

Merry Christmas!

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

VOLUME 93, NUMBER 39

CASS CITY MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1999

FIFTY CENTS

22 PAGES

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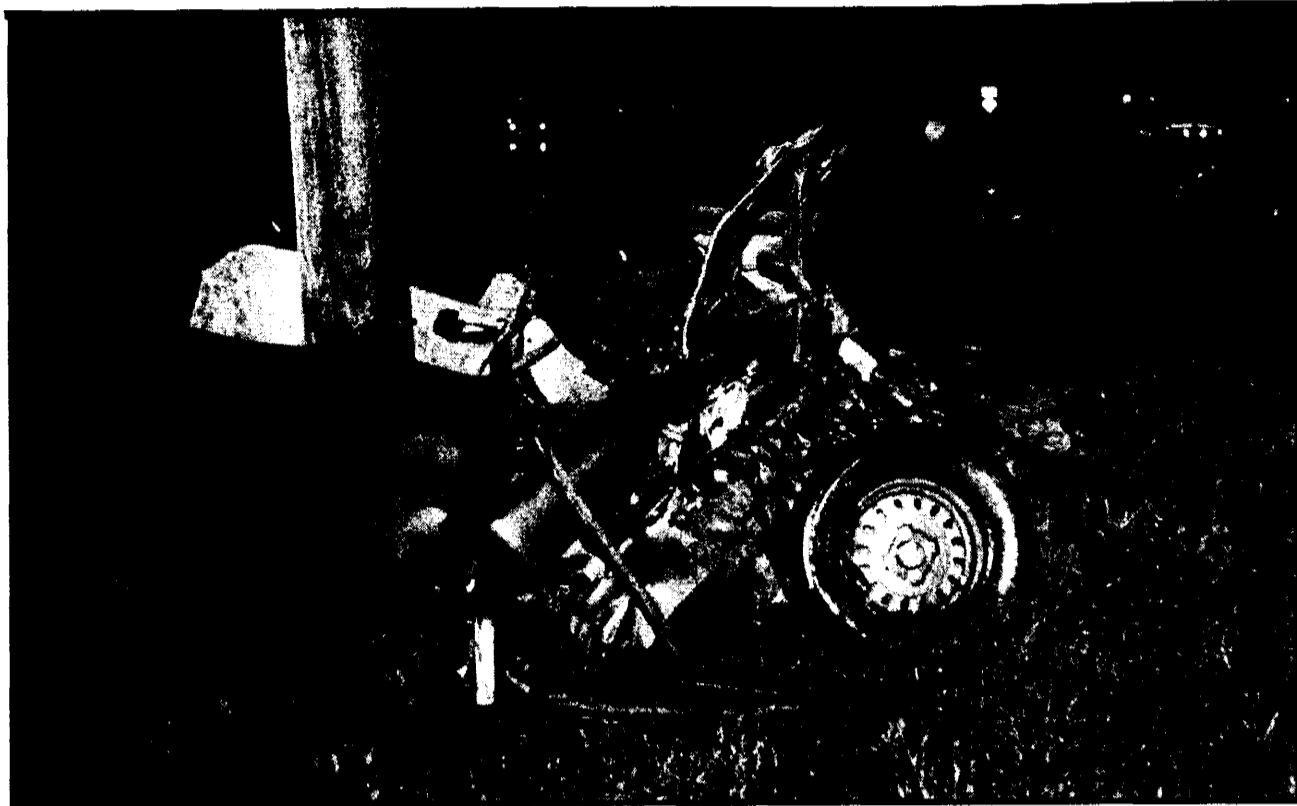
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Miracle on M-53



A TRIO OF CASS City School students walked away from the wreckage of their car after the vehicle was cut in half in a collision with another vehicle at the intersection of M-81 and M-53 Monday morning. The impact caused the rear portion of the car to wrap around a utility pole (above).

2000 budget approved

Council okays zoning permit fee increase

It will cost more to secure a zoning permit in Cass City under a new fee schedule approved by the village council Monday night.

Village Manager Jane Downing proposed increases in zoning permit and site plan review fees in conjunction with the village's 2000 Fee Schedule.

Currently, Downing explained, zoning permits cost \$3 regardless of the size of the project, whether it involves construction of a deck or a multi-million dollar commercial or industrial facility. And yet the village's responsibility is the same; to ensure local zoning laws are being followed.

"Zoning is a very, very time consuming part of my du-

ties," she said. "We're talking about really helping to address the cost of the service."

Under the new fee schedule, zoning permits and site plan reviews will cost \$10 for the first \$1,000 value of a project, \$25 dollars for projects with a value of \$1,001 to \$50,000, and \$50 for projects totaling \$50,001 to \$250,000.

In addition, a fee of \$75 per hour, with a minimum of one hour, will be charged plus consulting fees for construction topping \$250,000. Non-residential inspections will cost \$75 with a minimum of 2 required inspections.

Downing couldn't estimate how much more revenue the fee increases will bring to

village coffers. She noted the village collected some \$400 for about 133 zoning permits issued this year.

No other rate increases are included in the 2000 fee schedule, which covers sign permits, liquor licenses, refuse fees, swimming and pool rental fees, arts and crafts program charges, recreational facility rentals, concession permits and police reports.

BUDGET

Turning to the budget, council members adopted a proposed 2000 spending plan totaling \$3.57 million.

Approval came following a brief public hearing, during Please turn to page 12.

In Monday morning crash

Teens escape serious injury

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Not everyone gets a miracle for their birthday, but state police troopers say Decker area teen Talisa Talaski received just that on a rainy, dark Monday morning about 4 miles east of Cass City.

In fact, police say, Talaski, who turned 15 Monday, and her sisters, Tracy Talaski, 17, and Brandi Talaski, 12, are lucky to be alive.

The siblings were on their way to classes in the Cass City School District when they were involved in a violent 2-vehicle collision that literally cut their 1989 Ford Tempo in half. The force of the impact sent the rear half of the car careening into a utility pole at the southwest corner of M-81 and M-53.

Trooper Austin Hessling of the Michigan State Police post in Sandusky reported

Tracy Talaski was driving north on M-53 at about 7:55 a.m. when she attempted to make a left turn and was struck by a southbound 1995 Ford Explorer driven by Brenda Hoffman, 32, of Bad Axe.

Brandi Talaski, who was in the backseat and not wearing a seat belt, fell out of the vehicle when it split in half, according to Hessling, who stated the teen suffered some

minor cuts to her face and hands. She was transported by Cass City MMR Ambulance to Hills and Dales General Hospital for treatment.

Hessling said both Tracy Talaski and Talisa Talaski were wearing shoulder harnesses and were not injured.

The Hoffman vehicle left M-53 near the southwest corner of the intersection after impact, entered a ditch and rolled over, coming to rest on

its wheels. Both Brenda Hoffman and her husband, Robert Hoffman, 34, were wearing seat belts and their air bags deployed. Hessling stated the couple escaped injury.

Tracy Talaski was cited for failure to yield the right of way.

Cass City police and Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies assisted troopers at the scene.

Pawloski: stand-by fee hike a must

Elkland Township officials have joined some other area townships in doubling ambu-

2 arrested in attempted robbery

A pair of Saginaw residents were arrested Monday in connection with an attempted strong-arm robbery at the Big Boy Restaurant in Caro.

According to troopers from the Michigan State Police post in Caro, an employee at the restaurant, located at 1901 W. Caro Rd., reported that a white female entered the restaurant Monday morning and went to a restroom at the rear of the business. The suspect then allegedly walked up to a counter and demanded "all of the money out of the register."

Troopers said the employee, fearing the suspect, stated "no", then ran from the register area to a phone to call 911.

Witnesses described the female and suspect vehicle, a smaller blue pickup truck. They also described a second suspect, saying they observed a black male sleeping inside the pickup while it was parked at the restaurant.

Troopers were later notified by central dispatch that Vassar Police Chief John Horwath had the suspect vehicle stopped at Mallory's Restaurant in Richville and the suspects in custody.

They were expected to be arraigned Tuesday.

lance stand-by fees.

Cass City Mobile Medical Response (MMR) officials say the increase, from \$2 per capita to \$4 per capita, will mean the difference between continuing the ambulance service and closing the doors.

The Elkland Township board approved the increase during its Dec. 13 monthly meeting, Clerk Norma Wallace reported. She estimated the \$2 stand-by fee increase will generate an additional \$6,800 in revenue.

MMR officials have asked each of the townships they serve to approve identical increases, according to Cass City MMR Supervisor Ron Pawloski. "This is bare bones," he said. "If we don't get the \$4 per capita, we're not going to survive."

Pawloski explained that the financial crunch facing the ambulance service is the result of several factors, including changes in staffing, a downturn in the number of ambulance runs, and an increase in the cost of doing business over the past several years.

When Jack McDaniels bought the ambulance service from Roger Little back in 1978, Pawloski said, an ambulance board was established and representatives of the various townships served were appointed to the board. "They went with a \$2 per capita (fee)," he added, "and it's been \$2 per capita ever since 1978."

Over the past several years, there have been a lot of changes, according Pawloski, an Emergency Medical Technician-Special-

ist (EMT-S) who also serves as chief of the Elkland Township Fire Department.

"Of course, the insurance companies paid better back then and Medicare paid better then," he said, adding staffing the ambulance service, not to mention the fire department, has proven to be among the biggest challenges, not only locally but everywhere. "Volunteers are

almost a thing of the past." Cass City MMR opted to upgrade its service to Advanced Life Support about 2 years ago. The change meant the addition of a paramedic on staff 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

Paramedics can administer medications as well as advanced life saving procedures, making them the next best thing to having a doctor

on the scene, according to Pawloski. Unfortunately, he said, the change also resulted in the loss of 5 medical first responders from the local ambulance staff because state law requires a minimum EMT certification to accompany a paramedic. "So, that put a crunch on the volunteers that we had."

Which left very few volunteers that we had."

Please turn to page 12.

VILLAGE OF CASS CITY 1999-2000 WAGE AND SALARY CHART FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES			
ADMINISTRATION:	1999	2000	
Village Manager	52,920	56,000	
Village Clerk/Treasurer	34,000	36,000	
Secretary	29,075	29,800	
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS:			
DPW Superintendent	45,900	48,000	
DPW Crew	37,626	38,550	
Crew Out-of-Class Pay	19.98/hour	20.47/hour	
WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT:			
WWTP Superintendent	45,900	48,000	
Chief Operator (Vacant)	37,603	39,500	
WWTP Crew	37,626	38,550	
	28,981	30,572	
1 year	28,981	30,572	
2 year	30,572	32,300	
3 year	32,300	34,066	
4 year	34,066	36,708	
5 year	36,708		
POLICE DEPARTMENT:			
Chief of Police	45,900	48,000	
Sergeant	38,543	39,500	
Patrol Officer	30,572	32,300	
1 year	28,981		
2 year	30,572		
3 year	32,300		
4 year	34,066		
5 year	36,708		
TOTAL FT STAFF:	\$ 622,151.00	\$ 638,972.00	
INCREASE '99-'00:		\$ 16,821.00	
PERCENT INCREASE '99-'00:		3.0%	



CASS CITY MMR Supervisor Ron Pawloski (above) said the need for additional ambulance funding is due to several factors, including changes in staffing, improved service and fewer runs in recent years. The requested increase in stand-by fees is the first since 1978.

Hampton faces up to 10 years in jail

Richard Hampton will spend the next 80 months to 10 years in prison for his convictions in the traffic deaths of 2 Kingston area teens.

The Deford man was sentenced to concurrent prison terms Friday in Tuscola County Circuit Court for jury convictions on 2 counts of negligent homicide and being an habitual offender, fourth.

Information shedding a bit more light into Hampton's past resulted in a stiffer sentence.

Mark Reese, Tuscola County's chief assistant prosecutor, explained that his office learned of 2 previously unknown felony convictions for Hampton after a jury convicted him in the teens' deaths following a 4-day trial last September. One of the counts was a federal charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm and the other was a burglary charge.

Prosecutors were previously aware of 5 previous convictions for Hampton, however, due to legal technicalities, only 2 of those convictions could be used to enhance his sentence. Even with the negligent homicide convictions, he faced a maximum of just 4 years in prison as a habitual offender, third offense.

Hampton was originally charged with second degree murder in the deaths of Joshua Earl Kratz, 15, and Jeffery Allen Randall II, 13. However, the jury instead convicted him on the lesser charge of negligent homicide.

The charges stem from a Nov. 14, 1998, accident on Phillips Road, one-half mile north of Deckerville Road in Novesta Township.

Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies said Hampton pursued a vehicle occupied by the teens after a family member witness.

Please turn to page 12.



Mae and Olin Bouck

Boucks celebrate 65 years together

Olin Bouck and Mae Peterson were married Dec. 1, 1934, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Peterson, Kinde.

Dec. 5, 1999, the Boucks and their family dined at the Ugly Heights Country Club.

Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Roger Bouck of Cass City, Ernest Bouck and friend of Royal Oak, Robert and Pat Widger of Fenton, Ron Bouck of Detroit,

Nathan, Zachary and Jesse of Cass City, Jenny Bouck and friend of Howell, Madeleine Bouck and friend of East Lansing.

The Boucks are now living near Cass City after spending 28 winters in Holiday, Fla., where they enjoyed shuffling, men's and women's clubs and playing cards with their many friends.

Candlelight service set

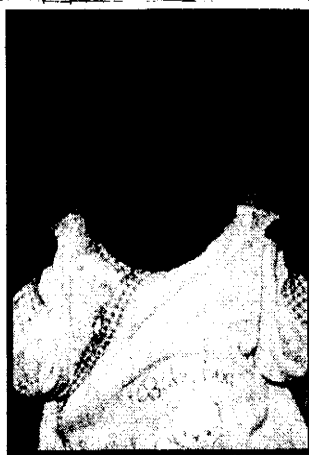
Novesta Church of Christ, 2896 N. Cemetery Rd., Cass City, will host a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 6:30 p.m.

The program will include music specials, congregational singing of Christmas

carols, a senior high skit, communion, reading of the Christmas story and candle lighting.

The public is invited. For further information call 872-3658.

It's a boy!



Joseph Allan Sieradzki

Great-grandmother Marlene Sieradzki announces the birth of Joseph Allan Sieradzki, Nov. 30, 1999, in Lapeer. He weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 inches long.

His father is Robert Allan Davis of Cass City, and his mother is Brandea Sieradzki of Cass City.

Maternal grandmother is Jamea McKnight of Porter, Texas. Maternal grandfather is Michael Sieradzki of Virginia Beach, Va.

Paternal grandparents are Shirley Hoffman of Cass City and Thomas Davis of Bannister.

Thumb dancers to party

The Sandusky Thumb Dancers will hold its New Year's Eve dance at the Sandusky Maple Valley School Saturday, Dec. 31. Music will be by Light House.

A potluck dinner will be held at 7:30 with the dance starting at 8:30.

Everyone is welcome. Bring friends.

Sr. Citizens' Menu

Senior Citizens are asked to make reservations before 9:00 a.m., on the day of the meal, by calling Clara Gaffney, 872-2875.

DEC. 27-29

Monday - Beef stew w/carrots, potatoes and onions, stewed tomatoes, biscuit, banana pudding.

Wednesday - Golden baked chicken, sweet potatoes, peas, variety bread, mandarin oranges.

Friday - Closed in observance of New Year's.



by Melva E. Guinther

In the almost 40 years we've been married, there have been only a couple of times when the family didn't "come home" for the holidays.

We're breaking with tradition this year by going to our kids' for Christmas. And you know, it's not all bad.

Ordinarily we're a bit overwhelmed with decking the halls, along with every other room, porch, deck, garage and fence post, as well as baking, cleaning, planning, etc.

This year we shopped early, wrapped and shipped our presents out, and kept the decorating down to an acceptable minimum.

It's hard to believe, but I've discovered that Christmas will come whether or not every wall and stick of furniture is trimmed, and whether the house is full of people.

Family traditions are important in this fast-paced, rapidly changing world, but they aren't carved in stone.

As our children grow up, marry and have children of their own, they need to establish their own traditions in their own homes. It helps if Grandpa and Grandma recognize this and become flexible.

Some of the Guinther traditions of the season include watching Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" on TV at least once. We prefer the version with George C. Scott as Scrooge.

And we'd feel the season wasn't complete if we didn't take in Ralphie's annual quest for a Red Ryder BB gun in "A Christmas Story." "The Best Christmas Pag-

Singles to meet

There will be a singles dance in the "Backroom" of the Brentwood in Caro Friday, Jan. 14, from 8 p.m. till midnight, with D.J. Dave LeMaster.

For more information call Gene at (517) 683-2723.

Church program slated

At the "turn of the century" the Juniata Baptist Church of Tuscola County will be having a Bible conference to emphasize the congregation's commitment to the old faith.

Beginning New Year's Eve (Dec. 31) and continuing through the first 4 days of A.D. 2000, special services at the rural church will follow the theme, "We Still Believe."

Christmas Eve must have its Pictionary games. We save the crazy pictures from year to year and find the hastily drawn sketches just as funny the second time around.

There's the inevitable good-natured argument over whether to open the stocking gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. Every year there are new and innovative reasons supporting both sides, and the grownups aren't above shamelessly using the kids to bolster their particular viewpoint.

Then there's the traditional food, always more than any one family needs or should consume.

This year we'll keep some of the traditions at our daughter and son-in-law's house, and perhaps initiate some new ones.

Regardless of your family's traditions, hopefully everyone who observes Christmas will spend some time reflecting upon the real Christmas story, without which the celebration, decorations, gifts, etc., are pretty meaningless.

