

Derfny to head up bike-a-thon

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital officials recently announced Linda Derfny has agreed to coordinate the hospital's annual bike-a-thon in Cass City, slated for May 15.

Last year, 26 local riders raised \$1,578 for the hospital, which is located in Memphis, Tenn.

The location of the ride will be the parking lot at Walbro Corporation on Garfield Avenue. The event in Cass City is sponsored by 4 local churches: First Presbyterian, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Cass City United Methodist and St. Pancratius Catholic. Founded by entertainer Danny Thomas, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital opened in 1962 to combat catastrophic diseases that afflict children.

Scientists and physicians work side by side seeking not only a better means of treatment, but also the causes, cures, and prevention of leukemia, Hodgkin's disease, sickle-cell anemia and other

child killers. All findings and information gained at the hospital are shared freely with doctors and hospitals all over the world.

In Michigan, 136 children and their families have gone to St. Jude Hospital and received total medical care. Thousands of others have benefited from the research findings that have developed better and more successful treatment methods.


Cass City Social Items
Call your local news to the Chronicle office 872-2010

Mrs. Larry Schultz and son David of Lapeer and Ms Ann Fay of Waterford spent Saturday evening with their aunt, Charlotte LaPeer. They attended the Solo and Ensemble Festival in Bad Axe, where David received a II.


Joyce Polega visited Charlotte LaPeer Sunday night.

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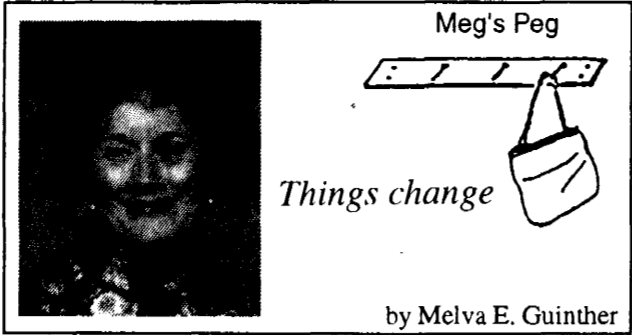
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Things change

by Melva E. Guinther

Those of us who have been around a while know how a person's perspective can change over the years. The things that seemed important in our youth don't seem to matter much in middle age and beyond, and things we gave no thought to then suddenly become a lot more meaningful.

Here's a clever list of "Old and new concerns for Baby Boomers" sent by our daughter, Sandy.

- Then: Long hair.
- Now: Longing for hair.
- Then: Keg.
- Now: EKG
- Then: Acid Rock.
- Now: Acid reflux.
- Then: Moving to California because it's cool.
- Now: Moving to California because it's warm.
- Then: You're growing pot.
- Now: Your growing pot.
- Then: Watching John Glenn's historic flight with your parents.
- Now: Watching John Glenn's historic flight with your kids.
- Then: Trying to look like Marlon Brando or Elizabeth Taylor.
- Now: Trying not to look like Marlon Brando or Elizabeth Taylor.
- Then: Seeds and stems.
- Now: Roughage.
- Then: Popping pills, smoking joints.
- Now: Popping joints.
- Then: Our president's struggle with Fidel.
- Now: Our president's

struggle with fidelity. Then: Paar. Now: AARP. Then: Being caught with Hustler Magazine. Now: Being caught by Hustler Magazine. Then: Killer weed. Now: Weed killer. Then: Hoping for a BMW. Now: Hoping for a BM. Then: The Grateful Dead. Now: Dr. Kevoorkian. Then: Getting out to a new hip joint. Now: Getting a new hip joint.

Sandy also sent a list of "Things to Ponder." Here's one of them:

There apparently exists somewhere in Los Angeles, a computer that generates concepts for TV sitcoms. When TV executives need a new concept, they turn on this computer. After sorting through millions of possible plot premises, it spits out, "Three quirky but attractive young people living in an apartment."

The executives turn this concept into a show.

The next time they need an idea, the computer spits out, "Six quirky but attractive young people living in an apartment." And so on.

We need to locate this computer and destroy it with hammers.

"Read Across America" celebration set March 2

Rawson Memorial Library will celebrate Read Across America with a preschool story time featuring Dr. Seuss books and activities. Children ages 3 through 5 are invited to join in the fun at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 2, and receive a certificate of participation.

Dr. Seuss activity sheets will also be available throughout the day to children who visit the library.

Read Across America is sponsored by the National Education Association and is celebrated annually March 2 in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Ubly honor roll

The Ubly High School first semester honor roll has been announced.

9TH GRADE

Andrew Bismack, Kala Briolat, Erin Cleland*, Kelley Dekoski, Katherine Eilers, Barry Essenmacher, Alayna Gentner, Shelda Guigar*, Tina Kincaid, Ashley Klee, Keith Longuski, Troy Macker, Ryan Marks, Andrew Maurer, Crystal Messing, Mallori Messing, Michelle O'Berski, Steven Peruski, Rachael Pettinger, Darcie Philp, Lesley Pionk*, Jackie Puvuloski, Kyle Recker*, Christopher Rivard, Laurie Sadro, Joshua Schumacher, Kelsey Smalley*, Nathan Stomack, Deanne Sweeney, Coray Symonds, Crystal Vieau, Lindsay Walleman and Dawn Young.

10TH GRADE

Tiffany Badger*, Jessica Bonnema, Stacey Brahmmer, Jenni Butch, Carrie Dekoski, Andrew Duemling, Martin Gentner, Stacey Helewski, Mackenzie Kerr, Adam Klee, Joseph Klemzak, Andrea Kolar, Katie Kubacki, Pamela Lackowski, Heather Langley, Danielle Lautner, Jeanna Link, Kyle Maurer, Nicholas M. Messing, Gina Morell, Justin Morrison, Heather Movish*, Daniel O'Connor, Erin Oberski, Andrea Osentoski, Leslie Peters, Jessica Pollum, Elizabeth Prill, Nathan Prill, Scott Romzek, Megan Ruthko, Brenda Rutkowski, Scott Smalley, Mark Smith, Jennifer Susalla, Dennis Warchuck*, Jeremy Warner, Erica Wasierski, Brian Wyrick.

Free screening

Dr. Neeraj Arora, internal medicine, will be offering free blood pressure checks every Monday from 10 a.m. to noon at his office, located at Marlette Community Hospital, Medical Office Building, Suite #5.

Dance set for Feb. 27

The Sandusky Thumb Dancers will hold its next open dance at the Sandusky Maple Valley School Saturday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.-11 p.m. Music will be by The Barney Schubring Trio.

Everyone welcome, bring finger food and friends.

Marriage licenses

Theodore William Stilson and Tracie Giselle Walker, both of Vassar. Randy Allen Wachner and Brenda Lee Farnum, both of Vassar. Duwayne Owen Jacob and Randi Jo Clouse, both of Kingston.

Do you feel like a slave to food? Do you fight the diet battle, only to regain the weight soon after? If so, join us for a free Orientation session and learn about the **Weigh Down Workshop**--a Christ centered program that teaches us to replace our devotion to the refrigerator with a deeper, more satisfying devotion to God.

Calvary Bible Fellowship
4446 Ale Street will be hosting a
"Weigh Down Workshop"
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(A limited number of tickets will be sold and eating arrangements cannot be guaranteed)

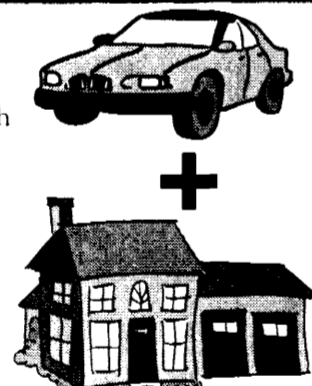
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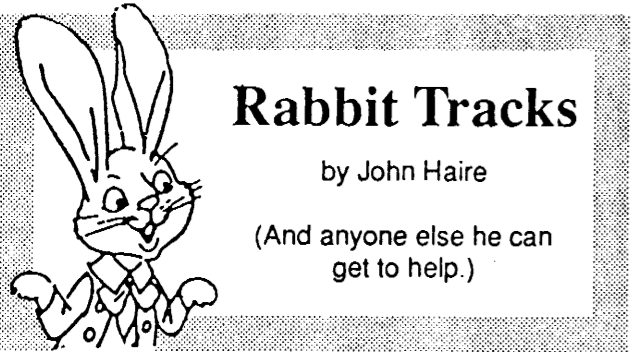
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Rabbit Tracks

by John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help.)

Soaring Eagle Casino didn't get built because all of those gamblers who descend like locusts on the complex at Mount Pleasant are nothing but winners. But sometimes a few lucky guys and gals can beat the odds. Dan Erla is one. He hit a royal flush on one of the poker machines recently and pocketed a 4-figure payoff.

This month we have eaten at both fish suppers offered by the Masons and the Knights of Columbus and at both, more than one person has asked what kind of rating they deserved. I always hasten to explain that I never rate local restaurants or local dinners prepared by church or civic groups. If it's local, chances are you have been able to make your own evaluation without any suggestions from me. I will point out that I always figured church or civic group meals were under priced for what is offered. Evidently no one figures labor is worth anything at these affairs. Around here, anyway, you know what to expect when you attend. Good solid home cooked food, and the fish fries rate right up there with all of them.

TNU raid turns up stolen cellular phones

A Thumb Narcotics Unit raid last week in Cass City failed to turn up any drugs, but officers recovered 3 stolen cellular phones. Cass City Police Chief Gene Wilson, whose department assisted in the operation, said TNU officers executed a search warrant for possession of narcotics at a residence in the village Feb. 16 at about 11 a.m. Wilson said officers found no drugs, but confiscated 3 cellular phones reported stolen by area residents last summer. The phone owners were notified, however, the phones are being held for use as evidence. Cellular phones apparently are a popular target of thieves. Cass City police received 2 complaints involving the theft of phones following last week's raid. Mary Ann Osentoski and Denise Hallwood, both of Cass City, reported cellular phones stolen from their vehicles sometime Feb. 16 or Feb. 17.

Green to speak at gun owners meeting

State Rep. Mike Green will speak at a Michigan Coalition of Responsible Gun Owners meeting March 1. The topic is revising the state concealed weapons law. The meeting will take place at the Millington American Legion Hall, 5397 W. Millington Rd., at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Green's office at (517) 373-0476.

The Weather			
	High	Low	Precip.
Tuesday	53	34	.09"
Wednesday	36	25	0
Thursday	32	20	.01"
Friday	28	14	.05"
Saturday	30	12	tr.
Sunday	29	6	tr.
Monday	25	7	0

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)

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Cass City Public Schools

PROGRESS IN EDUCATION

from the desk of Ken Micklash, Superintendent

ACCELERATED READER

The following was submitted by Judy Brown, middle school librarian/reading specialist.

On Monday, February 8, the 5th grade students were introduced to the Accelerated Reader program. Using the networked computers, the students will begin taking tests over books they have just read from the library media center's collection. There are currently over 300 fiction and nonfiction titles from which the students may choose. After the student has completed a test, he or she gets immediate feedback in the form of reading points. The program awards points based on the length and difficulty of the book, as well as the number of questions answered correctly. When each student reaches established point levels, he or she is rewarded for that accomplishment. As an added incentive, each student's name will be placed on the cafeteria wall to show his or her progress.

