

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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FIFTY CENTS

16 PAGES



A 10-YEAR-OLD Cass City youth escaped serious injury when he was struck by a car at the corner of Main and Seeger streets while walking home from school. The boy was treated for bruises at Hills and Dales General Hospital and then released.

(See story, page 3)

When, how much uncertain

County okays third millage try

Tuscola County commissioners have given a grassroots group the green light to begin planning another millage campaign in an effort to offset a deficit of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The county board last week unanimously approved a motion to pursue a special election sometime in 2003. District 2 Commissioner Ed Scollon, Cass City, said few details have been decided at this point. "There's nothing for sure. It was just kind of to assure the people that we would try again in the future," he added. "It's all pretty much in the air. Nothing's really decided yet."

Scollon noted a grassroots group headed by Tuscola County MSU Extension Director James Zook is spearheading the millage campaign. Zook said volunteers are currently conducting a survey of voters in an effort to determine why they have rejected previous millage requests. The questions in-

clude whether there was a strong enough effort to educate residents, how a future request should be worded and on what services commissioners should focus. "We're really trying to find out from those 'no' voters, why did you vote 'no,'" Zook added.

"We have probably gotten back 50 or 60 (responses) already, and I was expecting 30, so the response has already been better than what I expected," he said. According to Scollon, the proposed millage request would be placed before voters at a special election at a

cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000. The referendum will mark the third attempt by commissioners to secure funding to offset a deficit estimated at a half-million dollars. County officials attribute the red ink to several factors, including rising costs and a general downturn in the economy

along with the second lowest allocated millage among Michigan's 83 counties (4.2 mills) and the 75th lowest per capita SEV. Voters last August soundly rejected a pair of requests for general county operations: a proposed restoration of the county's original 4.2-mill allocation, from 3.94 mills, fell by a vote of 4,887 to 2,853, and a proposed additional half-mill was defeated 5,541 to 2,224.

Officials shifted their focus to a more specific funding proposal in the November general election. They asked voters to approve .9 of a mill for non-mandated services, including emergency services, animal control, marine safety patrol, economic/job development, the local airport authority, MSU Extension/4-H programs, soil conservation and county planning programs.

The tax would have raised an estimated \$997,000 in the first year. Once again, however, the proposal failed, although the vote was much closer (about 700 votes).

In response, commissioners last month approved a slate of cuts totaling \$450,000 in non-mandated services. Funding for animal control and a county park was eliminated altogether, and several departments were targeted.

The cuts include \$120,000 from MSU Extension/4-H programs, \$38,000 to the sheriff's department road patrol, \$50,000 through a freeze in elected and non-union wages, a \$50,000 reduction in county equipment/capital improvement expenditures, \$26,500 to the county Planning Commission, and \$9,000 to the county Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

The impact of those cuts hasn't been felt fully yet, but there has been plenty of discussion about them along with theories as to why voters refused to support a specific millage for specific programs.

"I think the main reason is we didn't have enough time to get the message out," Scollon said. "It's a lot of hindsight, certainly, but in my opinion."



THE OWEN-GAGE Schools Fun Fair Saturday featured a host of fun activities. Above, Katie Wensky puts her face painting skills to work on Jeneva Woodhull, 8 (left), while Stephanie Dorsch puts the finishing touches on Lillian Woodhull, 4. Proceeds from the event will go towards elementary school playground equipment and various junior-senior high organizations. (Related photos, page 16)

Deputies probing fatal crash

Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies are continuing their investigation into a fatal traffic accident that claimed the life of a Millington man last week in Akron Township. A passerby discovered the accident on Ringle Road, just west and north of Unionville, and called police shortly after 5 a.m. Friday. Investigators said the victim, Darin Keith Heckroth, 33, apparently was driving north on Ringle Road when he gradually drove off the road and into a large dredge cut. The vehicle overturned, breaking through a layer of ice and submerging the cab in 3 to 4 feet of water. The exact time of the crash has not been determined. Deputies were assisted at the scene by the Akron-Columbia-Wisner Township Ambulance and Fire Department.

But park still off limits

Council lifts ban on snowmobiles in village

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Snowmobile enthusiasts who have lobbied Cass City officials for access to local businesses to purchase fuel and snacks will get their way, but the village is standing firm on a rule prohibiting the machines on public property, including park areas.

The Village Council Monday adopted some revisions to a new snowmobile ordinance that was put on hold last month in the wake of protests from several area residents.

The new ordinance effectively banned the recreational machines within the village limits with the exception of their use in the line of official duties for law enforcement officers, during periods of emergency, and

special events.

The council approved the rules after receiving a number of complaints involving snowmobilers trespassing on residential property, riding at excessive speeds and causing property damage.

Some 30 snowmobilers protested the decision during last month's council meeting, saying they should not be punished for the actions of a few violators. They also pointed out the popularity of the sport and its impact on the local economy.

The council's rules committee later discussed the issue and returned Monday night with a proposal allowing snowmobile access to the village via local street right-of-ways. The exceptions are Main and Seeger streets, although operators will be allowed to cross those streets.

The council agreed to retain portions of an older ordinance that prohibited snowmobiles from being driven in excess of 15 miles per hour. The legal hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, and 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The machines may be operated only on the extreme right side of village streets in the proper lane of traffic, and must travel in single file when in groups.

Village Manager Frank Sheridan noted unclear lan-

guage in the old ordinance led some to believe snowmobiles were allowed in the village park. However, he told the council Monday, that was never the case.

In fact, the ordinance states: "Snowmobiles may be operated in the village parks or in other municipally owned property, and on all of Main and Seeger streets within the village of Cass City, during periods of emergency when so declared by the village chief of police, when travel or conventional automotive equipment is not possible, and for special snowmobile events of limited duration which are conducted according to a prearranged schedule under permit from the village council."

Residents and council members have expressed concern over the potential for an accident if snowmobiles are granted access to recreational areas, especially those used by children for sledding and other activities.

In addition to park property, snowmobiles are prohibited on private property, unless owned by the operator. Sheridan noted school property is considered private property and is also off limits.

The council unanimously adopted the revised ordinance, which will go into effect Jan. 27.

In other business during the rescheduled monthly meeting, the council:

• Learned that the Spicer Group, an engineering firm, recently completed an evaluation of the Northwood Estates pump station.

The sanitary sewage pump station, located at the corner of Beechwood Drive and Hospital Drive, was designed in 1977. Since it went into service, there have been 2 sewer overflow incidents, one in 1996 and the other in 2001. Both occurred in the spring under high runoff conditions (snow melt and/or high intensity rain showers).

The goal of the evaluation was to ensure the equipment in place is adequate for that location, according to Sheridan. "We've taken a look at it (pump station), and it was built correctly. It's not a flaw in the system."

Sheridan said officials will continue to inspect and monitor the system in an effort to prevent excess water from entering the sanitary sewer.

• Approved no change in the meeting schedule for the coming year. The council meets on the last Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the village municipal building.

Editor Tom Montgomery can be reached by calling (989) 872-2010 or by e-mail: tom@cchronicle.net.

Council approves budget

The Cass City Village Council Monday approved a new budget plan that calls for a slight spending increase overall in 2003.

The council approved expenditures of \$3.16 million, an increase of about \$47,000, or 1.5 percent, over estimated actual spending in 2002. Revenues are set at \$3.2 million, about \$184,500 less than in 2002.

General fund spending, meanwhile, is set at \$1.3 million, a planned spending increase of about \$54,000, or 4.3 percent, over estimated actual 2002 expenditures. Revenues are set at \$1.32 million, an increase of about \$42,453 over 2002 income.

Village officials expect to end the new fiscal year with nearly \$13,000 in revenues over expenditures in the general fund, boosting the fund

balance to \$444,107.

Over all, the biggest difference between the 2002 and 2003 budgets, is the elimination of the debt service fund established to pay off debt stemming from construction of the village's wastewater treatment plant, Villager Manager Frank Sheridan noted.

The council approved the final payment - some \$260,000 - 16 years ahead of schedule and at interest savings of a half-million dollars.

Sheridan said estimated property tax revenues are based on an anticipated millage rate of 17.9114 mills, a slight decrease from 17.9246 mills in 2002, again due to the elimination of the debt service fund.

Under the 2003 levy, the owner of a home with a mar-

ket value of \$80,000 will pay about \$724 in taxes, compared to \$746 in 2001.

Sheridan noted that an expected loss of \$11,500 in state revenue sharing funding, following Gov. John Engler's recent executive order, may be split between the 2002 and 2003 fiscal years.

"Neither the amended budget nor the proposed budget shows the change," he added. "Some time in late March the exact taxable value will be known. At that time the council will levy the millage for 2003 and we should review the 2003 budget to amend both revenues and expenditures."

Sheridan said the proposed spending plan includes across-the-board wage increases of 3 percent for full-

Please turn to back page.

VILLAGE OF CASS CITY
2003 WAGE CHART (PER HOUR)¹
FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

ADMINISTRATION:	2002	2003	% Incr.	Comments
Village Manager	29.33	30.21	3.0%	
Village Clerk/Treasurer	19.43	20.68	6.4%	Equity increase
Executive Assistant	15.17	15.63	3.0%	
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & PARKS:				
DPW Superintendent	24.44	25.17	3.0%	
Asst. DWP Superintendent	20.65	21.27	3.0%	+ \$1.00/hr for valid license
DPW Crew	19.63	20.21	3.0%	
Parks & Recreation Supervisor	15.11	15.98	5.8%	Includes step increase
WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT:				
WWTP Superintendent	24.44	25.17	3.0%	
Crew 1	19.63	20.21	3.0%	
Crew 2	18.30	19.73	7.8%	Includes step increase
Crew Out-of-Class Pay	21.62/hr	22.20/hr		\$1.99 out-of-class pay
POLICE:				
Chief of Police	24.44	25.17	3.0%	
Deputy Chief of Police	21.67	22.32	3.0%	
Sergeant	20.11	20.71	3.0%	
Patrol Officer	19.63	20.21	3.0%	

Please turn to back page.

Holbrook Area News

Mrs. Thelma Jackson
Phone 658-2347



Mrs. Hiram Keyser received word of the death of her brother-in-law, Spud Keyser of Frankenmuth at a nursing home. Funeral for 97-year-old Spud Keyser will be from the Quinn Funeral Home at Clio on Saturday.

Lawrence Longuski, Wayne Lenton, Tom Smithers and Allen Farrelly met at the Ubyly Mini Mart for a coffee break on Monday.

Bob and Bev McCrea of Bad Axe were Sunday supper guests of Bryce and Betty Hagen.

Bob Cleland Sr. of Waterford spent a few days with Mrs. Alex Cleland and Carol Laming. Another visitor was Mrs. Ken Osentoski on Monday.

Allen Farrelly visited Don Rackhoff on Sunday and attended the Huron County Health Center Christmas party there.

Susan Krozek, Samantha and Ryan of Kinde; Cynthia Meldrum; Tom and Flora Prill; Greg Wolschlag and friend, Jackie, and daughter, Charles and Nicole; Kennie Meldrum and friend, Amber; and Ray and Rita Depcinski

attended a birthday party for Brooke Depcinski at McDonald's Golden Arches in Bad Axe for Brooke Depcinski's 4th birthday. Carol Osantoski made and decorated the cake. Brooke Depcinski received many nice gifts.

Claud Metcalf, Jim Lewis, Bernard Morley, Jack Kennedy and Allen Farrelly met at McDonald's in Bad Axe Friday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jackson and Thelma Jackson visited Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Hurford in Cass City Tuesday.

Rita and Alice Depcinski and Violet Holdwick and Mrs. Tom O'Henley met Jane Learman of Rochester Hills at Bronners at Frankenmuth and went to Zehnders for dinner on Thursday and later visited Paul O'Henley and Mrs. Pat Holdwick at Birch Run.

Mrs. Martin Sweeney visited Mrs. Tony Cielinski on Thursday.

Wayne Kennedy, Jim Lewis and Allen Farrelly attended the Bad Axe High School spaghetti dinner on Tuesday

evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Maurer of Ruth visited Mrs. Mike Maurer on Friday.

Bryce and Betty Hagen, Myrtle Hagen, Alice and Allen Depcinski and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Tyrrell attended the children's Christmas party at the Ubyly High School on Wednesday.

Al Kincaid of Ubyly visited Allen Farrelly on Wednesday.

Lyle Rockefeller, Claud Mestack, Bernard Morley, Jack Kennedy, Jim Lewis and Allen Farrelly met at McDonald's in Bad Axe Tuesday morning.

Alice Depcinski visited Thelma Jackson on Sunday. Eight members of The Traveling Breakfast Club met at Stefanos in Bad Axe Thursday morning. They will meet at the Franklin Inn in Bad Axe next week.

Wayne Kennedy, Ed Schember, Rick Shuart, Jim Lewis and Allen Farrelly met at Burger King in Bad Axe on Wednesday morning.

Dick Wallace visited Mrs. Alex Cleland and Carol Laming on Thursday.

Senior movies slated

Rawson Memorial Library in Cass City will host Senior Citizen Movies, Friday, Dec. 20 at 1:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served. This Older Adult Program is offered free of charge.

The following movies will be shown:

Cloud, Wild Stallion of the Rockies: From the day of his birth in an isolated corner of the Rocky Mountains, Cloud's distinctive white coloring made him a natural standout. In the days and months that followed his first fragile steps, it became clear that this feisty little colt was a great stallion in the making. Emmy award winning filmmaker Ginger Kathrens gives viewers a privileged glimpse into the private lives of wild horses as she and her camera follow Cloud from day one, through 5 years of harrowing struggles and adventures filled with predators, harsh winters, government roundups and deadly lightning strike.

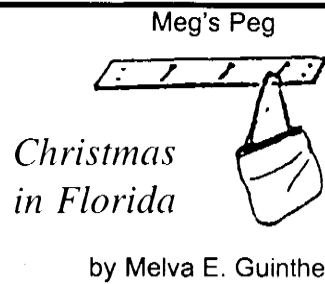
To Have and to Hold - A Call to Preserve the Lights of Michigan: Towers of timber, stone and concrete. Icons that benevolently pierce the night. These are the sentinels that faithfully guard our shores. They are bright beacons that warn of rock and high ground, massive monuments that silently serve the shoreline and guide the maritime wanderer home.

Pregnancy nutrition class set

Are you expecting a baby, trying to conceive or have you just given birth? Eating for two doesn't mean eating double. Come learn several nutritional ways to keep you and your baby the healthiest during this critical time in your life.

Hills and Dales General Hospital will present a "Nutrition Before, During and After Pregnancy; Plus the Baby's First Year" class Jan. 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$5.

Please contact the dietician at (989) 872-2121 (ext. 222) for more information.



Christmas in Florida

by Melva E. Guinther

Jo Sickler, who lives in Leesburg, Fla., wrote to tell us how much mileage an issue of the Chronicle gets down there. Her sister-in-law and husband, Stan and Ellen Beach, get it first. They pass it on to Ellen's sister, Thelma Gaeth, who in turn gives it to Jo. Last one in the chain, as far as we know, is Elaine (Brown) Bell. All are former residents of our area.

Jo also sent this poem by Jim Moore, defending

Christmas in warmer climates for those who feel the celebration can't be authentic without snow, ice, runny noses and frozen feet.

Christmas in Florida

The visitor sadly shook his head
As he baked in the tropical sun.
"Call this Christmas?" to me he said,
"Well, not where I come from!"

"Christmas needs snow and ice and cold,
And the sounds of sleighbells' ring;
And as for me, I can't be sold
On this weather that feels like spring!"

We looked at him and then we smiled
As he scoffed at our "plight",
And we felt pity and were not riled
'Cause he was so far from right.

For no snow fell on Bethlehem
The night the Star first shone.
There was no blizzard nor howling gale
That swept with a shriek and a moan.

Bougainvillea of violet hue
Arched in a graceful bower;
Poinsettias wet with midnight dew
Enhanced that sacred hour.

The heavenly host in the starry sky
Proclaimed the birth of the King;
And rustling palms echoed the cry
As the whole earth seemed to sing.

So we find here, in our sun-drenched land
Untouched by ice and snow,
The spirit of Christmas is near at hand
And we feel God willed it so.



Mr. and Mrs. Harold Field

Fields celebrate 50th anniversary

Harold and Lenore (Peck) Field were married Nov. 8, 1952 in Deford.

A party was given in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary at the White Creek Club with many friends and relatives from Sault St. Marie, St. Ignace, Marshall, Tachonca, Holland, Tennessee and Florida.

Harold is a retired electrician from local 557 Saginaw. He worked construction on many of the commercial buildings in Saginaw, as well as the

nuclear plant in Oswego, New York, and other jobs around the country placed by his union.

The couple have 5 children: Catherine Field of Vero Beach, FL; David (Patricia) Field of Deford; Christine Field of Orlando, FL; Carolyn (Marv) Klein of Cass City; and Darrell (Terri) Field of Deford. They have 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The couple has built 2 homes and has traveled extensively in the U.S.

Airman Peruski graduates

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Adam M. Peruski has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony

marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

Peruski is the son of Allen Peruski of South Ubyly Road, and brother of Skatch Peruski of Morrison Road, both of Ubyly.

Peruski is a 2002 graduate of Ubyly High School.

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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.

DEC. 18-20-23-24

Wednesday - Christmas Dinner, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Northwood Meadows. RSVP no later than 8:30 a.m., Dec. 18. Roast Pork, mashed potatoes w/gravy, stuffing, vegetables, cake.

