

Dave Wyrick Recognized with NAAE National Lifetime Achievement Award

submitted by Alan Green

NASHVILLE, Tennessee – Retired agricultural educator Dave Wyrick of Michigan is one of six individuals nationwide who was recognized with the 2025 National Association of Agricultural Educators' Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented during the 2025 NAAE Convention, December 8-12, in Nashville.

The National Association of Agricultural Educators bestows the Lifetime Achievement Award upon people who have retired from the agricultural education profession and who have contributed to the advancement of agricultural education on a regional or national level throughout their careers. This award program is sponsored by Ford Trucks.

Wyrick devoted 43 years to agricultural education, serving in a variety of leadership roles including classroom agricultural educator, high school principal, and Michigan FFA Executive Secretary at Michigan State University, a position he held for 16 years. During his tenure, he strengthened the Michigan Association of Agricultural Educators and Michigan FFA by improving financial stability, doubling membership, and leading the transition to an affiliated state association while securing statewide access to the Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET).

A strong advocate for educator development, Wyrick supported teachers through professional development workshops, intern training, and new-teacher programs. He also led the redesign of several key statewide initiatives, including broiler and rabbit curriculum and multiple career development event (CDE) processes. His efforts expanded future-teacher recruitment, strengthened endowment programs, and enhanced state officer development, leaving a lasting impact on agricultural education across Michigan.

Wyrick, a 1972 Ovid-Elsie graduate, spent 22 years as the Byron High School Agriscience Teacher and FFA Advisor. In 1998 he became Byron High School Principal until his retirement in 2005. His next chapter, a sixteen year stint, serving as the State FFA Executive Secretary/Treasurer at MSU, until a second retirement in 2021.

His commitment to FFA, throughout his tenure also included judging District and Regional Leadership Contests with the Byron FFA Alumni. He assisted the Michigan FFDA Association in various ways, including, registration at the FFA Convention and working in the awards room. He worked on the scoring at the State FFA Agriculture Skills Contests as well as Rabbit contest scoring.

He also participated at the National FFA Convention in various ways including being a SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) Grant Application evaluator.

NAAE is the professional organization for agricultural educators with over 10,000 members nationwide.

The organization advocates for agricultural education, provides advancement through professional development for agricultural educators, and works to recruit and retain agricultural educators in the profession. NAAE offers a variety of programs and services to support this three-pronged mission. The mission of NAAE is "professionals providing agricultural education for the global community through visionary leadership, advocacy and service." NAAE is headquartered in Lexington, Ky.



Dave Wyrick



Connor Hubbard (left) AG teacher/FFA Director at Ancona High School, nominated Mr. Wyrick for the award.

County Officials Attend Elsie Meeting

by Dawn D Levey

ELSIE – The regular meeting of the Elsie Village Council was held Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Representative of the Clinton County Sheriff Department including Sheriff Dush and Under Sheriff Gute was in attendance. Also, to begin 2026 committee appointments were made and a new clerk/treasurer appointed.

Officials took action to approve expenditures totaling Bills \$61,875.02.

Monthly updates included Heroes Park, Dorothy Ornelas, chair, reported that installation of bricks are on hold until the weather breaks. However, bricks are still available for purchase by contacting the Village business office – Mondays 9a-5p and Wednesdays 10a-6p. Next, Ed White presented an update regarding the Elsie Village Park. White requested that the officials consider developing a trail system behind the park and mapping erosion friendly trails. Officials would like to research the liability implications with further consideration to take place at a later date.

Jason Freeman, village president, presented the 2026 committee appointments. President pro temp, Todd Carroll; Street administrator, Joe Ondrusel; cemetery, Make Helt, Dorothy Ornelas, and Kory Witt; park, Sam Frink, Mark Helt, and Kory Witt; Hero Park, Dorothy Ornelas; Clinton Area Ambulance representative, Kory Witt; personnel, Mark Helt, Kory Witt, and Joe Ondrusek; budget, Dorothy Ornelas, Joe Ondrusek and Mark Helt, Brown Field will remain the same as 2025.

Destinee Bryce, clerk/treasurer recommended that Kelsey Kelly be appointed as the Elsie Village Clerk/Treasurer. Noting that the recommendation was given to Michigan Treasury. Officials unanimously approved the recommendation.

Police Chief Bryce reported that there had been seven traffic stops, complaints have decreased with a total of 27 calls for service. Police activity included traffic enforcement, motor carrier enforcement, one domestic complaint, two civil disputes and a number of public policing activities. Code enforcement is ongoing.

Destinee Bryce, manager, report. Discussion is taking place with Treasury regarding retaining the Wood Hill Group through an MOU. The monthly meetings are continuing with Michigan Treasury regarding the Deficient Reduction Plan. In addition, there has been interest in leasing the former EMS building discussion will take place with Treasury. Looking at grant funding to replace the 41 fire hydrants, noting that they were last replaced in 1938 FDCIT grant. Additional grants are being sought to improve the water system. EGLE is working with the Village on this project. FD Engineering will assist with completing the plans and engineering plans for the water project at a cost of \$28,000. There is a possibility that a grant will cover the \$28,000 however, it is not guaranteed. After brief discussion officials took action to commit to paying the \$28,000. Noting that Steve Adair from the Wood Hill Group agreed to the expenditure. In addition, there is interest in the former Lear Plant. Quotes will be opened January 14, 2026 for the Village audit. FD Engineering

Chris Ormes, Department of Public Works reported that there have been three water main breaks within the village. New meters are being installed and are in progress. State reports have been filed. Still waiting for motors for the south side lift station and equipment continues to be a challenge.

Freeman requested that the Ordinance Committee establish a meeting. After checking calendars and discussion the meeting was set for February 5, 6pm Village Business Office. The committee is in a divide and conquer mode.

Freeman opened the meeting up to public comment. He further outlined the perimeters. Each person will be given three minutes to speak, if comments get personal, the speaker will be shut down.

