

CA

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ITY

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2002

CHRONICLE

FIFTY CENTS

16 PAGES PLUS ONE SUPPLEMENT

Board of education races set

School board races are set in at least 3 area districts, including Cass City, following Monday's 4 p.m. deadline to file nominating petitions and Affidavits of Identity.

The regular school elections are scheduled for Monday, June 10.

A trio of candidates is vying for a single, 4-year term on the Cass City Board of Education. Newcomers Larry Bogart and Dawn Prieskorn are challenging incumbent Trustee Randy Severance.

In other area districts:

OWEN-GAGE

Five candidates will battle for a pair of 4-year terms in the Owen-Gage School District.

The candidates include incumbents Randy Howard,

Please turn to page 5.



THE TABLES were set in the Cass City High School gym for the benefit dinner for Ryan Storm and Alison Emmert. There were 842 seats available and the over 2,000 that attended were served without waiting.

For Emmert, Storm Benefit dinner generates \$42,000

The figure is \$42,000 and still rising as the Cass City and Thumb community came together in an astonishingly successful benefit dinner Sunday for 2 Cass City youths suffering from cancer.

The money was raised for Ryan Storm, 14, son of Frank and Karen Storm and Alison Emmert, 16, daughter of Chuck and Amy Emmert. The banquet netted \$21,000 and that amount was matched by the Aid Association for Lutherans/Lutheran Brotherhood, branch number 7607.

Total expenses for the dinner were in the neighborhood of \$2,500 and that cost was taken care of by the proceeds of the silent auction, Kelli Hendrick reported. Our big expense was for the meat, which was bought at a reduced price from Erla's and Erla's also donated the coleslaw, Hendrick noted.

There was an outpouring of help from all over the community. Walther Farms furnished potatoes, MMPA and Severance Farms chipped in the milk and butter, drinks came from McDonald's and Caro Burger King.

Area churches participated, providing the desserts. Cups and napkins were donated by Thumb National Bank, and take-out containers and napkins came from the Knights of Columbus. All Season Rent-All furnished tables.

Local businesses helped with items for the silent auction. Schneberger's advertised the event and was one of several firms selling tickets. Others included Thumb National Bank, Chemical Bank and Sutter's Bakery. Two businessmen donated a potato cooker and another cooker was donated to cook the meat.

Students were very active.

The Cass City National Honor Society members and the student council provided help on the floor and in clean-up crews. Placemats with pictures of Storm and Emmert came from students at the

Tech Center and posters were created by the Cass City High School Art Class.

Family buttons sold at the door were created by middle school students. There was

Please turn to page 5.

Britt retiring after 37 years

The Owen-Gage Board of Education Monday thanked longtime school principal Bill Britt for his years of service following the announcement of Britt's retirement effective June 30.

The board unanimously approved Trustee Walt Swiastyn's motion to accept the resignation "with deep regret."

Britt has served the Owen-Gage District for 37 years, starting out as a high school teacher for one year and then moving on to the junior high for 2 years. He took over as the principal for elementary and junior high students in 1968, then became elementary principal after the new high school was built in Owendale.

Britt continued in that role until mid-2001, when he was named K-12 principal. Last fall, he agreed to accept the role of high school principal.

Turning to the future, school Supt. Dan McKenzie asked the board to consider spending \$400 to \$500 to contract with a firm that could provide the district with enrollment projections.

"I was advised that this information could prove helpful as we follow the process of budgeting," McKenzie said, adding an analysis would "reinforce our best

guess (and) help us to make informed decisions."

Board President Randy Howard supported the suggestion, saying enrollment projects would also be beneficial in the area of contract negotiations.

Swiastyn also indicated support, but questioned whether the district should spend money when the economic indicators clearly point to a loss of residents due to massive factory shutdowns in the Thumb.

"We can all look around and see the doom and gloom," Howard responded, "but maybe there's something out on the horizon that we haven't seen."

"It may help us gauge the rate of decline," McKenzie added.

Owen-Gage Schools has seen a significant enrollment decline in recent years. The current enrollment totals about 265 students, compared to 288 students last fall. Over the past 6 years, the district has suffered a net loss of more than 50 students, each one equal to literally thousands of dollars in state funding.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

In other business during the meeting, McKenzie said, adding an analysis would "reinforce our best

Gagetown seeking 7-mill tax hike

Gagetown officials went back to the drawing board on a proposed 7-mill tax increase and came back with 2 separate proposals that will be presented to voters at a special election sometime in May.

The Gagetown Village Council last week approved a plan to ask for 3.5 mills to fund a police department, which was eliminated last August when former Chief Ken Currey resigned. The council will request another 3.5 mills to pay for public works expenses.

If approved, the combined 7 mills would raise about \$20,000 and cost the owner of a home valued at \$60,000 an additional \$210 in taxes annually.

The village currently levies 15 mills, although the actual tax has been 13.3808 mills due to a Headlee rollback. The council last week approved a motion to levy the full 15 mills, an increase of 1.62 mills, which will generate an additional \$5,000.

"The way we were able to work it out, this will pretty much let us break even," Village President Charles Wright said, referring to the council's efforts to stem a tide of red ink that has plagued the village the past 3 years. The problem, he added, is that revenues simply haven't kept up with expenses. "And you can't make cuts when you only have one (full-time) maintenance man."

In fact, Wright noted, the village's revenue totaled \$116,000 in 1991, compared to anticipated revenues of \$106,210 in this year's budget, which the council approved during its regular monthly meeting last week. The lion's share of revenue, about \$45,000, is generated by local taxes. State shared revenue totals another \$40,000.

Expenses, meanwhile, are set at \$119,910, including

\$45,750 to run the village's public works department. That leaves an expected deficit of nearly \$14,000 this year.

Village officials in January approved plans to ask voters for a 7-mill increase to cover "general operating" expenses. However, village at-

torney Michelle Biddinger advised council members that they would have to adopt a proposal that more specifically states how the additional tax revenue would be used.

Wright said he doesn't know if village residents will

support the separate measures approved last week, but he indicated the initial response was encouraging.

"We had a lot of people at the meeting and the majority of them were for it," he said. "All we can do is just hope."

Recall effort targets Wright

Gagetown business owner Wayne Coulter's attempt to begin recall proceedings against village President Charles Wright last week was put on hold, but Coulter says he intends to proceed at the proper time.

Coulter, who owns Illuzions tattoo and body piercing at 6484 Lincoln St., filed a recall petition Thursday. However, the petition was returned to him, according to Tuscola County Clerk Margie White-Cormier, who

said recall proceedings can not be started against an official during the first or last 6 months of his or her current term in office.

Wright has served on the council since 1976, the past 6 years as president. Voters reelected him to that post March 11.

Coulter's petition claimed Wright should be recalled for 4 reasons:

*Apathy towards the appearance and condition of buildings in the village, specifically abandoned, dilapidated and collapsed structures.

*Inaction with respect to the appearance and maintenance of the downtown area, specifically no downtown development, lack of maintenance of street light fixtures, cracked sidewalks, deteriorated gazebo and missing American flag in a time of war.

*Impassiveness, specifically abandoned, dilapidated and collapsed structures.

Please turn to page 5.

Cass City Class of '02 boasts 13 valedictorians

There's been plenty of company at the top of the senior class at Cass City High School in recent years, but the Class of 2002 is one for the record books.

Cass City High School Principal Dorland Kuntz announced Friday that this year's class boasts a whopping 13 valedictorians - all straight-A students - and 2

salutatorians, whose grade point averages total 3.977.

Having multiple valedictorians is a trend seen in a number of school districts, including Cass City, for several

years. The trend has sparked some debate over the type of grading system that should be used to determine a class's top students.

Supt. Ken Micklash said

Cass City still uses the old-fashioned 4.0 scale, which does not take into account pluses and minuses. Using a scale that incorporates pluses and minuses would

likely reduce the number of valedictorians, he said, but Cass City graduates have proven time and time again that they earned the honor.

In fact, school officials have

conducted studies tracking former honor graduates, and those studies revealed a majority of past valedictorians continued to excel academically as they pursued college

degrees. "I guess that's what it's all about," Micklash said. "I'd rather be concerned about a lot of kids doing well than doing worse."

"We're all happy for them," he added. "They're good kids."

This year's valedictorians are: Danielle J. Guilds, Sara M. Homakie, Timothy K. Khoury, Guthrie J. Laurie, Jamie L. Leitherman, Robin N. Messing, Julie A. Roche, Rebecca L. Rockwell, Kerry B. Shagene, Chentle J. Smentek, Stephanie L. Stevens, Jessica A. Tenbusch and Erin S. Venema.

Sharing Salutatorian honors are Raymond S. Abasso and Elise E. Pasant.

Please turn to page 5.



Danielle Guilds



Sara Homakie



Tim Khoury



Guthrie Laurie



Jamie Leitherman



Robin Messing



Julie Roche



Roberta Rockwell



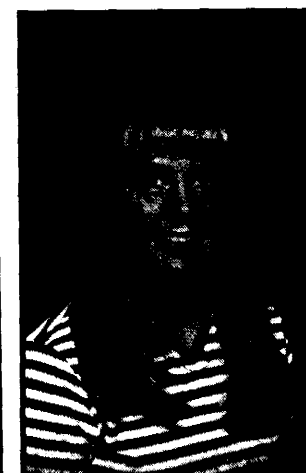
Kerry Shagene



Chentle Smentek



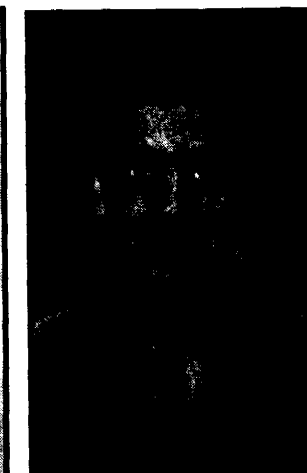
Stephanie Stevens



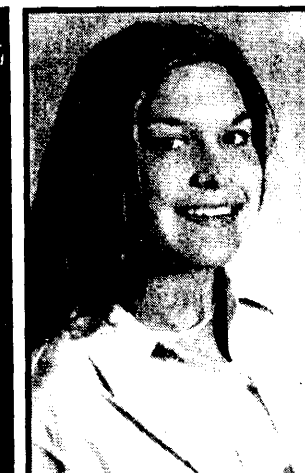
Jessica Tenbusch



Erin Venema



Raymond Abasso



Elise Pasant

Holbrook Area News

Mrs. Thelma Jackson
Phone 658-2347



Mr. and Mrs. Bob Andersen of Livonia and Mrs. Earl Schenk were Easter Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Schenk, John, Rennea and Derryl.

Thelma Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jackson, Marie Grifka, Mr. and Mrs. David Grifka and family, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Rumpitz and Jolene, Ira Leppack and friend Bernice of Uby, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Tittjung of Sterling Heights, Mr. and Mrs. Rich Bukowski of Lake Orion, Mr. and Mrs. John Mergl, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Hope of Oakland, Tina Grifka and children attended Easter dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Rumpitz Sunday.

Mark O'Henley of Chicago, Paul O'Henley of Fenton, Brian Rutkowski of Big Rapids, Anita and Alvin Iseler, Gina and Ali of Port Hope, Wilfred Depcinski,

Allen and Alice Depcinski, Tom and Linda O'Henley, Karen and Randy Rutkowski, Julie and Amy, Ervin Depcinski, Albert and Ann Depcinski, Andrew, Steven and Heather Depcinski were Easter Sunday dinner guests of Dale and Elaine Laming and family.

Dennis and Sharlene Hagen entertained at an Easter Sunday dinner at their home. Attending were Keith Hagen and friend Erin, Clint and Melissa Hagen and Dylan, Brad Hagen, Bryce and Betty Hagen, Mary Hagen and friend Jim, Ellen and Mike Moorman, Jim and Dorene Hagen, Nicholas and Jennifer. They also celebrated the birthdays of Ellen Moorman, Melissa Hagen and Erin with birthday cake and ice cream in the afternoon.

Mrs. Martin Sweeney, Thelma and Bob Jackson went to Kranz Funeral Home Tuesday to pay respects to Lynn Fuester.

Alice and Allen Depcinski attended a birthday party for 100-year-old Magdalena Roggenbuck at St. Anthony Parish Center at Helena Sunday afternoon.

Allen Farrelly, Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Goronowick, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Franzel, Mr. and Mrs. John Nicol and 2 sons had supper at the Franklin Inn on Friday in Bad Axe.

Klyn Putterbaugh, Reva Silver and Mrs. Gerald Wills were Wednesday afternoon guests of Mrs. Curtis Cleland.

Mr. and Mrs. Greg Booms, Dr. and Mrs. Tom Collins, Brian Sweeney, Janice and Roger were Saturday supper guests of Mrs. Martin Sweeney.

Mrs. Dan Franzel and Allen Farrelly visited Dan Franzel at the Huron County Medical Care Facility in Bad Axe Monday afternoon. Mike Moorman entertained for Ellen Moorman's birthday with a Chinese food dinner at the home of Bryce and Betty Hagen. Birthday cake and ice cream were served later.

Randy Schenk, John and

Janea were Monday afternoon guests of Mrs. Earl Schenk.

Bernard Morley, Ed Schember, Jim Lewis, Jack Kennedy and Allen Farrelly met Monday morning at McDonald's for breakfast.

Allen Farrelly was a Saturday afternoon and supper guest of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Farrelly, Grant, Heath and Lee.

Mr. and Mrs. John Nicol, Jason and Jonathan of Mt. Pleasant, Mrs. Dan Franzel and Allen Farrelly visited Dan Franzel at the Huron County Medical Care Facility in Bad Axe Thursday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Wills and Lottie Goretzki of Port Austin and Mrs. Gerald Wills had dinner Easter Sunday at Uby Heights Golf and Country Club at Uby.

Lana and Klyn Putterbaugh were Wednesday supper guests of Jim and Judy Doerr.

Dr. and Mrs. Tom Collins of Allegan took Mrs. Martin Sweeney to Uby Heights Golf and Country Club in Uby for dinner for her birthday Friday.

Mrs. Ken Osentoski was a Saturday evening guest of Mrs. Alex Cleland and Carol Laming.

Bernard Morley, Don Schember, Jack Kennedy and Allen Farrelly met at McDonald's for breakfast Thursday morning in Bad Axe.

12 members of The Traveling Breakfast Club met at McDonald's Food and Family Deli Thursday morning. They will meet at the same place next week.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Andersen of Livonia spent the weekend with Mrs. Earl Schenk. Allen Farrelly was an Easter dinner guest of Julie Koroleski and daughters in Bad Axe.

Mrs. Martin Sweeney visited Jim Sweeney, Mabel Fisher, Agnes Milligan and Belva Pratt at the Huron County Medical Care Facility Thursday.

Mrs. Gerald Wills visited Thelma Jackson Thursday afternoon.

Brunk guest speaker

The Rev. Kevin Brunk, missionary in the Philippines, will be the special speaker at Cass City Church of the Nazarene Thursday, April 11, at 7 p.m. He and his wife, Joan, serve in the Asia-Pacific Regional Office in Manila.

Brunk's responsibilities include managing financial systems as well as working with personnel and lecturing. Mrs. Brunk works part-time as the Regional Program coordinator for Nazarene Missions International.

The Brunks are actively involved in the ministry of the International Nazarene Fellowship Church, an establishment made up of a variety of ethnic groups representing the majority of the Asia-Pacific region. Brunk serves as the associate minister of education for the church and Mrs. Brunk works in children's ministry.



Meg's Peg
Inspired writers
by Melva E. Guinther

Although I didn't see the movie, I finally finished reading J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings - The Fellowship of the Rings." It seemed like the thing to do since everyone was talking about it and the movie received several awards.

Here are some lesser-known titles by somewhat obscure but aptly named authors that will probably not be made into Academy Award winning movies:

"Why You Need Insurance" by Justin Case
"The Funeral" by Paul Bearer
"International Mediation" by Warren Peece
"Vagabond" by Wanda Lust
"Travel the World" by Seymour Sites
"Children's Activities" by Patty Kaake
"Throwing in the Towel" by Terry Cloth
"Organizing a Charity" by

Marsha Dimes
"The Literary Masterpiece" by Bess Seller
"Ultimate Suspense" by Cliff Hangar
"If the Shoe Fits" by Penny Loafer
"The Precipice" by Eileen Dover
"Dressing for Success" by Luke Sharpe
"Termites" by Rex Holmes
"Be More Assertive" by Stan Dupp
"The Elopement" by Marion Haste
"The Plant Manager" by Ron deMille
"Equestrienne" by Rhoda Hoare
"Backstage at the Opera" by Carrie Spears
"Crossword Puzzles" by Nina Cross
"Gushers" by Earl Welles
"The Gas Station" by Phil Tanks
"Calm in This Crazy World" by Norm L. See
"The Heist" by Robin Banks
"Getting a Settlement" by Sue Menney
"Living It Up" by Les Rocke
"Memories Lost" by Faye DeWaye
"Forest Trails" by Mark A. Path
"Who Are You?" by Drew A. Blank
"Old-time Amusements" by Penny R. Kade
"Gambling for Profit?" by Shirley Knott

Did you hear about the contractor who liked to know about all his employees? One day he came upon a young man who was expertly counting out a large wad of the firm's cash.

