

St. John's State-of-the-Art Cheese and Whey Plant



by Deb Price

In October of 2020, a \$470 million dollar dairy processing operation began receiving milk from local farmers. The 375,000 square foot facility in St Johns, Michigan was built on a 120 acre lot and employs over 200 local people.

A joint venture between Glanbia Nutritionals, Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. and Select Milk Producers Inc., MWC is one of the most technically advanced dairy processing facilities in the United States. The site for the new plant was determined due to the growing supply of high quality milk in the region, the excellent transportation infrastructure in the region, proximity to customers and the positive business environment and strong local workforce reputation in the region.

Back in October, the facility took in one million pounds of milk from local dairy farms, to date they take in approximately 8 million pounds of milk each day. By July of this year, nearly 800,000 pounds of American, Monterey Jack and Colby Jack cheese will be made at the facility. Most of it will be cut into 40 pound blocks, packaged and shipped to retailers, food service and ingredient companies. Whey, a liquid of protein, lactose and water that remains when making cheese, will also be produced. It will then be processed into a protein concentrate and protein isolate.

MWC is a world-class leader in manufacturing of premium quality block cheese and whey protein ingredients for consumer food and beverage markets worldwide. Their customers are among the top food and beverage companies in the world.

MWC is dedicated to being a good neighbor, committed to providing an excellent work environment that will attract and keep a talented workforce. The community of St Johns is the home of MWC and the surrounding area is invaluable to the company, providing our growing family of employees with an excellent choice of housing, retail businesses, schools, healthcare facilities, churches, entertainment and outdoor activities.

Safety protocols have been in place since the beginning of the pandemic. Employees must wear personal protective equipment. Social distancing measures are in place and there is heightened sanitation measures being done. There are also limits on who is allowed to enter the property.

See pages 7-18 for additional farm articles and advertising in the Weekly's Spring Farm Section inside this issue.



John Quine is seated here with his four sons (l-r) Daniel, Frank, Jim and Jerry Quine.

Quine Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

On March 18, 2021, Elsie resident John Quine was presented with the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors (MSPS) Lifetime Achievement Award from Guy Stickler, President of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of MSPS at a dinner held at Ryan's Roadhouse in St Johns. This award is made possible thru the National Association of Professional Land Surveyors and is given to those for their continuing contributions to and enduring dedication to the field of land surveying and profession of Surveying Engineering.

Recipients of the award are chosen by their years of service as a member at the local and state level, community leadership activities and overall integrity as a Professional Surveyor. "John's preservation of surveying records in Shiawassee and Clinton counties has been invaluable to surveyors that have searched for information on land surveys done in the past," said Stickler.

John learned the profession of surveying at an early age. Upon graduation from Owosso High School, neighbor WR "Bill" Renwick, who was the City of Owosso Engineer at the time, recruited Quine to work as a rod man for City Surveyor Bill Howe. Under Howe's guidance, John learned the profession surveying with the specialty of surveying drain fields. Quine replaced Howe in 1953 and continued in that position for 6 years. For the next 8 years, John worked as a staff surveyor for Brewer Engineering of Owosso where he trained under a Registered Surveyor and obtained his Registered Land Surveyor license in 1958. He then worked as a field surveyor in Shiawassee and later in Clinton County from early 1960 through the early 2000's when he retired. Across the entirety of his career, John did private work as a surveyor helping homeowners and farmers establish property lines, creating subdivision plats and taking on interesting projects such as surveying the layout for a small airport near Sault Ste Marie.

Over the years he was involved in the Mi Society for Professional Surveyors and in his later years, at the behest of Gov. Engle, Granholm, Snyder and Whitmer, John worked with other surveyors on the Mi Remonumentation Project, a state funded project since 1991, created to re-establish, re-trace and perpetuate monuments placed during the original survey of Michigan.

Throughout the years, John has worked on the following local projects; Holy Family Church property survey, Golden Stallion Estates subdivision, Shiawassee County Fairgrounds and placing a monument with GPS coordinates at the Rest Area located west of Perry off I-69, an MDOT project used to calibrate a GPS unit or show your exact location on this planet. Other projects included surveying expansion airport projects at Brimley, Fremont, Marquette, Sault Ste. Marie and Willow Run. He is a member of Surveyor Peer Groups in Clinton, Gratiot, Montcalm and Shiawassee Counties. These groups meet twice a year to discuss State and Federal laws that affect the procedures used in doing land surveys.

There have been many changes in the profession of surveying according to John. Things have gone from steel tapes to satellites, the "old school" method of measuring using a 100 foot metal tape has been replaced with either GPS/GIS links or laser measuring devices. Original drain field plans were hand drafted blueprints, calculating various measurements on a large, hand cranked push button calculator. Technology today replaces the drafting table and laborious calculations with software.

During his work years John also found time for his community. He helped measure out the sports fields, he applied his skills as a rod man working on the chain gang for the OE Marauder football teams for several seasons. He coached youth baseball teams and volunteered as an umpire for various baseball and softball leagues.

Social

Koonters Celebrate 50 Years

Gary and Barb (Arthur) Koonters are celebrating 50 years of marriage on April 2, 2021.

They were married April 2, 1971 at St. Isidore in Laingsburg. They have 2 children, Mark & Kelli Koonters and Kimberly Koonters Balcarcel. They have 5 grandchildren, Zachary, Calvin & Cameron Koonters and Jasmine & Matthew Balcarcel.

The couple have a trip planned to celebrate as soon as Covid restrictions are lifted.



Ovid Public Library

March is almost over but we still have a week left of our Childrens Reading Challenge. Be sure to get your books read and get your entries turned in before the end of the month. We will be drawing winners on Monday April 5. Winners will be able to choose a prize from the prize cart. We've had over 40 kids sign up and it has been nice seeing kids back in the library.

We have been adding new books to our collection. Come in and check out a new one today. Some of the new titles are:

Dark Sky by CJ Box (mystery)

Her Dark Lies by JT Ellison (mystery)

Haunted Hibiscus by Laura Childs (mystery)

The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles (adult historical fiction)

Faithless in Death by JD Robb (romantic suspense)

Serpentine by Jonathan Kellerman (thriller)

Count All Her Bones by April Henry (young adult)

The Wizards of Once by Cressida Crowell (junior fiction)

Superheroes are Everywhere by Kamala Harris (early fiction)

Joey: The Story of Joe Biden by Jill Biden (early fiction)

If you're not a basketball fan or need a break from reading come find a movie to watch. We have had a very large donation of DVD's that we are slowly adding to our collection. You can check out DVD's for \$1.00 per week. We have a wide range of movie options from cartoons to comedy to drama and action. There's something for everyone in the family.

There is still time to do your taxes and we still have a small amount of Michigan tax forms available. We are also able to help you print off any tax forms that we do not have available.

Remember that we still have limited hours. We are open Monday 10-7, Wednesday 10-5 and Friday 10-5. We ask that you please wear a mask when you enter the library. We also still offer curbside service for anyone who is interested. You can call us at 834-5800 to set that up.

The library will be closed on Friday, April 2nd for Good Friday.

Legion Breakfast Returns

Laingsburg American Legion Post 248 has restarted their Sunday morning breakfast. The public is welcome to come enjoy breakfast from 8am-11am every Sunday. The Legion is located at 1240 E. Grand River in Laingsburg.



Lenten Services to be Held in Elsie

submitted by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE – Lenten services to be held at Elsie United Methodist Church and the First Baptist Church of Elsie. Joint services will be officiated by Pastor JD Paik Maude Thursday services April 1, 7 pm at the First Baptist Church of Elsie, 163 W Main Street, Elsie and Good Friday services at the Elsie United Methodist Church, 160 W. Main Street, and 7 pm.

In addition, Elsie United Methodist Church has scheduled a Sunrise Service, Sunday, April 4 at 7am followed by the Easter service at 9:30 am. First Baptist Church of Elsie will also hold a traditional Easter Service at 9:30 am, April 4.

Easter Celebration & Egg Distribution

submitted by Sue Casler

The United Church of Ovid is excited to be having our annual Easter celebration for kids of all ages Saturday, April 3, 10:30 am – 12:noon.

We will have walk thru stations in our parking lot with social distancing. Bring something to catch a few eggs from our special shoot. Other stations will be passing out a gift bag and craft kit to take home.

We will be located at the United Church of Ovid parking lot behind the church on Clinton Street one block west of main street.

For more information, feel free to contact The United Church of Ovid at 989-834-5958, Monday – Friday from 9am – 12noon.

Conceal Carry Classes

Concealed Pistol License Class

submitted by Norm Martin

The Shiawassee Conservation Association, 4247 N. M-52, Owasso, is hosting concealed pistol license classe on Saturday, February 24, 2021. Class hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

All firearms, ammunition and classroom materials furnished.

Certified Instructors.

Class fee is \$120.00 (15% to support SCA).

Pre-register by calling Norman Martin at 989-834-5628 (home) or 989-277-1002 (cell).



LAINGSBURG SCHOOLS KINDERGARTEN Round-Up Scheduled



We are excited to announce that it's that time of year again! Laingsburg Community Schools is compiling a list of students for our annual KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, **APRIL 21 & 22**. If you have a child, who will be five years of age by September 1, 2021, please contact the Early Childhood Education Center at **517-651-3100** or Laingsburg Elementary at **517-651-5067** to register. Students currently in Laingsburg's Wolf Pup's Preschool **will** need to **attend Round-up**. We have your names for registration already. **If you do not plan on your child attending Laingsburg Community Schools in the fall, please let us know as soon as possible so we can remove their name from the list.** A waiver is also available for those who miss the September 1 deadline but will be 5 by December 1. Once again we will also have Developmental Kindergarten.



Families of **registered** students will be mailed a packet in March informing them of the date and time their child is scheduled to attend Round-up as well as what paperwork they will need to bring. Should you have any questions, please contact Sue Bates at the elementary school.

Contact 517-651-3100 or 517-651-5067 for more information



Duplain Church of Christ Services

submitted by Trina Pontack

Good Friday-April 2,2021 - Candlelight Worship Service at 7:00pm (Masks encouraged)

Service will also be live-streamed.

Easter Services-April 4, 2021

8:00am (Masks required)

9:45am (Masks encouraged)

11:30am (Masks encouraged)

Children's programming for all 3 services.

9:45am & 11:30am services will be live-streamed.



Please join us in congratulating **Therese and Earl Sheldon** who will be celebrating their **25th Wedding Anniversary on March 30th, 2021.**

The Sheldon's own and operate **The Animal Lodge** on County Farm Road just south of town.

Earl is also a proud member of the **IBEW.**



Partnership Links Healthcare and Education

submitted by Renee Dotson

Memorial Healthcare has been an exceptional partner in providing opportunities for students in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant, WIOA, program. Over the past 10+ years Memorial Healthcare has hosted numerous WIOA students in work experiences throughout the hospital including long term care, grounds & maintenance, food & nutrition, ambulatory care, public safety, housekeeping & laundry, cart exchange, physical therapy, gift shop, and sterile processing. These opportunities allowed students to explore first-hand the careers they are interested in while being mentored by dedicated professionals.

Another level of partnership is directly with the Career and Technical Education, CTE, Department at the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District. Students in Health Science Academy are getting hands on experiences in a variety of departments directly related to their studies in the first half of their school year. Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic students completed rotations in diagnostic imaging, behavioral health, rehabilitation, Family Birth Place, laboratory, and other departments throughout Memorial Healthcare.

Pictured here are Tina Coffman, Manager of Education Department and Community Wellness, Nutrition, & Diabetes Education, and Lyn Freeman, Event & Volunteer Coordinator, accepting the MOSPA State Recognition Award for their Outstanding contributions and accomplishments to special populations of students. MOSPA, Michigan Occupational Special Populations Association, was formed in 1975 to improve opportunities while giving support to CTE students with special needs. The purpose of MOSPA is to inform members of the requirements of the Perkins legislation and assist in its implementation at the local level to ensure that the needs of the special population student are well served during and after high school. The organization also seeks to enhance the professional development of educators and paraprofessionals working with the students.

The entire staff at the SRESO would like to thank Memorial Healthcare for years' worth of partnerships and support to the students of Shiawassee County. The future is bright for these young adults because of the commitment Memorial Healthcare has had in providing these exceptional learning opportunities and sharing their dedication and passion for the healthcare field.



Area Recycling: Good News, Bad News

submitted by Ellen Link

First, the Bad News: Due to the resurgence of COVID-19 rates in Michigan, and despite our previous hopes and plans, recycling in Laingsburg will not resume until May—assuming the pandemic once again seems to be receding. If everyone who is able to do so gets a vaccine and we all continue to play it safe, this should be possible, right?

But even when we resume the recycling drives, they will not, at least initially, be as comprehensive as they were in the past. The pandemic has wrought many changes and among them are the materials that are currently considered marketable—meaning the list of what we will be able to accept has changed. As it looks right now, come May we will no longer be able to accept plastics #3-7, glass, or electronics; we will, however, continue to accept #1 & #2 plastics, cardboard, metals, mixed office paper, newspaper and magazines.

Now for the Good News! First, the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers (GLR) can finally announce that EGLE (Environment, Great Lakes & Energy, formerly DEQ) has approved our grant application for funding the construction of a permanent recycling-waste reduction facility in Laingsburg! The building will be sited on Laingsburg Schools' property and operated through a partnership of the city of Laingsburg, Laingsburg Schools and the GLR. The intention is to make its services available to all residents, businesses, schools and offices in the surrounding area. And the plan is to greatly expand our hours, which mean we'll also need more volunteers. We hope the facility, projected to open in late fall 2021, will demonstrate the viability and value of making these services available in non-urban areas.