Friday - Pork chops, mashed potatoes w/gravy, Harvard beets, fruit.

Monday - Hamburger, pasta salad, green beans, bun, brownie.

Tuesday - Closed in observance of Christmas.

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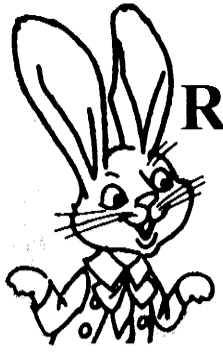
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Rabbit Tracks

by John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Often readers provide tips about restaurants visited that provided an unexpected dining experience. Jim Pulaskey who lives in Bad Axe but has been a long-time insurance agent in Cass City, now at Knight Insurance, told us to mark Apple Ann's on the list.

He can't verify the spelling of the name or its exact location, but it's between Detroit and Port Huron on Gratiot between 11 and 12 mile. He can verify the excellence of the food. We stopped there because we saw the place was packed and hit the mother lode.

We made it a breakfast stop and my 4-egg omelet was outstanding. Also a couple of rolls (apple, naturally) from the bakery were very good.

Another unique feature was the soup bar with 8 different soups available. The prices were reasonable. I didn't ask Jim to give it a rating, but he sounded like it would be at least an 8 on the 1-10 scale. It's on my sure stop list when cruising in the area.

Want to get into the action and be a decision maker in Cass City, help the community progress and take a part in its long-term direction?

Volunteers are needed to fill 4 3-year terms on the Cass City Chamber of Commerce Board.

Nominations should be submitted to the Chamber office, inside the Cass City Municipal Building, by Dec. 31. More information is available by calling 872-4618.

One of the highlights of the year for the Chamber of Commerce is the selection of the Cass City Citizen of the Year. Nominations can be mailed or dropped off at the Chamber office until the deadline in mid-January.

The award will be presented at the annual Chamber dinner April 12 along with a Junior Citizen of the Year selected from among seniors at Cass City High School.

Boy struck by truck escapes serious injury

A 10-year-old Cass City boy is recovering from minor injuries he suffered Thursday when he was struck by a car at the intersection of Main and Seeger streets.

The youth, Jonathan E. Pettitt, Deford, told Deputy Cass City Police Chief Craig Haynes that he was running southbound across Main Street, west of Seeger Street,

when he was struck by a pickup truck.

The driver, Robert A. Fischer, 61, Cass City, stated he was eastbound on Main Street, slowed for the red traffic light as he approached the intersection, then began to accelerate after the light turned green. He said he slammed on his brakes when the boy ran in front of him,

but he was unable to avoid impact.

Witnesses at the scene told police that the youth ran across the street against the traffic light, and that the driver had no chance of stopping in time.

The boy was transported to Hills and Dales General Hospital, where he was treated for bruises and then released.

Plastic new option in Sanilac

It is now more convenient to pay delinquent property taxes, purchase dog licenses and pay district court fines and costs in Sanilac County.

As of December 2, the county treasurer's office and 73A District Court began accepting credit cards as a form of payment.

The 2 departments have an arrangement with Government Payment Service, Inc. (GPS) of Indianapolis, Ind., to accept Discover/Novus, Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners Club International credit cards.

There is no cost to the

county for this service, and the county does not charge or receive a fee for allowing this service. However, a convenience fee is paid to GPS by the consumer. The fee ranges from 5 percent to 8 percent and is added to the total of the transaction.

The customer calls a toll-free number and provides the necessary information needed to process the transaction. Within a few minutes of approval the county office receives a fax confirming that a payment has been made whereupon a receipt will be processed by the county office.

Payments by credit card will be accepted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Payments received after hours will be processed on the following business day.

The county is not responsible for any liability or risk should the transaction be disputed due to nonpayment of the charge bill, unauthorized use of the bank card or for any other reason. Such situations are processed between the consumer, the credit card company and GPS. The county is guaranteed its money once the fax is received.

For further information on credit card payments, contact county Treasurer Kathy Dorman at (810) 648-2127 or district court Administrator Joyce Pagel at (810) 648-3250 (ext. 8322).

Police probe theft

A Bad Axe woman reported the theft of a coat and some cash stolen from Gilligan's, 6444 Main St., Cass City, over the weekend.

Kimberly L. Galloway told Cass City police that her leather jacket came up missing between midnight and 2 a.m. Sunday.

Galloway stated she had \$300 in cash in the coat, which is valued at \$140, along with her cellular phone and driver's license.

Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas

The Haire Net



It's nomination time for Cass City's Citizen of the Year. When I check the list of illustrious persons who have been named since Willis Campbell was the first honoree in 1963, it reminds me that some of the community leaders are conspicuously missing.

Two names jump instantly to the forefront-Fred Pinney and Warren Wood. Both rank up there with any of the other names on the prestigious list.

It's hard for any of us who have been around for a couple of decades to realize that there are scads of folks who never heard about these guys and their community contributions.

It was brought into focus the other day when someone asked who Pinney was, only he pronounced it Pine (like the tree) ey. Wood was the owner of the drug store on the corner of Main and Seeger. Pinney was the owner of the Pinney State Bank, now Chemical Bank Thumb area.

Pinney was also reluctant to appear in the public eye, but he was a strong booster even before he established the Pinney Foundation in 1983. Foundation money has helped everywhere you turn in Cass City- the library, the playscape, the park and the hospital to name a few.

Wood served a long career on the village council, was a room-sized donor to Hills and Dales Hospital (\$5,000 or more) and active in all civic affairs.

These are just 2 that I remember off the top of my head, and I know that there are many others that have never been recognized.

There's no chance now for

them to become citizens of the year, but it is possible to establish a pioneer category for boosters who were overlooked.

It's sure that there are others that residents feel have played major roles in the community that have gone unrecognized.

If nothing else, naming a pioneer each year would acquaint area folks with some of the people who have been instrumental in Cass City's progress.

The kind of people that have made the community what it is.



The back forty

by Roger Pond

© 2000 Roger Pond

Christmas is loaded with memories. Most of us can recall a number of traditions that seem to go with Christmas.

I can't speak for others, but I remember a few things that probably never happened. That's the thing about traditions: They generally aren't as deeply-rooted as we'd like to believe.

Christmas is loaded with emotions, as well as memories, and folks should remember not to point it at themselves or anyone they don't plan to hurt. A recent newspaper article reminds us how stressful the holidays can be if we let our traditions get us down.

The author suggests a different approach to the holidays. He says we should concentrate on relationships and let other things take care of themselves. Rather than planning for the best Christmas ever, we should strive to survive.

Now wait a minute, before anyone yells "Grinch!" or sics Martha Stewart on me, let's take a closer look at what this man is saying. He suggests we remain flexible and remember some things won't happen the way we had planned.

My family is a good example of this. We try to keep things in perspective and respect everyone's traditions to be sure no one feels left out.

My wife's siblings, for example, always opened their presents on Christmas morning, whereas mine opened ours on Christmas Eve. After we were married, Connie and I had to compromise.

Our kids woke up at 4:30 a.m. every Christmas morning for more than 20 years, while I laid in bed and groaned, "It's too early to open presents. Why can't we do this on Christmas Eve?!" (Some compromise, huh?)

Do I resent this deference to family tradition? Of course not.

Why do I keep bringing it up? Never mind about that.

One year I convinced Connie and the kids we should be allowed to open presents on Christmas Eve. They said, "Fine, you can if you want to." That's when I realized it only takes a few years to ruin your kids.

Then, we might consider my family's tradition of sending Christmas cards. I hate to get Christmas cards the first part of December. That's too early.

So I send mine closer to Christmas - before Christmas if possible. Some folks get theirs a little later.

If you didn't get a card from me last year, you'll just have to hold your bitches on. It's probably stuck in the mail.

I feel the same way about Christmas letters. I don't really like them, but I always enjoy reading them.

I don't care whose kid graduated from medical school and who pulls his sailboat behind his Mercedes. They probably didn't catch any more fish than we did.

One year I wrote a Christmas letter of my own, and I hated it. From what I can tell, folks who got them felt the same way.

I've always said a personal note is better than a Christmas letter or a card by itself. Did you get my personal note last Christmas?

Maybe I'd better get to work on my Christmas letter?

The Weather

	High	Low	Precip.
Tuesday	43	17	0
Wednesday	39	17	0
Thursday	43	30	0
Friday	35	31	0
Saturday	36	32	0
Sunday	37	20	.8" sn.
Monday	29	21	tr.

(Recorded at Cass City wastewater treatment plant.)

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Cass City Public Schools PROGRESS IN EDUCATION

from the desk of Ken Micklash, Superintendent

THE COST OF KIDS

Recently, I came across the following article which I feel is very appropriate to share during this holiday season of the year. I hope you enjoy it.

"I have seen repeatedly the breakdown of the cost of raising a child, but this is the first time I have seen the rewards listed this way. It's nice, really nice!

The government recently calculated the cost of raising a child from birth to 18 and came up \$160,140! That doesn't even touch college tuition. For those with kids, that figure leads to wild fantasies about all the money we could have banked if not for (insert your child's name here). For others, that number might confirm the decision to remain childless. But \$160,140 isn't so bad if you break it down. It translates into \$8,896.66 a year, \$741.38 a month, or \$171.08 a week. That's a mere \$24.44 day! Just over a dollar an hour. Still, you might think the best financial advice says don't have children if you want to be "rich." It is just the opposite. What do you get for your \$160,140?

Naming rights. First, middle, and last!

Glimpses of God every day.

Giggles under the covers every night.

More love than your heart can hold.

Butterfly kisses and Velcro hugs.

Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds, and warm cookies.

A hand to hold, usually covered with jam.

A partner for blowing bubbles, flying kites, building sandcastles, and skipping down the sidewalk in the pouring rain.

Someone to laugh yourself silly with no matter what the boss said or how your stocks performed that day.

For \$160,140, you never have to grow up. You get to finger-paint, carve pumpkins, play hide-and-seek, catch lightning bugs, and never stop believing in Santa Claus.

You have an excuse to keep reading the Adventures of Piglet and Pooh, watching Saturday morning cartoons, going to Disney movies, and wishing on stars.

You get to frame rainbows, hearts, and flowers under refrigerator magnets and collect spray painted noodle wreaths for Christmas, hand prints set in clay for Mother's Day, and cards with backward letters for Father's Day.

For \$160,140, there is no greater bang for your buck.

You get to be a hero just for retrieving a Frisbee off the garage roof, taking the training wheels off the bike, removing a splinter, filling the wading pool, coaxing a wad of gum out of bangs, and coaching a baseball team that never wins but always gets treated to ice cream regardless.

You get a front row seat to history to witness the first step, first word, first bra, first date, and first time behind the wheel.

You get to be immortal.

You get another branch added to your family tree, and if you're lucky, a long list of limbs in your obituary called grandchildren.

You get an education in psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communications, and human sexuality that no college can match.

In the eyes of a child, you rank right up there with God.

You have all the power to heal a boo-boo, scare away the monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a slumber party, ground them forever, and love them without limits, so one day they will, like you, love without counting the cost.

ENJOY YOUR KIDS AND GRAND KIDS!!!!!!

MENTAL HEALTH RELATED ISSUES...



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Alissa's Article

by Alissa Pasant



Christmas vacation is right around the corner. Vacation starts Friday, December 20, at 3:13 p.m. for the high school students. Many students and staff members are looking forward to some fun and relaxation over the holiday season.

During last week and the remaining part of this week, the students have been doing many things to get ready for the holidays. Last Thursday, December 12, National Honor Society members, along with Student Council members, went to Northwood Meadows to go Christmas caroling. The same group plans on going to Tendercare some time this week to sing to the residents.

Student Council is trying to wrap things up before Christmas. On Friday, December 7, the sophomore class put on the Christmas dance for the high school. This was a semi-formal dance that started at 9:00 p.m. and ended at 11:45 p.m. At the dance Nathan Laming and Leah Sherman were crowned Snow King and Queen. The dance was held in the gymnasium and was decorated with a snow theme.

Student Council also has been participating in a "Secret Santa." This is a voluntary event that the council planned before Christmas. The students were assigned to another student on Student Council and have been giving them little gifts or notes to put them in the Christmas spirit. The council members would give their gifts to Mr. Daniels, Student Council Adviser, or Krystee Dorland, secretary of attendance, and they would make sure that their "Secret Santa" received it without knowing

whom it came from. This has been going on for two weeks and this week Student Council will have a luncheon and one last gift exchange and the students will find out whom their "Secret Santa" is. This lunchtime exchange will be in place of their December Student Council meeting.

The band students will be putting on a Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. The concert will be held in the gym at the high school.

Many students are looking forward to Christmas and their two weeks off from school. Some students plan on traveling out of Cass City, some have to work, and others just want to sit around and enjoy their vacation. Crystal Moss said, "For my Christmas vacation I'm going up North to Atlanta to hit the trails. It's going to be a blast." Liza Volmering said, "I'll be working over my Christmas break, but it will be nice to sleep in every once in a while." Jake Brinkman said, "For my Christmas vacation, I'm going to have lots of fun. My family is coming over to my house for Christmas and we always have a good time. I will also be busy with my friends and the early basketball practices that we will have." Heidi Hartwick said, "I'm looking forward to the two week break without any homework." Joe Lounsbury said, "The spirit of giving is here, and I plan to enjoy it in all its wealth and virtue."

I hope everyone has a fun Christmas break. School will resume Monday, January 6, at 8:20 a.m. Merry Christmas!



DELPHINE TOMLIN, Deford, pictured above with her granddaughter, Emily Mason, was the first lucky winner in the Christmas in the Village prize give-aways. Tomlin won an American Girl Doll.

Several face charges

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

•Adam J. Proctor, 27, Mayville, was sentenced to 36 months probation and 180 days in the county jail, with worksite privileges, for his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, April 27 in Fremont Township.

Proctor was also ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$1,920.

•Tony W. Welch, 40, Gageton, was sentenced to 30 months to 20 years in prison for his plea of guilty to forgery and uttering and publishing involving a \$40 check drawn on Chemical Bank (Caro United Methodist Church General Fund) Dec. 21; resisting and obstructing a police officer and domestic violence June 25 in Caro; and being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

He was also ordered to pay \$180 in costs and fines plus a \$300 forensics fee.

Welch also pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana, subsequent offense, and assaulting a police officer Nov. 8 in Caro.

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

•Robert M. Tidrick, 34, Re-

ese, pleaded guilty to 2 counts of second degree criminal sexual conduct involving a victim under the age of 13 years between July 2001 and February 2002 in Reese.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department.

•Jessie M. Garcia, 45, Clio, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Nov. 3 in Arbel Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$2,000. Sentencing is to be set.

•Robert C. Raymond, 28, Inlay City, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, May 12

in Cass City, and to being an habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

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

•Michael S. Miller, 28, Ubly, was sentenced to 18 months probation and 90 days in jail, with worksite privileges, for his plea of guilty to larceny in a building March 30 in Cass City.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$480 plus \$350 in restitution.

Miller also pleaded guilty to writing a no account check for \$164.30.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department.

Down Memory Lane

From the files of the Chronicle

5 YEARS AGO

Roger Marshall, new chairman of the board of trustees for Hills and Dales General Hospital, thanked retiring chairman, John C. Burns, for his years of service on the board. The board also welcomed new board member, Cindy Doerr Joseph, at their annual Christmas dinner.

Cass City's novice debate team, Coach Chad Daniels, Becky Oesch, Josh Dillon, Anthony Ingrao, Jesse Hillaker and Jessica Meeker, recently defended its State Class C crown and finished 5th overall among Class A schools at the state novice debate tournament.

Cass City's third and newest water well is expected to go on-line this week after months of work. Village residents won't notice anything different when the well is activated. However, they can be assured of an uninterrupted source of water should anything go wrong with the other 2 wells.

10 YEARS AGO

Cass City's Story Time display went up without a hitch Saturday morning thanks to the efforts of a dozen and a half volunteers. The lighted display of nursery rhyme figures and, of course, Santa and his reindeer annually draws thousands of cars to Cass City Recreation Park.

Cass City police have caught up with some area teens responsible for vandalizing the Cass City Walking Trail gazebo and stealing trunk ornaments from cars. Two Cass City youths have admitted to taking part in vandalizing the walking trail gazebo last month, and police are interviewing 3 others. "We'll probably end up with 5 or 6 kids, all skipping school," Cass City Police Chief Gene Wilson said.

The Cass City Lions Club recently donated \$1,000 to the Cass City Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. The check was presented by Curt Strickland to Cass City Police Officer and D.A.R.E. instructor Craig Haynes. This is the second year Cass City sixth graders have participated in the 17-week program, which teaches youths how to say "no" to drugs.

25 YEARS AGO

As of fall, 1978, teaching

about birth control in public schools in Michigan will be legal. If such information is taught in area schools, it will be up to parents to demand that it be done, say area school superintendents. The superintendents hedge on the question of whether such instruction is needed in the public schools. Professionals more closely involved with the problems of teenage pregnancies feel that at a minimum, such instruction can do no harm and may prevent some unwanted pregnancies.

Girls as young as 14 have been enrolled in the Tuscola Intermediate School District's alternative program for pregnant students. And of those who have been enrolled in the program since it began in the spring of 1975, almost all have chosen to keep their babies, as opposed to putting them up for adoption.