He asked him, "Where did you get your financial training?" "That's good," said the contractor, who was an advocate of higher learning.

"What's your name?" he asked. The young man answered, "Yackson."

Open house set for Christensen

Carol Christensen, office manager for the Sanilac County MSU Extension office, has announced her retirement effective April 19.

Working in an office whose purpose is to share information and provide informal education, Christensen has responded to thousands of individual requests for assistance during her 22-year tenure. Information seekers, as well as coworkers and volunteers, will long remember and appreciate her warm and helpful nature.

Christensen looks forward to traveling and spending time with her 12 grandchildren.

An open house for Christensen, hosted by Extension staff, is planned for Friday, April 19, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the County Conference Room, 37 Austin St.,

Sandusky.

Christensen's family will also be hosting an open house at the Sandusky Baptist Church for friends and family Saturday, April 20, from 2 to 6 p.m.



Carol Christensen

Children's Fun Fair April 30

Tuscola County Early On is sponsoring a Children's Fun Fair Saturday, April 30, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Highland Pines Schools, Cleaver Road, Caro.

Admission is free. The fair will feature singer David McNich, who will be performing at noon and 1 p.m. There will also be door prizes, free gift bags, snacks, bicycle helmet safety, car seat checks, art activities, police car and fire truck tours, and a book mobile.

More information is available by calling (989) 673-5200 (ext. 373).

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Cass City Chronicle
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Cornerstone to perform Sunday at Novesta

A local teen music group, Cornerstone, has begun its 19th season and will be performing at Novesta Church of Christ, 2896 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, April 14 at 7 p.m.

Cornerstone is one of the programs of Bluewater Thumb Youth for Christ. The music group includes high school students from across Huron and Tuscola counties. Members of the choir from the Cass City community include Erin Venema and Sarah Hobbs.

The vocals in this group are

accompanied by a band including acoustic and electric guitars, bass, drums and percussion. Throughout the program, the band is joined by flutes, trumpets, saxophones and a keyboard.

Cornerstone began this season with practices in September and its first concert at the beginning of November. The group's performance season will continue through May 5 and will include tours to Illinois and Kalamazoo, Mich.

Cornerstone's program, this year entitled "Blind," is a high-energy performance including video, music, skits and a message. Novesta Church of Christ invites area residents to attend this performance.

Senior Menu

Senior Dining Center
6106 Beechwood Drive
Cass City, MI 48726

Call Lois Remsing before 8:45 a.m. on the day you wish to come, **872-5089**. This is a non smoking dining center. Please bring your own table service.

APRIL 15-16-19

Monday - Vegetarian lasagna, corn, tossed salad, garlic bread, cake.

Tuesday - Meatza pie, baked potato, zucchini & tomatoes, fruit.

Friday - Pizza, tossed salad, Italian green beans, cookie.

Cass City Social Item

Bianca Smith of Lapeer was a Tuesday a.m. visitor and lunch guest of Charlotte LaPeer.

Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas

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OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

for 3-5 yr. olds

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Cass City
(not affiliated)



Parents & Preschoolers welcome!

For more information call Stephanie - 872-2285

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SHOWTIME PG-13

SOON: Animated Fun "ICE AGE" (PG)



Start With The Right Blocks...

Colleen Langenburg, Barb Irrer, Joyce King

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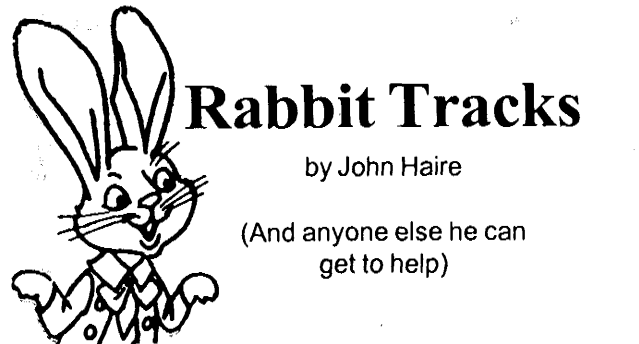
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Rabbit Tracks

by John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Not all of us are concerned about those snowflakes that come trickling down after the warm days that we all enjoyed in early March.

Art Battel wasn't complaining a bit. This spring has been like two seasons in one, he grinned. Battel was referring to the collection of sap for maple syrup. The alternate cold and warm weather keeps the sap running. It's a great year in the sugar bush.

There's still time to get tickets for the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner Saturday night starting at 6:15 at Northwood Meadows.

The dinner is highlighted by the selection of Junior Citizen of the Year and Citizen of the Year. Tickets are \$15 each and are available at all local banks and the Chamber of Commerce office in the Municipal Building.

The Chamber banquet is one of a recent flurry of dinners designed to raise havoc with all of us who watch the scales. Before the Chamber dinner Saturday the Methodist Church had a soup and sandwich lunch. That's fine. But it also had homemade pies and a bake sale. Not so fine if you want to put a lid on the calories and aren't able to resist the goodies offered.

Following the Methodist lunch was the dinner Sunday at the high school.

Capping it all this coming Sunday is the annual turkey dinner at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church which comes complete with another of those very tempting bake sales.

The person responsible for the benefit positively did not want her name used in the story about the benefit banquet. So we didn't. You won't find Janice Winters' name anywhere in the account of the great community endeavor.

Cass City students compete at BPA event

The Business Professionals of America State Competition was held at the Renaissance Center in Detroit March 21-24, and 13 students from the Tuscola Technology Center competed against 2,326 students representing 144 chapters in Michigan.

The following students placed in the business accounting, computer, and office competitive events: Ryan Ankam, Business Law, (second place); Reese; Brandon Vargo, Computerized Accounting, (second place); Cass City; Jennifer Wojewoda, Employment Skills B, (second place); Reese; Stephen Yax, Computerized Accounting, (fourth place); Cass City.

Forty-five different events were held during the weekend. National Leadership Conference and Competitions will be held May 8-12 in Chicago, Ill.

The Business Professionals of America Advisors representing the Tuscola Technology Center are Charles Gentner, Computerized Accounting Systems; Cecilia C. Kapcia, Computerized Office Training; and Amy K. Schuette, Computer Technology Management.

Prior record costs defendant

Sanilac pot farm manager sentenced to life in prison

The on-site manager of a sophisticated marijuana growing and processing operation in Sanilac County has been sentenced to life imprisonment in U.S. Federal District Court in Bay City.

U.S. District Court Judge David M. Lawson handed down the sentence last week to Francis Darrell Hayden, 52, of Loretto, Ky., who managed the Argyle Road operation in 1996.

Hayden was convicted of conspiracy to manufacture and/or possess with intent to distribute 18,957 marijuana plants (4,169 pounds) and manufacture of 18,957 marijuana plants. He was one of 2 remaining defendants to be sentenced in the case, which resulted in convictions against 10 defendants from Kentucky and Indiana.

"The drug conspiracy charge normally carries a penalty of 15 years/8 months to 20 years imprisonment. But because Frank Hayden had 2 prior felony drug convictions, his conviction in this case resulted in a mandatory life sentence," said William Gray, director of the Sanilac County Drug Task Force.

Of the 10 defendants charged during the 4 1/2-year investigation, 5 entered guilty pleas prior to trial. Five others were found guilty on all charges following a 5-week jury trial that concluded June 14. Nine defendants, including Hayden, have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment and one defendant is awaiting sentence.

O-G pair perform

Two Owen-Gage high school band members recently participated in the State Solo/Ensemble competition at Grand Blanc.

Members Josh Errer and Julie Howard represented their school well, both receiving medals for their performances. Errer also was selected and invited to participate in the MSBOA State Honors Band.

The investigation began Oct. 31, 1996, when Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies investigating a complaint of horses running loose discovered that the 75-acre farm on Argyle Road had been converted into a sophisticated marijuana growing and processing operation. The occupants of the farm had already left the area prior to the arrival of police.

The subsequent investigation led drug task force officers 600 miles south through Ohio and into south central Kentucky, where the farm's managers and marijuana growers lived. The trail then led 600 miles southwest to Evansville, Ind., where the farm's owners were discovered to be large-scale distributors of marijuana in the Evansville area.

During the investigation, officers learned that the farm was purchased by the Indiana men in February 1995 and was immediately converted into a large-scale marijuana growing/processing operation.

More than 14,000 marijuana plants were grown and processed in 1995 and nearly 19,000 plants were grown and processed in 1996. The work was completed by about 15 migrant workers who were housed and worked in the barns during the height of the operation.

Gray said all of the marijuana was transported back to Kentucky and Indiana for wholesale/retail distribution in those areas. The high potency marijuana was sold by the distribution organization at prices ranging from \$1,600 to \$4,000 per pound based on the quantity purchased. The group is believed to have generated several million dollars in sales proceeds during its 2-year operation.



The Haire Net

Public institutions, large and small, have a similar characteristic. Members of these boards want to make important decisions away from the public eye.

In small towns for sure and, for the most part, in larger cities members of these boards are people that have experienced success in their fields of endeavor. They are used to making decisions with no need for public discussion.

The open meetings act has helped keep the avenues of communication open to the people who are paying the bill.

In the days before the law was passed, good people went to extreme lengths to keep the facts and the decisions hidden. I can recall 2 more blatant cases in Cass City when hiding decisions was not illegal. First a couple of more recent cases that appeared in the news last week.

Remember, the cussing canoeist who was convicted under a 100-year-old statute for using the language in front of women and children after he was dumped in the Rifle River 4 years ago? His conviction was overturned by the court of appeals, but the free speech controversy has had a beneficial effect for residents who live by the river. It's been quieter and folks using the river have been more respectful to the rights of private ownership.

A school board in Livonia, according to a story in the Detroit News, is being sued by a group over the sale of 2.7 acres to a developer to build 12 houses. The dissidents say the board was in violation of the open meetings act 9 times.

Regardless of the outcome it is certainly bad public relations that could be averted if the board brought this issue before the voters in open session.

Now let's review 2 of the many cases of boards closing ranks to keep information from their constituents in Cass City. Neither of which, thank goodness, could happen today. Remember, too, that the people making these decisions were doing it as a public service with the best of intentions.

To keep the press away, for several months the board had regular "breakfast sessions" where many of the issues of the day were scheduled.

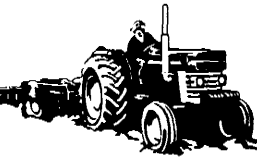
When parking meters were authorized the board held a special, unannounced meeting to vote them in and the vote was recorded with one negative never revealed vote.

It might have been better to get it out in the open at a regular meeting and hear from those who thought it was a bad idea and with our changing business conditions have proved to be right.

It might be hard for board members to take the heat at the time, but public involvement almost always forms a stronger bond with whatever public institutions these elected officials represent.

The back forty

by Roger Pond



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It's always fun to read about the days when farming was done with horses and mules. Farmers were quick to switch to tractors when they had the chance, but they knew the cold steel of the tractor would never replace the flesh and blood personality of the old workhorse.

Those of us who were born too late to witness the era of the horse will remember the old tractors had some personality, too. Every farm had several tractors when I was a kid, and each had its own little quirks.

Many of us learned to drive on a Ferguson, and these tractors certainly had a mind of their own. The Ferguson was small, but it could get a kid in trouble if he didn't remember its shortcomings.

There were foot brakes on both sides of these little beasts and a foot clutch on one side. I suppose a person who had three feet could push all three pedals at once, but the rest of us had to settle for jumping on the clutch with one foot and a brake with the other.

This would stop the tractor on the level, or on a hill if you weren't pulling a load. But with a heavy wagon or implement behind, a 90-pound kid was like a flea on a trampoline as he tried to exert enough force on the brake to stop the tractor.

So we had some excitement ahead if we were going downhill, or thrills behind if going uphill. Farmers tried to put most of their buildings on the high ground to keep the kids from crashing into them with the Ferguson.

I drove an old Oliver during my teen years, and this one had some drawbacks, too. If you turned the wheels of the Oliver real short and then hit something solid (like the edge of a furrow) the steering shaft would pop out of position.

That meant I had no steering and probably should stop the tractor fairly soon. Ollie and I took out a few fence posts that way.

My brother's John Deere "B" was the most fun to drive, because it was fast. We would hook the "B" to a rotary hoe, put 'er in fifth gear, and R-r-r-o-o-o-o!

The old John Deere had a problem in the cylinders, causing it to spit little flecks of oil from the exhaust. The exhaust was on top of these tractors, right in front of the driver, so the kid driving the "B" was pretty well oiled by the end of the day.

We didn't care, though. That film of oil, mixed with sun and dust, produced one of the nicest tans you'd ever want to see.

My dad bought a John Deere "60" about the same time my brother had the "B". The "60" developed a glitch in the hand clutch that caused the clutch to re-engage if you pushed it too far forward.

I learned this while pulling a hay wagon near the barn. I can't imagine why a barn needs all those little pieces of wood along the corners, anyway.

My least favorite tractor was our old Allis Chalmers. The Allis was fine as long as you kept it running, but if she died, the driver spent the rest of the day cranking. My brother, Jim, was the only one who could crank the Allis fast enough to start her when she was hot.

Jim is one of those people who can upload a wagon full of hay in about 10 minutes. If you make him mad, he can do it in two minutes.

That Allis made him mad nearly every day.

The Weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Tuesday	35	29	.33"
Wednesday	42	23	0
Thursday	36	26	0
Friday	40	17	.05"
Saturday	39	25	0
Sunday	47	30	.15"
Monday	57	42	1.18"

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)

Read Meg's Peg Page 2

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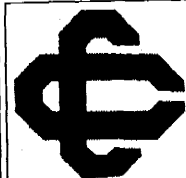


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Cass City Public Schools
PROGRESS IN EDUCATION

from the desk of Ken Micklash, Superintendent

Safety Continues To Be A TOP PRIORITY

A very similar article was published last year for your review, but because of the importance of this topic, I wish to run it again.

The primary function of our school district is to provide the best educational opportunities possible for our students.

Our district has a detailed District Crisis Communication Plan which provides valuable information if we ever have to deal with a crisis such as: accidents in school, threats, gas leaks, medication overdoses, power failures, fires, explosions and a variety of other issues. The plan, which includes all of our buildings floor plans, has been given to the Cass City Police Department, Tuscola County Sheriff Department and Michigan State Police Department in Caro.

The crisis plan has been shared with all building principals who have reviewed it with staff. In case it would ever be necessary to evacuate our students to an off site location, we have agreements with various community facilities to do so. The evacuation plan includes students from every building in our district. Staff in all buildings have been informed of codes which direct them to take certain types of action in potentially dangerous situations. Additionally, an emergency only, telephone has been linked from each classroom to the building office, which is to be used only in the case of a 911 emergency.

Should we ever have a crisis to deal with, the superintendent's office would serve as the communication center. The Village of Cass City has agreed to allow us to use the municipal building as a secondary location for communications.

In addition to these plans we feel other procedures, programs and activities our school have in place are of equal or even of greater importance when promoting school safety. For example, our district has been promoting the concept of character education. For the past five (5) years our staff members have been emphasizing the following character education building blocks with our students when appropriate: Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

Student council activities, at all levels, have emphasized good citizenship traits. Treating others the way we want to be treated has been and will always be an important rule in which to live by. Our students are reminded of this regularly.

The Natural Helpers Program, which has been in place for several years in the high school, has helped train many staff and students with how to be good listeners and how to help others with problem solving and conflict resolution.

The middle school has had the student responsibility program in place for the past few years. This program encourages students who have made behavior errors to think about what they did wrong and develop a plan to help avoid making poor judgment decisions in the future.

The high school has incorporated a similar approach into the in-school suspension program. The in-school suspension program provided students the opportunity to remain in school while serving suspensions, which have resulted from disciplinary infractions. Developing a corrective behavioral plan is also incorporated into this program.

Additionally, our district employs two (2) guidance counselors and two (2) social workers who help students with current problems and provide guidance with decisions that affect their future.

Good schools provide a caring and safe environment, with structure in which students can learn. The Cass City Public School District has top quality schools that provide this type of setting.

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

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Alissa's Article

by Alissa Pasant



Did you go anywhere during Spring Break? Many youth in the area had a chance to go to Florida with Youth for Christ. They had fun in the sun as well as growing spiritually with the Lord. Youth for Christ is a gathering of teens. There are Youth for Christ centers all over the Thumb. Every Monday night at 7:24 there is a gathering called Club Xtreme at the center on Main Street. This is where teens get together and learn about God and lessons from the Bible related to everyday life. The lessons are put into ways that teens can relate to. Anyone is welcome to come. The night starts off by playing some simple games that are related to the lesson of the night. After the games, the group sings songs. The night ends with Jeff Bader, the Campus Life Director of Cass City-Kingston area, talking about something in the Bible and then ending in a prayer.

On March 22, Bluewater Thumb Youth for Christ took their annual trip to Florida during Spring Break. The purpose of this trip is an evangelistic experience and also to have fun. Many schools around the Thumb joined Cass City for the trip. The schools that attended were Cass City, Caro, Port Hope, North Huron, Harbor Beach, Bad Axe, Uby, Laker, Millington, USA, Akron-Fairgrove, Bay City All Saints, Vassar, and Brown City. Since all of these schools were on break at the same time, there were 175 students that went. The group had to take 4 buses. Also, the Youth for Christ staff and volunteers were the chaperones.