Dan Fabus, village resident offered assistance. When the pot holes are filled, he will assist with the process rolling them out. His offer was appreciated.

Next, Under Sheriff Mike Gute, of the Clinton County Sheriff Department, reported that on December 19, 2025 representatives of the Village Jason Freeman, Dorothy Ornelas and Police Chief Bryce attended the Clinton County Board of Commissioners meeting.

continued on page 3



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Social

'Mark Your Calendar' 4th Annual Cabin Fever Breakout Bazaar

submitted by Shirley Huguelet

The 4th Annual Cabin Fever Breakout Bazaar at St. Johns Lutheran Church in St. Johns, MI will be held Saturday, February 28th, 10am-3pm. Spaces are still available. For vendor info, please e-mail churchoffice@stjohns1869.org, or call the office (989 224-6796) Mon-Thurs. from 9am-1pm.

Ashley PTO Chili Cook-off and Dessert Bake-off

submitted by Kristen Ringle

On Sunday, February 22nd from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. the Ashley PTO will be holding a Chili Cook-off and Dessert Bake-off at the Ashley School Cafeteria.

\$5 donation gets you sampling tickets and you be the judge!

Registration and information deadline is February 15, 2026. Use this scan code.



Mark Your Calendar for Fundraiser Valentines Dance

On February 14th the American Legion Post 502 will be holding a Valentine's Day Dance to raise money for a new roof on their building.

Silent auction from 6:30-9pm. Timeless band will be playing from 8-11pm.

Dessert bar and water provided. BYOB

Tickets are \$15 each or 2/\$25.

Door prize winner will be drawn at the end of the night, no need to be present. 50/50 raffle.

If you are interested in donating, sponsoring, or ticket information contact: Mark & Jen Thorton (989) 307-2010/(989) 292-2726. Steve & Barb Sutliff (989) 492-6553/(989) 492-6552.



Soup & Sandwich Lunch Returns to Bannister UMC

Please join us for a Soup & Sandwich Luncheon on Tuesday, January 20th from noon to 1:30PM at Bannister UMC, 103 E. Hanvey St, Bannister.

Our next two Soup & Sandwich lunches will be February 20th; & March 17th so mark your calendars! We will save you a seat! Free will offering.

If schools are closed due to weather conditions lunch will be cancelled as well.

St. Cyril Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

submitted by Terry Ornelas

The St. Cyril Knights of Columbus, Bannister will be hosting a pancake breakfast. The proceeds from this event will benefit the Elsie Area Pantry. The free will offering breakfast will consist of pancakes, sausages, hashbrowns, fruit, rolls, and beverages.

The event will be held at the St. Cyril Parish Hall on Sunday, January 25th, from 11am until 1pm. All are invited to enjoy a delicious breakfast and help those in need.



are invited to enjoy a delicious breakfast and help those in need.

Mark Your Calendar

submitted by Diane Korienek

Saint Cyrils Czech-Slovak Heritage Mass will be held on Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

All are welcome to come celebrate their heritage.

Potluck and music. Table service and beverages are furnished.

For more information contact Diane Korienek (989) 307-1776.



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Hugs to all
Dorothy Martinka

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Tuesday: 8:30am - 12 Noon

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Friday: Closed

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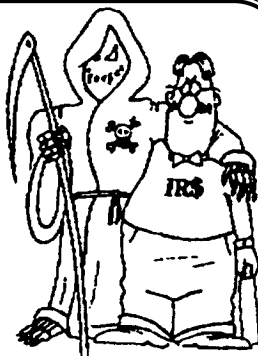
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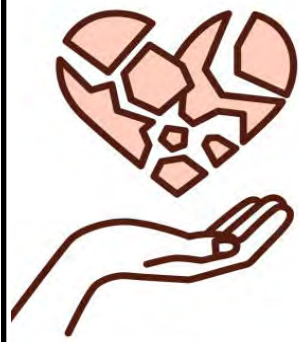
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“Grief is like the ocean. It comes on waves ebbing and flowing. Sometimes the water is calm, and sometimes it is overwhelming. All we can do is learn to swim.”

~Vicki Harrison

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Obituaries

Ronnie D. “Ron” Hartenburg

Ronnie D. "Ron" Hartenburg, a longtime resident of St. Johns, Michigan, died at his home on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at the age of 84.

Ron was born in Porter Township, Michigan, the son of Max and Enid (Whetstone) Hartenburg. He married the love of his life, Gwen Wieber, on July 20, 1963, in Westphalia. The two met years earlier at a local dance hall, where Ron—an exceptional dancer first laid eyes on Gwen. Wherever they went, especially at wedding receptions, people would stop and watch Ron and Gwen dance together, a joy they shared for a lifetime.

A hardworking man, Ron spent over thirty years employed with Sealed Power in St. Johns while also farming. After retiring, he stayed busy cutting wood and growing custom haying jobs for friends and neighbors and proudly served as sexton at Eureka Cemetery. He was especially fond of his beloved “Ron Deere” tractor, which he even drove in the inaugural Mint Festival Parade.

Ron was happiest outdoors and surrounded by family and the people he loved. He loved planting trees with his kids, taking trips to the Upper Peninsula, hunting gatherings, snowmobile parties, and leisurely drives through the countryside to check out other farms and crops—always comparing notes. Friday night “roundtables” in his pole barn were a cherished tradition, where friends and family gathered to share exaggerated stories and discuss all things big and small.

Comfortable in flannel shirts and a ball cap, Ron was known for his friendliness, generosity, and open door. His home was always welcoming, with a cold drink waiting in the fridge for visitors. He and Gwen hosted euchre tournaments at their home and enjoyed playing at friends’ houses, along with family pizza nights at Ryan’s Roadhouse. Ronnie was deeply loved, always willing to help others, and made everyone feel at home.