The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners voted Tuesday to seek a freeze on farmland and residential property tax valuations for 1978. The board's resolution seeking the freeze cited the amount of crop losses in the county due to bad weather conditions. The resolution also pointed out that farmland valuations have never been increased by the state, which indicates the county has been assessing at 50 percent of true cash value. Accordingly, it felt the valua-

tion on farmland was as high or higher than in adjoining

35 YEARS AGO

The state laboratory at Lansing is testing the body of a bat that bit Mrs. Mary Skoropada, 70, Gageton, on the right hand. Mrs. Skoropada told State Police she saw the bat and picked it up thinking that it was a sparrow. The bat was killed by her nephew, Mike Kosek, according to State Police who investigated. The bat was sent for examination at the request of Dr. James Ballard of Cass City.

The flu bug that has closed several area schools has been felt at Cass City High School, but Tuesday afternoon there was no danger of the school closing. Supt. Donald Crouse reported this week. Tuesday there were 99 absent from the high school, up from 90 on Monday. Both figures are considerably higher than normal.

Because Joe Frederick was up in the early morning hours Tuesday, two and possibly three young men who smashed up his laundromat and are suspected of rifling two other laundromats in Caro are now in the Tuscola County Jail. Frederick noticed the men and jotted down the license of the car. He reported that two were in the building while a third waited in the car. He estimated the damage at about \$125.

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- National Rifle Association at www.nrahq.org.
- The Activa System from Medtronic at www.newhopeforparkinsons.com.
- The National Honey Board at www.honey.com.
- The National Association of Chain Drug Stores Pharmacy Care Quiz at www.GetRxHealthy.com.
- Wham-O at www.wham-o.com.
- Dr. Judy Kuriansky at www.matureamerica.org/just_for_women.
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Caseville gets park

Caseville will take ownership of Point Park from the state for \$1, under legislation approved today by the Senate and now ready for the governor's signature.

House Bill 6260, sponsored by Rep. Tom Meyer, was approved by the full House on Dec. 4.

"When the land transfer is complete Caseville can proceed with the park improvement projects they have been planning," said Meyer, R-Bad Axe. "By giving up state ownership of the park, the recreation opportunities for local residents and visitors to the area will be greater and of higher quality because of village investment in the facility.

The approximately 2-acre parcel provides public access to the Pigeon River and Lake Huron. The village has leased the property from the Department of Natural Resources since 1991.

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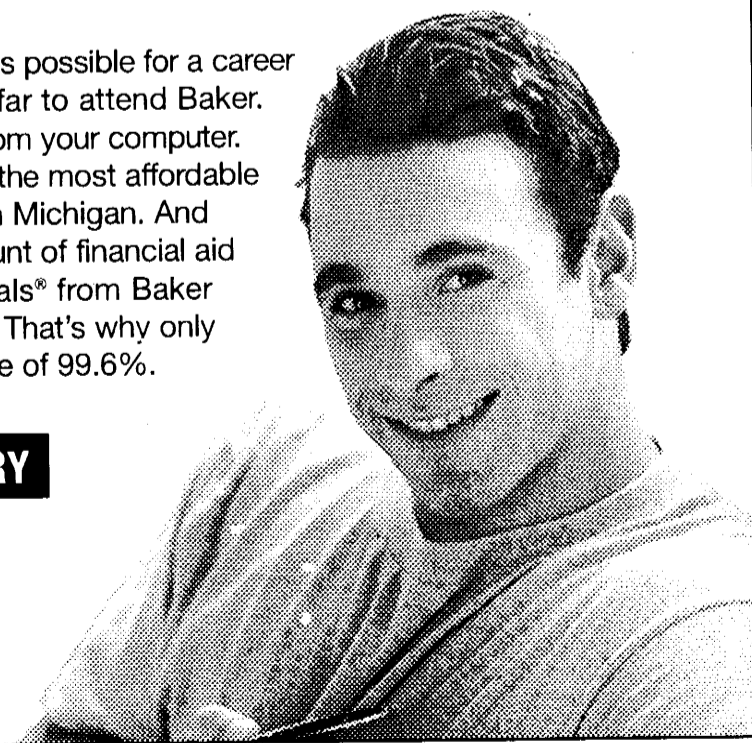
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Federal Home Loan Bank

Clabuesch elected to board

Paul Clabuesch was recently elected to the board of directors of the Federal Home Loan Bank of India-

napolis (FHLBI), a \$44 billion asset government-sponsored enterprise that serves as a wholesale source of low-

cost funds to local lenders throughout Michigan and Indiana. He is currently the chair-

man, president and CEO of the Thumb National Bank and Trust Co., Pigeon.

"The Federal Home Loan Bank was created 70 years ago to help local retail lenders meet the borrowing needs of their customers," explained Clabuesch. "Today the Bank continues to be a reliable source of low-cost funds to Michigan's community banks, which enables them to better serve consumers."

"The FHLBI is a wholesale banking institution that makes advances or loans to help local financial institutions such as commercial banks, savings banks and credit unions meet the credit needs of homebuyers, small businesses and agricultural producers. Advances currently support over 10 percent of the assets of the 431 chartered financial institutions that are stockholder/members of the FHLBI. It is privately funded and receives no Congressional appropriations."

Clabuesch was a high school math, government and economics teacher and a successful football coach at Cass City High School before entering the banking business 29 years ago. By leaving the classroom and coaching for banking, he followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who were long-time bankers in Michigan. Clabuesch be-

came CEO of Thumb National Bank in 1985 at the age of 36.

A 1970 graduate of Michigan State University,



Paul Clabuesch

Clabuesch has seen 3 of his 5 children also graduate from MSU, and expects the last 2 will also obtain degrees from MSU. "All have chosen MSU without a hint of pressure from their father," Clabuesch said.

To prepare himself for bank management, Clabuesch attended the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Michigan and the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin.

He has given to his community by serving on the Scheurer Hospital Board of Trustees for 27 years, and to his profession by being actively involved in the Michigan Bankers Association, serving as chairman of its board of directors in 2000.

"I have enjoyed job satisfaction and career fulfillment that exceeded my wildest expectations. Being elected to the Federal Home Loan Bank board of directors is an extension of that career that will allow me to help the community banks of Michigan promote economic development throughout the state," Clabuesch said.



STATE REP. Tom Meyer presented a 2002 elder-care award to Human Development Commission representatives Bertha Bennett (center) and Julia Deguise. The commission's Foster Grandparent Program was recognized with The Helping Hands Award during a ceremony at the Capitol.

HDC recognized for "grandparent" program

Winners of the sixth annual Innovations in Elder Care - A Michigan Challenge awards were recently honored at the state Capitol by state Reps. Tom Meyer and Judie Scranton, co-chairs of the competition.

The Mature Minglers Senior Center in Bloomfield Hills won The Innovator Award; Wal-Mart Supercenter in Howell took The Pioneer Award; and The Human Development Commission in Caro took home the Helping Hands Award in the House Republican-sponsored recognition program.

"I congratulate each of the winners on their accomplishments for helping Michigan families with elder-care needs," said Meyer, R-Bad Axe. "Recognition through the elder-care awards is well-deserved appreciation for the efforts taken by these community leaders."

The award program acknowledges public, private and nonprofit organizations that offer elder-care benefits and resources for their employees. It also recognizes communities that offer op-

tions for elder care.

The Innovator Award recognizes programs in place for less than 3 years. The Pioneer Award is for programs more than three years old and The Helping Hands Award goes to new programs.

The Mature Minglers Senior Center in Bloomfield Hills was selected for its fitness program called 50+ Strength Training. The facility is specifically designed so the equipment is easy to use in a non-intimidating environment.

Wal-Mart Supercenter has created an inclusive and flexible work environment, leading to diverse range of employees in terms of age and circumstances that allow people to care for elderly family members.

The Human Development Commission was nominated for its Foster Grandparent Program, which matches a caring adult, 60 years of age or older, with a child needing individualized attention. "It is a pleasure to acknowledge this year's elder-care award winners," said

Scranton, R-Brighton. "A growing number of people are caring for elder family members and sometimes non-traditional solutions are required to fit today's lifestyles. These groups are helping meet those needs."

Owen-Gage students honored

The Owen-Gage Board of Education recently honored a student at each grade level, all nominated by the teaching staff for exemplifying the district's December "adult role focus" of being cooperative, collaborative workers.

The students, in grade K-12, are: Tyler Volk, Franklin McKenzie, Andrew Fahrner, Carl Warack, Shonna Elliott, Talashia Apley, Brandalyn Plowman, Bethany Kovach, Grant Champagne, Amy Powell, Amanda Pillsbury, Shawn McClure and Natasha Sprague, and Jeremy Kady.

On duty

Navy Seaman Recruit Amanda M. Harmon, daughter of Virginia Hocter of Cass City, recently reported for duty aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, homeported in Everett, Wash. Harmon is a 2001 graduate of Cass City High School. She joined the Navy in April 2002.

Letters to the editor

Lifestyle a sin. Period

To the attention of Marie Auten:

You say homosexuality is no sin? Please check your Bible. The authentic voice of God Almighty, who created us all.

Lets look at Leviticus 18v22. "Thou shalt not lie with mankind or with womankind. It is an abomination." Abomination = excessive hatred, defilement, pollution.

In the Living Bible it says, "Homosexuality is absolutely forbidden and is an enormous sin." It is also considered an abomination in I King 14:24. "There was homosexuality throughout the land and people of Judah became as depraved as the heathen nation which the Lord DROVE out to make room for His people." There is severe punishment for living the homosexual

lifestyle. Leviticus 20v13. "The penalty for their act is DEATH for both parties. They have brought it upon themselves (aids, etc.)."

In the New Testament it's referred to as unclean and death from rejecting God. See Romans 24-29. "So wherefore God also gave us up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts to dishonor their bodies between themselves and worshiped not the creator but the creation. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affection, for even their women did change their natural use into that which is against nature (Homosexuality is unnatural). So likewise, also the men leaving the natural use of the woman, burning

in their lust toward another, men with men working which is unseemingly and receiving to themselves that reward for their error."

So you see Marie Auten, homosexuality is a sin that God Almighty hates and will punish with eternal death (Hell).

But, God loves the sinner but hates the sin and he gives us a way out, by changing our minds, repent and become normal.

Why would God create man for such an unnatural act, when even any animal never, never does it?

Yes, a homosexual lifestyle is a sin, any way you slice it.

Hilda Koch, Gagetown

Check Out These Web Sites:

Here are a few Web sites you may want to watch: Briggs & Stratton at www.briggsandstratton.com. DiversiTech at www.diversitech.com. Striped Accents, a collection of striped and swirled roses, at www.weeksroses.com. Lawyers.com at www.lawyers.com. Post-it® products at www.3m.com/Post-it.

Letters to the Editor

The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor.

Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. The latter is in case it is necessary to call for verification, but won't be used in the newspaper.

Names will be withheld from publication upon request, for an adequate reason.

The Chronicle reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

We will not publish thank you letters of a specific nature, for instance, from a club thanking merchants who donated prizes for a raffle.

Cass City Area Church Directory

The Gift of God



Christmas is a celebration of God's great gift to humanity: The gift of God Himself, coming to us in human form as a servant under the humblest circumstances. We do well to recall just how lowly were the circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth. Mary was a young woman-probably no more than 15 or 16 years old, engaged to be married when she found herself "with child". Upon discovering this, her fiance Joseph resolved to break off the engagement. But following the counsel of a heavenly messenger, Joseph remained with her. Then, at the time of the child's birth,

the couple had to travel to Bethlehem to comply with the census. With no room at the inn, Mary was forced to give birth in the open fields, and the baby was laid in a manger, which is a feeding trough for livestock. In short, God emptied Himself of His divinity and became a helpless baby who was born being exposed to the elements, utterly dependent upon the care of his destitute mother and father. There is a great lesson to be learned here, but it is one that is too easily forgotten. God did not come to teach us how to be gods, or great kings and queens puffed up with pride and surrounded by luxuries and servants. He came to teach us to be humble servants who would love and help each other, even under the worst circumstances.

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son... K.J.V. Matthew 1:23

Cass City Church of Christ 6743 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726 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's Activities 7:00 p.m. Pastor - Rev. Darold Ward

Cass City Missionary Church 4449 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: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. (Summer 9:30 a.m.) Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m. Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon) Pastor: Rev. George F. Ward

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, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Pastor: Eric Holmgren

First Presbyterian Church Barrier Free 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

Gagetown United Methodist Church Lincoln St., Gagetown, MI 48735 989-678-4225 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Pastor: John Heim

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. Youth Group & Sunday Evening Services 6:00 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 4455 North Decker Rd., Decker, MI 48426 810-672-9929 (parsonage) 989-872-8094 (church) Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. UMW Monthly 1st Wed., 7:30 p.m. Youth Group Sunday Evenings 5:00 p.m. Pastor: Ellen Burns Visit our website at: www.dasuparish.com

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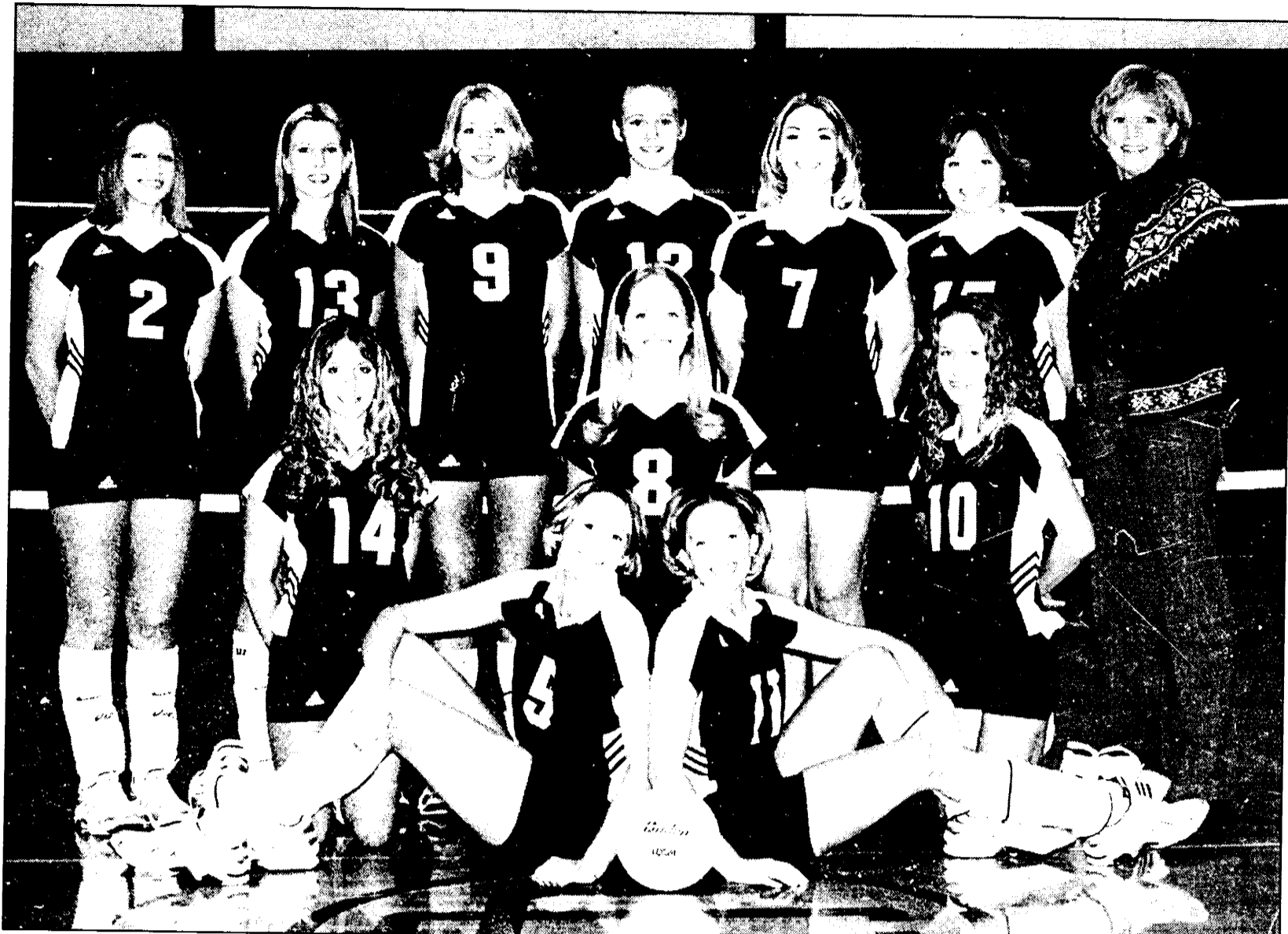
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THE CASS CITY VARSITY VOLLEYBALL members include: (front, l-r) Lindsey Hendrick, Becky Hartel; (middle, l-r) Elizabeth Sobczak, Courtney Green, Kristi Fluegge; (back, l-r) Krystee Dorland, Mandy Sparks, Amy Howard, Ashley Hendrick, Kayla Karr, Mallory Powell and Coach Beth Howard. Missing: LeAnn Missovich and Deidra Deering.

Depth and experience have Cass City volleyball squad eyeing conference crown

When Coach Beth Howard's Cass City volleyball squad opens its 2002-2003 campaign tonight in Vassar, she hopes to witness at work what she believes is her most talented - and promising - team during her 6 years as leader of the Hawk program. And why shouldn't she? Cass City returns 6 letter winners from last year's unit that finished with a 26-13-6 overall record, which included a league mark of 11-2-1.

