

CITY CHRONICLE

Complete coverage of the Cass City community and surrounding areas since 1899

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CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2005

FIFTY CENTS

12 PAGES PLUS TWO SUPPLEMENTS



STATE SENATOR Jim Barcia (right) presents Dick and Norma Wallace with Cass City's 2005 Citizens of the Year Award Saturday at Northwood Meadows during the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Dinner banquet. Inset, senior Krista Homakie was named the Junior Citizen of the Year. (See related photo page 7)

Wallaces, Homakie honored

For the second straight year, yet only the third time in its 43-year history, a married couple was presented the Cass City Chamber of Commerce's most prestigious award Saturday night at Northwood Meadows.

Long-time village residents Dick and Norma Wallace highlighted the Chamber's Annual Dinner banquet as they were handed the 2005 Citizens of the Year honor by State Senator Jim Barcia.

Burt Althaver, the 1978 Citizen of the Year, enlightened the audience with the couple's endless list of service to the community.

Dick Wallace's professional career in Cass City included more than 25 years as a Walbro employee - where he was in charge of all cost accounting - and a second career at Chemical Bank for more than 10 years.

Dick has been a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church, serving in many capacities. He has held office in several organizations, including various positions as a Gavel Club member, chairman of the Cass City Planning Commission, secretary of bowling and golf leagues for over 30 years and treasurer of an Investment Club for over 40 years.

Dick has always been active in the affairs of Cass City's youth. He coached Little League baseball for more than 10 seasons. In addition, Wallace has worked hundreds of high school football games on the sideline as a member of the "chain gang" and as an official for countless track meets. Dick is a former 8-year member of the Cass City School Board and

a consultant for the Junior Achievement program. Wallace also is a board member of the Tuscola County Meet of Champions.

Wallace, who attended Alma College and served in the Armed Forces for 2 years, also is a member of the Cass City Historical Society and a volunteer at the Octagon Barn.

Norma Wallace attended Central Michigan University. She, like her husband, is an active member of the First Presbyterian Church, serving in many capacities including treasurer for more than 37 years. She has filled the position of secretary of her bowling team for over 30 years.

Norma's volunteer efforts include countless hours with the Octagon Barn, serving as secretary for many years and as a board member for the Village Bach Festival for more than 15 years. She is a member of the Cass City Historical Society and of the Tom Thumb Singers, serving as the treasurer.

Known for going above and beyond to accommodate the public, Norma has been township clerk for over 20 years. She is particularly helpful with the elderly in preparing homestead tax exemptions.

The Wallaces, who have always opened their home to family and friends, have 2 sons - Tom, a banker and Steve, a chef - and 4 granddaughters.

Of all their achievements, Dick told the crowd of nearly 200 people that his best is 40 years of marriage to a wonderful woman.

JUNIOR CITIZEN

Following in the footsteps of her sisters, Krista Homakie was presented the 2005 Junior Citizen of the Year Award. Melissa Homakie shared the award in 2000 with Alyssa Glaspie, while Sara Homakie was chosen the recipient in the year 2002.

And like her sisters, Krista

has a long record of honors and service to the community. Academically, she has maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Along the way, she has earned pins in math, science, English, Spanish and computers. She plans on attending Hope College.

She has served as student

Please turn to back page.

Hospital unveils \$8 million construction

An unexpected but welcome announcement made during Saturday's "state of the village" address at the Cass City Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet made the outlook for Cass City brighter.

Dan Hittler, chairman of the Hills and Dales HealthCare Corporation Board of Trustees, briefly outlined plans for a multi-million dollar expansion at Hills and Dales General Hospital.

It's hoped the planned expansion and upgrade of the hospital's facilities will take place over a 3-year period, according to Hills and Dales President and CEO Dee McKrow, who said Monday that the board of trustee's just approved the project last week.

"They approved a 3-phase building project, basically, and altogether, the 3 phases and the equipment that will be going in will be just under \$8 million," McKrow said. "So, we're very, very excited."

Hospital officials have already completed some major upgrades totaling just under a half-million dollars since 2004 after being designated a Critical Access Hospital, including renovation of the existing medical/surgical floor and extensive rewiring required by the certification. The designation is important, McKrow explained, because it increased the hospital's Medicare reimbursement from 40 cents to \$1.01.

As the rewiring work has progressed, hospital officials realized that it would be more efficient to incorporate new construction into the work, rather than attempting to rewire certain portions of the hospital, McKrow said.

She noted the hospital has been working with Summit Smith Health Care Facilities to design a master plan. Summit Smith is the same firm that designed Northwood Meadows.

Options studied for expansion were to add a third story to the existing hospital, renovate the existing space, and adding an addition. "We found we could add a 2-story addition - 16,000 square feet

- at a cost of \$80,000 less than adding a third floor," McKrow said. "What we determined is that it would be best to add a new wing."

The new wing will be located between the existing west wing and the emergency room.

McKrow said Phase I of the project will include construction of 2 new operating rooms - each more than 600 square feet, compared to the existing 280-square-foot operating rooms - a new minor procedure area. The gift shop will also be doubled in size.

The emergency room will be expanded and renovated, two new rooms will be added along with a new emergency room entrance. An exciting part of that upgrade, she said, will include a heated ambulance garage that will enable the hospital to meet federal bio-hazard preparedness rules.

In addition, the project de-

sign will enhance and tighten security in the emergency room, according to McKrow.

Phase II will include moving and doubling the size of the existing lab, now located in the south wing, to an area to be renovated under the existing emergency room. The finished area will also house the hospital's financial services, such as billing and the chief financial officer's office, which are now located offsite in a duplex near Northwood Meadows. The phase will also create 3 new conference rooms.

In Phase III, the west wing will be dedicated to radiology services, while the south wing will be renovated for offices and medical records.

The total cost of the 3-phase project is estimated at \$1,749,525. Officials hope to break ground for Phase I this summer.