In addition to Gwen, his beloved wife of over sixty-two years, Ronnie is survived by his sons, Dean (Carrie) Hartenburg and Neil (Becky) Hartenburg; his daughters, Laurie (Gordon) Blackmer and Brenda (Jeff) Simmer; grandchildren, Cassie (Nick) Martin, Kara (Brent) Raymond, Breann (Max) Baker, Courtney (Brandon) Sutka, Hannah Hartenburg, Morgan Ballinger, Jared (Hannah) Ballinger, Madison Ballinger, Hayden Simmer, and Nichole (Austin) Smith; great-grandchildren, Liam, Anthony “A.J.,” Emmett, Tryton, Paisley, Willow, and Shae, and a great-granddaughter on the way; sister, Linda (the late James) Foltz; brother, Donald (Claudia) Hartenburg; sisters-in-law, Magina McMillan and Gladys Ryan; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his grandson, Jeremy; and his brother, Larry Hartenburg.

A Funeral Service was held at McGeehan Funeral Home, Keck-Coleman Chapel on Thursday, January 15, with Deacon Eric Elstro officiating. Burial Eureka Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made in Ronnie’s name to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The family was served by the McGeehan Funeral Home Keck-Coleman Chapel.



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Minister:
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Editorial



Religious Thoughts

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

What do you expect from life?

We all have certain expectations in life. In fact we have a great many of them.

Take even some basic things, like going to bed and expecting to wake up in the morning. Or when we go to our car we expect it to start.

We also have expectations when it comes to God. Most of us expect that God will give long life to us and our children, parents, friends, and relatives. But because of our expectations, sometimes we try to force God to do something or be someone that He isn't.

And since God is God and He is sovereign, we may find ourselves frustrated with God. He's not doing what we expected. When God doesn't act as we think He should, then we can have a crisis of faith.

We may step away from God slowly- not read the Bible as often. Pray a little less. Start skipping church on Sundays.

Or we may turn our backs on God quickly. Just bail out in hurt and anger, confusion and frustration with the Lord.

If that's where you are today, then God wants you to help you through it.

God is here saying, "I exist! I'm still here and still on the throne. Things may look bad now, but I'm still in control."

God wants you to see Him for who He really is and for you to know that He is here, He does care and He does love you and your children, parents, friends and relatives.

God is still working through the situation to bring about the resolution that He desires and He has not been surprised by anything.

All of these things about God are true, all the time. Even during the cold, dark days of winter.

Travel Writer Burt Wolf says, "We celebrate Christmas at the coldest and darkest time of the year. When the fields are completely barren. As a result, one of the messages that Christmas sends is, no matter how cold or how dark it looks now, warmth, light and growth will return."

<http://www.burtwolf.com/program-blog/tt-306>

This is one of the hopes that we have through Christmas and the cold winter season. That is, we have hope through the birth, sinless life, deity, death on the cross and bodily resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ; Jesus the Messiah.

It is the hope and the confidence that God is working. That even when we are going through a dark time in our lives, God is working. God is still here with us. Leading. Guiding. Providing. Healing. Helping.

Stepping into our world. As only God can.



Planet Perspectives

by Alison Kozlowski

Species Spotlight

There are many iconic animal species that are considered "kings of the wild." However, along with many other loved species, a lot of these animals have struggled for survival. Human activity such as deforestation, climate change, pollution, and habitat loss have posed the threat of extinction on 48,600 species. Classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, here are some animals that you might not have known are facing the risk of going extinct.

Tigers: Critically endangered, resulting from poaching and deforestation. Gorillas: Critically endangered, resulting from habitat loss and poaching. Whales: Endangered, resulting from whaling and plastic pollution in oceans. Elephants: Critically endangered, resulting from habitat loss and fragmentation Sea

Turtles: Endangered: Habitat loss, resulting from climate change, pollution.

Chimpanzees: Endangered, resulting from deforestation, poaching, and illegal pet trade. Rhinos: Critically endangered, resulting from habitat degradation and illegal wildlife trade.

We cannot sit back and accept a future without these animals. I believe in a world where we coexist with all animals in harmony. Be the voice for those who don't have one!

Ovid-Elsie Area Schools Earn A+ Credit Rating from S&P During Bond Refinance Process

submitted by Crystal Loynes

Elsie, MI — Ovid-Elsie Area Schools has received an A+ credit rating from S&P Global Ratings in connection with the issuance of the 2026 Refunding Bonds, which will refinance portions of the 2014 School Building and Site Bonds and the 2016 Refunding Bonds. The rating reflects the district's strong financial management, stable operations, and supportive community.

The A+ rating was issued following a detailed review of the district's finances and community characteristics. Superintendent Mark Horak and Business Manager Katie Kusnier participated in a formal ratings call on January 8, during which they outlined the district's financial position, long-term planning practices, and key aspects of the Ovid-Elsie community.

"This process reflects the district's commitment to careful financial planning and transparency," Horak said. "The 2026 Refunding Bonds do not extend the original bond length and were reviewed thoroughly to ensure they aligned with the Board's priorities and protected the interests of our community."

Board of Education member and Finance Committee Chair Mary Thompson played a key role earlier in the process, working with district administration to review the proposal and assist the Board in determining whether to proceed with the refinancing.

"The district itself doesn't see a financial gain, but taxpayers will benefit in the final year of the bond," Thompson said. "That's important to us and reflects our responsibility to the community."

Business Manager Katie Kusnier noted that current market conditions contributed to favorable refinancing assumptions.

"At current market rates, the refinancing is estimated to result in more than \$224,000 in interest cost savings for taxpayers in the district by replacing bonds with an average coupon of 4 percent with new bonds estimated at an interest rate below 2.80 percent," Kusnier said. "In addition, there is projected interest cost avoidance of approximately \$65,000 related to the School Bond Loan Fund due to borrowing less and repaying at a faster pace."