The trip began March 22, and ended on March 31, Easter Sunday. The students that wanted to go to Florida could do fundraisers in order to raise money to offset costs for the trip. Some of the fundraisers that were offered were the students could sell apple pies and Little Ceasars Pizza Kits. Also,

YFC sponsored a soup dinner and a baked potato dinner at two big basketball games up at the high school. Students had the opportunity to work at these dinners to help earn some money towards their trip. Any money that the student earned went straight into an account for money off of their trip.

At 3:00 p.m. on March 22, the Cass City students and volunteers departed from the high school. This was the start of a 24-hour bus ride. The bus was required to stop every four hours for a quick break.

One highlight of the trip was a band named Staple. They were a Christian band from Central Ohio and went from Ohio to Florida with the students. One of the band members was a graduate from Lakers. They played at evening sessions for the group.

The group arrived at a campground in Leesburg, Florida, about an hour away from Orlando, Florida, at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday the 23rd. On Sunday, the group attended church and then took off for New Smyrna Beach. On Tuesday, Universal Studios was the highlight for the day and on Thursday, the group left early to go spend the whole day at Cocoa Beach. On Friday, the last full day in Florida, the students spent it at Wet-N-Wild. During the week, Monday and Wednesday, were "Camp Days." These were days where the group stayed at the camp. Many events happened throughout the day. There were sports tournaments, pool games, and time to lie out in the sun. The students left the camp on Saturday morning and returned home Easter Sunday around 11:30 a.m.

Many of the students enjoyed the trip. Sarah Hobbs said, "This is my first year going and I didn't know what to expect. It exceeded my expectations both socially and spiritually." Chris Maharg said, "I enjoyed the beaches and Wet-N-Wild. I had a great time." Tessia Zawilinski said, "It was fun and exciting. The bus ride was kind of harsh and difficult, but overall it was a good experience." Becky Hartel said, "This was my third time going to Florida. It was a lot of fun. The weather was great, and we all got a great tan. We also had a lot of time to grow spiritually and get our lives back on track." Deirdre Deering said, "It was a good time in my life, and I wish that everyone could have the opportunity to experience it." Overall the trip was a huge success and everyone is looking forward to next year.

\$287,233 grant goes to Caro area airport

Air travel in Michigan will get a lift from \$20.5 million in support for airports, including special federal funds for tighter security at the state's commercial service airports.

The Michigan Department of Transportation last week announced that 29 airports across the state, including the Tuscola Area Airport, will receive state and federal aid to enhance the safety and economic impact of aviation.

The funding includes \$287,233 to extend a runway at the Tuscola Area Airport in Caro.

"Safe and efficient air travel is fundamental to our quality of life and growing," said State Transportation Director Gregory J. Rosine. "These grants will allow public-use airports to continue investing in the services and infrastructure needed to effectively move people and products across our state and

beyond."

The Michigan Aeronautics Commission approved investing \$14.1 million in runway rehabilitation projects, new terminal constructing, airport lighting, land acquisitions, snow removal equipment and other airport capital improvements.

In addition, 14 commercial service airports received approval for \$6.4 million in U.S. Department of Defense funds for terminal modifications, access-control fencing, vehicle barriers and other airport security measures.

The commission's approval clears the way for issuance of the federal portion of the funds. Federal and state dollars for airport development come primarily from restricted, user-generated funds. The primary sources of revenue are aviation fuel, passenger taxes and aircraft registration fees.

National Library Week April 14-20

Rawson Memorial Library is joining libraries across the country in celebrating National Library Week, April 14-20.

Special activities are slated this week at the library. On each visit, patrons may draw envelopes for certificates for free video rentals, free copying, fine payments and children's books. A drawing will be held at the end of the week for a Curious George Afghan and book.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday are designated as amnesty days for overdue library materials. Patrons may bring in overdue materials and no fine will be charged.

Rawson Memorial Library offers free Internet access on 6 computers every day. Patrons may send and receive e-mail, chat with a friend, or just surf the net for information. Staff members are available to assist when needed. Special classes are offered periodically so that patrons can learn more about operating computers and using the Internet.

Celebrate National Library Week by visiting the library to go online or check out a good book, magazine, audio tape or video.

Open house to honor Hutchinson

The board of Rawson Memorial Library is planning an open house in honor of retiring Director, Barbara Hutchinson.

The open house is slated for Sunday, April 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. A brief program is set for 2 p.m.

The library board, staff and Friends of the Library are planning this open house with the hope that many members of the community will come into the library that day to honor Hutchinson for her years of service to the library and wish her well on her retirement.

Letters to the editor Meyer disputes claims

Recently, I came under attack by the Michigan State AFL-CIO through fliers distributed in the area regarding unemployment insurance benefits. People may like to hear the rest of the story so they can draw their own conclusions.

The flier claims I made the motion to increase the weekly unemployment benefits from their 1995 amount of \$300 to \$362, which is not true. I did second the motion because that proposal was the highest amount the committee members seemed to agree with, and I wanted to have the measure go to the full House for discussion.

The House didn't agree with that version of the bill, so back in committee I proposed a 25-percent increase to \$375 a week. My measure also eliminated the waiting week,

which should please labor groups, since they so strongly opposed possibility.

This is the version that the House approved and sent to the Senate. The amount is not the \$415 the unions were aiming for, but something their flier did not mention is that not all unemployed workers would receive that amount.

To qualify for the entire benefit an employee must make more than \$19.50 an hour, so it is unlikely the fuzzy math shown on the flier would add up to the figure they tout.

I also found the flier's claim that local businesses were being hurt by the unemployment benefit increase very interesting. One of the primary challenges legislators have faced in raising the benefit is determining how businesses will be affected, because they must pay the cost. Actually, the very first call I received about the information on the fliers was from a local business owner to congratulate me on holding down the unemployment premiums companies have to pay.

I understand and sympathize with residents who are out of work and wholeheartedly believe changes must be made to meet their needs. I thought my \$375 a week proposal was the answer - the business community and the labor representatives were both grumbling, which usually means you have found the happiest medium possible.

Unfortunately, the Senate did not see it that way and came up with its own plan, which set a basic unemployment

benefit of \$315 a week and granted an additional \$20 a week for each dependent to a maximum of five. My House colleagues and I didn't agree with that design and now the bill is under consideration by a House-Senate joint conference committee.

No one can tell how the committee will settle the difference.

What I can tell you is that I continue to rely on the will of the people and my best judgment to ensure the needs and concerns of everyone are addressed as best as possible.

Sincerely,
Tom L. Meyer
State Representative
84th District

Barnie the Lab one smart dog

Dear Mr. Haire,

I would like to share this story with you. I hope you enjoy it.

Scott Vatter and his family, who live in Shabbona, have a 7-year-old chocolate lab named Barnie. Last Sunday Scott took Barnie 3 miles east of Uby, leaving Barnie outside with another dog for a short time. When Scott came outside Barnie was gone. After contacting the radio stations and looking everywhere, seeing no sign of the dog, 4 hours short of 4 days, Thursday, Barnie showed up on the porch of his home in

Shabbona, with only a few burrs. If he would have taken the road he would have come 21 miles. It would be interesting to know where he traveled before finding home.

The family let him in the house after eating a small amount of food. Barnie went right to the children's bedroom where the children were still in bed: put his paw on the bed as though to say, "I'm home."

Barnie had never been to Uby before. Who ever would say dogs are not smart.

Mrs. Vatter

Wedding Invitations



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Cass City Chronicle
872-2010

Cass City Area Church Directory



Praying From the Heart

As children, most of us probably learned all of our prayers, as we would say, "by heart." We memorized them, but probably without fully understanding the meaning of all the words. As children grow older and continue to say their prayers, hopefully the meaning of the words will become more clear to them. However, because we are so accustomed to simply reciting memorized prayers as children, we often do not reflect on the meaning of what we are saying. When we pray, we should truly understand our prayers and not just move our lips and go through the motions. Our attitude should be one of love, trust and respect for our Heavenly Father. Praying memorized or spontaneous prayers from the heart is well-received, and we should realize that when we are praying we are in the presence of God. The Bible tells us that our Father in Heaven already knows what we need even before we ask Him, and also that we should be forgiving of others so that our Father will forgive us. When we pray, it is for our benefit, and when our prayers are meaningful, we are returning God's wonderful love.

Cass City Church of Christ

6743 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726
Building phone 872-5440
Contacts 872-2367 or 872-3136
Worship Service Sunday 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study Sunday 10:00 a.m. & Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Cass City Church of the Nazarene

6538 Third St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-2604 or 872-5201
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study & Children Activities 7:00 p.m.
Pastor - Rev. Darold Ward

Cass City Missionary Church

4393 Koepfgen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726
872-2729
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: David Edwards

Cass City United Methodist Church

5100 N. Cemetery Rd., P.O. Box 125, Cass City, MI 48726
872-3422
Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m.
Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon)
Pastor - Dr. Philip Rice

Evangelical Free Church of Cass City

6430 Chestnut Blvd., Cass City, MI 48726
Phone: 872-5060 Fax: 872-8855
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Midweek Bible Studies
Biblical Counseling
Pastor - Rev. Todd R. Gould

First Baptist Church

6420 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-3155
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study, Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

6505 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-5400
Sunday School - Sept.-May 10:45 a.m.
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
Pastor - Dave Blackburn

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

6820 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-2770
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Pastor - Gerald Meyer

Living Word Worship Center

(Where the Word is Life)
6536 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-4637
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.
Wed. (Family Training hour) 7:00 p.m.
Senior Pastors - Michael & Carla Arp

Novesta Church of Christ

2896 N. Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726
872-3658 or 872-1195
Bible School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening 7:00 p.m.
Minister - Chuck Emmert
Youth Minister - Brad Speirs
Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org

Potter's House Christian Fellowship Church

Corner of 6th and Leach, Cass City, MI 48726
872-5186
Thursday Evening 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
Pastor - F. Robert Tucker

St. Pancratius Catholic Church

4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-3336
Saturday Liturgy 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
Pastor - Father Steve Fillion

Shabbona United Methodist Church

4045 Decker Rd., (in Shabbona) Decker, MI 48426
810-672-9929 or 810-672-9992
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
UMW Monthly 1st Wed., 7:30 p.m.
Youth Program
Pastor - Ellen Burns Youth Pastor - Jeff Bader
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School names top grads

Continued from page one.

Guilds, daughter of Glenn and Kim Guilds, has won a host of academic awards and has also been involved in band and athletics as a member of the varsity softball team. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has volunteered for the Adopt-A-Highway program and Red Cross Blood Drives, and served as a Fall Family Days Octagon Barn tour guide. She also volunteered at the Tendercare Governor's Award Banquet and served on the LWWC Youth Council.

Guilds plans to major in criminal justice at Western Michigan University.

Homakie, daughter of Michelle Homakie and John and Julie Homakie, is also an honor roll student who is involved in a number of extra-curricular activities, including volunteer work for the

Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Youth For Christ auction, Let's Build Some Fun in the Thumb and Octagon Barn tours and church activities.

She has been active in Student Council, National Honor Society, Natural Helpers and band, and has also excelled in athletics as a member of the basketball, volleyball and track squads.

Homakie's future plans include studying business at Hope College.

Khoury, son of Kareem and Tahani Khoury, is an accomplished athlete and musician. His awards include football, basketball and track All Conference Scholar Athlete, and the 2002 Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Award for football.

He has been involved in National Honor Society, Rotary Leadership Camp, Student Council, Business Pro-

fessionals of America, Quiz Bowl, Academic Games, Close Up, Red Cross Blood Drives and other activities, including jazz, marching, concert and pep band as well as church choirs and organist.

Khoury plans to study computer engineering and music at the University of Michigan.

Laurie, son of Douglas and Tammy Laurie, has won several outstanding performance certificates in several classes, is active in the National Honor Society and earned All Conference Scholar Athlete honors. He has also been involved in athletics as a member of the football and baseball teams.

His future plans include studying business or agribusiness at Michigan State University.

Leiterman, daughter of Linda Hanson and Don Leiterman, has won several academic awards and is involved in the National Honor Society, Foreign Language Club and Octagon Barn Fall Family Days. She has also volunteered for Red Cross Blood Drives, community playground, Adopt-A-Highway and St. Jude's Bike-a-thon.

After graduation, she plans to study pre-med at the University of Michigan.

Messing, daughter of Dexter and Theresa Messing, has earned a host of academic and perfect attendance awards. She has also been recognized as an All Conference Scholar Athlete in volleyball. Her other activities include Adopt-A-Highway, Envirothon, Foreign Language Club and youth group.

Her future plans include studying political science or international studies at Saginaw Valley State University.

Roche, daughter of Ron and Ann Roche, has been active in Bible Bowl, piano, band and youth group.

She plans to major in biology/pre-med at Milligan College.

Rockwell, daughter of Robert and Rita Rockwell, is a Student Council representative who has received numerous academic awards. She has also been active in band and soccer.

Her future plans include studying art or psychology at Western Michigan University.

Shagene, daughter of William and Andrea Shagene, is president of the Student Council Executive Board and is a member of the Na-

tional Honor Society. She has been active in Natural Helpers, Youth For Christ, Red Cross Blood Drives, Community Thanksgiving Dinner, dance, pom pon squad, band, senior citizens ball, community playground, United Way food basket program and church choir.

She plans to study business or medicine at Albion College.

Smentek, daughter of John and Linda Smentek, is also an honor student whose future plans include majoring in art or psychology at Western Michigan University.

Stevens, daughter of Joe and Kelly Stevens, has won several academic awards and is a member of the National Honor Society. She has been active in Natural Helpers, Foreign Language Club, Octagon Barn Fall Family Days, Red Cross Blood Drives, St. Jude's Bike-a-thon and community playground.

Stevens plans to study pre-med at the University of Michigan.

Tenbusch, daughter of Douglas and Karen Tenbusch, has won numerous academic excellence awards as well as All Conference Scholar Athlete honors in track and All Conference Honorable Mention in volleyball. She has also won altar server awards and is a National Honor Society member.

Her future plans include majoring in math at Central Michigan University.

Venema, daughter of Stuart and Brenda Venema, is a National Honor Society member and is active in band, pom pon squad, Bible Bowl, youth group, Choir and Youth For Christ.

She plans to attend Milligan College.

Abasso, son of Saad and Fatim Abasso, is an honor student who has been active in Quiz Bowl. His future plans include entering the pre-dental program at Wayne State University.

Pasant, daughter of Ed and Carol Pasant, has earned a host of academic awards and is active in Student Council, National Honor Society, band, debate, youth ministry, basketball, volleyball, gymnastics and softball. She has also been involved in Youth For Christ, Red Cross Blood Drives, Community Thanksgiving Dinner, community playground and other activities.

She plans to study nursing - neonatal at Grand Valley State University or Aquinas College.



ONE OF THE 24 different groups that performed almost continuously during the 4 1/2-hour dinner.

Recall petition

Continued from page one.

cally business owners threatened by violence, riots in the streets, and stop light traffic hazard (no enforcement).

*Insensible - "If the mayor cannot perform his duties, he must be removed from office; We truly must find someone who cares about Gagetown, Michigan"; and "Mayor said, 'You do something about it.'" (referring to the response Coulter claims he received when he confronted Wright about youths fights in the village).

Wright said Coulter's claims are unfounded. "There's nothing to it. It's all the stuff we've (village council) been working on," he added. "I really don't want to say a whole lot about it right now."

Coulter welcomed the delay in his petition, saying it will give him more time to register voters, which he plans to do at his business and by going door-to-door. The delay, he said, also gives the council "5 months to do something about the village."

Provided Coulter does refile the petition, the first step in the process will be a clar-

ity hearing, according to White-Cormier, who explained a panel composed of herself, county treasurer and probate judge will review the petition language. The review does not involve determining the merits or truth of the claims, she noted.

Coulter will then have 90 days to collect the needed signatures - equal to 25 percent of the number of residents who cast ballots in the most recent gubernatorial election, she said.

Races

Continued from page one.

currently serving as board president, and newcomers Kathy Champagne, Jeff Faist, Joan Koch and Jeff Leinweber. Incumbent Trustee Rick Ziehm is not seeking reelection.

KINGSTON

In the Kingston School District, newcomer Ellen Romosier is challenging incumbents Sherri Diegel and Jason Koehler. Diegel currently serves as school board vice president and Koehler is treasurer.



RYAN STORM was at the dinner that will help the family with the expenses incurred in his battle with cancer.

Advertise It In The Chronicle

Britt retiring after 37 years

Continued from page one.

monthly meeting, the board: *Approved employment contracts with Cheryl Merlington, guidance counselor, and Tammy Eberlein, who has been hired as an afternoon custodian.

In addition, the board approved the hiring of Mac McKee as head varsity baseball coach and Chad Mellendorf as an assistant, and Barb Adams as varsity softball coach along with assistants Herschel Adams and Joe Zaleski.