The Accelerated Reader is designed around a system of goals and recognition that students find naturally motivating:

- Students like using computers.
- Students appreciate the fairness and accuracy of the reading point system.
- Students respond best to immediate reinforcement.
- Straightforward tests and frequent opportunities remove the "fear of failure."
- Students read books they really enjoy.

One of the highlights of this program is that all students have taken a reading test so that they can select the books that will not be frustrating for them but yet are challenging. Once students have shown success at a given level, they are then promoted to a new level of reading. The teacher is, however, an integral part of this process in guiding the students to books best suited to meet their individual needs.

It has been proven that the more students read, the better readers they become. Our teachers have committed to set aside a 30-minute period of time each day in which the students may either read or take an Accelerated Reader test. Reading is a skill that is so vital to success in all academic areas. In fact, it is the key to lifelong learning.

Questions can be sent to me at 4868 N. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726. Thank you.

Dutcher Road to Caro M-81 work set for 2000

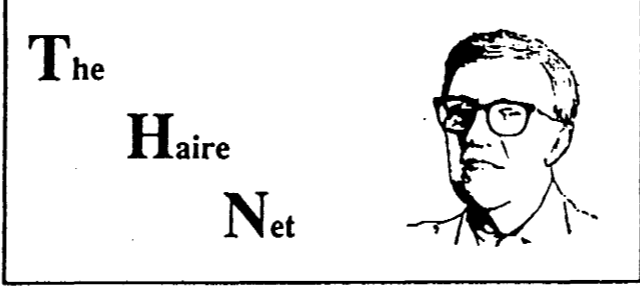
The long-awaited completion of improvements to M-81 between Cass City and Caro is drawing nearer, as the final miles are scheduled to be resurfaced in 2000. The project is one of many outlined in the Michigan Department of Transportation's "5 Year Road & Bridge Program", released this month. Construction on M-81 will cover 8.39 miles, from Dutcher Road to Caro. "Thanks to increased investment in transportation from passage of Gov. Engler's Build Michigan II plan and the TEA-21 federal highway bill, MDOT is pursuing the most aggressive road and bridge repair program in our history," said Gary G. Naeyaert, director of communications, MDOT. "From 1999-2003, Michigan will be investing a record \$6.3 billion to repair and rebuild 7,000 miles of state highways and to rehabilitate 1,400 bridges across the state — bringing us significantly closer to our goal to have 90 percent of our roads and bridges in good condition by 2007." In the state's Bay Region, which is composed of 13 counties, including Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac, 59 percent of the roads were rated as being in "good" condition in 1997, while the remaining 41 percent were rated "poor". Over the next 5 years, MDOT officials say, priorities for the Bay Region will include continuing to provide transportation services to the region's agricultural industry, among other things preserving its status as a

sugar beet producer and worldwide exporter of beans. MDOT officials say project selection strategies for the region will emphasize freeway modernization, with particular attention to I-75, through safety and operational improvements. MDOT will add capacity for north/south recreational traffic while coordinating efforts to preserve the existing system. The 5-year program road preservation and capacity improvement work will upgrade 403 miles of the Bay Region's more than 1,500 miles of highway and freeway.

In addition, capital preventive maintenance (CPM) projects, programmed annually, are anticipated for a significant number of roads that do not yet require more extensive repairs, to improve the condition and extend the lives of those roads. Among the CPM projects on tap this year is resurfacing of M-81 in the village of Cass City. The \$311,000 project is scheduled to get underway Aug. 2, with completion expected in about 16 days.

House fire damage estimated at \$25,000

A couple escaped unharmed after fire broke out in their home about 9 miles southwest of Cass City early Friday morning. Caro fire fighters were called to the Orvil Beecher residence, 2660 Colwood Rd., at 1:18 a.m. Caro Fire Chief Dave Matlin reported the blaze originated around a stove-pipe leading from a wood stove on the first floor of the home to the chimney. The wood framing around the pipe was old and ignited, and the fire spread to the wall and into the second story, he said. Matlin said Beecher and his wife woke and smelled the smoke at about the same time their smoke alarms began to sound. Matlin estimated the damage at \$25,000, including \$15,000 to the structure, which can be rebuilt. He noted the Beechers are insured.



The Haire Net

It's no secret to regular readers that for me, gun control is way past due for the protection of citizens across the nation. Yes, that includes the Thumb. Still, I would be reluctant to endorse a gun law passed in Lansing. What's needed is a law passed in Washington that makes the control of firearms uniform across the country. What good does it do to restrict firearms access in Michigan when they are available for the asking in Ohio or Illinois? In the more liberal gun control states, there's virtually no restriction on the sale of guns or in securing a permit to carry concealed hand guns. We have never previously endorsed any position taken by the National Rifle Association, but we do on the newest proposal concerning guns. Never mind that the NRA is fighting the proposal for different reasons. They are worried that it will be a step in undermining their successful campaigns to limit any control of guns. Successful even though polls indicate that the majority of people favor gun control. The gun proposal on which the NRA and I are in accord is suing U.S. gun manufacturers to recover the cost of gun violence. State Attorney General Jennifer Granholm is weighing investigating a products liability lawsuit against gun manufacturers. Firearms were used in 67 percent of the 1,206 murders in Michigan, according to the FBI. Now if that lawsuit resulted in a judgement for the state, it would open up new vistas for state revenues. Maybe not as large as the tobacco liability bonanza, but still plenty. After guns pay off, there are knives, baseball bats, rolling pins, bows and arrows and billy clubs. The opportunities are endless. In one Detroit Hospital 3,000 to 4,000 gunshot wounds are treated in a year, according to a doctor serving there. Firearm injuries are estimated to cost \$4 billion annually, plus \$19 billion more in related costs such as lost work. Blaming gun manufacturers for this is like blaming a swimming suit manufacturer when a drowning victim is



The back forty

© 1999 Roger Pond

by Roger Pond

The sport of fishing has certainly changed over the years. Gone are the days when a person could walk into the hardware store and buy his whole outfit for \$20. One thing hasn't changed, though. Fishermen are as gregarious as ever. Much like sheep, I think. I don't mean to seem anti-social or anything like that, but I prefer to fish with my companions; not with every fisherman on the lake. That's why I frown at the frequent suggestions from outdoor writers, "If you don't know where to fish, just follow the other boats." Or the equivalent advice, "Ask a lot of questions." I enjoy fishing, but I hate questions. Sometimes I want to ask, "Is this some kind of survey, or what?" A recent trip to the river is a case in point.

of water, and 100 boats can scatter out very well if they want to. I'm pretty stubborn, though. So we fished where I caught fish 2 weeks before. The results were meager. The next day our boat was the first one out, so we headed for the spot we fished the day before. (Did I tell you I'm kind of stubborn?) Pretty soon boats began arriving and dropping anchors all around us. That's when we realized everybody else was following everybody else. The first boat out determines where everyone fishes. Two old guys putted up in their little pram and asked, "Doing any good?" "Nope," we told them. They motored over to the next boat and asked, "Doing any good?"

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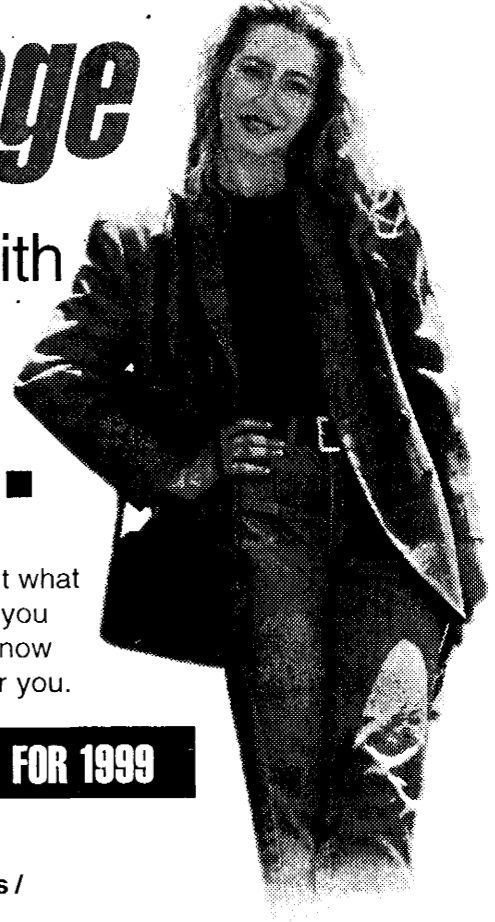
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CHAPPEL'S CORNER

by Amanda Chappel

Alternative education



A great class for students to take to get an extra boost of help is Alternative Education. It's a small class that lets kids get more personal help than a regular class at the high school. There is a maximum of 12 students per class. Currently 25 students are enrolled from grades 9-12.

Students are invited into the program if they do not have enough credits for their years attended. (A sophomore needs 5 credits, a junior 10 credits, and a senior 15 credits.) The program works better for students who join voluntarily instead of being pressured by teachers or parents. It's the fourth year that Alternative Education has been in existence.

There are three different Alternative Education classes offered, math, social studies and communications. Math and social studies fulfill the regular required classes, and communications is offered as an elective. The topics the communications class works on are writing, reading, listening, setting goals, decision making, considering consequences, teamwork and responsibility. Some students are enrolled in only one class while others

are enrolled in 2 or all three. There is a very high success rate, unfortunately not 100%.

Most students who are in Alternative Education are striving to earn their diploma. Current senior Kurt Homestead is on the path to graduation. If it weren't for Alternative Education, he would've dropped out of high school by now. This year his grades are Bs and a couple of As, whereas they used to be Ds and Fs.

Senior Heather Edginton was in the same position academically. "When I was in Alternative Education my grade point average went up to a 3.4. When I left the class it went right back down. I did really well in that class," said Heather.

For someone who needs help, wants help, and has a goal of graduating, the class is great.

Connie Iwankovitch teaches all three Alternative Education classes. She had 3 years of experience teaching at an at risk program at the Tuscola Area Technology Center.

"It's gratifying and also frustrating," said Mrs. Iwankovitch.

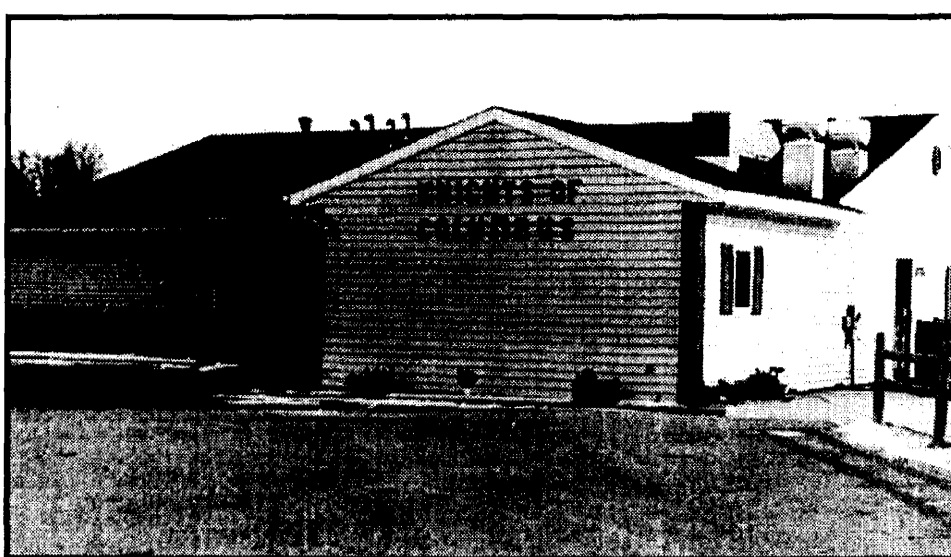
Her first year teaching Alternative Education was rough. She said, "I cried a lot. I took everything personally through the first year. Now I focus on the students who are there instead of worrying about the students who dropped out."