Kusnier emphasized that these figures are estimates and subject to change based on future taxable value growth and the variable interest rate associated with the School Bond Loan Fund.

The actual interest rate for the 2026 Refunding Bonds and final interest cost savings will be determined on the bond pricing date of January 29.



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

2025 Local Deer Harvest

The unofficial numbers are in and the local deer harvest is up this year from last year with the exception of bucks harvested in Clinton county. In addition the four local counties featured are pretty close in harvested buck to doe ratio. Statewide the harvest numbers are down and Michigan hunters across the state continue to harvest more bucks than does which is very uncommon compared to other states. Please look over the figures below.

2022	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Clinton	3441	2774	6215
Gratiot	3090	2350	5440
Saginaw	3615	2662	6277
Shiawassee	3205	2387	5992

2023	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Clinton	3234	2674	5908
Gratiot	2940	2422	5362
Saginaw	3706	2493	6199
Shiawassee	2974	2368	5342

2024	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Clinton	3341	3272	6613
Gratiot	3057	3609	6666
Saginaw	3938	3990	7928
Shiawassee	3087	3080	6167

2025	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Clinton	3308	3613	6921
Gratiot	3195	3722	6917
Saginaw	4508	4847	9355
Shiawassee	3169	3394	6563

2022			
State Total	172,022	131,034	303,056

2023			
State Total	155,490	117,654	273,144

2024			
State Total	157,270	142,206	299,476

2025			
State Total	153,544	141,407	294,951

-WS



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Editorial

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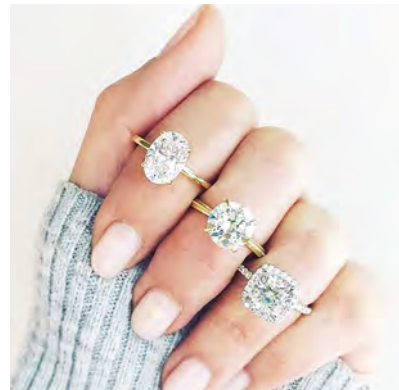


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Tips for Buying an Engagement Ring

In the grand scheme of life purchases, an engagement ring is just about as exciting (and daunting) as it gets. Every couple is different, and depending on your approach, you may be going for a total surprise with the ring, trying to discern clues from your significant other's Pinterest boards or Instagram following list, or choosing a ring with the full participation of your fiancée-to-be.



No matter what you're working with, there are many aspects to consider on your ring-buying journey, especially if you're starting from scratch with little or no jewelry knowledge. From the setting to the metal to the stone, the process of selecting an engagement ring involves an array of choices.

Aside from the less exciting (but important) elements of getting jewelry insurance or secretly ascertaining your partner's ring size, there is plenty of room for creativity and romance in the experience. Ahead, our guide to the entire process.

Don't get caught up in a jewelry trend. If you can, tap your partner for cues. Research their sources of inspiration. A stone doesn't have to be perfect on paper. Diamond size matters only if you (or your future fiancée) think it matters. Know where the stone came from. Decide on the stone's source. The ring setting shouldn't be an afterthought. Don't be afraid to think outside the box and choose an entirely unique ring. Consider working directly with a jeweler to create a custom ring. ...and leave enough time for it. For an extra personal piece, get creative with custom touches. Look into how well this ring matches the wedding band. Bring a trusted confidant with you to shop for the engagement ring. Clarify those measurements. Don't commit to a ring without knowing the store's exchange policy. Check out insurance policies on the ring. Picking the perfect ring has nothing to do with the price tag. Give yourself time.

How to Allocate Funds When Planning a Wedding

Whether it's a lavish, black-tie affair or a laid back gathering in the backyard, a couple's wedding day is a momentous, and often costly, occasion. According to the online wedding planning resource Zola, the average cost of a wedding in 2023 was \$33,000. That's a significant sum for couples to spend, and it's understandable if couples aren't sure how to allocate funds for their big day.

It's important that couples recognize what's most important to them when planning their weddings. Recognition of those priorities can help couples determine how to allocate their funds. Equally helpful can be how past couples have spent on their weddings. Utilizing data from its The Knot 2023 Real Weddings Study, the wedding experts at The Knot (theknot.com) have calculated general percentages of a wedding budget couples can devote to various components.

- Venue: 37 percent
- Catering: 28 percent
- Band: 12 percent
- Wedding rings: 9 percent
- Photography: 8 percent
- Flowers: 8 percent
- Alcohol: 8 percent
- Rehearsal dinner: 8 percent
- Videography: 7 percent
- Couples' attire: 7 percent
- Rentals: 6 percent
- DJ: 5 percent
- Wedding party attire: 4 percent
- Guest entertainment: 3 percent
- Transportation: 3 percent
- Ceremony music: 3 percent
- Cake and desserts: 2 percent
- Stationery: 2 percent
- Officiant: 1 percent
- Favors and gifts: 1 percent
- Additional jewelry: 1 percent

Couples with a keen eye might notice these percentages add up to significantly more than 100 percent. That's because the budgetary breakdown reflects personal preferences, individual couples' budgets and what couples can expect to spend on certain components. For example, The Knot data indicates a couple that prefers a band for their reception instead of a DJ may need to allocate roughly twice as much of their budget to accommodate that preference. In addition, couples who do not intend to pay for wedding party members' attire can find other ways to allocate those funds, which The Knot data indicates typically accounts for roughly 4 percent of a wedding budget.

Another variable to consider is family. According to The Knot data, couples allocated an average of 8 percent of their budgets to their rehearsal dinner. However, couples' parents may offer to pay for that meal, which can leave more room in the budget for other expenses. In addition, The Knot reported that the percentage of couples asking a friend or family member to serve as their wedding officiant rose from 37 percent in 2015 to 51 percent in 2020. Wedding officiants do not often eat up a significant portion of a couple's wedding budget (1 percent), but this is another expense that modern couples may not need to account for.

