



**THE GROUNDBREAKING** for the Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity Wilhelm Family was held Monday, April 3.

(Courtesy Photos)



**BEN FREDERICK** is shown here with the Wilhelm Family, just before the groundbreaking for their Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity house groundbreaking on Monday, April 3.

## Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity Held Groundbreaking for First of Six New Builds in City of Owosso

The groundbreaking of the first of six new builds in the City of Owosso took place Saturday, April 1 at 705 S. Park St., Owosso. This event kicked off the construction of the first of six homes to be built in Owosso.

Future homeowners Brian and Tina Wilhelm welcomed family, friends and the community to this kickoff. Pastor Steve Wood from First Congregational Church was there to bless the ground.

"We are very excited to be building affordable housing in Shiawassee County again. With an affordable housing crisis in the U.S. and in our own county, we know it is timely and the right thing. Families should not have to live outside the county and commute to a job in our county. Families should be able to afford a home where they want to live and work," said Carmen Mora, Executive Director for Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity.

Continued on Page 5

## Quality and Service, the Secret at Steiner Tractor Parts

by Graham Sturgeon, staff writer

Steiner Tractor Parts, Inc. is a family-owned business in Lennon that specializes in vintage tractor parts. Steiner Tractor Parts was founded in 1992, officially, but the company goes back much further. It was in 1977 that Dave Steiner, a small business owner in Grand Blanc Township, unable to find quality manifolds for the Allis-Chalmers Model B at a reasonable price, began building and selling the part himself. And from there, Steiner's inventory and clientele grew steadily, until 1992, when the decision to incorporate was made.

In the company's early days, as part of the aftermarket tractor parts industry, Steiner's focus was on low-cost alternative parts, since that was what the market dictated. That would change when Dan Steiner and Jenny (Steiner) Bradshaw, Dave's children, bought the business in 2001. The change in ownership coincided with the boom in an-

tique tractor restoration, which shifted the company's focus. Steiner now focuses on building brand name recognition based on quality and service, with an eye on price. The transformation from aftermarket parts to high quality specialized parts took years of research and costlier source materials to realize, but the results speak for themselves.

The business' continued growth necessitated a move to its own space, and in 2003, Steiner Tractor Parts opened its new 80,000 square foot warehouse in Lennon. At the time of the move, the company employed 12, including Dan and Jenny. The company now employs 69 and has expanded its parts inventory to include more than 8,000 unique tractor parts, which are shipped to customers all over the world.



The growth of the Steiner Tractor Parts family has been made possible by the company's focus on quality parts and its unique approach to customer service. Steiner Tractor Parts has a call center, where customers can get help finding the right part for their vintage tractor, and the company's website includes numerous repair tutorial videos to help customers install the parts they buy. The website also features a handy "My Barn" section, where a customer can

Continued on Page 5

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# SafeCenter Honors Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the United States. Each year, SafeCenter Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Clinton and Shiawassee Counties takes time this month to honor victims/survivors, raise awareness and engage in fund-development to ensure we are furthering our capacity, sustainability and mission to Empower, Advocate, Educate and Prevent in both counties.

SafeCenter would like to make the community aware of the following events:

Monday, April 10 to Friday, April 14: Resource Table Set Up at Baker College of Owosso (An Advocate will be present at Baker from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12).

Thursday, April 20: Executive Director, Hannah Gottschalk and Board President, Krystal McCoy, will be Panelists at the Crime Stoppers Mid-Michigan Breakfast Event in Lansing. For more information and registration, visit [www.crimestoppersofmidmichigan.com](http://www.crimestoppersofmidmichigan.com).

Saturday, April 22: SafeCenter is hosting a “Beautification Day” onsite at the Owosso Administrative Office/Shelter from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To register, contact Kristen

Gilpin: (989) 723-9716 or [Kristen@thesafecenter.org](mailto:Kristen@thesafecenter.org).

Sunday, April 23 to Saturday, April 29: National Crime Victims Week.

Wednesday, April 26: Wear Denim Day (the annual sexual assault awareness event that works to start conversations about the destructive attitudes surrounding sexual assault, such as victim blaming).

To stay in the loop on agency happenings, “like” and “follow” The SafeCenter on Facebook. To also learn more about SafeCenter, as well as domestic violence and sexual assault or to get connected to us for services, please visit our website: [www.thesafecenter.org](http://www.thesafecenter.org) or call us toll-free at (877) 952-7283.



## Owosso City Council Meeting

By Melissa Shepard, editor

A proclamation was made by the Mayor’s Office declaring the month of April 2023 as Parkinson’s Awareness Month in the City of Owosso. Karen Prussner, Facilitator of the Owosso Parkinson Support Group received the

proclamation for City of Owosso Mayor Robert J. Teich, Jr. Prussner said, “The members of our group are always learning, growing and dealing with the situations they are dealing with. We are able to support and teach members of the group.”

Jason Harris was approved as a new member to the Building Board of Appeals, filling the unexpired term of Carl Ludington.

# THE independent

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**Owosso Office:**  
1907 W. M-21  
Owosso, MI 48867  
**For Billing:**  
112 W. Clinton St.  
Durand, MI 48429  
(989) 723-1118  
Fax: (989) 725-1834  
Email:  
[indysales@owossoindependent.com](mailto:indysales@owossoindependent.com)  
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**Publisher/Owner:**  
Michael Flores  
**Editor:**  
Melissa Shepard  
[news@owossoindependent.com](mailto:news@owossoindependent.com)

**Advertising/Sales Staff:**  
Kim Lazar – Sales Manager  
[kim@owossoindependent.com](mailto:kim@owossoindependent.com)

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# Shiawassee County Fair

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## A New Play Is Upcoming at Lebowsky Center

It is all fun and games until something goes amiss and then it's even more fun and games. The Play That Goes Wrong is set to take the stage by storm at Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts April 21 to 30. The play introduces the 'Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society' who are attempting to put on a 1920s murder mystery, but as the title suggests, everything that can go wrong...does, as the accident-prone thespians battle on against all the odds to get to their final curtain call.