There is a lot more to her job than just teaching. Some kids need a day by day tutor to get by.

The students enrolled in the Alternative Education program love Mrs. Iwankovitch. Kurt Homestead said, "She is understanding and she listens, she's always there for us."

Senior Corey Hulburt feels the same way. "She keeps on to you, she lets you know what you need to do to succeed. She's a friend and a really great teacher. She'll talk to you and she is always there to help you through tough situations. I never bothered to try in school until now. The Alternative Education class has turned my education around," said Corey.

Alternative Education is just ONE of the positive and successful programs at Cass City.



THE CASS CITY Senior Dining Center will be moved from the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to the Knights of Columbus Hall (above), effective March 1.

"Design Day" March 22 for playground project

A new wooden playground is in the process of being designed on the site of the old Cass City Middle School. The project is called "Let's Build Some Fun in the Thumb" and the date for Design Day has been set for

HDC loans available for repairs

If this winter has been especially harsh on your home, you may be in luck. The Human Development Commission (HDC) is currently accepting applications for Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) loans, which are designed for housing rehabilitation.

These loans are made available to qualified individuals through the cooperation of local lenders and HDC.

A borrower's interest rate on the loans is determined by his or her credit history.

Eligibility requirements state that the family income may not exceed \$43,575, that property taxes and homeowners' insurance must be paid, and the home being considered should be at least 20 years old. Exceptions may be made when special circumstances apply which involve health and safety, handicapped access, or weatherization services. Loans may then be used for home repairs and or improvements.

For additional information, please contact the HDC at (517) 673-4121, or toll-free at 1-800-843-6394, TDD for the hearing impaired at (517) 672-4582.

Chemical declares dividend

Alan W. Ott, Chairman of Chemical Financial Corporation (NASDAQ:CHFC), announced that Feb. 15 the board of directors of the company declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.21 per share of common stock payable Friday, March 19, to shareholders of record March 5.

Ott indicated that, based on the increased number of shares outstanding as a result of the 5 for 4 stock split that was distributed in December, 1998, the \$0.21 per share cash dividend for the current quarter represents a 9.4% increase over the cash dividend paid in the previous quarter.

Ceranski on list

Stacey L. Ceranski has been named to the dean's list in the college of education at Western Michigan University for the past fall semester.

To earn the honor, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours of classes and have a grade point average of 3.50 to 4.00 on a scale of 4.00.

Ceranski is a junior at WMU and is majoring in elementary education. She is a 1997 graduate of Cass City High School.

Cass City Dining Center relocating to Knights hall

Human Development Commission (HDC) officials recently announced that the Cass City Senior Dining Center will be relocating.

The dining center will be located at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 6106 Beechwood St., Cass City (formerly the Northwood Shores Restaurant), beginning Monday, March 1.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has been the location of Cass City's Senior Dining Center for the past 16 years. HDC officials lauded Good Shepherd for the opportunity to operate the program at the church, and are looking forward to expanding the senior dining center and its activities at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

"Relocating the Cass City Senior Dining Center to the Knights of Columbus Hall will help us to enhance HDC senior programs, not only nutritionally, but physically and mentally as well," said HDC Executive Director Mary Ann Vandermark.

"Each dining center offers a variety of social and physical activities, such as bingo, euchre, blood pressure clinics, and a variety of speakers from the health field. We're looking forward to serving Cass City's seniors in the most comprehensive ways possible."

The dining center will begin operating its weekly schedule on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Knights of Columbus hall beginning March 1.

Center hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with dinner being served at noon. Any person age 60, or the spouse of a person age 60 or older, is eligible to enjoy a nutritionally sound meal. Donations of \$1.75 per meal are encouraged, but are not mandatory.

The Human Development Commission is one of nearly 1,000 Community Action Agencies throughout the United States.

HDC's programs are designed to assist individuals in

their quest for achieving self-sufficiency, and include the Foster Grandparent Program, Home Delivered Meals, Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center, and several more. For additional information on any HDC program, including Senior Dining Centers, please contact the HDC's Caro office at (517) 673-4121, or toll free at 1-800-843-6394.

Wanted: weather spotters

Area residents interested in becoming "weather spotters" are invited to a pair of free training sessions in Tuscola County.

"Spring is just around the corner. Now is the time to prepare for severe weather and tornado type weather," said Patrick Finn, Tuscola County Emergency Management director.

"The Tuscola County Emergency Management Office, with the help of the National Weather Service and American Red Cross are working together to provide the necessary training in preparing for such weather events."

A Basic Spotter Workshop will be held March 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department, 420 Court St., Caro, and an Advanced Spotter Workshop is scheduled for March 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Detroit Edison North Area Energy Center, 4100 Doerr Rd., Cass City.

To register, please call 1-800-472-6225.

Persons completing the programs will become weather spotters with the National Weather Service and the Tuscola County Emergency Management Office.

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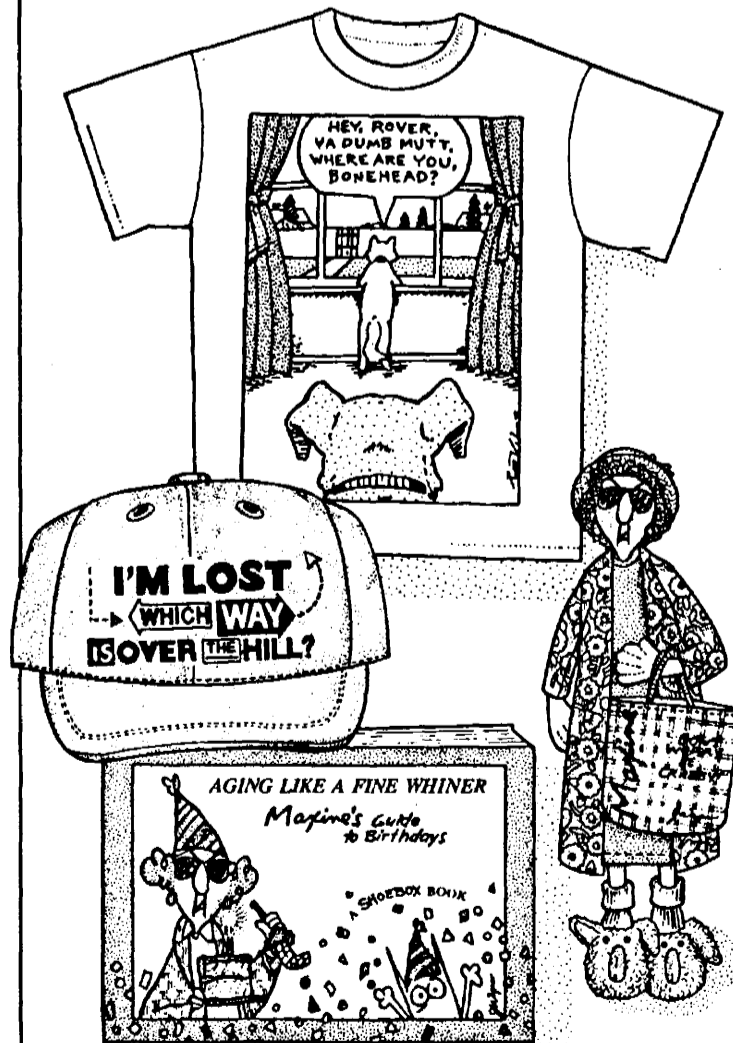
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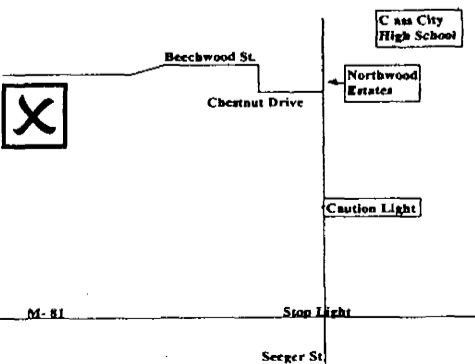
The Human Development Commission's Cass City Senior Dining Center invites you to...

Join us at our new location!



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(Formerly Northwood Shores Restaurant, Currently the Knights of Columbus Hall)



The Cass City Senior Dining Center will assume its new location on March 1, 1999.

Reservations are required, and can be made by calling Clara Gaffney at (517) 872-2875 before 9:00 am.

Dining Center activities are available from 10:00-2:00 each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Dinner is served at 12:00 p.m.

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Community Action

Transportation is provided in the Village of Cass City by Caro Thumbbody Express each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Call toll-free for details and reservations 1-888-584-3287.



DAN CUDDIE found heavy traffic as he made one of his frequent drives to the basket against the Reese Rockets. His 19-point effort was not enough as Reese captured an 88-84 victory in overtime.



CASS CITY'S BILL Goodall drives to the basket during Tuesday's GTC tilt with hosts Unionville-Sebewaing Area schools. Goodall finished with 14 points in the team's 66-62 loss.

Hawks bow from GTC title chase with pair of 4th quarter collapses

It was certainly the most disappointing week of the year for Cass City basketball fans, not just because 2 losses removed any chances for the team to share in the Greater Thumb West conference title, but because both games were ones that the team might well have won.

Both of the losses came after Cass City had forged into a lead going into the last quarter. It appeared that the team was playing not to lose rather than to win. Coach Jeff Hartel said that we had a great chance to win the games. Our coaching staff has to take the responsibility of getting our players to execute down the stretch. We plan on drilling on it over and over until we get it right.

It would be hard to pinpoint which of the losses was most hard for Cass City to take, the loss at USA, 66-62, which eliminated Cass City from the league race, or the loss to Reese in overtime Friday, 88-84, a game for which Cass City had been pointing. Cass City never looked better than it did in the first half against Reese. Moving well, passing well, shooting well and dominating the offensive and defensive boards, the Hawks rolled.

Craig Emmert was a major force on the boards and contributed 11 points. Dan Cuddie scored 9 of his 19 points in the first quarter and his running mate at guard, Jason Wright, helped keep the team rolling in the second quarter when he scored 6 of his 13 points. Heath Zawilinski netted 9 of his 19 points in the first 2 periods.

Cass City left the floor at the intermission with what looked like an almost insurmountable lead, 41-26.

That all changed in the second half. The Rockets started to connect from the perimeter and steadily started to close the gap. Bill Hillborg, who scored 29 for the night, scored 7 in the third quarter and Matt Elsesser scored 6 to lead the Rockets' blast that cut the lead to 9 points.