Weddings can cost tens of thousands of dollars. Couples who determine how best to allocate their wedding budgets may find it far simpler to plan their big day.

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7 Reasons to Hire a Wedding Planner

The average cost of a wedding in 2022 in the United States came out to roughly \$30,000, according to a survey of 12,000 couples compiled by wedding planning site The Knot. The survey also found New Jersey and Massachusetts topped the list of most costly states to tie the knot.

When committing to as significant a financial investment as a wedding, couples may want to do all they can to ensure their big day is a hit. There are many advantages to hiring a professional wedding planner, who can take the stress out of a process that should be fun.



1. Serves as a sounding board: Wedding planners can take couples' ideas and turn them into reality. Seasoned planners know how to help a couple's vision come alive.

2. Lightens the responsibility load: A wedding planner takes time-consuming responsibilities off couples' plates. These can include scheduling appointments, dealing with vendors, conducting walk-throughs of locations, and more. This can be a big asset to couples who work full-time.

3. Offers a wealth of knowledge: A good wedding planner has years of experience handling weddings and will know which aspects will work and which may not. Also, a wedding planner can likely handle tasks expeditiously, while couples with no experience planning a wedding may not work so quickly.

4. Helps couples save money: Knowledge and experience also comes with contacts in the industry that can help couples save money. The planner likely knows where to get the best deals, and may be privy to insider pricing and other discounts.

5. Serves as a buffer: While everyone wants weddings to be incident-free, conflicts can and do arise. A wedding planner can serve as a mediator or run interference between challenging family members or even vendors.

6. Reduces overall stress levels: There's a measurable difference between the stress experienced by couples who don't hire wedding planners and those who do. The main goal of a wedding is for it to be memorable and for couples and their guests to enjoy themselves. By leaving the planning to someone else, couples can arrive at the big day feeling more relaxed and ready to have fun.

7. There is an extra person around: Wedding planners can field questions or handle tipping and other tasks on the wedding day, freeing up time for couples to have fun.

Wedding planners can provide support, expertise, company, and industry contacts to make weddings go smoothly.

Key Bridal Trends for 2026

Personalization & Intimacy: Couples want weddings reflecting their unique story, favoring intimate guest experiences and meaningful details over large, generic events.

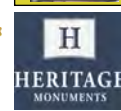
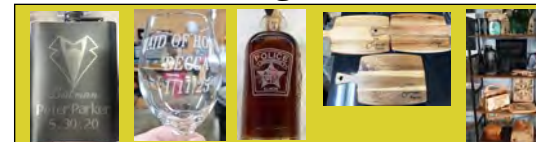
Sustainable & Eco-Chic: Eco-friendly choices are a major focus for conscious couples.

Statement Fashion: Bold, expressive bridal wear, including sheer elements and unique textures, is on the rise.

Content Creators: Wedding content creators remain a top trend for capturing personalized moments.

AI & Digital Integration: Companies like David's Bridal are embracing AI for planning and shifting to digital-first models.

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Sports

McClung 2nd at Fowlerville; Solid Start to 2025-26 Season Continues for O-E Wrestling Team

OID-ELSIE -- Another great week of wrestling is in the books at Ovid-Elsie High School.

The Marauders took on Byron and New Lothrop, in a MMAC double-dual, earning a big 63-3 win over Byron and coming up just short in a hard fought 39-36 battle with New Lothrop.

January 9, the Lady Marauders competed in a tough tournament in Fowlerville, with Haley McClung bringing home a 2nd place finish.

January 10, the male Marauders hit the mats at Lapeer High School in another challenging tournament. Three wrestlers finished in the top 8: Will Baese 4th, Levi Stewart 8th, Conor McClung 8th.

"Great effort, great growth, and a lot to build on as we keep pushing forward," explained the Marauder coaching staff.



Marauder Haley McClung finished 2nd at the Fowlerville Invitation on January 9th

LHS Wrestlers Host Jam-Packed Action in Wolfpack Invitational

LAINGSBURG -- Local wrestling fans thrilled to non-stop action as the LHS wrestling team hosted its annual Wolfpack Invitational here January 10.

Six teams competed in the round-robin dual-meet format, with coach Trent LaShauy's Wolves scoring victories over Byron 53-12 and Breckenridge 60-6.

LHS dropped a 17-7 nod to Hartland, 58-24 to Hastings and 48-36 to Brooklyn Columbia Central. The Hartland Eagles took home team honors by finishing a perfect 5-0.

Eli Stier helped lead LHS with a pair of victories, 17-2 over Spencer George of Byron and 10-0 over Jackson Parnell of Hastings.

Dlyan Phillips was another top grappler for the red-and-white, topping Aroa Fuente-Gonzalez of Breckenridge 11-0, Travis Millican of Columbia Central 9-2 and Jordan Alegas of Hartland 7-5.

Liam McDonald, at 126 lbs., lost by a 3:47 fall and a 1:25 fall among his three matches. Riley Hannahs lost 6-1 to Hartland's Malakai Williams, rallied for a 6-0 decision of Noah Eldred of Breckenridge, then scored a 5:25 fall over Lucas Milbourne of Columbia Central.

Logan Robinson scored a 17-6 major decision past Riggins Tunison of Hartland, then lost by fall to Jax Balderson of Hastings and Jameson Herbst of Byron.

Cameron Betts of LHS lost 23-10 to Anthony Hernandez-Ramirez of Hastings, then scored a 3:24 fall over Marcello Garcia of the Breckenridge Huskies. Betts followed that up with a :20 win by fall over Maverick Wickham of BCC, and a 3:23 fall to Taj Williams of Hartland.

The Wolfpack's Carson Helmer suffered losses to Bode Rangler of BCC 6-3, to Donny Smith of Hastings 6-1, and to Jason Pocock of Hartland by a :49 fall.