*Approved tenure for Amy Maurer, elementary teacher; Michelle Schuette, science; Don Starks, band; and Kathy Sutton, business/technology. Fourth year probation was

approved for math teacher Terri Falkenberg, English teacher Carol Sattler and special education instructor Sharada Seurnyck, while sixth grade teacher Kevin Maust was approved for second year probation.

*Approved field trips for the fourth grade and a special education class.

*Learned that 13 students were recently inducted into the school's National Honor Society. They are: Amy Pawelski, Scott Kunding, Justin McLaren, Jenny Sparkes, Katie Wenskay, Jim Wise, Kelly Zaleski, Stephanie Dorsche, Laura Enderle, Timmy Kain, Candi Rhodes, Justin Rogers and Heidi Scott.

*Approved the nomination of senior Zachary Fritz as the April "student of the month."

*Recognized a student in each grade level, all nominated for best exemplifying the district's April "adult role focus" of having a positive self-image.

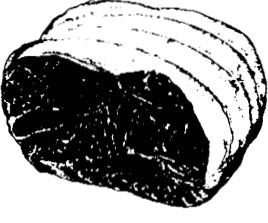
The students, in grade K-12, are: Quinn Smith, Tiffany Jamieson, Erika Mroz, Tyler Kain, Nickolas Zaleski, Mike Smith, Joshua Volk, Amber Pillsbury, Levi Adams, Chelius Krug, Timmy Kain, Jeremy Kady and Fred Periso, and Rebecca Hartman.

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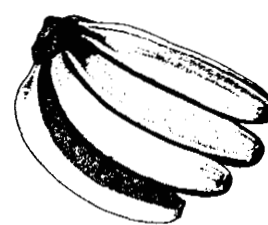
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Environmental Health - Water/Sewage/Food	129
Family Planning (low cost birth control)	103
Geriatrics Program	133
Healthy Kids/MI child applications	106 or 145
Hearing and Vision Screening (school and preschool age children)	113
HIV/AIDS/STD's	103
Lead Testing (fee)	106
Maternal/Infant/Support Services	179
Newborn/Public Health Visits	179
Prenatal Clinic in cooperation with Health Delivery, Inc. Bayside Clinic	113
Public Health - (Immunizations, TB testing, Seasonal Flu Clinics)	110
Tobacco Reduction	147
T.L.C. (Touching Lives of Children)	105
Veteran's Affairs	128
Well Child Clinic (health screening for individuals 0-21 years - small fee)	106
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Farm Bureau lauds acceptance of plan to mandate environmental permits for certain animal feeding operations

Michigan Farm Bureau officials lauded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) acceptance of a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) plan to only mandate general environmental permits for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) with documented animal waste discharges.

Farm Bureau officials said the agency's approval demonstrates a fair balance between regulatory and volun-

tary compliance with environmental protection laws.

"We're pleased the EPA agreed with DEQ's plan to target its general permit requirements at farms that are over 1,000 animal units and that have or have had a state-verified discharge within the last 2 years," Michigan Farm Bureau President Wayne Wood said.

"This tells us that EPA recognizes the value of Michigan's voluntary compliance programs like the Michigan Agricultural Envi-

ronmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) and shares our concern that federal regulations should not be forced on Michigan livestock producers who are currently complying with environmental laws through voluntary means.

"While we are throwing our support behind this plan, the Michigan Farm Bureau has not wavered at all in its commitment to oppose federal permitting of additional farms or the issuance of individual environmental permits," Wood said.

"Given the efforts that continue among state agencies and the agriculture industry to keep animal waste from discharging into Michigan waterways, permitting more farms or requiring single farms to obtain individual permits just for the sake of satisfying environmental critics would only result in invasive, costly and unnecessary burdens for environmentally responsible farmers."

The EPA Region 5 Office in Chicago recently announced it has reached an agreement with the DEQ regarding Michigan's enforcement of the Clean Water Act on farms. The Sierra Club had petitioned the EPA to revoke the DEQ's authority to manage the act, arguing federal permits were needed to uphold environmental laws on Michigan farms.

DEQ Director Russell Harding said the agency "continues to dispute the value of the federal permitting system as it relates to farm discharges." But the agency's plan, he said, was an "acceptable alternative" crafted in good faith through negotiations with all stakeholders.

Under the plan, CAFOs greater than 1,000 animal units that have - or have had within the last 2 years - a DEQ-verified discharge will have to apply for coverage under a general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Applicants will have to develop a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP), and their farms will be inspected by DEQ staff.

According to the DEQ plan provided to the EPA, the permit system would take effect 6 to 9 months following EPA's approval.

That plan also states that a farm greater than 1,000 animal units that has not discharged will choose between voluntarily completing a CNMP through MAEAP or seeking coverage under a general NPDES permit. Both require proactive farm visits, with MDA certification for MAEAP and inspections by DEQ for the permit.

Finally, it states that DEQ will use current compliance and enforcement programs to stop discharges from farms with less than 1,000 animal units. A compliance component in each enforcement case will require the farmer to develop and implement a CNMP to prevent future discharges and provide assurance of environmental compliance.

The plan closely follows MFB policy, as it does not include individual NPDES permits and allows farms that have averted discharges to voluntarily meet environmental performance standards by completing a CNMP and the MAEAP Livestock System.

"While Michigan Farm Bureau does not favor permits, we acknowledge there are some farms that may benefit from this general permit system," Wood said. "For those CAFOs with documented discharges, we emphasize that a general permit system offers more protection for the individual producer, since it only requires one public hearing every 5 years, with farms statewide applying for coverage under one general permit 'held' by the state."

"Michigan Farm Bureau remains opposed to any proposals that would require producers to obtain individual NPDES permits, consequently forcing them into individual public hearings," Wood added.

"We're afraid this type of system could jeopardize the sustainability of farm operations by giving people with social biases against what may be perceived as 'animal factories' access to and input on permit applications, perhaps unfairly dissuading or blocking producers from expanding their operations."

According to an EPA news release, "Like site-specific permits, general permits include standards of performance and management practices that protect water quality. They also include monitoring and reporting requirements so EPA, DEQ and citizens know that CAFOs are meeting Clean Water Standards."

Responding to Sierra Club statements that the environmental group's next task is to guarantee that "the best, most effective pollution control permits" are used, Wood said, "I'd hope that our Michigan Farm Bureau members, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, DEQ, EPA and all environmental groups support this plan in a cooperative manner so that we all make it a success."

"We look forward to working with our own members as we develop and implement educational materials regarding environmental stewardship and regulation requirements on farms."

Cass City Bowling Leagues

CHARMONT LADIES

Dott Manufacturing	62
Loren's Lawn Care	58
Cass City Tire	58
Dee's Girls	56
Wild John's	56
Cable ettes	54
JB's Crew	52

Individual High Games: T. Avery 219, B. Doran 197, R. Linzner 195, D. Merchant 193, B. Ware 190, S. Hutchinson 189, R. Finkbeiner 189, D. Mathewson 186, S. Smith 184, C. Slaughter 180, M. Haley 179, L. McCarthy 173, K. Smithers 171.

Individual High Series: R. Linzner 518, D. Mathewson 518, R. Finkbeiner 514, M. Haley 503, T. Avery 501, B. Ware 493, S. Hutchinson 492, B. Doran 480.

Team High Game: Dee's Girls, 1076.

Team High Series: Loren's Lawn Care, 3091.

SUN NO ROLLERS

As of March 17

Chemical Bank Pinheads	18
Inn-Laws	16
Been There Done That	14
Sometimes	14
Old Geezer's +2	12
Finkbeiner & Ertman	12
Harris-McHalpine	12
We'll Get Back To You	11
Damn Near Last	10
Par-T-Ranch	9
Spannagel-Prime	8
CB's	8

Individual High Games & Series: R. Kriel 204, D. Silance (541), D. Potrykus (509), D. Williams (508), P. McIntosh (619), J. Baker 243

(615), L. Prime 225 (598), R. Wright 212 (598).
Team High Game & Series: Chemical Bank Pinheads 738 (2151).

MERCHANETTE

LEAGUE

As of April 4

End of third round

Langenburg Plumb/Heat 48
The Chiropractors 44
Marlette Chrysler 41
Thumb Octagon Barn 38
All Season Video 38
JB's Crew 37
Adamczyk Masonry 33
FBI Gals 28
Charlie's Angels 28

Women's High Act. Game: L. Hanson 242.

Women's High Act. Series: L. Hanson 560.

Team High Act. Game: All Season Video 719.

Team High Act. Series: All Season Video 1947.

Individual 200 Games: C. Wallace 224, D. Potrykus 215, C. Brown 207.

Individual 520 Series: C. Brown 539, D. Potrykus 531, M. Gray 527, S. Buschlen 522, C. Wallace 520.

Team 640 Games (4 man): JB's Crew 718, The Chiropractors 684, JB's Crew 673.

Team 1880 Series (4 man): JB's Crew 1947, FBI Gals 1924.

MERCHANETTE

LEAGUE

As of April 4

Langenburg Plumb/Heat 48

The Chiropractors 44
Marlette Chrysler 41
Thumb Octagon Barn 38
All Season Video 38
JB's Crew 37
Adamczyk Masonry 33
FBI Gals 28
Charlie's Angels 28

Individual High Games: L. Hanson 242-179, C. Wallace 224-162, D. Potrykus 215-169, C. Brown 207-184, L. Clark 193, J. Bemus 189, S. Buschlen 184-184, C. Smith 181, C. Davison 179-168, S. Hutchinson 178-159, M. Gray 177-175-175, J. Montgomery 178, M. Gettel 176-172, Deidra Zdrojewski 176.

T. Abbe 174-155, M. A. Opanasenko 173, J. Krol 169, D. Williams 168-156, J. Morell 166-158, J. Koch 168-164, S. Langenburg 160, J. Dickinson 159.

Individual High Series: L. Hanson 560, C. Wallace 520, C. Brown 539, D. Potrykus 531, M. Gray 527, S. Buschlen 522, L. Hanson 502, C. Davidson 497, S. Hutchinson 485, M. Gettel 484, J. Bemus 484, J. Morell 478, N. Ellis 465, D. Williams 465, P. Hellwig 460, P. Bauer 458.

Team High Game and Series: All Season Video 719, (1977).

Split Conversions: K. Langenburg 6-7-10, J. Morell 3-10, 3-10-4-5.

Special Awards: L. Hanson - 75 pins over average, M. Gray - 125 pins over average, M. Gray - 500 (140 average or less)

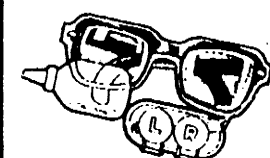
MERCHANTS

As of April 3

Charmont	26.5
R & H Body Shop	23.5
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Charmont Motel	18
Hair-n-More	16
Sebewaing Concrete	16
Locust Hill Farms	14
Trisch Septic	14
Muffler Man	12
Patrick's Flooring	7

Individual High Games & Series: M. Jackson 221-226 (647), R. Salcido 256 (640), N. Berry 242 (629), M. Gettel 214-217 (625), S. Summers 236 (623), R. Koch 210-217 (618), T. Sting 234 (613), C. Mauer 226 (606), J. Finkbeiner 211 (601), B. Anthes 236 (592), L. Prime 214 (591), K. Zawilinski 213 (589), T. Soper 224 (588), B. Hereim 212 (586), J.D. McBrayer 233 (584), J. Gorkowski 211 (584), E. Harek 235 (583), B. Long 225 (575), S. Nauka 226, C. Roe 222, R. Ewald 220, R. Hull 220, R. Kessler 220, M. Frappert 214, D. Ewald 212, P. Pavlo 210.

Team High Game & Series: Charmont, 1030 (3051).



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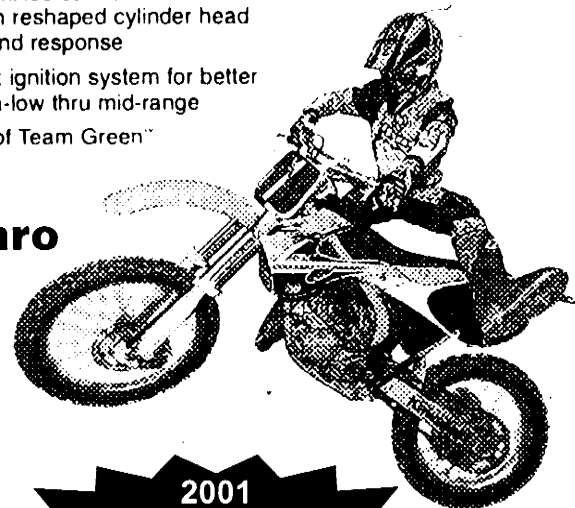
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In commemoration of Arbor Day the Cass City Garden Club will be giving away blue spruce seedlings April 11 at Rawson Memorial Library. Children attending story hour that day will each receive a seedling.

One hundred seedlings have been ordered, so stop in and pick one up between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on the 11th.

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At MSU

Project GREEN research to help farmers create niche

Recent studies confirming the health benefits of eating soy-based products may offer an incentive for Michigan farmers to produce specialty soybeans as a profitable alternative to traditional soybean varieties.

Project GREEN, the state's plant agriculture initiative at Michigan State University, is supporting specialty crop research to help Michigan farmers create niche markets.

MSU soybean performance trials conducted at 7 sites across the state over the past 3 years found that higher yielding varieties with similar taste and processing characteristics could potentially replace the leading food-grade variety, Vinton 81.

Research resulting from these trials will allow prospective seed buyers an opportunity to evaluate the processing characteristics of various food-grade beans grown in Michigan and select for desired characteristics from a broader list of varieties adaptable to

Michigan's climate. This process can help growers diversify their cropping programs to include higher income-producing commodities.

"This certainly includes using varieties that have higher yields but, more importantly, is considering the variety's specialty food-grade qualities," says Dan Rajzer, Cass County MSU Extension director. "It's important to look beyond yield and consider how the processor will use it. The highest yielding beans may not meet the food quality standards the processor is looking for."

"Raising specialty and niche market crops usually requires more time, energy and resources than growing a bulk commodity," he adds. "But if specialty crops are consistently more profitable and contracts are available, more growers will find these markets attractive."

Keeping eyes and ears open to changes in consumer needs and looking beyond your local area to market your

commodity are essential. Experts agree that growers need to experiment and be willing to take a risk.

Edamame, a specialty bean consumed as a green-shelled bean, may prove to be one such opportunity. It's a popular snack food sold in health food, organic or natural food stores. Current U.S. edamame consumption totals 10,000 tons per year and is expected to reach 25,000 tons by 2005. A majority of the product is imported from Asia.

Michigan's climate and its producers' knowledge of growing and handling vegetables make the state a good candidate to produce this crop. Edamame can be harvested with traditional green bean harvesting equipment with only minor modifications.

"Michigan growers need to consider this new crop," says Jim LeCureux, MSU Extension value-added specialist. "With Michigan's quality fruit and vegetable processing facilities, our number of experienced dry bean and food-grade bean producers, and the state's proximity to the U.S. population, edamame may be a profitable crop for Michigan's economy."

"Keys to success are finding out what the market wants and producing it at the highest quality and greatest efficiency," adds Mike Staton, MSU Extension agent. "You have to know and understand your market."

"We want to continue providing Michigan producers with research information about growing specialty food-grade soybeans," he adds. "We want growers to feel more comfortable with this information and use the opportunity to expand their profitability."

Project GREEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Environmental and Economic Needs) is a cooperative effort between plant-based commodities and businesses together with the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Department of Agriculture to advance Michigan's economy through its plant-based agriculture. Its mission is to develop research and educational programs, ensure and improve food safety, and protect and preserve the quality of the environment in response to industry needs.



THE LADY Red Hawk soccer team for 2002 consists of members: (front, from left) Emma Witkovsky, Nicole Drinkard, Sarah Hobbs, Cyndi Henn, Liza Volmering, Erica Delamarter (back, from left) Asst. Coach Michelle Hanby, Laura Auten, Sharon Finkbeiner, Leslie Ann Brock, DeAnna Newby, Allyson Bell, Crystal Sattelberg, Talisa Talaski, Coach Chuck Reed. Missing is Heidi Cheng.

Lady Hawk soccer team looking for improvement

The Cass City Red Hawk soccer team is looking to improve on its 3-11-4 record as it starts its third year in competition under the direction of coach Chuck Reed.

There are 8 returning letter winners returning. They include Emma Witkovsky, keeper, who earned all-district first team and all-con-

ference first team honors. Crystal Sattelberg was second team all-conference. The 2 senior girls along with senior Sharon Finkbeiner are tri-captains of this year's team.

There is experience on defense. Returning are Laura Auten, junior, Erica

Delamarter, sophomore, and Talisa Talaski, junior.

In the midfield, the Hawks will be paced by Allyson Bell, sophomore, Nicole Drinkard, senior, and Heidi Cheng, junior.

The team is expected to be helped by newcomers and players with little playing time. Joining the team are

Sarah Hobbs, sophomore, DeAnna Newby, sophomore, and Leslie Ann Brock, junior, who have shown athletic ability and good speed.

Finkbeiner and Cyndi Henn, junior, have not benefited from a lot of playing time.

The team lost 8 players, including 4 key players, Kaylee Bell, Stacy Sullins, Laura Laming and Johanna Hoelzle, from the 2001 squad.

