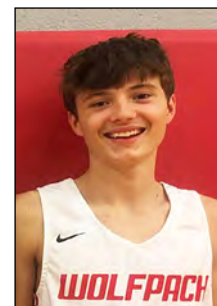
Only five players scored for the Bees, but it was more than enough. Complementing Swanson's output was Jacob Kares with 17 points and Devondre Chandler with 11. The Bees entered Regional play with a 15-6 overall record. They downed Perry in the semifinal round to make Friday's District Final.

LHS advanced with a convincing semifinal win over host Dansville the previous Wednesday evening.

Wolfpack scoring in the final game of 2021-22 went like this: Jacob Essenberg 4 points, Eli Woodruff 13, Ty Randall 4, Miguel Fajardo 1, Zander Woodruff 13, Ethan West 5, Jack Byrnes 6 and Luke Snyder 2.



Eli Woodruff



Zander Woodruff

## Commodity Supplemental Food Program (60 and Over)

submitted by Becky Zemla

Capital Area Community Services, Inc. is taking applications for the Commodity Supplement Food Program. This program provides nutritious food, on a monthly basis to low-income residents of Shiawassee County who are 60 years of age or above.

Persons sixty years of age or older (130% Poverty index guidelines) To qualify, individuals must live in Shiawassee County and meet program guidelines.

Family size 1 - \$16,744; family size 2 - \$22,646; family size 3 - \$28,548. For each additional family member add \$5,902.

Distribution for Shiawassee County will begin April 5, 2022 at Capital Area Community Services, 1845 Corunna Ave., Owosso, MI 48867. 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00pm.

April 5, 2022 will be drive thru only.

If you have any questions, please call 989-723-3115.

## Laingsburg Library Children's Hour

On Monday March 21st at 6:30pm, you and your children are invited to "join Delta Dental Employee volunteer, Cait Hall, as she reads to the children and talk to them about the importance of reading and brushing their teeth every day. This will be a perfect opportunity to share some good dental hygiene for your kiddos and to check out some books for them and yourself.

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