McKrow said patients, especially the elderly, are certain to appreciate the new

design of the central lobby. All outpatient services, including radiology, blood work and respiratory, will be located near that area, so patients don't have to walk from one end of the hospital to the other to get to a certain department.

The project as a whole has been designed to ensure the top priorities are met first, should financial problems ever arise. "Every phase can be stopped at any point," McKrow noted.

McKrow indicated, however, that the future looks bright, and the planned improvements will enable Hills and Dales to continue a long tradition of solid, rural health care in the Thumb.

"We kept everything (in the plans) coordinated so it improves the efficiency of the hospital by design," she said. "We have good, competent care here, so we want to continue doing that."

Protest

Dillon leads defense of grade system

An estimated 50 people crowded into the Cass City Schools boardroom last week, Tuesday. The majority was there to protest to the school board the changing of the grading system for the work experience program.

The school administration was seeking to change the grading from traditional letter grades to a credit-no credit system. Spearheading the defense of the traditional system was Wayne Dillon, who operated the work experience program until his retirement in 2003.

Since he left the program, he pointed out, the number of students in the program fell from 130 to 57. He feels that the trend at the school now is to change the school curriculum to emphasize college prep work instead of a comprehensive system that fits the needs of area students. Not all of the students are candidates for college, he

said.

The changing of the grading system has been abandoned at least for the present.

Now students can be absent from school in the work release program for just one hour per day and students can earn just one credit per year. Before the change, students could earn up to 3 credits, earning a credit for 5 hours of work experience, 2 credits for 10 hours and 3 credits for 15 hours weekly. It was pointed out that the program has helped some students receive grades that enabled them to graduate.

Another phase of the program under scrutiny was the restriction of students in work release prior to their junior and senior years. State law forbids participation before 16 years of age, but students that age as sophomores may be legally admitted.

Curt Strickland, Thumb National Bank executive,

told the board that the work experience program has been beneficial to the bank and to the community. Work release students have annually been hired at the bank, he said.

Because of the program there are 8 workers from the Thumb that now have significant jobs at the bank, he said. One of the problems small communities face, Strickland explained, is keeping graduates at home or encouraging them to return to the community.

The program change was instigated after study by principal Jon Good, guidance counselor Sue Frederickson and assistant principal Ed Pasant.

Good said that student credit was reduced from 3 to one credit because it was felt that awarding 3 credits for one hour a day was excessive. He pointed out that the

Please turn to back page.

Fire levels home, loss tops \$100,000

Elkland Township Fire Chief Ron Pawloski said an electrical problem evidently led to a fire that destroyed a Dodge Road home last Wednesday.

The blaze was reported at 3:39 p.m. at the Brian Toner residence, 2061 N. Dodge Road.

Pawloski said a brisk wind quickly fanned the flames inside the doublewide modular home and 2-car connected garage. "With the wind we had, there was no saving it. Absolutely no saving it," he said.

"It was just unbelievable. The heat was so intense inside that house, 2 firemen went inside and it blew them right out," added Pawloski, who said neither man was hurt. The local department's new turnout gear, purchased with a federal grant, was definitely put to the test, with

the shield on one helmet ruined by the heat.

Pawloski said a teen was home when the fire started, and he escaped injury. "From what he told me, it started at the breaker box, so we're going to determine it electrical," he said, adding a neighbor reported a power surge prior to the fire, but it isn't clear if there is a connection.

There were no vehicles inside the garage when the fire broke out, but the blaze proved costly, with the fire chief estimating the loss at \$105,000.

Elkland Township fire fighters remained at the scene for about 4 hours. They were assisted by the Elmwood Township-Gagetown and Caro fire departments.

Please turn to back page.



FIRE FIGHTERS from 3 area departments, including Elkland Township, battled a blaze that destroyed a Dodge Road residence last week. Fire Chief Ron Pawloski estimated the loss at \$105,000.

Holbrook Area News

Mrs. Thelma Jackson
Phone 989-269-6994



Mrs. Curtis Cleland visited Mrs. Hiram Keyser Thursday.

Mrs. Alvin Iseler and Mrs. Allen Depcinski spent Wednesday in Bay City.

32 children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and Thelma Jackson were at the home of Clarence and Vivian Rumpitz Easter Sunday. They all enjoyed a big dinner and spent time visiting family members that came from different parts of Michigan.

Ron Wolschlag, Bernard Morley and Allen Farrelly met at McDonald's in Bad Axe Wednesday morning.

Jean Osentoski was a Tuesday afternoon guest of Mrs. Alex Cleland and Carol Laming.

Allen Farrelly visited Eleanor Koskie at the Cairo Lighthouse Rehab Saturday afternoon.

Myron Wrubel and Allen Farrelly spent Monday and Tuesday at White Rock.

Sharlene and Dennis Hagen entertained for Easter dinner Sunday. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Bryce Hagen, Mary Hagen and friend, Jim, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Moorman, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hagen, Nicholas and Jennie, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Hagen and Annabella, Brad Hagen and friend, Stacy.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Franzel, Doris Western and Allen Farrelly visited Mrs. Arnold Lapeer and Mrs. Lloyd Grifka at Northwood Meadows in Cass City and later attended the fish fry at the Cass City K of C Hall Friday.

Easter dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Doerr were Wendy Rickett, Caitlyn and Cory, Jamie Doerr and Courtney, Mrs. Curtis Cleland.

Jack and Wayne Kennedy, Jim Lewis, Bernard Morley and Allen Farrelly met at McDonald's Friday morning.

Mrs. Gene Bambach of Mt. Pleasant, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Stirrett of Bad Axe, Mr. and Mrs. John Pechett and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jackson were visitors of Thelma Jackson last week.

Bill Cleland was an afternoon guest of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Wallace and Mrs. Alex Cleland and Carol Laming.