Regrettably, they did not approve the full funding needed to complete the project, so the GLR has been hard at work searching every nook and cranny for the extra dollars needed to complete the job. Contributions initially pledged by both Shiawassee and Clinton counties, City of Laingsburg, Woodhull and Victor townships and the GLR will fill much but not all of the gap. One of our efforts is a GoFundMe page, which has already raised \$10,000. But we still have a way to go. You can contribute through the link on our website and Facebook page. <https://recyclelaingsburg.wixsite.com/mysite>

There's one more bit of Good News: the state of Michigan is serious about increasing our state's recycling rate and promoting waste reduction. To that end, EGLE is working with industry to expand the use of recyclable materials through something called Nextcycle. This may take a while to get off the ground but when it does will create jobs and a stronger economy. Also, bipartisan legislation (H.B. 4454-4461) focused on rewriting our outdated solid waste laws, which took years and numerous stakeholders to create and which will favor recycling over land-filling, has been reintroduced in the legislature (it was proposed last year but then expired). It can only help to contact your legislators to express your support. The future is looking better all the time.

Laingsburg Lions Chicken Dinner

The Laingsburg Lions Club will hold their chicken dinner that is normally held during the Springtime Festival on Saturday, May 8th. The one day only event will start at 11am and end at 6pm. The DRIVE-THRU only event will take place at the ECEC Building. The menu will consist of 1/2 BBQ Chicken, corn, cole slaw and a roll. The cost is \$10 per dinner. To pre-order dinners, call Ed Arthur at (517)896-5338 or the Lions at (517)525-4598. Call today and place your order and help support the Lions who in turn support the Laingsburg Community.

The Springtime Festival raffle tickets are also now on sale and are available from any Lions member or at Sage Market, Leonard Hardware, Twilliger's, Meridian Weekly in Ovid or Carts-R-Us in Owosso. They are \$10 each or 3 for \$20. First prize is a Custom Golf Cart, 2nd prize, \$500, 3rd prize, Grill from Leonard Hardware, 4th prize, \$400 meat bundle and 5th prize is a mystery prize. The drawing will be held on Monday, May 31st at 3pm. You need not be present to win. The 2021 Laingsburg Springtime Festival will kick off on Thursday evening, May 27th and run thru Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st.

Victor Township, Clinton County, MI 6843 Alward Road Laingsburg, MI

Proposed Special Board Minutes from March 08, 2021 meeting

The special meeting of the Victor Township Board was called to order by Township Supervisor Jim Conklin at 6:47 PM.

Attendance: Conklin, Willoughby, Townsend, Fickes and Conklin

Public Comment – None

Agenda: Moved by Clerk Conklin to approve the agenda. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call. Motion carried.

New Business

2021-2022 Budget Public Hearing: Motion by Willoughby to approve the board approved budget. Supported by Conklin. Roll call. Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Conklin to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm, Supported by Clerk Conklin, Roll call. Motion carried.

Amanda Conklin, Clerk

Victor Township, Clinton County, MI 6843 Alward Road Laingsburg, MI

Proposed Board Minutes from March 08, 2021 meeting

The regular meeting of Victor Township was called to order by Supervisor Jim Conklin at 7:04 pm.

Attendance: Present: Nikki Fickes, Jim Conklin, Julie Townsend, Amanda Conklin and Paula Willoughby

Agenda: Motion by Clerk Conklin to approve the agenda as printed. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Clerk Conklin to accept the treasurer's report. Supported by Townsend. Roll call. Motion carried.

Approval of bills: Motion by Willoughby to pay the bills in the amount of \$9618.90 using checks #28194-28205 and EFT #581 and to pay the PC, sexton and painter invoices not to exceed their approved bid amount. Supported by Fickes. Roll call. Motion carried. Motion by Willoughby to disburse payroll and related payroll expenses for the month of February 2021 in the amount of \$13650,248 using checks #12191-12198 and EFT 138-144 Supported by Fickes. Roll call. Motion carried.

Reports:

Victor Township Planning Commission: Updated bylaws and discussed future projects for budget.

The next PC meeting will be held electronically on April 5, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Zoom meeting ID 83394750325

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83394750325>

Maintenance & Facilities

Work is being done to obtain bids on boiler. Motion by Willoughby to approve the purchase and installation of well tank. Supported by Clerk Conklin. Roll call. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

- Master Plan – Still under review. Supervisor to reach out to McKenna to discuss contract.

- Budget – Motion by Willoughby to accept and approve the board approved agenda Supported by Clerk Conklin. Roll call. Motion carried.

New Business:

- PC By-law Update – Clerk Conklin to revise meeting and oath administration. Motion by Clerk Conklin to accept and place on file with changes. Supported by Willoughby. Roll Call. Motion carried.

- Board of Review – Motion by Clerk Conklin to appoint Ben Potter as alternate. Supported by Fickes. Roll call. Motion carried.

- Reopening Office – Motion by Clerk Conklin to reopen the township office on March 15, 2021. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call. Motion carried.

- Budget Adjustments – Motion by Willoughby to approve budget adjustments. Supported by Townsend. Roll call. Motion carried.

- RFP 2021 – Bid Acceptance

- o Motion by Willoughby to accept First Choice Lawn and Snow's bid for mowing and snow removal. Supported by Clerk Conklin. Roll call. Motion carried.

- o Motion by Clerk Conklin to accept Shawn Smith's bid for maintenance. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call. Motion carried.

- o Motion by Willoughby to accept Woodbury Excavating's bid for sexton services. Supported by Clerk Conklin. Roll call. Motion carried.

- o Motion by Townsend to accept Irene Pool's bid for custodial. Supported by Fickes. Roll call. Motion carried.

Extended Public/Board Comment:

Motion by Willoughby to record future electronic meetings. Supported by Fickes. Roll call. Motion carried.

Motion by Supervisor Conklin to authorize up to \$2,000 for technology to support electronic and in person meetings. Supported by Willoughby. Roll call. Motion carried.

Motion by Clerk Conklin to authorize bank changes and additional safe guards. Supported by Fickes. Roll call. Motion carried.

Clerk Conklin to investigate special assessment process.

Motion by Willoughby to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm. Supported by Clerk Conklin. Roll call. Motion carried.

Amanda Conklin, Clerk

Obituaries



WATKINS BROTHERS
FUNERAL HOMES

OWOSSO • CORUNNA • DURAND
PERRY • LAINGSBURG • BANCROFT

WatkinsFuneralHomes.com

In Loving Memory

Memorialize your loved one in the Weekly

989-834-2264

ads@meridian-weekly.com

Beverly Ann "Bev" Lawrence

Beverly Ann "Bev" Lawrence, age 85, of Elsie, MI, passed away Friday, March 19, 2021, at her daughter's home surrounded by her family.

Bev was born in Owosso, Michigan on February 25, 1936, the daughter of John and Lorraine (Howard) Wortman. She graduated from Owosso High School with the class of 1954.

On June 26, 1954, Bev married Robert Leslie Lawrence at the West Owosso Church of Christ. Robert preceded her in death on December 28, 2010 after 56 years of marriage. Bev was a lifetime member of the West Owosso Church of Christ.

Bev was the most loving, caring woman. She spent many years caring for her husband, mother, and mother-in-law. She enjoyed traveling and camping with her family. She liked to crochet and read. For years, Friday evenings meant going out to eat and playing cards with friends. Most of all, Bev loved her family and spending time with them.

Bev is survived by her children: Bob (Angie) Lawrence of Ovid, Deb (Ron) Simpson of Ovid, and Cheri (Wayne) Bowen of Elsie. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren: Terry (Sheila) Huss, Cheri (Jeremy Kittle) Lynch, Erin (Derek) Cuthbert, Dayna (Ryan) Bancroft, Joshua Dunham, Nicholas (Alainna) Dunham, Trent (Janell) Dunham, Wayne (Jess) Bowen, Ryan (B.J.) Bowen, and Jason (Amy) Bowen; 24 great-grandchildren, one sister Chris (Joe) Call, and many nieces and nephews. Bev was preceded in death by her parents, husband Robert, and 3 brothers: Dick Wortman, Dennis Wortman, and twin brother John Wortman.

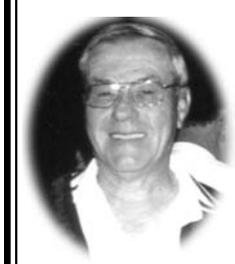
Funeral Services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI, on Monday, March 22, 2021, with Pastor Keith Whipple officiating.

Memorials may be made to Ovid Public Library, 206 N. Main St. Ovid, MI 48866. Online condolences may be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



Joe Sovis
3/5/29 to 3/30/07

*Your resting place we visit
The plants we place with care
But no one knows the heartache
As we turn and leave you there.
We think about you always
We talk about you too
We have all of our memories
But we wish we still had you.
We love and miss you,
Your Family*



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Advertise In Our Church Directory!

Call (989) 834-2264



Middlebury United Methodist Church

8100 W. Hibbard Rd., Ovid
989-834-2573
Minister: Rev. Terry Melton



Zoom Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

Bannister United Methodist Church

103 Hanvey Street
Pastor: Zella Daniel
Sunday Worship 11:15am

Duplain Church of Christ

5565 E. Colony Rd.
(3 mi. W. of O-E H.S.)
Sunday School
10:00 a.m.
Worship Service
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group
Senior Minister: Andrew Goodrich
Associate Minister: Matthew Barnum
Children's Minister: Jessica Prieto
www.duplainchurch.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FAITH FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

Corner of Price & Chandler, St. Johns
Pastor: John Jakus
Sunday School: 9:00am
Worship Service 10:00am
517-651-6210

ELSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

160 W. Main St., Elsie (989) 862-5239

Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: JD Paik

LAINGSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

210 CRUM ST.
517-651-5531
Online Service:
Sundays at 10am.
Facebook or Youtube
Pastor Tiffany Newsom
laingsburgumc@gmail.com
www.laingsburgumc.org

Shepardville United Methodist Church

6990 E. Winfield, Ovid
(989) 862-4881

In-Person Worship
Sunday 11am Service
Pastor: Paik

United Church of Ovid

Office Hours: 9-Noon Mon - Fri
Sundays am: 10:45 - Hymnsing
11:00 - Worship

131 West Front Street
Ovid, MI 48866 • (989) 834-5958
www.unitedchurchofovid.org
or on Facebook
Pastor Eugene Blair

St. Cyril Parish of Bannister

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

Confession:
Sun 11:30am

We Welcome You to Come...

Medardo (Lalo, Pete) Valentine Soliz

Medardo (Lalo, Pete) Valentine Soliz, age 86, of Lake Placid, FL passed away quietly from Covid-19 complications on Thursday March 11, 2021, at the Sebring Advent Hospital. He was born on January 30, 1935 in Siton, TX, the son of Rafael and Silberita (Villarreal) Soliz, and spent his golden years living in Lake Placid, FL with his loving wife Carol. He retired from GM, where he was a 30 year member of the UAW. He was a proud member of AA for over 44 years and a very active member of his local church, the St. Francis of Assisi Evangelical church in Florida. He was a sharp dresser who was loved by many friends as well as his family.

Medardo is survived by his brothers Rudolfo (Helen) Soliz, Rafael (Barbera) Soliz, Rinaldo (Rosemary) Soliz and sister Angelica Longoria.

He is also survived by his children: Anna Soliz, Rosa Soliz, Pedro (Bonnie) Soliz, Victoria Soliz, Elida (Robert) Edelen, Patricia Soliz, Manuel (Lori) Soliz, Reynoldo (Kristina) Soliz, Viviano (Trista) Soliz, Maria Esperanza Soliz, Robert (Jennifer) Davis, Andrew (Michelle) Davis, Daniel (Denise) Davis, Tommy (Missy) Davis; 43 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren.

Medardo was preceded in death by his wife Carol and beloved companion Fuzzy, his parents Rafael and Silberita Soliz. He was also preceded by his son Medardo (Junior) Soliz, brother and sister-in-law Pedro (Pelo) and Eleanor Soliz, sister and brother-in-law Aurora and Jose (Pepe) Rodriguez and sister and brother-in-law Esmeralda and Ricardo Ramirez and brother-in-law Jenaro Longoria.

Medardo surrounded himself with loving friends and family. He had a way of befriending anyone that crossed his path and loved any time he was able to spend with family.

Two memorial services will be held for Medardo. The first will be held at the St Francis of Assisi Anglican Episcopal Church, in Lake Placid, FL. in late April. This memorial will be livestreamed on Facebook. The time, date and information will be made available at a later time.

The final memorial will take place in mid-June at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Ovid, MI. Burial will take place at Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid, MI following the memorial. Arrangements will also be announced at a later time.



Moolenaar Supports Legislation to Extend the Paycheck Protection Program

Congressman John Moolenaar voted for legislation that would extend the availability of the Paycheck Protection Program funding for small businesses through June 30, 2021. This funding was already approved by Congress last year, and it remains available for small businesses. The legislation passed the House tonight in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote.

Congressman Moolenaar has previously supported legislation funding the Paycheck Protection Program, which was established as part of the CARES Act he voted for last year. Moolenaar has been an advocate for reopening the program so that crucial funding remains available for small businesses.

The Paycheck Protection Program has already injected more than \$15 billion into Michigan's economy, and the funding has supported more than 7,000 small businesses in the Fourth District.

