Shiawassee County Clerk Caroline Wilson has requested to hire a part-time Concealed Pistol License (CPL) clerk to work within her office at no more than 19 hours per week. The item was tabled during the Monday meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee, but was advanced to the Board of Commissioners during the Wednesday evening Committee of the Whole. After some discussion amongst committee members, only commissioners Cindy Garber (R-District 6) and Jeremy Root (R-District 5) voted against the request.

Wilson has shared that the clerk’s office is in need of the part-time employee due to the increase in CPL requests. In just a three-week period between July 24 and August 17, the clerk’s office has assisted with 285 CPL requests/renewals. The in-office process can take as long as 20 minutes each. In a recent 3-day period, the clerk’s office assisted with 34 requests/renewals.

To offer comparative numbers, the total CPL requests/renewals during the entirety of 2018 was 1,359. The total requests/renewals over the previous eight months, as per Wilson, are significantly increased.

The contact information for the Shiawassee Board of Commissioners, along with committee and meeting information is available at www.shiawassee.net. Meetings can be viewed on YouTube, as well.

Continued on Page 4

Recount of Durand Bond Votes Requested

A petition was submitted on the afternoon of Monday, Aug. 17 to the Shiawassee County Clerk’s office requesting a recount of votes cast on two Durand Area Schools (DAS) ballot proposals in the Aug. 4 primary election in Vernon Township Precinct 2. The petition, submitted by a Gaines Township resident, has initiated the second recounting of votes on the DAS’ primary bonding proposal, a request for up to $28,000,000 to be used for the purposes of:

“Erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to school buildings; remodeling, equipping and re-equipping and furnishing and re-furnishing school buildings; acquiring, installing and equipping or re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; purchasing school buses; and preparing, developing, improving and equipping athletic fields and facilities and sites.”

Preliminary voting results showed the proposal passing by only two votes, 1,468 to 1,466, with Shiawassee County voters approving the proposal 1,299 to 1,266, and Genesee County declining the proposal 200 to 169.

The Gaines Township resident’s recount petition stated the following:

“As an aggrieved elector in the poll book for Gaines Twp., Genesee County, with the Aug. 4, 2020 primary election, please consider this letter as a petition to request a recount of the results for Vernon Twp. Pct. #2, Shiawassee County as provided under MCL 168.863. I believe in good faith that error and wrongdoing, not fraud, was committed and non-Durand school district residents were mailed absentee ballots containing two ballot proposals for the Durand school district. There has been talk among the community that as little as five and as many as fifty

Continued on Page 4
Drive-Thru Testing Location Opened by Memorial Healthcare

Memorial Healthcare has opened a drive-thru COVID-19 testing location at 1637 W. Main St. (M-21) in Owosso, the home of the Memorial Healthcare Foundation. The location is open for testing from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and although residents can register on-site in-person, appointments are strongly encouraged.

The move to create this new drive-thru testing site was initiated by Andrea Kelly Garrison (right), a candidate for 85th District Representative, which began in early July. Shortly after the July Fourth holiday, Garrison started experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and set out to find the nearest, most affordable testing location available to her as a regular, “non-essential” citizen.

After inquiring in Shiawassee County, Garrison was able to purchase a test at the Swartz Creek Rite Aid, and after spending 10 days in self-imposed quarantine, received her result, which turned out to be negative.

Garrison’s unsuccessful search for a free, quick testing facility in Shiawassee County spurred her to reach out to Memorial Healthcare CEO Brian Long and Shiawassee County Health Director Larry Johnson. Garrison let the two health administrators know that they were “missing an opportunity to help their community by offering free testing,” even going so far as to offer assistance in searching for available funding options to cover the cost of testing in Shiawassee County. While Garrison’s efforts have not yet resulted in free testing for county residents, her inquiries did inspire Long and Johnson to work together to offer this new drive-thru testing site.

To make an appointment at Memorial’s drive-thru testing location, please call (989) 729-6422. This service is available to those interested in a COVID-19 diagnostic testing for screening purposes, for those experiencing mild to moderate symptoms (fever, cough, muscle aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea) and for those who have a known or suspected exposure.

A provider order is highly recommended. However, Memorial Healthcare is prepared to assist with an order if needed. The cost of Memorial’s test is $110. Results can generally be expected in 24 to 72 hours via the Memorial Healthcare online patient portal.

Additionally, COVID-19 antibody tests are available at Memorial Healthcare for $50 (self-pay). The antibody test does not require an order from a health-care provider.

**Owosso Moves Toward Fast Charging Station Plan – Site Undecided**

by Karen Mead-Elford, co-editor

Owosso City Council has approved the Owosso Main Street/DDA loan approval for $34,257 for plans to install an electric vehicle fast charging station, though the precise site has not been decided on. The loan amount will serve as match dollars for a PowerMIDrive grant or rebate toward the installation, with the total estimated project cost set at around $200,000.

During the Monday evening virtual meeting, council members voted 5 to 2 to approve the loan to OMS/DDA. Owosso Mayor Pro Tem Sue Osika and council member Dan Law were the no votes.

The condition council decided upon highlighted reservations on the original suggested location of the Fountain Parking Lot in downtown Owosso. Owosso Mayor Pro Tem Sue Osika (also an OMS/DDA member), along with council members Jamie Fear, Nick Piasek and Dan Law have all expressed concerns over the Fountain Parking Lot location – adjoining a dumpster area.

Several council members and DDA members were recently involved in a public question-and-answer meeting to discuss details regarding what could become the first such station in Shiawassee County. One member of OMS/DDA, James Woodworth, resigned during the middle of the process, allegedly over frustrations connected to city council questions on the project. It was shared during the OMS/DDA public meeting with council members that Woodworth had been instrumental in initiating the project, which would have been located in the parking area behind his AirBnB property – The Fountain Parking Lot.

In a memorandum from OMS/DDA Executive Director Josh Adams, the project process started in the summer of 2019, gathering information from downtown property owners and tenants. That input was used last November to apply for a Consumers Power/PowerMIDrive grant, which was awarded in January. The grant will cover 80 percent ($158,500) of costs connected to the purchase and installation.

OMS/DDA first approached council to request a loan on the remaining portion of the cost. Some discussion on sponsorships for matching funds has also taken place earlier this year, but with the pandemic, it was decided the timing was inappropriate. OMS/DDA will pay on the loan on a monthly basis – as it is believed that consumer use of the charging station will provide the money for the loan.

During the Monday meeting, Fear stated she recognized, “The future is electric cars.” However, she explained research suggests only about 900,000 electric cars are projected to join the electric car market across the U.S. over the next year. As Fear pointed out, the number is not that high – and hints that an Owosso fast charging station may not be utilized often enough to make the investment worthwhile. Fear did vote in favor of the station, mostly based on knowing the station can be sold if it does not work out, but shared she remained torn on the Fountain Parking Lot location.

Owosso Mayor Pro Tem Sue Osika was strongly against the station plan. Her research demonstrated to her that the station isn’t going to generate enough revenue to repay the loan. She also expressed concern over the timing of such a station in Owosso – her thinking being that the cost of the new technology will likely go down in the near future as competition builds.

Another concern Osika discussed is the proposed plan for a charging station to be installed at the PS Food Mart location in Perry. The PS Food Mart location, under the Folk Oil Company, is directly off of I-69 and so it would be a logical site for this type of station. Osika stated she thinks the Perry charging station will be operational before the end of the year.

The OMS/DDA plans, based on the grant, require a 440 DC fast charging station (Level 3), allowing for a vehicle to be charged in approximately a 20/25-minute window, depending on the weather (a cold battery charges slower). The rationale is that while a car is charging, the owner will have the opportunity to do some shopping or check out a restaurant. Electric cars on the market right now take roughly eight or more hours to charge from a typical home garage, though it costs less to charge from home.