Allen Farrelly visited Mr. and Mrs. Bill Erwin at Bad Axe Wednesday afternoon and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Gornowicz Wednesday forenoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Doerr and Mrs. Curtis Cleland were Monday evening guests of Leone Doerr in Argyle.

Seven members of the traveling breakfast club met at the Peppermill in Bad Axe Thursday morning. They will meet at the same place next week.

Easter dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Farrelly, Grant, Lee and Heath were Jerry Messing and son, Tim of Clarkston.

Mr. and Mrs. Marty Chockley, Christopher and Amy of Algonac, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Chockley of Crosswell, Anna McCartney of Bad Axe and Mrs. Curtis Cleland, were Easter supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Cleland.

Mrs. Harold Ballagh, Mrs. Archie Rumpitz and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jackson visited Thelma Jackson Thursday.

Christopher and Amy Chockley of Algonac are spending a few days with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Cleland.

Allen Farrelly visited Don Rackoff and Henry Leppek at the Huron County Heath Center Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hurford, Grant and Jenilee of Attica, Debbie Siebel, David and Becky of Frankenmuth, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Damm of Pigeon, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Rubey and Paul and Clara Bond of Cass City were Easter Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Hurford.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Horton were Sunday guests of Mrs. Curtis Cleland.

Courtney Doerr was a Sunday overnight and Monday guest of Wendy Rickett and Caitlyn.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Depcinski, Mr. and Mrs. Randy Rutkowski, Amy, Julie and a friend, Brian, and a friend Ervin Depcinski, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Depcinski, Steve and Heather, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Iseler, Gena and Allie, were Easter Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Tom O'Henley.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Horton were Sunday guests of Mrs. Curtis Cleland.

"Connectors" gather

A recent gathering of friends in Naples, Fla., had many Cass City connections.

The "Cass City Connectors" is a group of former and current Cass City residents who have met together a number of times over the past few years, according to Susan Richardson.

"This one began at Dr. Delbert and Doris Rawson's home for hors d'oeuvres and conversation, and later moved to a local restaurant

for dinner," Richardson said. "Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves."

"How wonderful it was to all be together," Richardson added. "Many of us don't see each other on a regular basis, but we can come together at an occasion like this and we all seem like family. We all agreed Cass City is a very special place and produces many wonderful people."



RECENTLY HONORED as "Family of the Year" by the Knights of Columbus Council 8892 was the George and Beverly Frank family. The honor recognizes a family's dedication to their church, community and the council.

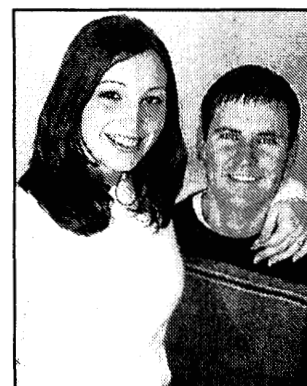


THE KNIGHTS OF Columbus honored Ed LaBelle, pictured above with his family, as the "Knight of the Year" for 2005 during the council's annual recognition banquet.



THE CASS CITY Connectors gathered recently in Naples, Fla. Pictured are (from left) Elsie Fessler, Del Rawson's younger sister, Iris Tuckey, Bill Wallace, Melody Bacon Beaubien, Howard Bacon, Bob Walpole (in back), Doris Rawson (in front of Walpole), Jeanne Fritz next to Bill Richardson (Susan Shaw Richardson's husband), Susan, Margo Donahue, Del Rawson, Dick Donahue (behind Rawson) Kathy Tuckey, Roy Tuckey (in back) Marianne Walpole (holding grandson Fenton), Charles Tuckey, Marianne and Bob Walpole's son Peter, Ruthie Bacon, Dale Beaubien (Melody Bacon's husband) and Peter's wife, Loren.

Engaged



**Laura Laming
Jonathon Ligrow**

Louis and Anna Laming of Ubyl announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura to Jonathon Ligrow, son of Fred and Mary Jo Ligrow of Ubyl.

Laura is a 2001 graduate of Cass City High School. She is currently enrolled at Central Michigan University and will receive a Bachelor of Science in Education degree with a special education emphasis in the spring of 2007.

Jonathon is a 1999 graduate of Ubyl High School. In 2004 he received a bachelor's degree of science in business administration from Central Michigan University.

He is presently working as a manager at Walgreen pharmacy in Sterling Heights.

Several on list

Several area residents have been named to the dean's list at Northern Michigan University, Marquette, for the fall semester.

The students who earned a grade point average of 3.25 to 3.99, are: Amanda L. Frederick, Cason Harris, Benjamin M. Howard, Dara L. Iwankovitch and Stephen A. Yax, all of Cass City, Jeremy E. Dillon of Deford and Meaghan M. Shedd of Owendale.



**Meg's Peg
Spring
cleaning
by Melva E. Guinther**

I'm convinced that our grandmothers and great-grandmothers were made of sterner stuff than women of today.

Do you remember spring cleaning a couple of generations back? Those hardy souls took the house apart, hauling bed springs out into the yard, beating the very life out of rugs, and generally daring dust or grime to show up anywhere within their domain.

I used to feel compelled to go through the motions of cleaning the entire house once a year. The disapproval of a stern grandmother lingers long after she's gone. But I confess it's faded considerably in the last few years.

The whole-house-in-one-day concept gradually became one room a week, then one corner a week. Eventually, it became a matter of pride to get a drawer or closet cleaned out any time at all.

Sometimes a single clean window is cause for celebration.

There is some consolation, though, for those of us who don't tear into the cleaning thing like a chicken on a June bug.

Scientific research comes through once again. A recent article by Dr. Tedd Mitchell points out that research over the past few years indicates that kids growing up in environments that are "too clean" might be at increased risk of developing allergies and other immune system problems.

I'm sure that's a big relief to a lot of moms. "My house is like this for the sake of the kids."