Editorial

The 'great chicken caper' of 2021...the background is simple, folks had to move out of the country and back into town. In town no chickens were allowed because one of the chickens was a rooster.....and no dawn crowing was appreciated. So the folks search for likeminded individuals who would be willing to drive miles to get this fine flock of five. So these folks who temporarily abandoned their free range charges started their quest to find the needed recipients. They appealed to their friends and neighbors seeking someone who would take this small flock into their care. And eureka, luck was on the side of the flock.



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

A couple of patrons were found and arrangements were made for the transferring of the chickens. I did mention that these critters were free range and out in the elements.... These intrepid patrons drove forty miles west after synchronizing their watches just to meet up with the owners of the wily poultry. As they pulled into the property out came the owner and out strutted the five fretful fowl. Having minimal knowledge concerning chickens, the owner informed the patrons that the large white chicken with the big comb was a meat bird and not a rooster.....he had never crowed.

The rooster hadn't done as well in the elements as the ladies that he protected, they had all of their toes and he didn't. This did not hurt their appeal and the first four were quickly acquired and put into carriers. The fifth fowl was a bit of a challenge; finally she succumbed to the call of her flock after being plucked from her perch. This small flock was moved to a homestead where free ranging was already practiced and the flock of five became a flock of twenty-five. Lots of clucking going on and roosters started crowing insults to each other..... The rescuers returned to their respective homes to tend their minor scrapes and bruises. Corraling those critters had been more trying than anticipated...

As you can see, life is always interesting and at times very amusing. Since these events transpired I have been sorting through too much stuff. I finally have one of the upper rooms almost ready to be gutted....down comes the old drywall and up goes the new. Due to the sorting I have come up with another fourteen boxes of books, dishes, and craft items that I will transport to the Mill Street Thrift Store in St Louis. It will be one of the first stops that Karen and I will make on our way up to Clare in the morning. I also need to pick up some cash at the bank and I know that I will be stocking up on my favorite coffee while in Clare. I was excited because my son-in-law was happy to get the bookshelf that I offered him. So step by step I have been slowly decluttering my home.

The trip up to Clare was fun, the day was beautiful and the sun shone beautifully upon us....we just had to remind ourselves that this was a gad about with only one priority. Actually, there were two; one was find my favorite coffee while enjoying the weather and the trip. The other was to have lunch at Herrick's....We did succeed our quest but I wasn't able to get as much coffee as desired. Did I mention the Reindeer Farm or our stop at the homestead to introduce the puppies to Karen?

The introductions went well, the puppies (Mia and Milo) swarmed Karen as did Millie and Midnight....Karen was enchanted. We stayed a bit and wandered through the pens to pet the goats and admire the goofy chickens that have the latest in toys. The chickens have brightly beaded swings to amuse themselves. Of course all of this is a way to brighten your day and does bring a smile to your face. It is very therapeutic!!!

Midnight and the puppies took a determined stroll this morning and had just come up to the intersecting roads ...a half mile from the homestead when Brent caught up with them. He whisked them home to their kennels....It is good that we can enjoy ourselves on a daily basis....and that we are blessed with the comfort of those who care. May God bless you well....be kind. Dance with the crocus as they spring from the earth in their vibrant colors.

Crystal Mitchell©2021

Shiawassee County Health Department Seeking Volunteers

submitted by Grace Czubachowski

The Shiawassee County Health Department is currently seeking medical and non-medical volunteers to assist with mass vaccination clinics. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering please fill out one of the following links. The Shiawassee County Health Department will send an email to those who register when volunteer opportunities are available.

Please note that individuals that sign up to volunteer may not be needed every week as clinics are based on vaccine allocation.

- Medical Volunteer Form
- Non-medical Volunteer Form

All volunteers will be asked to fill out volunteer paperwork and are required to go through a background check.

The Shiawassee County Health Department would like to extend a thank you to all our community volunteers and partners that have assisted with COVID-19 vaccination clinics.



"Empty"
"If righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly (Galatians 2:21)."

I was afraid to pull the trigger. Older than dirt, this gifted shotgun looked like it had not been fired in 60 years, so I bravely did what any real guy would do...I took it to a gunsmith. After a few months, he said it was fixed and safe to fire. Today, it's still empty. I have not pulled the trigger...yet.

For me, it's a matter of trust that this guy (who I don't know) says it's safe, but is it, really? Popping a 20-gauge shell in the chamber, putting it up to my cheek, and pulling the trigger is a big step of faith on just his say-so. Unlike a plastic surgeon, talk is cheap.

If I really believe, I'll act on his promise. Believing is that simple, and that hard.

And so it is with Jesus. Faith to take Him at His word, believing that His death on the cross pays for your sins, and that His tomb is empty is easy...to say. But is just "saying" real saving, eternal faith, or is it just an intellectual assent (like believing in Napoleon or Lincoln)? How can you be sure your faith is genuine and not just acknowledging a fact?

The Apostle James, and half-brother of Jesus, said, "faith without works is dead." If you really believe, they'll be a transformation because the Holy Spirit enters your body, and good works will flow from your faith. God uses outward and visible faith proofs of this inward and invisible change to tell the world, you "pulled the trigger." What proofs?

In the Old Testament, circumcision was a faith proof, but Israel could not even keep the Ten Commandments, let alone the extensive Jewish Law. The Law was really a spiritual thermometer to show how sin-sick we all are, that being right with God isn't about doing good works. Besides, if it made lawbreakers right and holy, why did Jesus have to die?

Do you know how to never break the Law? The only way is to have no Law to break. So that's what Jesus did. Jesus was the only one to keep the Law with a sinless life, and as a perfect man, and God, His sacrifice freed us from trying (to be good, keeping the Law), to instead just believing in His work. But again, what is genuine pulling the trigger faith?

Action. In the New Testament, baptism was faith proof of your unseen belief, but getting wet doesn't save you anymore than circumcision made an Israelite a believer. God has always operated on faith and grace; beginning with Abraham's faith, long before the Law was given to Moses (Romans 4). Again, what else constitutes saving faith? Repentance.

James says, "Even the demons believe." If they believe in Jesus, and they aren't going to Heaven, what's the difference in your faith and theirs? The answer is...surrendering your will (repent means to change your mind). So stop trying to be good (you can't keep the 10 Commandments either). Ask Him to forgive you, once and for all, based on His work.

Now, I've changed my mind, and by faith...I'm going to go fire my gun. Happy Easter!



Religious Thoughts

by Phil Hoppersberger
 Graham Community Church



There's still time to make your 2020 IRA contribution

But ... Which IRA is right for you — Roth IRA or traditional?

When thinking about retirement, we should all consider how contributing annually to an IRA may help us meet our goals. The earlier you contribute to an IRA, the longer your money has the opportunity for tax-deferred growth. Based on hypothetical annual investments of \$6,000 earning a 7% rate of return, contributions from age 30 to age 65 would grow to \$893,481. By waiting just a single year, the total would be only \$829,421, a difference of \$64,060. You can add to an existing IRA or open an IRA and begin making your contributions.

2020 IRA contributions can be made through April 15, 2021.

Call today for a free Roth IRA versus traditional IRA comparison!



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Drive-Thru Easter Egg Event

submitted by Cheryl Hickey
 The St. Johns Lioness Club will be hosting a Drive-Thru Easter Egg Event on Saturday, April 3 at 1:00 p.m. at the St. Johns City Park.
 Following recommended health and safety precautions, workers will be distributing bags of plastic eggs to children through the age of ten. Eggs will contain toys, wrapped candy, or coins. There will be special eggs provided for children under age three. This is strictly a drive-thru event; passengers must remain in cars and no walk-ups will be permitted.
 This community event is made possible through the support of the City of St. Johns and local businesses and groups.



Pictured (l-r): Abbie Majzel, Associate VP, Talent Management; Deanna Enos; and Kelly Jackson, Manager Patient Access, Call Center & Referral Center

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Commodity Supplemental Food Program New Financial Guidelines

submitted by Becky Zemla
 Capital Area Community Services, Inc. is taking applications for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. This program provides nutritious food, on a monthly low-income residents of Shiawassee County who are 60 years of age or above.
 Persons sixty years of age or older (130% Federal Poverty Guidelines) may be eligible. To qualify, individuals must live in Shiawassee County and meet program guidelines.
 130% Poverty level: Family of 1 \$16,477; Family of 2 \$22,646; Family of 3 \$28,548. Each additional member add: \$5,902.
 Distribution for Shiawassee County will begin April 6, 2021 at Capital Area Community Services, 1845 Corunna Avenue, Owosso. 9am to 12 Noon and 1pm to 4pm.
 April 6th will be drive thru only.
 If you have any questions call 989-723-3115.

Deanna Enos Named Memorial Healthcare March Employee of the Month

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus
 Owosso – Memorial Healthcare is pleased to announce Deanna Enos, Patient Access Clerk in our Patient Access department as its March Employee of the Month. Deanna has been employed with Memorial Healthcare since 2019.
 According to her winning nomination, “Deanna goes above and beyond daily to accommodate patient’s needs, whether it is with registration, answering the phones, payments, etc. If she sees a patient waiting for assistance, she is the first person to step up and take the initiative to make sure the patient is cared for in a timely manner. Deanna has also taken it upon herself to create and initiate a departmental reward and recognition program for employees to be recognized for their hard work and increase employee engagement.”
 Deanna lives in Elsie with her husband. She has seven children, four grandchildren and one on the way. Her hobbies include watching movies, listening to music, enjoying a good sunset, riding horses and watching my husband race. Her goals/dreams are to finish her nursing degree and to keep climbing the ladder. She would like to be most remembered as, “As a person who worked hard, but could always make everyone laugh and have a good time when working with me.”



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Deadline Nears for LAFCU's 'Love & Equality' Art Initiative

submitted by Jan Jenkins
 LANSING — LAFCU is inviting Michigan artists to create artwork that graphically depicts words of love and equality for a new art initiative aptly named Act with Love & Equality. The deadline is March 31.
 Submissions can be a wide variety of fine art, including paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, textile and quilting art, mixed media and digital media.
 Information is at www.lafcu.com/loveandequality where applications and artwork can be submitted.
 The contest is open to Michigan residents. Those under 18 years of age can participate with permission of a parent or legal guardian. Applicants do not have to be members of LAFCU.



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FARM SECTION



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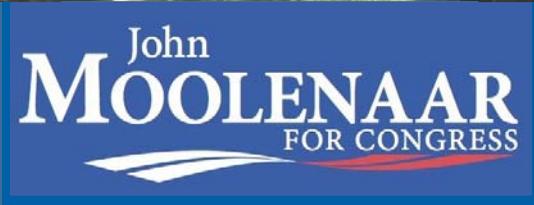
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Spring Farm Section

Status of Michigan's Overwintering 2021 Wheat Crop?

by Dennis Pennington and Ricardo Costa, MSU Extension

Even though air temperatures dropped to as low as -18 degrees Fahrenheit in February, the wheat crop around the state is still in excellent condition.

Earlier this winter, Michigan experienced above-average temperatures and below-normal snowfall. Going into February 2021, most of the state had about one-third of the expected snowfall.

Then winter arrived. Snow fell, as did the temperatures. Some locations in the Michigan wheat growing regions reached air temperatures as low as -18 degrees Fahrenheit. So, is this cold enough to kill wheat plants?

Table 1 shows the temperatures that the crown of wheat plants can tolerate. In the overwintering stage, the crown is below the soil surface. This provides some protection from severe cold temperatures. Snow cover provides additional insulation to help protect the crown.

Most states have weather networks where soil and air temperature data can be found. In Michigan, we use Michigan State University's Enviroweather, which allows you to access data from more than 80 weather stations scattered across the state.

Data were downloaded and summarized in Figure 1 below. Two-inch soil temperature is a good proxy for crown temperature.

Notice that even while air temperatures dipped to near -20 degrees, the 2-inch soil temperatures did not drop below 20 F. Nearly all the wheat producing areas of the state have had adequate snow cover to protect the crown.

The wheat crop is in really good condition at this point. Winter survival should be very high unless the snow melts and we get ponding, icing and extremely cold temperatures.

Temperature (F)	Maximum length (days)
27	150
5	6
-15	0.5
-20	0

Source: The Small Grains Field Guide A-290, J.J. Wiersma and J.K. Ransom, 2005.

3 Receive Michigan Master Farmer Award

by Jennifer Kiel

The celebration of Michigan's finest farmers won't be the usual because of COVID-19, but the revered Michigan Master Farmer award still carries with it agriculture's highest honor — even without an audience.

If agriculture had an Academy Awards, three Michigan farmers would be in line to receive the equivalent of an Oscar for starring in outstanding farm management, innovation, conservation and leadership.

For each of the past 17 years, Michigan Farmer has bestowed the prestigious Master Farmer award on three people who have demonstrated how to farm more effectively, efficiently, environmentally and economically.

This year's winners are Frank Vyskocil of New Lothrop, Waldron Farms of Stanton and Jim Wilson of Yale. Stories highlighting their farming careers will appear on michiganfarmer.com over the next three days.

