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Volume 40 ★ Number 75

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March 3, 2024



**CURWOOD FESTIVAL 2024 Pageant winners, from left: Curwood Princess Nevaeh Lopez, Miss Curwood Teen Madison Strauss and Miss Curwood Queen Marisa Rose.**  
(Courtesy Photo)

## Curwood Festival Pageant Crowns 2024 Winners

The 43rd Annual Miss Curwood Festival Pageant took place Sunday, Feb. 11 at the Owosso Performing Arts Center. The Emcee of the night was Co-Chairman of the Pageant Committee, Carrie (Mowen) Miculka, who was also a 2003 Miss Curwood Festival Queen's Attendant.

This year's pageant boasted 20 local Shiawassee County young women who competed for the three titles of Miss Curwood Festival, Miss Curwood Festival's Teen and Miss Curwood Festival's Princess.

Princess Candidates included girls aged eight to eleven: Elizabeth Reich, Melody Pouillon, Ella Osantoski, Rebecca Harrell, Lauralynn Peterson, Leah Harrell, Madilyn Peruski, River Akin, Elizabeth Peters, Olivia Sivyver, Lillian Marriage, Hollis Zeeman and Nevaeh Lopez. Teen Candidates included young women aged 12-16: Madison Strauss, Logan Geyer and Mia Lentz. Miss Candidates included young women aged 17-21: Delany Couturier, Marisa Rose, Danika Mogg and Audrey Mitchell.

The deserving Princess winner was Nevaeh Lopez, age nine. Nevaeh's parents are Korey Lopez and Richard and Christina Scharf. Nevaeh attends Central Elementary School where she is currently a fourth grader. Her sponsor was Ashleigh's Dance Shack.



## 34th Annual Walk for Warmth A Success



**WALKERS FROM** all over showed up Saturday, Feb. 24 to raise money for Walk for Warmth. Before starting on their walk, small groups gathered to have the picture taken in front of the sign. CACS Executive Director Miguel Rodriguez was there to support

Capital Area Community Services, Inc. held its 34th Annual Walk for Warmth on Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Owosso Community Center (Shiawassee Council on Aging).

Walk for Warmth is a state-wide effort to raise public awareness of people experiencing heat-related emergencies. Funds are raised through contributions from individuals, businesses, civic organizations, clubs and church groups and are used to assist area residents heat-related emergencies. With the rising costs of basic needs and food, which creates an economic hardship current-

ly being experienced by many local residents and the changes in State and Federal funding, the need for heat-related assistance has become far greater than service agencies and churches can resolve without additional resources, such as Walk for Warmth.

100% Of the funds raised through the Shiawassee County Walk are used to assist low-income households within Shiawassee County.

The Walk for Warmth fundraiser brought in 45 entrants that raised \$3,266 that will stay within Shiawassee County to help residents in need this winter. This event

the walk and give people encouragement. "I am here to support Becky Zelma and her staff, as well as all the walkers."

(Independent Photos/Melissa Shepard)

helps with funding in-between grants and is for people that won't qualify for a grant but are in the low-income bracket. Other cash donations prior to the walk and after the walk were \$694, making the total \$3,960.

Donations are still being accepted and are needed for the Walk for Warmth event. Donations can be mailed (with Walk for Warmth written on subject line) to Capital Area Community Services, 1845 Corunna Ave., Owosso or by calling (989) 723-1115.



# Alexis Gilbert is Memorial Healthcare's February Employee of the Month

Memorial Healthcare is pleased to announce Alexis Gilbert, a receptionist at Memorial Healthcare Gastroenterology for being selected as our February Employee of the Month. Alexis has been employed at Memorial Healthcare since November 2021.

According to her nomination, "Alexis works tirelessly as an integral part of her team. She consistently exhibits dedication and commitment to the patients and employees of Memorial. Alexis always goes the extra mile to understand what patients need and works to resolve them even if it means taking time from her break or lunch. Alexis takes on extra work and is seen as a go to for all things related to reception. She has been described by her coworkers as having a "get it done" and "do it well" attitude. Alexis frequently excels at the additional responsibilities she takes on and offers suggestions to make processes more efficient. Alexis is a great example for her team!"