The Journal of the American Medical Association published a study in 2002 that reported at least a 50% reduction in sensitivity to allergens in kids living in households with 2 dogs. How sanitized does that sound?

These are fine excuses for young families with children, but what about us geezers with no kids to blame messy houses on?

Well, someone named Linda Nixon came up with these suggested excuses:

•Layers of dirty film on windows and screens provide a helpful filter against harmful and aging rays from the sun. Call it an SPF factor of 15 and leave it alone.

•Cobwebs, artfully draped over lampshades, reduce the glare from the bulb, thereby creating a romantic atmosphere. If someone points out that the light fixtures need dusting, simply look confused and exclaim, "What? And spoil the mood?" (Or just throw glitter on them and call them holiday decorations.)

•If unexpected company

shows up, pile everything unsightly into one room and close the door. As you show your guests through your tidy home, rattle the door-knob vigorously, fake a growl and say, "I'd love you to see our den, but Fluffy hates to be disturbed and the shots are SO expensive."

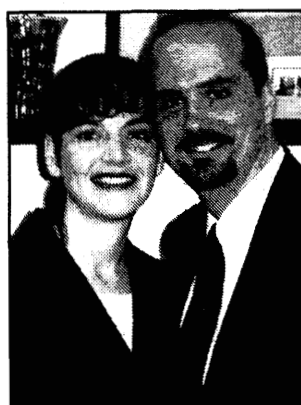
•If dusting is REALLY out of control, simply place a showy urn on the coffee table and insist, "This is where Grandma wanted us to scatter her ashes."

•You might also mix a quarter cup pine-scented household cleaner with 4 cups of water in a spray bottle. Mist the air lightly. Leave dampened rags in conspicuous locations to indicate you've been in the process of cleaning.

•As a last resort, light the oven, throw a teaspoon of cinnamon in a pie pan, turn the oven off and explain that you've been baking cookies for a bake sale for a favorite charity and haven't had time to clean.

•Another helpful ruse is to keep several get-well cards on the mantel so if an unexpected guest arrives, she'll assume you've been sick.

Engaged



**Sally Brooks
David Alban**

Patricia and Oscar Brooks of Cass City announce the engagement of their daughter, Sally B. Brooks of Alpena, to David J. Alban of Hanover, son of Joanne and Donald Alban of Lynchburg, Va. The bride to be graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in English and Valparaiso University with a degree in law.

She is an attorney in Alpena. Her fiancé graduated from Bryan College with a degree in math and Temple University with a master's degree in educational administration. He is assistant principal at Hanover High School. A July 1, 2005, wedding is planned.

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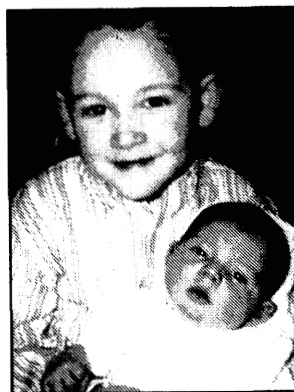


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It's a girl!



McCaiden Rienstra

Esdin Rienstra announces the arrival of his sister, McCaiden Avery. She was born at 11:18 a.m. Feb. 15, 2005 at Metropolitan Hospital in Grand Rapids.

She weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. The parents are Beth and Dennis Rienstra of Howard City.

Grandparents are Cheryl and Dennis Rienstra and Bonnie and Bill Zeidler Sr. of Cass City. Great-grandparents are Adeline Butler of Cass City and Dorothy Trumble of Sandusky.

SMILE

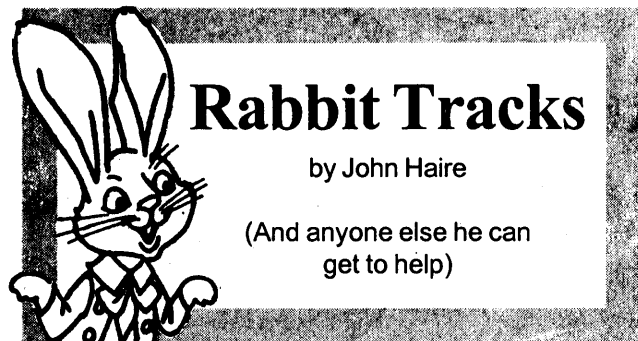


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**Ray and Marlene
Donaldson**

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With Ideas For Feature Stories



Thelma Jackson, Holbrook correspondent, received a critical letter from a reader concerning the way she writes her column that has graced the pages of the Chronicle for about 60 years. It was unsigned. I'm sure it bothered her, but it shouldn't.

The crux of the matter is that the writer is reading the column. A professor way back when I was in J-school said that if everyone agrees with everything you write, you are not doing your job.

Worse by far than being reamed out by a reader is to be ignored. They can't be unhappy if they don't read what you write.

Time fleets by.

At the fish fry Friday at the Masonic Temple (before you ask, all fund-raising dinners rate a 10-plus on the 1-10 scale) I set across from ladies who are pioneer residents of the community and casually remarked that I had spent more than a few Sundays attending church there.

I know they were members of the community when this occurred, but they couldn't recall using the basement for services for the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

The basement was to be the start of a new church building, but was abandoned after a couple of years when it was decided to build the new building on Main Street.

I can understand a paper delaying an edition for an extraordinary event. The Chronicle did it once. In fact with equipment breakdowns it happened several times, but only once on purpose to report a big news story. President Richard Nixon's Thumb tour came on press day and an hour after he left we were on the streets with the story.

It didn't take a presidential visit for the Bay City Times to extend its deadline.

A story on the front page said it was delayed so the results of the Michigan State-North Carolina basketball game Saturday could be included.

The good news is that all of the subscribers in Cass City received their paper at the usual time. The bad news, of course (for MSU fans), is the Spartans lost.