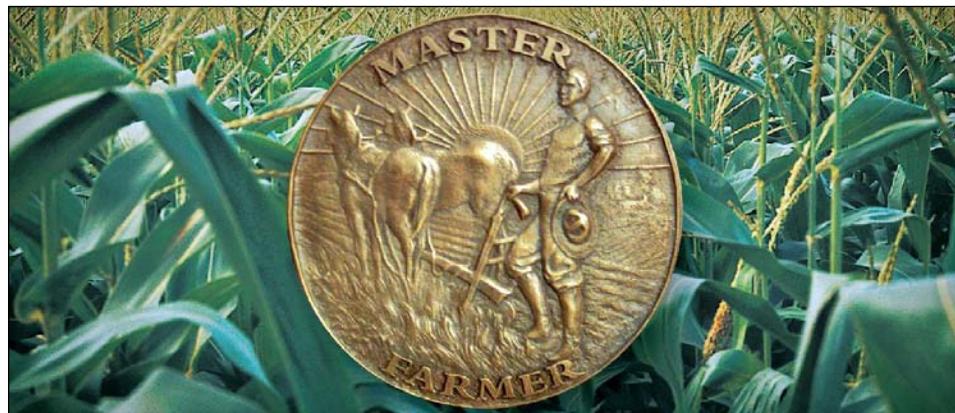
The winners are normally awarded and celebrated during a luncheon at the Great Lakes Crop Summit, but the event was canceled this year because of the pandemic. Plans are now to award this year's winners, as well as next year's recipients, at the 2022 GLCS, which is sponsored by the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, Michigan Wheat Program and Corn Marketing Program of Michigan.

The award acknowledges a lifetime of achievement and not a single year. Master Farmers are nominated by peers and are chosen by a committee of agriculture industry leaders.

Videos of the winners, traditionally shown during the awards luncheon, are produced by sponsor Brownfield Ag News. Those videos accompany the online stories.

Master Farmers receive a plaque and a pin from Michigan Farmer magazine and a Carhartt jacket, donated by Carhartt. They also receive a \$1,000 check, made possible by sponsors Michigan Agricultural Commodities, Greenstone Farm Credit Services and Wilbur-Ellis.

This article first appeared in Michigan Farmer.



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Spring Farm Section

Governor Whitmer Proclaims March as Michigan Food and Ag Month

submitted by Jennifer Holton

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

“Michigan’s food and agriculture industry is a national powerhouse,” said Gov. Whitmer. “It is responsible for 805,000 jobs and contributes over \$104 billion to our state’s economy. With more than \$1.8 billion in export sales annually, nations across the globe buy our products for their quality and safety. Many of our wines, beers, and spirits are rated the best in the United States, and innovators and entrepreneurs continue choosing Michigan for their operations. In March, we recognize every person and business that makes Michigan’s food and ag industry what it is today.”

Throughout Michigan Food and Agriculture Month, MDARD will partner with Michigan Farm Bureau, MSU Extension, commodity organizations, McDonald’s/Seyferth PR, MSU Product Center, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, and others to highlight the various facets of the state’s food and agriculture sector.

“Most events and activities for this year’s Michigan Food and Agriculture Month will be offered virtually due to the pandemic, but there will be many opportunities to learn more about how the food and agriculture industry impacts and improves the lives of each of us,” said MDARD Director Gary McDowell. “Throughout the entire month of March, you’ll see posts on our social media channels featuring Michigan crops, Michigan food and agriculture businesses, and MDARD employees who help support and grow our industry. We will also highlight nutrition tips to celebrate National Nutrition Month, and safety information for our farmers and businesses during Severe Weather Preparedness Week.”

Some of the highlights during the month:

Throughout the Month: Agriculture and Natural Resources Week at Michigan State University, featuring virtual learning opportunities, events and activities for farmers and other people interested in agricultural and natural resources activities in Michigan.

March 1-7: Weights and Measures Week, commemorating President John Adams’ signing of the first U.S. weights and measures law on March 2, 1799; and celebrating the work MDARD Weights and Measures staff does year-round to protect consumers and ensure they get what they pay for when items are sold by weight or volume.

March 9: Official unveiling of the 2021 Michigan Agriculture magazine. The magazine highlights partnerships, innovations, and technologies used in the food and agriculture sector. This year’s edition will be available at Michigan Welcome Centers and ag-related events across the state, through Michigan State University Extension, and at Conservation District offices.

March 24: Celebration of National Agriculture Day commemorating the industry’s contributions to our nation.

United States Cattle Inventory Down Slightly

submitted by Terry Matlock

WASHINGTON— There were 93.6 million head of cattle and calves on U.S. farms as of Jan. 1, 2021, according to the Cattle report published today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

All cattle and calves inventory

Other key findings in the report were:

Of the 93.6 million head inventory, all cows and heifers that have calved totaled 40.6 million.

There were 31.2 million beef cows in the United States as of Jan. 1, 2021, down 1% from last year.

The number of milk cows in the United States increased to 9.4 million.

U.S. calf crop was estimated at 35.1 million head, down 1% from the previous year.

All cattle on feed were at 14.7 million head, up slightly from 2020.

To obtain an accurate measurement of the current state of the U.S. cattle industry, NASS surveyed over 34,900 operators across the nation during the first half of January. Surveyed producers were asked to report their cattle inventories as of Jan. 1, 2021, and calf crop for the entire year of 2020 online, by mail, or telephone.

The Cattle report and all other NASS reports are available online at nass.usda.gov/Publications.



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Spring Farm Section



NASA Data Powers New USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service Soil Moisture Portal

submitted by Teresa White

WASHINGTON – Farmers, researchers, meteorologists and others now have access to high-resolution NASA data on soil moisture, thanks to a new tool developed by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in collaboration with NASA and George Mason University (GMU).

The tool, Crop Condition and Soil Moisture Analytics (Crop-CASMA), provides access to high-resolution data from NASA's Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) mission and the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) instrument in a user-friendly format. Soil moisture data are critical for professionals in the agriculture and natural resource sectors who use soil moisture in tandem with other data to plan crop planting, forecast yields, monitor droughts or floods, and improve weather forecasts. Crop-CASMA is available for free online at <https://cloud.csiss.gmu.edu/Crop-CASMA/>.

According to Rajat Bindlish, a research associate in Earth science remote sensing at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, the tool provides more thorough spatial coverage and consistency than other soil moisture measurement methods.

"Soil moisture is a very important piece of information for agricultural yield and productivity," said Bindlish. "This will provide a means of using NASA remote sensing data to guide predictions of moisture conditions and water availability. Information on the field conditions is important for agricultural operations."

Some of Crop-CASMA's primary users will be NASS researchers and statisticians who release weekly Crop Progress Reports that currently classify states into moisture categories (very short, short, adequate, surplus) to aid farmers and farm managers. The reports also track crops' health and growing progress.

"USDA researchers and statisticians will incorporate the tool into a range of applications," said NASS Spatial Analysis Research lead Rick Mueller. "For example, Crop-CASMA can help identify areas that could not be planted because of wet, saturated, frozen, excessively dry, or inaccessible fields resulting in improved planted statistical acreage estimates."

Mueller noted that in addition to supporting agricultural operations, Crop-CASMA will enable research on sustainability and the impact of extreme weather events. "These satellite-derived vegetation condition indices and soil moisture condition maps show first-hand the ever-changing landscape of U.S. agriculture," he said.

The tool is formatted to be accessible to private users, including farmers, researchers, and students, according to Crop-CASMA project leader Zhengwei Yang, a USDA geographer and co-investigator of the High-Resolution Soil Moisture Development Project.

"We created an easy-to-use interface that requires little technical background to use," said Yang. "There's a tool to select an area and create a map you can save as a PDF, and you can also download data from the web to input into your model."

This work was supported by NASA Applied Sciences' Earth Science Division's Western Water Applications Office (WWAO) and the NASA Terrestrial Hydrology Program. WWAO's mission is to improve how water is managed in the arid western United States, and the tool is part of a portfolio of water projects that use the power of remote sensing to deliver

new solutions on issues such as drought, snowpack, and water supplies.

"We know from our water partners in the western United States that there is a critical need for soil moisture data," explained Indrani Graczyk, manager of WWAO. "This project was a great opportunity to partner with the USDA to get NASA data directly into the hands of farmers, and we were happy to support it."

SMAP data, the foundation for Crop-CASMA, draw from the topsoil and rootzone levels, or from the surface to roughly 3 feet (1 meter) underground. Raw SMAP data have a 36-kilometer (roughly 20-mile) spatial resolution, meaning each data "footprint" is about the size of a county. The team also developed a data analysis method to estimate a higher-resolution soil moisture product using SMAP and land surface data, giving users information at 1-kilometer (0.62-mile) resolution.

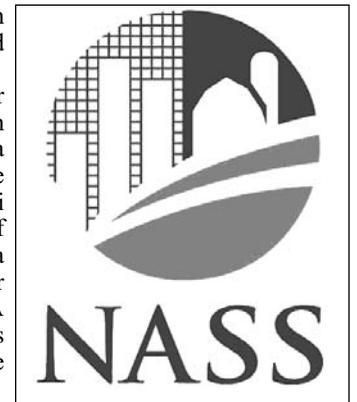
Having the data in finer resolution allows users to more accurately pinpoint areas of high or low moisture, Yang explained. "Our current reports are at the state level," Yang said. "One state may be categorized on average as 'wet,' but the whole state might not actually be wet. These new data deliver localized moisture readings – this is what matters to the farmer."

Crop-CASMA was developed in cooperation with the Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems (CSISS) at GMU, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). JPL manages the SMAP mission for NASA, and Goddard produces the SMAP 9-km rootzone and 1-km surface soil moisture products. Hosted and maintained by the CSISS, the online tool is operated by NASS's Research and Development Division.

"We are very happy with the research collaboration between NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA JPL, and GMU, and the project coordination of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, and thank them for their support in bringing cutting-edge technology into USDA operations," said Yang.

This collaboration is part of a larger, recently-signed agreement between USDA and NASA to jointly strengthen agricultural and Earth science research.

"Having the SMAP soil moisture data going directly to the users at NASS realizes one of the key goals of the mission," said Simon Yueh, SMAP project scientist at JPL. "A strong collaboration between NASA and USDA has made this possible."

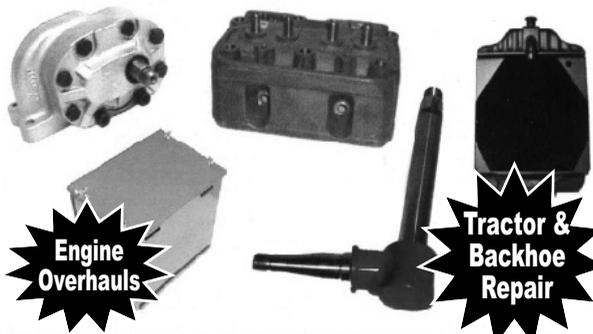


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Spring Farm Section



USDA Feedlot Cattle Health Management Practices Study Underway

by Michigan Farm Bureau

To get a snapshot of current feedlot cattle health management practices, USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System, in partnership with the National Agricultural Statistics Service, is conducting a national study on U.S. feedlots with at least 50 head.

Researchers will also put the information gathered this year alongside previous studies to analyze cattle health trends. Participation is voluntary.

To better direct the study, priority issues related to cattle health were identified via responses to a needs assessment questionnaire and from discussions with representatives from various segments of the feedlot industry, including producer associations, feedlot veterinarians, and university and Extension experts.

Along with health management practices on U.S. feedlots with 50 or more head, the study will delve into the prevalence of important feedlot cattle diseases, the use of antibiotics and the implementation of stewardship practices on feedlots.

"NAHMS provides us with a snapshot of how our industry partners are operating their business and making decisions, serving as a benchmark and gut-check for us in making decisions on how to run our business. This helps us stay open-minded and current in today's practice of feeding cattle," said Josh Szasz, staff veterinarian at Five Rivers Cattle Feeding in Colorado.

The reports generated from the study will benefit the U.S. feedlot industry by providing current and scientifically valid estimates to aid in understanding disease preparedness strengths and vulnerabilities, help policymakers and industry stakeholders make informed decisions, and identify research and development needs on vital feedlot cattle health issues.

Among other endeavors, the data gathered will also enable economic analyses of the health and productivity of the U.S. feedlot industry, identify educational needs and opportunities related to feedlot cattle health, and provide benchmark data on important feedlot cattle health management practices to inform quality assurance programs.

In March and April, representatives from NASS will visit participating operations to complete a questionnaire. If participants choose to continue in the study, USDA or state veterinary health professionals will visit feedlots from June through August to complete a second questionnaire.

You can learn more about the NAHMS Health Management on U.S. Feedlots 2021 study here or watch a video explaining the importance of this feedlot study here.

For additional information on the study, contact Dr. Chuck Fossler at (970) 632-0775 or Charles.P.Fossler@usda.gov.

Chickens and Eggs

All layers in Michigan totaled 14.8 million during January, down slightly from a year ago. Egg production totaled 381 million eggs, up 6 percent from last year. The rate of lay during January was 2,579 eggs per 100 layers.

All layers in the U.S. totaled 393.3 million during January, down 2 percent from a year ago. There were 20.6 million turkey poults hatched in the U.S. in January, down 14 percent from the previous year.

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Spring Farm Section

Environmental Tillage Systems to Release a New Three-Point Mounted Strip-till System, the SoilWarrior Edge

by Michigan Farm News

The system offers the same precision strip-tillage and nutrient placement growers and custom applicators have come to expect from ETS.

The SoilWarrior Edge combines the durability and versatility of a SoilWarrior system with a tractor mounted three-point system designed for primary tillage and zone freshening. Operators can adjust the system easily from their tractor cab, such as switching from 12 to 16 rows or changing row unit down pressure.