And hopefully that reflection will go beyond the nativity scene. That the Creator of the Universe stooped to become a poor, helpless baby in such lowly circumstances is awesome. But to comprehend the full extent of His love, you have to follow the God-child to manhood.

You have to recognize how God's purpose was fulfilled even in the abuse and misunderstanding that ultimately led to His humiliating, but necessary, death on the cross.

The manger was just the beginning. The angel said, "You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

And that's what Christmas is really about.

Dr. Thompson founded the large Cleveland Baptist Church many years ago, and since his retirement has been preaching in fundamentalist churches around the country and around the world. The topics to be addressed by these men and the other speakers will include the Bible's infallibility, Christ's deity, salvation by grace, and the Second Coming.

Each evening service of the Bible Conference will begin at 7 p.m. (Dec. 31-Jan. 4).

The church is located between Vassar and Mayville, just south of Saginaw Rd. at 5656 Washburn Rd.

Nursery service will be provided for every conference meeting. Special music will be provided by members of the congregation.

Huron Memorial offering childbirth class series

Huron Memorial Hospital, Bad Axe, will be offering a 6-week series of childbirth classes.

The classes will be held Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. These classes are for any expectant mother who is due before April 30, 2000, and wants to learn more about nutrition, exercise, the

labor process, relaxation techniques, pain management and more.

The class is taught by Marlene Corl, R.N. A fee will be charged to attend. For more information or to register, call the Huron Memorial Hospital Community Relations Department at (517) 269-9521.

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Saturday, January 1 - Closed



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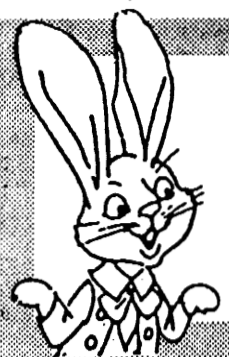


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SEASONS BEST TO YOU



Rabbit Tracks

by John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help.)

As we approach the millennium, the Chronicle is also celebrating. This month the paper is celebrating 100 years in Cass City. How is that possible when every week just under the name on the front page the date says we are 93 years old?

Both claims are valid. As the Chronicle, we are 93 years old. But the paper was formed with a consolidation of 2 previous papers. Figured that way, we are celebrating our centennial this month.

Either way, it's a long time and we are proud of it.

I can't prove it of course, but don't you agree that there are more Christmas lights at homes this season than in most years? Maybe the reason is the nice weather that we have enjoyed leading up to the yule season.

But with the beautiful decorations comes an increase in the hazard of holiday fires. Fire is one of the top causes of accidental deaths in the home. In December 1998 there were 132 cooking fires, 39 candle fires, 22 light decoration fires and 4 Christmas tree fires in Michigan.

In addition to normal safety measures, experts remind us of extra precautions needed during the holiday season.

Turn off tree lights and extinguish candles before leaving home or going to bed.

Do not overload electrical circuits and make sure extension cords are in good condition.

Make sure that Christmas trees are watered, set securely to avoid toppling and placed away from a heat source.

Motorist injured

A Melvin area resident was hurt in a 2-vehicle collision last Wednesday in Sanilac County's Argyle Township.

Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies reported Mary M. Cooke, 56, Melvin, was driving east on Argyle Road, about 2 miles west of Argyle, when a southbound vehicle pulled into her path at the Wheeler Road intersection. Cooke was transported by

Bingham Ambulance to Hills and Dales General Hospital in Cass City, where she was treated for her injuries and then released.

The driver of the southbound vehicle, Emmett A. Grifka, 48, Snover, was cited for failure to yield. Both motorists were wearing seat belts when the 11 a.m. crash occurred, deputies said.

Driver hurt Thursday

A Cass City motorist suffered injuries in a one-vehicle accident a mile east of the village Thursday morning.

Troopers from the Michigan State Police post in Caro reported the driver, Toinette A. Hatcher, 41, was westbound on M-81 near Schwegler Road at about 6 a.m. when she lost control while attempting to pass an-

other vehicle. Troopers said the Hatcher vehicle rolled over 4 times before coming to rest south of the highway.

Reports indicate Hatcher was wearing a seat belt. She was transported to Hills and Dales General Hospital by Cass City MMR Ambulance, however, information on her condition was not available.

Circuit court proceedings

Texas teen enters plea

A Texas teen charged in the Nov. 20 burglary of the Cass City Hardware store faces sentencing Jan. 28 in Tuscola County Circuit Court.

Lauro T. Trevino, 17, Elsa, Texas, pleaded guilty Friday to charges of breaking and entering a building with intent to commit larceny, a 10-year felony, and to larceny of firearms, which is punishable by up to 5 years in prison and/or a \$2,500 fine.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered for Trevino, who was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Bond was continued at \$50,000.

According to police, Trevino and 2 other suspects, Rudolfo Nuncio Jr., 23, and Nicholas C. Leitermann, 18, both of Sebawaing, used bricks to smash a window and a gun display case at the Cass City business, located at 6092 E. Cass City Rd., sometime between 2 and 3 a.m.

A cooperative effort among local police, Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies, state police and Bad Axe police resulted in the arrests of all 3 suspects a short time later. Officers also recovered 6 stolen handguns.

In other circuit court proceedings Friday:

•Chad C. Bills, 22, Caro, pleaded guilty to escape while awaiting trial Sept. 27 in Caro, and 2 counts of second degree home invasion stemming from break-ins Sept. 24 in Novesta and Kingston townships. He also pleaded guilty to having one prior felony conviction.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued at a combined \$200,000 and the defendant of the sheriff's department. Sentencing was scheduled for Jan. 28 at 8:30 a.m.

•Philip S. Timmerberg, 29, Caro, was sentenced to 53 days in the county jail and 60 months probation for his plea

of guilty to resisting and obstructing a police officer Sept. 4 in Indianfields Township. He was also ordered to pay \$260 in court costs and fines.

•Tony L. Myers, 29, Millington, was sentenced to 36 months probation and 180 days in jail (90 days deferred to the end of probation), with work release, for his plea of guilty to attempted defacing the serial or engine number on a motor vehicle Feb. 25

in Millington Township.

He was also ordered to pay \$1,120 in costs and fines. Restitution is to be determined.

•Adam J. Lalko, 19, Vassar, was sentenced to 36 months probation and 180 days in jail for his plea of guilty to attempted breaking and entering and concealing stolen property July 14 in Vassar.

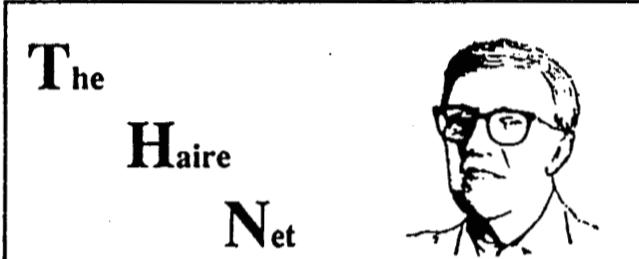
He was also ordered to undergo mental health counseling and to pay \$1,380 in costs and fines plus restitution totaling \$1,447.94.

•Shelina Trudeau, 18, Vassar, was sentenced to 17 days in jail for her plea of guilty to probation violation.

•Ernest Congdon, 20, Vassar, was sentenced to 45 days in jail, with work release and worksite privileges, for his plea of guilty to probation violation.

•Edward L. Troyer, 41, Columbiaville, pleaded guilty to probation violation.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.



The Haire Net

In the spirit of the season, we send a special merry Christmas to folks who have caught the public eye and whose spirits have been dampened one way or the other.

Merry Christmas to the unfortunate Flint resident who was ticketed for cussing on the Rifle River and decided to fight the charges. The case made state and national headlines for months and resulted in a guilty verdict. An appeal was planned.

Merry Christmas to Rinerd Schember. He felt that police were infringing on his rights when they followed him home one night.

Merry Christmas to State Representative Mike Green, who will be leaving office because of term limits and perhaps without getting his bill to establish a state dog passed.

Merry Christmas to Shelly Ulfig, who felt that she was shortchanged in the voting for the outstanding girl athlete last year. She is playing well at Alma College.

Merry Christmas to George E. Lynch. The back window of his car was smashed by vandals. Merry Christmas to everyone who suffered from senseless vandalism.

Merry Christmas to Ray and Marlene Donaldson of Cass City, who vented their rage at the food that was left for them in the annual free Thanksgiving dinner by throwing it into the parking lot.

Merry Christmas to Robert A. Dahquist of Orange, Calif., who writes that the government is embezzling social security trust funds.

Merry Christmas to Jim Veneziano, who feels that the newly painted traffic lanes on Main Street aren't being observed and he narrowly missed being hit because of it.

These greetings are reserved for some of the names



The back forty

by Roger Pond

© 1999 Roger Pond

The World Trade Organization meetings in Seattle this fall should be a lesson to everyone: Don't go to Seattle when there's a convention going on.

Everyone had their say at the WTO Conference, except maybe the folks who were supposed to participate. Demonstrators were protesting a number of things; Jobs being shipped overseas, environmental degradation, family farms destroyed by global markets, to name a few.

Even the police got in their licks. They objected to demonstrators in general and protesters in particular.

Many of the anti-WTO demonstrators came from a diverse coalition of groups and individuals. Environmental activists stood beside family farmers. Church leaders locked arms with longshoremen and union advocates.

I suspect we could engage all of these groups in one huge conversation, and they would kill each other before it was over.

I tend to agree with folks who worry about our growing dependence on world trade. I realize, however, there are smarter people than I who would disagree with me completely.

That's why I'll never be an activist, I guess. I can never shake the feeling that I could be wrong (or sadly mistaken).

What if I painted a sign, dressed-up like a butterfly, and got blasted with rubber bullets — only to find out I was at the wrong demonstration? Would that be embarrassing or what?

A few of the folks protesting in Seattle (the anarchists) object to nearly everything. I ran into a fellow like that several years ago.

This man was opposed to a timber company plan to spray spruce budworms with insecticide. He called me and asked if he could come over

and talk about the problem. "Why would he call me?" I thought. I'm very much in favor of pesticides and totally against budworms. That's like calling a fox and asking him to come over and watch some chickens.

I wanted to be fair, though. (Remember what I said, "I could be wrong.")

So I invited this fellow over with the honest intention of listening to his side. He brought some information that was written by a doctor who knows less about pesticides than I know about world trade.

I listened, though. I really did. Then I said, "The insecticide the timber company wants to use has a very low toxicity for humans and animals. It's one of the ingredients used in flea powders."

I hunted down my insect control book from the university and showed him the toxicity data. "I don't believe that," he said. "That's from the government."

I later attended a public meeting where state ento-

mologists presented information about the proposed insecticide (active ingredient carbaryl) and the organic alternative, Bacillus Thuringiensis.

The meeting went fine for awhile. Then my acquaintance became quite agitated. Finally he shouted at one of the speakers, "O.K., you can drink Carbaryl, and I'll drink Bacillus Thuringiensis!"

The state entomologist winced at that. "I think I'll just drink bourbon," he said.

Wedding Announcements



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Friday	28	18	0
Saturday	32	14	0
Sunday	41	40	.12"
Monday	43	12	.15"

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Subscription Prices: To post offices in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties - \$17.00 a year or 2 years for \$29.00, 3 years for \$41.00, \$11.00 for 6 months, and 3 months for \$8.00. In Michigan - \$20.00 a year, 2 years for \$35.00, 3 years for \$47.00. In other parts of the United States - \$22.00 a year, 2 years for \$39.00, 3 years for \$51.00. Payable in advance. For information regarding newspaper advertising and commercial and job printing, telephone 872-2010.

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Holiday plans set



Christmas is just a few days away and many people are preparing for the holiday. Cass City students' break begins Dec. 23, 1999, and goes till Jan. 2, 2000. Many students have plans for their week and a half break.

Students' last day of school is only days before Christmas so many are getting ready to finish up last minute Christmas gifts. Christmas is a time for friends and family together to enjoy and reminisce. Cass City High School students have many plans for the Christmas holiday. A lot of people travel to their grandparents' houses or their grandparents and family go to theirs for Christmas.

Becky Hartel said, "I'm going to many family Christmases. I go to my Grandma Hartel's in Caro to celebrate and then I go to my Grandma Bucholtz's."

"I'm going to my Grandma Foley's in Caro," said Katie Hacker.

Eric Brown said, "I'm going to my grandparents' house on Christmas Day and my other grandparents on New Year's Day."

When I asked Jason Hill what he was doing for Christmas, his first response was, "I'm opening presents." Then he went on to tell me how he was staying home with family.

Matt Klein said, "I'm stay-

ing at my Mom's on Christmas to open presents."

"I'm going to Las Vegas for Christmas with my family and friends," said Ben Zimba.

When I asked Aaron Volz if he was going away for Christmas he said, "I'm going to Virginia because my aunt lives there. I'm going to be there for most of break."

Most kids look forward to going skiing, ice skating, sledding, snowmobiling, and things like that, but due to the unseasonably warm temperatures students will have to plan other activities over their break. Students, however, will enjoy their break. I know I will.

"I usually would have been up skiing at least once before break, but there hasn't been any snow. I hope we get some over break so I can go skiing," said Stefanie Humpert.

As for me, I'm staying home for Christmas. My grandparents and my aunt are coming to our house. I also go to my Dad's on Christmas Eve. Hopefully over break I will be able to go skiing. Otherwise I'm going to get caught up on work.

As for all of you, I hope you have a safe and very Merry Christmas.



TOPS IN CLASS B - Members of the Cass City High School Novice Debate Team are (front row, left) Dara Iwankovitsch, Amanda Frederick, Rajen Raythatha, (back row, left) Heidi Cheng, Coach Chad Daniels and Joe Lounsbury. Missing is Erin McMahon.

Instilling values in youth

Character counts in county

Two years ago, Kris Swartzendruber, the 4-H Youth at Risk agent for Tuscola County, started receiving numerous phone calls from parents, teachers, counselors and administrators asking her about a new program called CHARACTER COUNTS! that had recently been adopted by MSU

Extension.

CHARACTER COUNTS! is a nationwide program developed by the Josephson Institute of Ethics that focuses on 6 universally accepted pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. "The schools were reporting a significant increase in violent behavior among their students. The issue of anger and the need for conflict resolution skills was of high concern in Tuscola's schools," Swartzendruber said.

A one-day workshop was offered in February 1998 to introduce schools and youth-serving organizations to CHARACTER COUNTS! As a result, many schools started implementing the concept of character education into their curriculum.

But this was not enough, according to Swartzendruber.

"Family support, positive family communication, other adult relationships, a caring neighborhood, a caring school climate and parent involvement in school are needed to acquire the basic values found in character development," she said. "It was imperative that our county receive intensive training to go the next step."

That vision became a reality when Tuscola MSU Extension received a \$25,000 grant in October 1999 from the Michigan Department of Community Health Office of Drug Control Policy.

A substantial portion of the grant was used for a Character Development Seminar (CDS), held Nov. 29-Dec. 1 at the Cass City United Methodist Church. The CDS was taught by certified national CHARACTER COUNTS! trainers, Mrs. Peggy Adkins of Knoxville, Tenn., and Dr. Vic Hackley of Fayetteville, N.C.

During the CDS, participants learned: the importance of community inclu-

sion, ways to integrate the 6 pillars of character into curriculum, ways to create solutions to violence and substance abuse through a comprehensive character education initiative, and how to make Tuscola County a CHARACTER COUNTS! community.

The 40 attendees not only left the seminar with strategies for teaching, enforcing and advocating ethical values, they also learned about incorporating the 6 pillars into their own lives.

"The seminar was a real eye-opener," commented Julie Ruggles, a second grade teacher at Kingston Elementary School. "I always have considered myself an ethical person but the

training really emphasized the importance of modeling and demonstrating proper values to young people. Not only when you know they're watching, but in whatever you do because children are always watching. "Do as I say, not as I do" is the most ineffective way of teaching."

The schools and youth serving organizations that took part in this training are certified and encouraged to share their training with others. "Anyone interested in learning more about CHARACTER COUNTS! or who would like to be referred to a certified presenter in the community, can learn more by contacting Swartzendruber at (517) 672-3870.

Swartzendruber at (517) 672-3870.

Cass City High School Debate Coach Chad Daniels still shakes his head when he talks about his team's narrow loss in the final round of the Michigan High School Novice Debate Tournament, held Dec. 10-11 at Michigan State University.

At the same time, the veteran coach is all smiles after his charges became the first Cass City team ever to claim first place in Class B in the state tourney, although his teams have won back-to-back state novice titles in Class C.

Unlike varsity debate, novice debate competitions pit teams from schools of all class sizes against one another. Overall, Cass City finished this year's novice tournament ranked second in the state.

"We lost in the final round, 2-1, to Class A Holland, a

team we had faced 7 times this season and beat them every time. And we beat them again Friday (first day of the state tournament)," Daniels said.

"We thought we (beat them) in the final round - I would have bet every ounce of money in my wallet that we had won," he added.

"But that's life. It's like what we said; if you're going to lose, lose in the final round."

Daniels has nothing but praise for his young team, consisting of freshmen Amanda Frederick, Dara Iwankovitsch and Rajen Raythatha, and junior Erin McMahon, who took on 7 of the state's top debate teams - all from Class A schools - en route to their final round loss.

Daniels noted the eventual winner, Holland, upset last year's state novice champion, Class A Portage Central, before defeating Cass City.

"This is the furthest we've gotten in this tournament," said Daniels, whose squad finished second in Class B and sixth overall in last year's novice tourney. "The kids debated fabulously. They couldn't have debated any better."