Alexis lives in Owosso and has three fur babies, Nike, Hank and Max. Her hobbies include doing nails and sitting outside. An interesting fact about Alexis is that she has broken almost every one of her fingers. Alexis' goal or dream is to be selected as Employee of the Year. She would like to be remembered as a good person who is happy. On being honored as Memorial Healthcare's Employee of the Month, Alexis is quoted as saying, "Thank you to my office co-workers for making every day enjoyable!"



## SHIAWASSEE COUNCIL 4-H COUNCIL HOSTING YOUTH OPEN HOUSE

All 4-H youth and families are invited to come and explore all that 4-H has to offer on Saturday, March 2 at DeVries Nature Conservancy, 2635 N. M-52, Owosso. Open house will be from 5 to 8 p.m. and the awards presentation at 6 p.m. The event will include informational tables about 4-H and door prizes. To RSVP, email [stechch@msu.edu](mailto:stechch@msu.edu) or call the Extension office at (989) 743-2251.

Leaders/clubs are welcome to have a table showcasing their club and activities. Contact Robin at (989) 277-5182 or the Extension office for more details.

# Introducing Durand's New Police Chief: Robert "Butch" Brancheau

The Greater Durand Area Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce a special meet and greet reception to introduce Durand's new police chief, Robert "Butch" Brancheau. Chief Brancheau officially assumed his duties earlier this month and brings a wealth of experience and dedication to the community.

The reception will take place on Thursday, Feb. 29 at Dabble Enrichment Center, 215 N. Saginaw, Durand from 4:30 to 6 p.m. This event provides an excellent opportunity for the community members to welcome Chief Brancheau and get to know him better.

Chief Brancheau was sworn in during the City Council meeting held on Monday, Jan. 22, marking the beginning of his tenure in this vital role. His commitment to serving Durand is not new; he previously served as an officer in 1992, showcasing his longstanding dedication to law enforcement in the area.

Prior to his appointment as police chief, Chief Brancheau served with distinction as a Sheriff's deputy in Shiawassee County for 17 years, eventually rising to the position of undersheriff. His comprehensive understanding of law enforcement operations and community dynamics positions him as a valuable asset to Durand.

Furthermore, Chief Brancheau's experience extends beyond traditional law enforcement roles. He also served as Chief of the Great Lakes Central Railroad, demonstrating his versatility and leadership capabilities across various sectors.


The Greater Durand Area Chamber of Commerce invites all residents, business owners and community stakeholders to join us in extending a warm welcome to Chief Robert "Butch" Brancheau. Let us come together to support and collaborate with Chief Brancheau as he leads our police force towards a safer and more vibrant Durand.

For more information about the meet and greet reception or to RSVP, please contact the Greater Durand Area Chamber of Commerce at (989) 288-3715.

## Personal Injury Accident

On Thursday, Feb. 22 at approximately 10:55 p.m., Saginaw County Deputies responded to a personal injury crash in the 1200 block of Flint St. in the village of St Charles.

The vehicle was headed north on Flint St., near Hanchett. It appears the vehicle went off the road and struck a tree on the west side of the road. The driver, a 24-year-old female from Chesaning, sustained head injuries and a broken left femur. The driver and three children in the vehicle were transported to Hurley Medical Center. The children were a boy, five years old and two girls, ages three years and one year old. The children appeared to have nonlife-threatening injuries. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.



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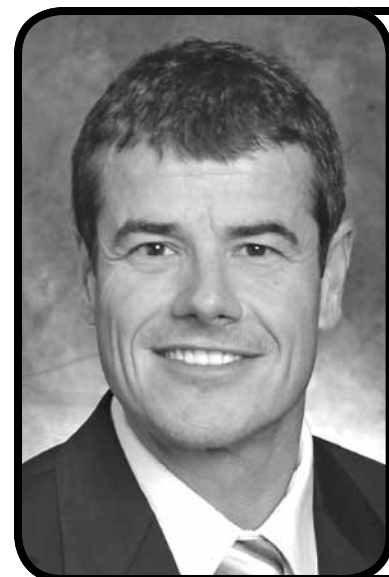
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**SHOWN DURING** the candidate forum held by Stand Up Shiawassee and the local chapter of Stand Up of Michigan, from left to right: Doug Corwin, Judge Matthew Stewart, Matt McCone, Robert Hinojosa, Shelly Ochodnicki, Tom Emory, Josh Haley, Greg Brodeur and Brent Singer.