"We only lost one key player and we have 6 strong players returning. We'll have more depth this year, these girls have played together and know each other's strengths," stressed Coach Howard.

Howard also anticipates big contributions from junior Krystee Dorland. Calling her "the best back row player I've ever coached," Dorland, too, received all conference distinction in 2002 as an honorable mention choice. She helped lead the defense with 420 digs. Also a strong outside hitter, Dorland landed 75 kills and 338 receptions as a sophomore.

Helping with the net chores this season for the Hawks will be returning starters Lindsey Hendrick and Courtney Green. Last year, the pair combined for 70 blocks, while Hendrick posted 101 kills.

Junior Mallory Powell returns for the Hawks with a

year of added experience under her belt. Howard's team should also benefit from several newcomers to the varsity level. Ashley Hendrick, a gifted 6' freshman, should be a key front row player, according to Howard, while Kristi Fluegge and Elizabeth Sobczak are both strong back row players.

Still, the Hawk roster will include the return of senior Deidra Deering, who sat out last season due to injury. She will supply Cass City another capable outside hitter.

With both talent and experience, the Hawks are capable of recording a banner season. "Our goal is to win the league this year," said Howard.

Despite losing Sara Homakie, a first team all conference selection that provided a good share of Cass City's offense around the net, the Hawks should be powerful near center court.

"We have 4 girls just under 6' which should be to our advantage at the net," said Howard.

Among the returnees, junior Amy Howard should be a top point winner. Howard earned 2nd team all conference honors as a sophomore recording team high in blocks (243) and sets (1,378). Howard also tallied 65 aces, tops from last season's players.

The Hawks will have the luxury of another experienced setter in senior Becky Hartel. A 4-year starter, Hartel joined Howard on the GTW's all conference 2nd team.

Coach Howard calls Hartel one of her more consistent servers. She recorded 62 aces, in addition to 1,339 sets and 154 kills. Hartel's 391 assists were a team high a year ago.

Hawks perform well Saturday on mats at Red Raider Invite

Even in a year when the Cass City Red Hawks had powerful teams with competitors in every class playing, the teams that the Hawks faced last week would have been a very daunting task.

And the dual meet on deck this Thursday promises to be equally challenging. The Hawks will face Gaylord and always tough Pinconning.

Gaylord is the sixth ranked team in division 2 in the state and showed it in the meet at Caro last week Thursday defeating the Hawks 69-12. Cass City also lost to high-flying Caro, 78-6, the state's top ranked team in division 3.

The Hawks placed 7th in the 10-team competition won by Imlay City with 175.5 points. Marlette finished second with 109 points. Other team results were North Branch, 105; Burton-Bentley, 81; Brown City, 76; Almont, 75; Cass City, 72; Memphis, 68; Flint Beecher, 41; Sandusky, 19.

Hawks winning medals were: 112 pounds-Marcel Helland, 4th; 152 pounds-Josh Smith, 3rd; 171 pounds-Eric Hollis, 2nd; 215 pounds-Travis Jensen, 1st; 275 pounds, Lee Hutchinson, 3rd.

In the junior varsity competition medal winners were: David Erla, 2nd; Floyd Moorish, 3rd; Jerry Crandall, 2nd; Trevor Copeland, 2nd; Wes Becker, 3rd; Shelby Russell, 3rd; Steve Mecker, 1st.

We wrestled very well at the Marlette Invitational Saturday, coach Don Markel said, 5 of the 6 wrestlers that competed in the varsity competition placed and earned medals.

Cass City Red Hawks 2002-2003 Girls' Volleyball

Dec. 14	North Branch (F)	9:00 a.m.	A
Dec. 18	Vassar (V Quad)	6:00 p.m.	A
Dec. 18	Vassar (JV Quad)	5:30 p.m.	H
Dec. 20	Caro Invite (JV)	4:15 p.m.	A
Dec. 21	Caro Invite (V)	8:30 a.m.	A
Dec. 27	Alma Invite (V)	8:30 a.m.	A
Jan. 3	Bad Axe Invite (F/JV)	3:30 p.m.	A
Jan. 4	Bad Axe Invite (V)	8:30 a.m.	A
Jan. 6	Caro	6:30 p.m.	H
Jan. 9	BCAS	6:30 p.m.	H
Jan. 11	Laker Invite (F)	9:00 a.m.	A
Jan. 13	Sandusky	6:30 p.m.	A
Jan. 16	Valley Lutheran	6:30 p.m.	A
Jan. 18	Laker Invite (JV)	9:00 a.m.	A
Jan. 18	Cass City Invite (V)	10:00 a.m.	H
Jan. 23	Lakers	6:30 p.m.	H
Jan. 30	USA	6:30 p.m.	A
Feb. 1	Northwood Invite (V)	TBA	
Feb. 1	USA Invite (F)	9:00 a.m.	A
Feb. 6	Reese	6:30 p.m.	A
Feb. 8	USA Invite (V)	8:30 a.m.	A
Feb. 8	Fenton Invite (JV)	9:00 a.m.	A
Feb. 13	Bad Axe	6:30 p.m.	H
Feb. 15	Laker Invite (V)	9:00 a.m.	A
Feb. 15	League Invite (JV) Bad Axe	8:30 a.m.	A
Feb. 15	League Invite (F) USA	8:30 a.m.	A
Feb. 20	Ublly	7:00 p.m.	A
Feb. 22	League Invite (V) Bad Axe	8:30 a.m.	A
Feb. 22	Northwood Invite (JV)	TBA	
Mar. 1	Districts		

Cass City Bowling Leagues

Merchants As of Dec. 11	Merchanette League As of Dec. 12	Team High Game: The Chiropractors, 738.
R&H Body Shop 18	Langenburg Plumb/Heat 19	Team High Series: The Chiropractors, 1996.
Charmont 15	The Chiropractors 14	Split Conversions: P. Bauer 4-7-10 (twice); S. Buschlen 4-5-7; P. Hellwig 3-10.
Muffler Man 13	Cablettes 14	Special Awards: J. Krol 125 pins over series; J. Krol 200 avg. less than 150; B. Doran 200 avg. less than 150.
Trisch Septic 13	FBI Gals 13	
Charmont Motel 11	Thumb Octagon Barn 13	
Locust Hill Farms 9	Charlie's Angels 12	
Lee Morgan Painting 8.5	JB's Crew 11	
Stafono's 7	Gagetown Cutting Corners 7	
Patrick's Flooring 3.5	All Season Video 7	
	Osentoski Realty/Auct. 7	
	Moffitt's Corner Store 7	

Individual High Games & Series: M. Jackson 234-249 (685); T. Kuck 225-235 (664); M. Lutz 255 (635); R. Wright 230 (612); J. Smithson 213 (612); D. White 211-225 (611); B. Kupiec 214-223 (605); S. Summers 226 (602); S. Nauka 217 (599); T. Davis 212-236 (592); T. Lis 213 (587); J. Krol 225 (586); J. Klaska (585); D. Schulz 214 (579); M. Gettel 217 (577); B. Long 225 (575); L. Morgan 225; J. Finkbeiner 220; R. Byrnes 214; T. Pattengill 212; L. Prime 212; R. Hull 211; K. Zawilinski 211; R. Salcido 210.	Team High Game: Lee Morgan Painting, 1045 actual.	Thursday Nite Trio As of Dec. 12
Team High Series: Charmont, 2935 actual.		Dairy Queen Brazier-Caro 32
		Cass Tavern 31
		Marlette Oil & Gas 30
		Marlette RV 29
		Riversbend 28
		JEBCo 26
		Kelly & Co. 26
		Wickes Lumber 26
		Osentoski Farm Equip. 25
		Schmaltz Construction 25
		Martin Electric 22
		Mycogen Seeds 11
		Individual High Games & Series: O. Beecher 244-223-210 (677); G. Smith 247-215-213 (675); G. Robinson 214 (606); D. Hyatt 211 (603); R. Doerr 234 (601); J. Krol 213 (601); D. O'Dell 212 (596); D. Doerr 232 (591); R. Pringle 214 (587); J. Enos 226 (586); T. Summers 225 (579); D. Burkel 218 (577); D. Beecher 212; J. Brinkman 210.
		Team High Game & Series: Dairy Queen Brazier-Caro, 694 (1998).

Sunday No Rollers As of Dec. 1	Individual High Games & Series: D. Potrykus 221 (524); K. Champagne (506); O. Beecher 267 (599); R. Kessler 231 (601).	Team High Game: Chemical Bank Pinheads, 704.
Out of the Kitchen 20	Team High Series: Been There Done That, 2042.	
Chemical Bank Pinheads 19		
One-Nighters 17		
Been There Done That 16		
Fearsome Foursome 16		
We'll Get Back to You 14		
Deford Drifters 14		
Rolling Thunder 13		
Par-T-Ranch 12		
Damn Near Last 10		
CB's 9		
Old Geezers +2 1		

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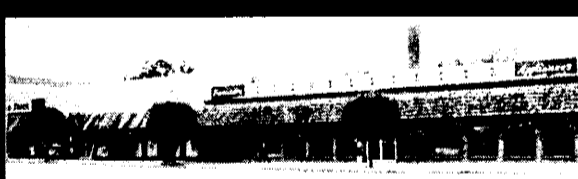
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Energy saving tips

Preparing your home for winter and using energy wisely can keep you safe and warm this winter, as well as save you money on your energy bills.

Detroit Edison and MichCon offer the following tips on staying warm this winter and managing winter energy costs:

- Schedule a heating system check-up. A qualified heating contractor will make sure the heating system is operating efficiently and delivering the maximum energy savings.
 - Clean and vacuum ducts, vents and heat registers. Make sure there are no leaks in your ductwork and insulate all ducts located in unheated crawl spaces.
 - Install attic and basement insulation to keep out drafts and make your home more energy efficient and warm. Blown cellulose insulation is 40 percent more effective than fiberglass insulation, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.
 - Homes with proper humidity levels will provide greater comfort at lower temperatures. When humidity is kept at a proper level - about 35 percent at 70 degrees - windows will not sweat and the air won't feel dry. Replace the humidifier pad or clean it of calcium deposits for best results.
 - Check heat registers to ensure the drapes or furniture do not block airflow.
- For more energy savings tips, go to www.utilities.dteenergy.com.

Bulldog cagers fade in final half to hosts North Huron Friday

Being blown out in your opener, followed by a loss that escaped in the final half, is no way to open the season.

But that's exactly what Coach Troy Perry and his Owen-Gage Bulldogs face after the season's opening week of cage play.

After opening the week with a 73-37 whipping by visiting Au Gres. The Bulldogs let a 29-21 halftime lead slip into a 53-46 defeat Friday to open North Central Thumb League action in North Huron.

Despite the Bulldog's disappointing 0-2 start, Owen-Gage has an easy road to the holidays and should be able to enter the Christmas break at 2-1 in conference action.

Memphis was to visit Owendale on Tuesday, while Akron-Fairgrove will be the Bulldog's guests this Friday. All 3 schools were winless in the opening week of action.

Unlike their opening night loss, where the Bulldog's trailed 18-1 after one period, Coach Perry's squad leaped out to a quick lead and stretched its advantage to 8 points by the intermission against the Warriors.

Seniors Adam Kain and Fred Periso teamed up to give the visitors a 13-10 lead entering the 2nd quarter as they handled the scoring load in the period.

Periso collected a pair of field goals from the low post area, while Kain buried 3 jumpers from behind the 3-point arc.

Bulldogs Scott Kundering and Justin McLaren helped hold off a Warrior charge before the intermission, each

adding a pair of foul shots, while combing for 10 tallies in the frame.

However, the final half saw a balanced Warrior attack outscore the Bulldogs 32-17 en route to the easy win.

The Warrior defense limited Owen-Gage to just 9 points, including a Jeremy Kady 3-pointer, the last on the evening for the Bulldogs.

Meanwhile, the Warriors took a 38-36 advantage into the final 8 minutes as 6 players contributed points during a 15-9 spurt.

North Huron's Dave Lage prevented the Bulldogs from rallying in the final period where he registered 7 of his game high 14 points.

Kain finished with a Bulldog high of 13 points, but was held to a field goal after the break.

Dave Fisher collected 11 points for North Huron as the game's only other double-digit scorer.

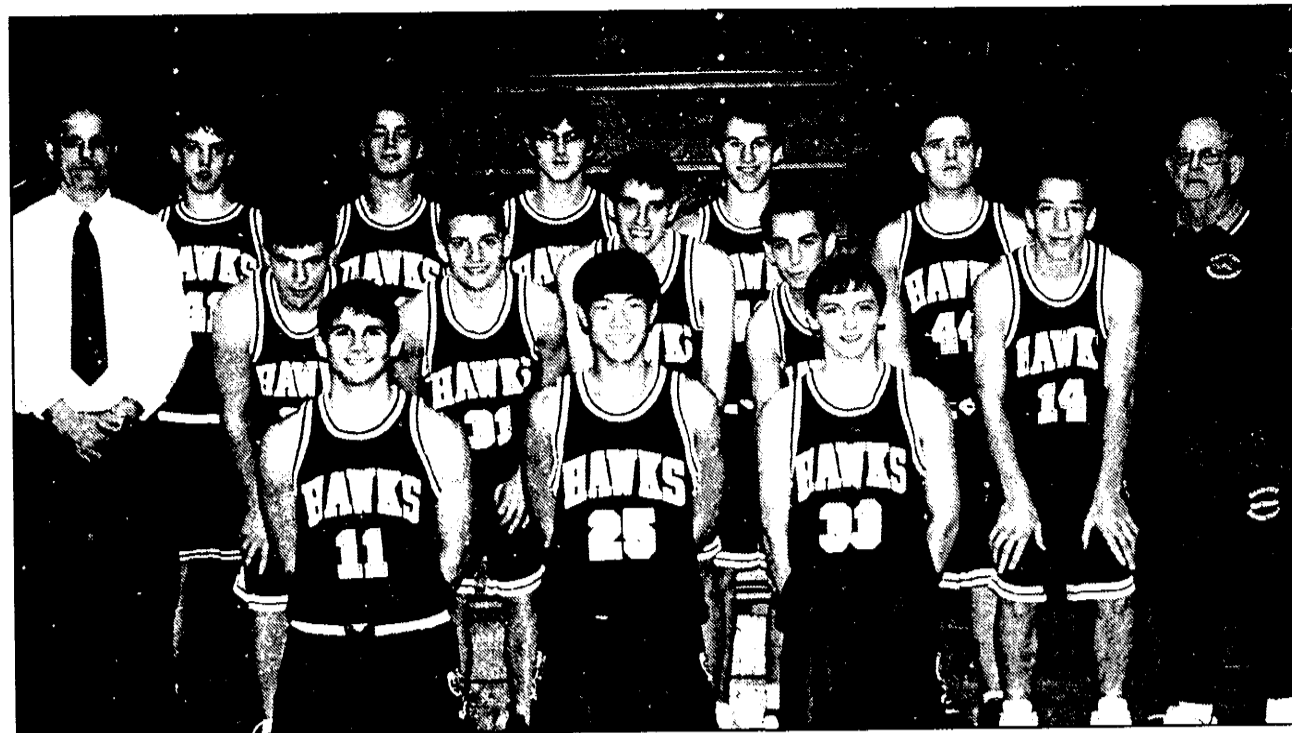
AUGRES

Justin McLaren's free throw toss was the lone point recorded for visiting Owen-Gage in the opening 8 minutes of the season, last Tuesday, as AuGres whipped their non-conference guests in the opening tilt for both schools.

Kyle Gies and George Estrabrook combined for 20 first half tallies and paced AuGres to a 40-11 margin by the end of the initial half where the game's outcome was already decided.

Estrabrook recorded 19 points in 3 quarters of action, while Gies added 14. Kevin Whyte chipped in 11 markers, which included the winners' only 3-pointer.

Adam Kain found some room to operate in the final half and collected 11 points. He finished as the lone Bulldog to reach double figures.



THE CASS CITY JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL members include: (front, l-r) Keith Truemmer, Andrew Schinnerer, Mike Havens; (middle, l-r) Coach Jeff Hartel, Brad Langenburg, Jeff Stoutenburg, Jason Weippert, James McKnight, Justin Glaza, Jack Hool; (back, l-r) Justin Sorenson, Caleb Hanby, Jessup Hoyt, Paul Hoelzle and Andrew Whittaker.

Farm Bureau members donate food

County Farm Bureau members from across the state are celebrating a different kind of bountiful harvest - the collection and donation of 12,892 pounds of non-perishable food to stock the pantries of Michigan's Ronald McDonald Houses in Detroit, Lansing, Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids.

The giving was the result of the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) Promotion and Education Committee's first-ever Harvest Gathering food drive to support Michigan Ronald McDonald Houses. A presentation formally concluding the project was part of activities at last week's MFB 83rd Annual Meeting in Acme near Traverse City.

"The state Promotion and Education Committee initiated the Harvest Gathering food drive because we felt it would be a wonderful community service project that would also promote food - the very thing we produce," said committee chairman Mike Boensch, who co-owns a beef cattle feeding operation in Isoco County.