According to one study by the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), an electric vehicle’s battery can deteriorate faster if Level 3 stations are used as the primary power source, but that is generally not the case. Level 3 stations are identifiable to electric car owners through apps. There are currently around a dozen Level 3 stations in Michigan. The average electric car owner spends $3 to $4 to charge a vehicle at a station at a given time.
Rep. Frederick: New Program Helps Michigan Residents Earn Free College Credit

State Rep. Ben Frederick has announced a new opportunity for Michigan residents to participate in free online courses to prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) and College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.

Frederick, of Owosso, said both exam programs give people a chance to earn free credits at Michigan universities and community colleges without taking coursework.

“This is a great opportunity for anyone who is thinking about furthering their education at one of Michigan’s colleges or universities,” Frederick said. “As an adult learner myself some years ago, CLEP examinations were a critical part of my ability to complete my degree in less time and with far less debt.”

To further advance Michigan’s Sixty by 30 goal – increasing the number of working-age adults with a skill certificate or college degree to 60 percent by 2030 – the Modern States Education Alliance has committed to paying for 10,000 CLEP exams for Michigan residents in the next year. The only responsibility that falls on program participants is to complete the Modern States coursework and then take the CLEP exam in their area of study.

Frederick said the partnership between Modern States and the College Board represents a potential contribution of more than $1 million in support of Michigan adult learners attaining a college degree.

“This program will save people time and money while putting them one step closer to earning the degree or certificate that paves the way for a new career and a larger paycheck,” Frederick said.

Registering for Modern States’ courses is free and easy. Learn more and get started at Michigan.gov/SkillsToWork.

To learn more about CLEP, visit the College Board’s CLEP website at clep.collegeboard.org.

REJECTED ABSENTEE BALLOT NUMBERS HIGHLIGHT NEED FOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

The majority of disenfranchised voters in this month’s statewide primary could easily have had their votes counted with small changes in law, preliminary data on rejected ballot numbers show. Of the approximately 10,600 rejected ballots, more than 8,600 (over 80 percent) were due to signature verification issues or late arrival – issues that could be fixed by bills already introduced in the state legislature.

“The data demonstrates that thousands of people who cast otherwise valid votes were not able to participate in the primary election solely because the legislature failed to act ahead of the primary,” said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. “With turnout and absentee ballot numbers expected to double or even triple in November, we could be looking at tens of thousands of Michigan citizens disenfranchised if the legislature again fails to act.”

Benson has been vocal in her calls for the Michigan Legislature to take up a series of election reform bills that would provide additional support to clerks and voters ahead of the November election. These include:

- HB 5987 would allow mailed ballots to count if postmarked by Election Day even if they arrive up to two days later.
- HB 5991 would require clerks to contact voters if the signature on the absentee ballot does not match the one on their registration.

Indoor Yard Sale Benefit for Kids

The Perry VFW/AMVETS Post will host an indoor yard sale to generate funds for the annual Kids Christmas event. The sale will be from 10 a.m. until closing on Thursday, Aug. 27 through Saturday, Aug. 29. Gently used merchandise, toys and other clean items in good repair will be accepted at the post from Friday, Aug. 21 through Tuesday, Aug. 25. The Perry VFW/AMVETS Post is located at 601 N. Main St. in Perry. For more information, persons may call (517) 625-3154.

SHIAWASEE REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce (SRCC) President and CEO Jeff Deason (top left) announced his retirement from the organization at the SRCC Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, Aug. 13.

“The Shiawassee region is losing a great leader. Jeff’s are big shoes to fill. He’s the face of the chamber, leading our small business community as a convener of diverse organizations and people, and being a behind-the-scenes but effective catalyst for much-needed change,” says Heidi O’Dea, SRCC board chair. “We are all grateful for his leadership on large projects such as the Armory and community events such as Oktoberfest. He is known as a leader among his Michigan chamber colleagues and will be missed in every one of the many networks in which he’s connected. We wish Jeff well as he moves on to the exciting next phase of his life.”

Deason has been with the SRCC for seven years, coming from Indian Trails where he was national sales director. During his tenure, Deason was awarded the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals’ 2018 Michigan Chamber Professional Award for his role as a chamber industry frontrunner in Michigan. He also conceived the idea for – and worked collaboratively to earn – a $150,000 Prosperity Award from Consumers Energy Foundation in late 2019 to transform part of the now-closed Owosso Middle School into an artists’ community when it is redeveloped.

His biggest accomplishment was overseeing the $5.5 million renovation of the Owosso Armory into modern, high-quality, class-A office space. Since its opening in June 2018, it has been at nearly full capacity, hosted multiple Armory Market and other community events and fulfilled its mission of being the hub of community and business partnerships in the region. Deason and his team worked for five years, navigating miles of complicated funding programs to make downtown’s newest gem a reality, according to O’Dea. His innovative fortitude resulted in a $1.47 million grant from the Michigan Strategic Fund, a division of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, as well as $1.24 million Small Deal Fund that combined funds from federal Historic Tax Credits and New Market Tax Credits through the National Trust Community Investment Corporation – the first such pairing in the nation as part of an NTCIC national main street initiative. Deason worked closely with Owosso Main Street and other key stakeholders to make this happen.

But it’s not just a beautiful building along the river Deason is largely credited for, says O’Dea. He leaves behind a legacy of collaboration, respect, excellence and good humor. “Through it all, my goal was to remain a positive influence among my peers, in the community and through every interaction I have had as I represented this organization,” Deason shared.

“Together, we have fulfilled many stretch goals as a board and staff,” continued Deason. “I could not be prouder of my team. They are not just coworkers, but friends and family I now leave behind to accomplish vital work. I will miss them greatly, but I know they are prepared and fully capable leaders who have only the best interest of the SRCC at heart.”

The board’s executive committee has appointed Sue Kadlek, SRCC vice president, as interim CEO while a search is conducted for a new leader. Kadlek has been at the chamber for 22 years.

To learn more about CLEP, visit the College Board’s CLEP website at clep.collegeboard.org.

(Related story, page 2)

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The Shiawassee Regional Chamber CEO Retires

( Courtesy Photos)

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The Independent - Sunday, Aug. 23, 2020
JARS Opened in Westown Owosso

JARS Cannabis opened on Friday, Aug. 14 at 901 W. Main St. in Westown. Shown on Wednesday, Aug. 19 is store manager, Emmy Ashak, with staff members, Deven and Austin.

The store is exceptionally clean, organized and brightly lit. Ashak shared they have been pleased with the initial community response.

JARS Cannabis will soon offer recreational products, as well.

(Independent Photo/Karen Mead-Elford)

Recount of Durand Bond Continued from Page 1

electors received and voted absentee with the wrong ballot. With a margin of only two votes deciding the election, it is easy to see the potential problem of having a valid election with accurate results to maintain the public’s trust and confidence in the electoral process. During the recount, under the authority of MCL 168.872, please examine and investigate the number of absentee ballots issued with the Durand proposal versus the number of absentee electors voting who reside in the Durand school district. If this is not possible, please look at the total number of Durand ballots compared to the total number of Durand electors casting ballots in this precinct. Following such tabulation, please make corrections and efforts to remedy the situation and make this election correct and true.”

County Clerk Granted Continued from Page 1

for all of 2019 was 1,320. However, between Jan. 1 and Aug. 17, 1,168 CPL requests/renewals were filed in the county clerk’s office – in just eight months – a number not far off from the amount for a full standard year.

Along with Wilson, the county clerk’s office also includes two full-time employees. Wilson has shared that she and her staff often work extra hours to accommodate the duties within the office in their service to the county. Add into the mix that 2020 is also an election year, which always mandates far more work, including extra training, within the clerk’s office, and Wilson put in the request for a part-time person to assist, starting at $15 per hour for a maximum of 19 hours per week.