(Courtesy Photo)

## Stand Up Shiawassee Holds Candidate Forum

Stand Up Shiawassee, the local chapter of Stand Up of Michigan, in partnership with the local Shiawassee County Republican Party on Tuesday, Feb. 20, held the first of several of its candidate forums. The featured speaker was Judge Matthew Stewart who discussed the judicial branch of government at the local level. After Judge Stewart, local candidates running for election and re-election for several county-wide positions were present to present at the meeting to discuss their views.

Shelly Ochodnicki, Stand Up Shiawassee Co-Chair, stated, "I am very excited with the strong turnout of candidates and the public. The 2024 election is highly crucial not just at the national level, but also at the local level. If we want to preserve our land from becoming rolling solar farms and keep conservative values in our community, we must be involved in our local elections."

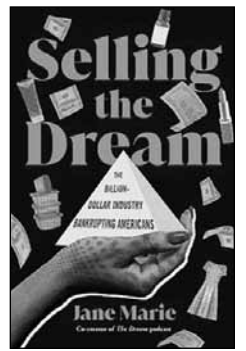
## Former Local Releases New Book

Peabody and Emmy Award winning journalist Jane Marie expands on her popular podcast The Dream to expose the scourge of multilevel marketing schemes and how they have profited off the evisceration of the American working class. Jane Marie lives in Los Angeles, CA now but is originally from the Owosso/Corunna area.

We've all heard of Amway, Mary Kay, Tupperware and Lu-LaRoe, but few know the nefarious way they and countless other multilevel marketing (MLM) companies prey on desperate Americans struggling to make ends meet.

When factories close, stalwart industries shutter, and blue-collar opportunities evaporate, MLMs are there, ready to pounce on the crumbling American Dream. MLMs thrive in rural areas and on military bases, targeting women with promises of being their own boss and millions of dollars in easy income—even at the risk of their entire life savings. But the vast majority—99.7%—of those who join an MLM make no money or lose money, and wind up stuck with inventory they can't sell to recoup their losses.

Featuring in-depth reporting and intimate research, *Selling the Dream* reveals how these companies—often owned by political and corporate elites, such as the Devos and the Van Andels families—have made a windfall in profit off of the desperation of the American working class.



## Letter to the Editor

Independent Editor,  
Become a Farmers' Market Vendor!

Have you ever wanted to sell at a Farmers' Market? Now is a great time to decide. Vendor applications open in February and March for the summer season.

First, decide what to sell, baked goods, fresh vegetables, crafts, woodworking, etc. Next, research the Michigan.gov webpage. Search for the terms Cottage Food Laws and Sales Tax. These explain proper food labelling, license requirements and which items require sales tax.

Next, find a Farmers' Market. Most markets have a Facebook page and/or website. Once you decide which market(s) you want to join, fill out the vendor application. The vendor application explains the rules of the market and the costs involved. If you cannot find the application online, call or email the market manager for a copy. Fill out all the information requested including a list of the items you intend to sell and dates you wish to attend the market. Then, wait for your application to be approved. The market manager or representative will contact you when your application is accepted and the market dates approved.

Finally, it's time for your first market day. Arrive 30 minutes to an hour before start of the market to set up. The market manager will let you know where your space is located and where to park your vehicle. You must stay for the full time the market is open, so bring lots of product to sell. You will need a canopy tent (10 ft. x 10 ft.) if the market is outside. Bring folding tables and clean linens to lay your product out for customers to see. Also, bring a chair and snacks for comfort. And don't forget small bills to make change for your customers. If you plan to accept credit cards, you will need to create a merchant account in advance through your bank or service like square.com.

Once the market opens, greet customers as they walk by your vendor space. Remember to smile and be ready to answer customer questions about your products. Customers may ask if you made the items yourself, what ingredients were used and where you are from. Here's a listing of Farmers' Markets in Shiawassee County.