Reed says that his team's experienced defense and excellent keeper are the team's strengths. We are inexperienced at forward, with a short bench with no experience, which are problems to be overcome.

The coach says that Lakers and Valley Lutheran are teams to beat in the conference. If our defense plays well, he adds, we should be in the upper half of the standings.

Cass City plays sloppy in season opening loss

The Cass City Red Hawks opened the soccer season at Caro Thursday and bowed to the Tigers, 1-0.

The 14-member squad is relatively inexperienced. Three new players have no experience at all and several have very little. Coupled with the bad weather that limited practice, the inexperience made for interesting, if not particularly good, soccer, coach Chuck Reed pointed out.

The Hawks took the initiative after the opening kick

and had a breakaway shot by Sarah Hobbs that was wide of the net. After that, Caro kept play in the Hawks' end of the field. The Tigers scored the only goal of the game on a shot that keeper Emma Witkovsky had no chance to stop. The defense played well to that point, Reed said, but the momentary lapse was costly.

Overall play in the second half improved greatly, but the Hawks could not mount a serious threat and Caro also had trouble moving the ball.

Witkovsky had 24 saves and showed that she is ready to duplicate last season's all-district effort.

Crystal Sattelberg played a solid game at midfield and Erica Delamarter and Laura Auten were strong on defense. Three newcomers, Sarah Hobbs, Deanna Newby and Liza Volmering played well in their first game. Volmering showed steady improvement as the game went on. This should be an interesting season as the new players progress and the returning players improve, Reed said.

Cass City Red Hawks Girls Soccer 2002			
Date	Opponent	Site	Time
April 4	Caro	Away	5:00pm
April 8	Sandusky	Home	5:00pm
April 10	Lakeville	Home	5:00pm
April 15	Valley Lutheran	Home	5:00pm
April 17	Marlette	Home	5:00pm
April 22	Cros-Lex	Away	5:00pm
April 24	Bad Axe	Away	5:00pm
April 29	Lakers	Home	5:00pm
May 1	Sandusky	Away	5:00pm
May 4	Lakeville Invite	Away	10:00am
May 6	Imlay City	Home	5:00pm
May 8	Valley Lutheran	Away	5:00pm
May 13	Marlette	Away	5:00pm
May 15	Cros-Lex	Home	5:00pm
May 20	Bad Axe	Home	5:00pm
May 22	Lakers	Away	5:00pm
May 28-June 1	Districts	TBA	5:00pm

Coach: Chuck Reed
Asst. Coach: Michelle Hanby



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Circuit court proceedings

The following people appeared in Tuscola County Circuit Court last week on various criminal charges:

•Maximo Sandoval Jr., 21, Reese, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Aug. 12 in Reese, and to being an habitual offender (one prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued at \$5,000 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Bradford J. Bradley, 31, Caro, pleaded no contest to a charge of third degree child abuse Oct. 14 in Caro.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$4,000. Sentencing is to be set.

•Brian P. Timko, 41, Millington, pleaded no contest to second degree criminal

sexual conduct involving a victim under the age of 13 years between September and December 2000 in Vassar Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$75,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Justin G. Hulbert, 24, Cass City, was convicted by a jury of unlawfully driving away a vehicle Sept. 2 in Novesta Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$10,000. Sentencing is to be set.

•Terry J. Lorenz, 33, Vassar, stood mute to a charge of aggravated domestic violence, second offense, Dec. 19 in Vassar Township.

A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled, bond was continued at \$5,000 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department.



CASS CITY students learned about making healthy choices, including eating plenty of fruits and vegetables, during Monday's "Healthy Kids Day" at the middle school.

Cass City pupils learn about good food choice

Cass City sixth grade students spent some time focusing on eating right and exercising during a special "Healthy Kids Day" workshop Monday.

Students visited several activity stations emphasizing topics such as the value of fruits and vegetables in the diet, healthy snacking, and the importance of kidney function and protection measures.

The event, sponsored by Hills and Dales General Hospital, East Central Diabetes Outreach Network and MSU Extension-Family and Consumer Science, was held in conjunction with Cass City Schools' participation in a state pilot project through the Tuscola Intermediate School District's Health Education Department. The project addresses the levels of obesity among youth.

The percentage of children and adolescents who are overweight has almost doubled since 1980. About 11 percent of youths are now overweight, a condition that puts them at risk for high blood pressure, high cholesterol and high insulin levels. They are also more likely to become overweight adults who are at increased risk for heart disease and diabetes.

Because behaviors are often established in childhood, school officials are striving to promote healthy behaviors by giving kids the knowledge and skills to become healthy, productive adults.

Robert Miner, regional health education coordinator, recently worked with a team of school personnel to help them identify important areas that contribute to healthy students.

The group used the School Health Index tool to rank the following areas according to specific criteria: health education, physical education, health services, nutrition services, counseling, psychological and social services, and family/community involvement.

More information about the project is available by contacting Miner at (989) 673-2144 (ext. 423), or Cass City Middle School Principal Jeanne Lohela at (989) 872-4397.

Alcohol focus of meeting

The Tuscola County Coalition for Alcohol Concerns and Safe Communities is sponsoring a town hall meeting on drinking and driving this week.

The meeting, which will include survey results from the Tuscola County Health Department "Health Assessment and Improvement," is scheduled for Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Tuscola Technology Center, 1401 Cleaver Rd., Caro.

The meeting is free of charge and open to parents, youth, teachers, human service professionals, law enforcement and community members.

To register, call Wanda at the Tuscola Intermediate School District at (989) 673-2144 (ext. 428).

Down Memory Lane

From the files of the Chronicle

5 YEARS AGO

Sunday wasn't April Fools' Day, but Mother Nature had the last laugh just the same over the weekend as a wind storm hit the state, downing trees, cutting power to thousands of residents and closing a least one Thumb area school. Fortunately, Cass City was among the areas least affected by power outages.

Supt. Ken Micklash joins the majority of other school administrators in Michigan in wishing that the Michigan State Police would follow the law and inspect school buses yearly. State Police have announced that in the future they will inspect buses every other year instead of annually because of the cost.

Richard Shemko has tested his skills on more courses than most golfers will ever see, but he'll have a difficult time topping his latest adventure. A 1986 graduate of Owen-Gage High School, Shemko recently returned from a 2-week expedition to Antarctica, where he saw countless species of plants, birds and animals, as well as enormous glaciers, icebergs and mountains. And yes, he even swung a golf club after reaching his destination - Neko Harbor.

10 YEARS AGO

Cass City Village officials last week set public hearings on a proposed Downtown Development Authority and a special assessment district for 1992 street improvements. Action on both items was approved following discussion at a monthly Village Council meeting March 31.

An area resident's plans for an early and lucrative harvest were foiled last week by county authorities. Tuscola

County Sheriff's Deputies raided a residence in southwestern Elmwood Township last Wednesday, seizing a small quantity of marijuana plants being grown under fluorescent lights in a bedroom closet.

With nearly 100 years of living behind her, Mabel Brian has earned the right to nap now and then. But make that suggestion to her and she'll quickly dismiss it. Brian, the oldest living Cass City High School graduate, will celebrate her 100th birthday April 25.

25 YEARS AGO

Owen-Gage dissidents who try to stop the scheduled May 9 sale of school bonds will be sued. That was the message from the school board during its regular meeting Monday night at Owendale. The Cass City School Board made it official Monday when it voted to ask for voter approval of a small addition to Campbell Elementary School at an estimated cost of \$117,000.

The Cass City Board of Education threw a roadblock into ambitious plans by the Cass City Teachers' Association to become a member of a tri-county bargaining association Monday night at the regular meeting at the school. The stumbling block, as the board sees it, is that it removes local control of bargaining situations from local teachers.

Mrs. Mary Vatter of Shabbona and her four children started rebuilding their lives this week following a fire that destroyed their home and its contents Monday, April 4. It hasn't been easy, Vatter says, but the shock is wearing off and the family is starting to function again. She's just glad everyone got

out alive.

35 YEARS AGO

Milton Hofmeister of rural Gagetown, supervisor from Elmwood Township, was named chairman of the Tuscola County Board of Supervisors Monday in the opening day of the April session as Caro. Hofmeister operates a 160-acre crop farm in addition to his duties as supervisor.

The lockout by trucking firms across the nation has not yet significantly hurt production in Cass City area plants, but is expected to start to pinch in periods ranging from three days to two weeks, according to authorities at the various manufacturing concerns. Mafer's Trucking, which is the carrier that handles the bulk of the deliveries in Cass City, is one of the company's that have closed down in retaliation for the wildcat strikes the Teamsters Union has staged while contract talks are in progress.

If you happen to catch Lawrence Welk's nationwide television show when the harpsichord is featured, take special notice of the instrument and an extra special long look at the legs and frame. It will be almost certain that this part of the unusual instrument was built by Norman Crawford, 46, who lives three miles east of Deford, in the basement of his home.

Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas

In observance of Earth Day, Chemical Bank & Trust-Cass City will be giving away Colorado Blue Spruce seedlings on April 18, 2002. Come visit us, get your seedling and meet Mary Lou Earl from the Tuscola County Soil Conservation District.



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Adopt-a-Farm series

Littles gearing up for another planting season

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of agriculture stories the Chronicle is publishing in cooperation with the Michigan Farm Bureau's Adopt-a-Farm program, which pairs members of the media with local farmers. The goal is to give readers a close look at "life on the farm" through stories that track the ups and downs of agriculture through the eyes of a single, local farm family.

In the following story, father and son Keith and Dave Little, who farm 1,300 acres in northern Novesta Township, discuss their preparations for the upcoming planting season.

Probably few things are as unpredictable as Michigan weather. Keith and Dave Little, like all other farmers, are keenly aware of that fact, but the father and son still look forward to each new growing season.

It's been weeks since the Littles ordered their seed and determined what they will plant this year - they typically grow 400 to 450 acres of corn and soybeans along with some dry beans and wheat. Now, it's a matter of checking on their fields for signs that the soil is ready.

Preparations will include breaking up the soil, although the Littles grow some no-till soybeans, which are planted without first tilling the soil.

"Last year I think we started planting the 21st of April," Dave said.

"That was abnormally early," added Keith, who noted planting usually gets underway in late April, depending on soil moisture and temperature.

"Corn goes in first. Last year we put in corn and soybeans at the same time, but usually soybeans are planted in mid-May," Dave said. "It depends on the weather."

"It seems like they've de-

veloped seeds that are more cold resistant than they used to be," Keith said.

The Littles won't plant their dry beans until June. Again, they pointed out, soil moisture is a key factor to ensure good germination.

Another key is planting depth. "With corn, you try to get it down good, a couple of inches," Dave said, adding beans are planted shallower - an inch and a half or so - because they are shallow-rooted plants.

Determining what to plant in which field is based, in part, by the Little's rotation schedule. For example, they plant beans in fields where they grew corn the year before, and they plant winter wheat in the fall in fields where they grew beans the previous year. Also part of their rotation are potatoes grown by another farming operation, and they follow potatoes with corn due to the higher concentration of fertilizer used on potatoes.

"It depends on the field. Some fields just won't grow dry beans," said Dave, who pointed out that soil type - gravel or heavy clay - is another factor that also affects how much seed is planted in each field.

In gravelly soil, he said, the corn seed count is about 22,000 per acre because that soil type dries out quickly. In good, heavy clay, the count is 28,000 to 32,000 seeds per acre, and on irrigated land, the count is around 32,000 seeds per acre.

"We plant all 30-inch rows on corn. There are some guys that plant 22-inch rows," Dave noted.

"We've never done 22-inch rows because it takes a lot of different equipment," Keith added.

The Littles typically plant 180,000 soybean seeds per acre, and those seeds are planted in double rows that are 15 inches apart. "That way you get a little more air movement (between the rows)," Dave explained. "Soybeans can get white

mold. That's the biggest problem."

The Littles utilize herbicides to keep weeds down during the growing season. Herbicides can be applied after seeds have germinated, after planting but before the seeds have come up, and prior to planting. "We've gotten away from that (pre-planting applications), but I think we'll be going back to that this year," Keith said, adding it's easier to control weeds before they have a chance to mature.

Insects aren't a huge problem, according to Dave, who said crop rotation is an important tool, although he occasionally uses an insecticide to combat leathoppers on dry beans, and a fungicide to tackle white mold on soybeans.

Many seed companies incorporate insect and disease resistance into their seeds. The issue of genetically engineered seed has sparked a big debate, Dave said, adding he sees a lot of value in the practice.

With genetically engineered seeds, he explained, "you're getting away from insecticides. I think it's actually safer."

"As farmers, we're concerned about food safety as much as the consumer because we are a consumer," Keith said.

The Littles also use fertilizer on some of their crops. Soybeans are a "scavenger plant" - they can grow just about anywhere - Dave said. However, he added, you have to fertilize dry beans and corn, which is a particularly heavy nitrogen "feeder".

"A lot of guys use anhydrous (ammonia), but we use 28 percent liquid nitrogen," Dave continued.

Keith said liquid nitrogen is safer to handle, quicker to apply and can be incorporated into the farm's irrigation system.

Although the Littles take advantage of many tools to ensure a healthy crop, weather, commodity markets and other factors can make figuring out the cost of production tricky. "We pretty much just kind of figure what the average has been over a period of time," Keith said.

He noted price supports help to stabilize the corn, soybean and wheat markets, but there are no supports for dry beans and livestock (the Littles have 80 head of beef cattle and a farrow-to-finish hog operation that turns out 1,000 to 1,200 hogs annually).

Dave said they also took advantage of an unexpected opportunity last year when they were approached to sell 11,000 acres of high moisture corn, which saved them drying costs and provided another farmer with feed. "It was a win-win situation for both guys," he added.



A GROUNDBREAKING SERVICE was held April 1 for the new addition to the Shabbona United Methodist Church. The present church will also be moved to the new location. Among those participating were: (left to right) Lauren Walther, Jan Smith, Brad Severance, Kay Severance, Sherry Bader, Jerry Root, Caren Burnette, Jeff Johnston, Arthur Severance, Leslie Severance, District Superintendent, Rev. Marvin McCallum and Pastor Ellen Burns.

Fundraising auction set

Shabbona church on the move

You may recognize Shabbona United Methodist Church for apple pies, submarine sandwiches and turkey dinners, but it is much more than that.

Shabbona United Methodist Church has been in existence for over 100 years. It is a small country church that is growing with vision and passion. Church members are committed to children and youth. In the past few years, they have sponsored over 60 children and youth each year by paying their

way to camp.

The people of the church have taken on a new mission. They are planning to move the present church to a donated 10-acre parcel of land 3/4 mile north of the current location this spring. A new basement for Sunday School classrooms and activities, a fellowship hall, kitchen and greeting area will be added. An elevator will make the entire building handicap accessible.

The church will hold a fund-

raising auction Saturday, April 13, at 11 a.m. at the Lamotte Fire Hall on Snover Road, 1/4 mile east of M-53.

Among the items to be auctioned are: L.J. Gascho furniture, handmade quilts and wall hangings, throws, utility trailer, 14' x 65' mobile home, meals, antique table, yard decorations, craft items, plants, dinners, desserts, soups, and many more items. There will also be a Silent Auction and crafts and baked goods.

Lunch will be available throughout the day with proceeds going to the camp fund.

Everyone is welcome to attend the auction and lunch.

For information, contact Pastor Ellen Burns or youth pastor Jeff Bader at 866-748-8831, or visit the website at: www.dasuparish.com/shabbona.

Everyone is invited to attend Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. each week.

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Shabbona United Methodist Church Auction Sale

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Obituary

Kim Hopper

Kim Grant Hopper, 48, of Cass City, died unexpectedly Saturday, April 6, 2002 in Hills and Dales General Hospital. He was born Aug. 19, 1953 in Caro to Theron A. and Onalee M. (Keilitz) Hopper. He married Joanne E. Eskilsen March 19, 1976 in Cass City.

Hopper graduated from Cass City High School in 1971. He then began working at the Caro Regional Center where he stayed for 23 years. During that time he served as Union Steward and President of Local #831. Hopper attended Northwood University and Central Michigan University studying health care management.

Hopper is survived by his wife, Joanne; children: Emily Jo Hopper of Saginaw, Eric Theron Hopper at home, Zachary Andrew Hopper at home; mother, Onalee M. Hopper of Deford; grandmother, Mildred Keilitz of

Las Vegas, NV; brothers: Gene (Marlene) Hopper of Cass City, Kip Hopper of Davison, Kyle (Sue Torres) Hopper of Deford; sister, Kerri (Glenn) Scerbicke of Bartlett, IL; sister-in-law, Karen (Dave) Gaffney of Saginaw; brother-in-law, Steve (Karen) Eskilsen of Saginaw; mother-in-law, Judy Eskilsen of Cass City; father-in-law, Theron (Mabel) Eskilsen of Cass City; 9 nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his father, Theron in 1978 and his grandfather, Otto Keilitz.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 9 at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City with Pastor Darold Ward of Cass City Church of the Nazarene officiating.

Interment was in Novesta Township Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Charity of the Donor's Choice.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.