"If we had competed against only Class B schools, it would have been a massacre for them early on," he added. "As far as speaker points, we were a good 20 points ahead of every team there. Dara and Amanda were 2 of the top 5 speakers."

Daniels noted 2 other team members - Heidi Cheng and Joe Lounsbury - also contributed to the effort by scouting other teams during the tournament.

Cass City posted an overall 9-3 record for the competition, defeating Eisenhower and Cadillac in the first round before losing to Por-

tage Northern and defeating Utica Stevenson in the second round. The team went on to beat Holland and Holland West Ottawa, fell to East Kentwood, beat Detroit Redford Union twice, then lost to Portage Central.

In the elimination rounds, Cass City defeated Portage Northern and Eisenhower before facing Holland.

Daniels won't have a lot of time to contemplate the recent tournament, as the state junior varsity debate tournament is just one month away.

"We'll have 2 of the top teams there in the twins (junior standouts and siblings Anand and Manisha Raythatha) and these novices," he said. "They'll be hands down to win the junior varsity title next year, and they'll be good contenders this year."

The state varsity tournament will follow in February, and Cass City has received a pair of invitations to compete in national novice debate tournaments in Georgia and Iowa in the spring. Daniels said he hopes to be able to accept one of those invitations.

"My prediction is that they'll (Cass City team) be in the top 5 in the nation, easily."

Christmas trees great place to hide

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Officials with the Philip Morris Companies' 1999 Doors of Hope grant program recently announced that the Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center has been selected to receive a \$5,000 grant.

The Human Development Commission was one of just 180 organizations nationwide to be recognized by Philip Morris and our partner, the National Network to End Domestic Violence Fund, for the excellent work it does...to help families cope with and recover from situations of domestic abuse.



WINTER WARM-UP Project Director Patti Rodenbo accepts a \$750 check from the American Veterans Post #1072, represented by Bob Miller. The veterans earned the money from a buck pole event held in November.

'Warm Up' warms hearts

Kingston cares for kids

An annual elementary talent show and campaign to collect warm clothing for youngsters in the Kingston area this month proved to be huge successes, thanks to the cooperation and generosity of the community, organizers say.

The annual Christmas Talent Show was held Dec. 9 and 10, and the Winter Warm Up Project, now in its fourth year, is an on-going effort in the fall.

"I can't remember any set of talent shows being more perfect. I think I am the luckiest person in Kingston," said Patti Rodenbo, a third grade paraprofessional at Kingston Elementary who serves as director of the

shows and organizer of the Winter Warm Up.

"The number of people who helped with setting up the scenery was 47, (and) I had 57 students give up their lunch hour for the whole month of November to help make ornaments to give out to our audience both evenings," Rodenbo added. She noted 33 parents made crafts to donate for the Winter Warm Up raffle, while several others helped with refreshments and sold tickets.

The talent shows featured a personal welcome by Santa Claus, followed by individual and group performances by 345 students. Parents and relatives packed the gym both evenings, according to Rodenbo, who said the audience was also treated to a light show and video program featuring parents' pictures depicting special times in their children's lives.

WARM UP

"The Winter Warm Up Project had its most successful year ever," Rodenbo continued. "The goal was to raise enough money to add warm shirts and socks, as well as a coat, boots, snow pants, hats and gloves.

"At Thanksgiving break I was a little discouraged because donations were coming in very slow and ticket sales were down," she said.

"My coordinators for the Winter Warm Up Project, Char Torrey and Jackie Bastian, continued to knock on doors and make many phone calls. They did a fabulous job.

"There is no way I could have done both the talent show and the warm up project (alone)," Rodenbo

added. "These 2 ladies did a superb job."

Rodenbo said businesses donated \$800 as well as prizes for the raffle, and the Kingston Wesleyan Church has again committed to purchasing winter coats for high school students. In addition, the Kingston American Veterans Post #1072 donated \$750 generated by a buck pole fundraiser.

"I was so thankful, it was very hard to fight the tears back. I knew at that point our goal would be reached this year," she added. "With the money that we took in at the doors both nights (of the talent show), which was \$714, and \$600 that was left over from past years, we have \$2,984 to work with this year.

"It looks as though our beautiful needy children will be well taken care of. This is what it's all about - making a difference."

Engine oil among value-added ventures

Soybean co-op branching out

The Thumb Oilseed Producers Cooperative (TOPC), formed by 198 area farmers, has moved up the vertical ladder to capture additional dollars for soybean producers.

Not only is the newly formed co-op, with 28,000 bushels of short-term storage capacity, creating high-energy extruded soy meal with higher bypass protein, it also produces an engine oil called AMG 2000. The oil is currently being tested in U.S. Postal fleets in Grand Rapids, Milford and Waterford.

"It's all about thinking outside the box," said Jim LeCureux, TOPC interim manager and Michigan State University Extension agent. "We're learning that creating the market and working backwards works better than just growing the product and then looking around to see where you can sell it."

AMG 2000, which is sold to Great Lakes Oil for marketing, is a biodegradable, solvent-free crankcase oil made of soybean and canola oils and additives. The oil, sold mainly for fleet vehicles at about \$2.50 a quart, is limited to 3,000 miles. "The good part is that we buy the oil back and turn it into bar chain oils," LeCureux said. "There's no cost for disposal, it's biodegradable and cuts emissions by 40 to 60 percent and produces a 4 percent

increase in mileage."

While the innovative oil is capturing quite a bit of attention, the extruded, all-natural soy meal is also in demand. The facility, located in Ubly, produces about 80 tons of meal from 3,200 bushels of soybeans a day with a storage capacity of 300 tons of meal. "We were running 24 hours a day, 6 days a week," LeCureux said. "But now, during the month of November, we ran 7 days a week because of the demand for the meal. It looks like that will continue through the new year."

The facility is expected to process 900,000 bushels of soybeans a year. The meal allows producers to build rations around the meal, particularly suitable for dairy because of the high bypass protein - averaging about 54 percent. "It will also work for chickens and hogs," LeCureux said. "It will work - it's how you want to make it work. It's not an expensive pre-mix, which sometimes doesn't produce the desired results."

Scott Roggenbuck, of Cedar Pond Farms Inc., in Harbor Beach, farms about 1,700 acres and feeds out 1,000 holstein steers a year. He purchases the meal for a protein supplement for his steers. "We add in enhancements and minerals prescribed by our nutritionist

and that makes up about two-thirds of our pre-mix supplement to the co-op. Each share, at a current value of

"We're learning that creating the market and working backwards works better than just growing the product and then looking around to see where you can sell it."

ment," he said. "We add corn to create bulk so we can use our front-end loader."

The pre-mix is then blended with silage and high-moisture corn. "We're really happy with it," he said. "We took some cattle to market today that have been on it for 3 months. The performance is good, they liked it and stayed on feed real good."

LeCureux says the plant is currently separating the meal and hull, but they can be mixed if farmers prefer. As a member with 3 shares, Roggenbuck also sells soy-

beans to the co-op. Each share, at a current value of

\$1,250, entitles the owner to deliver 500 bushels.

LeCureux says the co-op has been on a learning curve in its first few months, but has made some major strides in producing a consistent product using the proper temperatures on the extruders. "We're taking 2 to 3 samples per week, and have learned that we're getting the best product when we are operating equipment at 315 to 320 degrees."

Down the road, LeCureux says the meal may become a by-product. "We're investing

in a few other opportunities," he said, "including an industrial oil project and a food project."

With recent findings linking soybeans to a reduced risk of coronary heart disease, the co-op is working with MSU to develop a soy drink. "We've got 3 large companies interested in it already," he said.

The powdered drink is mixed with water to create a texture similar to a shake in flavors such as chocolate, mixed fruit, pina colada, strawberry and lemon lime.

Another opportunity exists with an out-of-state firm, LeCureux explained. "They are interested in marketing cooking oil as naturally processed with better color, flavor and a longer shelf life. And, because it is not chemically extracted, the oil is more functional and still contains all the favorable antioxidant qualities."

Modify recipes, cut calories

You can modify almost any recipe to make it more nutritious or less calorie-laden than the original. Christmas cookies are no exception — here are some ideas:

- * Substitute 2 egg whites for each whole egg. You'll save 5 grams of fat for each substitution you make.
- * Reduce the sugar called for in cookie and quick-bread recipes by one-fourth to one-third. You can increase the vanilla or other flavorings to make up for the lower amount of sugar.
- * Make a one-to-one substitution of applesauce for any fat in a recipe. Using a half-cup of unsweetened applesauce instead of a stick of butter will reduce that batch's fat by 92 grams and calories by nearly 400 calories. This substitution could change the recipe's consistency, though, especially if the applesauce replaces shortening or margarine rather than oil. Bake drop cookies as bar cookies to deal with the looser consistency.



THIS YEAR'S Kingston Elementary Christmas Talent Shows proved to be the best ever and featured clever handiwork such as this pond scene.

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O-G tops Peck 60-55 Friday in NCTL play

It hasn't occurred in over a decade, but the Owen-Gage Bulldog cagers now have a solid shot to take an unblemished record into the Christmas break.

Coach Leon Westover's Bulldogs improved to 3-0 Friday with a 60-55 North Central Thumb League win during their home opener against Peck.

A quick offensive start and a strong defensive finish led to the hosts' victory.

If the Bulldogs can defeat Port Hope tonight (Tuesday), they will take a perfect 4-0 mark into the Tom Thumb Tournament Monday at Carsonville-Port Sanilac.

The Bulldogs will meet the Tigers in the late game of the holiday tourney, while the early game match-up pits Port Hope against Caseville with a 6 p.m. tip-off. The losers and winners of each tilt will then meet Tuesday at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., respectively.

The Bulldog defense limited the Pirates to 7 first quarter tallies and then built a 33-23 advantage heading into the intermission.

Bulldog Nick Warack collected 2 of his team high 5 steals, plus an offensive charge, in the opening frame Friday, helping to stake the hosts to a 14-7 edge after one period.

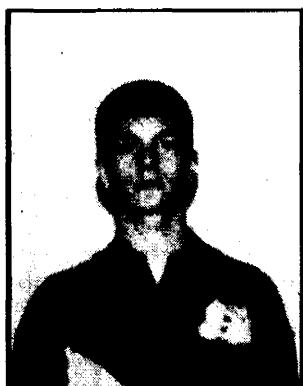
Junior Shane Mellendorf paced Owen-Gage during most of the initial half, with

11 of his team best 13 markers, including 9 in the frame before the break.

The Bulldogs built a 58-44 margin with only 2:20 left in the contest, but the Pirates would go on an 11-0 run to draw to 58-55. The visitors wouldn't score again.

"At times it showed we hadn't played in a week. We need to learn how to take care of business," said Westover.

Nathan Kain and Nick Warack split 22 markers for the winners, while Derek Howard added 8 points and 5 rebounds.



Shane Mellendorf 13 points

"Derek had an excellent floor game," said Westover.

The all-conference guard turned in 7 assists and connected on 2 of 3 attempts from 3-point land. Howard, a prolific scorer, took just 4 shots on the night.

"Derek is most concerned with winning," says Westover. "He tries to get everyone involved in the game."

The Pirates received a game high 17 points from Mike Sheridan which included a perfect showing at the foul stripe in 9 attempts. Sheridan, the Pirates' only player to reach double digits, added a team best 9 rebounds.

OWEN-GAGE - Swiastyn 0-1 (0-0) 3; Mellendorf 5-1 (0-1) 13; Howard 0-2 (2-3) 8; Rogers 1-0 (0-0) 2; Kain 5-0 (1-2) 11; R. Fritz 1-0 (0-0) 2; Warack 5-0 (1-3) 11; Story 1-0 (4-6) 6; McKee 1-0 (2-4) 4.

TOTALS - 19-4 (10-19) 60.

PECK - Matt Sheridan 1-2 (4-7) 12; Steffan 1-0 (4-5) 6; Mike Sheridan 4-0 (9-9) 17; Gordon 3-0 (1-2) 7; Tubbs 1-0 (1-2) 3; Johnston 3-0 (0-0) 6; Burns 2-0 (0-0) 4.

TOTALS - 15-2 (19-25) 55.



CASS CITY'S TRAVIS Schneeberger pinned New Lothrop's Brent Weisenberger at the 2:36 mark of Wednesday's double dual meet in New Lothrop. The Hawks defeated the hosts 60-21, and downed Birch Run 45-32. (Photo by Melanie Nizzola).

Cass City Bowling Leagues

SUNDAY NIGHTERS As of Dec. 5

High Rollers	22
Sheridan Rollers	17
Try Hards	16
Town & Country	14
Sugar Makers	13
Hicksville USA	11
Sometimers	10
Gophers	9

FRIDAY NIGHT LEAGUE As of Dec. 17

The Family	7
Easy 7	5
Rolling Thunder	5
Wildcats	2
Bye	2
Ghost	0

CHARMONT LADIES As of Dec. 14

J.B.'s Crew	15
Dee's M.P. Rockets	14
Live Wires	11
Cable-ettes	10
Cass City Tire	9
Dott Manufacturing	9
Wild John's	8
Team # 7	7
Apra Healthcare	4

MERCHANTS LEAGUE As of Dec. 15

Hollywood & Vine	19
Charmont	15
Trisch Septic	15
New England	15
All Season Video	12
R H Body Shop	11
T Furness Builders	10
S S Builders	9
Wickes	8
Triple R	6

MERCHANETTES As of Dec. 16

J.B.'s Crew	11
Osentoski Trucking	10
Caro Chiropractic	10
Thumb Auto Wash	10*
Adamczyk Masonry	9
Detroit Edison	9
LaFave Steel	8
All Season Rent-All	6*
Hills & Dales Hospital	4
Health Mart Pills	3

THURSDAY NITE TRIO As of Dec. 16

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New England Financial	2
Mycofen Seeds	2
Thumb Auto Wash	1
Martin Electric	1
Schmaltz Construction	0

High Series & Games: J. Krol 733 (253-276), B. Anthes 716 (233-236-247), E. Boyd 663 (232-237), J. Storm 659 (231-241), M. Putnam 656 (266), M. Gettel 653 (223-249), D. Q'Dell 651 (228-256), R. Koch 646 (219-229), M. Lutz 643 (244), M. Jackson 641 (213-234), S. Jones 632 (224), L. Morgan 615 (213-220), J. Finkbeiner 615 (212), D. Hyatt 607 (256), B. Rutkoski 606 (215), T. Pattingill 604 (227), G. Robinson 599 (218), C. Gruzowski 599 (212-223), P. McIntosh 586 (233), T. Humes 580 (222), R. Salcido 224, K. Zawilinski 214, C. Repshinska 214, C. Anthes 214, R. Witherspoon 212.

High Team Series & Game: Osentoski Trucking 1970 (702).

High Series & Games: J. Krol 695 (279-235), Doug Hyatt 633 (277), R. Pringle 644 (227-215), Doug O'Dell 633 (226-212), D. Beccher 629 (215-224), J. Roth 619 (217-213), Dennis Hyatt 606 (222), K. Pichla 604 (238-229), D. Roth 225, R. Doerr 215, Duane O'Dell 214, T. Babich 212, D. Doerr 210.

High Team Actual Series & Game: Cass Tavern 1887 (638).

Five Hawks double winners

Markel's grapplers post wins over New Lothrop, Birch Run

The Hawks won a double dual meet last Wednesday, defeating New Lothrop, 60-21, and Birch Run, 45-33. The 2 non-league victories pushed the Hawks' record to 5-1 for the season. The team's next meet will be Thursday, Dec. 30, in the Swan Valley Invitational. Cass City won 10 of the 14 matches with New Lothrop, all with pins or forfeits. The Hawks won 8 of the 15 matches with Birch Run, all except one with pins. Five Hawks were double

winners. Travis Schneeberger, 103 pounds, won with a pin and a forfeit. Scott Moore, 125 pounds, and Anand Raythatha, 130 pounds, picked up valuable points, each with a pair of forfeits. Adam Dorland, 135 pounds, posted a decision and a pin. Aaron Dorland, 145 pounds, and Chris Dubai, 275 pounds, each won with a pin and forfeit.

There are no matches scheduled this week for the varsity.

JV TOURNEY
A 17-school junior varsity tournament was held Saturday at Yale. No team scores were kept. Six of 7 Cass City wrestlers placed and earned medals. The winners are: 112 pounds, Sam Moore, 3rd; 135 pounds, Mike Wark 2nd; 145 pounds, Kris Patera, 3rd; 189 pounds, Dave Mayer, 5th; 275 pounds, Chris Hyatt, 5th, and 275 pounds, Jason Barrigar, first.