Corunna VFW Farmers' Market – (989) 743-5015


Durand Farmers' Market – (989) 288-3561

Laingsburg Farmer's Market – (517) 295-8128

Original Owosso Farm Market – (517) 256-6425

(Downtown) Owosso Farmers' Market – (989) 413-3728

Colleen Stowell, Bancroft



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## BYRON LIBRARY TO HOST NATIVE AMERICAN BRACELET CRAFT WORKSHOP

The Byron Branch of the Community District Library will host a Native American bracelet craft workshop on Thursday, March 7 at 5 p.m.

Reg Pettibone, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, will share with those attending about deer and the cultural significance to the Native American way of life. Participants will use genuine deer hide and glass beads to create bracelets. Fun cultural facts will also be shared.

The event is appropriate for elementary age through teens. Due to seating limits, pre-registration is required. Registration can be done online at [www.mycdl.org/events](http://www.mycdl.org/events) or by calling the library at (810) 266-4620. The branch is located inside the Byron High School at 312 W. Maple St.

The event is in conjunction with One Book Shiawassee, a countywide community read program featuring the novel, *Firekeeper's Daughter*, by Angeline Boulley.

More information about One Book Shiawassee and the upcoming author visit on Saturday, April 13 can be found at any library in the county or by visiting [www.mycdl.org](http://www.mycdl.org)

## Death Notices

*The following was updated Thursday, Feb. 29.*

Steven E. Shelley, 70, of Perry, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 21. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Derek J. Barrows, 34, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 21.

April J. (Barber) Barnett, 68, of Morrice, passed away Thursday, Feb. 22. A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

Barbara J. Mitton, 89, of Durand, passed away Thursday, Feb. 22. A memorial will be held 2 to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 2 at Watkins Brothers Funeral Home Durand.

Angel N. Brown, infant baby girl, of Owosso, passed away Friday, Feb. 23. Services were held Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Haydn J. Johnson, 27, of Owosso, passed away Saturday, Feb. 24. A celebration of life was held Thursday, Feb. 29.

Yvonne R. Rees, 69, of Owosso, passed away Sunday, Feb. 25. There will be no services at this time.


Jennifer "Jennie" E. Walker, 80, of Morrice, passed away Sunday, Feb. 25. Services were held Friday, March 1.

Beatrice A. McCarrick, 66, of Owosso, passed away Sunday, Feb. 25. A scripture service will be held at 5 p.m., Saturday, March 2 at Nelson House Funeral Home.


N. Virginia Gustin, 79, of Owosso, passed away Monday, Feb. 26. Arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Christine R. Romanczuk, 62, of Perry, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 27. A Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m., Sunday, March 3 at the Maple Rapids Community Center, Maple Rapids.

Blanche A. Cesal, 100, of Owosso, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 27. A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 2 at St. Joseph Catholic Church.