The time is right to see The Play That Goes Wrong, Broadway's funniest smash hit! This Olivier Award-winning comedy is a hilarious hybrid of Monty Python and Sherlock Holmes. Welcome to opening night of The Murder at Haversham Manor where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. With an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines), it's "A Ritous Explosion of Comedy!" (The Daily Beast) and "Tons of Fun For All Ages!" (HuffPost). Ben Brantley of The New York Times calls The Play That Goes Wrong "A Gut-Busting Hit," and Cindy Adams of the New York Post has just one word for you: "Go!" Get tickets now – it would be WRONG to wait!

The cast includes Adam Carlson, Anasti Her, Ian Whipp, John Lerma, Quinn Kelly, Richard Kopitsch, Sarah Hayner and Steve Lee. The show is directed by Heath Sartorius. Tickets range from \$14-22 and are on sale now at lebowsky-center.com or by calling (989) 723-4003, Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The performance is great for all ages. The performance is sponsored by Dan Williams & Diane Cutler.



**THE CAST OF The Play That Goes Wrong rehearses for their upcoming production. The cast includes from left to right: Quinn Kelly, Ian Whipp, Sarah Hayner, Anasti Her, Richard Kopitsch, Adam Carlson and Steve Lee (not pictured John Lerma).**

(Courtesy Photo)

## Understanding Smart Farm Automation

Modern agriculture looks a little like the early days of farming. All aspects of farming have been modified by the access farmers now have technologies to meet the demands of their work and the pressure a growing population places on farmers to produce quality food.

Farm automation, precision farming and smart farming are strategies utilized by today's farmers. These technologies have become important ways for farmers to optimize the production of food and improve its quality. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, agricultural production must increase by 70 percent in order to meet global food demand by 2050, by which time the population could be 9.7 billion persons.

Smart farming can make raising livestock more accurate and controlled. While farm automation is a broad term, precision smart farming zeroes in on exact measurements between variations in land conditions and livestock, according to Techie Loops, a technology information website.

Examples of farming automation technology include: autonomous vehicles and machines, drones, robotics, GPS guidance, micro-forecasting and weather forecasting, soil sampling, yield mapping, use of artificial intelligence, geomatics, statistical processes and more.

Farmers can employ these technologies to save time and also manage labor shortages. Robot-assisted irrigation systems, for example, can maximize efficiency of water distribution where it is needed the most. Weeding robots can use artificial intelligence and computer vision to target field areas and reduce use of pesticides. Driverless tractors can make labor cheaper for farmers by plotting the machine's route and letting it run the course automatically. Harvest robots also exist to grab crops gently (some with vacuum technology) and reduce reliance on field workers. Some harvesters can determine ripeness of fruit via AI technology, according to Eastern Peak, a provider of custom hardware and software solutions for businesses.

Technology is changing farming in many ways. Innovations in automation can make operations more efficient and less costly.



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## Purse Party Bingo to Benefit Respite Volunteers

The Respite Volunteer Purse Party Bingo will be held Tuesday, May 2 at the Owosso Knights of Columbus Hall, 1259 E. M-21. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and games begin at 6 p.m. For each bingo game, the prize is a purse with a retail value of at least \$45. Advance tickets are \$20 or \$25 the day of the event, if tickets are still available. With the tickets purchased, 20 bingo cards to play 20 games are included. Coffee and ice water will be provided, guests are encouraged to bring their own snacks. Tie breaker prizes and door prizes provided. This is an adults only event.

Tickets are on sale weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee office, the historic brick home east of Memorial Healthcare hospital at 710 W. King St., Owosso. The main entrance is on the parking lot (north) side.

Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee provides case management, education and support to adults with health challenges, in Shiawassee County, and help to the family members caring for the person. The program then matches a volunteer with each person to provide friendly visiting, usually weekly. The program also provides education about all the other in-home services, senior services, support groups, adult day cares and financial help that is available for both frail elderly persons and multi-generational families caring for the person.

For more information about Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee services, volunteer opportunities and this event, please call (989) 725-1127.



**JACKIE HURD** is shown with a purse she won at a previous Purse Party Bingo event. The last Purse Party Bingo was held in the fall of 2019.

(Courtesy Photo)

## Joyce Cross Honored with Memorial Healthcare Daisy Award

Memorial Healthcare is pleased to announce Joyce Cross, Registered Nurse, in our Behavioral Health department as our March 2023 recipient of the DAISY Award. Joyce was recognized with the DAISY Award for going above and beyond to deliver safe and compassionate care to her patients.

“The DAISY Award is one of the most prestigious awards a nurse can receive. It is an honor to present this award to Joyce; her nomination story was touching. I look forward to honoring many of the amazing nurses at Memorial Healthcare for years to come with the Daisy award.” said Tyler Yaklin, MBA, BNS, RN, Chief Nursing Officer and Associate Vice President of Patient Care Services.

Joyce received this award based on the following nomination story, “When I was struggling with a few major stressors, Joyce took the time to talk with me about it all. She gave me the kind of motherly support and care I rarely have had from anyone else in my life. Joyce’s words made a huge impact on me and gave me hope that things will be okay. Memorial Healthcare is truly blessed to have this nurse on their team.”

The DAISY Award is an international program that rewards and celebrates the extraordinary, compassionate and skillful care given by nurses every day. Nurses are nominated by their patients and patient’s families. DAISY Award nominations are accepted all year long and can be made at [www.MemorialHealthcare.org](http://www.MemorialHealthcare.org) or in person at the hospital’s main campus.

Joyce was presented with a certificate of recognition, a DAISY pin and an incredible serpentine stone sculpture carved by the artists of the Shona Tribe located in Zimbabwe, Africa. This sculpture is known as the “Healer’s Touch” and it portrays the embracing relationship nurses have with their patients.

To learn more about the DAISY Award, please visit [MemorialHealthcare.org](http://MemorialHealthcare.org).