Kavin Ream lost three matches, by 1:07 fall to Carter Napoleon of BCC, :36 fall to Myles Drake of Hastings, and a :41 fall to Liam Brown of Hartland.

Charles Dehnert represented LHS with a 5-1 in over Dawson Smith of Breckenridge, a :24 fall over Reese Hammond of Hastings, a 3-0 win over Blake Sherwood of BCC, and a 3-0 loss to Hartland's Justin Gibbons.

Laingsburg's grappler at 285, Shaun Mills, lost 3-0 to Gunnar Wickham of BCC and 13-0 to Mathew Hatfield of Hartland.

Scarlett Ruhf also saw action for the Wolfpack, wrestling at 113 lbs.

Wolfpack Girls Stay Atop CMAC at 5-1; Romp Past Saranac 'Hawks

LAINGSBURG -- Mallory Woodbury led the way with 18 points and 6 rebounds and Lilli Morrill had 17 points to go with 6 rebounds in a resounding CMAC win for the host Wolfpack.

Dan Morrill's Lady Wolfpack walked away with a 62-35 victory over visiting Saranac that dropped the Redhawks to 3-3 in conference play, 4-3 overall.

For LHS, Brooklyn Holm chipped in 13 points and 5 rebounds, while Harper Strouse had 6 rebounds and 4 steals, and Payge Woodworth was the assists leader with 6.

Saranac was led by Mylee Reed with 12 points.

Laingsburg moves to 7-1 overall and 5-1 in the CMAC. They played Dansville Friday night at home in a key CMAC matchup.



#10 Mallory Woodbury scored 18 points and 6 rebounds during the game with Saranac. Photo by Burg Sports

Action Shots from Invitational

Photos by Burg Sports



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Sports

Wolfpack Boys Win for 4th Time in 7 CMAC Contests, 52-36

LANSING -- Laingsburg's varsity boys basketball team upped its record to 4-3 in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) with solid-team-effort, 52-36 victory at Lansing Christian.

Tim Beebe's Wolfpack improved to 4-5 overall with the win.

The Wolves enjoyed one of their best shooting games of the young campaign, with Cash Holton hitting 3-of-4 from the field, Kollin Bentley-Barr 2-for-4, Everett Rodriguez 3-of-5 and Leandro Dolega-Caceres 4-for-7 to lead a balanced scoring attack with 9 points.

Rodriguez added 8 points, Heaton 6, Bentley-Barr 6, Josiah Hawes 6, Kade McLean 3, Colton Heaton 3, Landon Freeman 3, Jake Rivet a pair and Collin Loghe a pair in the lopsided win.

The Wolves also hit the boards to the tune of 37 rebounds.

Wolves inch closer to .500 mark as cage season reaches halfway point

LAINGSBURG -- The 2025-26 prep basketball season reached its midway point with a convincing Wolfpack conference victory.

Tim Beebe's Wolves ran past Saranac, nearly doubling up the RedHawks, by a 47-23 margin.

The CMAC victory was the 5th for Laingsburg in 8 tries. Overall, they inched closer to the .500 mark at 5-6. Saranac dipped to 2-6 in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference, 4-7 overall.

LHS pounded the boards -- 27 defensive rebounds, 15 offensive -- in a throttling effort that never let the Hawks get close.

Josiah Hawes (12 points) and Leandro Dolgea-Caceres (10) each hit double figures for the victors. Jake Rivet scored 8 points, Cooper Mund 5, Landen Hart 4, Colton Heaton 3, Waylon Rowley 3 and Cash Heaton 2 in the triumph.

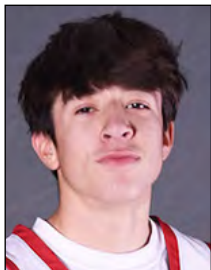
Vikes' defense stifles Laingsburg in 44-30 cage decision for Everett

LAINGSBURG -- The Lansing Everett Vikings slapped a suffocating defense on Laingsburg's varsity boys basketball team, limiting the Wolfpack to 25% shooting from the floor in a low-scoring, non-league victory here January 12.

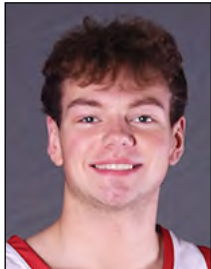
The MHSAA Division 1 Vikes improved to 4-8, while dropping Division 3 Laingsburg to 4-6 overall.

Both teams boasted solid defensive efforts -- the Vikings were stymied to 31% from the floor -- but Preston Williams broke through for 9 points, and Marrison May and Chris Davis each added 8 to a balanced Everett attack, that eventually led to a 44-30 triumph.

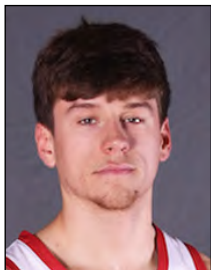
Leandro Dolega-Caceres led LHS with 7 points. Kade McLean added 5 markers, Everett Rodriguez and Josiah Hawes 4 each, Cash Heaton 3, Nate Malone 3, Colton Heaton 2 and Landon Freeman 2 in the loss.



Everett Rodriguez



Josiah Hawes



Leandro Dolega-Caceres

Owosso Depth Paves the Way to 145-37 Swim Win at Ovid-Elsie

OVID-ELSIE — Marshall Leavitt and Jolene Hebler each swam to runner-up finishes, but Owosso's overall depth spelled the difference in a 145-37 varsity swimming victory for Owosso.

The visiting Trojans captured a first place in every event. "I could not be more impressed with our team effort," Owosso coach Marcy Binger said. "It was a true team win from top to bottom."

Karl Dahlke's Marauders were led again by veteran swimmers Leavitt and Hebler. Marshall raced to 2nd place in the 100 freestyle (:59.93), a :03.75 improvement on his previous best time. He also claimed 3rd place in the 50 freestyle in :25.94, another personal best.