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BASKETBALL STANDINGS & RESULTS

GREATERTHUMB WEST

Team	W	L	OT
Cass City	1	0	3
USA	0	0	2
Mayville	0	0	1
Bad Axe	0	0	2
EPBP	0	1	2
BCAS	0	1	0

GREATERTHUMB EAST

Team	W	L	OT
Cross-Lex	1	0	3
Yale	1	0	0
Brown City	0	0	2
Saginaw	0	0	1
Marlette	0	0	1
Deckerville	0	1	2
North Beach	0	1	0
Uby	0	1	3

NORTH CENTRAL THUMB

Team	W	L	OT
Owen-Gage	2	0	3
Kingston	1	0	1
Port Hope	1	0	1
CPS	1	1	2
North Huron	1	1	1
Caseville	0	1	1
Peck	0	2	4
A-Fairgrove	0	3	1

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

Cass City 53, EPBP 47
USA 65, Frankenthum 57
Caseville 80, BCAS 29
Cross-Lex 62, Harbor Beach 52
Brown City 53, Uby 37
Yale 75, Deckerville 59
Port Hope 60, Caseville 56 OT
Kingston 50, North Huron 37
Owen-Gage 60, Peck 55
CPS 70, A-Fairgrove 53

FIGHT AGAINST OSTEOPOROSIS
Submitted by Mark Gullfoyle, D.O./Director of Radiology
Twenty five million Americans have osteoporosis. Fifty thousand people die each year because of it. Yet, most of us know little about protecting ourselves from this disease.
Osteoporosis results in more than 1 million hip, spine, and wrist fractures annually. This disorder affects nearly one-half of all postmenopausal women, the largest group at high risk for osteoporosis.
Research in osteoporosis, the disorder in which progressive bone loss results in increased risk of fracture, is making important new advances. A key factor in this success has been the availability of new and improved equipment to measure bone density.
Using a bone densitometer, physicians can measure patient bone density and follow it over time. If the patient's bone density is low, or decreases at an abnormally fast rate, the patient may be at risk for osteoporosis. Through changes in diet, exercise, habits and/or medication, further deterioration of bone can be prevented. A new bone densitometer was recently installed at Hills & Dales General Hospital.
The PRODIGY bone densitometer (Lunar Corporation, Madison, WI) measures the density of the spine, hip and other bones which are the most frequent sites of fracture. Until now, evaluating bone density using conventional x-ray systems did not reveal a potential problem until a patient had lost 25-30% of their bone density. Now in just 30 seconds, this highly sensitive densitometer helps us identify risk at a much earlier stage. It can also evaluate response to treatment so that we know whether our therapy is effective or if we need to modify our approach. Fortunately, recent research findings clarify the nature of the disease, and demonstrate the effectiveness of new treatments. New diagnostic devices, such as the PRODIGY bone densitometer, improve the early detection and treatment of osteoporosis.
I would like to encourage you to visit Hills & Dales General Hospital and be evaluated for a bone density examination. There is no special preparation involved for the patient. The exam is very brief and is a very comfortable procedure for the patient. Bone densitometry is covered by most insurances.

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THE OWEN-GAGE varsity volleyball team members are: (front l-r) Amanda Howey, Jenna Root, Melanie Lemanski, Theresa Richmond, Erin Salcido, (back l-r) Shannon Pitcher, Dee Fritz, Cassie Vargo, Coach Judy Campbell, Stefanie Lowry, Kelly Tomich, Melissa Ziehm.

Bulldogs field veteran team

Owen-Gage spikers open season as tournament champs at Vassar

Coach Judy Campbell's Owen-Gage spikers are heading into the new millennium on a high note following Saturday's season opening volleyball tournament in Vassar.

The Bulldogs accumulated a 5-1 record during the round robin event, which included wins over Reese, Mt. Morris, North Branch Wesleyan and Genesee.

In the tournament finals, which pitted the 2 schools with the best tourney records, the Bulldogs de-

feated Mt. Morris, 15-8 and 15-11.

Owen-Gage's only setback on the day was delivered by host Vassar, who registered wins of 15-11 and 15-6.

"We came out tired and dead," said Campbell of her team's effort against the Vulcans. "We knew we were already in the finals and didn't play well."

The Bulldogs showcased much of the same form that has led to 8 North Central Thumb League titles in the 1990s and 8 consecutive

Class D district crowns.

The Bulldogs' midseason form should come as little surprise, however, as Campbell will field a team that includes 8 returning letter winners from a year ago, when they posted an unblemished conference record of 16-0 and a 33-8-6 overall mark.

Campbell's only void to fill is the graduation loss of setter Kristi Radabaugh. And although the defending NCTL champs will miss Radabaugh, Campbell is more concerned about her team's lack of height.

"They haven't gotten any taller, but (they) are quick and know skills. They've all had 2 years of varsity experience and have played together for 2 years and should be solid."

Seniors Cassie Vargo and Melanie Lemanski led the Bulldogs at Vassar with impressive outings.

Vargo, a first team NCTL all-conference selection as a junior, recorded 38 assists, 29 digs, 26 points, and 25 kills.

Lemanski, another first team all-conference performer last season, led Owen-Gage with 35 kills and 5 saves. Lemanski also added 19 blocks.

Juniors Erin Salcido and Jenna Root also turned in fine showings during the tourney. The pair combined for 57 kills and 29 points. Salcido, also a first team NCTL selection as a sophomore, contributed 34 digs. Root posted a team best 24 blocks. She was elected to the NCTL's 2nd team all stars during the 1998-99 season.

Junior Stephanie Lowry recorded scoring honors on the day for Owen-Gage with 46 tallies that also included a team high 25 ace serves. Last year's 2nd team all league selection also tossed in 53 assists.

Coach Campbell also praised the effort turned in by junior Danielle Fritz, who recorded 41 points and 33 digs.

Adding depth to the Bulldog roster are returnees Melissa Ziehm, who came up with 14 digs at Vassar, and Theresa Richmond.

Rounding out the Bulldog team are first year players Kelly Tomich, Ashley Adams, Amanda Howey and transfer Shannon Pitcher.

"We have several new and transfer players, but I don't know how they are yet. I haven't seen them (in matches) yet," says Campbell.

The Bulldogs are off until after the holidays when they begin defense of the NCTL title against Port Hope.

off ace serves in game one, and 6 points in game 2.

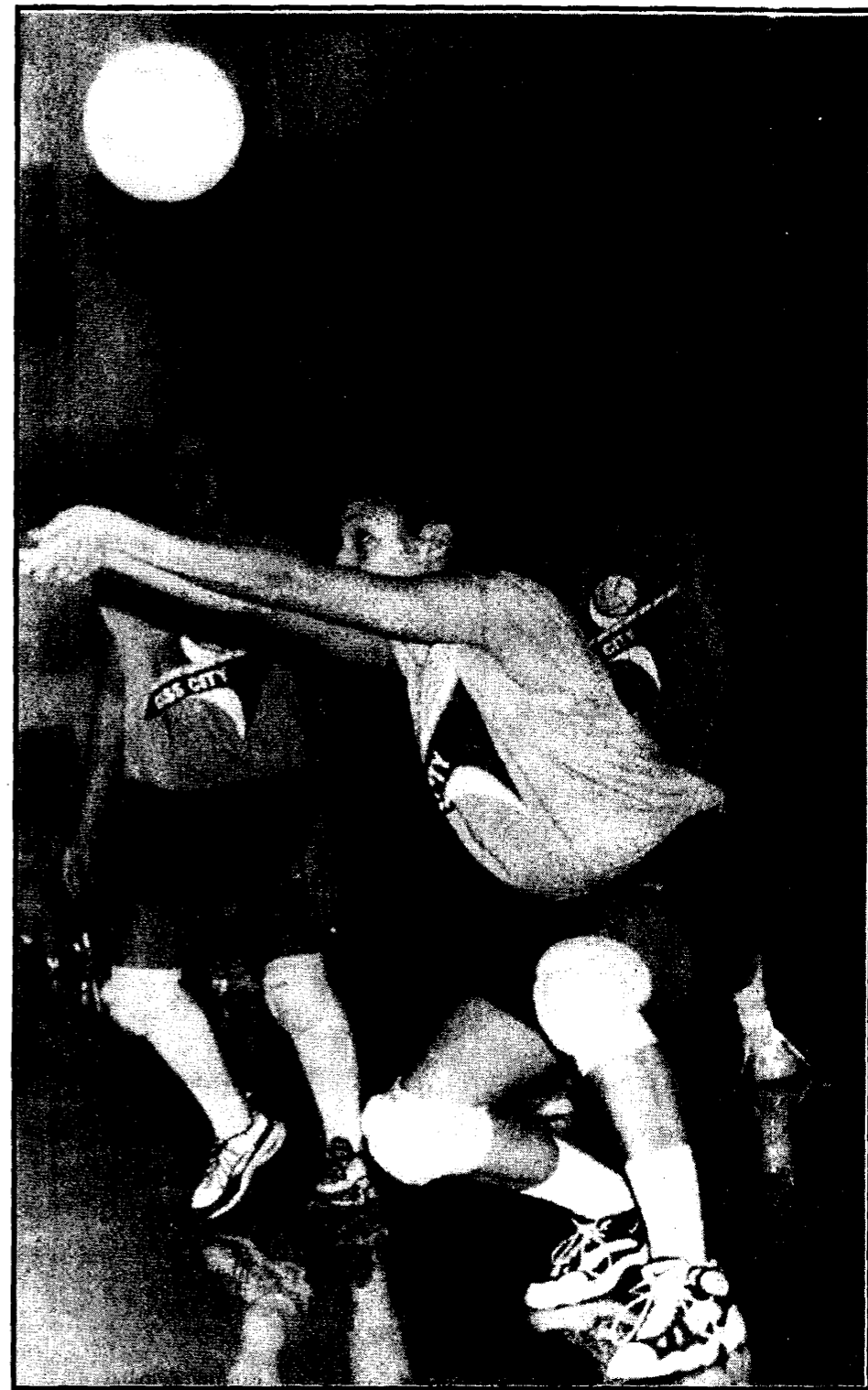
Howard's spikers showed steady improvement throughout the day, and saved their best performance for last. After bowing 15-3 in game one to the Cardinals, Cass City battled the Tri-Val-

ley Conference foe to the wire before falling 15-11.

"Things really started to come together in the last game. Everyone played well. We had some long volleys and it was exciting to watch their intensity," said Howard.

The Hawks, who served

just 65% in their opening game against Nouvel, served a gutsy 88% against Millington. The Hawks also improved their net play as Homakie, Edwards and Amy Polega combined for 6 blocks. Dorland added 4 assists.



RED HAWK SARA Homakie braces for a return Saturday at Caro against the Unionville-Sebewaing Patriots. Cass City recorded wins of 15-8 and 15-1 against the GTW Conference foe during the invitational tourney. Waiting for a possible pass are Cass City's Monica Dorland (left) and Becky Bulla.

Wood collects pair of regional scores at Troy Invitational

Coaches Heather Hulbert and Cathy Kropewnicki's Red Hawk gymnastic team traveled to compete at the Troy Athens Invitational Saturday, where 3 lady Hawks earned regional qualifying scores.

Rochester High took top honors at the 4-school event with a team total of 133.55. Host Troy finished in the runner-up spot with a team total of 129.35, nipping Grosse Pointe North, who compiled a team score of 127.3. Cass City finished with a team score of 108.8.

The meet was dominated by Troy's Ravin Raleigh, who won both the vault (8.95) and bars (8.90) competition. Rochester's Jamie Bahleda captured the beam (8.80) and teammate Mary Lukaschewski topped the floor exercise competitors with a score of 8.85.

For Cass City, senior Katie Wood posted a pair of re-

gional qualifying scores, earning a team best mark of 8.2 on the vault and a score of 8.0 in the floor exercise.

The Hawks also had Laura Laming earning a regional score, 8.0, in the vault, while Johanna Hoelzle's mark of 8.45 on the floor exercise resulted in the team's highest mark on the day.

Earlier in the week, on Tuesday, Cass City traveled to Hartland and was defeated 135.9-115.2 by the perennial powerhouse.

Several Hawks received their 2nd regional qualifying score of the season during the meet.

In the vault, 3 Hawks reached regional qualifying standard, led by Laming's score of 7.95. Laming was followed by Wood and Hoelzle, who tallied 7.9 and 7.7, respectively. Hartland's Lauren Simpson won the event with a mark of 8.95.

On the balance beam,

Michelle Kropewnicki recorded a 6th place finish and regional score of 8.45. Hoelzle also added a regional qualifying score of 7.85 in the event, which was won by Hartland's Pam Davidson with a mark of 9.3.

On the bars the visitors' top 3 marks were earned by Wood, Kropewnicki and Ashley Ouvry, who recorded marks of 6.1, 6.05 and 5.7, respectively. The top finish in the event was recorded by Davidson, who posted a mark of 8.85.

During the floor routines at Hartland, Kropewnicki recorded the lone regional qualifying score of 8.1 for the visitors. Hartland's Erin Sturm won the event with a mark of 8.65. Kropewnicki also paced Cass City with a score of 30.05 in the all-around event.

The Hawk gymnastic team will return to action after the holiday break with a Jan. 5 outing at Cadillac.

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Balanced scoring leads Cass City to upset victory over Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port

An abrupt turnaround from the free throw line was one of the keys to a very satisfying, upset victory Friday for the visiting Cass City Red Hawks over the Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Lakers. The score was 53-47.

In a previous game against always-strong Harbor Beach, the Hawks nearly blew a 10-point lead in the last quarter before eking out a narrow win, because the team missed 6 straight foul shots in the last 2 minutes. There was no room for such shoddy shooting with the game on the line against the Lakers, and Cass City answered the challenge. In the last quarter the Hawks converted 12 of 15.

We needed to play an almost perfect game to win at Lakers, Coach Jim Green said. I think our defensive intensity and overall offensive balance were keys to the game.

Judging by the first 4 games, it's certain that teams will not be able to concentrate on any one player when they face Cass City. The Hawks have won 3 of the first 4 and no player has scored as many as 20 points in any game this season.

The Laker game was typical. Seven players shared in the scoring and 3 were in double figures, led by Craig Emmert with 13 points. Nathan Brinkman provided a spark from off the bench by netting 3 treys to keep the Hawks in range in the see-saw first half.

Emmert appeared to ignite the team when he closed the first half with a vicious 2-hand dunk that gave the Hawks a 24-23 lead at the half. The Hawks never trailed after that although they were forced to handle several Laker runs.

Cass City ran up its biggest margin of the game at the start of the final period, outscoring the Lakers, 7-2, in a 2 1/2-minute stretch to lead, 41-33.

But the Lakers' Matt LePage, a one-man scoring machine, led another charge

that pulled his team to within 3 points midway through the quarter. In that charge he scored a quick 5 points. For the night he scored 35 points, including all but 2 of his team's total in the last half.

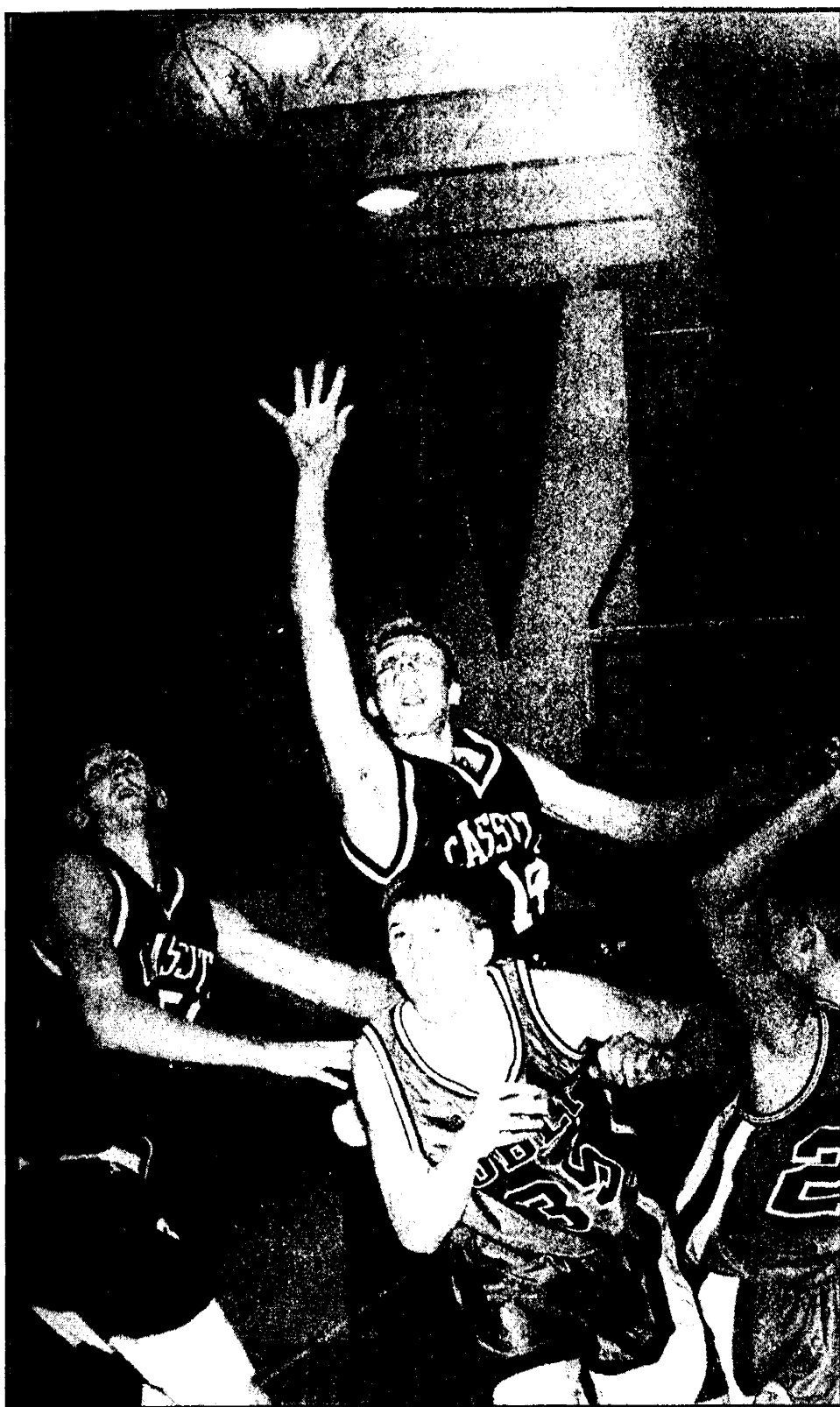
That rally proved to be the last challenge by the Green and White. Zach Glaspie

countered with a trey and Emmert converted 2 free throws to restore the comfortable Hawk lead.