Designed with transportation safety in mind, the SoilWarrior Edge toolbar double folds, utilizing a six-row center section compared to an eight-row center section found on other toolbars.

According to Brent Brueland, ETS vice president, what stands out most to growers and custom applicators about the SoilWarrior Edge is its customizability.

“The Edge’s row unit is very adaptable. You can utilize a shank or coulter row or a combination. It does the same thing as two row units but in one,” Brueland said. “If an operator has

a different brand of tillage equipment and wants to replace their row units with ours, they can because the SoilWarrior Edge is built for all standard toolbars. It also has the capability to apply multiple, different fertilizers — dry, liquid and NH3 — and from different sources: pull-behind carts or tractor mounted.”

Putting it to the test

Among reasons for developing the SoilWarrior Edge was a demand from the field for a three-point-system, particularly by growers and custom-tillage applicators who have become familiar with the capabilities and effectiveness of other SoilWarrior systems. One of those SoilWarrior users, Ty Fickenscher, owner of Upward Ag Services in Axtell, Neb., had the opportunity to participate in pre-commercial testing in 2020 with the SoilWarrior Edge.

“We pushed the system during this season. We covered about 2,400 acres with it, which was about four times more than we planned to cover, and got into some really tough, dry conditions. It was very durable. The knives we used held up on those 2,400 acres we ran. On other systems, we run for 900 or 1,000 acres and have to switch the knives out,” Fickenscher said.

Fickenscher also pointed to how he found the residue flow, as with previous SoilWarrior units he used, to be to his liking with no plugging issues, giving him the option to go across rows while running the system.

Building on innovative strip-till technology

Like other SoilWarrior systems, the SoilWarrior Edge is a complete precision strip-till and nutrient placement system that combines the seedbed preparation of conventional tillage with the economic and environmental advantages of conservation tillage.

This system helps minimize equipment passes, enables precise fertilizer placement, helps reduce soil erosion and improves soil health. A single SoilWarrior Edge can replace multiple implements including primary and secondary tillage equipment and fertilizer applicators.

Capable of operating under a wide range of conditions, the SoilWarrior Edge produces superior planting zones without smearing or shearing the soil structure or leaving voids beneath the surface. The seedbed created by the SoilWarrior Edge allows for premium planter ride quality, helps enable accurate and consistent seed placement and optimal plant

uptake of fertilizer blended throughout the zone.

Looking ahead, Brueland sees the SoilWarrior Edge as the next step in the evolution of ETS and its commitment to land stewardship and conservation through strip-tillage.

“It’s the first in a series of strip-till advances coming in the next few years from ETS. We won’t be replacing anything. We’re adding. We’re going to remain a strip-till dedicated company. We’re not distracted by other product lines, we’re 100% focused on strip-till,” Brueland said.

Growers and custom applicators interested in learning more about the SoilWarrior Edge, other SoilWarrior units or ETS should visit soilwarrior.com.



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Spring Farm Section

Every Succession Plan is Unique to the Business and the Goals of its Owners

by Michael C. Zahrt

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many business owners to reconsider their retirement horizon. For some, retirement and succession planning is an issue they have never addressed or even thought about.

A robust succession plan is important for the longevity of your business. An exit that is too fast or without direction can leave a leadership vacuum and damage relationships with existing clients and customers.

The following is a summary of what a good succession plan should address. As you will see, good succession planning takes time and should not happen all at once.

Business succession planning is a general term that can be broken down into six separate transitions:

1. Founder transition. How long do you plan to stay involved in the business? What are your retirement plans, if any? What financial resources will you need for retirement, and will it be independent of the day-to-day operations of the business?

2. Family transition. If you plan to leave your business to your children, how will roles and power relationships change? How will family harmony be maintained through this transition? Should outside advisers be brought in to help with this transition (e.g., succession advisers, counselors, mediators, etc.)?

3. Business transition. How will the business operations and customer relations be maintained through other transitions? Should a written strategic plan be implemented? If you are leaving your business to your children, how will the family balance an outward focus on the business and its customers with an inward focus on succession?

4. Management transition. Will management be made up of family, nonfamily or both? How will new leadership be evaluated? What is the schedule for transferring control of day-to-day decisions? How will you determine when a child is ready for more responsibilities? How will you incentivize good management? What happens if someone no longer wants to work in the family business?

5. Ownership transition. How will ownership be transferred? A sale to management? A sale to a third party? A sale or gift to children? Will children initially have nonvoting ownership? It is important to remember that ownership does not equal control.

6. Estate transition. How will you coordinate your estate plan to ensure that the other transitions above occur as planned? How do we minimize estate tax exposure (if applicable) and provide liquidity to pay any tax liability?

Many of the transitions above will be accomplished through formal documentation (e.g., operating agreements, buy-sell agreements, trusts, etc.). Still, some companies also use informal documents to memorialize company or family values, goals, visions, and mission statements.

Many successful succession plans have periodic meetings (often annually) to discuss succession progress and continue to groom successors to think like an owner.

Every succession plan is unique to the business and the goals of its owners.

MDARD Accepting Applications for annual 'Michigan Agriculture Exporter of the Year' Award

submitted by Jessy Sielski

LANSING—The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is now accepting applications for its annual "Michigan Agriculture Exporter of the Year" award. Each year, MDARD recognizes a leading food or agriculture exporter for its efforts to increase exports of Michigan food and agriculture products. Applicants may also be considered for the "Rising Star" award, which is reserved for new companies or companies new to exporting.

Companies of all sizes are encouraged to apply. Eligibility is limited to Michigan food and agriculture producers, manufacturers, or shippers that are aggressively pursuing international markets and increasing export sales. Products must be more than 50 percent grown, processed, or manufactured in Michigan.

The winner of the award is selected by international trade industry representatives based on export growth, innovation, and the pursuit of new export markets.

The award was first awarded in 2006. Previous winners include 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 p.m. on Friday, April 16, 2021.

For more information, and an application, visit <https://bit.ly/3bygHxr> or contact Donna LaCourt at 517-614-5518.

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Spring Farm Section

Benefits of Early-Season Weed Control

by Jennifer Kiel

With a fair amount of winter weed growth expected, it's going to be pretty important — especially in no-till systems — to be diligent about getting spring burndown herbicides on in a timely manner for a clean start, says Christy Sprague, Michigan State University weed Extension specialist.

If applications are delayed, she says weeds become larger and can oftentimes be tougher to control with dense weed populations (or mats) potentially interfering with planting.

Early burndown applications can help provide better control of problematic weeds such as glyphosate-resistant horseweed (mare's tail) because they are smaller and easier to control.

Tank mixtures of effective herbicides with glyphosate are needed to control small horseweed, Sprague says.

"Early-season weeds can compete — water, nutrients and light — with the emerging crop, so herbicide applications need to be made generally around seven days prior to planting — depending on traits and chemistries," says Sprague, noting that treatments containing 1 pint per acre of 2,4-D ester need to be applied a minimum of seven days before soybean planting.

"That's in an ideal world, but some may spray burndown herbicides at or soon after planting — just don't wait too long, weed competition with emerging crops can reduce yield," she says, adding that a residual herbicide in the burndown tank mixture can help to provide a cleaner field until a postemergence herbicide application is needed.

Spring burndown herbicide applications also help decrease the winter annual seedbank for future seasons.

But don't get out there too early. Sprague says to wait until temperatures are at least 50 degrees F to make burndown applications, or you might see slower or reduced activity on weeds.

MSU research over six locations examined burndown applications made at least seven days before planting compared with delayed applications of glyphosate at VC (unifoliolate) to V1 (1 trifoliolate) and V3 soybeans.

Average soybean yield loss was 8.3 bushels per acre if applications were delayed until VC/V1. Waiting until soybeans were at the V3 growth stage resulted in a 9.2-bushels-per-acre loss.

Compared with controlling weeds before or at planting, waiting to control early-season weeds when soybeans are at the V1 stage (first trifoliolate) can reduce yield about 0.5 bushels per



acre per day, Sprague notes.

"In today's market, this could lead to a \$38-per-acre reduction in profits at the end of the season," she says. Some burndown herbicides can be used right up to and after planting.

"For example, if you're planting EnlistE3 soybeans, they can use the registered Enlist 2,4-D products right up to or shortly after planting," Sprague says. "And growers planting Xtend or XtendFlex soybeans have the option of using dicamba in their burndown. Both of those products are helpful with any glyphosate-resistance horseweed that may be present at the time of planting. If resistant horseweed is not managed prior to planting, there are no postemergence herbicides for control in Roundup Ready or non-GMO soybean."

Corn also is susceptible to early-season weed competition. For example, MSU has observed a 7-bushel-per-acre yield loss if weeds were not controlled before reaching 6 inches tall, and a 31-bushel-per-acre yield loss if weeds were not controlled before reaching 12 inches tall.

Preemergence residual herbicides are a good insurance policy by controlling early-emerging weeds in corn and allowing for timely postemergence herbicide applications when weeds are small, says Erin Burns, MSU assistant professor specializing in integrated weed management.

However, if the corn planter gets ahead of the sprayers, there are several residual herbicide options that can be used once corn has emerged.

A listing of these herbicides can be found in Table 1H of the 2021 MSU Weed Control Guide or at canr.msu.edu/weeds.

Growers in the process of making vital herbicide decisions for corn can check out the MSU Economics of Commercial Weed Control programs.

MDARD Outlines the Safe and Effective Use of Pesticides

submitted by Jennifer Holton

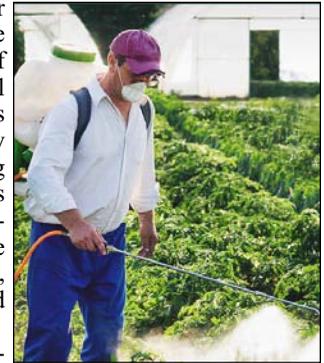
LANSING — As warmer weather approaches, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is reminding the public to safely use pesticides when gardening and landscaping. A pesticide is any substance intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate a pest. Insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and disinfectants are pesticides.

"When used correctly, pesticides are an effective tool to help control, destroy, and repel destructive pests such as insects, weeds, rodents, germs, and plant disease," said Brian Verhougstraete, MDARD's Pesticide Section Manager. "If applying pesticides, always read and follow the label directions and use the recommended personal protective equipment."

If hiring an applicator, choose a firm licensed by MDARD. Licensed firms meet the required financial and experience requirements and employ certified pesticide applicators who have passed MDARD's proficiency examinations. Their training and experience will help prevent accidental pesticide misuse as well as help prevent harm from occurring to humans, pets, livestock, and the environment.

"Be aware of online advertisements and social media posts promoting the sale of unregistered pesticides, particularly those that claim to be 100% safe or all natural," added Verhougstraete. "Unregistered pesticides are not proven to be safe or effective and are unlikely to meet MDARD's or the Environmental Protection Agency's requirements."

For additional information on MDARD's Pesticide and Plant Pesticide Management Division, visit Michigan.gov/MDARD.



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Over the past five years, these studies have found that the median economic return for one-pass preemergence programs is \$540 per acre, \$650 per acre for one-pass early postemergence programs, and \$720 per acre for two-pass pre-followed by postemergence programs.

This article was first published on Michigan Farmer.

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Spring Farm Section

MDARD Referendum Ballots Arrived Last Week, Voting Begins Now

submitted by Jody Pollok-Newsom

Lansing— Michigan wheat growers should have received their ballots through their US mail-box for the official vote on the 5-year continuation of Michigan’s wheat check-off program. While the Michigan Wheat Program is one of the newest check-off programs in the state, it has been in existence for 10 years. This will be its third vote by the state’s wheat farmers.

The wheat check-off was voted in during the summer of 2011 by a margin of 54% (both popular vote and production voted). Its first board of directors was appointed by the Governor in late 2011 and began meeting at the end of that year.

The first continuation vote in 2016 passed by a much wider margin of more than 80% of the production and popular vote. The board felt its mission was supported by growers, and continued to build on the success of its first five years.

The goal was and remains: To increase yields and decrease quality issues for farmers growing the golden grain in the Great Lakes State.

Wheat farmers interested in reviewing the accomplishments of the wheat check-off and its nine-member board have a variety of information resources primarily on the organization’s website at www.miwheat.org or the Michigan Wheat Program YouTube channel:

One resource highlighting the work and accomplishments is the Decade of Dedication video featuring a presentation by Executive Director, Jody Pollok-Newsom. Check under the “What’s Hot” menu on the left side of the website home page.

Seven years of Annual Reports are found on the website under the About tab, with the newest highlighted in the “What’s Hot” box.

The Winter 2021 series of six wheat wisdom webinars and 16 other Summer Field Day or Winter Annual Meeting videos and handout materials are all found under the Education tab and then the Previous Events tab.

Six years of Wheat Wisdom e-newsletters (75 issues) of current wheat events and production articles are found under the Newsroom tab.

In addition, the Michigan Wheat YouTube Channel has 93 videos that provide 48 hours of wheat-tastic learning.

“Key accomplishments for our board over the past 10 years have included addressing grower needs by targeting about \$3.5 million to nearly 150 research projects,” said current Michigan Wheat board chairman Bill Hunt, wheat farmer of Davison. “In addition, we have made a \$700,000 donation to MSU to put toward a land purchase at the Saginaw Valley Research & Extension Center to ensure long-term wheat research, and another \$250,000 for essential modern field and lab research equipment to be used by our team at MSU.”