Jolene swam a 2:53.27 leg in the Marauders' 2nd place 200 individual medley relay. She grabbed a 3rd place in the 100 backstroke in 1:21.23, an improvement of :03.15 of her previous best.

Other top O-E finishes came from Lillianna Kennedy, 4th in the 100 breaststroke (1:33.77), and 4th in the 100 fly (1:41.45), Adalynn Roberts 4th in the 500 freestyle (7:13.64) and 4th in the 200 freestyle (2:47.34), Maria Gifre-Troya 5th in the 50 freestyle (:44.84) and Addi Vincent 4th in the 200 IM (4:16.19) and 5th in the 100 freestyle (1:23.91).

Other top Ovid-Elsie swims came from Emberlyn Kvalevog 5th in the 100 fly (2:00.19) and 6th in the 200 freestyle (3:18.71); Robert Kebler 5th in the 200 freestyle (2:57.86) and 5th in the 500 freestyle (8:32.74); Dakota Lott 5th in the 100 breaststroke (2:03.90) and 5th in the 200 IM (3:56.57).

Waverly eeks out 124-113 win over Ovid-Elsie swim team

OVID-ELSIE -- Lansing Waverly's Nathan Gross swam to four first place finishes, giving his Warriors just enough points to eek past the host Marauders in prep swimming action here January 13.

Senior standout Marshall Leavitt brought home three golds and a silver to lead the Marauders. Adalyn Roberts scored a first place, two runners-up and a third place to also help spark the O-E effort.

Other point scorers for Ovid-Elsie included Jolene Hebler in the 100 breaststroke and 200 IM, Robert Kebler in the 50 free and 100 free, Addi Vincent in the 100 fly, 200 freestyle and 100 free, Lillianna Kennedy in the 100 backstroke, Maria Gifre-Troya in the 100 free and Emberlyn Kvalevog in the 100 breaststroke.

Ovid-Elsie Bowling

submitted by Matt Fabus

Ovid-Elsie and Lakeville would take to the lanes at Richfield Bowl on January 10th.

The girls would fall 6-24. Scores were Abby Orweller 147, 120; Tori Dennis 146, 168; Haylee Arnett 114, 200; Brooke Pugsley 191, 155.

The boys won 26.5-3.5. Scores were Byron Odenbaugh 166, 142, Josh Brown 146; Brady Latz 137, 157; Teagan Ignash 204, 213; Devyn Pugsley 279, 231.

Next up at Colonial Lanes against Durand, Saturday, January 17th at 2:00pm. Both teams are undefeated in conference play, it should be fun and exciting to watch.

Ovid-Elsie Swimming and Bowling team photos will be in the next edition of the Meridian Weekly on Sunday, January 25th.

Coaches please remember to send in your weekly sports results! tomturek20032003 @ yahoo.com or news@meridianweekly.com

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Laingsburg Lions Free Spaghetti Dinner Returns January 20th

LAINGSBURG — The Laingsburg Lions in conjunction with the American Legion Post 248, 1240 W. Grand River Ave., Laingsburg will be holding their Free Spaghetti Dinner on Tuesday, January 20 from 5 p. m. to 7 p.m.

The menu includes spaghetti with or without meatballs, garlic bread, a beverage and dessert. There is no cost, but donations are gratefully accepted.

This is a zero-waste event, with the assistance of the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers.

To-go orders will be available; sorry no deliveries. Bring a friend, bring a neighbor and enjoy a great evening of community fellowship; the community truly coming together for the betterment of all. Everyone is welcome!

Laingsburg American Legion Post 248 Valentine's Dance

submitted by Cindy Suggate

The Laingsburg American Legion Post 248 will be having a Valentine's Dance on February 14th. The doors open at 5:30 pm, cocktail hour is 5:30-6:30, dinner 6:30-7:30 and music starting at 7:30. Music will be provided by Sudden Impact band. Tickets are \$30.00 each and there will be a cash bar. You can purchase tickets from the American Legion Post in the Dugout, texting Kelsey Curtis at 517-881-4584 or Cindy Suggate at 517-651-5669. All proceeds from the dance will go towards the parking lot fund. Get your tickets soon. We hope to see you there and hope everyone has a great time.

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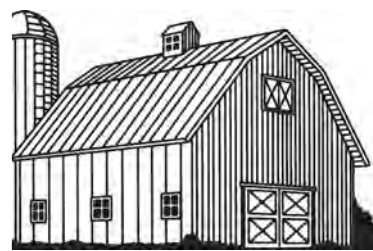
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CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF CLINTON NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

CASE NO: 25-32760-DE
Estate of
DANA J. PARKER, Deceased
Date of Birth: April, 23 1962
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent
DANA J. PARKER
Died on October 2, 2023
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased will be forever barred unless presented to Mary Ann Parker, personal representative, 1033 Green Leaf Drive, Ovid, MI 48866 within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Mary Ann Parker
1033 Green Leaf Drive
Ovid, MI 48866
(989) 998-6021

(01-18)

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE STATE OF MICHIGAN 29TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - FAMILY DIVISION COUNTY OF CLINTON

CASE NO: 25-32779-NC
In the matter of Teresa Ann BeDen
TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable) whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE:
Teresa Ann BeDen has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. at 100 E. State Street, 4th Floor Courtroom St. Johns, Michigan 48879, before Judge Lisa Sullivan to change the name of Teresa Ann BeDen to Teresa Ann Skaryd (01-18)

Call or Email The Weekly to get your ad here!
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STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF CLINTON NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

CASE NO: 25-32759-DE
Estate of
JACK LEE LAVERTY, Deceased
Date of Birth: October 11, 1953
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent
JACK LEE LAVERTY
Died on August 31, 2025
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased will be forever barred unless presented to Gregory Sanchez, II, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 E. State St., St. Johns, MI 48879 and the personal representative within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Gregory Sanchez, II
135 E. Elm St.
Elsie, MI 48831
(989) 307-5603