Cass City has been a strong rebounding team this season. They out-boarded the Lakers 36-24, led by Emmert with 14. Emmert also was credited with 5 blocks.

Glaspie contributed 4 assists and a key 3-pointer in the last period.

Craig (Emmert) really controlled the inside for us, says Green. I think our defensive intensity and overall offensive balance were keys to the game.



CASS CITY'S JOEL Brinkman releases a shot over Ubly's Jon Brown in cage action Tuesday against the visiting Bearcats. Brinkman scored 2 points during the hosts' 52-36 win. Establishing position for a rebound is Hawk center Craig Emmert.

Hawk cagers sloppy in win over Ubly

The best thing that can be said for last Tuesday's game with visiting Ubly is that the Hawks were able to chalk up their second win in 3 starts, 52-36.

Coach Jim Green termed it a sloppily played game by both teams. It also marked the third game in a row that Cass City has trailed by 8 or more points early in the second quarter. We need to stop digging ourselves into a hole early in the game, Green said.

It's apparent that center Craig Emmert is a marked man this season, the defensive focus for every team.

The Bearcats used a tightly drawn-in zone defense to check Emmert, keeping him from getting the ball for much of the game. The defense was successful early in the game, as the Hawks couldn't find the range from outside.

The score was tied at 8-all after the first quarter. Ubly then staged its best rally of the night, scoring 8 unanswered points at the start of the second period to lead, 16-8.

Green then called a timeout and the Hawks switched to a full-court defense. It proved to be the answer. The Bearcats turned the ball over several times and in the last 4 1/2 minutes of the quarter failed to score. The Hawks then went on a 14-0 run sparked by a pair of buckets by Ryan Holmgren, 2 treys by Jeff Storm and 4 points by Emmert.

Leading by 16 points at the

half, Cass City stretched the lead to 30-18 midway through the quarter and was never seriously threatened after that.

Green says that he was

pleased with the balanced scoring of the team. Nine players shared in the scoring. Ryan Holmgren led with 12 points and 5 rebounds. Storm counted 11 points and

Emmert ended with 8 points and a huge 13 rebounds. Bryce VanVliet netted 7 points with 2 assists and was singled out by the coach for good defensive play.

Cass City junior varsity seeking first win at Christmas break



THE RED HAWK JV Basketball squad consists of: (front l-r) Tim Khoury, Matt Stoutenburg, Tyler Bader, Tom Sugden, Joe Biskner, Chris Marks, (back l-r) Rob Lowe, Nick Chappel, Guthry Laurie, Cason Harris, Bill Thane, Rob Havens, Grant Frank, Coach Craig Weaver.

Montgomery ends 1999 with lead

Fabulous Five's Fearless Forecast

Last week's & season results

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13-6	10-8	15-4	14-5	12-7

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Cass City Middle School Student Spotlight for the month of November

Teachers select students who possess the following:

1. Building blocks of character: Respect
2. Good citizenship
3. Good grades
4. A positive attitude
5. Regular attendance
6. Shows improvement (academic and/or behavior)



Back Row (l-r): Krystee Dorland, Kayla Karr, Randy Tenbusch, Erik Helwig, Nathan Laming, Nick Swanson, Paul Hoelzle, Monica Wilcox.
4th Row: Brandon Otulakowski, Jeff Tenbusch, Sammy Glaspie, Stephanie Richards, Angela Stoeckle, Elizabeth Sobczak, Danny Mittlestat, Thomas Galloway, Jason James, Marcel Helland.
3rd Row: Bethany Edwards, Jeff Stoutenburg, David Erla, Jessica Lange, Caitie Barnes, Heidi Pomeroy, Lisa Santhany, Rebecca Putnam, Shane Posluszny.
2nd Row: Allie Hillaker, Jill Dillon, Danielle Dickson, Jeremiah Fritz, Ryan Ross, Philip Strong, Evan Laurie, Jimmy Luana.
Front Row: Whitney Braun, Whitney Kirm, Aaron Fent, Lindsey Montgomery, Brandon Miller, Kyle Reif, Chelsea McCallum, Andrew Peruski. Missing is Tim Martin.

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Council approves zoning permit fee increases

Continued from page one

which no public comment was offered.

The ambitious budget represents a planned spending increase of about 28 percent over the 1999 spending plan, however, officials have cautioned the new budget assumes the village will be able to secure some \$525,000 in grant funding for infrastructure improvements to the village's industrial park.

Without the grants, the budget will be reduced accord-

ingly, resulting in a planned spending increase of about 9.7 percent.

Likewise, a proposed list of capital improvement expenditures topping \$1 million - also approved by the council Monday - will be cut in half without the grant funding.

Proposed revenues for 2000 are estimated at \$3.33 million, including the anticipated \$525,000 in grant funding for infrastructure improvements to the industrial park. Those projects include storm sewer, curb

and gutter and paving on portions of Schell Street and North Industrial Drive.

Village tax rates will remain the same next year at 12.4625 mills for general fund operations, 3.5 mills for streets and 2.5 mills for the sewer debt, which is expected to be paid off in 2002.

Officials anticipate an overall increase of 2 percent in tax revenue due to increases in land values and new construction.

Sewer and water revenues will also increase with the implementation of sched-

uled hikes of 10 percent for water and 5 percent for sewer.

Also built into the spending plan are wage increases for full-time village employees. The hikes average 3 percent, with a range of 2.5 percent to 5.9 percent. A chart outlining the wage schedule accompanies this story.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

In other business Monday, the council:

•Approved spending about

\$9,500 over the next 2 years to have all village ordinances reorganized and published in an easier-to-use reference guide.

The codification project will be done by Municipal Code Corporation, Tallahassee, Fla., which specializes in municipal codification. The firm handles all legal and other research of ordinances as well as drafting ordinance language, according to Downing, who noted the re-organized ordinances will also be available on computer.

The purpose, she said, is to take years of ordinances and amendments and organize them into one easy to use and understand document. Fu-

ture ordinances and amendments will be added in the same format by the company at a cost of roughly \$500 per year.

•Adopted the Uniform Traffic Code for Villages, Cities and Townships in an effort to capture revenue from misdemeanor tickets written by local police officers.

Previously, revenue from tickets written locally for offenses such as drunken driving and seat belt violations went to the state, but under the uniform traffic code, the village will now receive one-third of the revenues. The other two-thirds go to the courts and libraries in the state.

•Approved an agreement in which Tuscola County officials have offered to split with the village the county's tax revenue on State Equalized Valuation (SEV) increases in the Cass City Downtown Development Authority (DDA) District. The money, expected to total about \$4,000 annually, will go toward DDA projects.

•Rejected a lone bid for a village-owned 1976 bucket truck, and voted to again seek bids but without a minimum required bid.

The lone bid, submitted by Marv Winters, was received past the deadline and was less than the initial minimum bid of \$5,500. Trustee Les

Karr suggested the council again seek bids in order to be fair to any prospective buyers who might have offered less than \$5,500.

•Adopted a resolution adding the Hunt Street extension north of Brenda Drive and the Spruce Street extension east of Hunt Street to the village's Local Street System. The measure will allow the village to collect state maintenance funds for the roads.

•Approved the lease-purchase of a Ford Crown Victoria police patrol car through Ford Motor Municipal Credit at a cost of \$20,190 in 2000. The vehicle will replace an older model Intrepid.

Stand-by fee increase first since '78

Continued from page one

teen EMTs on staff to provide ambulance coverage around the clock.

"We were getting burned out and getting burned out fast," Pawloski said, noting most of the volunteers also have full-time jobs. "It got

very critical there for awhile - we couldn't find people to run daytime."

MMR officials attempted to recruit some new blood earlier this year by offering scholarships for EMT training. Six scholarships were awarded, however, the effort resulted in only one person

completing the training, earning the EMT certification, and joining the local ambulance staff.

The staffing solution came last September, when officials hired 4 EMTs to cover the shifts.

Pawloski said the local ambulance service is also trying to cope with a reduction in ambulance runs. Up until 2 years ago, a typical year averaged 900 runs. This year, he added, the total might reach 600 runs.

In response, the Caro and Cass City ambulance services have implemented "system status" in which the services cover for one another. For example, if Caro is called out on a run, Cass City sends an ambulance to Ellington, where it remains in the event of an emergency.

"It's really worked out well for Cass City because it's helped us pickup several more runs," Pawloski said.

Hampton sentenced

Continued from page one

nessed the youths smashing his mailbox.

Hampton chased the car, driven by Kratz, on Phillips Road north to Mushroom Road, then east for a short time before both vehicles turned around and headed west, where investigators said Hampton rammed the car with his van, causing Kratz to lose control. The car left the roadway in a broadside skid and struck a tree.

Police reports state both vehicles were traveling at an estimated 80 miles per hour just prior to the crash.

Kratz and Randall, both students in the Kingston Community School District, were pronounced dead at the scene. A backseat passenger in the car, Keven Smith, 15, Kingston, survived the crash.

Coming January 5

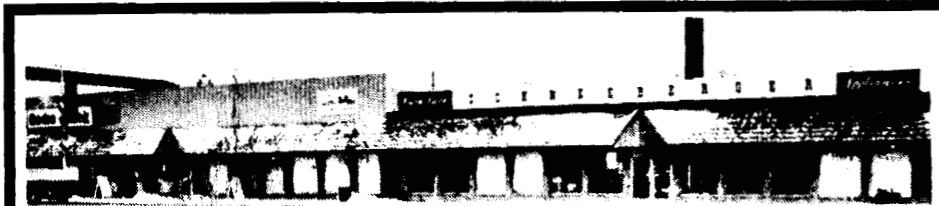


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quotable:
Franklin Roosevelt: "Taxes are paid in the sweat of every man who labors. If those taxes are excessive, they are reflected in idle factories, tax-sold farms & in hordes of hungry people tramping the streets & seeking jobs in vain."

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GOOD THRU DECEMBER 31, 1999

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GOOD THRU DECEMBER 31, 1999

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Phone: 872-2645




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• OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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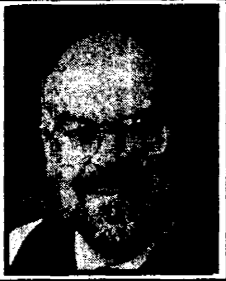
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Merry Christmas wishes in Cass City

The OK soap box

Dr. Phil Rice, pastor
Cass City United
Methodist Church



When I was young all of our Christmas things were kept in the OK Soap box. I don't ever remember seeing a bar or box of the stuff, but that cardboard box meant Christmas to me.

Today, our Christmas decorations fill several containers, each larger than that ancient box. None of them, though, has the excitement attached to it, as when Mom said it was time to go up to the attic, and get the OK soap box.

The Christmases of our childhood memories seem warmer and cozier than today. Our memories are like a print by Terry Redlin, where there is no stress, no frenzied hopping.

People seem to have a perpetual hope that those old time Christmases can be reproduced today. Some come to church, hoping that they will find the snug sentimentality of their youthful memories.

Often they are disappointed. The old hymns are the same, but we are different and the world is different. Grown up now, we read the Christmas story, hearing not only the outrageous joy, but also the pain and injustice that surrounds the birth of Christ.

And we know: that's why Jesus came! Not to give us warm cozy feelings, but to forgive sinners, heal the sick, free the oppressed, and proclaim good news to the poor.

We understand, finally, that no gift under the tree, no candlelight communion, will reproduce the cozy happiness of our childhood Christmases. All grown up now, we have to seek a more profound joy at Christmas, one that comes with accepting Christ, loving the outcast, feeding the hungry, and telling the world that the Savior has come.

Dr. Phil Rice, pastor
Cass City United Methodist Church

Children share their holiday lists



Joshuah Edward and Tiffanie Kay Guigar

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Joshuah, and I am 4 1/2 years old and this is my fifth Christmas. I "finally" have a baby sister. Her name is Tiffanie, and she is 7 1/2 months old. This is her first Christmas, and it is all very new to her.

Santa, I really try to be a good little boy, but sometimes it is very hard. Mommy says it is better to try to be good than not trying at all. As for Tiffanie, she is a very good little girl who always smiles and is so cute with her dimple cheeks. She is so sweet, and I give her lots of hugs and kisses every day. We are "best" friends.

What I would like for Christmas this year is a Kawasaki Ninja since my Big Foot does not drive in high gear. The last time that I drove it over a month ago it worked.

I also need a new safety helmet because my other one is too small, a V-tech Alphabert, street light winter boots, shoes, a vest, a patchwork quilt, a new guitar since my other one is broke and of course, money. Santa, I have a secret that only mommy, me and now, you will know. Just in case I am on the naughty list this year, and you decide to bring me a lump of coal, well I wrapped myself a present and put it under the tree.

Bring my sister, Tiffanie, a dolly that talks and has some hair so she can pull on it and not mine, a musical Touch 'N Crawl Baby Minnie, a Teletubby that glows and any other baby toys that make lots of noise and light up, also a pacifier just like the one she brought home from the hospital, baby bibs, baby sleepers since all the other ones seem to be too small and of course, fancy dresses that only a little princess would wear because that is what I think she is!

As for mommy and daddy, they really don't need anything because they have us, what more could they want? Maybe you could bring them a small deep freeze then mommy can buy lots of frozen pizzas from the grocery store, and I can have a pizza whenever I like.

We would like to wish our nanna a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with all our love, hugs and kisses which has doubled this year.

Santa, I will leave out a large glass of milk and a plate full of chocolate chip cookies. For your reindeer, I will leave out lots of carrots and apples. Your reindeer must have been checking up on us because I saw them walking right by our house. Tell Rudolph that I know Tiffanie will just love him as much as I do. After all, he has not flown over my house yet without leaving a present.

Love,
Joshuah Edward and Tiffanie Kay Guigar

I would like a puppy

Dear Santa,
I would like a puppy, a CD player, a stuffed animal wolf, Tazz Blanket, some CD's and a America gril.

From:
Abby Ellis

Dear Santa: I won't ask for much

Dear Santa,
I know that I have not been a very good girl since last year. So I will not ask for much. All I want is some money or gift certificates, makeup, clothes, CD's, and a portable CD player. There are other things I want too. Some are white sparkly eyeshadow, dress shoes, khakis (tan ones), gelpens, craft kits and a blow up chair.

How is Rudolph and his pals? Mrs. Claus and the elves?

Please make it snow. Have a safe trip. Please get me a kitten too.

Sincerely,
Allison Ellis



Bobbie Jean Keys-Chappel

Dear Santa,
My name is Bobbie Jean. I'm 4 1/2 years old. My mom says I've been pretty good this year. For Christmas I want a pink bathrobe, a millennium Barbie Doll, some playdoh and Lucky Ducks game. Don't forget to fill me and my sister Ashley's stockings with lots of candy. You could also bring my sister a

new game for her Playstation & her Gameboy. She wants Lion King, Rugrats and Toy Story games.

I will leave you some Christmas cookies me and my mom made and a coke!

Hugs and Kisses
Bobbie Jean Keys-Chappel
Kingston

P.S. Don't forget to stop by and see my Aunt Joan and Aunt Connie in East Lansing.



Kristen and Shannon Kaweck

Dear Santa,
I would like a Furby like my cousin Allie's. I would also like a gumball machine, a Barbie Riding Horse Stable CD, and a Barbie Airplane. We would like an Elmo with a remote control dog for Shannon, she can walk this year.

I will try to share better with my little sister this year. I don't need any coal like Angelica got.

We have moved to Koepfgen Rd. We will leave you some milk and cookies and some carrots and lettuce for the reindeer.

Love,
Kristen 5 1/2
Shannon 18 months
Cass City

Serving the community

Valerie Jamieson Hartel
Treasurer, Rotary Club



The Rotary Club of Cass City has been serving our community for over 70 years by donating money and time towards many local projects.

We have always been willing to take on a challenge for our community. The decision to start our "Christmas for Kids" project came after the Toys for Tots program was no longer going to be part of our community. We saw the need and wanted to help.

Our contribution began in 1998 by collecting donations of toys and money that we distributed to area children to make their Christmas merrier. We helped approximately 200 children from over 90 families. We did this by placing over 18 drop boxes in various businesses around town.

The joy of helping children at Christmas kept us going for another year. We are out there collecting donations again. You may have seen our members on the first Saturday of December at McDonalds, wearing their holiday attire, including re-

indeer antlers and elf hats, collecting your generous contributions.

Our Rotary elves have been busy collecting the boxes of donated toys and taking them to our distribution center where Santa's helpers sort and distribute the toys. We do the final collection and sorting with the help of EVERYBODY!!!

We prepared our list of families from referrals from various sources. We made phone calls and did a mailing to potential families, and also had cards available for families to fill out if they have children that could use our help.

We are improving this program each year with experience. Thanks to our members and your support, we are able to open our hearts and make many community children's Christmas a little brighter.

One person could never do all of the things I have talked about, nor touch so many lives in such a positive way. Together we can! Merry Christmas.

Wedding Announcements

Catalogs loaned overnight.

Free subscription with each order

Cass City Chronicle
Phone 872-2010

Whose birthday is it, anyway?

We believe the important news at Christmas is not who comes down the chimney, but who came down from heaven. We invite you to come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.