# WORSHIP SERVICES DIRECTORY



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BANCROFT</b></p> <p><b>TABERNACLE OF HOPE CHURCH</b> 6285 Bancroft Rd., Bancroft 989-634-9024 Sunday Service 10:30am Wednesday Prayer 6:30pm Pastor Glen Olson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OWOSSO</b></p> <p><b>CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> 120 Goodhue St. (Fayette Square) Owosso 989-723-2495 Morning Prayer: Mon-Sat 9am on Facebook Sun 10am Holy Eucharist at church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OWOSSO CONT'D</b></p> <p><b>OWOSSO CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 2005 S. M-52, Owosso 989-723-5407 Sunday School 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am, 6pm Pastor Jeremy Wittwer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BYRON</b></p> <p><b>ANTRIM BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 4509 E. Lovejoy Rd., Byron 517-223-3126 • <a href="http://antrimbaptist.com">antrimbaptist.com</a> Sunday School 10am Sunday Worship 11am &amp; 6pm Wed. Prayer &amp; Bible Study 7pm Regular services by phone. Call 517-518-1100</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OWOSSO</b></p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 114 W. Mason St., Owosso 989-723-1670 Pastor Katie Wallen Sunday Worship 10am <a href="mailto:fbowosso@gmail.com">fbowosso@gmail.com</a> Home of 'The Baby Pantry' Open: 2nd Mon/Month 10a-2pm 4th Mon/Month 3p-7pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OWOSSO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 1500 N. Water St., Owosso 989-725-2201 <a href="mailto:firstumc@owossofumc.org">firstumc@owossofumc.org</a> Sunday Worship 10am</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CORUNNA</b></p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CORUNNA</b> 1120 Legion Rd., Corunna 989-743-5400 <a href="http://fbcorunna.com">fbcorunna.com</a> Co-Pastors: Tony Moore and Tim Duffield Sunday Worship 10:15am Wednesday Bible Study 6pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OWOSSO</b></p> <p><b>FIRST CHURCH OF GOD</b> The Hub Owosso &amp; The Hub R.E.C. Center First Church of God 2100 N. M-52, 989-723-4510 Sunday Fellowship 9:50am Sunday Service 10:30am <a href="http://www.TheHubOwosso.com">www.TheHubOwosso.com</a> Explore-Connect-Grow-Multiply Matthew 28:18-20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 915 E. Oliver St., Owosso 989-725-5215 Sunday Mass at 9:30am</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JUDDVILLE</b></p> <p><b>UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3907 N. Durand Rd., Corunna 810-638-7498 10am Worship Sunday School is during Worship Rev. Russell Logston</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OWOSSO</b></p> <p><b>GRACE BIBLE CHURCH</b> 201 Michigan Ave., Owosso 989-723-1000 Sunday Service 11am Virtual Service- Facebook, Radio (92.5 FM) Website: <a href="http://GraceOwosso.org">GraceOwosso.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 111 N. Howell St., Owosso 989-723-4277 <a href="http://www.stpaulowosso.org">www.stpaulowosso.org</a> Saturday Mass at 4:30pm Sunday Masses at 8am &amp; 11am</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DURAND</b></p> <p><b>RISEN LIFE CHURCH</b> 520 Kent St., Durand 989-932-6126 989-413-9566 Sunday Service 11am Live Stream Facebook <a href="mailto:risenlifedurand@gmail.com">risenlifedurand@gmail.com</a> Clothes Closet open Thurs. &amp; Sat. 10am-2pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OWOSSO</b></p> <p><b>GRACEPOINTE WESLEYAN CHURCH</b> 1687 N. M-52, Owosso 989-723-5247 Sunday Worship 10am Virtual Worship on Facebook, YouTube and website: <a href="http://www.gracepointe-mi.org">www.gracepointe-mi.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)</b> 219 W. Oliver St., Owosso 989-723-6238 Sunday Bible Study 9am Sunday Worship 10am Wed. Bible Study 10am Wed. Worship 11am</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MORRICE</b></p> <p><b>ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 509 Main St., Morrice 517-625-4260 <a href="http://stmarymorrice.org">stmarymorrice.org</a> Monday Mass: M, Tu, F 8:30am Evening Mass: Wednesday 6:30pm Saturday Mass: 4:30pm Sunday Masses: 8am &amp; 10:30am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OWOSSO</b></p> <p><b>NEW CREATION CHURCH</b> 1800 Corunna Ave., Owosso 989-723-8118 • <a href="http://www.ncconline.com">www.ncconline.com</a> Services Sunday 9am Wednesday 7pm Helping people find and follow Jesus Christ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PERRY</b></p> <p><b>FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 12821 Warner Rd., Perry (517) 675-1567 Sunday Worship 10am followed by Sunday School Pastor Coleen Wilsdon <a href="http://www.wearefaithcommunitychurch.weebly.com">www.wearefaithcommunitychurch.weebly.com</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OWOSSO ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> 1150 N. Shiawassee St., Owosso 989-725-8219 Sunday School 10am Sunday Worship 11am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PERRY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 3100 Ellsworth Rd., Perry (517) 625-3400 Sunday Worship 9am &amp; 11am (in church building) <a href="http://www.perrynazarene.com">www.perrynazarene.com</a> Live Streaming of Worship</p>	

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Letter to the Editor

Independent Editor,

The Staff at Capital Area Community Services in Shiawassee County would like to express our thanks and appreciation to those who was involved in Walk for Warmth this year. The number of people who took the time to collect pledges and then walked; the credit unions and bank that donated their time and support: Team One Credit Union, Frankenmuth Credit Union, LAFCU and Horizon Bank, the churches: Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church who have supported the Walk over the years and clubs and organizations who demonstrated unstinting support through members walking and collecting pledges.

To all of those volunteers that took their time to collect donations. The Independent Newspaper who provided wonderful coverage and the great team of volunteers who willingly gave of their time.