(Courtesy Photo)

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## Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity Held Groundbreaking

Continued from Page 1

"We ran for and won the 2019 Mr. Owosso competition in support of Habitat for Humanity, raising almost \$45,000. The ultimate goal of that effort was to get to this day, where we would start building homes for our residents. I am proud of the entire team - our staff, board of directors, volunteers and my campaign manager Sue Osika - who made this all possible. I also believe this groundbreaking is only the beginning in Habitat making a huge impact in meeting our local housing needs over the coming years," said Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership President/CEO and Habitat board member Justin Horvath.

## Quality and Service, the Secret at Steiner Tractor Parts

Continued from Page 1

enter the make and model of their tractor and browse only products that fit their tractor, removing the guesswork that normally makes tractor parts shopping difficult.

Additionally, Steiner Tractor Parts, in an effort to reach its customers on a more personal level, has incorporated a fun "Tractor Stories" feature on its website and even started a tractor photo contest that draws interest from tractor owners all over the world. To check out the Steiner Tractor Parts website, visit [steinertractor.com](http://steinertractor.com). Tractor photo contest photos are published in the company's annual catalogue, but can also be viewed on social media by searching for "Steiner Tractor Parts, Inc."

Thanks to competitive pay and "old fashioned benefits" packages, employee turnover is not as common at Steiner Tractor Parts. However, the company's continued growth may necessitate additional associates in the near future. To become a Steiner Tractor Parts associate, visit [steinertractor.com/employment](http://steinertractor.com/employment).

## Memorial Healthcare Hosts Free Lunch and Learn

Memorial Healthcare will be hosting a FREE community Lunch and Learn presentation on Tuesday, April 25 from 12 to 1 p.m.

The topic of this educational series is "Joint Replacement Options" and will be presented by Memorial Healthcare Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr. Ramy Kurdi.

This presentation will be held in the Educational Theatre at the NOW Building, located at 819 N. Shiawassee Street, Owosso. Please RSVP to Becky Dahlke, Community Resource Manager at (989) 729-4856 or by email at [rdahlke@memorialhealthcare.org](mailto:rdahlke@memorialhealthcare.org). RSVPs are due by Thursday, April 20.

For more information please visit, [www.MemorialHealthcare.org](http://www.MemorialHealthcare.org).

## Are Backyard Chickens Right For You?

Raising backyard chickens has been a growing phenomenon for several years. Many cities have passed laws legalizing backyard chickens, encouraging many to raise chickens as a rewarding hobby.

One of the biggest benefits to raising backyard chickens is that their eggs are fresher and often tastier than store-bought varieties. Hens can lay one egg per day. Multiply that egg per hen and breakfast is always available.

Another benefit to chickens is they produce a natural fertilizer that can be used in gardens. "The Old Farmer's Almanac" says chicken manure can be composted, aged and eventually added to the garden. In about six months, a person will accumulate about one cubic foot of manure per chicken. Egg shells and other compostable material can be added to create an even richer formula. Chickens also can help control bugs around the yard.

Before investing in backyard chickens, people should determine if chickens will fit with their lifestyle. Costs and care are a big consideration.

Each chick will cost anywhere between \$3 to \$5 a bird. Then there's feed to consider. The most expensive item will likely be the coop. The experts at The Happy Chicken Coop, a resource for raising chickens and starting coops, says handy men and women can build homemade coops, but ready-made ones will cost a few hundred dollars. The coop will need to offer around four-square feet of space per chicken (or what's recommended for the breed).

Despite being seemingly independent birds, chickens need people to be active caregivers. They require feed and water daily. The chickens will need a caregiver while you vacation. People who are frequently away from home should reconsider chickens.

Chickens also are prone to worms, parasites and lice. They need to have rear feathers trimmed to stay clean and sanitary, and they will require an area where they can "dust" and self-groom. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises not to cuddle and kiss chickens like pets because they can carry salmonella. Not every coop is completely varmint-proof, and some chickens may succumb to predators. Squeamish or sentimental folks may find chickens aren't the right fit.

Chickens require commitment and care that many people can provide. It is essential to do one's homework to ensure that backyard chickens are a sound investment.



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Death Notices

The following was updated Thursday, April 6.

Kathleen S. Cramer, 71, of Grand Ledge, passed away Thursday, March 30. Arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Larry Wiseley, 71, of Owosso, passed away Thursday, March 30. Arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Susan Newcom, 76, of Corunna, passed away Thursday, March 30. Services were Wednesday, April 5.

Janice M. Harper, 66, of Owosso, passed away Friday, March 31. A memorial service was held Saturday, April 8.

James Griffin, 54, of Durand, passed away Friday, March 31. Arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Rebecca A. Milano, 89, of Owosso, passed away Friday, March 31. Services were held Saturday, April 8.

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Marlene J. Hewitt, 86, of Owosso, passed away Saturday, April 1. A private interment has taken place.

Barbara A. Wheaton, 93, passed away Saturday, April 1. A memorial service was held Friday, April 7.

Robert B. Hawkins, 64, of Owosso, passed away Monday, April 3. No services will be held.

Margaret S. Gulick, 82, of Owosso, passed away Monday, April 3. Services will be held Thursday, April 13 at Nelson-House Funeral Home.

Sharon A. Dedic, 80, of Bath, formerly of Owosso, passed away Monday,


April 3. Private services will be held.

Linda M. Harris, 89, of Owosso, passed away Monday, April 3. A memorial service was held Thursday, April 6.

George H. Felker, 90, of Owosso, passed away Monday, April 3. A private family service will be held at a later date.

Theresa “Terry” Petronella Yuncker-Edwards, 62, of Perry, passed away Tuesday, April 4. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Stephen Perry Watkins



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of the co-founder of Watkins Brothers Funeral Homes, who died on April 3, 2023. Steve was a wonderful husband, great father, papa, son, loving brother, mentor and faithful friend. Funeral services to honor and celebrate Steve’s life will be held at 11 a.m. on Good Friday, April 7, 2023 at the Owosso First Church of the Nazarene, 1865 S. M-52, Owosso, MI 48867. Pastors Jerry Walden and John Walworth will co-officiate with burial to follow in Fremont Cemetery, Bancroft. Steve’s family will receive friends at Watkins Brothers Funeral Homes, Owosso Chapel on Thursday, April 6 from 2-8 p.m.