The Evangelical Free Church Of Cass City
invites you to Sunday Morning Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.
6430 Chestnut Blvd. (kitty corner from the C.C.H.S.)
872-5060

All of us at Wickes Lumber wish you a safe and joyous holiday season. Thank you for allowing us to serve you with your building needs throughout the year. We are looking forward to seeing all of you in the new year.

Happy Holidays

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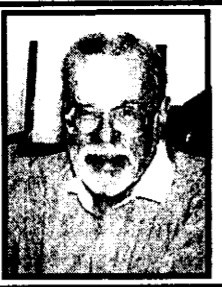
During this very special Holiday Season, we wish you Happiness, Joy, and Peace.

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Michigan Community Mental Health Authority
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Community is blessed

**Lambert Althaver
Village President**



Dear Friends,

The holiday season is a time to give thanks for all the blessings that have come our way throughout the year. And there have been many for all of us.

I am reminded of the time when a group of concerned citizens was gathered in the village hall to discuss the state of the village and in particular the downtown area. After more than an hour of expressing concerns, a relatively new resident of the community stood up and began to enumerate the good things about the town. She went on for several minutes and you could just feel the spirit of the meeting change, and the attitudes of all of us became much more positive.

So I am very grateful for all the new folks that have come

to our town and are making a contribution. And I am particularly grateful for all the people, young and old, new and long time residents, who banded together to create the wonderful playscape that we now have on the site of the old middle school. What a great sense of community they all expressed!

We should all be aware that they were continuing a tradition of volunteers pulling together for the benefit of the community that started when the first swimming pool was built back in the 1930s and continued for most of the park facilities and the hospital and some of the infrastructure of the village.

So let us continue to focus on the improvement of our community and be grateful to all for what has been accomplished.

Santa letters
"I've been real good this year"



Breanna Frank

Dear Santa:

My name is Breanna Frank and I am almost 3 years old. I have been a good girl this year and would like an Elmo Guitar, and some new games to play.

Please don't forget about all my cousins, they have been good this year too.

I will leave you some cookies and milk and carrots for your reindeer.

If you can, please let it snow so I can go and play in it and make snow angels. I like doing those the best!

Love, Breanna



Pauly Slater

Hi Santa,

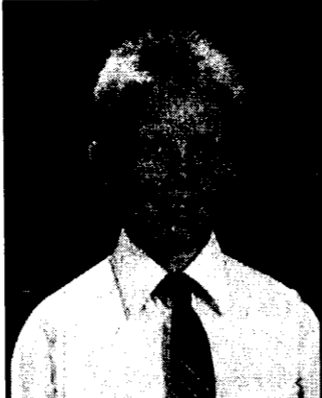
I would like a Franklin where his shell comes off. I wish I had a wrestling ring and wrestling people that talk. I would also like a Scooby Doo van for kids. That's all for me.

My sister, Ashley, has been good. I think she wants more clothes. My Dad wants a coffee maker but I'm not sure what my Mom wants. So just bring her something special, please.

Cookies and milk will be waiting. Remember to share some with your reindeer.

Luv you,

Pauly Slater
Age: 5



Jon Pettitt

Dear Santa,

All I really want is poke' mon cards 8 packs, poke' mon toys, Gameboy (poke' mon), skateboard, Legos, walkie talkies, pants, camouflage boots.

I saw you at Santa's workshop. And I still believe in you.

Love, Jon Pettitt



Mitchell Langlois

Dear Santa,

My name is Mitchell Langlois. I am 6 years old. Even my dog, Crockett, is 6 years old. We've been a lot more good than bad this year! I would like a punching bag and gloves, roller blades, a remote control truck, and if you have room, a football that whistles. Crockett needs another ball to play catch with!

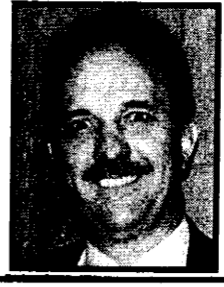
We will leave you some cookies and milk for a treat. And for your reindeer, I will leave sugar cubes. Also could you leave something for my brother, Anthony and my sister, Bethany?

Thank you!

Love,
Mitchell Langlois

Do Christmas, stress mix?

**Chuck Emmert
Novesta Church of Christ**



Here is perhaps the greatest irony ever to occur: God chose the most peaceful and quiet night in the history of time for His Son to be born. We, in the usual manner of mankind, have managed to turn the celebration of His birth into the most stressful time of the year!

Maybe you've already experienced it in the past or present year? Grandpa's hard to live with and nobody looks forward to seeing Aunt Ethel... the tree is too small or large... a family member can't make it home and there's conflict and disappointment everywhere.

It's easy to lose your focus at Christmas time and allow imperfect circumstances to destroy your peace.

When our children were young and we finished packing to go off to our families for Christmas, we looked more like the "Beverly Hillbillies" and we were lucky if we could see our children's faces in their back seats. One such year 20 miles down the road out timing chain broke on Christmas Eve. After help from Christian friends, exchanging cars and repacking, we still made it home, be it a little late.

Yes, I've experienced stressful Christmases... and I'll probably experience more.

It's possible that no one understands stress like Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. Consider what was going on in his life on that first Christmas.

First of all, Joseph was faced with a long journey, accompanied by a pregnant wife. I've traveled across our state with a pregnant wife... it was stressful! And I had the luxury of a car. Poor Joseph walked, while his wife rode a donkey. Can you imagine the conversation?

Second, Joseph had to pay more taxes (A blooper in a church paper read, "The choir will sing 'I Heard the BILLS on Christmas Day'").

Third, when Joseph and Mary finally reached Bethlehem, there wasn't a room available anywhere. Have you ever driven around for hours looking for a hotel? It's awful!

Fourth, the baby was born in a barn!

I once asked a group of kids, "Why was Jesus born in a barn?" A little boy answered, "Because His mother was there." Good answer.

Last, after the birth of Christ, government authorities put out a contract on the Child's life.

Now THAT's a stressful Christmas!

However, I admire how Joseph responded to all these situations. When circumstances don't make sense, we can only do what Joseph did. He did not let the confusion disrupt his obedience. He went right on doing what God had asked him to do. You see, the story of Joseph brings us one of the REAL messages of Christmas: "Never give up on God."

Look for Him in every part of your life, especially in the stressful times, because God's message at Christmas is "Help is on the way."

"Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at ALL times and in every way." I Thessalonians 3:16



Blair & Katie Tiseo

Dear Santa,

My name is Katie Tiseo and I am 5 years old. My sister's name is Blair and she is 3 years old. Mommy and Daddy say that we have been very good girls this year. Only a little bit of fighting and that is to be expected. For Christmas this year I would like a Garden Fairy, a bank, Barbie Cash Register, and Giddy-Up Girl. Blair would like Walk and Wag Baby Pluto, Potty Dotty, and a Garden Fairy.

We will leave the front door unlocked for you because you can't come down our chimney. We will leave you cookies and milk for a snack. We'll also leave some carrots for your reindeer. Have a safe trip this Christmas Eve. Love,
Katie Elizabeth Tiseo & Blair Elise Tiseo

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"YOUR GIFT & HOME DECOR SHOPPE"
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6585 MAIN STREET CASS CITY, MI

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Happy Holidays to all our clients and may you be blessed in the New Year.

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Ho! Ho! Ho! Happy Holidays from Santa & Buds & Blossoms by Sandy's Elves

Lynn Sorenson, Dan Nixon, Kristy Orban, Sandy Tierney, Beth Spencer
Missing: Arlene Moore, William Leiterman & Rita Coe

Buds & Blossoms by Sandy, Inc.
6476 Main St., Cass City 872-3935

Jesus is the reason for the season

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Fireplaces by Dan
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Bring Home the Holiday Spirit

A sincere Thank You to all our insurance customers for your loyalty to our business.
Merry Christmas

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Unionville Clinic 6456 Center, Unionville 517-674-8603	Michigan Athletic & Rehab. Ctr. 6190 Hospital Drive, Cass City 517-872-2084
Ugly Medical Clinic 2254 Main Street, Ugly 517-658-9191	M.A.R.C./Caro 1186 Cleaver Road, Caro 517-673-4999
Thumb Physical Medicine & Rehab. 6190 Hospital Drive, Cass City 517-872-2084	Thumb Pediatric & Pediatric Cardiology 6190 Hospital Drive, Cass City 517-872-8503

Much to be thankful for



Kay Warner
Cass City Chamber of Commerce

Wow - what a year this has been for me. Here's a short summary:

- *Elderly, aging grandmother in Missouri requiring trips back and forth every other month or so (I'm really racking up the frequent flyer miles);
- *Daughter and 3 grandchildren (ages 5, 4 and 2) moving back to the area and needing to live with us for a few months;
- *Dealing with the loss of several friends and contemplatives;
- *Owning an exciting business that is trying to keep up with a rapidly growing Chamber of Commerce as well as other work;
- *Having a husband employed at Walbro/TI Group Automotive Systems.

There have been many days that I have just wanted to give up and go hide away somewhere - by myself! BUT fortunately I don't have to deal with everything by myself. I have Jesus to turn to and I have been blessed with tons of friends, business associates and an entire close-knit community when I need Jesus with skin on.

In addition to a wonderful support system, I have a home. It's not fancy, but it's warm and cozy. I have a car. It is not fancy, either, but it is reliable and gets me where I need to go. And, it gets great gas mileage. I have plenty of food to eat (actually too much); and clothes to keep me warm. I have been relatively healthy and I actually lost some weight this past year.

I'm not done shopping (well, actually I haven't started yet), but I'm trying to stop the chaos long enough to count my blessings. I thank God for all that I have; for each and every one of you who have "been there" for me this past year; and most of all for the wonderful gift of his Son, Jesus - the ultimate counselor.

Merry Christmas to all of you and may you be as truly blessed as I have been.

Dear Santa...



Taylor Burlison

Dear Santa,
My name is Taylor Burlison. I am 4 years old. I want you to come down our chimney and bring us presents for under our Christmas tree.

Mommy says I've been a good boy. I want to open the presents up and see Woody, Jessie and Bullseye the Horse and I'd like playdoh and a workbench. I want to open the box and take them out and play with them all day and put them in my room.

Don't forget Aime (my sister) and Wishbone (my dog). Mom says they've been good too.

Thank you, Love you, too Taylor



Justin Davis

Dear Santa,
My name is Justin Davis and I am 11 years old. I really like wrestling and playing my play station so for Christmas this year I am asking for wrestling stuff and tapes for my play station. I also want to let you know Santa that I know that the Baby Jesus was born on Christmas Day. Tell Mrs. Claus and Rudolph my family and I say hi and to have a safe trip.

Justin Davis
Cass City

I don't mean to be greedy

- Dear Santa,
I would like a lot of things so where are so of my thing.
1. Desk
 2. lamp
 3. candy
 4. cloths
 5. Shoes, 6
 6. posters of cool stuff
 7. Piture of Santa

P.S. I Don't Mean to be greedy!!

Ray Ellis



Justin Powell

Dear Santa,
My Dad and Mom said I'm a good boy. I hope you think so, too. I do try hard but sometimes it's hard. For Christmas I'd like a fire truck, Rugrats for play station, books, Nascar cars, tractors, and anything else you'd like me to have.

Please bring something for my Dad and Mom, too. I think they have been good because they know you're watching. That is what they always tell me. Also, my mom said my teacher, Mrs. Tuckey, would like something special, too. So, please bring her something nice. She is a nice teacher.

I'm leaving you and your reindeer milk and cookies. Try to be noisy when you come so I can wake up to see you.

Your Buddy,

Justin Powell
Age: 5 grade: K

Beautiful Beginnings start with Beautiful Invitations!

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Cass City Chronicle
872-2010

Christmas means Christ



Pastor Brian Cuddie
Calvary Bible Fellowship

Christmas undoubtedly means different things to different people. For children, it's a time of anticipation. For those of us who didn't start the Christmas club, it's a time of frustration. "How am I ever going to pay for this?"

As a pastor, my feelings of Christmas tend to sway back and forth. I certainly enjoy the beautiful decorations that people put up, but it always bothers me that the stores put them up so early. I also am touched by the willingness of people to give to the less fortunate, but I know that many who give in December are tight fisted and critical during other times of the year.

But all in all, Christmas is great! It's a time to focus my attention on God's great love for man, and man's great need for God. To know that God took the initiative to give his only begotten son. God is truly the first gift giver. The promises he

made, he kept.

Though his promises (in our eyes) took a long time to fulfill, God was right on schedule.

Galatians 4:4,5 - "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under the law."

Christmas reminds me of Christ. But instead of looking back at the manger, my mind is filled with anticipation of what His coming will be like. Yes, I believe that Jesus Christ is literally going to come back and receive those who believe in him. I don't know when, but I know it will happen because God said it would.

I want to wish everyone in the Cass City area a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I also hope everyone will examine themselves to see whether they are in the faith.

MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS SHINE!

May everyone have a most joyful and memorable Christmas this year.

From your friends at...

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4441 Comment Dr., Cass City
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JOY

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Merry Christmas!

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Northpole?

Holiday tales might place Santa's workshop and flying reindeer at the North Pole, but non-flying reindeer can't live that far north. Reindeer, along with caribou, or wild reindeer, live just below the Arctic Circle in the tundra regions of North America, Europe and Asia, and on the islands of Greenland and other large northern islands.

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wishes everyone
A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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the PAINT STORE

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872-5277
Downtown Cass City

WARM WISHES

In the happy spirit of the holiday, we pause and count our many blessings. We'd like to extend our sincere thanks for your valued friendship.

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SCREEN CYLINDER CO.
Cass City

All the best to you

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MIKE WEAVE, R. Gunn
Ph. 872-3613
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We wish you a Merry Christmas!

S.H. RAYTHATHA, M.D., P.C.
(Dr. Ray)
4672 HILL STREET
CASS CITY, MI 48726
872-5010

We're wishing you **LOADS** of **HOLIDAY CHEER!**

DOUBLE D
GAS & DIESEL REPAIR
7923 E. Cass City Rd. 872-4540

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the whole crew at Mr. Chips!

Mr. Chips Food Store
6553 Main St., Cass City 872-5688
BACK TO THE 50s

Hope you all have a Very, Very Joyful Christmas


See me for your last minute transportation shopping needs!



See the # One Garth O'Mara at the # One Moore Motors

(517) 673-4171
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1-800-516-6673

Give family the best gift



Ken Micklash
Superintendent of Schools

One of the added benefits that go along with working in a school system, is to be able to see the faces of our boys and girls as we pass through various holiday seasons each year. Children are what make these times of the year so special. The season surrounding Christmas probably provides the most enjoyment for our children.

Regardless of what your family tradition is in relationship to gift exchanges, the one request that I have of parents and grandparents is to give the gift of your time to your family. In many circumstances, some of our best childhood memories are

those which are related to some type of family activity. Sledding, ice skating, playing games, listening to music and other activities like these, do not have to cost a lot of money, but they do in many cases, provide positive life long memories.

So please take this opportunity during this holiday season to do something special with your gift of time. Enjoy these days with your family during this special season of year.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Micklash
Superintendent of Schools

I won't be home for Christmas, Santa



Jack T. Bowen

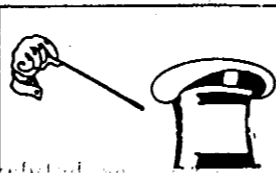
Dear Santa,
I just wanted you to know that I won't be home for Christmas. I will be at

Grandpa and Grandma Peyer's instead. If you want to, you can drop off my presents here. I really don't need much since I am only 2 1/2 months old. However, I would like some black, red and white toys. I love to look at these colors. I would also like a play mat with hanging toys.

Please bring Grandpa and Grandma and Aunt Sharon and Uncle Thad something as well. They have been very good this year.

I will leave some milk and cookies by the chimney. Thank you Santa.

Love,
Jack T. Bowen
Grand Rapids



Chronicle Liners
Work Like Magic!
Cass City Chronicle
Phone 872-2010

Santa letters
We'll leave you cookies, Santa



Andrew, Emily and Erika Martin

Dear Santa,

My name is Andrew Martin. I have 2 sisters, Emily and Erika. Emily wants a mobile office and an American girl named Molly. Erika wants a dog named Precious and some Barbie lipstick. I would like a snowboard with snowboarding boots, rollerblades, and a new snow coat and pants.

My family will leave you some cookies and a glass of milk. We will also leave some carrots for the Reindeer.

Sincerely,
Andrew Martin

Dear Santa, would you bring me...

Dear santa, can I please have

- 1 - gameboy
 - 2 - CD player
 - 3 - puppy
 - 4 - warheads
 - 5 - super Nintendo game like Star wars, donkey kong.
 - 6 - legos, Hot wheels, lot of candy to.
 - 7 - model car, and a football.
- That's all I want. I think for more stuff and tell you. Thank you!

Your friend
Clinton Ellis



Meri, Matthew & Paul Dzielinski

Dear Santa.

Please bring my brothers and me some Pokemon stuff and I would love that pink kitty from K-Mart. We love you Santa.

Hugs and Kisses,
Meri Dzielinski, 5
(Matthew 14, and Paul 11 3/4, too)



Amber, Joshua & Jacob Gamet

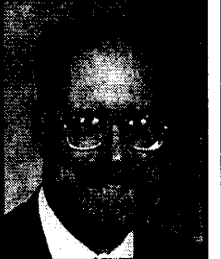
Dear Santa,

My name is Amber. I'm 8 years old now. I would like some presents, but I have 2 brothers, Joshua, 23 months, and Jacob, 10 months. Will you please bring them some toys so they will leave mine alone.

We will leave cookies and milk.