Puppy patrol

GAGETOWN youths Kelly Suminski, 11, and Brandy Plowman, 11, were on a mission Friday afternoon as they tried to help a friend give away puppies in their neighborhood.

Cass City Honor Roll

Cass City High School has announced the fourth marking period honor roll.

GRADE 12

All A's - Raymond Abasso, Tara Bryant, Jesika Ferris, Noah Gould, Danielle Guilds, Jason Hill, Sara Homakie, Erin Kanouse, Timothy Khoury, Jamie Leitterman, Kari Lowe, Dustin McKrow, Robin Messing, Jessica Metzger, Christopher Mills, Yukiko Ohtsubo, Ashley Ouvry, Elise Pasant, Julie Roche, Rebecca Rockwell, Crystal Sattelberg, Kerry Shagene, Chenelle Smentek, Stephanie Stevens, Jeffrey Storm, Jennifer Tenbusch, Jessica Tenbusch, Brandon Vargo, Erin Venema, Emma Witkovsky, Amanda Wright and Tessia Zawilinski.

B or better - Craig Bellew, Candi Benjamin, Jesse Bouck, Nicholas Chappel, Melissa Doerr, Aaron Dorland, Nicole Drinkard, Sharon Finkbeiner, Jason Ganley, Jason Glaza, Cason Harris, Elias Healy, Autumn Holland, Michael Jaafar, Richard Klaus, Rebecca Kruse, Guthry Laurie, Pao Lor, Crystal Martin, Melissa Martin, Kristopher Patera, Brian Slieff, Lyndi Trischler, Rebecca Turner, Tosha Vatter, Heather Waltz, Kayla Wentworth, Tanya Woidan and Sarah Yax.

GRADE 11

All A's - Jason Barrigar, Amanda Frederick, Ashley Froede, Courtney Green, Dara Iwankovitsch, Jessica Nicol, Alissa Pasant, Annjea Tanton, Andrew Veneziano and Kristen Wiles.

B or better - Laura Auten, Laura Barnes, Heidi Cheng, Samantha Cumming, Aaron Diegel, Paula Fluegge, Jordan Glaza, Cyndi Henn, Kurtis Hessler, Elizabeth Hoyt, Jessica Kamrad, Lind-

say Lowry, Chrystal Nicol, Renee Puterbaugh, Rajen Raythatha, Joshua Smith, Matthew Stoutenburg, Talisa Talaski, Ryan Thornton, Sylvia VerEllen, Melissa Woodward and Melissa Zmierski.

GRADE 10

All A's - Krystee Dorland, Kristi Fluegge, Leslie Hacker, Erik Helwig, Sarah Hobbs, Amy Howard, Nathan Laming, Mallory Powell, Jennifer Sweeney and Megan Zartman.

B or better - Jessica Covarrubias, Justin Darr, Erica Delamarter, Gavin Frederick, Adam Haag, Kayla Karr, Maegan Laurie, Kevin Lowe, Dustin Mallory, Jeffrey McMahan, DeAnna Newby, Shanna Spencer, Brandon Stec, Brice Stine, Nicholas Swanson, Megan

Toner, Zachary Toner, Nicholas Walther, Steven Walther, Teresa Woodward and Kaylene Ziehm.

GRADE 9

All A's - Ashley Barrigar, Tasha Bryant, Chad Francis, Samantha Glaspie, Marcel Helland, Carrie Hillaker, Krista Homakie, Rose Krug, Luann Laming, Bethany Langlois, Timothy Mills, Patrick Reed, Stephanie Richards, Andrew Schinnerer, Leah Sherman, Kristina Spaulding, Angela Stoeckle and Jessie Tuckey.

B or better - Adam Czekai, Caleb Hanby, Michael Havens, Bryan Hill, Jessup Hoyt, Nichole McComas, Sean McFarland, Delores Rabideau, Jesse Rader, Sean Severance, Jason Speirs, Jeffery Tenbusch, Tara Whittaker and Kayla Yax.

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NEARLY 30 "Cass City Connectors" gathered at 3 parties held in February and March in Naples, Fla.

No shortage of demand for drought assistance loans

As supporters expected, there's no shortage of demand for zero-interest agricultural loans designed to help Michigan farmers who sustained severe weather-related crop losses last year. In fact, officials with GreenStone Farm Credit Services, the state's primary agricultural lending institution, say demand "has been overwhelming" across the state.

Jim Schiller, GreenStone chief executive officer, said the company had closed on 36 applications for loans totaling \$2.5 million at the end of March, which marked about a month since state legislation approving the loans was signed into law.

As of April 3, GreenStone had declared approximately 640 farmers statewide eligible for about \$54 million in loans, Schiller said. Of the applications received, the average loan is about \$84,000 per producer.

"The demand is increasing every day," said Schiller, adding that most of the interest continues to come from farmers in the Saginaw

Valley and Thumb regions and the southwest corner of the state where drought and other weather conditions drastically reduced yields and quality of dry beans and grapes.

Loan applications are also being processed by commercial banks participating in the program, said Bob Boehm, manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) Commodity and Marketing Department.

"The Michigan Bankers Association is developing a list of banks participating in the program," Boehm said. "We expect to see even more interest in the program as more conventional lenders come on board."

Added Boehm: "The good news is that the process is under way, and farmers hurt by last year's severe weather conditions at least have access to a loan program that offers some help as they try to regain their financial footing."

The legislation allows for zero-interest agricultural loans totaling \$200 million

for qualifying farmers and \$10 million for qualifying agribusinesses on a first-come, first-served basis through commercial banks and GreenStone offices. The state's cost for the program is reimbursement to lenders for expenses to administer the loans at no interest to producers.

The loans have a maximum term of 5 years. Repayment starts at the beginning of the third year. A farmer who qualifies for financial stress can be loaned up to \$150,000, while a farmer who can prove production loss can be loaned up to \$200,000.

Farmers interested in accessing the program are advised to have their financial records in order before consulting their lender. For instance, Schiller said producers need evidence of their loss, such as average crop yields from years past and their 2001 yields. More information on qualifying criteria is available on the MFB Web site at www.michiganfarmbureau.com.

Once a lender determines that a producer is eligible for the loan program, the lender then must assess the applicant's credit worthiness. Applicants should be prepared to offer earnings history and other information needed, at the lender is assuming all the credit risk just like any other loan offered.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Emergency Loan Program is another program that offers aid for eligible farmers who suffered weather losses.

Last week, the USDA announced that it had streamlined the loan application process, increased the maximum borrowing amount from 80 to 100 percent of production losses, and made the program more accessible to livestock producers.

Processed by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Emergency Loan Program provides low-interest loans to qualifying farmers in federally declared disaster counties who cannot obtain commercial credit and who have suffered physical or production losses due to natural disasters.

Last year, the USDA designated 27 west Michigan counties as disasters in response to cool weather and heavy rains in May, and 82 counties across the state as disasters because of summer drought.

David Konklin, Michigan FSA executive director, said many local FSA offices are "inundated" with emergency loan requests as a result of the poor weather conditions in 2001.

"We are currently shifting resources to best accommodate Michigan's farmers and their loan requests," Konklin said, adding that the enhanced regulations should "provide the badly needed credit to farmers with less paperwork and more efficiency."

Cass City residents "connect"

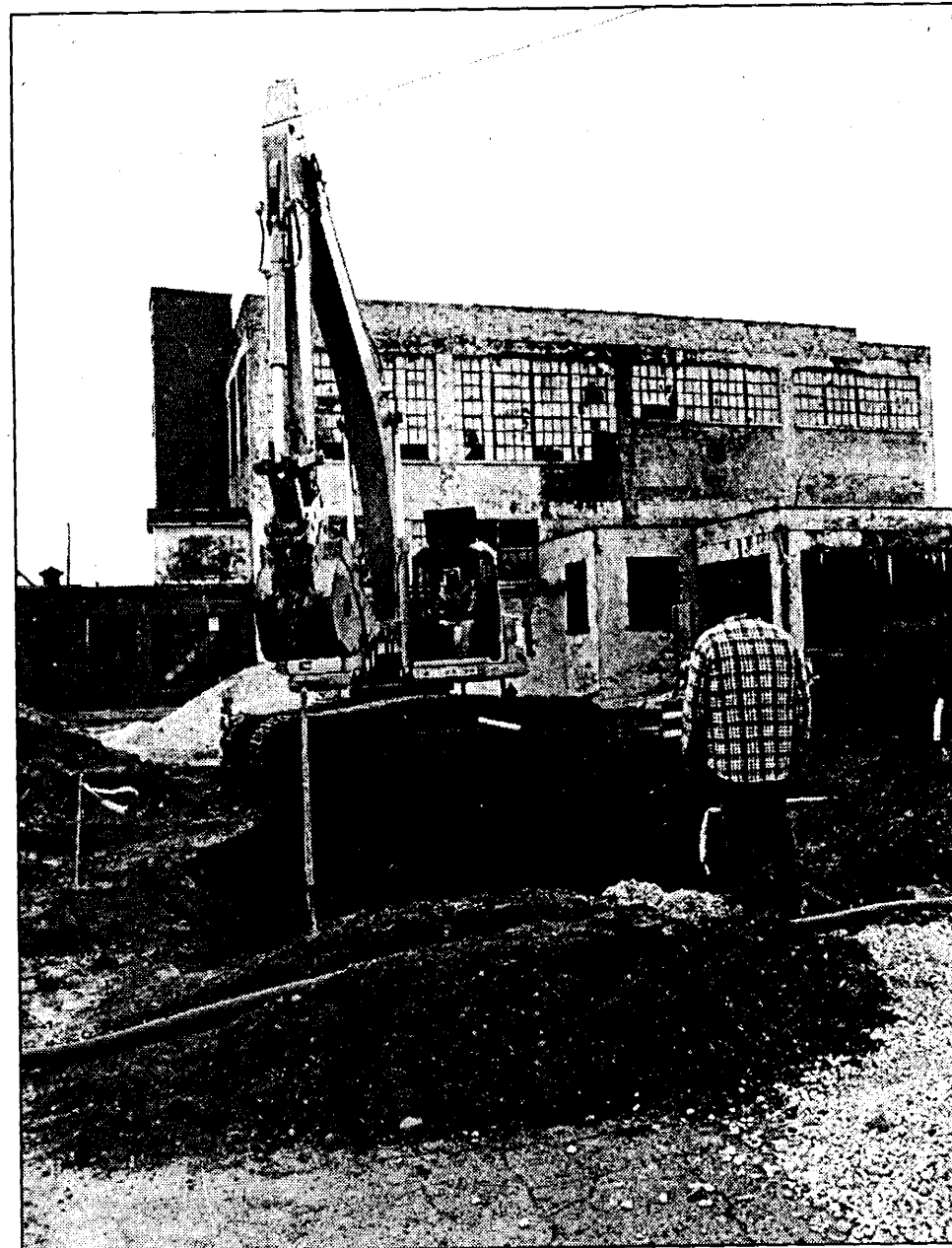
It seems unlikely that a town as small as Cass City could have nearly 30 people visiting or living in one city in Florida. Amazingly enough, however, this was recently the case in the Naples, Fla. area.

During the months of February and March, several ex-Cass City residents hosted 3 parties in Naples. Susan Shaw Richardson and her husband, Bill, hosted the first. Howard and Ruthie Bacon, Bob and Marianne Walpole, and Del and Doris Rawson hosted the second, and Mike and Jeanne Fritz hosted the third.

Some of those attending had not seen one another for more than 40 years.

The "Cass City Connectors" included Del and Doris Rawson, Susan and Bill Richardson, Joan Holmberg Pollock and husband Greg Notman, Mike and Jeanne Fritz, Lynn and Mary Albee, Dick and Linda Albee, Tom and Linda Herron, Howard and Ruthie Bacon and daughter Melody, Jeanne Auten and sister Joann Frye, Dick and Margo Donahue, Paul Holmberg, Rod and Colleen Krueger, Bob and Marianne Walpole, Chuck and Iris Tuckey, Toby and Mike Weaver, Bill and Karen Wallace, Frank and Geri Tordai, and Ken Eisinger and his fiancée, Kathleen Mahar.

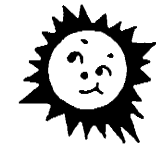
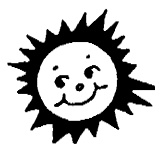
Name tags were in order, which assisted guests in quickly re-establishing connections. After much reminiscing, all expressed enthusiasm for another reunion and agreed that Cass City is a pretty special place.



A CREW FROM Triangle Excavating, Clarkston, is already busy at work on a major storm sewer replacement in Cass City. The \$280,000 project is underway (above) in front of the Nestles Building and involves installation of 860 feet of storm sewer along Church Street east to Brooker Street.

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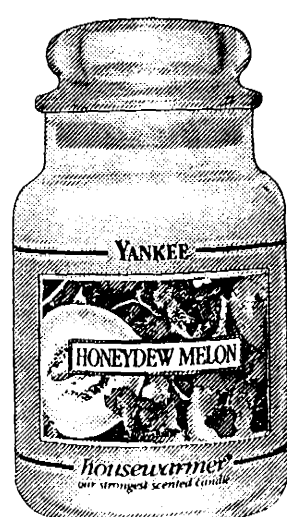
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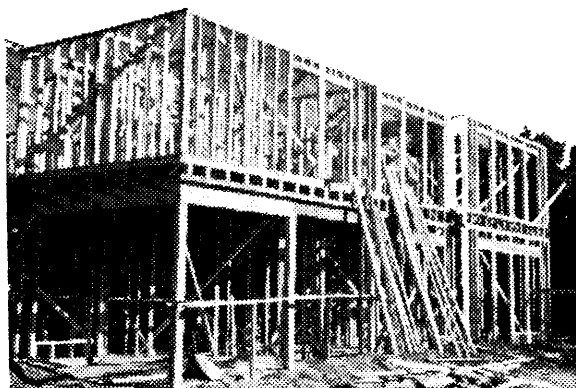
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Calendar of Events

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

Wednesday, April 10

Dorcas Dinner, 12 noon, Cass City United Methodist Church. Serving chicken.

Thursday, April 11

Preschool Story hour, 10:00 a.m., Rawson Memorial Library.

Cass City Garden Club seedling distribution, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Rawson Memorial Library.

Friday, April 12

Alcoholics Anonymous, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 13

Fundraising Auction, Lamotte Township Hall, 11:00 a.m., sponsored by Shabbona United Methodist Church.

Sunday, April 14

Open House for Barbara Hutchinson, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Rawson Memorial Library.

Village of Gagetown "Meet the Council" Open House, 2:00-4:00 p.m., village hall. Refreshments will be served.

Monday, April 15

Cass City Area Historical Society meeting, 7:00 p.m., Rawson Memorial Library.

Tuesday, April 16

Thumb Area Parkinson's Support Group meeting, 1:00 p.m., Hills and Dales Hospital.

AYSO Board meeting, 7:00 p.m., high school library.

Wednesday, April 17

United Sportsmen's Alliance (U.S.A.) meets, 7:00 p.m., Cass City Middle School Cafeteria.

Profit, access top farm issues

For the second straight year, results from a Michigan Young Farmer survey echoed the top challenges voiced by peers from across the nation - increased profitability and access to farmland.

Nearly 50 farmers between the ages 18 and 35 were asked to rank their top concerns as part of a survey for the 2002 Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) and GreenStone Farm Credit Services Young Farmers Leaders' Conference. The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Young Farmer and Rancher survey asked 296 young farmers from across the United States to do the same in February.

Both surveys ranked overall profitability as the top concern, closely followed by availability to land and other resources.

"Farm Bureau's Young Farmers today are facing many new challenges that their fathers and grandfathers did not face, but profitability and access to land continue to be challenges that have been in agriculture for

years," said Matt Smego, manager of MFB's Young Farmer Department. "By working with resources available to producers and seeking out new ideas, hopefully these challenges can be solved."

Value-added continues to be the catch-phrase on survey respondents' minds as a way to increase profitability. A coalition, including MFB, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan State University, Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently conducted a series of state visits to learn about creating a Food and Agricultural Products Innovation Center in Michigan.

The center would provide a resource center for state farmers interested in value-added processing ventures as a means to garner a larger share of the consumer food dollar. Other value-added initiatives, including ethanol and biodiesel plants, continue to provide encouragement toward increased profitability.

One strategy to help solve the land availability challenge for Michigan's Young Farmers is the state's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program, according to Jim Fuerstenau, executive director of the Michigan Farmland and Community Alliance, an MFB affiliate dedicated exclusively to farmland preservation.

"If farmland owners sell or donate their development rights and wish to sell the land for agricultural purposes, young producers can purchase the land for the agricultural value instead of the development value, which may allow the purchaser to buy at a considerably lower price," Fuerstenau said.

"Funding is a limitation of PDR programs, yet farmland owners and Farm Bureau's Young Farmers need to continue to look for this opportunity when it comes to farmland expansion," Fuerstenau said.

Another resource is MFB's FarmLink program. Through this program, retiring farm-

ers are matched with a Young Farmer wanting to enter the industry, providing a way for existing farmers to pass their farms on and keep the land in agriculture.

Despite these challenges, producers remain optimistic about the agriculture industry, the survey found.