That lead was gone in a little less than 4 minutes as Reese outscored Cass City 12-2 to take the lead for the first time, 61-60. Emmert then fouled out with 3:56 left in the game, but the Hawks overcame the loss with the help of Zawilinski, Goodall and Cuddie. The lead changed hands 3 times before Goodall hit a 3-pointer from the side to push Cass City ahead 72-71 and Wright then calmly converted 2 free throws and the Hawks were in front 74-71 with 14 seconds left.

With 2 seconds left on the clock, Shawn Ryan launched a shot from 4 feet behind the 3-point line and it caught nothing but net to tie the game.

In the overtime, the teams traded baskets until Zawilinski joined Emmert on the bench with 5 fouls and Reese took charge for the victory.

last quarter when the Patriots exploded for 26 points, a total that Hartel termed as unacceptable.

After the first quarter, USA posted a slight advantage in the middle 2 periods, emerging with a 30-27 edge, but was still behind 44-40 going into the final 8 minutes.

Zawilinski posted a big second quarter to protect Cass City's lead in the first half. He ripped in 3 treys and a pair of 2-pointers for 13 points.

One bright spot in the disappointing game for Hawks fans was what Coach Hartel termed a pretty good floor game. The team was charged with just 9 turnovers.

Cass City had 3 players in double figures, Goodall with 14, Zawilinski with 21 and Wright with 11. Kevin Vermeersch led all scorers with 22 points for USA. Chuck Arnold added 14 and Isaiah Gainsforth netted 11.

Westover credited the effort of reserve Ray Salcido as key to the win.

"Ray did a good job defending Josh Presnell in the final quarter," said Westover. The senior guard held the Pirates' leading scorer to just one point in the final frame. Presnell finished with 14 points, well below his season average.

Although Owen-Gage connected on just 19 shots in 35 attempts from the foul line, the Bulldogs secured the win by nailing 8 of 9 free throws down the wire. On the night, the hosts enjoyed a 19-16 advantage at the stripe.

Scott Stafford led the Pirates with 18 tallies. Mark Gordan added 11 points for Peck.

Owen-Gage received 9 points from Mellendorf, while 3 Bulldogs - Joe Salcido, Justin Anthes and Chad Mellendorf - each added 8.

O-G knocks Peck from NCTL lead

It's not often that a middle-of-the-pack squad would hope to draw their conference leader for an opening bout in March madness. But, for Owen-Gage, who currently occupies the 5th position in an 8-school association, that might not be all bad.

Owen-Gage knocked lead Peck from the top of the North Central Thumb League cage standings Friday with a 72-63 victory.

The Pirates, who have suffered just 3 league defeats, fell victims to the Bulldogs for the 2nd time this season.

"We match up pretty well size wise with Peck," said Bulldog Coach Leon Westover.

Although the Bulldogs have been Peck's biggest nemesis on the season, Coach John Presnell's squad will be hoping the Bulldogs can repeat their effort Tuesday night against visiting Caseville. Thanks to the Bulldog upset, the Eagles now stand alone on top of the conference standings with a 9-2 mark. Friday, the Bulldogs will try to avenge an early season setback to Akron-Fairgrove at Owendale.

period with a rare 4-point play which helped the Bulldogs narrow the gap to 54-53 entering the final frame.

Mellendorf, a sophomore, hit a triple deep in the corner on a Bulldog inbound play, was fouled and completed the ensuing free throw.

"It could have easily been a 5-point play," said Westover. "Peck's defender didn't fall on Shane until the ball was halfway to the basket."

Derek Howard, who led all scorers with 24 points, helped the hosts stay close at the intermission, 36-35, with 3 of his season high 5 triples. Howard also passed for 5 assists and grabbed 11 rebounds for the winners.

The 2 teams traded baskets for most of the 3rd period before Owen-Gage put the game out of reach with a 19-9 run to the buzzer. Howard added his final 2 treys in the period for the winners.

Friday's Results

Bad Axe 78, USA 64
Reese 88, Cass City 84, OT
EPBP 88, BCAS 50
Yale 71, Ubyly 52
Harbor Beach 64, Marlette 34
Deckerville 47, Sandusky 42
Cros-Lex 65, Brown City 63

Bulldogs win at Caseville Invite

The Owen-Gage volleyball team earned its first trophy of the season Saturday by successfully defending its crown against Carsonville-Port Sanilac (CPS) in the finals of the Caseville Invitational.

Coach Judy Campbell's spikers will be looking to add another memento to their over-filled trophy case this Thursday when they host Akron-Fairgrove in a North Central Thumb League title showdown.

The Vikings (10-1 in NCTL) will need a near perfect showing to register an upset and grab a share of the conference crown with the Bulldogs, who are perfect in league play at 12-0.

Owen-Gage sent a strong message to the Vikings in their opening pool play tilt at Caseville. The defending NCTL champs wasted little time in establishing themselves as the clear league favorites with identical wins of 15-7.

Owen-Gage then defeated NCTL foes Peck and CPS to advance into the tournament's semifinals. The Pirates fell 15-9, 15-12, while the Tigers suffered a pair of 15-10 losses.

During the semifinals, Campbell's spikers ousted North Huron with a couple of 15-3 wins.

In the finals, the Bulldogs rebounded from a 15-5 setback in the initial game, with wins of 15-4 and 15-10 to claim the title.

Jenna Root paced the champions of the day with 35 points and 18 ace serves, both team highs. Root also recorded 42 kills and 19 blocks to lead Owen-Gage at the net.

"Jenna had an outstanding day. She is developing into a good player," said Coach Campbell.

Owen-Gage's offense also benefited from 30 points each from Danielle Fritz and Kristi Radabaugh. However, Coach Campbell pointed to the team's defense as key to the win.

"Dee Fritz and Erin Salcido came up with lots of dives and digs," says Campbell. The 2 sophomores combined for 111 digs and 7 saves. Junior Cassie Vargo added a team best 57 assists for

USA GAME

The Hawks rolled to an early 17-10 lead in the first quarter at USA, but faded in the last quarter again to lose. The game was decided in the

NCTL MATCHES

The Bulldogs improved to 9-0 in NCTL play with a pair of road wins over Peck and Kingston.

Thursday, the Bulldogs defeated their hosts, Pirates, during a 4-game match by the scores of 15-8, 15-4, 8-15 and 15-1.

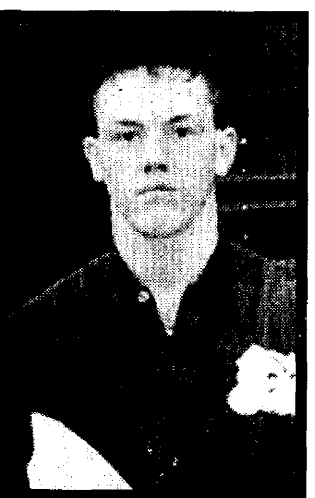
Salcido and Vargo were the only players to reach double digits at the service line, where they registered 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Melanie Lemanski led the visitors with 20 kills, while Root added 12.

Earlier in the week, on Monday, the Bulldogs traveled to Kingston and came away with straight game wins of 15-7, 15-10 and 15-4.

A balanced scoring attack had Radabaugh and Fritz with 8 points, while Melissa Ziehm and Salcido split 14 points.

Topping the Bulldogs in assists was Vargo with 17. Root helped the Bulldog effort with a team best 10 kills.



RAY SALCIDO
Defense keys win.

The Bulldogs rallied from a 51-44 deficit late in the final half to record the win.

Sophomore Shane Mellendorf provided the hosts with a lift late in the 3rd

Standings/Results

NORTH CENTRAL THUMB			
Team	W	L	Pct
Caseville	9	2	.818
Peck	8	3	.727
Kingston	7	4	.636
A. Fairgrove	7	4	.636
Owen-Gage	6	5	.545
North Huron	4	8	.333
Port Hope	2	9	.182
CPS	2	10	.167

Friday's Results

Caseville 56, Port Hope 38
North Huron 54, A. Fairgrove 49
Kingston 66, CPS 50
Owen-Gage 72, Peck 63

Standings and Results

GREATER THUMB WEST			GREATER THUMB EAST		
Team	W	L	Team	W	L
EPBP	5	0	Yale	6	2
Reese	6	2	USA	4	2
Cass City	5	4	Bad Axe	4	5
USA	4	9	BCAS	1	7
Harbor Beach	6	4	Mayville	1	7
Yale	6	4			
Sandusky	4	6			
Marlette	1	9			
Ubyly	1	9			

Friday's Results

Bad Axe 78, USA 64
Reese 88, Cass City 84, OT
EPBP 88, BCAS 50
Yale 71, Ubyly 52
Harbor Beach 64, Marlette 34
Deckerville 47, Sandusky 42
Cros-Lex 65, Brown City 63




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Fearless Forecast

	 John Haire	 Clarke Haire	 Doug Hyatt
February 23	Bad Axe at Mayville Lakers at Reese Cass City at BCAS Burton-Bentley at USA Harbor Beach at Brown City Ubyly at Cros-Lex Sandusky at Yale Deckerville at Marlette Caseville at Owen-Gage Port Hope at Kingston Peck at Akron-Fairgrove Caro at Bridgeport	Bad Axe Reese Cass City USA Brown City Cros-Lex Yale Deckerville Caseville Kingston Peck Bridgeport	Bad Axe Reese Cass City USA Brown City Cros-Lex Yale Deckerville Caseville Kingston Peck Bridgeport
February 26	Caro Reese Lakers Cass City Brown City Cros-Lex Harbor Beach Marlette Port Hope Kingston at Peck North Huron at Caseville Akron-Fairgrove at Owen-Gage Last week's results Season's Results, Percentages	Caro Reese Lakers Cass City Brown City Cros-Lex Harbor Beach Ubyly Port Hope Peck Caseville Akron-Fairgrove 17-6 (117-37) 76%	Caro Reese Lakers Cass City Brown City Sandusky Harbor Beach Marlette C-PS Peck Caseville Owen-Gage 16-7 (112-42) 73%

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THE RAWSON MEMORIAL Library Board said good-bye to 3 members and welcomed 3 others on board last week. Above, board President Alice Guernsey (second from left) presented certificates to out-going members (from left) Lou LaPonsie (22 years of service) and Pat Mills (3 years), and welcomed new members Carol Rutkoski, Bob Hirn and Katie Jackson. Missing is Joanne Sattelberg, who served 5 years on the board.

Farmers preparing for Y2K

Eighty-one percent of U.S. farmers have heard of the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer system problem and 68 percent realize it could affect their automated farm systems.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service contacted a sample of 1,500 farms and ranches across the U.S. in December 1998 for a telephone survey which showed these results. They obtained a 76 percent response from the sample.

The Y2K problem is that some computerized systems may fail because 2 digits represent the year instead of 4, such as 98 for 1998. The computer may not be able to determine if the year is 00 or 2000. The Y2K problem could cause computerized systems to malfunction, give wrong results, or result in a complete system failure.

The number of farmers using automated systems of any type is 32 percent. The most common types of systems used on farms are for record keeping and used by 29 percent of farmers. Other automated systems include those for irrigation, feeding, grain or produce storage, milking, milk storage, and heating, cooling, or ventilation for livestock.

Of the farmers using any type of automated system, 55 percent have inventoried their systems for Y2K problems and 31 percent of the inventoried systems had a problem. A solution is in process or completed for 92 percent of the systems identified with a problem. Of those farmers who have either fixed or are attempting to fix Y2K problems, 54 percent estimate the cost of fixing the problem will be less than \$1,000. Twenty-two percent were unable to estimate the cost of fixing the problem.