Amber, Joshua and Jacob Gamet

Let others worry about it



Rev. Gerald A. Meyer
Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church

I recently had the opportunity to hear a well-known historian express his regrets over the headlines that Y2K has received recently.

As a historian and a Christian he had looked forward to the great opportunity that Christians would have to tell the world about Jesus in response to the question: "2000 years from what?" But the devil - always more cunning than we expect him to be - and his sometimes-allies: the world and our own sinful 'desires seem to have blunted our opportunity with the great concern that has arisen about what effect Y2K will have on computer driven technologies.

Let's we forget, the year 2000 represents an estimate of the number of years that have passed since Jesus was born.

Each one of us, during our lifetime, does a great number of things that are just plain wrong. And while we can do what is wrong, we


often cannot completely undo the wrong we have done.

This leaves one with a guilty conscience and a dread of God, who, in justice, should punish each of us for the wrong we have done.

Instead, in response to the very first wrong ever committed, God promised to intervene on behalf of people and to do for people what they cannot do for themselves.

2000 years ago marks the time that God chose to keep that promise by assuming human flesh and blood in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, who then earned the forgiveness of sins for us by receiving all of the punishment for all of the sins of all mankind in His own body as he suffered and died the death of crucifixion outside the city walls of Jerusalem.

Let the rest of the world be filled with anxiety over Y2K. We will celebrate Jesus.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve, December 24, 5:00 p.m.
"Blessing of the Animals"
All animals must be on leash or in a cage. Large animals will be blessed in the parking lot. Your opportunity to have your complete family attend a Christmas Eve Service.
7:30 and 11:00 p.m.
Communion/Candlelight Services

Sunday, December 26, 11:00 a.m.
Student Sunday Worship
Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m. each week

Cass City United Methodist Church
5100 N. Cemetery, P.O. Box 125
1 1/4 mile north of the stop light
517-872-3422

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:10-11

American
MATTRESS & FURNITURE CO.

Be filled by the Christmas

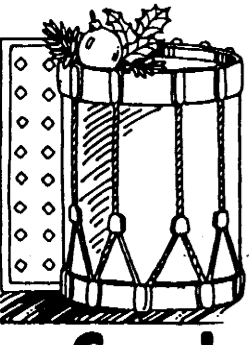


During this season, we rejoice and give thanks to you for your support throughout the year. We wish you and your family a blessed holiday and hope that you will be filled with the magical light of Christmas.

TENDER CARE
4782 Hospital Drive, Cass City • 872-2174

THE STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE OF YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!

Christmas Cheer



May your season be filled to brimming with many happy holiday moments.

Copeland and Gornowicz Inc.
Insurance Agency

6539 Main Cass City Phone 872-4006

Best Wishes for the Holidays Have A Happy & Healthy New Year



AGFA FILM
HEALTHMART
FORMERLY "OLD WOOD DRUG"

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STORE HOURS:
Mon-Fri 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sun 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.
OPEN EVERY OTHER SUNDAY

Season's Greetings & Happy Holidays from Radio Shack

Larry's TV & Electronics
224 N. State - Caro - Phone 673-3424

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve, December 24, 5:00 p.m.
"Blessing of the Animals"
All animals must be on leash or in a cage. Large animals will be blessed in the parking lot. Your opportunity to have your complete family attend a Christmas Eve Service.
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Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m. each week

Cass City United Methodist Church
5100 N. Cemetery, P.O. Box 125
1 1/4 mile north of the stop light
517-872-3422

McDonald's of Cass City says...



Season's Greetings and Thank You

to our customers and employees for making 1999 a Great Success!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM ALL OF US AT

LAFAVE STEEL SUPPLY INC.

8260 Van Dyke
Cass City 48726

Wishing you peace and joy this Holiday Season

Merry Christmas

The Staff & Management



IGA Cass City Foodliner

Cass City Rd. Cass City

Hoping for a safe holiday

Elkland Township Fire Chief Ron Pawloski



My Christmas wish, during this holiday, is that the community of Cass City has a safe and blessed holiday.

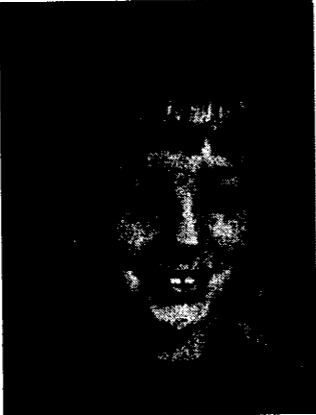
As fighting fires can be physically and emotionally exhausting, we often rely on help from our families and community. In the years past, the community of Cass City has rallied to our support. I want to thank my fire

fighters, their wives, families and the community for their continued support.

As an EMT-S and member of emergency services, I want to remind people to stay healthy and don't drink and drive. Don't let the ambulance crew members be the last faces you see this year. Yours in fire safety, Ron Pawloski.

Santa letters

I've been very good this year



Carly Treiber

Dear Santa, I am 8 years old and I have been very good. I would really like a Stuart Little remote control car. You don't have to give me anything else. Well, if you give me anything else could you please give me a Snack'n

Snow Cone cart? I would really like that to. I would really like a color game boy. Well guess that is all I would like.

Oh and I hope you come to my house on Christmas. We will leave you cookies and milk. How are you? I am fine.

Merry Christmas, Love, Carly Treiber

Have a nice Christmas and Happy New Year!



Mackenzie Treiber

Dear Santa, I am four. I hope you come to my house on Christmas. I'd really like the Snack and Snow Cone cart. My sister Erica would like a Talking Elmo. She is almost 3. I will be really good for my momma and daddy.

Thank you Santa, Merry Christmas! Mackenzie Treiber Unionville



Erica Treiber

Dear Santa, I am Erica and I am almost 3. I am always good for my momma and daddy.

I hope you can stop at our house at Christmas. We live on a farm with cows and a big yellow barn.

I'd like a Talking Elmo. Please bring my older sisters something too.

Hugs and kisses to you, Erica Treiber Unionville



Cass City Chronicle Phone 872-2010

Jesus IS the reason

Pastor Eric Holmgren First Baptist Church



We have all read or heard the saying: "Jesus is the reason for the season." On more than one occasion God has used this statement to redirect my focus during this busy holiday season. Such sayings are needed to keep us mindful of the true reason of Christmas.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "This is a faithful saying and worth of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. . . (I Tim. 1:15). This statement was often repeated to keep the people of his day mindful of why Christ came to earth. Indeed, if the folks in the first century needed such a reminder, how much more do we who are entering the 21st century! The other day this revised

rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" came across my desk. Read it and see if it doesn't help you to redirect your focus this busy holiday.

"On the first day of Christmas, my Savior gave to me. . .

- One - Salvation full and free
- 2 - Everlasting life
- 3 - Peace in my heart
- 4 - Love for all men
- 5 - Joy in my soul
- 6 - Power from on high
- 7 - A body glorified
- 8 - A robe and a crown
- 9 - Mansions from on high
- 10 - Streets of pure gold
- 11 - A thousand tongues to praise Him
- 12 - Eternity to worship"

Remember, "Jesus is the reason for the season."

"Tell Rudolph I said Hi, Santa"



Eugene Marcel Wilson II

Dear Santa, How are you? Me, I'm pretty good. I'm trying very hard to be a good boy. What I would like for Christmas is a sleigh, rocking horse, bath toys, clothes, snowsuit, boots, hat, Talking Bus, learning toys, radio with a microphone and nutcracker. Hope my list isn't too long. I love you. Tell Rudolph I said Hi.

I'll leave some milk and cookies for you and some carrots for the deer.

Thank you, Eugene Marcel Wilson II 3 years old Cass City

Holidays to close center

Due to the holidays, Tuscola County Recycling will be closed Dec. 23 and 24 for the Christmas holiday and again Dec. 31, Jan. 1 and 3, for the New Year's holiday.

Several communities will be canceling their recycling trailer drop-offs. Wells Township will cancel their drop-off for Dec. 25. Unionville and Gilford Townships will cancel their drop-off Jan. 1, and Juniata Township has canceled their drop-off for Jan. 1 and rescheduled it for Jan. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Residents may bring their materials to the recycling center during regular hours of operation Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the first and third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. except for the above holiday schedule.

For further questions please contact the recycling center at 517-672-1673 or your local township supervisor.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Thank You For Your Support

Cass City Servistar Hardware

6092 E. Cass City Rd. 872-2188



PEACE ON EARTH

May the radiance and gift of His love light your way to everlasting peace and contentment. Best wishes for a joyous Christmas. From The Family & Staff

Ken Martin Electric, Inc.

Cass City 872-4114

Merry Christmas from Detroit Edison, North Area Energy Center

Detroit Edison

A DTE Energy Company

Cass City, Michigan



May Your Holidays Be Bright!

From all of us at **QUAKER MAID DAIRY**

Check out our newly remodeled store
Cass City 872-4600
We now have liquor and an additional beer selection!

Season's Greetings from Our Family to Yours!

Join our family of satisfied customers. As an independent agency, we tailor the best insurance protection at competitive prices. We represent only the finest insurance companies, like Auto-Owners, The "NoProblem" People. Ask us about the many other advantages of doing business with an independent insurance agency.



Auto-Owners Insurance
Life Home Car Business
The "No Problem" People

Klco-Inbody Insurance

6263 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726
Phone 517-872-5114 or 1-800-835-9870

In this time of happy thoughts and warm hearts, we wish you and yours a holiday season filled with love.

Merry Christmas

From all the salespeople at...

OSENTOSKI REALTY



872-4377

AUCTIONEERING

673-7777

Thank You To All who have supported us through the years **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

Elkland Township Fire Department and Women's Auxiliary

Obituaries

James Blades

James L. Blades, 63, of Nacogdoches, Texas, formerly of Cass City, died Friday, Nov. 19, 1999, in Nacogdoches, Texas. He was born April 21, 1936, in Cass City to Jack and Elsie

Loretta (McComb) Blades. He taught swing and country western dancing in the Thumb area. He is survived by his sons, John Blades and Christopher (Julie) Blades, both of Nacogdoches; a daughter, Julia (Paul) Christman of

Fort Myer, Fla.; 6 grandchildren; a brother, Edward (Pat) Blades of Whitmore Lake, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Jack Blades. Funeral services will be held 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, Dec.

28, in Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with the Rev. Margaret Passenger of Kingston United Methodist Church officiating. Interment will be in Elkland Township Cemetery. Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society.

by her father, Russell Hayward, her mother, Julia Sherman, and sister, Norma Jean.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 21, at Marsh Funeral Chapel in Marlette with the Rev. Fred Becknell officiating.

Burial was in the Moshier Cemetery in Hemans. Donations may be given to the American Cancer Society.

Doris Fishell

Doris J. Fishell, 65, died Saturday, Dec. 18, 1999, at her home in Hemans, where she had lived for 52 years.

She was born Dec. 27, 1933, in Cass City, daughter of Russell and Julia (Sherman) Hayward. She graduated from Marlette High School in 1952 and married Miles (Art) Fishell Nov. 29, 1952, in Hemans.

She worked for the Harper Elevator in Hemans as a bookkeeper for 30 years and also owned and operated the Pure Oil Gas Station grocery store in Hemans. She was a member of the Lamotte Township Fireman's Auxiliary and Marlette VFW Post 4837 Lady's Auxiliary.

Surviving are her husband, Miles (Art) Fishell; a son, Marvin and Gwen Fishell of Hemans; a daughter, Vanessa Fishell of Hemans; 2 brothers, Duane Hayward of Marlette and Harold and Helen Hayward of Oxford; 2 sisters, Marion and Robert Fields of Hemans and Sharon and Fred Horne of Decker; 4 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death

Edward Walkiewicz Jr.

Edward James Walkiewicz Jr., 23, of Deford, died suddenly Monday, Dec. 13, 1999, near his home.

He was born July 8, 1976, in Cass City to Edward J. and Barbara J. (Galubenski) Walkiewicz.

He graduated from Kingston High School and Michigan State University. In high school he was very active in basketball and football. While in college he enjoyed boxing, rugby, intramural hockey and marshall arts. He was a 6th grade school teacher at Lake City Middle School teaching Social Studies and Language

Arts.

He is survived by his parents, Edward J. and Barbara Walkiewicz of Deford; brother, Steven F. Walkiewicz of Deford; grandparents, Frank and Stella Galubenski of Harrison, and Gertrude Walkiewicz of Deford; aunts and uncles, Ken and Louise Walkiewicz of Deford, Janet and Bob Keiper of Stalwart, Mary and Jim Watchorn of Fairfield, Ohio, Carol Walkiewicz of Saldotna, Ak., Bobbi Gail Walkiewicz of Cincinnati, Ohio., Sharon and Daryl Thorp of Remus, Cathie and Lyle Curry of Kingston, Julie and Greg Wenzlaff of Kingston, Jackie Galubenski of Dallas, and many cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by grandfather, William Walkiewicz; uncle, Bill Walkiewicz, and cousin, Jonathan Walkiewicz.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 16, in Kranz Funeral home, Kingston, with Pastor Wilbur Ricketts, Watertown Missionary Church, Sandusky, officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Family Discretionary Fund.

4-H raffle to benefit Sanilac Expo Center

The Sanilac County 4-H Dairy Committee is sponsoring a raffle to raise funds for the Sanilac County 4-H Expo Center.

The expo center will house and show dairy and small animals during the annual Sanilac County 4-H Fair. The facility will also be available for use by the community for educational workshops, farm shows, and other community events.

First prize in the 4-H dairy raffle is a handcrafted quilt made by Belva Spohn of Crosswell. Spohn, grandmother of 4-H dairy committee president, Mike Bender, made the quilt specifically for the dairy committee. The quilt is queen size and is a variety of colors. Spohn has made over 50 quilts and has plans to make even more!

Spohn has been actively involved in extension for quite a while and was chairperson of the Home Economics Committee in the late 1950s. Spohn will celebrate her 87th birthday this January and is the first of 4 generations of her family to have been involved in 4-H.

Second prize in the 4-H Dairy raffle is a beautiful woven throw blanket and third prize is a throw pillow. Tickets are available for purchase at the MSU Extension Office at 37 Austin St in Sandusky for \$1 each or 6 or \$5. Spohn's quilt is also on display at the Extension office.

The raffle will be held Jan. 22 during the annual 4-H Dairy Scotch Doubles Bowling Tournament at Liberty Lanes in Sandusky. Scotch Doubles is a main money maker for the dairy committee and the proceeds will also go towards the Sanilac County 4-H Expo Center.

The dairy committee welcomes anyone who is interested in bowling in the scotch doubles tournament - there will be 2 shifts. The first shift will begin at 6 p.m. and the second shift begins at 9 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person or \$20 per couple. Prizes and a 50/50 drawing will also be held. Just call the MSU Extension Office at 648-2515 for registration materials.

Richard & Joyce Hampshire

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Great New Year

Love, Mark, Sandra and Audrey

After Christmas Blowout

STARTING MONDAY, DEC. 27

1/2 Off

- Boxed Hallmark Christmas Cards (excludes individual cards)
- NOMA Lights (white sticker)
- Christmas Gift Items (excludes collectible items, Precious Moments, etc.)

Take An Additional **20% Off**

THE ALREADY LOW RED STICKER PRICE ON SELECTED CIRCULAR MERCHANDISE

COACH LIGHT PHARMACY

Steve Eyer, Pharmacist Suzanne Smith, Pharmacist

Ph. 872-3613

HOURS: Mon - Thurs 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Your Family Discount Drug Store

Wedding Announcements



Catalogs loaned overnight.

Free Subscription with each order

Cass City Chronicle
Phone 872-2010

HAPPY HOLIDAY FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOURS!

The Village of Cass City would like to thank its Village Council, Employees, Boards and the Community for their support in 1999 and to wish them **Happy Holidays!**


CONTINUING OUR STRONG TRADITION INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM



Be sure to pick up your red ribbon at the Village Hall and support the "Don't Drink and Drive" campaign thru the Holidays

HAPPY HOLIDAY FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOURS!


Merry Christmas



Hope the magic and mirth of Christmas shower you with happy surprises! We thank you especially dear friends and patrons for your support.

BARTNIK'S SERVICE

Corner M-81 and M-53 Cass City



Erla's Food Center wishes everyone **Happy Holidays!**

Erla's FOOD CENTER
- IN CASS CITY - Phone: 872-2191 -

Open Christmas Eve until 6 p.m., Closed Christmas Day and Sunday after
Open New Year's Eve until 8 p.m., Closed New Year's Day

CALL NOW TO ORDER YOUR PARTY TRAYS & SNACK TRAYS

Letter to the editor

Love makes the tree real

In every house or at each Christmas gathering, it seems these words are heard... "Is your tree real?" I have seen so many beautiful impressive trees this year. At one Christmas gathering there was a tree in each room.

The large living room tree was awesome. (The hostess had owned a flower shop). The tree went almost to the ceiling and was wrapped with grape vine and adorned with birds and bird houses of various sizes and shapes with baby's breath and dried flow-

ers in every little nook and cranny. In the kitchen she had the most adorable medium tree with pink ribbon and bows and various teacups and saucers adorning its branches. They had a cat, but I was afraid to get close enough to see how they held those beautiful dishes in place. She received several compliments along with the lingering question, "Are your trees real?"

Another gathering had a gorgeous tree with pink and burgundy poinsettias, with

one large bow on the top of the tree. The ribbon glowing throughout the collectable Hallmark ornaments - she had saved for years and was very excited to share the age and value of each treasured ornament. It was an exciting journey through the Hallmark Tree of Fame.