“Another important area the Michigan Wheat Program financially supports is “boots on the ground” or positions at MSU that are vital to better on-farm research and bringing those results to our farmers,” Hunt said. “The Michigan Wheat Program collaboratively put funding towards wheat breeder Dr. Eric Olson and recently-retired MSU Extension agent Martin Nagelkirk. Currently MSU wheat specialist Dennis Pennington is funded by a 50/50 partnership with MSU and Nagelkirk works on special projects through a contract basis.”

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) mailed wheat referendum continuation ballots for voting through April 2, 2021. Wheat farmers are advised to carefully follow the directions in voting and return your ballots in the envelopes provided. Ballots must be postmarked on or before April 2, 2021 for your vote to be counted. Growers who do not receive a ballot or if they have questions, should contact the department by calling toll-free 800-292-3939. Eligible producers who have not received a ballot may also request one by sending an e-mail to GuardiolaJ1@michigan.gov.

The Michigan Wheat Program is funded by nearly 8,000 farmers who grow wheat in 50 of Michigan’s 83 counties. The Michigan Wheat Program board seeks to promote the state’s wheat industry by funding and supporting the strategic priorities of wheat farmers working with input suppliers, seed producers, millers, end users and consumers. Research on wheat production practices and grower education has been a continued focus for the organization. For more information on the Michigan Wheat Program visit its website at www.miwheat.org.

Michigan Wheat Producers to Vote on Program Continuation

submitted by Jennifer Holton

LANSING I - Michigan wheat producers have an opportunity to vote on whether to continue the Michigan Wheat Program in a referendum conducted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) beginning Monday, March 22, 2021 through Friday, April 2, 2021.

MDARD mailed ballots to wheat producers on Monday, March 15, 2021. Eligible producers with questions, or those not receiving a ballot, should contact the department at P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909, or call toll-free 800-292-3939. Eligible producers may also request a ballot by sending an e-mail to GuardiolaJ1@michigan.gov.

All ballots must be received in the MDARD Lansing office or postmarked no later than April 2, 2021.

The Michigan Wheat Program was designed to promote the profitable production, marketing, and utilization of wheat on behalf of Michigan producers. Eligible producers are those who have produced any market wheat in quantity beyond that person’s own family use, and who have a value at first point-of-sale of more than \$800 in any one growing season within the last three years.

For the program to be continued, more than 50 percent of the votes cast, representing more than 50 percent of the total bushels voted, must approve the proposal.



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Spring Farm Section

Michigan Farm Numbers

The number of farms in Michigan in 2020 was 46,500. Land in farms was 9.8 million acres, unchanged from last year. The average size farm in Michigan was 211 acres per farm, up 2 acres from 2019.

The number of farms in the United States fro 2020 is estimated at 2,019,000 down 4,400 farms from 2019. Total land in farms, at 896,600,000 acres, decreased 800,000 acres from 2019. The average farm size for 2020 is 444 acres, unchanged from the previous year.

MSU-led International Research Team Receives \$1M Grant to Build Percision Livestock Farming Network

by Michigan Farm News

A team of international researchers led by Michigan State University has received a five-year, \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Data Science for Food and Agricultural Systems program, a component of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

One of the main priorities of the DSFAS program is the formation of Coordinated Innovation Networks that solve critical problems in food and agriculture production. The newly funded, MSU-led project is aimed at establishing a multidisciplinary network of researchers in animal science, computer science and engineering to improve computer vision systems in precision livestock farming.

Ideally, these powerful computer vision systems allow producers to make real-time management decisions at the individual animal level, thus increasing productivity and profits.

Juan Steibel, an associate professor in the MSU departments of Animal Science and Fisheries and Wildlife, is the principal investigator.

"Due to the costs of technology, widespread implementation of precision livestock farming practices hasn't occurred," he said. "There is a significant need for the costs to be lowered, so there is room for innovation."

Also on the project from MSU are Janice Siegford, a professor in the Department of Animal Science; Madonna Benjamin, an assistant professor and swine extension veterinarian in the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and MSU Extension; and Daniel Morris, an associate professor in the College of Engineering.

Steibel said that one of the primary goals is to recruit passionate computer scientists and engineers to join precision livestock farming efforts, which is needed to improve the quality of data collection.

Teaching and Research Facility, which operates like a small-scale swine farm.

Guilherme Rosa and Joao Dorea, scientists at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will use an on-campus dairy research farm, while Tami Brown-Brandl and Eric Psota, researchers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will operate at the USDA's Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska.

"Computer vision can really improve livestock farming systems by enhancing animal welfare, monitoring animal behavior, detecting illnesses earlier, and by allowing the assessment and measurement of many animal parameters that are either very difficult or even impossible to measure without the utilization of cameras and computer algorithms," Rosa said. "Basically, anything we do today using visually subjective assessment can be done better with computer vision."

At each of the research locations, cameras will be strategically positioned around the farms, and animal scientists will write annotations that describe what the images capture. The information will then be analyzed by computer scientists to create algorithms that identify and track animals, and to determine what activity they are engaged in. Once that occurs, strengths and weaknesses of the analysis can be determined.

"If an image showed the head of a pig near another pig's body, for example, we need to know what's actually happening," Steibel said. "This could be an aggressive behavior such as biting, or it could be grooming. This is where humans have to be accurate to make the computer vision program as powerful as possible."

Tomas Norton, an assistant professor at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium, will assist on the engineering side. He has collaborated with multiple members of the team on previous projects, using technology to monitor animal behavior.

The team will make the images and datasets publicly available, and articulate deficiencies in the current computer vision algorithms. Steibel said that ideas will be solicited from computer scientists and engineers on how to solve computer vision problems and from animal scientists on contributing well-

annotated images and production data. Public forums and webinars will be scheduled to discuss the challenges and the findings as well.

"We're hoping that researchers across disciplines are compelled to join us in addressing the issues we present," Steibel said. "The more diverse our team is in knowledge and experience, the better chance we have to come up with novel solutions."

Pigs and cattle will be the focus of the project, and both new and existing data will be analyzed. To collect new information, researchers at MSU will utilize the on-campus Swine

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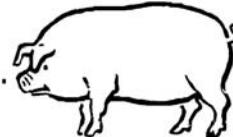
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Spring Farm Section

Ovid-Elsie FFA Competes in Virtual Leadership Contests



Job Interview (L to R): Clarisse Fitzpatrick and Tristin Ziola who competed in the Job Interview contest. Courtesy Photos

submitted by Tracey Hoffman

This year OE FFA students were still provided an opportunity to showcase their leadership skills, but it definitely looked a little different than in the past. All FFA Leadership Contests were completed live over Zoom. On February 9-12, students competed in district level competitions. Cassidy Harris and Willow Evans competed in the FFA Creed Contest, both earning a Gold Award. Cassidy Harris earned a spot at the Regional competition. Clarisse Fitzpatrick and Tristin Ziola competed and earned Silver Awards in the Job Interview contest. Clarisse Fitzpatrick represented our district in Regional competition. Additionally, Josh Miller Jr competed in Junior High Public Speaking and received a Gold Award and also advanced to Regional competition.

Regional level leadership competition was held March 2-4, 2021, again over Zoom. Cassidy Harris earned a Gold Award and was named as Regional Alternate to State Competition. Both Clarisse Fitzpatrick and Josh Miller Jr earned their way to the State Semi-Finals in their respective contests of Job Interview and Junior High Public Speaking.

The State Leadership Contests were held March 22-25, 2021. Both Clarisse Fitzpatrick and Josh Miller Jr were in the Semi-Finals. In order to make it to the State FFA Finals, these OE FFA members needed to place in the top 2 of the semi-final. Both Clarisse and Josh made it to the Finals of their FFA Leadership Contest. We will not receive the final results until the virtual Michigan FFA State Convention the week of April 19th, 2021.



JHPS: Josh Miller Jr. competed in Junior High Public Speaking



FFA Creed: (L to R): Willow Evans and Cassidy Harris competed in the FFA Creed Speaking contest.



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Spring Farm Section

March is

National Nutrition Month



Michigan Trout Production

The value of all trout sold and distributed in Michigan was \$6,285,000 in 2020. This is up 8.7 percent from last year. Information by sales category was only published for 6 to 12 inches to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. Losses of trout intended for sale in Michigan were not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. The total value of fish sales received by trout growers in the United States totaled 94.6 million dollars for 2020, a decrease of 13 percent from 2019.



Farmhouse Window: It's been a Long Winter, but the Changing of the Seasons Will Soon Be Here

by Carol Ann Gregg

No matter how mild or rough winter has been, spring is always welcome. And the good news is that spring is right around the corner.

Regardless of all the negative things that have been happening around the world, rest assured that the seasons will come and go, bringing continuity to our world.

Planting season is one of the most stressful times for all of us. No matter how ready you are, weather will ultimately determine what gets done.

We have no control over the weather. Lots of farmers get stressed out with optimum planting time and getting work done. The stress is not only on the farmer who wants to be out in the field, but also on the rest of the family.

During these times, everyone needs to take a deep breath (literally) and find something as a distraction, even if for a few hours. Try washing some clothes as a distraction.

On our farm, my husband was the cow man, and his brother and partner was the crop guy. So, I never had to deal with washing spray clothes. But I know that it's important to use care when washing clothes that have been exposed to pesticides.

In a publication from North Dakota State University, the recommendations are that clothing that's drenched in pesticides should be discarded. On most farms, that would be a rare occurrence.

The person doing the laundry should wear something with long sleeves, just as the farmer should wear special clothes when working with chemicals. The clothes should be handled separately, and the washing machine should be cleaned before it is used for the family's regular laundry.

It is recommended that the contaminated clothing be stored in a plastic tote with a lid until it can be washed. This website, cropwatch.unl.edu, has details on how to handle the clothing of a farmer who has been spraying the crops.

Most of the precautions are about minimizing exposure of skin to chemicals.

Gardening season is also right around the corner.

There is something rejuvenating about putting seeds in the ground and knowing that small seedlings will grow into mature plants over the next few months.

A couple of years ago, a friend and I took a "greenhouse crawl." We spent the day driving around our county visiting greenhouses. We were able to fit five locations into the day, made purchases at each location and, of course, had an opportunity to stop at a small diner for lunch.

What a great time we had learning about what each location offered. We also realized that we had only touched a small number of locations that offered wonderful assortments of bedding plants, shrubs and trees.

How do you decide where to get your plants? It was hard not to buy too many plants for the time and space I would have when I got home. It was a great time, and I now know where I will visit if I need something specific.

It's inspiring to stand in a commercial greenhouse and view the array of colors, textures and designs of early spring. The hanging baskets were beautiful at all the locations we visited.

When we had a chance to visit with the owners of the sites, we learned new techniques and ideas for being more successful with our purchases.

On one of those rainy days when you can't be in the fields, visit a local greenhouse, enjoy the beauty and take home something to brighten your farmstead or add to your vegetable garden.

Spring is almost here, and we'll soon be able to enjoy the changing of the seasons.

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Sports



Wolfpack Rolls to Division 4 Wrestling Championship at Perry

PERRY -- Coach Shawn Baynes Laingsburg wrestling team rolled to wins in 9 weight classes and routed Perry, 52-21, to claim a MHSAA Division 4 Team Wrestling Championship.

In the lower weight classes, Blake Goetschy scored a forfeit win for LHS at 103 lbs. Gabby Motz followed that with a 8-2 decision over Perry's Blake Cozart at 112. Then it was Martin Meyers' turn at 125 with a 2:46 fall over Rambler wrestler Reed Vanwormer.

The Wolves kept it rolling in the middle weights; Garrett Matthews with a 1:2 fall at 130; Aden Baynes with a :23 fall at 135, Noah Gentry with a :50 fall at 145, and Seth Sivak with a forfeit win at 160.

Also victorious for LHS in the rout was Caleb Boetcher with a 11-1 major decision at 171, Sean Divine with a 7-5 decision at 215 and Iain Hart with a :28 second fall at 285.

The win moved Laingsburg to 12-6 overall on the 2021 season.



Stellar LHS Wrestling Season Continues; Wolves Advance Four to Individual State Finals

LAINGSBURG -- Coach Shawn Baynes' Wolfpack has qualified a quartet of wrestlers to the MHSAA Individual Wrestling State Finals.

The Laingsburg honor contingent, State Finals-bound, includes:

- Aden Baynes at 135 lbs., placed 2nd
- Dacota Dysinger at 140 lbs., placed 4th
- Kyle Boettcher at 152 lbs., placed 3rd
- Sean Divine at 215 lbs., placed 2nd

In addition, Gabby Motz wrestled at the Girls State Tournament and placed 5th out of 27 girls. This is Gabby's third year as an All-State wrestler.

Individual regionals were held at Clinton High School on Saturday, March 27.

Laingsburg competed in the MHSAA Team Regionals on Wednesday, March 24th, at Leslie High School.



Gabby Motz

Cavs Nip O-E MHSAA Team Wrestling District

CORUNNA-- The Ovid Elsie wrestling team traveled to Corunna for MHSAA Team Districts.

The first round match was O-E vs. the host Cavaliers; Durand drew a bye.

"I knew O-E against Corunna was going to be close," said Marauder coach Kyle Spiess.



The match started at 119 lbs. after Josh Everden won over Dakota Richardson-Vibbect at MHSSA Team Districts.

Corunna won the toss, choosing the even matches. The result came down to two swing matches; the Marauders and Cavs both won one of those matches.