Steve was born in Lansing, Michigan on July 5, 1955, second oldest of four boys to Winton and Mary Ann (Hager) Watkins. He attended Old Everett High School in Lansing, graduating in 1973. Steve started his career in funeral service with Jennings-Lyons Funeral Chapel in Owosso washing cars shortly after high school. He later attended mortuary school at Indiana College of Mortuary Science where he graduated in 1979 and obtained his license in 1980. This year, Steve was licensed for 43 years, serving families in Shiawassee County the entire time. On October 20, 1979, Steve married the love of his life, Vickie Brown. They would have celebrated 44 years of marriage this year. Together, they were blessed with three children and two grandchildren, who were just as blessed to have them. In 2000, a dream came true for Steve, as he and his brother Kurt together co-founded Watkins Brothers Funeral Homes.

Steve’s passion was service to others. He had a heart of gold and an amazing sense of humor. He would sing out loud to his favorite songs, no matter how bad it sounded! He was larger than life to his family and a mentor to many. Later in life, Steve was able to travel extensively with his wife and take several special trips with the whole family. He enjoyed golf outings with family and friends, bonfires and family get togethers.

Steve is survived by his wife, Vickie; 3 children: Nicholas (Nikki Johnston) Watkins, Kelli Watkins, Travis (Amber) Watkins; 2 grandchildren: Ella and Jax Watkins; his mother, Mary Ann; brothers: Kurt (Krisan) Watkins, Andrew (Michelle) Watkins; father and mother-in-law: Darryl and Shirley Brown; sister-in-law, Teresa Rankin; brother-in-law, Terry Brown and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Steve was preceded in death by his father, Win; his brother, Brian and his brother-in-law, Jerry Rankin.

Memorial contributions given in Steve’s memory are suggested to either St. Jude Children’s Hospital or the Shiawassee Humane Society. Online condolences may be shared with his family at [www.watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.watkinsfuneralhomes.com)

Cooking Demo at Perry Library

The Perry Branch of the Community District Library will host a cooking demonstration on Monday, April 10 at 5 p.m.

Participants will learn how to make tamales with Chef Ming Louie. Those attending will also get to taste test them.

Seating is limited, so preregistration is required. Register online at [www.mycddl.org/events](http://www.mycddl.org/events) or call the library at (517) 625-3166. The branch is located at 135 S. Main St., Perry.

WORSHIP SERVICES

DIRECTORY

BYRON

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4509 E. Lovejoy Rd., Byron

517-223-3126 • [antrimbaptist.com](http://antrimbaptist.com)

Sunday School 10am

Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm

Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7pm

Regular services by phone.

Call 517-518-1100

BYRON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

101 S. Ann St., Byron

810-266-4976

[Byronumc@byronumc.com](mailto:Byronumc@byronumc.com)

[www.Byronumc.com](http://www.Byronumc.com)

Sunday Worship 9:15am

Sunday School 10:15am

Live stream YouTube Byron/Gaines

United Methodist Church

CORUNNA

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CORUNNA

1120 Legion Rd., Corunna

989-743-5400

[fbcorunna.com](http://fbcorunna.com)

Co-Pastors: Tony Moore and Tim Duffield

Sunday Worship 10:30am

Wednesday Bible Study 6pm

JUDDVILLE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3907 N. Durand Rd., Corunna

810-638-7498

11am Worship

Sunday School is during Worship

Rev. Pete Crawford

DURAND

DURAND CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

9725 E. Monroe Rd., Durand

989-288-2369

11am & 6pm Worship Sunday

[www.durandnazarene.com](http://www.durandnazarene.com)

RISEN LIFE CHURCH

520 Kent St., Durand

989-932-6126

989-413-9566

Sunday Service 11am

Live Stream Facebook

[risenlifedurand@gmail.com](mailto:risenlifedurand@gmail.com)

Clothes Closet open Thurs. & Sat. 10am-2pm

MORRICE

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

509 Main St., Morrice

517-625-4260

[stmarymorrice.org](http://stmarymorrice.org)

Monday Mass: M, Tu, F 8:30am

Evening Mass: Wednesday 6:30pm

Saturday Mass: 4:30pm

Sunday Masses: 8 & 10:30am

OWOSSO

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

120 Goodhue St.

(Fayette Square) Owosso

989-723-2495

Morning Prayer:

Mon-Sat 9am on Facebook

Sun 10am Holy Eucharist at church

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114 W. Mason St., Owosso

989-723-1670

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First Church of God

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Sunday Service 10:30am

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Matthew 28:18-20

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327 N. Washington St., Owosso

989-723-3010

[firstcongregationalchurchowosso.com](http://firstcongregationalchurchowosso.com)

Sunday Worship 10:30am

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

201 Michigan Ave., Owosso

989-723-1000

Sunday Service 11am

Virtual Service-

Facebook, Radio (92.5 FM)

Website: [GraceOwosso.org](http://GraceOwosso.org)

GRACEPOINTE WESLEYAN CHURCH

1687 N. M-52, Owosso

989-723-5247

Sunday Worship 10am

Virtual Worship on Facebook, YouTube and website:

[www.gracepointe-mi.org](http://www.gracepointe-mi.org)

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1150 N. Shiawassee St., Owosso

989-725-8219

Sunday School 10am

Sunday Worship 11am

OWOSSO CHURCH OF CHRIST

2005 S. M-52, Owosso

989-723-5407

Sunday School 9:30am

Sunday Worship 10:30am, 6pm

Pastor Jeremy Wittwer

OWOSSO CONT'D

OWOSSO CHURCH OF GOD (SEVENTH DAY)

Spring Vale Christian School

4150 S. M-52, Owosso

989-725-2251

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OWOSSO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1500 N. Water St., Owosso