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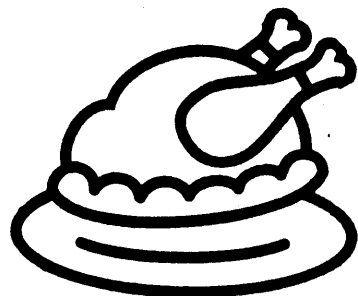
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60th ANNUAL
TURKEY DINNER
SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2005
Good Shepherd Lutheran
Fellowship Hall
6820 E. Main Street, Cass City
Serving 11:45 till 2:30 p.m.
Adults \$7.00
Children (ages 5-12) \$3.50
Under 5 - Free



Caro Center escapee turns up in Arkansas

Michigan State Police at the Caro post confirmed over the weekend that they had located a Caro Center patient who left the facility on a pass last week and didn't return.

First Lt. Doug Lautner, post commander, said the woman, 47-year-old Sandra Warren, was found in El Dorado, Ark., after a relative of Warren's contacted them.

Whether the woman will be returned to Michigan is uncertain, according to Lautner.

"We're exploring some of that now. At this point it doesn't appear there's a legal basis to bring her back on a mental health order," said Lautner, who explained that extradition in cases involving pleas of not guilty by reason of insanity become civil, rather than criminal matters.

HDC "walk" raises \$40,000 for area families

Human Development Commission (HDC) officials recently announced that the 15th annual Walk for Warmth campaign was a huge success, with residents in the Thumb raising more than \$40,000 to support area families.

Of the total, 13,040 was generated in Tuscola County, \$8,720 in Huron County, \$5,090 in Sanilac County and \$13,200 in Lapeer County.

The Walk for Warmth project raised money to assist families in paying their heating bills.

The proceeds help many families who are struggling with home heating costs. The typical recipient is a 2- or 3-person household with less than \$6,000 in annual income. Forty percent of the recipients are elderly, 20 percent are handicapped, and 35 percent live below poverty levels in the 4-county area.

More than 75 percent of those who seek HDC fuel assistance receive no public financial support and nearly 40 percent are employed or have recently become employed.

HDC is one of nearly 1,000 Community Action Agencies throughout the country. Dedicated to improving the quality of life in its service area, HDC's mission is to "empower individuals and communities to identify their needs and secure the resources necessary to achieve their goals of self-sufficiency and an improved quality of life."

It's not too late to participate in this year's Walk for Warmth campaign. Donations may be sent to: HDC, attention Olga Long, 429

Montague Ave., Caro, MI 48723 (indicate on the memo line which county should receive the donation).

More information is available by calling Long at (989) 673-4121.

The Haire Net

His heart still in it



Wayne Dillon retired from his job as guidance counselor and director of the work experience program in 2003, after 36 years at Cass City Schools.

He left the school system, but he forgot to take his heart along. It remains firmly entrenched at the school, entwined with the kids.

It's tempting to say that he's a throwback to the era when teachers occupied a special niche in the community. Back in the years before and during the organization of teachers' unions.

The veterans then didn't want to call it a union, but wanted to be considered a professional organization. That didn't last long, of course, and rightfully so. What teachers earned before the union came along was a

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According to state police reports, Warren was reported missing from the Caro Center at about 11:20 a.m. Wednesday, March 30. She had been granted a pass that morning to leave the center and spend part of the day with her daughter.

Investigators said Tandra Warren later called the Caro Center to say that her mother was missing and had been last seen at a store in the village of Caro. She later told police that she last saw her mother at a Caro area restaurant.

Investigators early on, however, felt Sandra Warren had already left Caro, in part because of conflicting information and a lack of local sightings and tips, according to Lautner.

The investigation led police to the metro Detroit area where relatives and friends of the woman live. Police received information Friday that Sandra Warren had left the state.

disgrace. The United Auto Workers union spokesmen used to brag that a floor sweeper in one of their union plants earned more than a teacher with a masters degree. And they did.

The pendulum then swung the other way and teachers demanded more and more before things stabilized when union demands were tempered by the amount taxpayers were willing to pay.

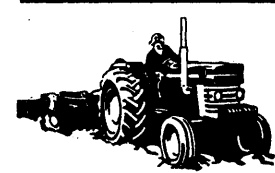
There's still some talk around about teachers being underpaid, but it's no longer valid. Teaching may not be the highest paying job, but it's one of the best, especially in small rural communities.

There's a tendency to place teachers that worked for substandard wages as more dedicated than those working today. That's not true and today teachers are required to continue their education to remain in their jobs.

One thing hasn't changed. There were teachers then and now with a genuine interest in the welfare of the students and others just waiting for their paycheck. It is probably true that union protection kept some inadequate teachers on the job longer than they would have lasted without the protection.

Dillon has taken a great deal of time and effort to protect a program that he believes helps the kids, and bring to attention changes in the school curriculum that he feels is headed in the wrong direction.

Whether it's right or wrong is not the point, but that his heart is in it is beyond dispute.



The back forty

by Roger Pond

© 2000 Roger Pond

I guess there's no denying it: It's time to buy a new tent. I have three tents already, but none of them is exactly what I need.

I take that back. One of them was exactly what I need, but it's nearly forty years old and getting kind of thread-bare.

That tent and I have been through thick and thin. Unfortunately I've been getting thicker and the tent has been getting thinner over all these years. You can see through it nearly anywhere.

My old tent is of the umbrella style. Big enough for two people, with an outside frame, and made of cotton drill (I think). Like most things that work really well, they don't make them anymore.

My wife and I ordered the tent from the Sears catalog in 1967. We used it for summer camping for many years; then, I bought a sheepherder stove and turned it into a winter tent.

That's what led to the tent's demise, I suspect. Winter camping takes a lot out of these structures, as well as their owners.

First, I had to cut a hole near the door for a stove pipe, and that was O.K. for a trip or two. Then, I decided I should have the stove in the back of the tent. This leaves the door clear for a fire escape.