Going into the final bout, the team score was 36-33 in favor of Corunna. It came down to D'angelo Campas (Corunna junior, 20-0 record) vs. Cole Workman (Ovid-Elsie freshman, 14-1). Campas prevailed with a close 3-1 decision to seal Corunna's victory, 39-33.

Said coach Spiess, "It was pretty tough to void 5 weight classes and still have a one match difference, but we made it a close match with Corunna."

CORUNNA 39, OVID-ELSIE 33

MHSAA Team District at CHS

119 double void; 125 Gabe Serbus pinned Sam Grubaugh OE; 130 Gavyn Perry OE pinned Dustin Palethorpe; 135 Max Spiess OE pinned Luke Tuller; 140 Cooper Smith Corunna void for OE; 145 Coleten Towsley-Wagner OE-Void Corunna; 152 Colin Lavery Corunna pin Kyrion Miller OE; 160 Jason Krause Corunna- void OE; 171 Rudy Morales OE- void Corunna; 189 Josh Everden OE dec Dakota Richardson-Vibbect Corunna 12-7; 215 Aiden Buckley Corunna-void OE; 285 Jacob Lloyd Corunna-void OE; 103 Talan Parsons OE pin Joaquin Campas Corunna; 112 D'Angelo Campas decision Cole Workman 3-1

Corunna moved on to wrestle Durand in the championship match. Durand won their second straight team district title with a dominant 60-21 score.

Parsons, Workman Advance to MHSAA Individual Wrestling Regionals in Lansing

LANSING -- The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Individual Wrestling Districts for 2021 were hosted at Don Johnson Field House in Lansing.

15 teams participated, with the goal to reduce the number of wrestlers down to 4 regional qualifiers. Those that lose in the first round are out of the tournament. After that it is double elimination.

The Ovid-Elsie Marauders took 7 wrestlers to the meet. Junior, Josh Everden and freshman Kyrion Miller both were defeated in the first round. Senior, Coleten Towsley Wagner, junior Gavyn Perry and junior Max Spiess all had some success but lost in the "blood" round where, if you win, you get to go to regionals. They were one win away from advancing.

Freshman, Talan Parsons at 103 lbs. and freshman Cole Workman at 112 both made it to the finals match competing for 1st and 2nd.

#6 state-ranked Parsons was matched up with the #7 ranked Jack Chambers from Williamston. "It was a very exciting match to watch," said O-E coach Kyle Spiess, with Parsons winning 1-0. "This was a very active match and with the high level of wrestling there were many opportunities for both wrestlers to score throughout the entire match. It was very fast paced," explained coach Spiess.

Freshman, Cole Workman at 112 was in the finals against Jr D'Angelo Campas, ranked #7 from Corunna. "These two at the Team Districts the week before and Campas bested Workman 3-1," said coach Spiess. "We were not surprised that both wrestlers were more aggressive than their previous meeting. This was another very exciting match to watch as the pace was very fast and either wrestler could have scored at any time." Campas eventually won 7-1 over Workman.

Final results included Parsons 1st place, now ranked #4 in Division 3; and Workman 2nd place, now ranked #16 in Division 3. Both are moving on to the MHSAA Regionals where they join a District from the west side of the state including Comstock Park, Grand Rapids Catholic Central, Grand Rapids West Catholic, Grant, Hudsonville Unity Christian, Kent City, Montague, Muskegon Catholic Central, Muskegon Orchard View, Newaygo, Shelby, Whitehall and Wyoming Lee.



Cole Workman and Talon Parsons

Hole in One

submitted by Greg Beavers

Pine Hills Golf Course had a hole in one at Pine Hills on March 21st.

Keith Haase, hole 6 at 80 yards, using a Wedge. It was witnessed by Jerry Haber.

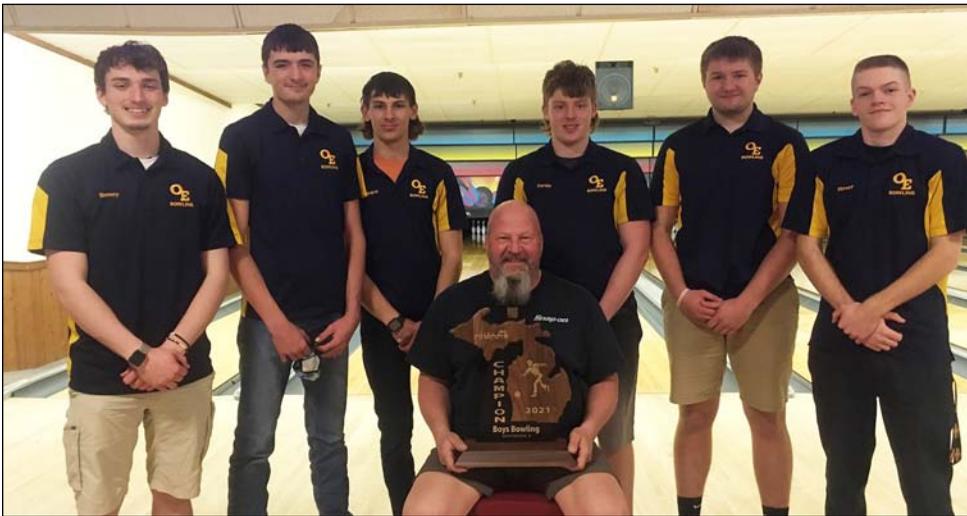


(l-r): Coach Goodrich, Sam Grubaugh, Kaia Spiess, Alexis Hart-Butcher and Coach Spiess. Photo by Marie Spiess

O-E Girls Wrestled at States

The girls from Ovid-Elsie Wrestling Team participated in the girls only state finals on Sunday, March 21st. The win eluded the girls but it was a great experience.

Sports



Seated: Coach Matt Fabus. Standing (l-r): Tommy Terpening, Evan Hehrer, Clay Wenzlick, Corbin Kelley, Ian Hehrer, Steve Zedemont.

Big Weekend for O-E Bowlers

submitted by Matt Fabus

Northern Lanes in Sanford was the site for regional bowling with 15 teams competing to move onto states. The top 2 teams and top 10 in singles moved on.

A different format was used this year to keep bowlers social distanced during competition. They bowled 4 Petersons fro team total and while bowling those games it was counted towards the singles event.

The OE boys had a great showing with taking top honors for team with a trophy, medals and most important a spot at states. The team scores were 777, 957, 965, 852 for a total of 3551. 2nd place was Caro with a 3424.

Ian Hehrer took top honors in singles with 183, 179, 235, 216 total 813. Evan Hehrer, brother to Ian, found himself in 10th place with 147, 212, 201, 159 total 719. Both will move on to state finals.

Other scores were Steve Zedemont placed 14th with 158, 192, 178, 163 total 691; Tommy Terpening placed 15th with 152, 168, 206, 164 total 690; Corbin Kelley placed 32nd with 137, 206, 145, 150 total 638. 70 bowlers competed in the boys singles.

OE girls would take 4th in team, 726, 780, 756, 795 for a total of 3057 missing cut by 22 pins.

In singles Mikayla Kelley took top honors with 183, 175, 187, 204 total 749. Morgan Douglass finished up in 10th place 156, 166, 194, 147 total 663. Both girls will move on to state finals.

Other scores were Lizzy Underhill placed 12th with 160, 151, 170, 166 total 647; Gracie Schultz placed 28th with 123, 183, 113, 152 total 571; Emma Fox & Ashland Particka split the 4 games 427 for 65th place. 74 bowlers competed in the girls singles.

Good luck at states!



Mikayla Kelley

Morgan Douglass

Laingsburg Girls Advance to District Final, 42-28 Over Pewamo-Westphalia

LAINGSBURG — Lorna Strieff connected for 13 points and Grace Graham added 9, as Laingsburg downed Pewamo-Westphalia, 42-28, in Division 3 Girls Basketball Ddistrict semifinal here March 24.

Coach Doug Hurst's Wolfpack (8-3) moved on to face unbeaten Byron for the Division 3 district title on March 26 at LHS.

It was the first time the Wolfpack had swept their Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) arch-rival in the same season since the Wolves' State Semifinal run in 2015. Laingsburg beat P-W, 40-19, earlier this season.

"The rivalry lives on," coach Hurst said following the dominant win. "Anytime we play P-W you can throw out the record books. Our girls came out with purpose, played hard and showed shut-down defense.

"That's what it takes to win come tournament time."

The Lady Pirates hung tough in the first quarter, as the host Wolfpack managed to scratch out a 10-7 lead. The 'Pack pushed the lead to 19-14 at halftime, then put the pedal down in the third stanza with a 14-6 run.

With a 33-20 advantage, Hurst's cagers never looked back.

In addition to Strieff and Graham, carrying the scoring load for LHS was Erica Wade with 8 points, Ellie Baynes 7, Hayleigh Martens 3 and Julia Starr with 2 points.

P-W was led by Dani Pohl with 13 points, including all 7 of the Pirates' markers in the opening quarter.

Marauder Girls Earn Runner-Up Spot in MMAC with 46-37 Win at CHS

CHESANING — Ovid-Elsie turned back Chesaning, 46-37, on March 19 to wrap up second-place outright in the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference standings (MMAC).

Braylon Byrnes and Ava Bates both scored eight points for coach Ryan Cunningham's Marauders, who finished the regular season 11-4 overall and completed their league slate at 6-1 behind unbeaten Byron. Evalyn Cole had six assists and four steals.

Chesaning fell to 7-5 and 3-3 marks.

Ovid-Elsie stretched a 7-5 first quarter lead to 24-14 by halftime. Chesaning cut the deficit in half with an 18-13 scoring edge in the third quarter but couldn't catch the Marauders in the fourth.

"I was really pleased with the way Braylon Byrnes and Hailee Campbell played, especially in the first half," coach Cunningham said. "Ava Bates did a great job distributing from the interior of their zone and in general, we did a good job taking care of the ball."

Cunningham said his team was able to contain Chesaning standout Karissa Ferry.

"Karissa Ferry was our focus defensively tonight because she does so much for that team and I thought we did a nice job on her," Cunningham explained.

Lilly Skary had 13 points for Chesaning. Meghan Florian had eight points, eight rebounds and four steals. Ferry finished with 12 rebounds and four assists.

Ovid-Elsie scoring looked like this: Kiah Longoria 2 2-4 6 points, Tristin Ziola 1 2-3 4, Caitlyn Walter 2 0-1 4, Braylon Byrnes 3 0-0 8, Evalyn Cole 3 0-0 6, Hailee Campbell 2 3-6 7, Madison Cunningham 1 0-0 3 and Ava Bates 3 0-0 8.



Braylon Byrnes



Ava Bates

Corunna Uses Strong Defense to Oust O-E Girls, 53-33

OWOSSO — Strong defense, quick passes and an aggressive offensive approach catapulted Corunna past Ovid-Elsie in Division 2 district semifinal action, 53-33, here March 24.

The Cavaliers generated 11 steals and three blocks, and Ellie Toney and Sydnie Gillett combined to score 43 points as Corunna advanced to the district final. The Cavaliers (12-3) squared off against eighth-ranked Lake Fenton (12-1) March 26 at Owosso.

Ovid-Elsie (12-5) was led by junior Caitlyn Walters' 10 points and two rebounds. Freshman Ava Bates added eight points and eight rebounds, and sophomore Kiah Longoria had four assists. "I thought our kids played hard, but I think we made some pretty critical defensive mistakes," O-E coach Ryan Cunningham said. "We had to try to take (Toney and Gillett) out but they're just better, they're good players and as hard as we tried they still found ways to make plays ... Sometimes you just have to kind of tip your hat to a team because they're better and tonight they were better."

Ovid-Elsie trimmed it to 14 entering the fourth quarter, but Gillett rattled off five straight points, including a three-point play after drawing hard contact.

Coach Cunningham, reflecting on the coronavirus-altered season, said he's incredibly proud of his team's effort. "We're thankful we didn't have any COVID issues on our team, we're thankful we got to play," Cunningham said. "We were one game out from the conference championship, we were one game out from being in the district final, you get your hopes up, you know, you want to see the kids go out with some success. It's disappointing to have it end this way, but I think when we step back and look at what the 2020-21 season had to offer, a 12-5 record with a lot of young kids is pretty good."

Scoring for the Lady Marauders included: Caitlyn Walter 3 1-2 10 points, Ava Bates 3 1-2 8, Hailee Campbell 2 1-2 5, and Evalyn Cole 2 0-0 4.



Caitlyn Walters



Kiah Longoria

Lake Fenton Runs Past O-E, 42-24; Ends Boys Basketball Season for Marauders

LINDEN — Ovid-Elsie's season ended with its third straight loss March 23, a 42-24 setback to Lake Fenton in a first-round Division 2 MHSAA Boys Basketball District contest.

Coach Josh Latz's Marauders (7-4) shot just 20 percent (10 of 50) from the floor and went 0-for-18 from 3-point territory.

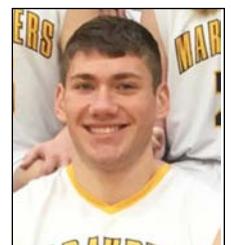
Cal Byrnes scored six points for Ovid-Elsie. Jackson Thornton scored five with seven rebounds.

Lake Fenton (6-6) advanced to play second-seeded Chesaning (11-2) at on March 25 in the District Ssemifinals.

Scoring for Ovid-Elsie in the loss: Cal Byrnes 2 2-2 6 points, Jackson Thornton 2 1-5 5, Keigan Ormes 1 0-0 2, Adam Barton 0 1-2 1, Dylan Carman 2 0-0 4, Logan Thompson 2 0-0 4, and Jacob Schaub 1 0-0 2.