\$3,960 In donations have already been generated within this community thanks to the kindness and caring of 45 walkers who participated in our 34th Walk.

The success of Walk for Warmth, and ultimately, those assisted by Capital Area Community Services in Shiawassee County is contingent upon the support of this community. Thank you for showing your support this year. We look forward to seeing you next year! Rebecca Zelma, Shiawassee Service Center Manager, Capital Area Community Services and staff, Brenda and Karen.

Shiawassee Arts Center to Open New Exhibit

The Shiawassee Arts Center opens a new exhibit featuring artwork by Valerie Allen and Armin Mersmann of Midland, Pooh Stevenson of Owosso and members of the Shiawassee Artists' Guild. The exhibit, which runs Tuesday, March 12 through Sunday, April 28, is sponsored by CLH Insurance Agency. The public is welcome to attend the 'Meet the Artists' reception Sunday, March 17 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Armin Mersmann, born in Remscheid, Germany in 1955 immigrated to the United States in 1962. He grew up in an artistic environment and was greatly influenced and tutored by his father, Fritz Mersmann, a successful oil painter. Although Mersmann is mainly known for his intense naturalistic graphite drawings, he also works in photography; these works are much more about the idea of exploration than the drawings, but it's a wonderful balance. "My interests have become exceedingly experimental with more attention placed on the surfaces of the work itself. Discovering and rediscovering my chosen medium is the everlasting stimulus that keeps me interested and excited. Accidental process and meticulous planning co-mingle in all my work. Texture, either real or illusionary, and that one ever-elusive brushstroke, the one that says it all; this keeps me searching and exploring."

Valerie Allen is a professional artist living in the Midland. She received her BFA from University of Cincinnati. She is a certified working artist for Golden Artist Colors, New York and co-founder of the podcast, Art Ladders: The Creative Climb. Allen has exhibited nationally and internationally and has lectured across the Midwest on painting with acrylics. These lectures are presented to university art departments, guilds and associations. She has juried exhibits all over Michigan and as a curator has promoted artists of the Great Lakes Bay Region organizing exhibits at Studio 23, Bay City, including a collaboration with the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy titled "Land to River" in 2021.

In 2022, Allen received the Great Lakes Bay Regional All-Area Arts Award for her role as a visual artist and community leader. Working as a teaching artist, she teaches a current online course titled "Abstraction Now" and conducts workshops through the Midwest. Pooh Stevenson is a photographer specializing in fine art photography, portrait work and other natural light images. "I use my camera to observe the world; to see what is of-

The Independent ★ Sunday, March 3, 2024 5 ten unseen, bringing attention to forgotten moments." She began taking images as a way to document the farm when the children were young, keenly aware the fleeting days of childhood would soon be gone. Through her work she tries to, in the words of John Updike, "give the mundane its beauty due" to communicate visual beauty, chase beautiful light and make extraordinary the everyday. She is a long time member of the folk music community in Mid-Michigan and has two grown daughters.

Shiawassee Artists Guild is a group of 15 active members. Support each other's lives and artistic endeavors, observe and record the world around us, be inspired by people, places and ideas, express emotion, color, texture and space, learn from others and masters of the past, share ideas, techniques and inspiration. These are things the members of the Shiawassee Artists' Guild strive to do in their individual and joint pursuits of art. The guild is a group of mid-Michigan artists working in varied art media: painting in oils, acrylics, mixed media, watercolors and pastels, drawing, pen and ink, photography, printmaking, pottery and ceramic sculpture, jewelry making and collage – the list goes on and on...

The Shiawassee Arts Center, celebrating its 52nd anniversary in 2024, is located at 206 Curwood Castle Drive in Owosso and is open to the public free of charge, Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends 12 to 3 p.m. The Arts Center features the artwork of local and statewide artists in eight galleries including the Friezeke Gallery and a specialty Gift Shop. SAC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage participation and appreciation of the arts. For more information (989) 723.8354 or visit www.shiawasseearts.org.

GROUP OFFERED FOR GRIEVING INDIVIDUALS

A group for those experiencing grief of a loved one will begin Wednesday, March 6 at the Owosso First Church of the Nazarene, 1865 S. M-52, Owosso.