David J. Williams. P76932
1690 Watertown Pl. Ste. 400
East Lansing, MI 48823

(01-18)



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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE Connor Tracy and Kelly Tracy, (the "Owners") having failed to pay assessments required under the terms and conditions of the Bylaws of Nottingham Fields Condominium (the "Lien Claimant"), a condominium project as established by the Master Deed, recorded October 2, 2006 in Document Number 5106948, both inclusive, as amended, Clinton County Records, as evidenced by a Statement of Lien dated May 30, 2025, and recorded May 30, 2025 in Document No. 5354524, Clinton County Records. As of the date hereof, there is outstanding and unpaid on account of said assessment the sum of Three Thousand Seventy-Four and 59/100 Dollars (\$3,074.59), which sum is exclusive of interest, costs, attorney fees, expenses of collection, and future assessments. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 a.m. EST, on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The premises are located in the Township of Watertown, Clinton County, Michigan and are described as: Unit No. 44, Phase 2, 15217 Loxley Lane, Lansing, MI 48906, a unit in Nottingham Fields Condominium as established by Master Deed, recorded October 2, 2006, in Document Number 5106948, both inclusive, as amended, Clinton County Records, subject to, in accordance with, and together with all rights, privileges, duties and restrictions imposed, reserved or granted in said Master Deed, and also subject to easements and restrictions of record. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA '600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. NOTTINGHAM FIELDS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Dated: January 14, 2026 By: McKenna S. Rivers (P86383) Attorney for Lien Claimant 1700 E. Beltline, NE, Suite 200 Grand Rapids, MI 49525 (616) 726-2209

(01-18)(02-15)

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Tim Swanson of Elsie, Elected 2026 NAAA Treasurer

submitted by Amy May
ALEXANDRIA, VA -

January 8, 2026 - The National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) is pleased to announce that Tim Swanson has joined the 2026 NAAA officer team as Treasurer, following a productive term as Secretary. When Swanson first stepped into an NAAA officer role last year, he brought fresh energy and a strong focus on increasing membership. Now, as Treasurer, his role represents both continuity and growth and advancing membership as a top priority.



Tim Swanson

Swanson's path to agricultural aviation began on the farm. He farmed for years before thinking anything of ag flying. Today, Swanson owns and operates SLF Air, LLC, based in central Michigan, serving a wide area across the state. While potatoes are a major focus of his operation, Swanson also treats a variety of vegetable crops, particularly in southeastern Michigan.

In addition to running his business, Swanson has been deeply involved in industry leadership at both the state and national levels. He served as executive secretary of the Michigan Agricultural Aviation Association from 2015 to 2024, became an NAAA board member in 2017 and recently completed his term as NAAA Secretary. During his time on the board, Swanson served on numerous committees, including as chair of the Membership Committee in 2025 and again this year.

Swanson will serve as NAAA Treasurer in 2026, a role well-suited to his analytical mindset. Membership advocacy remains central to his vision, and he believes NAAA's unified voice is essential in addressing the challenges facing the industry. He encourages personal outreach as the most effective way to grow and strengthen membership.

As agricultural aviation continues to evolve, Swanson is encouraged by increased engagement from younger professionals. Grounded in his love for agriculture and aviation, he views the industry as a long-term commitment built on teamwork, service and steady progress.



Photo includes MHC OB nursing staff and Alex Seasock (far right), Government Relations Specialist with Memorial Healthcare.

Memorial Healthcare Awarded Grant to Further Obstetric Care Education

submitted by Vicki McKay

OWOSSO - Memorial Healthcare has purchased a new mass transfuser for its obstetrics care department after being awarded funding for a mass transfuser from the Maternal Health Education Grant by the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) Keystone Center and the Michigan Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (MI AIM).

"As healthcare operations in rural areas across the state continue to shutter vital service lines like obstetrics care, Memorial Healthcare has invested significantly in these areas to ensure our patients continue to have access to leading medical care when their lives are at stake," said Tom Kurtz, president and CEO of Memorial Healthcare. "The purchase of the mass transfuser and the grant that it made possible will further enhance our abilities to provide world-class community care to those we serve."

Mass transfusers can quickly deliver large volumes of blood and fluids to patients experiencing major traumas, severe hemorrhaging, and other life-threatening medical emergencies to prevent or treat clinical shock.

"Thanks to the MHA Keystone Center and MI AIM, we're able to further elevate our ability to provide patients with safe, effective maternal care - particularly in the moments when every second matters," said Megan Smith, chief nursing officer and VP of patient care services for Memorial Healthcare.

Memorial Healthcare is a designated Maternity Care Access Hospital, a facility that serves a community that would otherwise not have access to obstetric care. This makes continued investment in this service a high priority.

"As more Michiganders lose access to local, convenient maternal care, it's critical that we continue to support and invest in the organizations like Memorial Healthcare that are bucking the trend to not just ensure care is available, but provide cutting-edge treatment options to patients," said Amy Zaagman, executive director for the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health. "Memorial Healthcare's commitment to the improvement and expansion of care brings hope and peace of mind to patients."

Memorial Healthcare was one of four hospitals selected to receive a portion of \$25,000 in grant funds.

"We're proud to support Memorial Healthcare's efforts and the life-saving work they do on a daily basis," said Amy Brown, MSN, RN, NE-BC, chief nursing officer for the MHA. "At a time when maternal health clinics are closing despite urgent need, the MHA Keystone Center, MI AIM, and Memorial Healthcare's continuous investment in staff training is vital to the enhancement of patient safety, allowing healthcare workers to mitigate harm and uphold a culture of well-being."

For more information about Memorial Healthcare's OB/GYN services, visit: <https://memorialhealthcare.org/service/family-birth-place/>.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 8:30am - 12 Noon
Wednesday: Thursday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Friday: Closed

The **Meridian Weekly**

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