Cal Byrnes



Jackson Thornton

Editorial



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Remington 522 Viper

The Remington 522 Viper was a rifle ahead of its time but was plagued with some minor quirks often amplified when combined with operator neglect and misunderstanding. The Weekly Sportsman likes to draw the comparison of this model to British sports cars manufactured in the 60's and 70's. When working right they are a dream to operate but both are often found in pieces and parts because the owner doesn't have the skills to reassemble them from their state of disrepair.

Produced from 1993 until 1998 this 5.6 pound semi automatic .22 was manufactured mostly of composite material with the exception of a few parts along with a steel barrel and bolt. The sleek and almost futuristic rifle was all black and fit comfortably to a shooters shoulder despite not having mounts for a sling and a rather obtuse 10 round curved magazine protruding. The all plastic receiver had an integral scope mount rail that made mounting optics a breeze. Early rifles had a very strong spring metal magazine which was later replaced with an all plastic version containing a very weak spring that didn't work as well to say the least. The biggest failure in the design was the inability to be easily disassembled and then reassembled in order to conduct cleaning maintenance by most operators. The rifle will sing if fired with high velocity copper plated bullets and kept clean and lubricated. As far as the magazine goes, keep it clean and lightly oiled and if you happen to have a plastic one replace it with an original metal magazine. Midway USA is currently offering an aftermarket metal magazine manufactured by GPC for only \$41.99.

Introduced just prior to the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban and in production for only five years there weren't many aftermarket accessories developed and sold. Apparently, Ramline may have offered a 25 round magazine. The Weekly Sportsman really likes this rifle because of its lightweight, accuracy, firing speed, and simplicity. No, it's not a Ruger 10/22 and can't be built for competition or the zombie apocalypse but its beauty is being an affordable and utilitarian .22 semi automatic rifle. The Weekly Sportsman recommends a metal magazine loaded with clean firing high velocity copper plated ammunition like CCI Mini Mags or Stingers to prevent feeding failures. Consider mounting a red dot or 4x compact scope to keep overall weight down and possibly adding a cordura shoulder sling. If you lack the simple skills of breaking down a rifle for cleaning then maybe you should choose something else.

-WS



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

Spring Travel Plans and Safety

Hey Andy,

My wife and I are planning a road trip to see our children and grandchildren in St. Louis, Missouri and Amarillo, Texas this spring during the first 2 or 3 weeks of April. Then traveling to Tempe, Arizona to stay with some friends. On our return trip we will be staying with our families again, later in the month. We have both had our COVID virus immunizations and are healthy. We usually travel well together and have good time. We desperately miss our family and it has been a long time since we have traveled and I want this trip to be perfect.

My biggest concern is my wife, who is 9 years younger than me and does most of the driving. I would like this trip to be fun with no stress and no contention about her driving. I only last about 2 hours and need a nap. She drives up to 5 hours and is better at handling city traffic. Even though she has driven for years as our primary driver, I cannot seem to rest when she is driving. I end up telling her to pass that semi, slow

down, speed up and stating the obvious and never allowing myself to relax. She has always gotten us safely to everywhere we go; I always seem to find fault and complain while she is driving. I don't want to be this way but I am.

My remarks upset her, then she is mad at me. She says I am a control freak and that I might as well be driving if I am going to tell her what to do all the time. Do you have any suggestions to make this a special trip and to calm me, so I do not stress her out while she is driving?

Nervous Traveler

Dear Nervous Traveler,
Sounds like a wonderful trip and not pressed for a specific time frame. I am guessing you will take I-40 West. You are looking at 30 hours of drive time. My first suggestion is to only drive 5 or 6 hours per day. Take a break every 2 hours. Using the roadside facilities, stretching your legs, and getting fresh air. Take some picnic supplies and lots of water to drink. Eat lunch at the roadside parks so you can limit cafes that may not be compliant with the CDC guidelines. National chain restaurants or drive-through food services can give you the assurance to practice social distancing and taking extra steps for disinfecting in public areas. Do not use gas station restrooms...too much human traffic.

Spend the night or two nights on the road between destinations. I like to find a hotel chain that I trust to use extra sanitization and cleaning steps to ensure a safe room to stay in. Many hotels have perks where you can earn points or free nights for future travel, if you make reservation on their 800 number.

Another important suggestion...Only travel during daylight hours. The traffic can be stressful in unfamiliar areas at night with semi-trucks traveling into the wee hours. If you see a point of interest, take a short detour. Be flexible on your travel time. Take breaks.

Before leaving, make sure you take all medicines. Let your doctor and your next-door neighbor know you are leaving. I am happy to hear you have your immunization, however, if you are concerned about any health issues, ask your doctor if you should take a supplement to keep your immunities at high levels or if there is something you should know before you leave for your trip. Wear a mask, whenever you stop for gas or go into public.

Now, dear nervous traveler, for your most important concern...your wife's driving. I think you need to figure out why you are prone to be instructional when it is not necessary. Do you need a nap or rest while she is driving? Take a nap or read a book or pray with your eyes closed. Do you trust her driving abilities? Either you do or your do not! Since she does most of the driving and you admit it your own fear that drives you to drive her crazy, you may want to give her the peace and quiet so she can concentrate on her responsibilities while driving. Sometimes suggestions or stating the obvious can be extremely frustrating for the "female" driver. Yes, safety is first, but trust is necessary, too.

Giving a quick friendly warning of a speeding car passing you or a detour she did not notice...maybe you need to say something... but if you are not in danger...you may want to think before you speak. If you take a wrong turn, just go to the next exit and turn around. No complaining. Find an activity to calm you and take a nap.

Have a wonderful time and enjoy the journey as well as the destination.

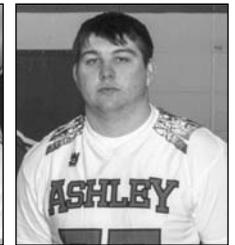
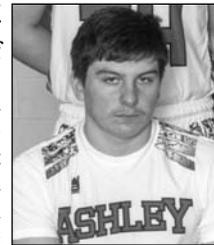
Andy @ask_andy@aol.com



Sports

Ashley Bears Win District Game

This has been a rough season for the Bears of Ashley, the boys had not won a game in the regular season, but that all changed this week when they took on the All Saints of Bay



Logan Drummond Aaron Drummond

City. The Bears were able to inch out a win with just a few seconds left on the clock. Ashley had the ball on the sideline and was able to get the ball to Aaron Drummond who put in a two to win the game for the Bears, 54-53.

Logan Drummond scored 14 points for the Bears along with 2 assists, 2 rebounds and 3 steals. Aaron Drummond added 11 points grabbing 12 rebounds and Evan Litwiller scored 9 points and nabbed 13 rebounds.

Lady Bears Lose to St. Charles

Ashley suffered a rough loss to the Bulldogs of St. Charles last week, 59-9. The Bears were led by the Wirt sisters Jenna and Sophia. Jenna scored 7 points and had 7 rebounds and Sophia Wirt chipped in a basket.

Lady Pirates Beat Lady Bears

The Ashley Lady Bears took on the neighboring ladies Pirates of Fulton in a district matchup this week. Ashley was unable to keep the game close as Fulton's size made things difficult for them. Fulton won the game 53-35.



Jenna Wirt Lydea Ergen

"Tonight was a good game to end the season, Fulton had some size that they used well to their advantage and hit some big 3 pointers to extend their lead. We played hard and fought the whole night which is all you can ask for as a coach" exclaimed coach Shaw.

Jenna Wirt led the Bears with 22 points and 8 rebounds, Lydea Ergen scored 7 points had 4 rebounds and 3 steals, Ashleigh Jelinek scored 2 points but grabbed 7 rebounds and had 2 blocks Alexyss McAllister scored 2 points and had 3 steals and Savannah Beebe scored 2 points and had 4 rebounds.

SPRING SPORTS



Watch for the upcoming Spring Sports Preview that will include Ashley, Laingsburg and O-E Teams

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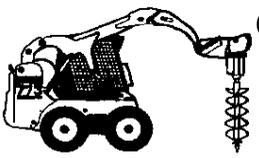
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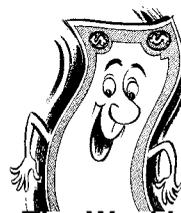
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Deadline Nears for LAFCU's 'Love & Equality' Art Initiative

submitted by Jan Jenkins

LANSING — LAFCU is inviting Michigan artists to create artwork that graphically depicts words of love and equality for a new art initiative aptly named Act with Love & Equality. The deadline is March 31.

The initiative will provide public reminders about what is important in daily life by showcasing 10 winning designs on billboards and via digital channels, including LAFCU's website and social media platforms.

"Acting with love and equality is important, especially now," said Kelli Ellsworth Etchison, LAFCU chief marketing officer and chief diversity officer. "We believe that as a credit union serving the financial needs of nearly 70,000 members, LAFCU has a responsibility to use its platform for good.

"We're stronger as a community when we're united. Love and equality will help pave the way for our unity and allow us

to heal, to find peace, to have empathy for others, to hope, and to embrace others not just despite our differences, but because of our differences."

Words from which artists can choose to graphically depict are Love, Humanity, Change, Peace, Kind, Empathy, Unity, Equal or One, Hope and Heal.

Submissions can be a wide variety of fine art, including paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, textile and quilted art, mixed media and digital media.

Information is at www.lafcu.com/loveandequality where applications and artwork can be submitted.

The contest is open to Michigan residents. Those under 18 years of age can participate with permission of a parent or legal guardian. Applicants do not have to be members of LAFCU.

New Exhibit Opens at Shiawassee Arts Center

submitted by Piper Brewer

The Shiawassee

Arts Center opens its second exhibit of 2021 featuring the work of artists Rhonda Sherwin of Williamston, Pamela Wilburn of Dimondale, Joel Ellis of Haslett, Jane Reiter of Lansing and Sheryl Stephens of Holt. The exhibit runs March 16 through April 25. The public is welcome to schedule an appointment to attend the 'Meet the Artist' event on Sunday, March 21 from noon -4pm. The exhibit is sponsored by Hon. & Mrs. Gerald Lostracco.

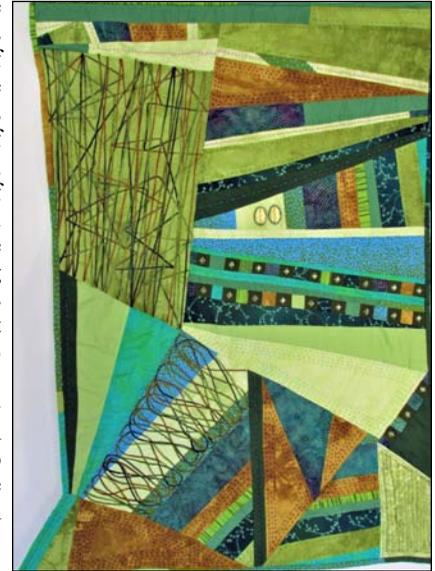


Exhibit by Jane Reiter of Lansing

Sherwin is a painter and has been an art teacher for over thirty years. Graduating from Michigan State with a BFA in printmaking she began her art teaching career in 1987. Guiding high school art students through the creative process was a parallel experience for her personal art that she continued to foster in her studio. She has shown work in Michigan receiving juror awards at the Michigan Arts Education Association Exhibit in East Lansing Michigan from 2015-2018.

Wilburn has a Bachelor's degree in Art Education and has taught in both public and private schools in Michigan. Before teaching she spent many years as a graphic artist and also served the Lansing Art Gallery as Education Director for a time. In addition to her formal education she has studied with many internationally acclaimed watercolor artists in order to hone her artistic skills. In Pamela's work, which is primarily watercolor, she tries to capture a moment in time that she finds stimulating, whether real or imagined.

Ellis artwork is currently displayed in businesses and private collections throughout Michigan, the Midwest, New York City and Washington D.C. Most recent acquisitions include Mercantile Bank in Grand Rapids, Shiawassee Art Center, PNC banks in Pittsburg and Dearborn, MI. A member of four greater Lansing artists' associations, Joel is honored to have several award winning paintings noted on his resume. Joel Ellis trained in a comprehensive program of art and design at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

Reiter, living in Delta Township, relocated from New Jersey to Michigan in 2000. Jane's academic background is in fiber, having earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in studio art. She uses mixed media collage as her primary expression, incorporating fiber, yarn and fabric along with stitching and gluing. Her love of color, pattern, texture and a sense of humor infuses her artwork. She is motivated by repurposing nontraditional materials into new and unexpected fabrics and objects. Her Mission: Follow an artFULL path!

Stephens has been designing uniquely original beaded creations for almost thirty years. Not only is she well versed in the many forms of structured pattern bead weaving, but she also specializes in her own unique form of freestyle embroidered and embellished beaded art. She also adds vintage items and fabrics to her designs, creating one of a kind jewelry pieces, accessories and clothing, along with wall art and décor items. Each piece is created using needle and thread, usually one bead at a time.

The Shiawassee Arts Center, located at 206 Curwood Castle Drive in Owosso, is open free to the public Monday through Friday 10-5pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-4pm. The Arts Center features the artwork of local and statewide artists in eight galleries including the Frieseke Gallery and a specialty Gift Shop. SAC, which is celebrating its 49th anniversary in 2021, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage participation and appreciation of the arts. For more information or to schedule your appointment call the Arts Center at 989.723.8354 or visit www.shiawasseearts.org



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