"To collect more than 12,000 pounds of food in our first year is an accomplishment that all of our county Farm Bureau volunteers should be very proud of," Boensch said. "Hopefully families at the Ronald McDonald Houses will have more comfortable stays thanks to the generosity of

our Farm Bureau members and the public."

Strategically located close to major hospitals, Ronald McDonald Houses are homes where families of ill children can stay while their youngsters are hospitalized.

According to one Michigan Ronald McDonald House manager, the homes do not have on-site cooks, so the Farm Bureau donations will give families the supplies necessary to fix a warm, healthy meal - a nice alternative to the "junk food of vending machines."

County Farm Bureau participation in the Harvest Gathering project was voluntary. Collection activities of participation counties

ranged from accepting donations at county Farm Bureau annual meetings to reaching out to the public through partnerships with retailers and drop-off sites at McDonald's restaurants and Farm Bureau Insurance offices.

County Farm Bureaus brought their collections to the MFB annual meeting. M&M Distributing of St. Johns donated trucking service to transport the food from the Grand Traverse Resort to the Ronald McDonald Houses.

In addition to county Farm Bureau participation, employees at the Lansing-based MFB headquarters donated 425 pounds of food.

Hawks upset visiting Valley Lutheran in home opener, 70-62

Mix some fine outside shooting with an aggressive scrambling defense and good results can happen. That was the story of the opening home game of the season Friday for the Cass City Red Hawks who topped Valley Lutheran, 70-62, in a Greater Thumb West league game.

Cass City broke open a tight game in the opening minutes of the second quarter with a 13-2 run to forge into a 38-22 lead. Sophomore Nick Stoutenburg connected for a pair of treys and Chris Maharg converted 4 of 4 free throws in the spurt.

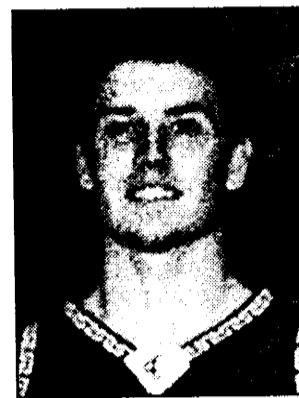
The Chargers bounced back behind Josh Merkes, 6-6 senior, who scored 2 buckets in a 7-point unanswered run to close the gap to 10 points at the half, 41-31.

The Chargers were never able to get closer than 9 points behind the rest of the way. The Hawks extended the lead to 15 points early in the quarter as Matt Stoutenburg racked up a pair of hoops and Jake Brinkman added a trey in a 9 to 4 run. Merkes kept Valley Lutheran within shouting distance with a pair of hoops and a 3-pointer.

It was Merkes who kept the game from becoming a rout in the last quarter. He scored 8 points in a row for the Chargers. He finished the game with 28 points.

Coach Aaron Fernald said that hustle and aggressive defense were keys to overcoming the distinct Charger height advantage.

The Hawks will need to be very aggressive this week. Tuesday they were to have faced Ubyl and Friday play the potent Lakers. Both games are on the road.



JAKE BRINKMAN 19 POINTS

netted 18 points and was a force on the offensive and defensive boards. Also in double figures was Matt Stoutenburg with 11. Rob Hirschman scored 14 for Valley Lutheran.

CASS CITY - Swanson 2-0 (5-6) 9; Maharg 5-0 (8-10) 18; Brinkman 1-5 (2-4) 19; Holmgren 1-0 (0-0) 2; Matt Stoutenburg 4-0 (3-6) 11; Erla 1-1 (0-0) 5; Nick Stoutenburg 0-2 (0-0) 6. TOTALS 14-8 (18-26) 70.

VALLEY LUTHERAN - Bender 0-2 (0-0) 6; Wood 0-2 (2-2) 8; Merkes 11-1 (3-4) 28; Barnett 0-0 (2-2) 2; Hirschman 3-2 (2-2) 14; Graham 1-0 (0-0) 2; Grueber 0-0 (2-2) 2. TOTALS 15-7 (11-12) 62.

Free throws led Hawks past hosts Brown City

The Cass City Red Hawks used outstanding free throw shooting in the crucial last quarter to open the season with a win at Brown City Tuesday, 53-49.

Hitting 12 free throws in a row was the key to the win, coach Aaron Fernald said. In the first quarter it didn't appear as if the Hawks would need to depend on free throws to take away a victory.

With Chris Maharg leading the way with 4 buckets, Cass City jumped off to a 16-4 lead in the first quarter.

The Green Devils clawed away at the 12-point lead the remainder of the game to take the lead by a point with a little over a minute left in the game. Maharg then put the game in the win column with 4 straight from the charity stripe.

The teams played on near-even terms in the middle 2 periods. At the half the lead was still 10 points, 24-14 and the Hawks still led going into the last quarter, 34-25.

The Green Devils used a barrage of 3-pointers to overcome the lead and take a momentary one-point lead.

In the final quarter Jake Marion cashed a pair of treys and Gary Iwinski added another. For the night, Brown City cashed 6 shots from 3-point range.





Maharg answered the challenge with 4 for 4 from the charity circle as time ran out. Fernald said that the team needs to work on defense and fundamentals. Not surprising when only 3 players on the squad had significant experience last season.

For the night, Maharg had 19 points. Tyler Erla in his first varsity game was in double figures with 14. Jake Marion led the Devils with 16.

CASS CITY - Swanson 0-0 (2-2) 2; Maharg 7-0 (5-6) 19; Brinkman 2-1 (1-2) 8; Holmgren 1-1 (0-0) 2; Matt Stoutenburg 3-0 (2-2) 8; Erla 4-1 (3-4) 14. TOTALS 17-2 (13-16) 53.

BROWN CITY - McNary 2-1 (0-0) 7; Marion 2-4 (0-0) 16; Kalbleisch 2-0 (0-0) 4; Loutzenhiser 3-0 (4-4) 10; Iwinski 0-1 (1-2) 4; Smith 4-0 (0-1) 8. TOTALS 13-6 (5-9) 49.

Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

	 John Haire	 Clarke Haire	 Tom Montgomery	 Doug Hyatt
December 17	Bad Axe at Deckerville Memphis at Owen-Gage Port Hope at Caseville Harbor Beach at Reese Cass City at Ubyl Lakers at Marlette Vassar at USA Nouvel at Caro N.B. Wesleyan at Yale North Branch at Capac	Bad Axe Memphis Caseville Reese Cass City Lakers USA Nouvel N.B. Wesleyan North Branch	Deckerville Memphis Caseville Reese Cass City Lakers USA Caro Yale North Branch	Deckerville Memphis Caseville Reese Ubyl Lakers USA Nouvel Yale Capac
December 20	Bad Axe at Valley Lutheran Akron-Fairgrove at Owen-Gage Caseville at Dryden Port Hope at North Huron Cros-Lex at Harbor Beach Brown City at Ubyl Cass City at Lakers Caro at Frankenthuth Sandusky at Marlette Peck at North Huron	Valley Lutheran Owen-Gage Caseville North Huron Harbor Beach Ubyl Lakers Caro Sandusky North Huron	Valley Lutheran Owen-Gage Caseville North Huron Harbor Beach Ubyl Lakers Caro Marlette North Huron	Valley Lutheran Akron-Fairgrove Caseville North Huron Harbor Beach Ubyl Lakers Caro Sandusky Peck
Last week's results	13-7	14-6	11-9	16-4
Season's results	13-7 (65%)	14-6 (70%)	11-9 (55%)	16-4 (80%)

This week's match ups

OWEN-GAGE - A. Kain 2-3 (0-0) 13; Howard 1-0 (0-0) 2; Kundering 2-0 (2-3) 6; McLaren 3-0 (2-2) 8; Kady 3-1 (0-0) 9; Periso 2-0 (0-2) 4; Hunt 2-0 (0-2) 4. TOTALS - 15-4 (4-9) 46.

NORTH HURON - Fisher 1-3 (0-0) 11; Brock 1-0 (0-0) 2; Krienkie 1-0 (0-0) 2; Simone 1-0 (1-2) 3; Ruth 2-0 (4-4) 8; Elliott 3-0 (0-0) 6; Osantowski 1-0 (1-2) 3; Weber 1-0 (2-2) 4; Lage 6-0 (2-4) 14. TOTALS - 17-3 (10-14) 53.

OWEN-GAGE - Edler 0-0 (2-2) 2; A. Kain 3-1 (2-2) 11; Howard 1-0 (0-0) 2; Kundering 1-0 (0-0) 2; Wise 1-0 (0-0) 2; McLaren 2-0 (2-3) 6; Kady 3-0 (0-0) 6; Periso 1-0 (0-0) 2; Hunt 2-0 (0-0) 4. TOTALS - 14-1 (6-9) 37.

AUGRES - Gies 7-0 (0-0) 14; Holmes 2-0 (1-2) 5; A. Ososki 2-0 (0-0) 4; Schwiderson 1-0 (0-0) 2; Whyte 4-1 (0-0) 11; Bellissimo 3-0 (0-2) 6; Richardson 3-0 (0-1) 6; Wright 2-0 (2-2) 6; Estrabrook 7-0 (5-6) 19. TOTAL - 31-1 (8-16) 73.

BASKETBALL STANDINGS AND RESULTS

GREATER THUMB WEST			
Team	W	L	PTS
BCAS	1	0	2
Cass City	1	0	2
Reese	1	0	2
Laker	0	0	0
Bad Axe	0	1	1
USA	0	1	1
Valley Lutheran	0	1	1

GREATER THUMB EAST			
Team	W	L	PTS
Sandusky	1	0	2
Harbor Beach	1	0	1
Marlette	1	0	1
Deckerville	0	0	2
Ubyl	0	1	1
Brown City	0	1	1
Mayville	0	1	0

NORTH CENTRAL THUMB NORTH			
Team	W	L	PTS
Caseville	1	0	1
North Huron	1	0	1
Port Hope	0	1	0
A-Fairgrove	0	1	0
Owen-Gage	0	1	0

NORTH CENTRAL THUMB SOUTH			
Team	W	L	PTS
CPS	1	0	1
Kingston	1	0	1
Peck	1	0	1
Memphis	0	1	1
Dryden	0	1	0

FRIDAY'S RESULTS			
Team	W	L	PTS
BCAS 67, Bad Axe 53			
Reese 64, USA 53			
Cass City 70, Valley Lutheran 62			

GTE			
Team	W	L	PTS
Harbor Beach 52, Ubyl 41			
Marlette 55, Mayville 42			
Sandusky 45, Brown City 44			

GTC NON-LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	PTS
Laker 65, Deckerville 28			

NCTL			
Team	W	L	PTS
Caseville 57, A-Fairgrove 52			
North Huron 53, Owen-Gage 46			
CPS 67, Dryden 48			
Kingston 60, Memphis 30			

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Obituaries

Gary Drabek

Gary Drabek, 59, of West Branch, died Dec. 12, 2002, at St. Mary's Hospital after an extended illness.

He was born Aug. 21, 1943, the son of the late Peter and Marion Drabek.

Drabek was a postal worker for 30 years, business owner and landlord. He retired in April of 2002 due to his illness.

He is survived by brothers: Leo (Aileen) Drabek of St. Helen, Bruce (Judy) Drabek of Bad Axe, Thomas (Susanne) Drabek of Pigeon, David (Sally) Drabek of West Branch; a sister-in-law, Joyce Drabek of California; 9 nephews; 9 nieces; 14 great-nephews; 16 great-nieces; and 4 great great-nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers: James and Robert; nephew, Jerry Drabek; and a great nephew.

Cremation has taken place and memorial services were held Monday, Dec. 16, at Steuernal & McLaren Funeral Home, West Branch. Memorial donations may be made to the Tolfree Foundation.

Arrangements were made by Steuernal & McLaren Funeral Home, West Branch.

Karl Freitag

Karl M. Freitag, 85, of Caro, died Friday, Dec. 13, 2002 in Hills and Dales General Hospital.

He was born Jan. 6, 1917 in Germany to Max and Anna (Taubenheim) Freitag. He married Anna M. Lehrmann May 4, 1948 in Germany.

Freitag and his wife moved to the United States in 1954 and have lived in this area since about 1979. He worked as a toolmaker for Inspection Engineering until his retirement in 1979.

Freitag is survived by his wife, Anna; children: Birgit (Mark) Antos of Sterling Heights, Carl E. Freitag of Caro; grandchildren: Natalie Antos and Trevor Antos; and sisters: Elfriede Giesel of Germany and Gertrude Dietrich of Germany.

He was preceded in death by his infant son, Hans-Dieter; and brothers: Heinrich Freitag and Artur Freitag.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Kranz Funeral Home, Kingston, with the Rev. Terry Butters of Kingston United Methodist Church officiating.

Interment was in the East Dayton Cemetery, Caro.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association - Mid Michigan Chapter. Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Kingston.

Jane Huggard

Jane Huggard, 82, of Southport, Florida, died Saturday, Nov. 30, 2002.

She was the daughter of the late Earl and Mayme Phetteplace of Shabbona.

Huggard had grown up in the Shabbona area and had lived in Florida for the past 28 years.

She is survived by three sons: William Huggard, Jr. and his fiancée Kathleen of Rochester Hills, Edward Huggard and his fiancée Esther of Panama City, Fla. and David (Debbie) Huggard of Franklin, Tenn.; two sisters: Eunice Kregger of Snover and Helen (Jack) Parry of Crosswell; 9 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; and 15 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Huggard; a sister, Vivian Gerres; and a brother, Edward Phetteplace.

Funeral services were held at The Dove with the Rev. Derick Biddinger officiating.

Burial was at Southport Memorial Gardens, Florida.

Velma Starr

Velma P. Starr, 84, of Cass City, died Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2002 in Tendercare Nursing Facility, Cass City.

She was born Nov. 26, 1918 in Sandusky to George and

Clara (Sisco) Thomas. She married Raymond W. Starr July 27, 1951. He died April 8, 2002.

Starr was a housekeeper for many years, working in Midland before marrying Raymond. She then worked at the Provincial House in Cass City for many years and helped Raymond on their dairy farm. She was an active member of the Mooretown Brethren in Christ Church.

Starr is survived by her daughter, Darlene Kay (David) Evans of Brookhaven, PA; 3 grandsons; 2 sisters: June (Otis) Terwilliger of Freeland and Fern Thomas of Midland; a brother-in-law, John (Georgia) Starr of Santa Anna, CA; 3 sisters-in-law: Norma Starr of Sandusky, Jean Starr of Macomb Township and Marian Sisco of Palmyra, PA; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her son, Ronnie Ray; daughter, Clara Ida; and siblings: Ida Sisco, Edith Bergman, Esther Wyse, Marion Gerstenberger, Bessie Gerlicki, Flossie, Blanch, Walther and Ralph Thomas.

Funeral services were held December 14, at Mooretown Brethren in Christ Church with the Rev. Ron Slabaugh of Fairview Brethren in Christ Church of Lebanon, PA officiating.

Interment was in Ekland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Memorials may be made to Mooretown Brethren in Christ Church or the Gideons.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

Ida Wells

Ida R. McKnight Wells, 83, of Cass City, died Friday, Dec. 13, 2002 in Hills and Dales General Hospital.

She was born Nov. 12, 1919 in Michigan.

Wells is survived by her son, Roger McKnight of Cass City; and a grandson, Joe Oszust of Fairgrove.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Delbert McKnight; and her daughter, Yvonne Oszust.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 16, at Kranz Funeral Home, with the Rev. Michael Arp of Living Word Worship Center officiating.

Cremation is to take place at Sunset Valley Crematory, Bay City.

Memorials may be donated to the Family Discretionary Fund.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

Bednarski reelected at meet

Michigan farmers serving as delegates at last week's 83rd Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) Annual Meeting in Acme elected 2 new representatives and re-elected several others to serve on the MFB Board of Directors.

In its reorganization, the board re-elected Wayne H. Wood of Marlette to continue as MFB president.

Wood, who has served as MFB president since December 2000, was elected president for a 2-year term. District 5 Director Alan Garner of Mason was re-elected vice president. Rounding out the board's executive committee are Mike Fusilier of Manchester, District 3; Josh Wunsch of Traverse City, District 9; and Pat Albright of Coldwater, director at-large.

Newly elected to the 17-member board were Jeff Sandborn of Ionia County and Kris Dufo of Grafton County. Both were elected to serve two-year terms effective Dec. 6.

Among district races, cash crop and sugar beet farmer Carl Bednarski of Caro was re-elected District 6 director by members in Huron, Tuscola, Lapeer, Sanilac, Macomb and St. Clair counties.