Farmers can contact the following sources for assistance information:
* The President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion: 1-888-USA-4-Y2K or www.y2k.gov on the Internet.
* USDA's Year 2000 Program Office website: www.ocio.usda.gov/y2k/index.htm. This office can also be contacted at 202-690-0048 or via e-mail at year2000@usda.gov.

\$257,940 grant goes to Vassar

Doug Rothwell, Chief Executive Officer and Department Director of the Michigan Jobs Commission recently announced the Michigan Jobs Commission has approved a \$257,940 economic development infrastructure grant to Vassar Township.

The grant will be used for the Destiny Inc., Ltd. Infrastructure Project. The grant, funded through the Michigan Renaissance Fund, will be used for road upgrades to Oak Road and Hanes Road. The project is expected to result in the creation of 50

new, full-time jobs. "By improving the quality of infrastructure, Vassar Township will have the resources it needs to accommodate Destiny Inc., Ltd., as well as benefit from the new jobs created by this project," said Rothwell.

Destiny Inc., Ltd., is primarily engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and servicing of limousines. In addition to its core business, the firm has purchased sheet metal stamping equipment for the purpose of stamping automotive parts for major car companies.



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NOTICE
Elkland Township
BUDGET MEETING
at
Elkland Township Hall
MONDAY, MARCH 8
at 8:00 p.m.

NOTICE
Elmwood Township
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
at
Gagetown Village Hall
MONDAY, MARCH 1
at 7:00 p.m.

The Village of Gagetown minimum water utility rate will be raised \$1.00 per month, for a total of \$3.00 per quarter. The new rate is to be effective with the 3/31/99 quarterly billing. Anyone wishing to discuss this raise in water rate should attend the 3/1/99 budget meeting.

Maggie Root, Clerk/Treasurer

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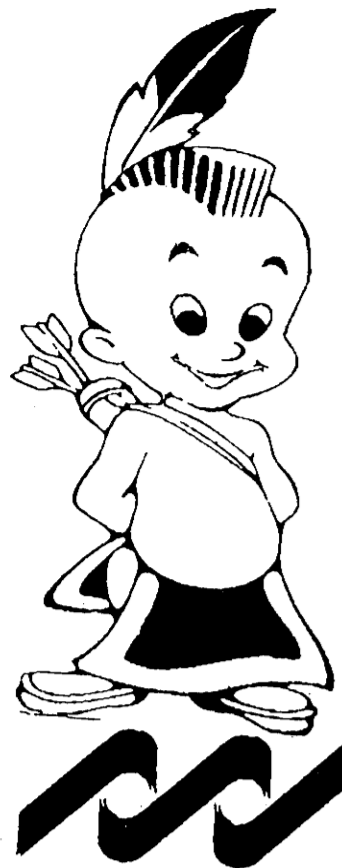
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Tendercare success: rehabilitating residents

Nothing pleases the staff at Tendercare, 4782 Hospital Drive, more than sending a resident back to an active life at home. Success stories such as Catherine Wilson are frequent, the staff reports.

Wilson fell at home and fractured a hip. After surgery at Caro Community Hospital she spent 10 days of intensive therapy in Marlette before being admitted at Tendercare Dec. 16, 1998.

She was ready to work to improve her physical condition as she needed assistance with all aspects of daily care and had great difficulty walking.

She worked hard, authorities report, with help from 3 well-trained therapists and the Tendercare nursing staff.

As a result Wilson is independent and able to walk with a walker. She will return to independent living at home. With the help of home care, she will overcome obstacles in the home environment. She is to be congratulated for her outstanding effort, the therapy team says.

Tendercare has been providing health care services to the area for over 25 years. Established in Cass City in 1973, it has operated as Tendercare since 1990. The facility has 110 employees, many of whom have been with Tendercare for several years.

A special project to enrich the lives of the residents was the establishment of a bird

aviary. It was worked on by residents and staff members together. Residents and visitors enjoy talking to the cockatiels, Amos and Annie, in their beautiful new cages.

Tendercare is proud that again in 1998 the annual state survey/inspection by the Department of Consumer and Industry Services found Tendercare "outstanding" in delivering care to the ill and elderly. The report is avail-

able for review in the lobby of the facility.

Helping make Tendercare what it is, is the involvement of the community's schools, churches, organizations and individuals. The support is much appreciated, staff members say.

Tendercare has a standing invitation for the public to stop by and see for themselves the many activities and then tour the facility.

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Cass City's Annual Progress Edition

SUPPLEMENT TO CASS CITY CHRONICLE - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1999

FOCUS '99

- Townships' finances healthy - page 13
- Community enjoys full employment - Pages 8-9
- Downtown Development Authority focuses on facade improvement - page 4

PLUS - Business progress reports - entire section

Harris-Hampshire expands staff; computer service

Now in its 12th year of service to the community, Mark Wiese and Jim Ceranski, co-owners of Harris-Hampshire Insurance, Cass City, are thankful that residents have responded to their service-first philosophy that has enabled the company to enjoy steady growth.

That growth in both personal and commercial lines of insurance has enabled the agency to add a new agent, Scott Mills. Mills recently completed his state licensing requirements and is now a fully-licensed agent. He's anxious to serve and is happy to provide a no-obligation quote on any insurance need.

Over the past 6 years, Harris-Hampshire has added office locations with agents in Brown City and Caro.

One of the areas of service in which the company excels is its computer-assisted rating system where comparative pricing of 7 auto insurances is available at one time.

The computer system also enables Harris-Hampshire to keep up with the latest trends in the industry. When a new program for a specific group is made available, the owners point out, we are able to

react immediately. As a full-service agency, company personnel is trained to handle and advise on all types of insurance, including life, health, IRA, nursing home and disability.

While Ceranski and Wiese have been owners for 12 years, Harris-Hampshire has

Family owned

Orr's Drug Store now in 80th year

Orr's Drug Store, 26 South Main, Pigeon, has been in Pigeon for 80 years and hopes to be still servicing Thumb residents when it celebrates 100 years in business.

It's a concern of owner Fred Orr, the third generation of the family to operate the store, that stores in small communities are being bought out by the super stores.

Orr's has continued to expand the gift and collectible lines of the store and increased the company's com-

puter capabilities. The pharmacy now offers computer-aided drug interaction information and allergy screening.

While Orr's has been a member of the Pigeon community since 1919, the family had roots in Cass City. Albert H. Orr worked for Wood Drug Store (now Health Mart) until 1917, when he moved to Pigeon to manage the drug store there while the owner was in military service.

The store was purchased in 1919.

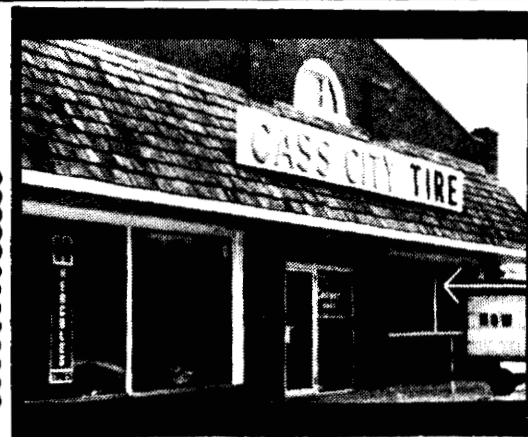
Then and now, the company's success has been achieved by providing the best service possible for all customers, big and small.

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Digital imaging in future plans for Health Mart

It promises to be a year of consolidation for New Sheridan Health Mart at the corner of Seeger and Main Streets, co-owners Jon and Cheryl Shores reported.

Now in the fourth year in Cass City, the Shores say that their business has quadrupled since they took over Old Wood Drugs.

The Shores report that the conversion of the store into a same-day service photo lab has been very well received. They say that their photo services have a quality level that surpasses that of a typical grocery store, overnight service. They add that prices are more affordable than comparable services offered in Bay City and Saginaw.

While chain pharmacies have become much more prevalent in the Thumb in the last 2 years, the Shores feel that their pharmacy can offer a more people-oriented pharmacy with affordable

prescription prices than available at a typical chain pharmacy.

The Health Mart core business includes an extensive selection of books, magazines, greeting cards, gifts, film and photography accessories.

The Shores are pleased with the current product mix at the store, but in the near future plan to add a digital imaging laboratory to the business.

Digital imaging, the Shores explained, is a photo service that utilizes computers to manage photographs that have been converted into computer files. It will allow us to offer photo services for newer digital cameras that need digital scanning. It will enable the repair of damaged photographs, conversion of slides to film negatives or film negatives to slides and provide photo quality output of digital images to photographic paper.

Employment service reports

Chemical Bank: customer focused

Sherryl Seeley, assistant cashier and branch manager in Cass City, said that Chemical Bank Thumb Area continues its ongoing focus of providing quality customer service and products. "We are the 'Bank for Everybody'," according to Seeley.

"We have a staff of 12 employees, including Beverly Perry, vice-president and lending officer, all of whom enjoy working with customers as well as with each other. Their goal is to provide friendly, professional service."

Chemical Bank Thumb Area is a full service bank offering a variety of deposit accounts ranging from personal to business accounts. There is a wide range of personal, installment, mortgage and business loans available.

"We have Roth and Education IRAs as well as the traditional IRAs", Seeley said. "Trust and investment specialists are available at all times for our customers' con-



THE CHEMICAL BANK staff, from left, back row: Samantha Farver, Sherryl Seeley, Carolyn Westerby, Maria Garety, Michele Pohlod, Carol Wright and Gail Nash. Front row: Ellen Schmidt and Beverly Perry.

venience. We are pleased with the added convenience that our Chem Connect Home Banking product and new ATM/Debit Card provide for our customers.

"We are knowledgeable about Y2K and continue striving to insure that we are ready for Y2K for the benefit of ourselves and our customers."

"We have accounts to meet your needs", Seeley concluded, "and we invite you to stop in and meet us. We would be pleased to meet you."