989-725-2201

[firstumc@owossofumc.org](http://firstumc@owossofumc.org)

Sunday Worship 10am

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

915 E. Oliver St., Owosso

989-725-5215

Sunday Mass at 9:30am

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

111 N. Howell St., Owosso

989-723-4277

[www.stpaulowosso.org](http://www.stpaulowosso.org)

Saturday Mass at 4:30pm

Sunday Masses at 8am & 11am

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

219 W. Oliver St., Owosso

989-723-6238

Sunday Bible Study 9am

Sunday Worship 10am

Wed. Bible Study 10am

Wed. Worship 11am

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST-OWOSSO

Rev. Dr. Mona Joslyn

720 S. Shiawassee St. (M-52) (989) 723-2664

Sunday Worship 11:30am

Adult Bible Study 10:15am

Children Sunday School 11:30am

PERRY

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

12821 Warner Rd., Perry

(517) 675-1567

Sunday Worship 10am

followed by Sunday School

Pastor Rey Mondragon

[www.wearefaithcommunitychurch.weebly.com](http://www.wearefaithcommunitychurch.weebly.com)

PERRY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

3100 Ellsworth Rd., Perry

(517) 625-3400

Sunday Worship 9am & 11am (in church building)

[www.perrynazarene.com](http://www.perrynazarene.com)

Live Streaming of Worship

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7040 W. Beard Rd., Shaftsbury

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## “Tails and Treats” Fundraiser for Shiawassee Humane Society

By Melissa Shepard

The Shiawassee Humane Society is hosting a “Tails and Treats” Fundraiser, with the theme “The Great Catsby” on Saturday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1259 E. M-21, Owosso.

Guests can dress what they are comfortable in but the hope is that some dress up in the 1920s era theme.

This will be the Shiawassee Humane Society’s biggest fundraiser of the year and will feature dinner, a silent auction, live auction, 50/50 raffle and a DJ. Tickets are \$50 and available by calling (989) 723-4262 or stopping by the Shiawassee Humane Society or by visiting [www.shspets.org](http://www.shspets.org) or the Facebook page.

Sponsored tables of eight are \$500 and include two bottles of champagne, premium front row seating and two entries into a special gift basket drawing.

Sponsors for this are Edward Jones – Dave Minarik and D&D Truck & Trailer Parts. Local businesses and people have donated items for the silent auction and live auction. There are 70 silent auction items and 4-5 live auction items. A few live auction items include a trip to Mexico, bidding on having your pet be the face of the event the following year and a patio package.

There will also be a photo background with props for guests to take fun photos.



**Matthew Grubb,  
CPCU, Agent**

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Executive Directory Holly Guild said, “We are a private non-profit so we don’t get any government funding. All fundraising money collected allows us to operate all year long.”

## The Role of Technology in Agriculture

When asked to think of industries that utilize technology in unique ways, few people may immediately think of agriculture. But technology has left a significant footprint in every industry and the agricultural sector is no exception.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture notes that modern farms operate a lot differently than the farms of yesteryear. Dramatic changes have taken place within the agricultural industry over the last few decades, helping farming operations become more efficient and profitable as well as safer and more eco-friendly.

Robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images and GPS technologies are now routinely employed within the agricultural industry. The NIFA notes that the value of such technologies cannot be understated. Thanks to the technologies at their disposals, farmers no longer have to uniformly apply water, fertilizer and pesticides to their farms. Technology now allows them to use only the minimum amounts required as they zero in on individual plants and target specific areas of their farms. The NIFA notes that the utilization of these technologies produces some very real benefits, including: higher crop productivity, reduced impact on natural ecosystems, less runoff of chemicals into rivers and groundwater and increased worker safety.

Safer, more efficient and more eco-friendly operations can only make the agricultural industry more successful in the decades to come. That’s especially notable as the world continues to confront climate change and how it might affect the food supply.

Though few may recognize the role of technology in modern farming, there’s no denying the impact that various technologies have already had on the agricultural industry. And that impact figures to become even more profound in the decades to come.



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## Voices for Children Plans National Child Abuse Prevention Month Awareness Activities



The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Shiawassee County has a variety of activities planned to raise community awareness for child abuse during April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. "The month of April is devoted to celebrating everything we can do to transform our community into a place that cares about and actively supports families and children. The majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are entirely preventable. We have to pay attention to efforts that will prevent child abuse from happening in the first place. It's a shared responsibility and we're stronger together," reports Ellen Lynch, Vice President of Voices for Children, "Pinwheels represent happy childhoods; help us spread blue pinwheels throughout our community this April to remind us that every child deserves a care-free, happy childhood."

The Pinwheels for Prevention program will kick-off the month's

activities in April. Prevent Child Abuse America's Campaign uses the pinwheel as the symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention nationwide. The pinwheel represents Prevent Child Abuse America's efforts to change the way our nation thinks about prevention, focusing on community activities and public policies that prioritize prevention right from the start to make sure child abuse and neglect never occur.


Voices for Children hosted a pinwheel planting garden on Monday, April 3 in front of the Shiawassee County Courthouse, with help from local law enforcement, child protective service workers, the Prosecuting Attorney's office, Judges and the community at large. Cupcakes and Kisses donated cookies for the event.

To learn more about what you and your community can do to support child abuse prevention, call Voices for Children at (989) 723-5877.