So, I cut another hole in the back wall. Finally, last year I bought a new stove and ran the pipe out through the roof. Each time I cut a new hole, I found a piece of material to patch the old one.

I told my son recently, "Maybe if I cut one more hole, the patches would all run together, and this would be a new tent."

I have yet to find a modern tent as practical as the old umbrellas. Wall tents are great for a forest camp, but not so good on a sand bar — 50 yards from the nearest tree. (They have a tendency

to flatten out.) Modern tents are mostly screening and special breathable materials, just slightly thicker than a garbage bag. I bought one of those a few years ago — and threw it away after a few trips.

That was a summer tent, of course, about the size and height of my old one. It was advertised as a "6 or 7 person family tent."

I've got news for them: There is no such thing as a 6 or 7 person family tent. When you put that many people in a tent, you can forget all about family. What you have then is a mob.

That tent had screens and mesh everywhere — and more ventilation than a wind tunnel. There were four mesh

windows, a screened roof, screen in the door, and a special tie-down fly to pull over the top. This gave the illusion you were actually inside something.

Everything but the mesh was made of "durable nylon taffeta" — all held together by those springy, little sticks they called "poles." Once the wind got to blowing the whole thing was one huge kite.

A person could have tied a rope on one end, a tail on the other, and saved a lot of money on gasoline. It was hard to steer, though, so I threw it away.

So now I have to replace my old umbrella tent. Unless I can find some more patching material, of course.

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Cass City Chronicle

April 6, 2005

5-Day Local Forecast

Wednesday
Scattered T-storms
High: 51 Low: 39
Thursday
Scattered T-storms
High: 47 Low: 34
Friday
Partly Cloudy
High: 45 Low: 32
Saturday
Partly Cloudy
High: 53 Low: 33
Sunday
Partly Cloudy
High: 57 Low: 36

In-Depth Local Forecast

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms, high temperature of 51°, humidity of 36% and an overnight low of 39°. The record high temperature for today is 72° set in 1988. Thursday, skies will remain mostly cloudy with a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms, high temperature of 47°.

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip
Sunday	48	21	43/26	0.00"
Monday	48	25	44/26	0.00"
Tuesday	54	31	44/27	0.00"
Wednesday	59	39	45/27	0.00"
Thursday	59	41	45/27	0.00"
Friday	54	36	46/28	0.00"
Saturday	39	36	46/28	0.00"

Upcoming Moon Phases

New 4/8 First 4/16 Full 4/24 Last 5/1

Sunrise/Sunset Times

Sunrise today 7:05 a.m.
Sunset tonight 8:06 p.m.

Last Week's Local Almanac

Precipitation 0.00"
Normal precipitation 0.60"
Departure from normal -0.60"
Average temperature 42.1°
Average normal temperature 35.7°
Departure from normal +6.4°

Data as reported from Bad Axe, Michigan
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Roger Board
Sales Manager



Red Hawk Talks

by Leah Sherman

What would school be without tests? And this week marks the beginning of the longest test for the juniors. Luckily, there is some incentive to do well on this test. The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test is a state developed test that all public schools must administer. The high school MEAP test has four sections: English, math, science and social studies. The English portion is made up of a reading test, as well as a writing test. The students are given two days to complete the writing test. The entire MEAP testing session is spread out over two weeks.

Many students see the MEAP test as a pointless test that is simply administered to torture them. So, a redeeming factor in taking the test is that it is attached to a monetary reward of up to \$2500: the incentive for taking the test.

This reward is known as the Merit Award. Students who earn a proficient score, a 1 or a 2 ranking in all areas except social studies, will be eligible to qualify for the Merit Award. Those students must then obtain 40 hours of community service by the end of their senior years. This is a newly instated requirement for all graduating classes beginning with this year's juniors.

Juniors, Evan Volmering and Jarod Stoutenburg both agree that the money is the good thing about taking the test. Jarod says, "The money is what I'll be looking forward to." "If you do well, you get money to help fund college classes, books, and other things. That's cool," agrees Evan.

Another option that is available with this testing session is for seniors who took it last year to retake any tests that

they didn't originally attain the score they may have wished for.

Also, sophomores who wish to enroll in SVSU dual enrollment courses for the second semester of next year will be able to do so by taking their MEAP tests this year. I took advantage of this opportunity when I was a sophomore. It eliminated my obligation to take it as a junior and also prepared me to take college classes to jump start my post high school career.

Next fall, our schools will receive an overall grade. 60% of this grade will be based on the students' performance on the MEAP test. This year, the high school received an A. With the potential that the students have, the result is sure to be duplicated next year.

This week and next week, the schedules will be changed for the Cass City High School students. They will be reversed. A student's 6th hour class will be during the first hour of the day, and the 1st hour class will be during the last hour of the day. High School Principal Mr. Good states that the schedules have been reversed to "make the days as easy for the students as possible during this time of rigorous testing." He also says that the change in schedules will lessen the amount of absences for the students in their academic classes.

Good luck on your testing this week, juniors! Just keep the money in mind, and the test may not seem quite so bad.

More good luck wishes to the Academic Games teams for their competition on Friday at SVSU. It will be a long day of utilizing their knowledge. Look for more details about the event in next week's article.

Band trip fun and educational

Local musicians learn from the pros

The Cass City High School Concert Band's recent trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., proved to be both educational and enjoyable, according to Doug Burch, director of bands, and his students.

A total of 93 people, including 78 students, took part in the trip, March 21-26.

The trip, a year in the making, was part of Walt Disney World's "Celebrate America's Musical Heritage" program, according to Burch, who noted the band had earned the right to perform at Epcot Center.

"We auditioned and we were selected to perform as a concert band, and not all bands that audition are selected. They made that very clear," he said.