BASKETBALL - WRESTLING - VOLLEYBALL

GYMNASTICS

CATCH THE HAWKS AT HOME BASKETBALL

January 3
Cass City vs. Bad Axe

VOLLEYBALL

December 18
Cass City JV vs. Vassar JV

January 6
Cass City vs. Caro

WRESTLING

January 11
Cass City Invitational

Cass City Red Hawks 2002-2003 Boys' Basketball

Dec. 10	Brown City 49, Cass City 53
Dec. 13	Valley Lutheran 62, Cass City 70
Dec. 17	Ubyly 5:00 p.m. A
Dec. 20	Lakers 6:00 p.m. A
Dec. 27	Caro 5:00 p.m. A
Jan. 3	Bad Axe 5:00 p.m. H
Jan. 7	Marlette 5:00 p.m. H
Jan. 10	USA 5:00 p.m. H
Jan. 14	Mayville 5:00 p.m. A
Jan. 17	Reese 6:00 p.m. A
Jan. 21	Deckerville 5:00 p.m. H
Jan. 24	BCAS 5:00 p.m. H
Jan. 30	Valley Lutheran (F) 6:00 p.m. A
Jan. 31	Valley Luth (JV/V) 6:00 p.m. A
Feb. 4	Lakers 6:00 p.m. H
Feb. 7	Bad Axe 5:00 p.m. A
Feb. 11	Harbor Beach 5:00 p.m. H
Feb. 14	USA 6:00 p.m. A
Feb. 21	Reese 5:00 p.m. H
Feb. 25	BCAS 5:00 p.m. A
Feb. 28	Sandusky 5:00 p.m. H
March 3-8	Districts @ Cass City TBA

Cass City Red Hawks 2002-2003 Wrestling

Dec. 5	N. Branch/Bridgeport @ N. Branch	6 p.m.
Dec. 7	Cros-Lex (JV/V)	10:00 a.m. A
Dec. 12	Caro/Gaylord	6:00 p.m. A
Dec. 14	Marlette (JV/V)	8:00 a.m. A
Dec. 19	Pinconning/Gaylord	6:00 p.m. A
Jan. 3	North Branch (JV)	5:00 p.m. A
Jan. 4	North Branch (V)	9:00 a.m. A
Jan. 8	USA/Brown City @ Brown City	6 p.m.
Jan. 11	Cass City Invite	10:00 a.m. H
Jan. 15	Valley Luth/Lakers	6:00 p.m. H
Jan. 18	Mayville Invite	8:00 a.m. A
Jan. 22	Marlette/Novel/CC @ Marlette	6 p.m.
Jan. 25	Imlay City	8:30 a.m. A
Jan. 29	Sandusky/Mayville	6:00 p.m. A
Feb. 1	Standish/Sterling	9:00 a.m. A
Feb. 5	Millington	6:00 p.m. H
Feb. 8	League Invite @ Mayville	10 a.m.
Feb. 12	Team Districts	TBA

Cass City Red Hawks 2002-2003 Girls' Volleyball

Dec. 14	North Branch (F)	9:00 a.m.	A
Dec. 18	Vassar (V Quad)	6:00 p.m.	A
Dec. 18	Vassar (JV Quad)	6:30 p.m.	H
Dec. 20	Caro Invite (JV)	4:15 p.m.	A
Dec. 21	Caro Invite (V)	8:30 a.m.	A
Dec. 27	Alma Invite (V)	8:30 a.m.	A
Jan. 3	Bad Axe Invite (F/JV)	3:30 p.m.	A
Jan. 4	Bad Axe Invite (V)	8:30 a.m.	A
Jan. 6	Caro	6:30 p.m.	H
Jan. 9	BCAS	6:30 p.m.	H
Jan. 11	Laker Invite (F)	9:00 a.m.	A
Jan. 13	Sandusky	6:30 p.m.	A
Jan. 16	Valley Lutheran	6:30 p.m.	A
Jan. 18	Laker Invite (JV)	9:00 a.m.	A
Jan. 18	Cass City Invite (V)	10:00 a.m.	H
Jan. 23	Lakers	6:30 p.m.	H
Jan. 30	USA	6:30 p.m.	A
Feb. 1	Northwood Invite (V)	TBA	
Feb. 1	USA Invite (F)	9:00 a.m.	A
Feb. 6	Reese	6:30 p.m.	A
Feb. 8	USA Invite (V)	8:30 a.m.	A
Feb. 8	Fenton Invite (JV)	9:00 a.m.	A
Feb. 13	Bad Axe	6:30 p.m.	H
Feb. 15	Laker Invite (V)	9:00 a.m.	A
Feb. 15	League Invite (JV) Bad Axe	8:30 a.m.	A
Feb. 15	League Invite (F) USA	8:30 a.m.	A
Feb. 20	Ubyly	7:00 p.m.	A
Feb. 22	League Invite (V) Bad Axe	8:30 a.m.	A
Mar. 1	Districts		

Cass City Red Hawks 2002-2003 Gymnastics

Dec. 17	Vassar	6:00 p.m.	A
Jan. 4	Cadillac Invite	11:00 a.m.	A
Jan. 9	Hartland	6:30 p.m.	A
Jan. 11	Troy	10:00 a.m.	A
Jan. 18	Hartland Invite	9:00 a.m.	A
Jan. 20	Midland	6:30 p.m.	A
Jan. 25	Vassar Invite	Noon	A
Feb. 8	St. John's Invite		
Feb. 12	Midland/Freeland	6:00 p.m.	H
Feb. 18	Vassar/Cadillac	6:00 p.m.	H

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Christmas cantata set

Special Christmas services are slated at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church beginning at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 22 with the annual Christmas cantata entitled "The First Christmas."

Both the adult and junior choirs will participate.

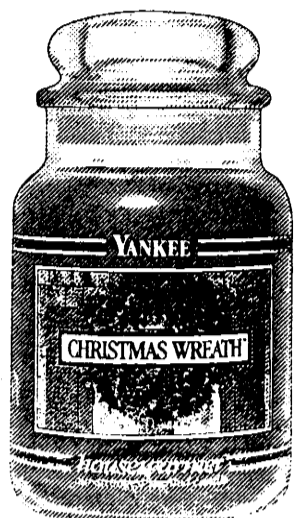
The children's Christmas program, "Jesus is the Heart of Christmas," is at 7 p.m., Dec. 22.

Christmas Eve worship is at 7 p.m. and the Christmas day service is at 9:30 a.m.

The community is invited to attend these services and hear the good news of Jesus' birth.

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TIS THE SEASON - a number of area residences are all decked out for the holidays. Among those displaying their holiday spirit is Carl Palmateer, whose Main Street home in Cass City features Santa and some brightly lit reindeer.

USDA: update farm bases

With increasing frequency, farmers are calling their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office for an appointment to enroll in the direct and counter-cyclical program (DCP).

As harvest activity concludes producers are looking at their books, recording yields, and evaluating their financial situation as the end of the year approaches. The evaluation generally includes a decision about program participation.

The DCP program involves one of 5 options selected by the landowner or their designated representative. Because the current Farm Bill is totally new legislation, landlords are required to sign up their farms themselves, or sign a new power of attorney (FSA-211) that authorizes the farm operator as a legal signatory for farm program participation. Arranging to have new POAs on file at the FSA office is a good first step for any future program participation.

Another preparation producers may want to conduct before enrolling is a comparison of the 5 base and yield options. To facilitate the comparison of options, a base and yield analyzer (BYA) has been developed by Texas A&M University and placed on the Internet. The BYA tool is a calculator that can be accessed from the FSA homepage www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/default.asp by clicking on the BYA icon on the right side of the page. Producers will need their actual acreage information for years 1998 through 2001, which should be available on their Summary Crop Acreage History report that was mailed to all owners and operators.

To fully compare DCP options, annual yields for each crop on specific farms will also need to be entered in the calculation.

While base updates apply to both direct and counter-cyclical payments, yield updates will only apply to counter-cyclical payments. As the name implies counter-cyclical payments are only available when applicable commodity prices fall below a given level for a sustained period of time.

Updating bases and yields will require producers to look back through 4 years of production records, but the results should have long term benefits under the new Farm Bill.

All base and yield updates must be completed by April 1, 2003 because farms that have not been updated will automatically be given the Production Flexibility Contract values for the property. Base and yield updates are a one-time opportunity for farmers to adjust the program numbers on which future payments will be based.

USDA's Farm Service Agency urges every producer to take full advantage of this chance to update their farm bases and yields, in order that growers can be better protected against adverse market fluctuations.

Santa visit scheduled

Santa Claus was scheduled to visit the Kingston Post Office from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday.

Residents were invited to stop in and register for a free set of snowmen post cards. No purchase is necessary, however, with every sheet of snowmen stamps purchased you get an extra registration form. Drawing for one lucky winner will be at 4 p.m. You do not need to be present to win.

"All I want for Christmas is Two Brand New Knees!"

"Twas three months before Christmas, September 26th, Santa's knees were a hurting, in need of a fix.

His stockings were hung in the O.R. with care. In hopes Dr. DeSantis soon would be there.

With Santa nestles all snug in his hospital bed, Visions of the last five years danced in his head.

Injections and treatments to help ease the pain, But more had to be done to help Santa's knees again.

When out in the lobby there arose such a cheer, Santa knew in a moment Dr. DeSantis was here!

"One or two new knees," the good doctor said, "is just the thing to get Santa up and out of that bed."

"Then let's do them both," Santa said with a gleam, so Dr. DeSantis began to assemble his team.

"Hey Renee and Niki, hey Sue and Andy, Where's Wendy and Barb and Louann and Kandi?"

"From the operating room to the recovery phase, let's get on the road to more healthy days."

Now six weeks have come and gone since the day Dr. DeSantis helped make Santa's pain go away.

"Without my cane I'd like to show you how," Santa said, "I get along quite happily now."

"Without Dr. DeSantis and the rest of his staff, To deliver my presents would be quite a laugh."

So out on his journey Santa left with a bound, Light on his feet and hopping around.

He was heard to exclaim, as his Cadillac pulled out of sight, "Merry Christmas to and to all a good night."

Dr. John DeSantis checks over Santa's Christmas list!



Santa (Geoffrey Ingram of Lapeer) underwent bi-lateral total knee replacement surgery (both knees) just six weeks ago after agonizing knee pain. Since then, the cane he had used to walk has disappeared and, at this point, he uses his walker only when he needs to negotiate curbs or steps in his travel. His advice to anyone weighing the option of having single over double knee replacement surgery...do them both at the same time. "I'm glad I had them both done together," he said. And at the top of Santa's list of where to go is The Knee and Orthopaedic Center. "Everything, everyone about the place is great," he remarked. "Where else could someone fill Santa's Christmas list and give me a new pair of knees and a new "walk" on life?"



From left: Gordon A. McClimans II, D.O.; Nicole Ruzzicone, P.A.-C.; John G. DeSantis, D.O.; Joseph Paese, D.O.



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AT A RECENT District 11-D-2 Lions Club meeting, the Owendale Lions Club was honored with several awards. Fred Sullivan (left) was presented a finely crafted pewter dish honoring his services as region chairman for Region 3 of District 11-D-2. Jim Ricker (center) was presented the coveted Melvin Jones Fellowship Award honoring his commitment to service in his local community and the world community. Named for the founder of Lions Clubs International, Melvin Jones, the fellowship is the highest honor a Lion may receive. Jim Roe, past president, displays the banner patch the Owendale Club received for being a charter project supporter for the Lions of Michigan Infant and Toddler Photo Eye Screening Project. This project utilizes new technologies in the discovery and treatment of eye diseases in the young.

County F.B. delegates contribute to '03 policy

The Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) 2002-03 policy books will hit legislators' desks in January thanks to contributions made by Tuscola County members during the 83rd MFB Annual Meeting in Acme near Traverse City, Dec. 3-6.

In addition to approving agriculture policy, more than 1,200 statewide delegates participated in educational workshops, idea sharing, and award presentations at the Grand Traverse Resort.

Representing Tuscola County were John Somerville, Anthony Bierlein, Viola Bierlein, Irene Rodammer, Susan Hecht, Karen Goodchild, Donald Keinath, Dorothy Keinath, Lorraine Ortner, Nancy Ortner, W. Larry Hickey, Ronald Bernia, Dennis Engelhard, Earl Mossner, Gordon Bierlein, Otto Rodammer, Norm Bergdolt, Myron Ortner and Alvin Ortner.

The county collected 14 Star Awards. The Star Awards program is designed to recognize county Farm Bureaus for their hard work, creativity, and promotion of agriculture in 14 total program areas.

Delegates reviewed 140 resolutions submitted by 68 county Farm Bureaus. Adopted state resolutions determining the direction of MFB for the following year, while national and international policies are forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration.

Key state issues included wildlife management, taxation, water use, and pollution prevention. Leading the discussion on national issues was the U.S. farm policy.

Farm Bureau members collected 12,500 pounds of nonperishable food items for Ronald McDonald Houses as part of a new Harvest Gathering program. The Ronald McDonald Houses, located in Detroit, Lansing, Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids, provide a place for parents of ill children to stay while their children are hospitalized.

As part of the Traverse City Outreach program, 120 members along with 23 FFA students educated approximately 1,100 students about agriculture and natural resources. The volunteers, who served as teachers for the day, visited second- and fifth-grade classrooms in the Traverse City area.

The creativity and innovation of Farm Bureau members were also showcased at the annual meeting.

"Ruby Mae on the Mooove," a free-standing plywood cow that educates students on dairy products, byproducts, and cattle diets received the MFB Program Exchange contest award. Meanwhile, the Electric-Heated Artificial Insemination (AI) Semen Sling, an improved transport mechanism for bull semen, was selected as the Farmer Idea Exchange award winner.

Dr. Harlan D. Ritchie, a respected teacher, researcher, author, and speaker, was named the MFB Distinguished Service to Agriculture award recipient. Ritchie was selected for the organization's highest honor due to his exceptional contribution to Michigan's agriculture industry through his work in genetic improvement, beef production efficiency programs to enhance carcass quality, and food safety.

Research funded by check-offs to be showcased

The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan is partnering with the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee and Michigan State University Extension to bring check-off funded research results to producers across Michigan.

farming operations." For more information about the Michigan Corn and Soybean Winter Research Meetings, contact the Michigan corn office at 1-888-323-6601 or the Barry County Extension office at (269) 945-1388.

The organizations are partnering to provide producers with new information gathered by MSU researchers who received funding from either the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) or the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC). The Corn and Soybean Winter Research Meetings begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. and include the following locations:

- * Jan. 7 - Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth; and
- * Jan. 8 - Ugly Heights Country Club, Ugly.

Areas of discussion will include dandelion biology and management, germplasm selection for soybean aphid resistant soybeans, fall versus spring herbicide application, Black Nightshade emergence, Manganese micro-nutrient, rotation resistant rootworm, a market development update and a Farm Bill update. This is the third year the CMPM and MSPC have partnered to present results from check-off funded research.

"The state's corn check-off program knows it's imperative that producers stay on the cutting edge of technology to remain competitive in today's tight markets," said Jody E. Pollok, executive director of the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan. "The Winter Meetings are an opportunity for growers to learn the new production information their check-off investments make possible. "With these new research findings, it is our hope that Michigan producers can continue to make educated production decisions that will positively affect their

Partaka on duty

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph J. Partaka, a 1979 graduate of Ugly High School, recently reported for duty with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Three, Port Huene, Calif.

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Christmas in the Village

Visit Santa
at the Municipal Building
Dec. 21 - 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Free Saturday Matinee
at the Cass Theatre
2 p.m., Dec. 21
12 and under FREE
Tenrs & adults free with Saturday shopping sales slip

Kids' Crafts & Story Time
at
Rawson Memorial Library
Dec. 21
10:00-11:00 a.m.
FREE
Registration required
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Great Gift Idea

"Cass City Cash"
Spends just like cash at Cass City stores.
Call the Chamber at 872-4618

Thank You
to all who give their time
and financial support
to make
Christmas in the Village
possible.

Last Minute Ideas?
Christmas Gift Display at
Thumb National Bank
All items available locally

Enter to Win Train Set
Drawing will be held Dec. 21
Register at participating businesses.
Need not be present to win. No purchase necessary.

Healthy Holidays' Health Screening
By Hills & Dales Hospital Staff
at the Municipal Building
Dec. 21 - MARC Information 9-11 a.m.

Home Decorating Challenge
"Light It Up Cass City"
You could be awarded Detroit Edison Electricity Gift Certificate.
Team of judges will be touring the Village December 22.

"The Caring Tree"
Hills & Dales General Hospital
Tree Lighting Ceremony,
Thurs., Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

Gear up for cold weather car woes

AAA Michigan logged nearly 900,000 emergency road service calls last year, many of them in the dead of winter. With a little preventive maintenance, many of those calls could have been avoided.

Now, is the time to act to detect potential problems before the cold weather arrives.

"When conditions can be less than ideal and colder temperatures demand more of your vehicle, it makes sense to take preventive measures to make sure your vehicle is safe and roadworthy," says AAA Michigan Automotive Services Director Robert Kaczor.

AAA recommends that the following vehicle components be inspected by a qualified technician: battery load and terminals, lights, air filter, antifreeze, oil, power steering, brake and transmission fluids, belts, hoses, tires and wiper blades.

Despite the convenience maintenance-free batteries provide, average battery life has become shorter as energy requirements have increased. Cell phones, CD players, VCRs, laptop computers and other mobile electronic devices place greater demands on today's batteries.

As the temperature drops, so does the battery's cranking power. To increase a battery's efficiency, make sure the battery cables are on tight and remove any corrosion around the connections using a stiff wire brush and a solution of baking soda and water. (Always wear safety apparel that provides eye and hand protection when performing vehicle maintenance).

AAA Michigan encourages motorists to increase gas mileage and reduce pollution by following a few simple steps:

- Replace air filter when necessary.
- Refill and/or replace oil and oil filter as needed.
- Avoid excessive idling. Idling gets 0 miles per gallon.
- Avoid aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking).
- Observe the speed limit. Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional 10 cents per gallon for gas.

For more fuel economy tips and information on vehicle safety, visit: www.fueleconomy.gov.