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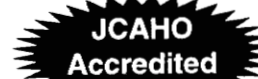
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General Surgery
X-Ray
Nuclear Medicine
Cardiac Stress Testing
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Ultrasound
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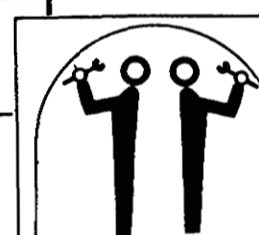
Kingston
5988 State St.
517-683-2221

Brown City
4472 Main St.
810-346-2751

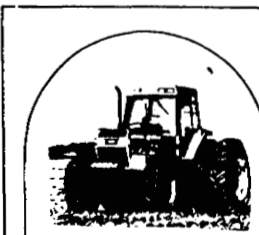


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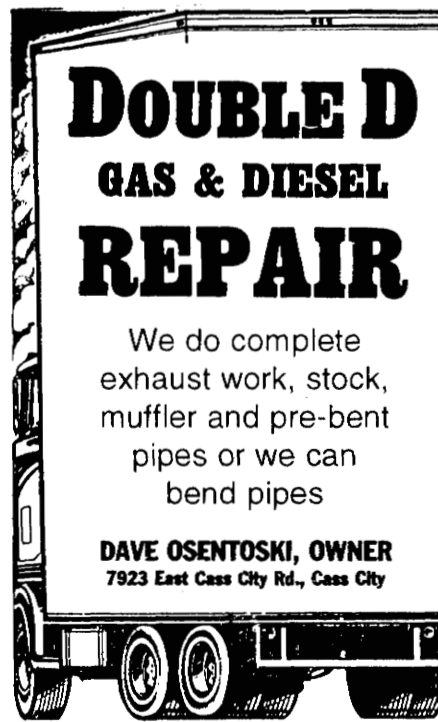
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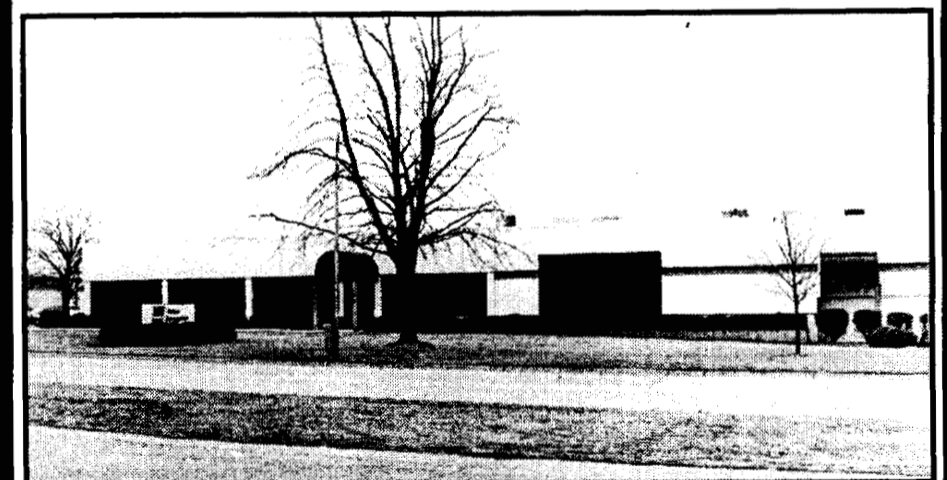
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Walbro Corporation

"Streetscape" well underway

DDA turns attention to store fronts

The Downtown Development Authority, organized in 1992 to help Cass City become more attractive to shoppers, has made visible strides in the business district and is now entering its third stage of development.

The development has been labeled facade improvement and an architect's drawing of what might be done to improve buildings' store fronts was studied recently by the DDA board.

The original task of the DDA was to inventory what needs to be done in the district, which starts east of Ale Street to include the new dialysis center building, extends to Comment Drive on the west and includes businesses on Church Street to the north.

After prioritizing the needs, work started on phase 2, which the DDA has named "streetscape."

While the ultimate goal of streetscape has yet to be accomplished, there are several visible signs of this project. It includes making sidewalks wheelchair accessible and

the park with its clock at the corner of Main and Seeger streets. Other endeavors the Authority has been connected with include the Main Street banners and lighting.

In progress is a campaign to build a brick walk at the park. It started last year and will continue with added emphasis this year, Jane Downing, village manager,

says.

Already \$5,700 has been raised to swell the DDA coffers, raised through sale of commemorative bricks with the names of the donors on

them. Small sizes, 4 by 8 inches, cost \$100 and larger, 8 by 8 inch, bricks sell for \$500.

There remains much to be done among the goals the

DDA announced when it was formed. That includes public restrooms in the park, better access to Main Street from parking lots in mid-block and removal of certain buildings in the business district.

Some of the projects have been slow to develop, Downing explained, because of the way the DDA is financed.

Originally, it was believed that the Authority would capture any increase in tax revenues over the amount collected when it was formed.

What the DDA receives is the increase in village taxes only, 16 mills, not the total taxes paid by businesses within the district.

Today that amounts to about \$10,000 yearly, Downing said, and all of the available funds have been spent for various projects, including the facade plan created by the architect.

The DDA is operated by an unpaid board appointed by the council. Members are Michele Szostak, Jim Kranz, Lambert Althaver, Bill Chippi, Beverly Perry, John Shores, Barbara Merchant and Sandy Tierney.



DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY dollars at work - Cass City's Main Street mini-park at the corner of Seeger and Main.



NEW CONSTRUCTION in the Downtown Development Authority area such as this dialysis center generates dollars for DDA.

Lota's Cupboard adds to gifts and collectibles

When Lota Hartel started Lota's Corner Cupboard 6 years ago at 196 North State Street, it was because she felt the store could fill a need in the Thumb community.

Customer response to the selection of gifts and collectibles at the store has proved that she was correct. The company has steadily grown.

The store expanded to the

second floor to make room for additional collectibles. Also expanded was the selection of decorating and dried/silk floral arrangements.

This year's expansion includes new products, including lodge room, quilts and linens.

Among the many collectibles Lota's offers are Boyds Bears, Matchbox cars, porcelain dolls, Van Mark

firemen and policemen, Ashton Drake dolls and Bradford plates.

Lota's Cupboard specializes in personal attention to decorating ideas and selecting gifts for special occasions.

Thumb residents are more than welcome to come in and discuss problems or decorating needs or to simply browse around without any obligation, Hartel stressed.

Problems include roads, waste removal

Area townships sound financially

Area townships are in sound financial condition going into 1999 with the usual problems considering roads, fire protection and waste removal on the various agendas.

Elkland Township is in sound financial shape, Supervisor Dan Erla and Clerk Norma Wallace report. The township has a large contingency fund of \$250,000, almost equal to revenues, which were \$294,000 in 1997-98 and slightly less, \$290,000, in 1997-98.

The township will probably dip into that fund this year to start replacing its aging vehicle fleet, which includes 4 trucks and the rescue van.

A major item of expense for the township is the Elkland Township Fire Department, which serves all or part of 6 townships. The townships pay by the section and Elkland picks up the tab for the remainder of the cost. Last year that totaled \$27,000. Elkland Township officials will be taking a long look at the fee-per-section paid, last raised 2 years ago.

Roads, as always, devour the lion's share of the township's budget. In 1997-98, \$58,000 of a budgeted \$78,000 was spent on roads and the \$20,000 that was to be spent on Huron Line Road carried over to 1998 and added to the \$95,400 spent last year.

NOVESTA TOWNSHIP

Last year Novesta Township spent about 5 percent more than it did in 1997, mostly on roads, Supervisor Maynard Stine reports. The total amounted to \$169,761.

Among the projects completed were gravel on a mile of Lampton Road, resurfacing a mile of Severance Road and road and ditch work on Elmwood Road.

Plans for the coming year include resurfacing the oldest blacktop road in the township and more road and brush removal work on Elmwood Road.

Stine feels that one of the services, waste disposal, needs to be changed. Presently garbage is taken to the town hall in Deford on designated days when a truck is parked there. That system is losing money, Stine points out.

What is contemplated is a roadside garbage pickup paid for with an assessment on the tax rolls.

ELMWOOD TOWNSHIP

Supervisor Jim Turner reports that a new tanker purchased in 1998 was a major expenditure for the township, which spent some \$140,000 in 1998, about \$20,000 more than was spent the previous year.

We will spend the majority of our funds this year on township roads, he added, with no single big expenditure. We do plan to turn Dodge Road into a primary road.

The township is in healthy financial shape with a contingency fund of some \$75,000.

EVERGREEN TOWNSHIP

While Evergreen Township

is in sound financial condition, Supervisor Art Severance says that a major problem is the cost of resurfacing roads, which is becoming prohibitive without special allocated road money.

Expenditures and income both increased last year and are projected to continue in 1999. Road work expense in the township included

\$76,000 for Germania Road in 1996 and resurfacing of 2 miles of Decker Road in 1997. In 1998, \$10,000 was set aside for building a new town hall, which will be built this year with construction slated to start in March.

In 1997-98, expenses of \$95,000 exceeded revenues of \$79,475, reducing the contingency fund in the

township to \$32,107. Revenues anticipated for 1998-99 are \$95,000 and expenses are expected to total \$81,800, leaving a balance on hand for 1999 of \$45,480, Severance explained.

GREENLEAF TOWNSHIP
Greenleaf Township is well

on the road to completing a master plan with zoning, supervisor Margaret Ford reports. We are working to create our plan to save the money that a professional planner would cost, Ford explained.

After we complete our work we will hire an attorney to check the legal requirements necessary to put the plan in force.

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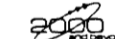
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New construction in Cass City 1998

New residential	\$4,059,865
Residential additions	81,400
New commercial	0
Commercial additions	4,816
New industrial	5,900
Industrial additions	0
Total	\$4,151,981

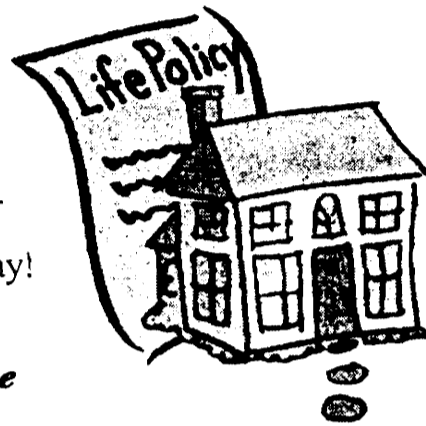
Totals for past 5 years

1997	\$2,786,289
1996	2,645,041
1995	3,094,562
1994	5,008,150
1993	1,914,355

Suggestions always welcome at Erla's

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If there is something we can do to make shopping at Erla's Food Center better for you, please tell us, Char Krueger, store manager, says. We welcome suggestions from our customers, and listening to them has been the key to the growth of the business.

Over the years, Erla's Food Center has undergone several enlargements and modernizations and the store today bears little resemblance to the Frozen Food Lockers that were purchased 45 years ago.

The Erla family is aware of the wonderful support received over the years from the people. We wish to express our appreciation, the family says, for the loyalty and support the community has given us and our employees. We thank everyone for helping us maintain our standards of excellence.

Part of the company's success has come through its meat department. Erla's runs its own meat processing plant and sells to other retailers over much of the south half of the Lower Peninsula.

Buying direct from the wholesaler enables customers to take advantage of low meat prices. In addition, the full-service meat department enables patrons to get the

size cut of meat they desire and know that the meats are fresh.

The store's bakery department and deli have been well received and patrons find there the items that put the final touches on meals or as a quick way to have soup and

sandwiches. Other store policies pleasing to customers are the doubling of coupons worth up to 50 cents and Wednesday's senior citizens' day, when prices are discounted 5 percent on nearly every item.

Dr. Susan Hoppe Dogs', cats' care focus of clinic

The primary focus of the All Pets Veterinary Clinic is the care of dogs and cats, but Dr. Susan Hoppe says that she has an interest in and is happy to care for avians (birds), pocket pets such as hamsters, mice and gerbils, and reptiles.

With that in mind, Dr. Hoppe renamed the Companion Hospital at 4438 South Seeger Street the All Pets Veterinary Clinic when she purchased the business 3 years ago.

When she took over she announced that she would do everything possible to make the clinic live up to its name. The clinic provides emergency service when needed and Dr. Hoppe has stressed quality veterinarian prevention medicine to pet owners.