**A PINWHEEL planting was held in front of the Shiawassee County Courthouse on Monday, April 3 in support of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.**

(Courtesy Photos)





**MARY SUMPTER**  
MSUMPTER@COLDWELLBANKER.COM

**MY STORY**

My family lived on an 80 acre, registered Jersey farm, just outside of Atlas, in the Goodrich School area. Moving there when I was five with my 3 older brothers and baby sister. Huge 5 bedroom home with an awesome barn full of cows, horses, baby calves and even a bull! We also had pigs, for one year, rabbits, etc. My father ran GM at the time and my mother ran the farm. We were all in 4-H and my middle brother, J.T. won for 5 consecutive years the Grand Champion dairy cow! My oldest brother was the true farmer and is still today at age 86!! We all had to work, especially summertime with all of the crops, yard work, little time for playing and we always had company with the best dinners prepared by my Mom. She also had a half acre of garden with every vegetable in the world, all so good and fresh! My family and I live in the same home for 49 years, in Burns Township where we have the best farmers surrounding us for Neighbors, they are wonderful! Farmers are the heart of our Country and our communities, and they are the most caring Hardest working people in the world. Please contact me about buying or selling a farm, vacant land or your home. Always available at: 517-202-6729.










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## How Rising Food Demand is Affecting Farming

The population is growing and so is its demand for food to fuel those extra bodies. Harvard Business Review reports the global population has quadrupled over the last century. It's predicted that, by 2050, the population will exceed nine billion people.

The world is not able to feed all of its inhabitants, according to Penn State. There are more than one billion people who are estimated to lack sufficient food and two billion who do not receive adequate nutrition. Researchers from the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota concluded that, to feed the world by 2030, yields on maize, rice, wheat, and soybeans will have to rise by 60 to 110 percent. At the start of 2023, projections show them only increasing by 45 to 60 percent. There are a few reasons why food supply may not meet up with demand.

- Climate change: Climate change is predicted to cause issues to crop yields, especially in portions of the world where the population is growing the fastest. For example, a recent NASA study published in the journal Nature predicts that high greenhouse gas emissions may cause corn output to decline as early as 2030, but wheat output would increase.

Farmers may need to roll with the punches and shift operations to cope with the environmental changes.

- Decreased commercial farming interest: Fewer people are working in farming. Land prices for expansion, new government mandates and regulations and impact of immigration and trade policies have made farming less attractive than it once was. Fewer commercial operations result in a diminished food commodity output.

- Consumer waste: Food loss and waste (FLW) is a widespread issue, posing a challenge to food security. The World Bank estimates 30 percent of all food across the globe is wasted, amounting to 1.3 billion tons of food per year. The average global household wastes 74 kg of food each year, according to the United Nations Environment Programme's 2021 Food Waste Index. Food waste is an issue that needs a solution as the world looks for ways to feed an expanding population in the decades to come.

In order to improve output, farmers have to make some changes. These can include investment in tools and technologies that enable farmers to apply nutrients more precisely


Continued on Page 13

## Spring Adult Art Class at The Shiawassee Arts Center

The Shiawassee Arts Center is offering the following new, spring adult art class - Open Acrylic/Oil Painting with Philip Ruehle, MFA, Artist/Instructor will begin a six-week series on Wednesdays, April 19 through May 24, 1 to 4 p.m.

Receive one-on-one instruction while exploring the painting genre of your choice (still life, landscape, portraiture, non-objective abstract, etc). This is a great opportunity to experiment with something new or to improve upon something with which you currently find challenging. Students need to bring their own supplies. Mineral spirits will be provided. \$135 Member/\$145 Guest.

Pre-Registration and payment required, call (989) 723-8354. The Arts Center is located at 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. The classrooms are handicap accessible. New session will follow.



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## Memorial Healthcare Wellness Center Offers Tai Chi

If you are someone you know is age 65 and older and is at risk for a fall, the Memorial Healthcare Wellness Center is hosting a FREE Tai Chi for Fall Prevention class. Participants are not required to be a member of the Wellness Center to participate in this prevention class.

Reasons to join: improves flexibility, strength and fitness; helps to reduce stress and improve relaxation; relieves pain and improves physical function and increases balance and reduces the risk of falls.

This class will take place on Mondays and Tuesdays for eight weeks beginning May 1 through June 22 from 12-1 p.m. at the Wellness Center (NOW Building), 819 S. Shiawassee St., Owosso. Class sizes are limited. To register, please call (989) 720-7081.



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WOODHULL TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF OPTICAL  
SCAN VOTING EQUIPMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Woodhull Township will hold a Public Accuracy Test of the optical scan voting system to be used for the May 2, 2023 Special Election on Friday April 14, at 10:15 a.m. at the Woodhull Township Hall located at 7315 West Beard Road, Perry, Michigan 48872.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted as required by Michigan Law (MCL 168.798) to demonstrate that the Programs and the Election Equipment being used to tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Lesley Daunt  
Woodhull Township Clerk  
(517) 675-4342

**DURAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES – MARCH 6, 2023**

Minutes of the regular Durand City Council meeting held on March 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Durand City Hall. Mayor Jeff Brands called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Present: Mayor Jeff Brands, Deb Doyle, Rich Folaron, Pat O'Connor, Sara Pettit Absent: Brian Boggs, Nick Florindi O'Connor moved, Folaron supported to approve the agenda with the addition of H: Approval of Radar Equipment for the Police Department. Carried Folaron moved, O'Connor supported to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 6, 2023, as presented. Carried Pettit moved, Folaron supported to pay bills # 55818-55904. Carried Doyle moved, O'Connor supported to approve the appointment of Becky Fielder and Steve Kinney to the DDA and Andy Zick to the Board of Review. Carried Candace Wolsfeld gave a Chamber update regarding events that will be taking place in the spring and summer. Folaron moved, O'Connor supported to approve Farmer's Garden to maintain the flowers they provide to the DDA per the quote they provided on 1/20/23 in a total not to exceed \$6,720.00. Carried Doyle moved, Folaron supported to table DUSI Board of Directors/By-Law Amendments until next meeting. Carried Pettit moved, Doyle supported to approve the quote from Most Dependable Fountains, Inc. as presented in an amount not to exceed \$4,220 to be payable with ARPA funds. Carried Pettit moved, Folaron supported to table this discussion for at least a month to assess how the pump (Goodall Rd. pump #1) performs after the most recent repairs. Carried O'Connor moved, Pettit supported to approve the farm lease agreement with Zdunic Farms at a rate of \$176.00 per acre for the 2023 growing season. Carried Folaron moved, O'Connor supported to approve the purchase of three radar units from Stalker at a cost not to exceed \$7,785.00 for the Police Department. Carried O'Connor moved, Folaron supported to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Carried

A complete copy of the minutes of this meeting and all meetings of the Durand City Council are available for viewing at [www.durandmi.com](http://www.durandmi.com) or by contacting the Clerk's office, City of Durand, 215 W. Clinton Street, Durand, MI 989-288-3113.