The part-time clerk position was approved during the Board of Commissioners meeting on Thursday evening, Aug. 20, contingent on Work Share Program terms and conditions, as the Work Share Program may not allow for the creation of new positions. The position will be supported through CPL monies and not through monies allocated for supporting vital records services.

The Shiawassee County Clerk’s office is located within the courthouse in Corunna. The clerk’s office also handles birth records, death certificates, marriage licenses, passports, elections and more. For further information on requesting or renewing a CPL, please call (989) 743-2242.

As a side note, FBI background checks on individuals either purchasing a firearm or applying for a permit jumped almost 70 percent in June compared to one year ago. Related statistics can be found at www.fbi.gov.

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Drive-Thru Food Distribution for County Residents

The First United Methodist Church in Owosso, in conjunction with the Greater Lansing Food Bank, will host a drive-thru food distribution on Saturday, Sept. 19. Registration will begin at 9 a.m., and food will be distributed until 11 a.m., or until all food has been handed out. The First United Methodist Church is located at 1500 N. Water St. in Owosso.

Proof of residency – either a government-issued ID or mail with the resident’s current address – is required. Participants are asked to stay in their vehicle for registration and food distribution. Food will be placed in the trunk/hatchback, so please make room. Restrooms will NOT be available. Anyone exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 is asked to please stay home and arrange for someone else to bring identification and a note allowing them to pick up food.

This food distribution is open to any county residents experiencing financial hardship in need of food, especially due to the pandemic; senior citizens on fixed incomes; and families/individuals who have recently lost jobs.

For more information, call the Greater Lansing Food Bank at (517) 908-3680.

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The Independent • Sunday, Aug. 23, 2020

EVAN EGAN (far right) can be seen receiving his Tump Dingman Athletic Scholarship from Barb Dingman. Egan was a multi-sport star during his years at Durand High School, and the hard-working, even-keeled team leader plans to return to the program as a coach while studying education at U of M-Flint.

KYLE WINSLOW (left) has been awarded the 2020 Tump Dingman Athletic Scholarship. The 2020 Durand grad will be taking his baseball talents to Kellogg Community College. Presenting Kyle with his scholarship plaque is Barb Dingman.

(Courtesy Photo)

Tump Dingman Scholarships Presented to Durand Grads

The recipients of the 2020 Tump Dingman Athletic Scholarship are 2020 Durand High School graduates Kyle Winslow and Evan Egan. Kyle and Evan each received a personalized plaque, in addition to a $1,000 scholarship.

The Tump Dingman athletic scholarship was started in 2019 after the passing of Lavern (Tump) Dingman. Each year the scholarship is in memory of Tump and goes to Durand seniors who participate in athletics. Tump was a huge fan of Durand Area Schools and played numerous sports in high school.

The Tump Dingman athletic scholarship is primarily funded by a golf outing, with the generous support of a host of local individuals and businesses. This year’s Tump Dingman Scholarship Golf Outing was held on Saturday, June 27.

Brett Brown & Team took first place in the outing and Bernie Friend & Team finished in second place, followed by Matt Kelley & Team in third place. Finishing in 11th place was Mark Socia & Team.

Numerous raffle items were donated for the outing by Jessica Wilcox with Harper-Jackson Real Estate; Joann Glaser; Kathy Lincoln; Patti Hansen; Shaw’s Pharmacy & Gifts; Dan and Angela Dingman; Barb and Mike Dingman; Becky Fielder, 3 Blackbirds Creations; Derrick and Julie Alward and the Durand Area Schools trap team; and Lynn Pancheck.

This event would also not be possible without the numerous hole sponsors, including Billie Sleeper, Sharon and Karl Loomis, VFW Auxiliary 2272, Jim’s Pizza, VFW Post 2272, Chris and Joe Janca, Jerry and Craig Dingman and Kim Ellsworth, D-Railed Bar, Deisler Electric, Dennis Lepage and family, Watkins Brothers Funeral Home, Marc Stine with Stine Turf & Snow, Eric Kircher at Graff Chevy Durand, Rustic Impressions Photography, Zdlunie Farm Services and Riverside Market.

As well as Dianne and Bernard Friend; Betty Fuller and Iron Horse Pub; Shaw’s Pharmacy & Gifts; Roy, Noye and Warren Associates, CPA; Ralph & Connie Jones; Denise and Mike Robinson with Smokin’ in the D; Blackmore Rowe Insurance-Durand; North Newbury Masonic Lodge #161; Debbie Love, Larry and Mary Judson; Jeff and Kathy Smith; Jim and Sereley Burns with Clarkson Smiles; Jeremy Hart and Door Mart; Mike and Bonnie Shepard; Mike and Kathy Lincoln; Cecil Cole and Vision Lawn Care; Bruce and Lorry Benson; Steve and Stacey Childs, Paragon Reproductions; Christ Johnson and Allstate Insurance; Jessica Wilcox with Harper Jackson Real Estate; and the Dingman and Pancheck families.
Death Notices

The following information was updated Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 19.

Terry N. Hare, Jr., 45, of St. Charles, passed Tuesday, Aug. 12. A memorial gathering was Friday, Aug. 14.

Donna Mae Pierce-Armor, passed Wednesday, Aug. 12. No events are scheduled.

Bethany A. Davis, 50, of Swartz Creek, passed Wednesday, Aug. 12. A memorial service will be later.

Rex D. Reynolds, 99, of Corunna, passed Thursday, Aug. 13. A memorial graveside service was planned. A memorial celebration service will be later.

Sandra L. Sewell, 78, of Durand, passed Wednesday, Aug. 13. Cremation has taken place.

Rex D. Reynolds, 99, of Corunna, passed Thursday, Aug. 13. A graveside service was Saturday, Aug. 15.

Sandra L. Sewell, 78, of Durand, passed Wednesday, Aug. 13. Cremation has taken place.

Birthing

Jennifer O. Barnett, 73, of Owosso, passed Monday, Aug. 17. Arrangements are pending.

Jennifer O. Barnett, 73, of Owosso, passed Monday, Aug. 17. Arrangements are pending.

Ricky Lee Chrysler, 50, of Henderson, passed Tuesday, Aug. 13. Visitation was Monday, Aug. 17.

Katherine “Kay” E. (Koenigsknecht) Hufnagel, 81, passed Thursday, Aug. 13. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, Aug. 17.

Linda K. Nicholas, 57, of Owosso, passed Friday, Aug. 14. Graveside services were Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Winona S. Weber, 73, of Owosso, passed Friday, Aug. 14. Funeral services were Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Lloyd A. Moore, 78, of Swartz Creek, passed Friday, Aug. 14. Private burial will be at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly.

Virginia G. Digard, 88, of Swartz Creek, passed Friday, Aug. 14. A memorial service will be held later.

Hortense P. (Babinon) Fuoss, 97, of Chesaning, former of Oakley, passed Friday, Aug. 14. Funeral services were Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Donald Marrah, Sr., 85, passed Saturday, Aug. 15. Arrangements are pending.

James “Jim” M. Smith, 66, of Lennon, passed Saturday, Aug. 15. Private services will take place later.

Kenneth L. Ackerman, 85, of Birch Run, passed Saturday, Aug. 15. A memorial service will be held later.

Corabelle Arrington, passed Sunday, Aug. 16. A private service was planned.

Maryann E. Dedic, 67, of Corunna, passed Sunday, Aug. 16. Private family services were planned. A celebration of life will be later.

Joanne C. (Curtsis) Devuyst, of Ithaca, passed Sunday, Aug. 16. Funeral services were Thursday, Aug. 20.

Donald J. Jones, 93, of Perry, passed Sunday, Aug. 17. Graveseide services were Friday, Aug. 21.