I also enjoyed a gathering of relatives where the tree was a gold-lovers delight - again the top held a bow and the burgundy ribbon flowed

in and out of the beautiful gold grapes, leaves, doves, pine cones, etc.

As you get older you look at the tree more than the gifts beneath its splendored boughs. Here again I heard - "Is your Christmas tree real? It's beautiful."

Even saw a teddy bear tree at the mall with white and gold bows tucked in between. It was really cute, a true bear-lover's delight. The tree was a rather large one and as I walked away I heard a young lady ask her mom - "Mommy, is that tree real?" I wasn't sure myself.

Then we stopped in at a gathering of a family of 5 to exchange gifts. The children were gathering around the tree so we could open the gifts we had carefully selected from their lists. Billy, the little 7-year-old, hurried to my aid to examine the tree along with mom and one or 2 other curiosity seekers - "See" he said, here is what I made in school this year for the tree - it was an angel made with cotton balls, and crepe paper - he showed me several things from clothes pin Santas to yarn Christmas trees and decorated styrofoam balls - that he and his siblings had made - mom showed me many popsicle stick picture frames complete w/pictures of the kids each year, even one of Boots the dog - there were even characters from the manger scene carved from homemade play dough. This time I didn't have to ask - For this family has made this tree come to life with memories of Christmas past and present right before my eyes. I felt a special warmth and a connection finally - So this is what a real tree looks like!

Letters to the Editor
The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. The letter is in case it is necessary to call for verification, but won't be used in the newspaper. Names will be withheld from publication upon request, for an adequate reason. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. We will not publish thank you letters of a specific nature, for instance, from a club thanking merchants who donated prizes for a raffle.

Dairy meets planned

How dairy producers can detect and help control insidious infectious diseases, including mastitis, from spreading through the herd will be the focus of dairy management meetings at 13 locations in Michigan.

The meetings, sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension dairy area of expertise team, will cost \$40 for the first person and \$20 for each additional person from the same farm if registration is made 14 days prior to the local meeting. Registration at the door will be \$50.

Each meeting will run from 9:30 a.m. through 3 p.m. Dates and locations include: - Feb. 1, Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth.

- March 1, Ubyl Heights Country Club, 2409 E. Atwater Rd., Ubyl.

The program will focus on how to systematically investigate herd health problems, the value of records in diagnosing herd health problems, methods to submit and interpret diagnostic tests, and how to develop standard operating procedures to improve farm-level herd health.

Program outline and registration forms are available from the county MSU Extension office or from Pam Jahnke at MSU by calling her at (517) 353-4570.



THE WINNERS of the annual Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee were recently announced at Cass City Middle School. They are (front row, left) Ryan Biddinger, Brad Severance, Courtney Rabideau, Allie Richards (back row, left) Aimee Hennessey, Jessica Chappel, Lauren Rowe, Angela Stoeckle, Kaylin Tack and Kayla Yax.

Blessings to All
- OPEN -
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
Mon. & Tues. 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
Wed.-Sun. 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
BUFFET HOURS:
Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Fri., Sat., Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

FAMILY DINING
DINE IN OR OUT
-DAILY-
SPECIALS - PIZZAS - CHINESE
- MEXICAN - AMERICAN CUISINE
PHONE 872-4371

Recycle those old tires

What should be done with the more than 265 million tires discarded each year? Recycling would be the ideal solution, and Agricultural Research Service scientists have found a way to do it. They extract the pulverized rubber and polyester/nylon mixture from tires and divide it into 2 separate materials. Companies recover over 50 percent of the rubber from this process, but the remainder is still sent to landfills. The rubber that is recovered is valued at about \$500 per ton. Products such as new tires, truck bed liners, running tracks, shoes, carpet backing, brake pads and shoes, asphalt, water hoses and floor mats can be made from the recycled rubber.

Lois Hillaker

Warm Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season
from the Heartland management and staff!

Heartland
HOME HEALTH CARE & HOSPICE
5986 E. Cass City Rd.
517-872-4452

Wedding Announcements

Catalogs loaned overnight.

Free subscription with each order

Cass City Chronicle
Phone 872-2010

MERRY CHRISTMAS

We're glad to know and serve you

J & C Service

John and Connie Connolly
6268 Main 872-3488

Come See Santa who comes to life
at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23 at
6328 Main St., Cass City

Holiday Greetings from the Staff of the Cass City Chronicle

We wish each and every one of you a Safe and Blessed Holiday Season filled with love and laughter.

John Haire
Clarke Haire
JoAnn Asher
Emily Bennett
Collier Bogart
Larry Bogart
Mary Damm
Melva Guinther
Lois Hillaker
Tom Montgomery
Deb Severance
Janet Severance

Holiday Greetings

* Life * Health
* Annuities and Other Investments

Newell E. Harris
P.O. Box 38
Cass City, MI 48726-0038
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Avoid stress during this holiday season

Here come the holidays! Beautiful decorations, visiting with family and friends, relaxing by the fire, delicious elaborate meals...and shopping, cleaning, card-giving, parties and other commitments.

Suddenly, what you hoped would be a wonderful, stress-free holiday turns into a hectic rush of activity.

Many people set themselves up for problems by starting the season with an unrealistic vision of what the holiday would be like, and when the Currier and Ives version of the season doesn't materialize, they not only get disappointed - they may get sick.

In fact, says an expert from the University of Michigan Health System, exhaustion,

insomnia, stomach upset, ulcers, headaches, muscle tension and high blood pressure may result from too much stress. Stress, she says, even can make you more vulnerable to infections, heart disease and cancer.

"The holidays, surprisingly, are a stressful time for many of us," says Peggy Kennedy of the U-M Health System. "We think of the holidays as enjoyment and excitement. But in reality, we are overloaded with visitors and preparations for the holidays."

Some stress is good, Kennedy adds, but our bodies don't differentiate between positive and negative stress. The body just reacts to excess demands put upon it, regardless of whether they

are positive or negative. And, everybody reacts differently to stress. It might express itself physically, as in the maladies described above, yet stress can also trigger emotional reactions that differ in each person.

"People might be irritable, but yet not understand why they are easily angered," says Kennedy. "They might be depressed over the holidays. They might feel lonely or bored at a time when they expect to be happy."

But before you decide to skip the entire season, choose to manage your stress with a little thought and planning. Start out by recognizing that the holidays can be very stressful. Then, employ some techniques that can help you manage the situation. Focus on:

- * Time management
 - * Regular exercise
 - * Healthy diet
 - * Plenty of sleep
- "Time management is probably the most critical part of

Acid rain

Why is acid rain so bad? Rainfall has always been slightly acidic. But burning fossil fuels like coal and oil releases sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide gases into the air. These gases react with the water in clouds to make sulfuric acid and nitric acid, which then fall back to Earth as acid rain. If it rains in an area without natural buffers, the acid could build up in ponds, streams and soil, disrupting aquatic plants, fish and other animals. Refineries and factories use coal or oil because it's the most economical and efficient way to deliver energy. They've reduced the problem by installing special ways to collect the sulfur before it's released into the air.

managing stress over the holidays. There is a high demand on your time; pare down the demand. Select to participate in the activities and events that are most important to you," says Kennedy. Know your limits. Do not take on more responsibility than you can handle.

Physical exercise also is an excellent way to combat stress over the holidays. Regular exercise reduces the release of stress-related hormones.

"If you already have an exercise program, keep up with the routine over the holiday season. If you don't, interject some physical activity into the holiday preparations such as parking further away from the mall or walking the mall prior to shopping," she says. Maintain a healthy diet during the holidays, since worrying about gaining the average 6 to 12 pounds will not help your stress level, or your mental or physical well being. Avoid going to parties when you're already famished. Once there, select small portions of your 3 favorite dishes, then move away from the buffet table. Watch your portions, as well as the fat and salt in all special holiday foods. Focus on friends and family, not the food, Kennedy suggests.

Sleep is also essential in reducing stress, she adds. People who are tired do not cope well in stressful situations. Chronic sleep deprivation is common. Make sure you get enough sleep so you wake up refreshed and energetic prior to the alarm going off. If that is not the case, get to bed 30 to 60 minutes earlier for a week. Assess the situation and adjust as necessary, she says.

In the haste of the season, don't forget to take care of yourself. Balance in all areas of your life is the key.



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- Mr. Chips Back to the 50s
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Calendar of Events

Deadline for submitting items in the calendar is the Friday noon before publication.

Wednesday, December 22

No Duplicate Bridge during the holidays. Next meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 5. Last week's winners were Wendell Wood and Wally Taylor of Caro.

Friday, December 24

Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 25

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Rogers geographic bee winner

Justin Rogers, an eighth grade student at Owendale-Gagetown Schools, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee Dec. 15 and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship. The school-level bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the

twelfth annual National Geographic Bee. The local bee was held under the direction of Connie Baranski and Joe Candela. The following students were runners-up: first - Heidi Scott, second - Tim Kain. The bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

The kick-off for this year's bee was held the week of Nov. 29, with thousands of schools around the United States and in 5 U.S. territories participating. The school winners, including Rogers, will now take a written test in January; up to 100 of the top scorers in each state and territory will be eligible to compete in their state bee April 7.

Alex Trebek, host of "Jeopardy!", will moderate the national finals May 24. The program will be produced by Maryland Public Television and will air on PBS stations. Check local listings for dates and times.

The National Geographic Society developed the National Geographic Bee in response to a growing concern about the lack of geographic knowledge among young people in the United States. A 10-county Gallup survey conducted for the society in 1988 and 1989 found that people in the U.S. ages 18 to 24 — the youngest group surveyed — knew less about geography than young people in any of the other countries in the survey.



WINNERS of the local National Geographic Bee held in the Owen-Gage School District are (from left) Justin Rogers - first place, Heidi Scott - first runner-up; Tim Kain - second runner-up.

4-H tractor safety classes scheduled

Sanilac County 4-H Safe Tractor Operation classes will be offered in Sanilac County beginning Monday, Jan. 17, from 7 to 9:00 p.m. at the County Conference Room in Sandusky.

A class will be offered for youth 10-12 years old, "Introduction to Safe Tractor Operation". It will meet 2 hours per week for 3 weeks. It will provide basic information on farm and tractor safety issues. This is a safety education class geared for the younger student.

For youth over 12, there will be the regular 7-week 4-H Safe Tractor Operation Course that will provide a "Certificate of Training" for those youth who successfully complete the requirements, which include weekly homework assignments, a written exam and a practical driving test. These courses are classroom instruction only. Tractor operation must occur at home under parental supervision. This class also begins Monday, Jan. 17, from 7 to 9:00 p.m. at the County Conference Room in Sandusky.

Also being offered will be a Farm Machinery course for youth who are 13 "Turning 14 in the year 2000". A minimum of 10 students must be pre-enrolled for a class to meet as scheduled.

You must pre-enroll and the \$5 fee paid by Jan. 10 so the books can be ordered. Enroll by calling Aletha Mahaffy at the MSU Extension Office at (810) 648-2515.

Parents are encouraged to attend the sessions with their youth. Several parents who have attended in the past have indicated that the course is a "good refresher" for any tractor operator.

If your child is working for a farmer (even if it is only Granddad), is under the age of 16, and drives tractor or does any of the other jobs that have been identified as "hazardous" by the Federal Department of Labor, he/she must have a "Certificate of Training". (For more complete information about Federal regulations regarding

youth employment in agriculture, contact the MSU Extension and ask for bulletin AEIS #598 "Youth Employment in Hazardous Jobs in Agriculture".

Confidential farm visits, workshops slated this winter

Confidential farm visits and financial and entrepreneurial workshops around Michigan this winter are intended to help farm managers develop effective business and marketing plans for the coming years.

Within the series of activities being sponsored by Michigan State University Extension and Michigan Farm Bureau are farm financial management workshops that will run 2 to 3 days over a 2- or 3-week span and that will focus on individual farm operations.

Gerald Schwab, MSU Extension agricultural economist, says the first day of the workshop will focus on the current status or net worth of the farm business, which will be a prelude to developing a multiyear farm management plan.

"We basically want to assist farmers in getting a handle on their management practices, looking at the internal factors of the business that they can control, and the external factors that they cannot control and how to contend with them," Schwab says.

The workshops will also focus on the outlook of the particular industry the farmer is in and develop a strategy for managing around current market prices.

Schwab says it will be important for all the decision makers in the farm operation to be involved in the farm business assessment and participate in the workshop activities.

The workshops planned to date include: Sanilac County, Feb. 10, 17 and 24 in Sandusky. The local contact is Martin Nagelkirk, 810-648-2515.

Other workshops being offered are:

Managing Business Risks. One-day workshops on helping producers understand and make effective use of financial, human resource management, crop production and legal risk management tools and tactics.

Labor Management. The focus will be on various dimensions of employee management including communications, job appraisal and reward, and the legal and regulatory aspects of employee management.

Value-added Initiatives. These will focus on the techniques and principles that will help individual producers determine whether a value-added venture is feasible for them.

Telfarm Services. The system focuses on helping farm families know and control their farms' economic performance. New customers are being offered a 50 percent reduction in the first year's

service fee. Price Risk Management. These workshops will focus on providing producers with skills in various market strategies, including hedging, forward contracts and options, and variations on these tools.

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Down Memory Lane

From the files of the Chronicle

5 YEARS AGO

Ground was broken Saturday by Herron Builders of Cass City to begin Marshall Distributing's 2-year planned expansion program. This phase will effectively double Marshall's customer service.

Dr. Ernest J. Sorini, who will begin accepting patients in Cass City next month, is medical director for Family First Community Health Services, which will be located in Dr. Richard Hall's former office across from Hills and Dales General Hospital.

Two Deford teens were apprehended within 3 hours of the theft of a 1990 van owned by Jeri Tordai, which was taken from the IGA parking lot in Cass City. The boys lost control and put the van in a ditch near Unionville. They were released to their parents' custody with plans to petition them into probate court. The next day the 14-year-old driver and 2 Cass City boys, also 14, stole a 1991 Aerostar van owned by Lisa Erla from Charmont Lanes. After a chase by a state police trooper through Sanilac and Tuscola counties, the boys put the van into a snow-covered ditch on Merchant Road. They face charges of auto theft, larceny, hit and run property damage accident, carrying a concealed weapon and attempted fleeing and eluding police.

10 YEARS AGO

Lee and Dolly Tracy, 7663 Elmwood Rd., Cass City, are lucky to be alive after a fire destroyed their home Saturday. The couple suffered smoke inhalation and Mrs. Tracy suffered facial burns. Ulla Kyttoja of Finland recently visited Dale and

Louise Buehrly in Cass City. The Buehrlys hosted her as an exchange student in Cass City in 1981.

Cass City police continued to receive complaints over the past week regarding a string of license plate thefts. At least 6 Cass City residents have reported the thefts.

The 25th anniversary of the Cass City branch of American Association of University Women was held Saturday, Dec. 9, at the home of Geraldine Prieskorn. The event was hosted by Jane Hittler and her committee. There were about 40 members present.

A revised 1989 budget and a 1990 spending plan were approved by the Cass City Village Council during a brief monthly meeting Monday. The 1990 spending plan is set at \$1,595 million, which represents a proposed spending increase of about 21 percent, or some \$338,000, over 1989. The new budget includes raises of 4.5 percent for most of the village's 15 full-time employees.

25 YEARS AGO

Beverly Nitz of Deford reported to police around 20 of her chickens were stolen Friday night. They were worth around \$40.

Christmas will be much brighter for the Cortimilla family of Cass City. Last week, Mrs. Cortimilla called the Chronicle, asking for help in getting much-needed clothing for her 5 children. The paper hit the street and by Wednesday night the telephone calls started flooding in. Mrs. Cortimilla said calls were coming in from all over the Chronicle's circulation. Toys, clothing, coats, just

everything has been given the family.

The annual AARP Christmas party was held at the Elkland Township Cultural Center Dec. 12 with 77 members and guests attending. Organ music was provided by Don Greenleaf, with duets by Greenleaf and Nancy Shagena. Sacred Christmas carols were sung by Rev. Dale Sherry and Connie Clendennan. Joseph McIntyre entertained the group with a series of humorous Christmas narrations.

Fire of undetermined origin did an estimated \$5,000 damage to the James Gray home located on State Street in Gageton Saturday night. Gageton and Elkland township fire departments battled the blaze.

A "dime-a-dip" dinner in the Masonic Temple will precede the regular meeting of Job's Daughters Thursday. Initiation will be part of the meeting.

35 YEARS AGO

Richard K. Stauffer, 26, of Snover, died early Sunday when he was thrown from a car and pinned under the rear wheel after the vehicle hit an electric pole in Snover.

Margaret Steinhebel, 9, of Brown City, was fatally injured in an accident on M-53, about a half mile south of Marlette Saturday when a car driven by her mother left the road and turned over.

Police Chief Carl Palmateer is looking for vandals who were responsible for the senseless destruction of property in 3 Cass City High School rooms Friday night. The vandals broke into the shop and scattered papers from the file on the floor and emptied the contents of a fire


extinguisher. In the other 2 rooms, papers were scattered around the floor.

Twenty-three members of the Hobby Club met Monday at the home of Mrs. Alfred Fort. Mrs. Donald Reid was accepted as a new member of the club. A Christmas story was read by Mrs. Malvina Howarth.

Cass City registered its first victory in 4 starts with an upset over Vassar Friday at Cass City High School, 98-76. Three veterans paced Cass City's victory. Coach John Oswald said that Jim Champion, Jim Knoblet and Ed Retherford played an outstanding game. Champion led scorers with 31 points. Knoblet scored 21 and Retherford, 15.

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