Mindy McKay, City Clerk

## Scholarship Offered to Laingsburg High School Students

Scholarships are being offered at Laingsburg High School for all eligible graduating seniors in memory of BIG A (Jason E. Andersen), a former 1995 LHS graduate and son of Janice Putnam Andersen and the late Eugene Andersen. Additional scholarships will also be available at Alpena High School where Jason was a Coach and Counselor.

Prior to the passing of Jason at a young age of 31, Jason was a former Director of Alpena's Boys and Girls Club, Alpena's Youth Center and coached many students at Alpena Schools in both football and basketball along with counseling at risk students. His legacy of helping many students in need is being continued through the financial assistance via the scholarships at his former alma mater high school and Alpena High School. To qualify, students must be a graduating senior in good standing. Also, participation in school based and non-school based activities will be considered in addition to their future study area/goals and any special circumstances that they may have encountered in their life. Applications are available for pick up at the counselors office at Laingsburg High School. All LHS applications must

## Activities & Events

Note: The Independent Newsgroup is not responsible for changes in dates/times or cancellations. Information is submitted through individual organizations.

### The Hub Owosso & The Hub R.E.C. Center

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The Independent ★ **Sunday, April 9, 2023** 11

be received by 4 p.m. Friday, May 5 or postmarked by May 5 and mailed to BIG A Scholarship, Janice Andersen, 514 E. Broad Street, Chesaning, MI 48616 to be considered. Questions can be referred to 989-666-2696.

## Sewer Overflow in Durand

The Shiawassee County Health Department (SCHD) has been informed of Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) that occurred at the waste-water treatment plant located in the City of Durand.

The City of Durand plant began experiencing a sanitary sewer overflow of partially treated wastewater on Friday, March 31 through early Saturday, April 1. The total amount of the discharge was estimated to be approximately 76,000 gallons of partially treated sewage.

The sewage overflow was caused by an equipment failure at the waste-water treatment plant. SCHD advises that recreational users of the Shiawassee River avoid fully body contact with the water at this time.

For further information please contact Andrew Bisaha, Director of Public Works for the City of Durand at (989) 288-3113 or Casey D. Elliott, Director of Environmental Health, Shiawassee County Health Department at (989) 743-2390.

### Chapin United Methodist Church Ham & Turkey Dinner

Saturday, April 29

at Chapin United Methodist Church, 19848 S. Chapin Rd.

Includes ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, corn, coleslaw, dessert and beverage.

Free offerings accepted. Take-outs available.

### Concert Series at First Congregational Church UCC

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## Owosso Musicale Sponsors Free Concert

The Owosso Musicale will sponsor a free concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 16 at the First United Methodist Church, 1500 N. Water St., Owosso. MSU College of Music students Liang Zhao, Baritone and Minggu Yao, Pianist, will be performing.

Liang Zhao is a graduate of Wuhan Conservatory of Music. He has a Master of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music in New York City. Liang has performed on stages in America, Europe and China. He recently performed in "Falstaff" as Ford with the Michigan State University Opera Theatre.

Liang continues his studies at Michigan State University with full scholarship and Graduate assistance position for Doctor of Musical Arts Degree.

Minggu Yao, a native of China, began studying the piano at age four. He obtained his B.M. from the Julliard School in New York City and his M.M. at Mannes School of Music. Minggu has won many national and international competitions. He is also an alumnus of the Pre-college of Shanghai Conservatory. Yao is now pursuing his Doctor of Musical Art in both piano solo and collaborative piano at Michigan State University.

The April 16 free concert musical selections will include "Some Enchanted Evening," "The Impossible Dream," and "If Ever I Would Leave You." Refreshments will be served following the concert.



Liang Zhao



Minggu Yao  
(Courtesy Photos)

## 35th Circuit Court Temporarily Relocated

The 35th Circuit Court, Circuit Court Clerk's Office and Friend of the Court closed for relocation Thursday and Friday, March 30 & 31.

Effective Monday, April 3 these offices will be relocated to Memorial Healthcare Mitchell Auditorium, 826 W. King St., Owosso.

## Parkinson Support Group to Meet

The Owosso Parkinson Support Group is set to meet on Wednesday, April 12 at 5 p.m. at the Shiawassee Council on Aging, 300 N. Washington St., Owosso. The Owosso Parkinson Support Group meets the second Wednesday of each month.

April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness month. Members of the group attended the Owosso City Council meeting on Monday, April 3 and we received a Proclamation declaring April 2023 as Parkinson's Awareness Month in the City of Owosso. We received this proclamation from Mayor Robert Teich, Jr. He was very gracious in presenting this. We have received these for the past 15 years from three different mayors: Mayor Ben Frederick, Mayor Chris Eveleth and now from Mayor Robert Teich, Jr.

We are pleased to announce our speaker for the evening, Helen Howard, RN, CEO of Respite of Shiawassee. Volunteers are trained and then matched up to those people in need of help.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. We provide information, encouragement, fellowship and support.

For any questions about Owosso Parkinson's group, please call Karen Prussner, Facilitator at (989) 723-6901.

## ARC ANNOUNCES MR. CURWOOD CANDIDATE

The Arc of Mid-Michigan is happy to announce our partnership with Mr. Casey Lambert (DJ Chewy) for this year's Mr. Owosso 2023!

Follow our official Mr. Owosso Facebook page to stay up to date on the latest events, swag and sponsorship opportunities.