Lyle R. Perrin, 83, passed Monday, Aug. 8. No services will be held at this time.

Lillian M. (Dierking) DeDie, 99, of Durand, passed Wednesday, Aug. 12. A celebration of life will be later.


Eric R. Stanton, 77 of Carland, passed Wednesday, Aug. 12. A private family graveside service was planned. A memorial celebration service will be later.

Pastor Eric R. Stanton, 77, of Carland, passed Wednesday, Aug. 12. A private family graveside service was planned. A memorial celebration service will be later.

Donna Mae Pierce-Armor, passed Tuesday, Aug. 11. A memorial sewing will be later.

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![Image](image.jpg)

**GOOD WEEK OF AUGUST 24, 2020**

**ONE OF THE AWARD recipients in the Wednesday Rock-a-thon fundraiser, the youngest Rocker for Respite, was Lani Carpenter, along with Nancy Collard and Lani’s grandmother, Sandy Zvolensky, a long time volunteer.**

(Courtesy Photos)

The Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee (RVS) Rock-a-thon event was held at St. Paul Episcopal Church on Wednesday, Aug. 19. The event is likely to be the only in-person event for the charity group for 2020. Donations are still being accepted.

Twenty Rockers for Respite (volunteers or friends and family of volunteers) participated, including two persons who participated remotely – Pan Griffi and Muriel Clark.

The agency provides patient and family caregiver education, case management and assigns volunteers to visit, usually weekly, to Shiawassee County residents. Volunteers usually provide two to three hours of friendly visiting each week, so the family caregiver can have respite time, and the person with health challenges (many of whom are frail elderly persons) can enjoy a friendly visitor.

Further donations may be dropped off at the RVS office at 710 W. King St., Owosso. The main entrance is on the parking lot side to the north. Donations can also be mailed in.

RVS thanks the donors, often given in honor of specific Rockers for Respite, St. Paul Episcopal Church in Corunna, Domino’s of Owosso, and special thanks to Helen Stump, Mable Reid and Darla Dunn.

As of Wednesday, the Rockers bringing in the most donations were Donna Nault with $2,585, Ruth Nick with $2,440, Jackie Hurd with $2,160 and Pat Elliott with $1,360. Other Rockers participating included David Stechschulte Jr., Carol Nama, Nancy Somers, Dar Walden, Lani Carpenter, Sandy Zvolensky, Paula Harris, Stasia Reyena, Helen Stump, Angela Nichols, Helen Howard, Jamie Donley a Baker College nursing student, volunteered at the event, along with Duane and Linda Ash, and Pastor Russ Merritt from St. Paul Episcopal Church.

Additional volunteers are needed and volunteer training can be set up at convenient times. There are many different volunteer opportunities. For more information, please call (989) 725-1127 or visit www.respitevolunteers.org. A Facebook page is also available.

### Memorial Announces Recipients of Annual Awards

Memorial Healthcare has announced the winners of its annual awards, which were recently presented during its National Nurses Week and Hospital Week celebrations.

Receiving the 2020 Nurse of the Year award was Paige Goulette, BSN, RN, Nurse Navigator at the Memorial Healthcare Institute for Neuroscience, and Terri LaRue-Taylor, PCT on ICU, was selected as 2020 Patient Care Tech of the Year. The Nurse of the Year and Patient Care Tech of the Year are chosen by Memorial Healthcare colleagues as a leader of patient safety, and acts as a patient advocate or leader of change. All employees are invited to place a nomination for an RN, LPN or PCT that they believe is a role model. Receiving the 2019 Employee of the Year award was Shannon Cooley, Payroll Coordinator, and the 2019 Nurse of the Year was Paige Goulette, BSN, RN.

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SCHLUCKEBIER HOOD WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP transitions into new Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Inc. office in former Drew’s restaurant location.

Shown in the front (from left) are Christine Mueller, Client Relationship Manager and Bridget Newbury, Client Service Associate. In the back are Robin Durepo, Senior Registered Client Associate; David Hood, AAMS®, Branch Manager; Senior Vice President/Investments; Paul Schluckebier, CFP® Managing Director/Investments and Kelly Schluckebier, Financial Advisor Associate. Client Service Associate David B. Hood is not pictured.

Stifel Opens New Owosso Office in Former Drew’s Location, Welcomes Schluckebier Hood Wealth Management Group

Stifel Financial Corp. recently announced that the firm’s broker-dealer subsidiary, Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Inc., has opened a new office in Owosso, welcoming in Schluckebier Hood Wealth Management Group. The new office is located in the former Drew’s Steakhouse building on E. M-21.

Joining with Stifel is the Schluckebier Hood Wealth Management Group, consisting of financial advisors Paul Schluckebier and David Hood. They come to Stifel from Wells Fargo Advisors, where they were responsible for $480 million in client assets. Their team also includes Kelly Schluckebier, Financial Advisor Associate; Christine Mueller, Client Relationship Manager; Robin Durepo, Senior Registered Client Service Associate; Bridget Newbury, Client Service Associate; and David B. Hood, Client Service Associate. Schluckebier was named to Forbes’ Best-In-State Wealth Advisors list in 2018, 2019, and 2020.

“We are pleased to announce the opening of our newest Michigan branch of Stifel in Owosso with the Schluckebier Hood Wealth Management Group,” said Alvin Spencer, Regional Director in Michigan. “I have worked with this team in the past and am thrilled to welcome them to Stifel – they are a great addition to the Michigan Market.”

Stifel Financial Corp. is a financial services holding company headquartered in St. Louis, MO, that conducts its banking, securities and financial services businesses through several wholly owned subsidiaries.

The new E. M-21 office can be reached by calling (989) 494-5474 or (888) 896-8883. More on Stifel is available at www.stifel.com.

WWW.DURAND.K12.MI.US

DURAND AREA SCHOOLS

School of Choice

A Model School Where Students Want To Be!

The Durand Area Schools’ District is accepting applications from parents of non-resident students for the enrollment of their child/children in grades and/or programs for the second semester of 2020-21.

To obtain an application for enrollment call (989) 288-2681 or visit our website at www.durand.k12.mi.us.

All applications must be submitted by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2020.

District Programs:

• FIRST Robotics
• K-12 STEM
• State Aligned Curriculum
• Highly Qualified Teaching Staff
• Advanced Placement Classes
• After School Academic Help Program
• Dual Enrollment with Mott Community College, U of M Flint, Lansing Community College and Baker College

• Career Technical Education Programs
• Preschool Programs
• Childcare Program Before & After School 6am-6pm
• Full Day Kindergarten
• Exceptional Booster Groups and Parent Involvement at All Levels!

We provide an exciting learning environment that motivates and engages students to reach their potential.

Call for a tour/meeting with the building principal today!

Bertha Neal Elementary PreSchool-1st grade
Principals Robert Dawson 989-288-2016
Robert Kerr Elementary 2nd-5th grade
Principal Amy Holek 989-288-2805
Durand Middle School 6th-8th grade
Principal Rebecca Shankster 989-288-3435
Durand High School 9th-12th grade
Principal Shannon Knapp 989-288-2684

AWARD WINNING:

FFA • FCCLA • Marching Band • Symphonic Band • Concert Band • Destination Imagination Teams • Drama Recognized State and National Athletes’ and Athletics’ • Art K-12 • Vocal Music at All Grades • FIRST Robotics
ANGEL’S HANDS OUTREACH in Westown hosted a backpack giveaway event in Owosso’s Bentley Park on Saturday, Aug. 15. The community response was enormous, since various needs have risen this year during the ongoing pandemic. Nearly 1,000 backpacks were available to the public. Several local businesses including Owosso Muffler Man, Domino’s Pizza and others participated in collecting the backpacks for the event.