Wedding Announcements

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The calendar below indicates the theme for each day.
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LAST CHANCE... SHOPPING DAYS ARE RUNNING OUT!	40% OFF ALL ORNAMENTS	40% OFF BOXER CHRISTMAS CARDS	40% OFF ALL CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PAPER / GIFT BAGS	40% OFF ANY BOOKS	40% OFF ANY BOOKS	Sunday CLOSED
40% OFF ANY LIGHTS	40% OFF ANY SANTA	40% OFF ANY ANGEL	40% OFF ANY SNOWMAN	40% OFF ANY TREE	40% OFF ANY LACE AND LINENS	Sunday CLOSED
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School board considers phys ed, discipline plans

The Cass City School Board was presented with 2 proposals at its regular monthly session Monday that could have a marked effect on the curriculum and the way discipline penalties are assessed.

Middle School Principal Jeff Hartel presented a plan for physical education that would radically change the classes and allow every stu-

dent to participate regardless of physical condition.

The plan would take advantage of \$200,000 worth of free equipment. The kicker is that if the National School Fitness Foundation goes bankrupt the school would have to pay whatever is left of the \$200,000 owed. After 3 years the equipment would belong to the school at no cost. The way it works, Supt. Ken Micklash said, is the school borrows the money from the bank and then is repaid from the foundation.

Regular reports must be maintained and sent to the foundation to get the payments during the 3 years before the debt is retired.

The equipment would be erected in the balcony of the Middle School gym and would include a walking path.

While there appeared to be

a favorable consensus for the plan, no action will be taken before the foundation's financial status is reviewed. There is a school in Bedford, Hartel said, that is in the program and feels it has been very successful.

Essentially the school would have a high-tech fitness center including exercise bikes, stair-stoppers, rowing machines, heart monitors and other similar equipment.

If the plan is adopted Hartel said that he would like to have it in operation by March.

Principal Jon Good presented a plan for a change in the school point system. He feels that the penalty for fighting is too lenient. Now fighters are assessed 6 points that includes a one-day in-school suspension. He would

like that to be increased to 9 points that includes 3 days in-school suspension.

He also asked that the elimination of all penalty points the next school year if the student has received no penalty points in the last 30 days of school be changed. The proposals received a varied reaction from the board. It is likely that any revision adopted by the board will be less severe than carrying over all the points from year to year. A change with a partial carry-over of points may be endorsed.

Students that have 15 penalty points are subject to expulsion.

OTHER BUSINESS

The board approved a learning trip for students in the fifth grade. The class will spend 2 days in May at Sleeper State Park, Caseville. The cost is expected to be \$15 to \$20 per student. For students that can't afford the trip, the board has authorized \$150 to help them attend.

That \$150 and the cost of transporting the students will be the entire expense to the school. There will be an adult for each 6 students and a busy hour-by-hour agenda will be followed.

Permission was granted to hold a Sunday matinee performance of the all-school play Mar. 16 at 3 p.m.

Board and superintendent evaluation forms were distributed.

Calendar of Events

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

Wednesday, December 18

United Sportsmen's Alliance meets, 7 p.m., Sebawaing Sportsmen's Club, 265 Bay St., Sebawaing.

Thursday, December 19

Free Senior Citizen Bingo, 1-4 p.m. VFW Hall, 4533 Veterans Dr., Cass City. Prizes and refreshments. Sponsored by Post 3644 Ladies Aux.

Friday, December 20

Senior Citizen Movies, 1:30 p.m., Rawson Memorial Library. Alcoholics Anonymous, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 21

Children's Christmas Activities, 10-11 a.m., Rawson Memorial Library.

Christmas in the Village activities: Free movie, Santa, MARC info. See ad in this edition for further details.

Monday, December 23

TOPS every Monday night at the Detroit Edison building. Weigh in 6-6:30 p.m., meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m. Come join the fun.

Hills & Dales Hospital Auxiliary meeting, 12 noon, Charmont.



FOUR generations are represented above with great-grandmother Elizabeth Stine of Essexville (formerly of Cass City), grandmother Karla (Marker) Mrozinski of Pinconning, mother Stacie (Marker) Alderton of Bay City and daughter Courtney Bree Alderton.

Nativity display on tap

Novesta Church of Christ will be presenting a Live Nativity next to Fairway Discount Store in downtown Cass City Sunday, Dec. 22 and Monday, Dec. 23 from 6 to 8 p.m.

This Nativity will depict the birth of Christ, which took place in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. This will be a great opportunity to experience the true meaning of CHRISTMAS.

Great sources of "C"

Oranges and other citrus fruits are great sources of vitamin C.

The average, medium-sized orange, weighing about 4.5 ounces, contains about 70 milligrams of vitamin C. That's very close to the 75 milligrams a day that the National Academy of Sciences recommends for women and the 90 milligrams recommended for men.

Vitamin C promotes healthy gums and teeth, helps the body absorb iron, can reduce the risk of cataracts, and help heal wounds.

Besides citrus fruits, other good sources include melon, kiwi, strawberries, green and red peppers, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, spinach, tomatoes, and potatoes.

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Give a Gift Subscription to the Chronicle for Christmas

The family of Robert E. Peterson would like to thank everyone for their kindness at the time of Bob's passing. Especially to those who sent flower arrangements, gave food, and for all of the beautiful cards. We would also like to express a heartfelt thanks to all of the firefighters, law enforcement and EMS personnel from the thumb area and state agencies that were able to take part in the memorial service and funeral procession. A special thank you for all the gifts of money in memory of Bob. The donations are being turned over to the Bad Axe Area Fire Department. The fire department is hoping to collect enough money in Bob's name to purchase a thermo-imaging unit. A device that can aid firefighters in locating people in a smoke filled room. Bob was very interested in this life-saving technology.

Cass City Middle School Student Spotlight
for the month of November

Teachers select students who possess the following:

1. 6 Pillars of Character: *Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship*
2. Good grades
3. A positive attitude
4. Regular attendance
5. Shows improvement (academic and/or behavior)

Front row: Sumaira Ahmed, Kevven Dorland, Lindsay Jamieson, Kent LaFave, Eric Reif, Alex Rowe, Samantha Swiderski, Amanda Woodruff.
2nd row: Diedre Bowen, Cassie Frank, Carl Nicol, Carly Rabideau, Victoria Scansy, Tyler Tomlinson, Taryn Vatter, Tim Vincent.
3rd row: Selina Izydorek, Lacey Morrish, Jesse Noaker, Cassie Simpson.
Back row: Terra Czekai, Andrew Devine, Jill Dillon, Ashleigh Rabideau, Ryan Ross, Bobby Windsor.
Missing: James Hudson, Dillon Peruski, Elizabeth Michalski and Josh Swalwell.

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 DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE ~ 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS - CLOSED
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 Old Fashioned Whole Ham lb. \$1.29	Whole Boneless Pork Loins Cut Free \$1.49 lb.
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Cass City employees raise cash for kids

Ten employees of Millennium in Cass City held their annual Fund Raiser for Kids November 9. The event was held at the Cass Tavern and pledges were gathered for a pool tournament. The employees raised a total of \$682, which was matched by the management at Millennium, bringing the total to \$1,364. All money raised was split between the Tuscola County Family Independence Agency for its Toys for Tots Christmas Program for needy children, and the Michigan Wish Network for Terminally Ill Children of Michigan.

Good work!

A GROUP OF Millennium employees recently raised \$682, which was matched by the company for a total of \$1,364. The money will go to Toys for Tots and the Michigan Wish Network for Terminally Ill Children of Michigan.

MET offering 8-month enrollment period

Michigan Education Trust (MET), Michigan's Section 529 prepaid tuition program, will welcome in 2003 by offering another 8-month enrollment period for those looking to pre-pay the costs of future college tuition. The MET Board of Directors voted unanimously to offer open enrollment between Jan. 2, 2003 and Aug. 30, 2003. To date, more than 67,000 MET contracts have been purchased with nearly 12,000 students currently using their contracts to attend college. MET offers 3 contract op-

tions: Full Benefits, Limited Benefits, and Community College. Due to rising tuition costs at Michigan's 4-year public colleges and universities the MET Board has authorized 10-percent increases in full and limited benefits contracts for the coming year. The cost for a one-year full benefits contract will be \$6,063, with a limited benefits contract priced at \$4,884 per year. The cost of MET's one-year Community College contract will increase by 5.3 percent, to \$1,730. "Given the nation's current

economic conditions, and double-digit tuition increases facing college-bound students, the board had no choice but to increase MET contract prices," said State Treasurer Douglas B. Roberts, who also chairs the MET Board. "Despite these increases, the Michigan Education Trust will continue to be a flexible, affordable plan for parents and grandparents who want to invest in a child's education. Roberts says it is also important to note that purchasers of MET contracts qualify for a state income tax deduction (total contract price in-

cluding enrollment fees) while earnings on contributions are tax exempt to beneficiaries, if used for qualified higher education expenses. The cost of monthly purchase contracts range from \$21 to \$592, and students have 9 years to completely utilize MET educational benefits. More information on MET and MESP is available on the Department of Treasury web site under education, at: www.michigan.gov/treasury; or by calling 1-800-MET-4-KID.

It Was The Thursday Before Christmas

Thursday, December 19th Downtown Caro

50/50 TICKETS

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PICTURES WITH SANTA

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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 Anthony P. Dickinson, a single man (original mortgagor), to First Chicago NBD Mortgage Company, Mortgage, dated July 17, 1998 and recorded July 20, 1998 in Liber 745 on Page 200 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and was assigned by said mortgage to the Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as assignee by an assignment dated June 1, 1999, which was recorded on November 15, 1999 in Liber 787 on Page 962. Tuscola County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of TWENTY THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY FOUR AND 36/100 DOLLARS (\$21,334.36), including interest at 6.950% 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 January 9, 2003.

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

Commencing at a point 933.00 feet South of the Northwest corner of the West half of the Northeast quarter of Section 33, Town 11 North, Range 8 East, thence East 200.00 feet, thence South 150.00 feet, thence West 200.00 feet, thence North 150.00 feet to point of beginning. Also described as proposed Lot 5 of Harry & Loreta's Estate. Together with an easement for ingress and egress to and from said premises over and across an existing road on the East 66.00 feet of the West 266.00 feet of the Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 33, Town 11 North, Range 8 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: November 27, 2002

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
Team J (248) 593-1311
Trott & Troit, P.C.
Attorneys and Counselors
30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 200
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
File # 200118029

Team J

11-27-5

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 Wiley E. Brewer and Elizabeth Brewer, husband and wife, as joint tenants, to Heartland Home Finance, Inc., mortgagee, dated January 24, 2000 and recorded February 17, 2000 in Liber 794, Page 1060, and as re-recorded 4/18/00 in Liber 798, Page 1394, Tuscola County Records. Said mortgage is now held by Bank One, NA by assignment recorded on July 20, 2000 in Liber 806, Page 798, Tuscola County Records. There is claimed to be due on such mortgage the sum of Seventy-One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Seven and 59/100 Dollars (\$71,637.59), including interest at the rate of 10.02% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in the mortgage and the statute 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 January 2, 2003.

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

Section 21, Town 10 North, Range 7 East, commencing at a point 46 2/3 rods South of Northwest Corner of Southwest 1/4 of Northwest 1/4, thence East 24 Rods; thence South 6 2/3 Rods; thence West 24 rods; thence North 6 2/3 rods to the point of beginning. Township of Arbelia, Tuscola County, Michigan.

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: November 27, 2002

ORLAND ASSOCIATES PC
Attorneys for Bank One, NA, As Assignee
P.O. Box 5041
Troy, MI 48007-5041
(248) 457-1000
File No. 224-0638

11-27-5

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 Irene Mac Periso and Frederick Lee Periso, as Husband and Wife, as joint tenants, to New Century Mortgage Corporation, mortgagee, dated April 9, 1999 and recorded May 18, 1999 in Liber 771, Page 1081, and Servicer's Affidavit recorded on September 12, 2002, Liber 893, page 912. Tuscola County Records. Said mortgage is now held by Firststar Bank Milwaukee, N.A., as Trustee in trust for the registered Certificate holders of New Century Asset Bank Pass Through Certificates, series 1999-NCA by assignment dated April 15, 1999 and recorded on August 10, 2000 in Liber 808, Page 182, Tuscola County Records. There is claimed to be due on such mortgage the

sum of Forty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Three and 40/100 Dollars (\$41,983.40), including interest at the rate of 10.3% 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 January 10, 2003.

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

Parcel B - A part of the northeast 1/4 of the northeast 1/4 of section 12, town 14 north range 10 east, described as beginning at a point on the north line of said section 12 that is 567.00 feet west of the northeast corner of said section 12; thence continuing west on the north line of section 12, 105.00 feet; thence south 165.00 feet; thence east 105 feet; thence north 165.00 feet to the point of beginning.

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: December 4, 2002

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
Team J (248) 593-1311
Trott & Troit, P.C.
30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 200
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
File # 200231959

Team J

12-4-5

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

MORTGAGE SALE: - Default has been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Kenneth C. Nagy and Julie E. Nagy, husband and wife, of Tuscola County, Michigan, Mortgage to Fifth Third Bank successor-in-interest by merger Old Kent Bank, dated the 19th day of November, A.D. 1999 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for County of Tuscola and State of Michigan on the 21st day of March, A.D. 2000 in Liber 796 of Tuscola County Records, on page 1179, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal and interest, the sum of \$66,840.35 (Sixty-six thousand Eight hundred forty dollars and thirty five cents), including interest there on at 8.30% (eight point three zero 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 Thursday, the 16th day of January, A.D. 2003 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 Juniata, in the County of Tuscola and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit:

Commencing 440 feet South and 587 feet East of the Northwest corner of Section 13, Town 12 North, Range 8 East, thence South 100 feet, thence West 323 feet, thence North 100 feet, thence East 323 feet to point of beginning.

Tax ID: 014-013-000-2600-00

The redemption period shall be six 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: December 18, 2002

WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A.
Daniel E. Best (P-58501)
Attorney for Assignee of Mortgage
Welman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A.
755 W. Big Beaver Road, Suite 1820
Troy, Michigan 48064
WWW.R02541957

12-18-5

Robert A. Treman & Associates, P.C. is a debt collector and we are attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

MORTGAGE SALE: - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by JOHN C. WALKER, A SINGLE MAN, to BANK ONE, N.A., Mortgagee, dated January 4, 2001 and recorded on March 26, 2001 in Liber 826 on page 218, TUSCOLA County Records, Michigan, and assigned by said mortgage to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. by an assignment dated January 19, 2001 and recorded on May 20, 2002 in Liber 878 on page 968, TUSCOLA County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of eighty three thousand two hundred forty nine and 78/100 Dollars (\$83,249.78), including interest at 9.125% 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, MI, at 11:00 AM on January 9, 2003.

Said premises are situated in the TOWNSHIP OF INDIANFIELD, TUSCOLA County, Michigan, and are described as:

Commencing at a point 442 feet East of the South quarter corner of South line of Section 33, Town 12 North, Range 9 East, thence North parallel with the North and South quarter line of said Section 35 feet; thence South 64 degrees 26 minutes East 300 feet; thence South 70 degrees 31 minutes East 380 feet; thence South 08 degrees 12 minutes 92.45 feet to the South line of said section; thence West 638.1 feet to beginning, EXCEPT land deduced to State of Michigan in Liber 347 of Deeds, pages 137 and 138.

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: November 20, 2002

MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC.
Assignment of Mortgage
ATTORNEY FOR Assignee of Mortgage
Robert A. Treman & Associates, P.C.
401 South Old Woodward Avenue
Suite 300
Birmingham, MI 48009-6616
For information, please call:
(248) 540-7701

Commencing at the Southeast corner of the South part of the West part of the Southwest fractional 1/4 of Section 6, Town 10 North, Range 8 East, thence West 8 rods, thence North 20 rods to the place

11-20-5

of beginning.

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: December 4, 2002

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
Team J (248) 593-1311
Trott & Troit, P.C.
30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 200
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
File # 200231959

Team J

12-4-5

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

MORTGAGE SALE: - Default has been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Kenneth C. Nagy and Julie E. Nagy, husband and wife, of Tuscola County, Michigan, Mortgage to Fifth Third Bank successor-in-interest by merger Old Kent Bank, dated the 19th day of November, A.D. 1999 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for County of Tuscola and State of Michigan on the 21st day of March, A.D. 2000 in Liber 796 of Tuscola County Records, on page 1179, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal and interest, the sum of \$66,840.35 (Sixty-six thousand Eight hundred forty dollars and thirty five cents), including interest there on at 8.30% (eight point three zero 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 Thursday, the 16th day of January, A.D. 2003 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 Juniata, in the County of Tuscola and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit:

Commencing 440 feet South and 587 feet East of the Northwest corner of Section 13, Town 12 North, Range 8 East, thence South 100 feet, thence West 323 feet, thence North 100 feet, thence East 323 feet to point of beginning.

Tax ID: 014-013-000-2600-00

The redemption period shall be six 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: December 18, 2002

WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A.
Daniel E. Best (P-58501)
Attorney for Assignee of Mortgage
Welman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A.
755 W. Big Beaver Road, Suite 1820
Troy, Michigan 48064
WWW.R02541957

11-27-5

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 JOHN C. WALKER, A SINGLE MAN, to BANK ONE, N.A., Mortgagee, dated January 4, 2001 and recorded on March 26, 2001 in Liber 826 on page 218, TUSCOLA County Records, Michigan, and assigned by said mortgage to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. by an assignment dated January 19, 2001 and recorded on May 20, 2002 in Liber 878 on page 968, TUSCOLA County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of eighty three thousand two hundred forty nine and 78/100 Dollars (\$83,249.78), including interest at 9.125% per annum.