GriefShare is a special seminar and support group for people who are grieving the loss of someone close. The group is sponsored by people who understand and have gone through grieving experiences. Each GriefShare session includes a video seminar and group discussion. A GriefShare workbook assists with notetaking, journaling and grief study. The videos feature top experts on grief recovery with dramatic reenactments about living with grief and real-life stories of people who have experienced losses.

GriefShare is a nondenominational group and features biblical teaching on grief. The 13-week class meets each Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. at 1865 S. M-52, Owosso. There is no cost

for the recovery topics. A sample of topics include sadness and loneliness, fear and anxiety, your grief journey, anger, regrets, grief and relationships and hope and resilience. Workbooks are \$15, but scholarships are available for these. People are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any session. For further information or for those needing childcare, please call the church office at (989) 723-2229.

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THE DURAND Rotary Club recently donated \$500 to the Durand Area Loaves and Fishes food pantry. Rotarian Joyce Zick (left) is shown presenting the check to Loaves and Fishes volunteer Sue Wright. Wright attended a recent meeting of the Rotary club and presented information about Loaves and Fishes for club members.

(Courtesy Photo)



The NINETY-NINES® International Organization of Women Pilots® met up at the Owosso Airport on Saturday, Feb. 24 to celebrate their 90th anniversary.

The Ninety-Nines promotes advancement of aviation through education, scholarships and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion. Established in 1929 by 99 women pilots, the members of The Ninety-Nines, Inc.®, International Organization of Women Pilots®, are represented in all areas of aviation today.

(Courtesy Photo)

## Corunna Library Hosts One Book Shiawassee

The Corunna Branch of the Community District Library invites the community to a One Book Shiawassee family event on Tuesday, March 12 at 6 p.m.

Join Daniel Jackson for traditional Native American Drumming. Jackson is a member of the Anishinaabe-Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

There is limited seating, so pre-registration is required. Register online at [www.mycdl.org/events](http://www.mycdl.org/events) or phone the branch at (989) 743-4800. The library is located at 210 E. Corunna Avenue.

## Shiawassee County Democratic Party Fundraiser

The Shiawassee County Democratic Party will hold their annual fundraiser dinner, "Pasta and Politics," on Friday, April 26 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Comstock Inn of Owosso. Attendees will hear from a roster of guest speakers, enjoy the buffet provided by Tanglewood Restaurant and may bid on unique items at a silent auction. Tickets are now available online at the website [shiawasseedems.org/pastaandpolitics](http://shiawasseedems.org/pastaandpolitics), or may be purchased at the door.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

are only published under the discretion of the editor.  
 We reserve the right to edit content for accuracy/clarity.  
 A max. of **400 WORDS** is allowed. Every letter must include the legal name of the writer, home address and phone number (which will not be published). Submission will never guarantee publishing. *Any person identified as plagiarizing will be prohibited from ever being published.*

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**New Lothrop Elementary**  
**Kindergarten Round-up**  
**March 19, 2024, 6pm**  
**Kindergarten Round-up Parent Meeting (Parents only)**  
 in the NLES Cafeteria

Receive Kindergarten Registration Packet the evening of the Parent Meeting (School-of-Choice Families: attending this meeting does not guarantee a spot in Kindergarten)

**Questions, Call 810-638-5026 or email [jgross@newlothrop.k12.mi.us](mailto:jgross@newlothrop.k12.mi.us)**

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION**

March 15 Preschool (Early Bird) Registration Packet Drop Off 8-11am  
 Early bird open to residents of NL or families currently enrolled in the NL School District.

March 22 Preschool Open Registration Packet Drop Off 8-11am. Registration is open for ALL applicants

**May 3, 2024 Kindergarten Round-up**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Kindergarten placement is intended for students who will turn 5 years old before Sept. 1, 2024

**NLES OFFICE 810-638-5026 or email [jgross@newlothrop.k12.mi.us](mailto:jgross@newlothrop.k12.mi.us)**



All aspects of the Brownfield Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing.