The Salvation Army Owosso Citadel and several area churches were on hand to assist Angel’s Hands Outreach, under organizer Christiaal Sierra, with the giveaway. Life in Christ Church offered balloons and face painting, Victory Biker Church gave away new shoes and Wildfire Ministries handed out the backpacks and juice/beverages. Campgrounds-R-U, Owosso Speedway and Muffler Man provided raffle items for baskets.

Sierra shared that masks were available to anyone, adult or child, who wanted one and that the food provided was handled only by individuals who were both masked and gloved. Hand sanitizer was also available, and the maximum people allowed to attend at any one time, was kept at 100 or less. She was very pleased with the outcome of the event.

Sierra also said that any extra backpacks were available through the Salvation Army Owosso Citadel. Some were going to children in Pleasant Valley Mobile Home Park.

Angel’s Hands Outreach is located at 819 W. Main St., Owosso and can be reached at (517) 803-6745. The Salvation Army Owosso Citadel is located at 302 E. Exchange St. and further information can be found by calling (989) 725-7485.

Li. Justin Steckbauer took over as officer at the Owosso Salvation Army location in July 2019.

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GriefShare is a nondenominational group and features biblical teaching on grief and real-life stories of people who have experienced losses.

GriefShare workbook assists with note-taking, journaling and grief study. The videos feature top experts on grief recovery with dramatic reenactments about living with grief and individual area churches were involved in the giveaway. Life in Christ Church offered balloons and face painting, Victory Biker Church gave away new shoes and Wildfire Ministries handed out the backpacks and juice/beverages. Campgrounds-R-U, Owosso Speedway and Muffler Man provided raffle items for baskets.

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The Owosso VFW Post 9455 and Auxiliary are continuing fundraising efforts to build a second memorial wall at the post on S. Chipman Street in Owosso. Enough bricks have been sold to construct a second wall. The wall along with the first wall, will honor veterans who have served our country – many of whom are friends and neighbors. Public support is appreciated and will help make the second wall a reality as a tribute to this community.

Owosso VFW Post 9455 and Auxiliary are continuing to help with veteran needs and are involved in other community services, as well. Due to the pandemic, fundraising has been restricted to so donations are appreciated.

A steak dinner is planned for Sunday, Aug. 30 at 1 p.m. The dinner is $10 for adults and $5 for each child. The meal will include Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, vegetables, bread rolls and dessert. All guidelines provided by the Shiawassee County Health Department will be followed. Guidelines include social distancing, masks, sanitzer and limited seating.

IAFF Firefighters Launch Virtual Fundraiser for Muscular Dystrophy Association

As the COVID-19 pandemic affects communities across the United States, it has also impacted in-person fundraising for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). For 66 years, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has collected critical funds in the community – one dollar at a time – as part of the Fill the Boot program. But this year, due to social distancing, that is not possible. This summer, the Owosso Firefighters L504 Fill the Boot campaign will be conducted virtually at fillthebootдон.com/Participant/L0504.

Donations collected by Owosso Firefighters L504 will help meet the urgent need for the MDA’s Frontline COVID-19 Emergency Fund to continue services for people living in our community with neuromuscular diseases.

“For six decades, IAFF members have been at intersections across America with their fire boots to collect donations for MDA,” says IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger. “But the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing make that an impossibility. Virtual Fill the Boot will let our members continue to collect to help the MDA meet their vital mission of finding treatment and cures for muscular dystrophy, ALS and other neuromuscular diseases.”

“IAFF members display an unwavering support for MDA year after year, raising critical funds and awareness to help our families get the care they need,” says MDA CEO and President Lynn O’Connor Vos. “We are so thankful to IAFF and the Owosso Firefighters L504 for continuing their commitment to cure neuromuscular disease and to the flexibility to go virtual through this pandemic to protect everyone on the frontlines in our communities.”

Memorial Announces Recipients Continued from Page 7

currently in place or the system in place is not adequately preventing the potential for patient, visitor or staff harm. This annual award is chosen from those individuals who are recognized as receiving a monthly award in the previous 12 months.

Memorial Healthcare thanks its over 1,400 talented and giftid individuals – physicians, nurses, clinical and support staff and volunteers – who continue to take health care to new heights of excellence each and every day.

Place Your Garage Sale in our classifieds section.

989-723-1118 owossoindependent.com classifieds@owossoindependent.com

OFFICE OF THE SHIAWASSEE COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER
NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND REVIEW OF APPOINTMENTS

Notice is Herewith Given that on August 27, 2020, the Shiawassee County Drain Commissioner will hold a Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries and Day of Review of Apportionments from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Shiawassee County Drain Office, 1024 N. Shiawassee St, Corunna, MI 48817.

Please take notice that the Review will be conducted following the guidelines of Michigan Governor’s Executive Order 2020-10, Executive Order 2020-115, Executive Order 2020-129, Executive Order 2020-147, and all other Executive Orders that may be applicable at the time of the Review. If an Executive Order is issued that prohibits the Review in person at the Drain office, then link to a remote meeting by Zoom will be available by calling the Drain office at (989)743-2398 or going to the Drain Commissioner’s website at https://www.shiawassee.net/Drain-Commissioner/. In either event, in lieu of attending the Review in person or remotely by Zoom, any interested person may also participate in the Review by calling the Drain Office at (989)743-2398 on August 27, 2020 at any time from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Day of Review is for the purpose of reviewing and revising the boundaries of the Drainage Districts below, and also to review the apportionment of benefit for the Drains for each parcel and municipality within the Drainage District. Persons wanting to discuss the proposed revisions to the boundaries of each Drainage District can be reviewed at https://www.shiawassee.net/Drain-Commissioner.

The Day of Review is an opportunity to review the Drainage District boundaries and apportionments with the Drain Commissioner or a member of his staff. The Drain Commissioner and other staff members will be available to assist individuals throughout the day, and make revisions where necessary. There is no need to schedule an appointment for a specific time on the Day of Review.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the Day of Review should contact the Shiawassee County Drain Commissioner’s Office at (989) 743-2398 or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the Day of Review to request reasonable accommodation or other assistance. You may appeal the Drain Commissioner’s decision to revise the district boundary to the Shiawassee County Circuit Court within ten (10) days, and you may also appeal the determination of apportionments to the Shiawassee County Probate Court within ten (10) days.

A general description of the lands by section number proposed to be added or deleted to the Drainage District boundaries will be made.

TOWNSHIP OF WOODHULL
AUGUST 5, 2020 REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M TOWNSHIP HALL

Board Members Present: Supervisor Kay Nickols, Treasurer Pam Sile, Clerk Sandy Winans, Trustee Rick Betts and Trustee Tom Jelenek. The regular meeting of Woodhull Township was called to order by Supervisor Kay Nickols at 7 p.m.

Delegates or Representatives of Manar Costerian (Annual audit report for Township finances). Representative Nicholas Kossaras gave the annual audit report for Woodhull Township. After the report, Mr. Kossaras spoke the concerns of the Township needing to get into compliance with the State in regards to several financial accounts not with the BS&A software program. Suggested to have training for employees new to the software program. Discussion was held with the board members, Trustee Jelenek stated the Township needed to set a target date of September to get Woodhull financial records in compliance.

The following actions were taken at the regular meeting:

Agenda: Motion by Clerk Winans to approve the agenda. Supported by Trustee Jelenky. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes: Motion by Clerk Winans to approve the minutes from July 1, 2020 with correction of supporting Trustee Betts. All ayes. Motion carried.

Board Comments:

Treasurer Sile reported for the month of July, Revenue Sharing $47,848.00, General Services $5,587.50, General Checkings $48,079.93, Tax Account $877,31. Park Savings $37,632.47, Cemetery Fund $75,659.62, CD 5454 $105,937.22, CD 5344 $102,290.32, 96 CD $10,457.97 all totaling $839,259.85. Supervisor Nickols brought forth questions regarding treasurer’s reports, revenue sharing amounts. Board discussed Chart of Accounts, Cash Handling procedures, cash security, Treasurer’s report subject to audit.