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Said premises are situated in the TOWNSHIP OF INDIANFIELD, TUSCOLA County, Michigan, and are described as:

Commencing at a point 442 feet East of the South quarter corner of South line of Section 33, Town 12 North, Range 9 East, thence North parallel with the North and South quarter line of said Section 35 feet; thence South 64 degrees 26 minutes East 300 feet; thence South 70 degrees 31 minutes East 380 feet; thence South 08 degrees 12 minutes 92.45 feet to the South line of said section; thence West 638.1 feet to beginning, EXCEPT land deduced to State of Michigan in Liber 347 of Deeds, pages 137 and 138.

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: November 20, 2002

MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC.
Assignment of Mortgage
ATTORNEY FOR Assignee of Mortgage
Robert A. Treman & Associates, P.C.
401 South Old Woodward Avenue
Suite 300
Birmingham, MI 48009-6616
For information, please call:
(248) 540-7701

Commencing at the Southeast corner of the South part of the West part of the Southwest fractional 1/4 of Section 6, Town 10 North, Range 8 East, thence West 8 rods, thence North 20 rods to the place

11-20-5

of beginning.

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: December 4, 2002

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
Team J (248) 593-1311
Trott & Troit, P.C.
30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 200
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
File # 200231959

Team J

12-4-5

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Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Juniata, in the County of Tuscola and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit:

Commencing 440 feet South and 587 feet East of the Northwest corner of Section 13, Town 12 North, Range 8 East, thence South 100 feet, thence West 323 feet, thence North 100 feet, thence East 323 feet to point of beginning.

Tax ID: 014-013-000-2600-00

The redemption period shall be six 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: December 18, 2002

WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A.
Daniel E. Best (P-58501)
Attorney for Assignee of Mortgage
Welman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A.
755 W. Big Beaver Road, Suite 1820
Troy, Michigan 48064
WWW.R02541957

11-27-5

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MORTGAGE SALE: - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by JOHN C. WALKER, A SINGLE MAN, to BANK ONE, N.A., Mortgagee, dated January 4, 2001 and recorded on March 26, 2001 in Liber 826 on page 218, TUSCOLA County Records, Michigan, and assigned by said mortgage to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. by an assignment dated January 19, 2001 and recorded on May 20, 2002 in Liber 878 on page 968, TUSCOLA County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of eighty three thousand two hundred forty nine and 78/100 Dollars (\$83,249.78), including interest at 9.125% 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, MI, at 11:00 AM on January 9, 2003.

Said premises are situated in the TOWNSHIP OF INDIANFIELD, TUSCOLA County, Michigan, and are described as:

Commencing at a point 442 feet East of the South quarter corner of South line of Section 33, Town 12 North, Range 9 East, thence North parallel with the North and South quarter line of said Section 35 feet; thence South 64 degrees 26 minutes East 300 feet; thence South 70 degrees 31 minutes East 380 feet; thence South 08 degrees 12 minutes 92.45 feet to the South line of said section; thence West 638.1 feet to beginning, EXCEPT land deduced to State of Michigan in Liber 347 of Deeds, pages 137 and 138.

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DATED: November 20, 2002

MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC.
Assignment of Mortgage
ATTORNEY FOR Assignee of Mortgage
Robert A. Treman & Associates, P.C.
401 South Old Woodward Avenue
Suite 300
Birmingham, MI 48009-6616
For information, please call:
(248) 540-7701

Commencing at the Southeast corner of the South part of the West part of the Southwest fractional 1/4 of Section 6, Town 10 North, Range 8 East, thence West 8 rods, thence North 20 rods to the place

11-20-5

of beginning.

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: December 4, 2002

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
Team J (248) 593-1311
Trott & Troit, P.C.
30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 200
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
File # 200231956

Team R

12-4-5

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 Lorene M. Hoeldtke and Timothy Hoeldtke, her husband, to Alliance Funding - a Division of Superior Bank, FSB, mortgagee, dated August 23, 2000 and recorded September 25, 2000 in Liber 811, Page 381, Tuscola County Records. Said mortgage is now held by LaSalle Bank, N.A./LaSalle National Bank, Inc., successor by merger in trust to Fleet Mortgage Corp., a South Carolina Corporation, Assignee by an assignment dated November 1, 1999, which was recorded on January 20, 2000 in Liber 792 on page 1234, Tuscola County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety-One Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Eight and 73/100 Dollars (\$91,504.13), including interest at the rate of 9.15% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in the 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 County, MI in Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on January 16, 2003.

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

Commencing at a point 1746 1/2 feet South of the Northeast corner of the Northeast quarter of Section 26, Town 13 North, Range 8 East, thence West 420.00 feet at right angles to the East line of Section 26, thence North 308.71 feet, thence East 420.00 feet to the point of beginning.

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: November 27, 2002

ORLAND ASSOCIATES PC
Attorneys for Flagstar Bank, FSB, As Mortgagee
P.O. Box 5041
Troy, MI 48007-5041
(248) 457-1000
File No. 287-0013

11-27-5

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Professional and Business DIRECTORY

CALL 872-2010 TO PLACE AN ACTION AD

Transit (nonbusiness) rates, 10 words or less, \$3.50 each insertion; additional words 10 cents each. Three weeks for the price of 2-cash rate. Save money by enclosing cash with mail orders. Rates for display want ads on application.

General Merchandise

ADMIRAL STEREO system/console with 3-speed record player. AM/FM radio. 872-3371 2-12-4-3

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FOR SALE - Sheared Christmas trees, cut or cut your own. Moore Rd., 2 miles west of M-53 on Sebawaing Rd. Cut trees - 3628 7th Street, Owendale. 1 p.m. to dark. 2-12-4-3

Real Estate For Rent

WE ARE NOW taking applications for 1 & 2 bedroom apartments at Northwood Heights apartments in Cass City. Rent is based on income. For rental information, call 989-872-2369 or Crest Property Management at 989-652-9281. Some units barrier free. TTY for hearing or speech impaired. 1-800-649-3777. Equal Housing Opportunity. 4-4-11-1f

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Dry Cleaning is a Simple Way to Clean Carpets. Indoor Allergens And Protect Carpets. Indoor Air Quality
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• Mold Spores - 85%
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(989) 672-3338 or (800) 485-1509 8-5-16-1f

ACCOUNTANTS

Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt, Doran & Co., P.C.
Certified Public Accountants
Gary Anderson, CPA (Cass City)
Robert Tuckey, CPA (Cass City)
Jerry Bernhardt, CPA (Caro)
Thomas Doran, CPA (Caro)
Valerie Hartel, CPA (Cass City)
715 E. Frank St., Caro, MI
Phone 673-3137
6261 Church St., Cass City, MI
Phone 872-3730

PHYSICIANS

N.Y. Yun, M.D.
Physician & Surgeon
Office Hours:
Mon.-Fri. - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thurs. - Closed
Sat. - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
6232 Hospital Drive
Cass City
Office 872-4733
Res. 872-4257

COUNSELING

DO YOU HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM?
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS
Every Friday Evening - 8:00 p.m.
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Cass City

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FOR NON-EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE
No appointment necessary
Open 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
HILLS & DALES GENERAL HOSPITAL
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Physician on site 24 hr./day for emergency care.

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6240 W. Main St.
Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-4351

RICHARD A. HALL, D.O.

4674 Hill Street
Cass City, MI 48726
Phone: 872-4725
Office Hours:
Mon., Tues., Thurs.,
& Fri. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Wed. 9 a.m.-noon

PHYSICIANS

Dr. Jeffrey Crowley
Chiropractor
4452 Doerr Rd
(across from Shell Gas Station)
Phone 872-4241
S.H. Raythatha, M.D.
Dr. Ray
Total Family Care
4672 Hill St.
Cass City
Phone 872-5010
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-5

VETERINARIANS

Edward Scollon, D.V.M.
Veterinarian
Farm and Pet Animals
Phone 872-2935
4849 N. Seeger St., Cass City

ALL PETS VETERINARY CLINIC P.C.
Susan Hoppe D.V.M.
4438 S. Seeger St.
Phone 872-2255

To place an ad in the Professional Directory call 872-2010

Automotive

FOR SALE - 1997 Passenger Transport. Excellent condition, asking \$3,200. 665-2265 1-12-4-3

FOR SALE - Gorgeous 1993 Cadillac. Garage kept, only 54,000 actual miles. First \$8,400. 665-2265 1-12-4-3



Lake Superior, our largest Great Lake, is 350 miles long and 160 miles wide.

NO HUNTING SIGNS
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25¢ each
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872-2010

FOR SALE - seasoned hardwood, \$45 face cord. You pick-up. 989-872-3515 or 989-872-1101. 2-9-11-1f

FOR SALE - 1998 Polaris 600 XLT Limited snowmobile. Low mileage, studded, ready to ride. Price Reduced. Call 872-4059. Gary Edzik. 2-12-4-3

FOR SALE - Antique hutch. Ask for Janet. 989-872-2381. 2-12-11-3

FIREWOOD - HARDWOOD \$35 a face cord, delivered. 872-3208 2-12-11-6

FOR SALE - storage barns, all sizes. Located 4th house off of M-81 on North Hurds Corner Road. Harold Deering. 872-2608. 2-6-19-1f

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Bill Ehrlich, Sr. 665-2568
Bill Ehrlich, Jr. 665-2503
2-9-13-1f

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FOR SALE - wedding dress, never worn, fits size 14, \$900 value, \$325. 665-2265 2-12-4-3

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2-1-7-1f

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RAMBO Paintball of Uby since 1986, Thumb area's only full service establishment. Stores, Fields, ProShop Guns and accessories, Co2, Nitrogen fills, Special events, Open Play, Private Groups. (Church, Bachelor, Corporate Parties) Upgrade, repairs, parts, M-F 10a-8p, S-S 10a-4p. 989-658-8113 or 800-Gotch-ya. 16-7-17-1f

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IDEAL STARTER HOME on two acres, east of Cass City and Gagetown. Two bedrooms now but could easily be made into four. Very nice 36'x54' pole shed with cement floor. Both wood and fuel oil heat. \$65,000. Evenings: 989-893-8651. 3-12-18-2

Real Estate For Rent

2-BEDROOM downstairs apartment at beautiful Hillside Apartments. Fully carpeted, refrigerator, range, water, water softener, air conditioner, storage units and laundry. Near grocery store, beauty shop, hospital, doctors. Call 872-3315. 4-8-28-1f

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Notice



TRUCKING CAREERS HAVE GRADUATED TO A NEW LEVEL.

Earn \$30,000 to \$55,000 a year! 400,000 truck driver openings nationally!

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Cass City Chronicle
Phone 872-2010

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• Brakes • Oil Changes
Certified Mechanics
Phone 872-5303

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Gravel Guards
Running Boards
Rock Kote Stone Chip Protection
Phone 269-9585
827 Van Dyke, Bad Axe

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AS IF IT'S MINE
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• Roofs & Repairs
• Siding - Soffit
Duane Marks
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BK Plumbing Service
• Drain Cleaning
• Plumbing Repair
4215 Maple St., Cass City
(989) 872-5571

To place an ad in the Action Guide, call 872-2010

Notices

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Classic Charters and Tours of Caro is sponsoring a trip to the Soaring Eagle Casino in Mt. Pleasant Saturday, Jan. 18. The motorcoach will depart the parking lot of Farmer Jack in Caro at 10 a.m. and return at approximately 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$25. The January promotion is: for \$10 you receive \$20 in coins and a \$5 food coupon for anywhere in the casino. This is a fundraiser to benefit the Cass River Pet FriendZ. For more information contact Sandy Bassett at (989) 673-6357 or Cindy Amend at (989) 673-4063.



KIDS ENJOYED a host of activities, including a balloon and dart game, during Saturday's Fun Fair held at Owen-Gage Junior-Senior High School in Owendale.

Village council approves '03 budget

Continued from page one.

time employees, with certain part-time positions also receiving increases (see charts accompanying this story). The budget also includes wage hikes in water and sewer fees. Sheridan explained the new schedule includes a monthly increase of 20 cents - 3.5 percent — in the basic water rate. For the typical residential customer using 7,000 gallons, the increase adds up to about 40 cents a month more (3 percent). The basic sewer rate was also increased 20 cents a month - 40 cents for the average residential customer.

The 2003 budget includes capital improvement projects/equipment purchases totaling nearly \$700,000, although certain expenditures will depend on grant funding.

For example, the village will forego a storm sewer upgrade at Doerr Road and Garfield Avenue if a \$165,000 federal grant application is rejected, and Sheridan has hinted he isn't confident in the village's chances to receive the grant, which would require a \$165,000 local match.

The reason, he explained, is that project targets a standing water problem at the cor-

ner, not damage of property. "We're flooding a road and a parking lot, so we're not high on the priority list," he said.

Some heavy equipment purchases could also be delayed. In fact, plans to purchase an \$80,000 blade truck have been moved back to 2004. Purchases still on the list are a replacement dump truck (\$65,000), a lawn mower (\$14,000) and a motor grader (\$29,500).

Another \$100,000 is set aside for regular exterior maintenance of the village water tower.

No new road construction is planned next year, but officials estimate they will spend roughly \$125,000 on paving and resurfacing local and major streets.

Those projects include Pine Street, Oak to Seeger (\$9,579), Spruce Street, Beechwood to the cul-de-sac (\$8,800), Virginia Street, Hunt to west terminus (\$15,820), Huron Street, Ale to Seeger (\$25,650), Hospital Drive, Beechwood to Tendercare (\$23,440), Oak Street, Third to Pine (\$11,100), and alley paving (\$7,000).

In addition, the village has set aside \$32,000 for sidewalk construction.

Sheridan expects to spend the lion's share of the money. In recent years, the village has spent less than budgeted because of a policy relying on residential requests for

sidewalk repair. However, Sheridan said the village is now at a point where special assessment districts, in which residents are required to pay one-half the cost, are necessary.

In other departments, \$87,500 is earmarked for equipment purchases and maintenance at the wastewater treatment plant in 2003; \$36,500 will go towards the

village's new well payment; \$32,000 is budgeted for police department patrol car leases and purchase of radar/video equipment; \$13,000 will be spent on hydrant replacements; \$9,000 will go towards a water main replacement on Elelaire Street, Pine to Houghton; and \$3,500 will be spent on a water valve replacement at Main and West streets.

Third vote okayed

Continued from page one.

"We didn't have enough of the stakeholders, voters — the people who are affected by the loss of these mandated services — involved, going door-to-door, explaining what went into the question," said Jack Laurie, Cass City.

Laurie chaired the "Yes Tuscola" committee, which promoted the August ballot proposal. He said the county's 4-H programs are a good example. "We really didn't have any organized effort in the 4-H community to go out, door-to-door."

"A lot of people didn't realize what 4-H does. For example, the Character Counts program in the schools — a lot of people didn't realize Character Counts is a 4-H-run program."

The same goes for the

county EDC, Laurie added. "It's (EDC efforts) for everybody. The result of bringing business into the county generates tax dollars and creates better services for people who are already here."

"I don't think we really told that story good enough."

Laurie agreed with Scollon's comment on a lack of adequate time for the millage campaign, saying voters didn't separate the proposal in August from the revised proposal on the November ballot.

As far as the public was concerned, he said, "it was money for the county. It was (the voters saying), 'we told you in August and now we're going to tell you again.'"

"It kind of concerns me about coming back too quick" with another millage request, he added. "I think it needs to be re-thought."

VILLAGE OF CASS CITY 2003 WAGE CHART (PER HOUR) PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

	2002	2003	% Incr.
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Lifeguard III (4 th year+)	7.92	8.16	3.0%
Lifeguard II (2 nd , 3 rd yr)	7.09	7.30	3.0%
Lifeguard I (1 st yr)	6.00	6.00	0.0%
WSI Certification	0.25	0.25	0.0%
DPW/Parks			
Summer Laborer III (3 rd year+)	7.70	7.80	1.3%
Summer Laborer II (2 nd year)	6.75	6.75	0.0%
Summer Laborer I (1 st year)	6.00	6.00	0.0%
Arts & Crafts/Day Camp Program			
Program Manager	8.25	8.50	3.0%
Counselor III (3 rd year+)	7.70	7.85	2.0%
Counselor II (2 nd year)	6.75	6.95	3.0%
Counselor I (1 st year - HS only)	6.00	6.15	2.5%
BS/BA Degree	0.25	0.25	0.0%
Co-op Student			
Starting Rate (minimum wage)	5.15	5.15	0.0%
Each Semester (raise)	0.25	0.25	0.0%
POLICE:			
PT Patrol Officer: 5 years and plus	13.02	13.75	5.6%
PT Patrol Officer: Less than 5 years	12.44	12.95	4.1%
WWTP:			
PT Crew	11.97	12.75	6.5%
MUNICIPAL BUILDING:			
Custodian	8.74	9.00	3.0%
PT Secretary	10.00	10.25	2.5%
ZONING:			
Contract Zoning Administrator	12.50	12.85	2.8%



OWEN-GAGE junior Randi Glaza braids the hair of Bethany Kovach, a seventh grade student, at a Fun Fair booth organized by the high school cheerleading squad.

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