More than 90 percent of

Michigan producers surveyed said they were more optimistic about farming than they were 5 years ago. This level of optimism is up nearly 10 percentage points from last year's survey results.

"Our Young Farmers today are committed to agriculture and making it a way of life,"

said Smego, who attributes the increased optimism to the caliber of today's Young Farmers. "It's encouraging to see the determination these producers have, even during economically tough times."

Complete results from the AFBF Young Farmer and Rancher survey can be found online at www.fb.org.

Check Out These Web Sites:

Here are a few Web sites you may want to watch:
Proven Winners' Fall Magic™ floral and plant collection at www.provenwinners.com.
Trinity Springs at www.bottledwaterweb.com.
Quaker's Nutrition for Women instant oatmeal at www.quakeroatmeal.com.
The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) at www.aota.org.
L.L. Bean at www.llbean.com.
Soka Gakkai International at www.sgi-usa.org.
Viagra® at www.viagra.com.
Beam's VacPan® at www.beamvac.com.
The Kursk Foundation at www.kurskfoundation.com.
The College Board at www.collegeboard.com.
The Society for Women's Health Research at www.womens-health.org.
The 3M National Vaginitis Association at www.vaginalinfections.com.

Owen-Gage students named to honor roll

Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools announce the third marking period honor roll.

Grade 6

Lea Aldrich, Bethany Kovach, Nathan Minkler*, April Nowaczyk and Joshua Starks.

Grade 7

Kaylee Anderson, Mindy Errer, Joshua McLaren, Amber Pillsbury, Alec Powell and Rebecca Schmidt.

Grade 8

Michelle Brown

Grade 9

Wendy Errer, Mary Ellen McKee*, Tabatha Perdue, Amanda Pillsbury, Nashia Prich, Nicole Schmidt and Katie Swiastyn*.

Grade 10

Cynthia Anderson, Stephanie Dorsch*, Laura Enderle*, Hope Hunt, Timmy Kain*, Candi Rhodes, Justin Rogers and Heidi Scott.

Grade 11

Julie Howard, Warren Hunt, Ashley Pawlak, Fred Periso, Jennifer Sparks, Bridget Stirrett*, Katie Wensky and James Wise.

Grade 12

Ashley Adams, Sabrina Bradley, Dawn Enderle, Joshua Errer*, Zachary Fritz*, Rebecca Hartman*, Nathan Kain, Earl McKee, Dale Minkler*, Amy Pawelski, Sarah Rievert, Erin Roach, Josh Sprague, Sarah Stirrett*, Corbin Swiastyn* and Rod Wakefield.

*Denotes all A's

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Cass City Chronicle

Legal Notices

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by David McKnight and Lisa McKnight (original mortgagors) to Genisys Financial, a Michigan Corporation, Mortgagee, dated March 16, 2001, and recorded on April 9, 2001 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and was assigned by mesne assignments to Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation, a New Jersey Corporation, Assignee by an assignment dated February 12, 2002, which was recorded on February 28, 2002, in Tuscola County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of SEVENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SIXTY-FOUR AND 3/100 dollars (\$78,064.31), including interest at 7.500% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the front entrance to the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan, at 10:00 AM, on May 16, 2002.

Said premises are situated in TOWNSHIP OF FREMONT, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

That Part of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 Section 9, Township 11 North, Range 9 East, beginning at the Southwest corner of said section, thence North along the West line of said section 660 feet, thence East parallel to the South line of said Section 727 feet; thence South 660 feet to the South line of said Section; thence West along the South line 727 feet to the point of beginning. Except land known as the School House Lot of School District No. 7, also known as an One Acre in the Southwest corner of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 9, Township 11 North, Range 9 East, Township of Fremont

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale.

Dated: April 3, 2002

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
Mustangs-B 248-593-1304
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys and Counselors
30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 200
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
File # 200210912

Stallions 4-3-5

TO: May Ola Wright and Eddie Lee Wright, last grantees in the regular chain of title of such property or of any interest therein as appearing from the records of the Register of Deeds of said County and to John Hrinevich and Mary Alice Hrinevich, the grantee of the latest year's tax deed and to all persons, if any, in actual open possession of the property located at 9891 Lewis Road, Millington, Michigan.

To the Owner or Owners of any and all interests in or Liens upon the property described:

TAKE NOTICE that sale was lawfully made of the following described property for unpaid taxes on that property, and that the undersigned has title to the property under tax deed or deeds issued for the property. You are entitled to recoupment of this property, within six months after return of service of this notice, upon payment to the Treasurer of the County in which the property is located, of all sums paid for the tax sale purchase, together with an additional 50%, and the fees of the Sheriff for the service or costs of publication of this notice. The service or publication costs shall be the same as for personal service of a summons on commencing a civil action, without other additional cost or charge. If payment as described in this notice is not made, the undersigned will institute proceedings for possession of this property situated in the Township of Arbel, County of Tuscola, State of Michigan and further described below as:

TOWN 10 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST, SECTION 29, S 20 RDS OF N 100 RDS OF SW 1/4 AR-29 302B

Tax Identification No.: 003-029-300-000
Commonly known as: 9891: LEWIS ROAD

Amount paid for 1993 Taxes: \$15,786.04

Amount necessary to redeem: \$23,679.06, plus the fees of the sheriff for the service and costs of publication of this notice.

This property is an improved residential parcel.

Tuscola County Tax Sale #109

Our file No. 79-01

DATED: March 27, 2002

Tax Deed Holder,
Great Oaks Real Estate, LLC

By Bruce R. Redman
Attorney for Tax Lien Purchaser
38500 Woodward Ave., Suite 300
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-5051
(248) 540-7500

4-3-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Elwyn J. Bradley and Katherine N. Bradley (original mortgagors) to AMRESCO Residential Mortgage Corporation, a Delaware Corporation, Mortgagee, dated May 14, 1999, and recorded on May 21, 1999 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and was assigned by mesne assignments to Washington Mutual Bank, FA, Assignee by an assignment dated January 8, 2002, which was recorded on February 7, 2002, in Tuscola County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of SEVENTY-TWO THOUSAND

NINE HUNDRED NINETEEN AND 02/100 dollars (\$72,919.02), including interest at 10.375% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the front entrance to the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan, at 10:00 AM, on May 3, 2002.

Said premises are situated in VILLAGE OF CARO, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Lots 24 and 25 of Block 5, Montague and Wilmet's Addition to the Village of Caro, according to the plat recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 49, now being Page 18A of Tuscola County Records.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 20, 2002

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
Mustangs-B 248-593-1306
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys and Counselors
30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 200
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
File # 200132786

Mustangs-B

3-20-5

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Bernard A. Boyne and Vickie Boyne, husband and wife, to Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation, mortgagee, dated August 11, 1999 and recorded August 17, 1999 in Liber 779, Page 1020, Tuscola County Records. Said mortgage is now held by Citibank N.A., as Trustee by assignment dated September 15, 1999 and recorded on November 14, 2000 in Liber 815, Page 896, Tuscola County Records. There is claimed to be due on such mortgage the sum of One Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Seven and 87/100 Dollars (\$164,757.87) including interest at the rate of 10.25% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in the mortgage and the statutes of the State of Michigan, notice is hereby given that the mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the front entrance of the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, MI in Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on May 16, 2002.

The premises are located in the Township of Novesta, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Commencing at the West quarter corner of fractional Section 3, Town 13 North, Range 11 East, thence North 01 degrees 07 minutes 55 seconds East 1417.69 feet along the West line of Section 3 to the point of beginning; running thence North 01 degrees 07 minutes 55 seconds East, 588.87 feet along the West line of Section 3; thence North 60 degrees 05 minutes 15 seconds East 219.02 feet along the apparent centerline of the main channel of the Cass River, thence North 79 degrees 31 minutes 15 seconds East, 260.00 feet along the apparent centerline of the main channel of the Cass River, thence South 31 degrees 57 minutes 40 seconds East, 510.73 feet, thence South 01 degrees 07 minutes 55 seconds West, 330.00 feet, thence North 88 degrees 00 minutes West 330.00 feet, thence North 88 degrees 45 minutes West 387.80 feet to the point of beginning. Being a part of the Northwest fractional quarter, Section 3, Town 13 North, Range 11 East.

The redemption period shall be 42 months from the date of such sale. The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale in the event a 3rd party buys the property and there is a simultaneous resolution with the borrower.

Dated: April 10, 2002

ORLAND ASSOCIATES PC
Attorneys for Citibank N.A., as Trustee.
As Assignee
2501 Rochester Court
Troy, MI 48063
(248) 457-1000

File No. 209 1240

4-10-5

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Michael T. Potrykus and Dora Potrykus, husband and wife, to Option One Mortgage Corporation, a California Corporation, mortgagee, dated September 28, 1998 and recorded October 5, 1998 in Liber 751, Page 1314-1324, Tuscola County Records. Said mortgage is now held by Washington Mutual Bank, its successors and assigns by assignment dated August 3, 2001 and recorded in Tuscola County Records. There is claimed to be due on such mortgage the sum of Seventy-Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Three and 45/100 Dollars (\$73,623.45) including interest at the rate of 11.875% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in the mortgage and the statutes of the State of Michigan, notice is hereby given that the mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the front entrance of the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, MI in Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on May 10, 2002.

The premises are located in the Township of Kingston, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 13, Town 12 North, Range 11 East, described as: Beginning distant S00deg30'E, 422.58 feet along the West Section line and N89deg30'E, 899.75 feet from the Northwest corner of said Section 13, thence, from said place of beginning, continuing N89deg30'E, 154.70 feet, thence S00deg30'E, 481.23 feet to a point on a 1241.50 foot radius curve concave Southwesterly, thence N76deg38'34"W 165.88 feet along a sub chord of said curve and producing an arc length of 166.00

feet, thence S00deg19'28"E, 441.56 feet to the place of beginning. Right of way for Red Oak Drive over the Southerly side thereof.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale in the event a 3rd party buys the property and there is a simultaneous resolution with the borrower.

Dated: April 10, 2002

ORLAND ASSOCIATES PC
Attorneys for Washington Mutual Bank, its successors and assigns.
As Assignee
2501 Rochester Court
Troy, MI 48063
(248) 457-1000

File No. 221 0174

4-10-5

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Antonino Cusenza, a single man, Mortgagee, to Green Tree Financial Servicing Corporation, Mortgagee, dated November 18, 1997, and recorded on November 24, 1997, in Liber 724, Page 1367, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which said mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Four and 19/100 (\$15,794.19) Dollars, including interest at 16.150% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the front entrance of the courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola, Michigan, on May 2, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. Said premises are situated in the County of Tuscola, and State of Michigan and are described as follows: to-wit:

Commencing 4 1/2 chains 96 3/4 links East of where the Goodrich Road crosses Section line between Sections 7 and 18, T11N, Range 8, thence East on Section line 1 chain 96 3/4 links, thence South 5 chains 28 links, thence West 1 chain 96 3/4 links; thence North to the point of beginning, being part of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 18, T11N, R8E, EXCEPT and part of the following described parcel which may fall within the boundaries of land abstracted: Commencing on Goodrich Street 5 chains 26 3/4 links South of North line of Section 18, T11N, R8E, running thence South 4 chains and 76 2/3 links, thence East 7 chains 53 links; thence North 4 chains 76 2/3 links; thence West 7 chains 53 links to the point of beginning. A/k/a 400 Beach St., Vassar, MI 48768. Tax Plate No. 051-018-000-2600-00.

The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: April 10, 2002

WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A.

By: Daniel E. Best (P.58501)
Attorney for Assignee of Mortgagee
Welman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A.
755 W. Big Beaver Rd., Ste. 310
Troy, MI 48064

4-10-5

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by John W. Thomas (original mortgagors) to Option One Mortgage Corporation, a California Corporation, Mortgagee, dated July 10, 1998, and recorded on August 24, 1998 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and was assigned by said mortgage to the Bank One National Association d/b/a The First National Bank Of Chicago as Trustee for Structured Asset Securities Corporation, Series 1999-B02, Assignee by an assignment dated November 28, 2001, which was recorded on February 12, 2002, in Tuscola County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE AND 90/100 dollars (\$44,455.90), including interest at 9.900% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the front entrance to the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 AM, on May 9, 2002.

Said premises are situated in CITY OF SILVERWOOD, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Commencing at the Southeast Corner of Section 25, Town 11 North, Range 10 East, and the point of beginning running thence North 89 degrees 59 minutes 11 seconds West 208.0 feet along the South line of said Section 25, thence North 0 degrees 58 minutes 19 seconds East 208.0 feet, thence South 0 degrees 33 minutes 09 seconds to the point of beginning. Being a part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 25, Town 11 North, Range 10 East.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 27, 2002

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
Gators 248-593-1310
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys and Counselors
30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 200
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
File # 200130932

Gators 3-27-5

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Gary L. Montgomery (original mortgagors) to Ames Funding Corporation d/b/a Ames Home Loan, Mortgagee, dated June 29, 2001, and recorded on July 16, 2001 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and was assigned by said mortgagee to the Bankers Trust Company of California, N.A. in Trust for the Benefit of the Holders of Ames Mortgage Trust 2001-3 Mortgage Pass through Certificates Series 2001-3 C/O Countrywide Home Loan SV-19, Assignee by an assignment dated July 2, 2002, in Tuscola County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of SIXTY-NINE THOUSAND NINE AND 84/100 dollars (\$69,009.84), including interest at 14.000% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the front entrance to the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 AM, on May 9, 2002.

Said premises are situated in TOWNSHIP OF DAYTON, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Commencing at the South 1/4 corner of Section 30, Town 11 North, Range 10 East, running thence East 440 feet to the point of beginning, thence North 990 feet, thence West 220 feet, thence North 990 feet, thence East 440 feet, thence South 1980 feet, thence West 220 feet to the point of beginning, Tuscola County Records.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 20, 2002

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
Mustangs-A 248-593-1306
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys and Counselors
30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 200
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
File # 200027978

Mustangs-A

3-20-5

AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NOTIFY (248) 362-5459 IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Brian K. Powless and Vicki L. Powless, husband and wife of Tuscola County, Michigan, Mortgagee to Flagstar Bank, FSB dated the 24th day of March, A.D. 1999, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Tuscola and State of Michigan, on the 12th day of April, A.D. 1999, in Liber 768 of Tuscola County Records, on page 555, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of \$109,074.76 (one hundred nine thousand seventy four dollars and seventy six cents) including interest thereon at 8.75% (eight point seven five) percent per annum.

And no suit proceedings at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof. Now, therefore, by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, and pursuant to the statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that on Friday, the 10th day of May, A.D., 2002, at 10:00 o'clock said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction, to the highest bidder, at the front entrance of the Courthouse in Village of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan, of the premises described in said mortgage. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Millington, in the County of Tuscola and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit:

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Gary L. Montgomery (original mortgagors) to Ames Funding Corporation d/b/a Ames Home Loan, Mortgagee, dated June 29, 2001, and recorded on July 16, 2001 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and was assigned by said mortgagee to the Bankers Trust Company of California, N.A. in Trust for the Benefit of the Holders of Ames Mortgage Trust 2001-3 Mortgage Pass through Certificates Series 2001-3 C/O Countrywide Home Loan SV-19, Assignee by an assignment dated July 2, 2002, in Tuscola County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of SIXTY-NINE THOUSAND NINE AND 84/100 dollars (\$69,009.84), including interest at 14.000% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the front entrance to the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 AM, on May 9, 2002.

Said premises are situated in TOWNSHIP OF JUANITA, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

The West 200 feet of the South 440 feet of the East 992.36 feet of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 13, Town 12 North, Range 8 East, Juanita Township, Tuscola County, Michigan, Tuscola County Records.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 27, 2002

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
Mustangs-B 248-593-1306
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys and Counselors
30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 200
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
File # 200215118

Mustangs-B 3-27-5

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Cynthia Lou McConkey Jackson (original mortgagors) to Franklin Mortgage Funding, Inc., Mortgagee, dated June 26, 2001, and recorded on July 5, 2001 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and was assigned by said mortgage to the Bankers Trust Company of California, N.A. as Custodian or Trustee by assignment submitted to and recorded by Tuscola County Register of Deeds. There is claimed to be due on such mortgage the sum of Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Eight and 5/100 Dollars (\$18,758.05) including interest at the rate of 8.75% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the front entrance to the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 AM, on May 9, 2002.

Said premises are situated in TOWNSHIP OF JUANITA, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

The West 200 feet of the South 440 feet of the East 992.36 feet of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 13, Town 12 North, Range 8 East, Juanita Township, Tuscola County, Michigan, Tuscola County Records.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 27, 2002

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
Mustangs-B 248-593-1306
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys and Counselors
30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 200
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
File # 200215118

Mustangs-B 3-27-5

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Donnie Huizar, A Single Man, to Equifirst Corporation, mortgagee, dated May 2, 2000 and recorded June 14, 2000 in Liber 803, Page 574, Tuscola County Records. Said mortgage is now held by Provident Consumer Financial Services by assignment dated February 22, 2002 and submitted to and recorded by Tuscola County Records. There is claimed to be due on such mortgage the sum of Eighty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Two and 1/100 Dollars (\$82,432.01) including interest at the rate of 12.75% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in the mortgage and the statutes of the State of Michigan, notice is hereby given that the mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the front entrance of the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, MI in Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on May 3, 2002.