Clerk Winans gave report on the August Primary Election. There were 798 Absentee ballots cast, 294 in person ballots cast for a total of 1092. The new AV board and second laptop and tabulator purchase allowed for a smooth Election. We will be following up with the Postal Service in Perry on getting AV Board and second laptop for the November General Election. Thank you to all of the election inspectors, most especially Deputy Galilei for spectacular work in this election.

Supervisors report: Motion to adopt COVID-19 rules per governor’s order. Attendees wear masks (EO2020-153) and indoor gatherings limited to 10 (100-161).


Planning Commission No July meeting, no report.

Public Comments: Brought forth questions regarding the Township FOIA policy.

Approval of Bills: Clerk Winans reported payroll for the month of August totalled $11,304.00 using check #8 21766 thru 21772. The August bills in the amount of $149,593.42 using checks #8 21764 thru 21753 and autopay bills of $1,586.30.

Trustee Jelenek motioned and Trustee Betts supported to pay the July bills as presented. Roll Call taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

FOIA hourly wage: Supervisor Nickols moved to and supported by Clerk Winans to change the hourly wage from $9.00 to $11.00 an hour. Roll Call taken. All in favor. Motion passed.

FOIA email fee: Board discussed need for added fee, and FOIA rules. Trustee Jelenek moved to table a decision to add a fee for email response FOIA requests Supported by Trustee Betts. Roll Call taken, all ayes. Motion carried.

Approve LSW Emergency Services Budget: Trustee Jelenek moves and supported by Clerk Winans to support the approval of the LSW Emergency Services 2021/2022 Budget. Roll Call taken, all ayes. Motion carried.

Old Business: New locks for Election storage and Clerk's office.

New Business: Lights to be replaced with LED bulbs.

Public Comment: Brought forth the laptop computer agreement to be added to September meeting agenda.

Supervisor Nickols motioned and supported by Trustee Betts to adjourn. Motion passed.

“A friend is one before whom I may think aloud.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson
Memorial Healthcare Foundation Set to Kick Off Healthcare Hero Fundraiser

The Memorial Healthcare Foundation is excited to announce “A Hero’s Feast” fundraising event. This is a drive-thru dinner event featuring delicious delights from the Wrought Iron Grill, Korner Pub, Cupcakes and Kisses and Murtle’s Handmade Chocolates.

The event will take place on Thursday, Sept. 10 on Cass Street in Owosso. Participants are asked to enter from S. Cedar Street off of M-21 in Westown next to Daystarr. All proceeds from the event will go toward the purchase of gift cards for Memorial Healthcare heroes that have worked the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tickets are $50 per person and must be purchased in advance by texting “MHHFHERO” to 243-725 and clicking on the menu, or by calling the foundation office at (989) 729-4675. Presenting sponsor of the event is Spence Brothers Construction.

Letter to the Editor

Independent editor, Enough already!

A local group, Owosso For Change, has “demanded” changes in school curricula to confront racism, white supremacy, homophobia and a list of other bigotries I assume they see as rampant in our community. They want a ‘proactive plan to eliminate oppression and bullying.’

Ugh – where to start? First off, is there anything more bullying than adults with a captive audience of children telling those children they have bigotry in their hearts and carry guilt about events that happened before their parents were born – simply because of the sin of their skin color?

As a former Owosso School Board member for 8 years, I can assure you that we already ask much of teachers in preparing our children for the future without asking them to be substitute parents, clergy or social workers.

It was said we need “frank and open dialogue” about these issues. Does anyone believe this? Frank and open dialogue about racial disparities is not allowed today! Any disagreement or suggestion of a solution that does not see people as either oppressors or victims because of their racial or other identity group is met with howls of “racism” and labels of “fascist” and “Nazi.” The only acceptable response is to bow your head and apologize for the evil in your heart that they assure you is there.

The vast majority of us are disgusted by this, but too many fear the consequences of speaking up – the character assassination and even destruction of their livelihoods. But can we stand by silently anymore? They are coming for our children. We have to say “ENOUGH!”

Enough assigning guilt based on skin color or any other group characteristic!

Enough condemning an entire community because of the alleged actions of a few who have not even been identified.

Enough thought and speech control.

Enough hating the failures of our past but ignoring the present.

Enough condemning an entire community because of the actions of a few.

Enough assigning guilt based on skin color or any other group characteristic!

Enough thought and speech control.

Enough hating the failures of our past but ignoring the present.

Enough condemning an entire community because of the actions of a few.

Gregory Brodeur, Owosso

*OWOSSO*
Memorial Healthcare Foundation Drive-thru Dinner

Thursday, Sept. 10
Memorial Healthcare Foundation will be hosting “A Hero’s Feast.”
$50 per person.

Text MHHFHero to 243-725 for more info and tickets by Wednesday, Sept. 9 at noon.

Owosso VFW Post #9455
519 S. Chipman St. • (989) 723-8655
Aug. 28 - Fish Fry (One & Only), 5 p.m., $9/meal
Aug. 30 - Swiss Steak Dinner, 1 p.m., $10/meal
Wednesdays - Burger Nights, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Sept. 10 – Euchre Resumes, 5 p.m. (doors open at 4 p.m.)
Sept. 13 – Breakfast Resumes, 8 a.m.
Dine-in or take-out.

Rep. Frederick Backs Plan Emphasizing Safe Return to School for Michigan Students

State Rep. Ben Frederick has joined the legislature in approving a bipartisan agreement to help get Michigan students safely back to school – whether it’s in-person, online or a hybrid approach.

Frederick, of Owosso, said the plan will allow school districts to work with local health experts and determine the best course of action for students, teachers and families in their communities. While in-person attendance is not required at any grade level, it is strongly encouraged particularly for grades K-5 when it can be done safely.

“The emphasis of this plan worked out between the legislature and Governor Whitmer is on providing the resources, guidance and flexibility Michigan schools need to get students back to their schoolwork safely,” Frederick said. “As a parent with special needs children, I have been particularly appreciative of the exhaustive work which has been done by our local districts on behalf of our students. Within this bipartisan plan, each school district continues to be empowered to determine the process that works best for their community based on input from doctors, educators and parents.”

Frederick said providing parents with the opportunity to voice their concerns is crucial to keep the school district and community informed of needed adaptations and outcomes. Under the plan, school boards will reexamine and recertify how their districts deliver instruction to students at monthly board meetings for the duration of the 2020-21 school year. Additionally, locally-determined benchmark assessments will provide detailed information to parents and teachers about where a student needs additional help with remediation, a widely expected necessity following the interruption in educational offerings in recent months.

The coming school year will also pose significant additional costs to school districts as they work to impose new safety standards and innovative teaching methods, and the legislature dedicated a total of $583 million in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds to Michigan schools, including:

• An additional $350 per student across the board, ensuring schools have the resources they need to educate children;

• More than $50 million in hazard pay for educators who have been flexible and innovative in the face of unprecedented change; and

• $18 million for safety measures and local benchmark assessments to ensure kids stay on track with learning.
Gov. Whitmer Urges Census Bureau to Restore Oct. 31 Deadline

Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Oregon Governor Kate Brown, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, Washington Governor Jay Inslee, Colorado Governor Jared Polis, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker and Vermont Governor Phil Scott have sent a joint letter to the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Commerce urging them to reinstate the Census collection and response period to Saturday, Oct. 31. The Census Bureau recently slashed the period by an entire month, to Wednesday, Sept. 30.