## Curwood Festival Seeking Grand Marshal Nominations

The Curwood Festival is looking for nominations to fill the position of the Grand Marshal (sponsored by Schluckebier Hood Wealth Management Group of Stifel) for this years' festival. It has been quite a year, and in the spirit of celebrating our hometown heroes, we are looking for your nominations of whom you believe did an outstanding job in our community. It will be our great pleasure to accept nominations of people who went out of their way to provide a service to our community during 2023-2024. If you believe you know someone who deserves this recognition, please submit a letter to the Curwood Festival Board writing about your nomination and why you feel they deserve this recognition. Please limit this letter to one page or less.

Nominations can be mailed to: Grand Marshal Nomination, 212 S. Washington St., Owosso, MI 48867. Or email your nominations to [office@curwoodfestival.com](mailto:office@curwoodfestival.com) with the subject line: Grand Marshal Nomination.

Please include the name and contact information of your nomination AND the contact information of the person making the nomination.

The submission deadline is Friday, March 22.

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"The Workshop," presented by Eventz 4 Change, Inc. held their Grand Opening on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 821 W. Main St., Owosso.

This is a wide range workshop of opportunities such as creative classes to a future commercial kitchen rental. Please join us for a celebration towards our Grand Opening of "The Workshop" presented by Eventz 4 Change. This workshop will sponsor and be a community space for local entrepreneurs. Food will be provided and homemade drinks as well as gift bags for the first few people that attend.

For more information on the event or our mission, please check out our website at [eventz4change.org](http://eventz4change.org). Owners Curtis and Paulette Darling are shown here with Chamber Ambassadors.

(Courtesy Photo)

### PERRY FFA Toy & Craft Show

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# DURAND RAILROAD DAYS ANNUAL RIB BURN AND KIDS QUE

Entries are being accepted for the annual Rib Burn and Kids Que barbecue contests which will be held on Saturday, May 18, during Durand Railroad Days. Sponsored by Graff Chevrolet of Durand, the Mid-Michigan Chevy Dealers and Durand Meat Processing.

Rib Burn entry forms can be found on the website [www.durandrailroaddays.com](http://www.durandrailroaddays.com). This contest will help you show off your skills for making tasty ribs compared to that of other contestants. The application form, along with the \$50 entry fee, must be received by Thursday, May 16, so allow plenty of time for mail delivery. Rib Burn contestants will be located in the parking lot behind the businesses located on the west side of Saginaw St. between Main and Clinton Streets in downtown Durand. Check in and meat inspection is at 9 a.m. (meat must be in original, unopened packaging) with all contestants meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Graff Chevrolet of Durand Event Tent for a mandatory cooks meeting. Turn in time is 4:30 p.m. Contestants must provide their own ribs, heat source and all items necessary for their burn (turn in boxes will be provided). Plan to present at least six bones. No garnish is allowed and no food can be sold to the public. Entries will be judged on presentation, tenderness, flavor, etc. Monetary prizes and plaques will be awarded afterwards up to fifth place. This year's burn is a qualifier for the 2024 Great Lakes BBQ Association Competitors Series Team of the Year for rib burns in Michigan.

Kids Que entry forms can also be found on the website [www.durandrailroaddays.com](http://www.durandrailroaddays.com). The contest is for children ages eight to twelve years of age. The application, along with the \$10 entry fee, must be received by Friday, May 17, so allow plenty of time for mail delivery.

Smokey Joe grills, as well as charcoal, ground chuck (provided by Durand Meat Processing) and turn in platters will be provided. Contestants must bring their own seasonings, pre-prepared condiments (such as onion, pickles, etc. as no knives will be allowed), buns (if desired) and cooking utensils. The contestants will prepare three burgers and submit the best two for judging. Contestants will meet in the Graff Chevrolet of Durand Event Tent at 3 p.m. for check in with a mandatory meeting at 3:30 p.m. (an adult must be present). No one is allowed to touch the hamburgers except the contestant. Grills can be lighted starting at 4 p.m. and turn in time for the burgers will be at 5 p.m. Judges will score on presentation, tenderness, flavor, etc. Monetary prizes and plaques will be awarded afterwards up to fourth place.

For more information or if you have any questions, call (989) 288-4080.

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE  
that the Board of  
Commissioners of  
Shiawassee County will  
hold a public hearing on  
March 13, 2024 at 5pm,  
in the Board of  
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201 North Shiawassee  
Street, 1st Floor,  
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for discussion on the Kerby  
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