"We packed a lot into it (week)," Burch said. "We visited the Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Animal Kingdom, MGM Studios, and then we spent a day at Clearwater Beach, and then we went on a cruise on the last night on the Gulf of Mexico. We also had breakfast at the House of Blues, where Jake and Elwood were our hosts."

The band was also invited to share in the Disney Magic Music Days Breakfast with Mickey Mouse, who congratulated them on their selection to perform.

"But the trip wasn't just about fun," Burch pointed

out, adding his students had the opportunity to work with professional Disney musicians during a 3-hour sight-reading clinic. "They focused on music fundamentals and how you can apply those as a professional musician."

"We also went into a recording studio and the kids got to see what goes into a recording," continued Burch, who said the band performed background music to the Disney animated feature, "Tarzan". The performance was taped and each student will receive a copy of the video with their performance playing in the background.

The band's performance at Epcot Center took place March 24, and it proved to be an intense experience for the local musicians.

"That was very nerve wracking," said junior Ivy Hiatt. "There weren't as many people as at our concerts, but it was very nerve wracking because we were at Epcot."

"That was amazing. That was awesome," agreed freshman Jessie Bessler.

"I liked our clinic better than playing at Disney World," said senior Stacy McCallum. "We found out that we have to work a lot more on specific details."

Burch said the trip was especially satisfying to him because he was able to help

make the experience possible. "A lot of them (students) probably would have not gone to Disney World had it not been for this trip," he added.

It was an expensive trip, with the total tab coming to nearly \$55,000. "We raised a very good portion of that, but I don't have the exact numbers," said Burch, who organized a number of fundraisers during the previous year, including a large carnival on the front lawn of the high school, car washes and candy and candle sales. Donations at concerts also went towards the trip, Burch said.

The students agreed it was a wonderful, fun-packed week, but they also indicated they were impressed with their time spent with professional musicians.

They also recalled that the 26-hour bus trip to Florida taught them some things they hadn't realized before, including how little some of them knew their fellow band mates.

"We found out we don't get along as well as we thought we did," Bessler joked. "But we talked to people we don't usually talk to. We got to know everyone."

"It was definitely an eye opener," added McCallum.



CASS CITY BAND students Ashlee Spencer (left) and Galen Kuebli enjoy a visit with a Disney character.

Blood drive slated

The Hills and Dales General Hospital Auxiliary and Cass City VFW Post 3644 will

CPR class offered

Area residents are invited to prepare themselves for an emergency by enrolling in a free CPR class and AED training this month.

The class, sponsored by Mobile Medical Response (MMR), will be held Thursday, April 28, from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 10 p.m. at the Ellington Church of the Nazarene, 2545 Lazelle Rd. Call MMR at 1-800-232-5216 (ext. 2013) to register.

host a blood drive Tuesday, April 12, at the VFW post from 1 to 6:45 p.m.

The American Red Cross originally adopted blood services as a war relief effort to provide lifesaving blood for soldiers during World War II. Since then, the Red Cross has grown to become an industry leader, collecting and distributing half of the nation's blood supply.

Donating blood is an important, simple and selfless act, but it's estimated that less than 5 percent of eligible donors give blood.

More information is available by contacting Jezewski at 872-2746 or Kerry Brown at 872-2121 (ext. 319).



THE CASS CITY High School Concert Band performed at Walt Disney World's Epcot Center in Orlando, Fla., during a week-long trip that was described as being loaded with fun and educational activities.

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MEMBERS OF the Cass City Varsity Quiz Bowl Teams are (front row, left) Captain Chancy Balk, Kaylin Tack, Donna Bushong, Alex Hiatt, Ashley Puterbaugh, (back row, left) Bryan Hill, Jesse Rader, Corey Brooks and Philip Nahernak.



THE CASS CITY JV team is composed of (front row, left) C.J. Warmbier, Rob Packard, Lysa Knight, Kyle Swanson, (back row, left) Whitney Kirn, Adam Kranz, Evan Bushong and Andrew Deering.



CASS CITY'S grade level winners at the Tournament of Champions were (from left) senior Bryan Hill (first), junior Philip Nahernak (first), freshman Adam Kranz (first), sophomore Lysa Knight (second), and freshman Andrew Deering (second).



SUBJECT MATTER winners from Cass City were (from left) Chancy Balk (first place, science), Bryan Hill (second place, language arts), Jesse Rader (fourth place, math) and Ashley Puterbaugh (third place, math).

Red Hawk Quiz Bowl teams end seasons strong

The Cass City Varsity Quiz Bowl Teams A and B finished the season with a combined record of 31-11 in the 9-school Thumb Area Quiz Bowl League.

With their recent victory at the Bad Axe Invitational, the varsity qualified for the State Quiz Bowl Tournament to be held April 22 and 23 on the campus of Michigan State University, according to Coach Jim Green.

"The Cass City Junior Varsity Quiz Bowl Team finished the season with a record of 18-3, which was good for first place in the 6-team JV league," Green said. "The team finished the season with a 14-match winning streak, enabling them to win 5 consecutive invitationals."

Cass City had a strong showing at the Thumb Area Quiz Bowl League's season ending Tournament of Champions, an individual competition among students in the league.

The Thumb Area Quiz Bowl League is composed of Bad Axe, Brown City, Cass City, Carsonville-Port Sanilac, Deckerville, Marlette, Peck, Sandusky and Uby schools.

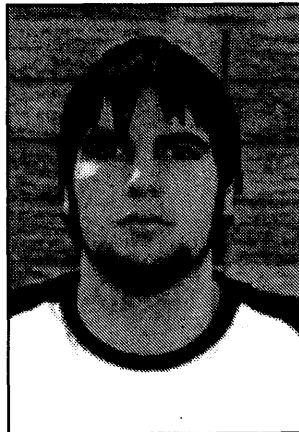
"About 120 students participated in the event, which consisted of grade level and subject matter competitions," Green explained.