The premises are located in the Township of Vassar, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Part of the Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 8, Town 11 North, Range 8 East, described as beginning at the intersection of the West line of Section 8, Town 11 North, Range 8 East with the South line of West Saginaw Road (M-38); thence Easterly along said South line of West Saginaw Road 242.00 feet; thence Southerly at right angles to West Saginaw Road and along an existing wire fence to the North line of the C & O Railroad right-of-way; thence Westerly along said North Right-of-way line to the West

line of Section 8, Town 11 North, Range 8 East; thence Northerly along the West line of said Section 8, Town 11 North, Range 8 East to the place of beginning.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale in the event a 3rd party buys the property and there is a simultaneous resolution with the borrower.

Dated: March 20, 2002

ORLAND ASSOCIATES PC
Attorneys for Provident Consumer Financial Services
As Assignee
2501 Rochester Court
Troy, MI 48063
(248) 457-1000

File No. 210.0373

3-20-5

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Rodney Diener and Kathleen Diener (original mortgagors) to Option One Mortgage, a California Corporation, Mortgagee, dated April 28, 2000, and recorded on May 30, 2000 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and was assigned by said mortgage to the Washington Mutual Bank, its successor and assigns, Assignee by an assignment dated September 19, 2001, which was recorded on March 12, 2002, in Tuscola County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of FORTY-SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY SEVEN AND 7/100 Dollars (\$46,677.71), including interest at 10.300% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the front entrance to the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 AM, on May 9, 2002.

Said premises are situated in VILLAGE OF AKRON, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Commencing 1763 feet West and 1164 feet North of Southeast corner of Southwest 1/4 of section 34, Town 14 North, Range 8 East, Village of Akron, Tuscola County, Michigan, running thence East 110 feet, South 132 feet, West 100 feet, North 132 feet to place of beginning, being part of lot 16, block 14 of Assessor's Plat of Akron.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 27, 2002

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Automotive

23-FOOT Franklin camper. Good Condition, new upholstery, many accessories included. \$3,300.00 call 872-8700. 1-4-3-3

General Merchandise

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FOR SALE - Custom built storage barns, all sizes, horse barns, dog houses, craft items. Will deliver. Call 872-2608. 3rd house on Hurds Corner Rd., north of M-81. Harold Deering. Call anytime. 2-11-17-tf

LANDSCAPING trees for sale. Blue spruce, maples, Austrian pine, thundercloud plum, and many others. Call for prices or price list mailing. Open Saturdays only. Lubaczewski Tree Farm, Gagetown. 989-868-3227 2-4-10-2

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2-9-13-tf

Real Estate For Sale

Century 21
Country Squire North - 772 N. State St., Caro

YOUR LISTING!

New Listing - Nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in Cass City. Full basement, 2 car garage. Many updates, new furnace. Good location, nice neighborhood.

New Listing - Cute 3 bedroom home in the Cass City area. Hardwood floors in the kitchen, hall and bath. Textured ceilings in the living room. Oak trim. 2 acres including 800 sq. ft. pole barn. All this for \$69,900.

Price Reduced \$82,500 - What an investment this would be! 2 cation. 3 acres just outside of unit home located in Cass City. Cass City, 4,216 sq. ft. including Live in one and pay the mortgage. New carpet gage with the other. Downstairs and several updates. Deck has large open rooms. Older overlooking creek. Must see to home in good condition. Located appreciate. \$179,900. on Main St. in Cass City.

Located between Caro and Cass City "Prime Vacant Land" *Land Contract Terms Available*****

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2-ACRE wooded lot with 1989 14x72-foot mobile home. 2-bedrooms, 2-baths, with many nice features. Includes an 8x10 foot shed. Cass City School District. 989-872-5752 3-3-27-3

HOUSE FOR SALE - 3-bedroom ranch, 2 baths, finished basement with fireplace, 2 1/2 car garage, 1 1/2 acres. Garden w/gazebo-grape arbor. 7884 Deckerville Road, Deford. 1 1/2 miles west of Hwy. 53. \$129,900, call 989-872-4992. 3-4-3-3

Real Estate For Rent

VFW HALL available for rental occasions. Call 872-4933. 4-4-1-tf

FOR RENT - in high traffic location. 50x15-foot building next to Erla's Food Center. 989-872-2191 ask for Agnes. 4-3-13-TF

FOR RENT - Cass City Mini Storage. Call 872-3917. 4-3-13-tf

FOR RENT - K of C Hall, 6106 Beechwood Drive. Parties, dinners, meeting. Call Rick Kerkau, 872-4877. 4-2-3-tf

FOR RENT - Very nice 1-bedroom apartment, great location, close to downtown laundry, storage area. March only special - stay 11 months, get 12th month FREE! Call 872-4654 4-3-20-tf

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY - 1-bedroom apartment. Water, sewage and garbage included. 989-872-4532 4-4-10-TF

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672-2100
Toll Free
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Call Ken Howard 872-5581

Real Estate For Rent

3-BEDROOM house for rent in Cass City. 872-3917. 4-3-27-3

FARMLAND for rent - 2002 growing season. 100 acres, Sanilac County (Shabbona Road and M-53). Call 989-673-6956 after 6 p.m. or leave message. 4-4-3-3

Notices

PONDS, PONDS, PONDS! Early spring specials. 989-674-8659 5-3-27-6

SATCHELL'S Adult Foster Care has an opening. A private bedroom with a 1/2 bath. We have a loving and caring staff to care for your loved one. Caro on M-81. 673-3329. 5-3-20-tf

AFC HOME has one private and one semi-private room available. Will take Alzheimer's patients. Please call The Crow's Nest 872-2223. 5-3-27-3

NO SMOKING BINGO - Every Sunday at new Knights of Columbus Hall, 6106 Beechwood Dr., Cass City. Doors open 5:00 p.m., games start at 5:30. Phone 872-8892. Knights of Columbus Council No. 8892. 5-9-30-tf

ESTATE SALE of Evelyn Spencer, Saturday, April 20 - household items, some farm equipment, antiques. 4 miles south, 1 mile east, 1/2 mile south on Englehart Rd., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 872-4728 5-4-10-1

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UBLY COMMUNITY Schools are now taking applications for the position of athletic director to begin June 1st. Application deadline is May 1st. Experience is not necessary, but must have a strong background in athletics. To apply, call or send your resume to: Fred Ligrow, High School Principal, Ugly Community Schools, 2020 Union Street, Ugly, Mich., 48475. 989-658-8554 11-4-10-2

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Help Wanted

AFC HOME needs workers for nights. Must have good cooking skills and be able to lift the elderly. Call 872-2223. 11-4-3-2

Card of Thanks

SPECIAL THANKS to everyone for the cards, phone calls, visits and for all the prayers during my recent surgery. I truly believe all the prayers have made my recovery go so well. Bob Bader and family 13-4-10-1

THANK YOU to all who sent cards, flowers, food, or in any way remembered me during my recent surgeries. I especially appreciate those who offered prayers that were such a source of strength to me. A special thank you to Dr. Raythatha, my church family, co-workers, family and friends who were always there when I needed them. God bless you all. Judy Brown 13-4-10-1

OUR SINCERE thanks to family and friends who sent cards, flowers and memorials in memory of Jack. We appreciated your hospital visits, phone calls and prayers. A special thank you to the Shabbona and Decker UMW and Lamotte Ladies' Auxiliary for providing the luncheon. We are grateful to Pastor Fred McDowell for his visits and comforting words. Our heartfelt gratitude to everyone for your support and kind thoughts during our time of loss and now during our time of healing. Margaret Milligan and family 13-4-10-1

I WOULD LIKE TO thank my family, friends and all churches for their prayers, cards, flowers, calls, visits, gifts and food. Every kindness is deeply appreciated. Belva Hillaker 13-4-10-1

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Cass City - Northwood Estates Subdivision - 3 B/R, 2 bath. Hardwood floors in L/R & D/R. Kitchen and baths have ceramic floors. B/Rs' carpeting new in 2001. Cathedral ceiling and fireplace in L/R. 2 1/2 car attached garage. Beautifully landscaped yard. \$139,900. TCC1353



Country Living! 3 bedroom, tri-level home on large country lot. Home has lots of room to roam, recreation room, living room, Country kitchen plus lots more including 2 outbuildings. Cy2300



3 Bedroom Home in Cass City - Mostly updated and remodeled. Priced right to sell quickly. TCC1354



4 Bedroom, 2 Bath Restored Country Home is Ready To Move In - Floors and woodwork all restored, bath modernized, pocket doors, plumbing and electrical updated. 30'x40' attached garage. 1/2 could be storage and/or workshop. This home is a pleasure to show. Just reduced to \$124,500. Cy 2302

40+ Acres with Frontage on M-53 and Huron Line Roads - M-53 frontage commercial. \$104,500. A-474

10+ Acres on Cass River and Private Road - Wooded, \$44,900. A-470

2 - 10+ Acre Parcels


40 Acre Parcel - Excellent hunting area, approximately 60% wooded, sandy soil, electric along road, driveway onto property, private and secluded setting. A-473

Only 6 Miles From Caro - 5 acres, approximately 50% wooded. Property has been surveyed and perk test on file. \$36,900. A-481

VACANT LAND


52 Acres - Development and Investment Property between Cass City & Caro. A-476


40 Acres - Road frontage on 2 paved roads, farmland, investment, development. A-477



RMLS

Internet addresses
www.realestate.com www.realtor.com
Email addresses - kellyco@tband.net, kellyco@centurytel.net, KellySeb@avci.net






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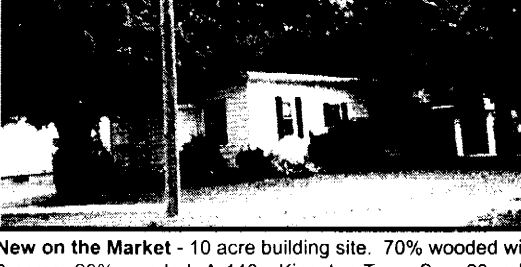
3 BEDROOM HOME SETTING ON 7 LOTS!
Larger 2 car garage with a workshop. Furnace and windows are 5 years old. Priced at \$69,900. K-229



1 story • 1,485 sq. ft. • 2 bedrooms/1 full bath • New septic w/ drain field • New furnace in 2000 • Several outbuildings • Additional acres available • CC-454




1 1/2 story • 1,200 sq. ft. • 3 bedrooms/1 full bath • Gas F/A heating • 1 car garage • 66'x132' lot • CCT-280




New on the Market - 10 acre building site. 70% wooded with creek. 8 miles from Cass City. Tuscola County - Elmhurst Twp., 8 acres, 20% wooded A-140 • Kingston Twp., Sec. 23, rolling land, 10 acres. A-372 • Elkland Twp., Sec. 12/1. Two partials, some woods, 104+/- acres. A-464 • Columbia Twp., Sec. 12, partial wooded, 154 acres. A-462 • Elkland Twp., 78 acres, farm land. A-386 • Juniata Twp., Sec. 13, building site, 10.09 acres. A-379 Sanilac County • Washington Twp., 22 acres, woods, creeks and wildlife. A-360 • Greenleaf Twp., 37 acres, 50% wooded. A-361. • Greenleaf Twp., Sec. 6, next to State land, 20 acres. A-363 • Evergreen Township, Sec. 4, Hunters' Paradise or Builders' Dream, 10 acres. A-376 Huron County • Chandler Twp., 78 acres, prime hunting land with Pinnebog River. A-390. • Colfax Twp., Sec. 3, tiled land of 106 acres. A-462 • Austin Twp., 3/10 acre parcels. A-352

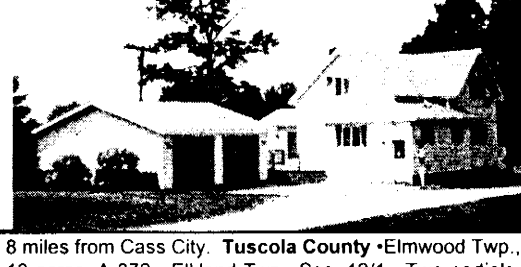
2 Cape Cod • 2,001 sq. ft. • 3 bedrooms/1 full bath • Oak kitchen cabinets • GeoThermal heating • 2 outbuildings • 20 acres • USA-106




2 story • 1,800 sq. ft. • 3 bedrooms/2 full baths • First floor laundry • LP F/A heating • 20'x40' pole barn • Extra land available • CC-436




2 story • 1,600 sq. ft. • 4 bedrooms/1 full bath • First floor laundry • Oil F/A heating • 30'x40' horse barn • 2 ponds • CC-457




NEEDED Any form of land. Needed for Hunting, Farming or Building




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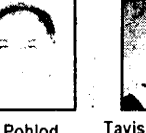
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Now Booking Auctions



JUSTIN McLaren, Bridget Stirrett, Josh Errer and Sarah Stirrett rehearse a scene from "The Moss Trap". The Owen-Gage Drama Club will perform the comedy Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.

"The Moss Trap"

O-G play on tap

The Owen-Gage Drama Club will present the zany comedy "The Moss Trap" Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Gagetown Elementary School gymnasium.

Time has taken its toll on the state inn known as Moss Manor, and Mrs. Minnie Moss and her butler, Rhett, have decided to sell the inn and move on. An unusual

assortment of prospective buyers, some old friends, strange relatives, and an escaped convict seeking revenge, arrive at the inn, creating a quick and crazy pace for Mrs. Moss, who weathers the crisis and puts everything right.

Tickets for the production are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

The play, under the direction of Carol Sattler, features Bridgett Stirrett, Julie Howard, Meagan Mentor, Sarah Stirrett, Tim Kain, Josh Errer, Warren Hunt, Scott Kunding, Tessa Allen, Cody Howard, Justin McLaren, Dawn Enderle, Hope Hunt, Natasha Sprague, Randy Glaza, Laura Enderle, Jessica Neal, Candi Rhodes and Zachary Fritz.

United Methodist Women meet

The United Methodist Women met on April 1, at 6 p.m. for dinner with 17 members present and Tara Czekai as a guest. Group 2 prepared and served the meal. The co-chairpersons were Margaret Czekai and Judy Profit.

Marge Dickinson reported on the mission project for year 2002. Cloth bags for school kits were made by Shirley Wagg, Ruth Hoffman

and Marge Dickinson. The congregation will fill the bags and they will be taken to conference in May. From there they will be distributed

to people of Liberia.

Following the meeting the group toured the Northwood Assisted Living Facility.

Colson completes training

Air Force Airman Shawn M. Colson has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San

Antonio, Texas.

Colson is the son of Cyndi Merriman of Sandusky and the grandson of Betty Anger of Kingston.

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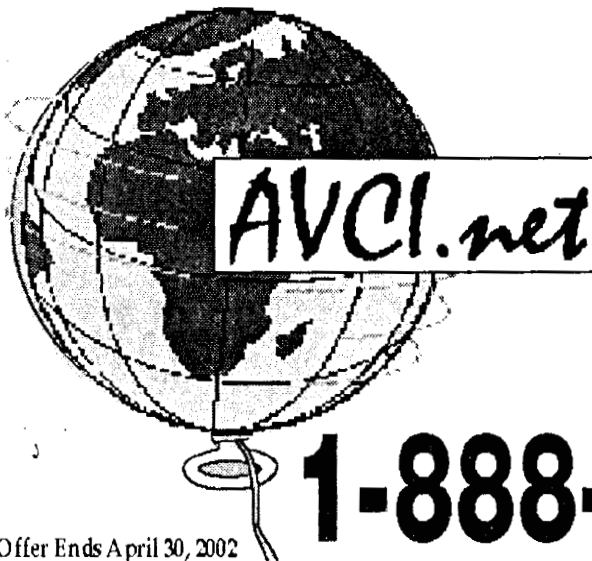
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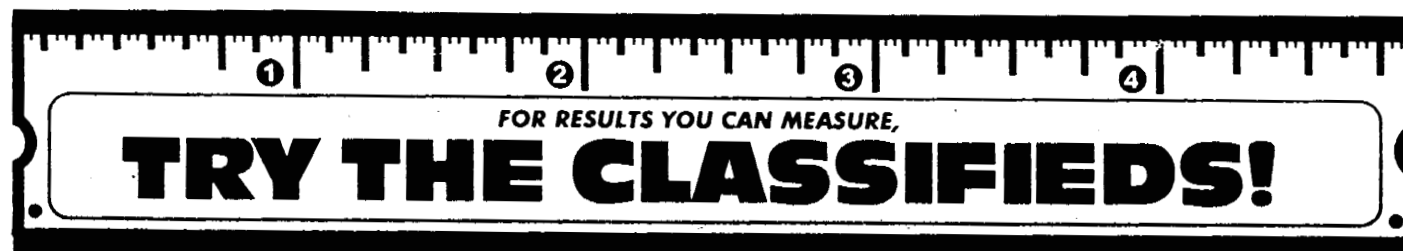


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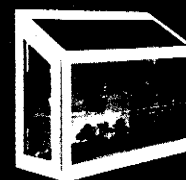
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