In the Trump administration’s last-minute, under-the-cover-of-darkness changes to the U.S. Census deadline threaten our ability to get an accurate count, which will be used to determine Congressional representation and federal funding for the next decade,” said Gov. Whitmer. “It is more important than ever that we be able to reach and count every Michigander to ensure we receive funding for essential programs to help Michiganders recover from the COVID-19 crisis and be successful over the next decade — services like child care, education, foster care and special education. I urge the U.S. Census Bureau to restore the Oct. 31 deadline to give states the time needed to get a complete and accurate count. I’m also calling on all Michigan residents to complete the Census immediately, whether it’s online, by phone or by mail, to ensure our communities receive the resources they’ve worked so hard to earn.”

In April, Congress and the White House agreed to extend Census count operations through Oct. 31 in light of the extraordinary challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. There is still a possibility that Congress will act to extend the statutory deadline for delivering the population count beyond Dec. 31.

Despite this agreement, in August, the U.S. Census Bureau, which is a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, quietly announced they were shortening the 2020 Census deadline to Sept. 30.

Historically, the U.S. Census has undercounted minorities, immigrants, those living in poverty and young children. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed, confirmed and highlighted pre-existing inequities in Michigan and disproportionately affected communities of color, making it all the more important that these populations are counted.

In Michigan, 3.3 million people are considered Hard to Count (HTC) based on the Census Bureau’s own Low Response Score calculation, which factors in internet access, rental rate and more to determine which areas are less likely to respond to the 2020 Census. With the shortened timeline, the Trump administration is making it nearly impossible to ensure these HTC communities are counted and as a result compromising funding for all Michiganders.

Whitmer Administration Applies for Federal Unemployment Funding

The Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) has submitted an application to the United States Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) for funding that would provide an additional $300 per week payment to Michiganders receiving unemployment benefits.

“Right now, there are an unprecedented number of Michiganders who have lost work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This program will provide some much needed support for families that are struggling to put food on the table or pay their bills, but it’s a short-term

Bright Beginnings Learning Center is looking for qualified applicants for Infant-School Age Care.

Taundra Faynor
(Owner/Director)
CDA Preferred
18+ Years of Age

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Sunday, Aug. 23, 2020

LOCAL RESIDENT Cindy DeShano is proud to announce that she has become the author of her first book, titled “Much Love, Cindy DeShano.” The book is comprised of weekly inspiration, motivation and encouragement for everyone.

“It’s nearly a year of Monday morning email messages I began to share back in 2010 when I worked at a local window manufacturing plant,” explains DeShano. “These weekly inspirational messages were sent to my co-workers on Mondays, and in return, I would sometimes receive their email responses, which are also shared in my book.

“I would take everyday things like a thought, a song, a verse, a prayer, a sermon, a poem or a daily situation to show how God speaks to us, uses us and reveals Himself to us every day. ’‘Much Love’ was written for us to learn to stop and take notice of the small things AND big things alike in His big beautiful world.”

DeShano adds that, “Life can be crazy, and it has been a long process for me to finish, but I finally did finish converting those email messages and responses into book form, and I sent it to get published during the coronavirus shutdown.”

The book is available on Amazon, in paperback or Kindle – and also on Barnesandnoble.com in paperback.

In addition and almost simultaneously, DeShano became a contributing author to the book “The Christ Collective: A Global Homage to Jesus Christ,” which is also available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle form. This book is a collection of writings from believers around the world – all pointing to Jesus.

DeShano has lived in Montrose almost her whole life, and in addition to becoming a first-time author and running an eBay business called Cinni Winni’s, she is also the secretary at a local United Methodist Church.

“Many things in my life have become a dream come true,” shared DeShano. “And being secretary at a local United Methodist Church. totally excited to announce this news to my friends, family, neighbors and one, I am already mulling around another book to write. Dreams do come true, and I am totally excited to announce this news to my friends, family, neighbors and

(Courtesy Photo)

City of Owosso Brush Pick-Up

Due to COVID-19, events are rapidly changing and there may be updates or changes to the brush pick-up program. The city of Owosso will update residents to any changes as they happen.

The city of Owosso’s brush pick-up program begins Wednesday, Aug. 26. It may take several days for brush to be picked up throughout the entire city. Brush pick-up will continue on the last Wednesday of each month through Oct. 28. It is not necessary to call to register an address for pick-up. The placing of brush curbside should not occur earlier than the Sunday evening prior to the monthly pick-up commencement date.

Residents are urged to use the city of Owosso leaf/brush drop-off site located on Aiken Road (just south of Industrial Drive). The site reopened Saturday, April 4 and will be open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until the end of the leaf season (usually the first Saturday in December). This service is for city residents only. Proof of city residency must be presented.

On Aug. 26, DPW crews will begin to cover the entire city, moving along as brush volumes permit, recording each street as it is completed. No return trips will be permitted once DPW crews have completed brush pick-up on a street. It may take several days for brush to be picked up in the entire city.

Brush Collection Rules:
• Brush must be out to the curb by 7 a.m. on pick-up day. No brush piles are to be placed at the curb before Sunday evening of the pick-up week. Tickets may be issued.
• Brush must be no larger than three inches in diameter and no longer than eight feet long.
• Remove all roots, stumps and dirt.
• Place brush with the biggest cut end toward the curb — neatly stacked away from trees, sign posts, guide wires, fire hydrants and fences.
• Do not place brush on sidewalks or in the street.
• Do not brush in alleys — it will not be picked up. Tickets may be issued.
• Piles not conforming may be left until corrected.

The following material will NOT be collected:
• Brush cut or trimmed by contractors (persons hired by property owners are responsible for disposal of material)
• Material cleared from lots or undeveloped property
• Material in boxes, bags or containers
• Yard waste and grass clippings
• Building materials of any kind

Brush is described as tree and shrubbery trimmings not exceeding three inches in diameter or eight feet in length. Brush will be removed at the curb on, or as close to, the brush pick-up day as possible. It may take several days for brush to be picked up throughout the entire city.

Anyone with questions is asked to please call (989) 725-0550.

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Whitmer Administration Applies
Continued from Page 12

band aid that falls short of what’s needed,” said Governor Whitmer. “A robust Congressional recovery package that meets the scale of this crisis is what’s needed to help individuals who have lost work as a result of the pandemic get through this unprecedented time.”

The UIA estimates that under the program, about 910,000 Michiganders would receive at least $300 per week in supplemental benefits. The program allows for existing Unemployment Trust Fund payments delivered by Michigan’s Unemployment Insurance Agency to count as 25 percent matching funds required for participation. Eligible claimants will be paid benefits retroactive to Aug. 1. It is unclear at this time how long funding for the program will last.

“We look forward to receiving a response from FEMA in order to implement and distribute these additional funds to Michiganders as quickly as possible,” said UIA Director Steve Gray. “Michigan workers are advised to continue their bi-weekly certifications as they normally would and do not need to contact the UIA or make changes to their MiWAM account to receive these additional funds.

Law Enforcement Encourages Safe Driving as Summer Ends

Throughout the remainder of August and the 2020 Labor Day holiday weekend, police departments, sheriff’s offices and the Michigan State Police are encouraging motorists to celebrate safely and make smart driving decisions. During a three-week period – from Friday, Aug. 14 through Monday, Sept. 7 – there will be increased enforcement and additional messaging about the dangers of driving impaired on the roads.

“The aim is to drastically reduce deaths and serious
Continued on Page 14

Making Music is its Own Reward

Owosso Musicale has received the National Federation of Music Club’s Choral Award for outstanding participation in choral music for the 2019-20 season. This year only 10 national awards were given to exceptional clubs throughout the nation.

“The 15 members of Owosso Musicale Chorus work diligently to prepare for each performance;” choral director Carol Jantzke said. “I would like to thank chorus members; soloists; Donna Benson, our music outreach director; and Ann Ferden, accompanist, for their musical diligence. While it was wonderful to receive this national commendation, a major activity of Owosso Musicale is to give awards to eligible music students within Shiawassee County.”