Although Dr. Hoppe was away from the community when she purchased the business she is by no means a stranger in Cass City. She is a graduate of Cass City High School and was more than pleased to be able to return to the community and provide quality small animal medical care. She is also an active member of the Tuscola County Humane Society and often speaks to groups about the achievements of the Society.

Performance improving

Bauchiero: Walbro positioned for success

As the new millennium approaches, Walbro Corporation is positioning itself for continued success into the next century. Improved performance during the past year, both financially and technologically, is setting the pace for the company.

"Everyone at Walbro is working together to make this company the leading global fuel storage and delivery systems supplier to the automotive and small engine industries," said Frank E. Bauchiero, president and chief executive officer of Walbro Corporation. "By building on our recent accomplishments, I am confident that we will achieve this vision."

During 1998, Walbro proudly announced the grand opening of two new global facilities.

VITEC, a Walbro partnership, officially opened its new 150,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility in Detroit. The state-of-the-art facility produce blow-molded plastic fuel tanks and related automotive fuel system products. VITEC has a five-year contract totaling approximately \$700 million to supply fuel

tank systems to General Motors and Daimler-Chrysler. "Walbro is pleased to be a partner in this significant venture," said Bauchiero. "VITEC will enhance Walbro's core business and stimulate capital investment in Detroit."

Walbro also celebrated the opening of its European Engineering Center in Rastatt, Germany. The new facility was modeled after Walbro's Auburn Hills, Mich., facility, and will serve as Walbro's European operations headquarters. The \$14.4 million facility consolidates the company's European testing operations and highly trained technicians into one location.

The new facility will be the focal point of development and testing for fuel system products for European and South American projects. It also offers a complete range of design, prototype, process and systems engineering services to automobile manufacturers.

"With the addition of the European Engineering Center, Walbro is the first supplier in Europe to have the complete range of fuel stor-

age and delivery system testing under one roof," Bauchiero explained. "We are enthusiastic about our additional potential to serve our customers."

Walbro recently completed the transition of its corporate headquarters to Auburn Hills. The move affected only a few corporate executives. The change allows the company to better serve its growing automotive customer base in the Detroit area as well as in the rest of the world. In addition, it provides easier access to the extensive technical and business resources available in Detroit.

"Moving our headquarters does not reflect any diminishing commitment to Cass City," Bauchiero said. "The talent, skills, and experience of our employees in Cass City and Caro remain an important asset to the Walbro family."

In the area of information technology, Walbro, like many other companies, is working toward Year 2000 compliance. Additionally, the company is making significant changes to its web site. It can be viewed by log-

Improvement in company's operations provides a strong momentum as Walbro starts new year

ging on at www.Walbro.com.

Walbro's financial performance for 1998 featured notable improvements at several of its facilities in the United States and around the world. But more important is the significant overall improvement in the company's operations, which provided a strong momentum as Walbro started the new year.

Walbro has been a positive force in Cass City since the company moved here in 1954 from Fenton, where the late W.E. Walpole founded it in 1950. Today, Walbro is a global fuel systems manufacturing company with subsidiaries and joint ventures throughout the world, including North America, South America, Europe, and Asia. The company employs more than 5,000 people worldwide, of which more than 700 are located in the Thumb of Michigan.

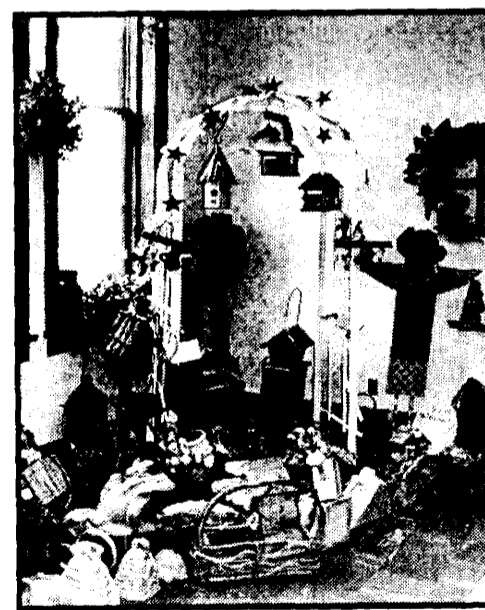


Frank E. Bauchiero,
president and chief executive officer, Walbro Corporation

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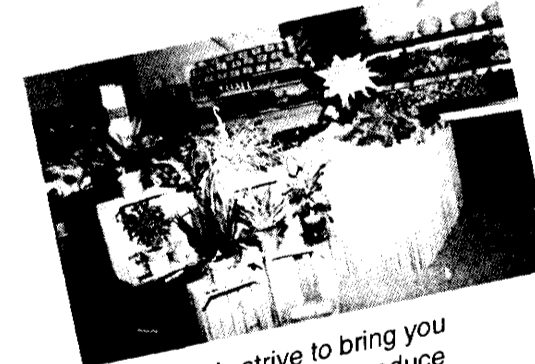
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Dependable, economical cars at Florida Direct

Two residents with roots in Cass City have returned to the area and opened Florida Direct Auto Sales at 1433 East Caro Road, west of Deckerville Road on M-81.

President Rusty Hoag and General Manager Patrick Peters will offer pre-owned, rust-free vehicles direct from Florida. Most of the vehicles will have less than 50,000 miles and sell for between \$5,000 and \$10,000, with most less than \$10,000. The owners say that all the cars will be clean, dependable automobiles.

Florida Direct was started by Rusty and his father, Dean, as a hobby. Visiting in Michigan, Rusty ran into Peters. They decided to combine Pat's background in small business management and sales experience with Rusty's ability to secure fine used cars at attractive prices.

The new team took Florida Direct from a farm in rural Tuscola County to its present full-time "Main Street" business on M-81.

With a combined experience of over 20 years in the automobile business, Hoag and Peters expect to provide

the Thumb with great cars and a pleasant shopping experience.

We have eliminated, they said, all of the negatives for car shopping. Customers and shoppers will find a low pressure, no hype atmosphere. Customers will deal directly with the boss, no "If I could, would you?" or "Let me run it by the boss" tactics.

Dairy management offered by Dr. Charles Reed

Dr. Charles Reed, DVM, 4438 South Seeger, has been serving the Cass City area for a year, coming to the community from a multiple-person practice in Bad Axe.

Since starting practice here, Reed has been working with large animals, primarily in the dairy industry.

Reed said his goal is to be a large animal specialist and a

Just great pre-owned cars at money-saving prices. The owners are planning a grand opening event in the spring at the new lot.

Plans for this, their first year in the new location, include sales of 15-20 vehicles a month and adding a person to help. They also plan to secure a financing license and provide on site financing for customer convenience.

consultant in dairy management.

That's the reason he has completed the dairy management certificate program through Michigan State University.

Farmers are able to get a full range of dairy management and consulting services from the firm. It includes all area of production and medicine he concluded.

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Sensitive care at Guardian Angels

Guardian Angels Home Health Services is new to Cass City, but not to the area. The firm specializes in private duty home care and owners Susan Lautner, RN, BSN, and Nora Frederick, LPN, organized the business 2 years ago in Caseville, expanding to Cass City Feb. 1 to be more centrally located.

Located at 6703 Main Street, the owners want their firm to be recognized as a provider of quality care in the home for the sick, injured and incapacitated.

Guardian Angels specializes in private duty nursing services, physical, occupational and speech therapy. It provides home health aids for clients in the comfort of their own homes.

The firm's service area includes Tuscola, Sanilac and Huron counties.

With just a little help, many persons can remain in their own homes, the owners point out. The staff is ready to provide the care and reassurance needed to care for a loved one. The goal is to enhance the quality of life while providing a secure and satisfy-

ing home environment. Guardian Angels provides supportive and sensitive care to the sick and incapacitated for people of all religions and races and specializes in providing nursing services for persons with brain and spinal cord injuries of any age.

Guardian Angels welcomes a call for a free nursing assessment or for information about its services. Just call 872-1544 or toll-free 1-877-856-8400.



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\$2,023 due at signing, 20¢ a mile over 36,000 miles
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2 DR. COUPE, Bright Red. Loaded, automatic, power windows, electric sunroof.
M.S.R.P. \$18,191.00
G.M.S. \$16,451.46
36 mos. lease, 36,000 miles, 20¢ a mile over \$1,500.00 down
\$1,834.00 due at signing + tax, title & license fees. Interest rate 5%
\$159 a month plus tax

1999 Suburban LT 4x4's
Choose from 2 on the lot, ready to roll!!!
Loaded with everything, including heated seats.
M.S.R.P. \$41,180.25
G.M.S. \$34,718.43
\$1,500 down! 7.9% int. \$2,224 due at signing
12,000 miles a yr., 20¢ a mile over
\$349 a month plus tax

1999 Malibu LS Sedan
Dark Jade Green Metallic
M.S.R.P. \$19,645.00
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3 year lease, 36,000 miles, 20¢ a mile over 36,000. Interest rate 6.0%. \$1,500 down.
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Added towers widen range for CellularOne

CellularOne, the number one cellular company in the area, opened their doors in 1991. Today, CellularOne, with 5 employees in Caro, has expanded their service to include the Thumb Area. The FCC authorized non-wireline cellular service provider in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac Counties, has 22 employees and locations in Caro, Bad Axe and Sandusky. They expanded their customer service in 1998 by opening a Sandusky location and moving the Caro office to a larger facility. CellularOne continues to strive for excellent customer service with a 24-hour, 7 days a week, live answering service, an automatic bill payment plan and a customer reward program.

The latest trend in the cellular industry and CellularOne is the portable phone, which is small and lightweight. "Customers tell us they want their phones with them all the time," says Ben Varney, general manager of CellularOne. In 1998, CellularOne added towers in Bad Axe and Schewaga to increase portable coverage and they're excited to announce that 3 additional towers are planned for 1999. According to Varney, "Every cellular site added provides an even higher level of quality service and coverage area for our customers."

Another area that has shown a major increase in usage, is the prepaid cellular phone. Prepaid cellular phones are perfect for people who want no contract, no monthly bills, and no credit check. Air time minutes are prepaid giving the user complete control. Prepaid phones are ideal for college students, seasonal users, and businesses that want to control employee expenses. CellularOne has found that cellular phones are for all types of users. Farmers are a major user group that rely on cellular phones for constant communication to order supplies, locate parts, and get price quotes. Cellular phones have also proven to be instrumental in saving lives and summoning help when farming accidents occur.

CellularOne continues to be a lead sponsor of the "Charity Island Ride for Charity" which contributed over \$4,000 to the Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center in 1998. The staff of CellularOne also focused their attention on the Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center during Christmas by providing, preparing, and serving a holiday meal for the families who sought that agency's help. Devoted to community charities and events. CellularOne is supportive with donations and service throughout the year to events such as the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival, Caseville's Chamber of Commerce Shanty Days, and the Pepsi "Can It" 3 on 3 basketball tournament. If unfamiliar with cellular and have questions, stop in at one of CellularOne's 3 locations in Caro, Bad Axe or Sandusky or call toll free 1-800-624-8766. CellularOne also has account representatives that will arrange to come directly to your home or place of business to answer questions and give demonstrations.

United Hospice Service has been tracking people who don't have 24-hour care available. The idea of a Hospice House was introduced and plans are currently underway for this type of facility. If you would like more information about United Hospice Service or its volunteer program, please call Rae Ann Kreiner, RN, director, at 800-635-7490.