(Courtesy Photo)

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## Artform Hair Salon and SAC Have Partnered Up

On Friday, March 31, Shiawassee Arts Council's Exhibits Director Jennifer Ross and Assistant Exhibits Director Philip Martin-Luchhurst hung artwork on display and for sale in Artform's front entrance. Kasey Granger, Artform's owner, reached out to Jennifer and asked about displaying local artist's work in her place of business.

Artwork on display currently is from Artists Jane Cloutier, Sam Huff, Andrew Rieder, Ruth Egnater and Melinda Pope. Clients can purchase rotating artwork by scanning QR codes under each piece. This is the first Art Alliance that Shiawassee Arts Center plans to create with local businesses throughout Shiawassee County, if your business would also like to partner with the Art Center please call (989) 723-8354.



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## STINE TURF & SNOW: LAWN CARE SPECIALISTS

by Graham Sturgeon, staff writer

Stine Turf & Snow, Inc., of Durand, has been serving the greater Shiawassee County area since 1996, and also serves the communities of Flint, Saginaw, Lansing, Ann Arbor, Metro Detroit and Jackson. The local company handles residential and commercial snow and ice removal during the colder months, but with the weather finally starting to turn, the Stine Turf & Snow team is gearing up for lawn care season. That means lawn aerating, preventative and curative grub control, perimeter pest control (exterior only), mosquito control and, of course, lawn fertilization.

Stine features a five-step lawn program, beginning in April and May with a jump-start of granular fertilizer, crabgrass preventer and broadleaf weed control. The next step, in May and June, entails the application of slow-release granular fertilizer and broadleaf weed control to maintain color and control clover and dandelion growth. The summer treatment, from June through August, includes slow release fertilizer and spot treatment for broadleaf weeds and crabgrass to help maintain the yard through the stressful summer months. In early fall, from August through October, the team focuses on broadleaf weed control. The final treatment, in October or November, will feature a winterizer granular fertilizer that prepares the lawn for winter by feeding the roots of the grass.

Now, anyone could conceivably implement a similar program using the products listed above, but the big advantages in hiring Stine Turf & Snow for the job are their professional expertise, professional grade materials and the company's service guarantee. When exactly to apply the desired fertilizer or pest control can be tricky, and worst of all, what happens when a heavy rain comes through and washes everything away before it has a chance to take effect? Both of these issues are covered with Stine. Their professionals know when to apply each of their desired treatments, and in cases of unexpected inclement weather, their service guarantee means they will come out and re-apply, ensuring the health of each lawn.

With the nicer weather comes mosquitos, unfortunately, and Stine has got that covered. Stine offers its services for special events, such as weddings and open houses, and on a monthly basis. Mosquito treatments are guaranteed for 21 days, but can be effective for up to six to eight weeks in cool, dry conditions.

Warmer weather also brings a number of other pests. Stine's perimeter pest control includes a barrier spray around the foundation of the house to control earwigs, box elder bugs, spiders, ants and "pretty much everything else that crawls."

Grub control is also a concern for homeowners, and Stine has the remedy. Stine uses a curative product to control and stop grub damage immediately and a preventative product is used to take care of the next generation of grubs.

The presence of grubs is often commonly associated with the presence of moles, but that is a "suburban myth," according to Stine Turf & Snow owner Marc Stine. The presence

of grubs does not equate to the presence of moles, and vice versa. Moles, as insectivores, eat a wide variety of bugs, including insects, worms and other invertebrates, so treating for grubs will not necessarily eliminate moles.

The Stine Lawn & Snow team of lawn care specialists is headed up by owner Marc Stine and general manager Dan Mausolf, both experienced professionals in the industry and former golf course superintendents. With the busy season ramping up, Stine Turf & Snow could use additional team members. To become a lawn care technician, stop in to Stine Turf & Snow at 1001 N. Saginaw St. in Durand or visit [stinelawn.com](http://stinelawn.com). To schedule services, call (989) 666-1200.



(Courtesy Photos)

## Memorial Healthcare Institute for Neuroscience Welcomes Nurse Practitioner

The Memorial Healthcare Institute for Neuroscience is pleased to welcome Paige Goulette, DNP-BC to its active medical staff.

Paige is a board-certified Doctor of Nursing Practice with experience as a Clinical Research Nurse and as a MS/Neurology Nurse Navigator. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Grand Valley State University and an accelerated second BSN degree from the University of Michigan-Flint. Paige also received her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and her Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) from the University of Michigan-Flint.

In 2020, Paige was selected as Memorial Healthcare's Nurse of the Year and became a Multiple Sclerosis Certified nurse. She has also been actively involved with the Memorial Healthcare Institute for Neuroscience where she created the Multiple Sclerosis Support group and is an active member of the Process Improvement Committee.

For more information, please visit [www.MemorialHealthcare.org](http://www.MemorialHealthcare.org).



(Courtesy Photo)

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## How Rising Food Demand is Affecting Farming

Continued from Page 10

and at lower cost, advises the Environmental Defense Fund. Seeds that need less water and fewer nutrients, as well as new fertilizers that are less likely to be lost to air and water, are some additional ideas. Farmers also may want to employ green practices, such as hydroponics and drip irrigation, if they haven't already, to improve efficiency and cut costs. The public also may need to petition their lawmakers to make it easier for farm workers arriving on working visas to man the fields.

Food demand continues to rise and it has become challenging for agricultural operations to keep up.

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- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Emergency Medicine
- Endocrinology
- Family Medicine
- Gastroenterology
- Gynecology
- Home Health Care
- Hospice
- Hospital Medicine
- Infectious Disease
- Intensive Care
- Internal Medicine
- Laboratory
- Long Term Care
- Memory Care
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Nuclear Medicine
- Obstetrics
- Occupational Health
- Oncology (Medical & Radiation)
- Ophthalmology
- Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery
- Orthopedics
- Otolaryngology
- Pain Management
- Palliative Medicine
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Podiatry
- Psychiatry
- Pulmonology
- Rehabilitation (Physical, Cardiac, Speech, Voice)
- Skilled Care
- Sports Medicine
- Surgery
- Urgent Care
- Urology
- Wound Care

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