These music students range in age from middle school through college. The auditions for monetary awards are judged by two professional adjudicators, who award points calculated on performances the day of auditions. The awards program committee members review the judges’ scores and determine the monetary awards for each participant.

The committee chairperson is Carol Janetzke. Members are Karen Bontrager, Judy Dantzer, Andrea Rathwell and Jim Rigoulot.

Owosso Musicale President Susan Rigoulot said, “The board of directors and I are concerned, looking at this coming year. Typically, we sponsor monthly music performances throughout the year. During this time of COVID-19, we consulted with the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs. The decision was made to cancel all programs in 2020. We are looking hopefully to 2021, realizing that there may be a need to have creative programming.”

The members of Owosso Musicale can be seen at The Meadows in Owosso for the group’s Holiday Music Outreach to the community.

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Gov. Whitmer Joins Coalition of Governors to Protect Voting Rights and Voter Access

Governor Gretchen Whitmer has joined the governors of Oregon, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Nevada, New Jersey, California and Minnesota in pledging to uphold the integrity of the November general election and to ensure every voter can vote safely, whether by mail or in person at the polls. The governors’ pledge is in response to unprecedented attacks on voting rights and voting access, and the United States Postal Service by President Trump.

“As we prepare for record voter turnout in the November election, we must do everything we can to ensure every American can vote safely,” said Gov. Whitmer. “We have already had two historic, successful elections this year while battling the COVID-19 pandemic. We are prepared to utilize what we have learned to maximize safety, while protecting every Michigander’s right to vote and access to the ballot. I encourage everyone who can to make sure you’re registered to vote and to request your absentee ballot as soon as possible. And I want to thank Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson for her round-the-clock work to ensure safe and secure elections.”

The governors agreed to:

- Carry out the Nov. 3 general election, as mandated by law;
- Work with Election officials at the state and local level to ensure that the right to vote is accessible, safe, and secure;
- In coordination with election officials, communicate with voters about the possibility of delayed results in some states due to increased use of mail-in voting and the status of the courts post-election; and
- Ensure that any substantive allegations of voter disenfranchisement or election fraud are quickly and thoroughly investigated.

Injuries caused by impaired driving,” said Michael L. Prince, Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) director. “This should be a time for friends and family to enjoy the final days of summer. Impaired driving puts everyone at risk and is always unacceptable.”

Officers will be on the lookout for motorists under the influence of drugs and alcohol throughout the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over enforcement period. In Michigan, it is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher, although motorists can be arrested at any BAC level if an officer believes they are impaired. Michigan has what is commonly referred to as a zero-tolerance drugged driving law.

During last year’s Labor Day holiday, there were 10 fatalities, with three fatalities involving alcohol.

On average, a driving under the influence charge can result in $10,000 in attorney fees, fines, court costs, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, car towing and repairs, etc.

To increase awareness and encourage safe and sober driving there will be a paid media campaign, including a video titled “Toe Tags” that focuses on the tragic results of drugged driving. The video can be found at www.youtube.com/ohsp.

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PAPYRIK PHOTOGRAPHY 226-5545. 1000s of color photos of St. Joseph's Hospital parking lot in the late 1960s. Call 226-5545.

THE Independent - Sunday, Aug 23, 2020 - 15
So when you think about successful teams, what are the characteristics that come to mind? Before I share the characteristics that come to my mind, consider that COVID-19 has affected countless aspects of our lives in big and small ways. For those families that have school-age children, hard education decisions that fit best with their family, have had to be made. In whatever decision was made, whether it was to keep children home and learn online, attend school in person or a blended approach to the school day, Corunna Public Schools is prepared to meet the needs of all students.

But back to championship teams. Every GREAT team I was a part of either as a player or coach, had players who shared the following attributes:

- They cared more about the team than their individual successes.
- They knew they were part of something that was bigger than themselves.
- They sacrificed individual glory for the good of the team.
- They knew that to accomplish championships, they had to put the work in.
- They were focused.
- They cared for and loved each other, even during times of disagreement.
- They held each other accountable for doing the right thing, especially when the coaches weren’t around.

What does this have to do with school? Everything! As superintendent, I cannot assure you that Corunna Public Schools has a championship team! Never in my more than 30 years in public education has that been more apparent than this year. In this political climate. In the middle of a global pandemic.

Our championship team has been spending all summer working on the logistics of how school will look in a face-to-face and online environment this year when school starts tomorrow (August 24). We are prepared and ready to adjust our plans if and when the pandemic health guidelines warrant. They are full of positive energy, communicative, collaborative and connected to the needs of our families. They must be creative and innovative and blaze the trail through uncharted lands. They had to rethink every aspect of the school day and work collaboratively with their staff on the new order of business.

They want the very best for their own children and for your children. Teachers and support staff will build relationships with students whether it is through online learning or face to face.

The quote, “Adversity doesn’t build character. It reveals it,” is 100% true about our championship Corunna Public Schools’ team. Our staff is beyond reproach.

I would also like to share with you our latest project taking place in the district. The November 2015 bond provided the ability for our district to make many improvements and upgrades to our building and facilities. The bus garage is the latest (and final) major project being done with bond money. The bus barn now has a new roof, new siding and reconfigured bay entrances to better meet the needs of the transportation department. As a district we are continually grateful for the residents of the district who supported us in 2015 and continue to support the Cavaliers today.

Winning team There’s still time to be a Cavalier. Corunna has a long history of excellence in education, and this year will be no different. We have the friendliest, hardest-working teaching and support staff around. If you’re looking for a place that has old-school values coupled with a 21st-century vision, look no further than Corunna. Find out why nearly 40% of our families have made Corunna their school of choice. Call (989) 743-6538 to join our championship team.

Job Opportunities We are in need of filling a few paraprofessional and food service positions. These are great jobs for parents who want to match their child’s school schedule, If you are interested (or know of someone who might), please call Central Office (989) 743-6538 or check out our website for more information.

Sense of humor We can all use a little levity in our lives right now, so I wanted to share a quick story with you. My middle son Josh, who celebrated his 25th birthday last Sunday, started his teaching career in Mesa, AZ a few weeks ago. Below is the actual text conversation the two of us had regarding his first day (which has been done 100% virtually in his district at this time).

Me: “I bet you had a great first day of school! Your students are lucky to have you! Love you, Daddio”
Josh: “It wasn’t a dumpster fire. Not a bad day at all! LOL!”

Custodians The entire custodial department has done an outstanding job this summer preparing schools for reopening. Custodians play an important role in the safety and health of students, staff and the community. In addition to ramped up disinfecting and sanitizing for COVID-19, they also keep the school running smoothly.

Planning, Planning and More Planning Administrators, supervisors, teachers and support staff members have spent a lot of time preparing for the new school year. They have implemented and are adapting practices to allow physical distancing to help ensure the safest possible return of students during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Classrooms may look a little barer this fall as teachers have removed all non-essential supplies and furniture, along with personal items. This will allow for a faster and more efficient disinfecting process in the classroom. Office managers will now greet students and visitors through Plexiglass barriers at each office desk. Every aspect of the school day has been closely looked at and modifications have been made for students attending school in person. The first day of school is scheduled for Monday, August 24.

2015 Bond Work Continues Mark Ackley is shown outside the bus barn on Tuesday. The bus barn will receive some of the last upgrades being done in the district with November 2015 bond dollars. A new roof, siding and reconfiguring the bus bays and resurfacing the new parking on the south side of the barn are all items that are to soon be completed. Changing the entrance to the bus barn for busses will allow more parking spaces for Middle School and athletic events.

Don’t miss out on the opportunity to become a Cavalier! Schools of Choice application period for the 2020-2021 school year is open until September 11th. Openings in ALL grade levels. Call (989) 743-6538.