Hospital authorities say, "We are pleased to announce the addition of Neeraj Arora, M.D. (internal medicine) to our medical team. Dr. Arora is treating patients with a wide variety of illnesses, as well as family planning and birth control, complete women's health care, physicals for sports, school and work, premarital counseling, minor office surgeries and weight loss."

Every Monday morning, Dr. Arora offers free blood pressure checks from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. No appointment is necessary. Just stop by at his HealthCare office located in the MCH Medical Office Building, Suite 5. By opening Dr. Arora's HealthCare Office, Marlette Community Hospital has expanded to 6 HealthCare offices to assure patients of timely appointments. Following are the locations of these offices:

Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas

Marlette Hospital: positive changes, growth

Marlette Community Hospital has experienced yet another year of positive changes and increased growth in an effort to offer quality health care closer to the communities it serves.

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Brown City HealthCare Office, Dr. Michael Ogboh, 4472 Main Street; Mayville HealthCare Office, R. Timothy Hadley, P.A.-C, 2112 Ohmer Road; North Branch HealthCare Office, Dr. William Starbird, 4000 Huron Street; Kingston HealthCare Office, Darla Mays, P.A.-C, 5988 State Street; Marlette HealthCare Office-Suite 3, Dr. Howard Hammett, 2750 Main Street; Marlette HealthCare Office-Suite 5, Dr. Neeraj Arora, 2750 Main Street.

United Hospice Service continues to offer assistance for terminally ill patients and their families throughout the communities served. A strong medical, professional and volunteer based team is the secret of their success. United Hospice Service is licensed by the Michigan Department of Health, certified by Medicare, accredited by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and Blue Cross/Blue Shield approved. The official license was granted in May of 1985, making this organization the first rural hospital based hospice in Michigan and the fifth in the United States.

Community CPR and Basic First Aid classes are offered on a regular basis and may be scheduled by calling the Community Relations Department at 517-635-4012. As an additional convenience to patients, a GE

Computer Aided Tomography (CAT) Scan was added to the list of services that are provided close to home. Four technologists offer 24-hour, 7-day-a-week coverage for area residents. Nuclear medicine testing includes brain imaging and breast imaging. The radiology department technologists are trained to perform X-Rays, ultrasound exams, and CAT scans. In May the radiology department will once again offer their \$55 mammograms.

The Center for Rehabilitation offers a dynamic process in which a disabled person is aided in achieving optimum physical, emotional, psychological, social or vocational potential in order to maintain dignity and self-respect in a life that is as independent and self-fulfilling as possible. If you would like to know more about the Center for Rehabilitation or its programs, contact Karen Vargas, program director, at 517-635-4500.

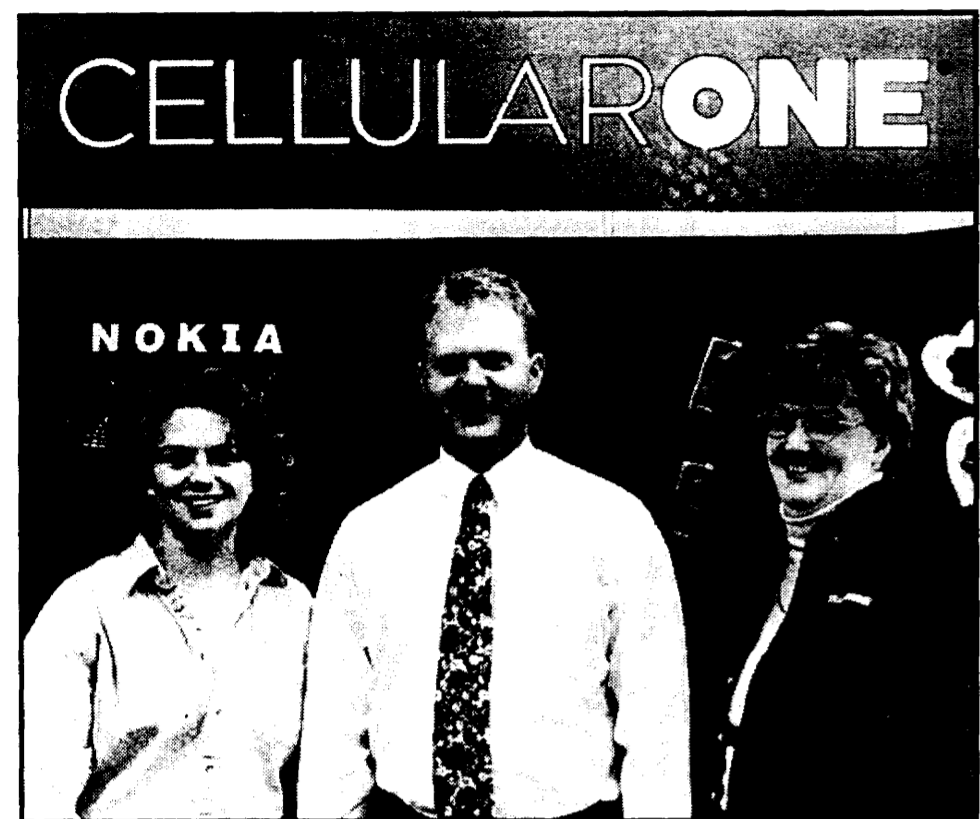
Doctors specializing in urology, allergy, cardiology, neurology, podiatry, psychiatry, oncology, orthopedics, and ear, nose and throat hold clinics in the Medical Office Building located at 2750 Main Street in Marlette. Other procedures handled by the outpatient clinics are drug screenings for pre-employment, several types of DOTs (for truck drivers) and BAT (Breath Alcohol Testing). Outpatient clinic serves an average of over 400 patients per month, according to last fiscal year's calculation. People recovering from or trying to avoid heart problems can find help at Marlette Community Hospital. Cardiac Rehab Phase II & III are available and designed to assist people in overcoming heart-related concerns. This program is set up as an outpatient service and lasts 12 weeks. Individuals come in 3 days a week for a combination of education and exercise. Patients are also educated about their particular problem or disease.

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Be sure to call ahead to schedule an appointment for your mammograms at 517-635-4360. This department is under the direction of Dr. Lionel Gorbaty and Supervisor Dorothy O'Driscoll. Marlette E.M.S. is the largest owned, volunteer staffed E.M.S. in the state of Michigan. The Hannah D. Wolfe Retirement Residence is located at 2785 Angle Street in Marlette within walking distance from parks and downtown shopping. Questions about Hannah D. Wolfe should be directed to Shelli Parrott, resident caretaker-manager, at 517-635-7472. Living Lightly is a 6-week program offered only through the community education department that walks participants through the steps to improving their health through better lifestyles. As a certified diabetic educator, Dorothy Korh also instructs individuals with diabetes or that are at great risk of becoming diabetic. For more information about the wellness programs or diabetic education, call the Community Education Department at 517-635-4348. Safe Sitter, a nationally recognized program, teaches young adolescents ages 11 to 13 how to be competent baby-sitters and eventually informed parents. Information about Safe Sitter can be obtained by calling Lillian Comment, Safe Sitter site coordinator at 517-635-4012.

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Employment service reports

Near full employment enjoyed in area

According to statistics from the Michigan Employment Service Agency, most anyone in the Thumb who is in the job market has a job.

While unemployment rates in 1997 were low in both Sanilac and Tuscola counties, unemployment rates were even lower at the end of 1998.

Not only has the unemployment level reached an all-time low in the area, but unemployment rates have declined despite an increase in the number of persons in the work force.

Unemployment rates around 5 percent are considered full employment by most observers. In Tuscola County the

rate fell from 5.3 percent in 1997 to 5.1 percent in 1998. There was an average of 27,725 in the labor force in 1997 with 26,250 working. The average in 1998, 26,925 from a force of 28,375.

In Sanilac County the percentage of unemployed fell from 6 percent in 1997 to 5.3 in 1998. In 1997 the average labor force stood at 21,025 persons with 19,750 working. In 1998 the average number in the labor pool was 21,375 with 20,250 working.

TOWNSHIPS' PICTURE

Averages for the 1997 and 1998 years:

• Elkland Township: 1997 - 1,775 in labor force, 1,700 working, 4.8% unemployment. 1998 - 1,825 in labor force, 1,725 working, 4.7% unemployment.

• Ellington Township: 1997 - 600 in labor force, 575 working, 5.1%. 1998 - 625 in labor force, 600 working, 4.9% unemployment.

• Elmwood Township: 1997 - 575 in labor force, 550 working, 6.2 unemployment. 1998 - 600 in labor force, 550 working, 6% unemployment.

• Kingston Township: 1997 - 675 in labor force, 650 working,

6.1% unemployment. 1998 - 700 in the work force, 650 working, 6% unemployment.

• Novesta Township: 1997 - 750 in work force, 700 working, 6.4% unemployment. 1998 - 750 in work force, 700 working, 6.1% unemployment.

(Percentage changes because of variation in some months of the year.)

• Evergreen Township: 1997 - 425 in work force, 400 working, 6.7% unemployment. 1998 - 425 in labor force, 400 working. (Percentage changes

due to variation in rates during some months of the year.)

• Greenleaf Township: 1997 and 1998 - all 375 workers both years were employed. Variation by months indicated 3.2% unemployed in 1997 and 2.5% unemployed in 1998.

Quality Auto Parts

New owner likes Cass City

What was McMahan Auto Supply for the past 20 years is now Quality Auto Parts, owned by Darell and Shanon Liddell. Liddell has been in the auto parts business for over 20 years and operates 3 other stores, in Caro, Frankenmuth and Bridgeport.

He thinks Cass City will be a positive acquisition because it's a nice community with a lot to offer.

It has a great school system, beautiful park, many small businesses, a growing indus-

trial park and is surrounded by a strong farming area.

The Liddells want to assure everyone that Richard Britt, Dave Martin and Brian McMahan are still on staff and ready to serve. With the added inventory available from the other 3 stores and radio dispatched shuttle trucks, parts availability should be better and quicker than ever before.

There are also new product lines available and an ever-increasing inventory on hand.

The former owners, Brian and Linda McMahan, would like to thank all their valued customers for years of patronage. They have made lots of friends in 20 years and are grateful for their help. They are positive that those same customers will be well served by Darrell. He's experienced, organized and committed to customer service.

The entire staff is eager to see 1999 unfold. It promises to be another good year. Stop in and give us a try, invites the new owner and the staff.

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Northwood adds to selection of homes

Northwood Modular Homes, Cass City, has been the largest volume dealer for Active Industries in Marlette and will continue to represent the company, but now will also offer homes from Ritzcraft Homes of Pennsylvania, a family owned business that has been building quality modular homes since 1954.

One of the reasons, said Tom Herron, a custom home builder in Cass City for 31 years, that we have added Ritzcraft is that they offer over 350 different house plans with many optional features. Another is that Ritzcraft is expected to break ground this spring on a new plant in Michigan.

Already on site, ready for inspection, is a Ritzcraft ranch model. In mid-March a 2-story home will be available for inspection.

We are excited about this home, Herron says, because it will be unique to the modular home industry.

Models will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.



THE STAFF MEMBERS at Northwood Homes, from left: Cathy Hellow, Barbara Karr and Linda Herron.

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