"In the subject matter competition, Chancy Balk earned first place in science, Bryan Hill earned second place in language arts, Ashley Puterbaugh earned third place in math, and Jesse Rader earned fourth place in math," Green said.

"In the grade level competition, freshman Adam Kranz and Andrew Deering earned first and second place, respectively, sophomore Lysa Knight placed second, junior Philip Nahernak placed first, and senior Bryan Hill placed first."

Green said that Hill earned league MVP honors recently for his performance at the Thumb Area Quiz Bowl Tournament of Champions. He placed first among all seniors and second among all students in language arts. Green noted the quiz bowl

league is a non-profit organization. Any area business or individual interested in donating to the league can learn more by contacting him at Cass City High School at 872-2148.



Bryan Hill

ATV classes planned

Youth under 16 years of age operating an all terrain vehicle (ATV) are 4 times more likely to experience an injury requiring an emergency room visit.

In an effort to reduce ATV-related injuries, the Sanilac County 4-H Program and instructor Rod Jaskowski of the Port Sanilac Police Department will offer 50 county youth the opportunity to participate in an ATV safety certification course.

The course will be held Saturday, April 16, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Sanilac County Conference Room, 37 Austin St., Sandusky. The cost is \$5 per person, and participants who attend the entire session and pass the written exam will receive a state endorsed ATV safety certificate.

Space is limited. Pre-registration and payment are required. More information is available by calling the Sanilac County MSU Extension Office at (810) 648-2515.

Down Memory Lane

By Harmony Doerr



5 YEARS AGO

During recent meetings with sugar beet growers, Michigan Sugar Company officials announced record-breaking sugar production at its 4 facilities in Mid-Michigan. In the past 5 months, over 580 million pounds of sugar were produced, easily surpassing 1998's record of 527 million pounds. The 2.5 million-ton record-breaking sugar beet harvest in the fall of 1999 set the pace for a productive, successful year. During recent meetings with members of the Great Lakes Sugar Beet Association, company officials also announced a second payment of \$5 per ton to growers. The first payment of \$24.50 per ton was made in December 1999 and included a 70-cent bonus.

When it comes to horseback riding, the key to success lies in teamwork, according to Carmen Longuski. "A lot of it is learning how to understand your own particular horse," said Longuski, an Uby area resident who has turned a lifelong love of horses into a part-time business. Longuski and her husband, Edward, established Holbrook Quarter Horses at their Holbrook Road ranch about 10 years ago. Today, the couple offer a variety of services, including boarding and stud service by their American Quarter Horse Association certified black stallion, "Blacks Rhythm."

An experimental manure digester has been developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The device turns animal waste into an almost odor free fertilizer, while generating electricity and hot water on the side. But right now, the equipment and technology is too expensive for most farmers to purchase.

10 YEARS AGO

Walbro Corporation will erect a new plant in Tucson, Ariz., to build aluminum die-castings for its small engine carburetors, Dan Hittler, company official, said Monday. The castings will probably be manufactured in a joint agreement with a Japanese company, with expertise in the field, that has earned it

the reputation as one of the best in the field, Hittler explained.

Taxpayers are receiving a good return for the relatively small percentage of the federal budget spent each year on farm programs. Americans are the beneficiaries of \$450 billion worth of food produced by America's farmers each year.

Fresh strawberry consumption has tripled in the last 20 years. The popularity of strawberries has been fueled by new, firmer varieties that can be shipped across the country without spoiling. Michigan farmers grow about \$7.5 million worth of strawberries each year.

25 YEARS AGO

BIG CATCH - Especially when you're only 3 1/2 years old. Matt Anthony of Uby was fishing for perch Sunday morning off the breakwall at Caseville with his father, Kim, and Uncle Kevin Anthony. Instead of a perch, Matt hooked an 11-pound, 30-inch Coho, which his uncle helped him land.

Selling the most boxes of Girl Scout cookies during the now completed sale were Wendy Romain, 311 boxes; Michele Smith, 290; and Lisa Rutkowski, 269. The 34 Girl Scouts from three troops in Cass City sold a total of 4,644 boxes, compared to 3,690 last year.

35 YEARS AGO

Alex Cleland is part of a growing army of workers who are seeking earlier retirement and a way to leave the city for a retirement home in the country. The difference between the Clelands and many others with the same aims is that they managed to put their plan into effect several years earlier than most. For earlier this month Cleland retired from a life-long job at Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn at the age of 60. To do it, he took a reduced pension, much less than what he could have earned if he stayed to 62 or 65. But after 36 years on the job, Cleland says, I'm tired of working and living in the city.

Gene D. Wilson, a native of rural Cass City, was selected from among six candidates Friday to fill the post of Cass City Police Chief, it was announced by Lambert Althaver, village president. Wilson will take over May 1 the job that has a starting salary of \$9,000 a year in Cass City. He replaces Carl Palmateer who resigned Jan. 28.

A Michigan State University experiment showed that blueberry bushes caged without bees yielded 1.5 to 2 pounds of berries per bush. On the other hand, bushes caged with honeybees produced yields of up to 52 pounds each.

Round-up April 21

The spring kindergarten round-up, for parents only, at Campbell Elementary School is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, in the school cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. This meeting is important for anyone who has a child that will be 5 years old by Dec. 1, 2005.

Parents need to bring their child's birth certificate and immunization record to the meeting. To obtain a certified birth certificate, contact the county clerk's office in the county where your child was born.

Parents unable to attend are asked to call the school at 872-2158 as soon as possible

after April 22. During the round-up, parents will need to set up an appointment for a Gesell Screening and for vision and hearing screening. Every child entering kindergarten will participate in each of these screenings.

9 pounds per person

Americans consume more than 2.5 billion pounds of pickles each year - more than 9 pounds of pickles per person.

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Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
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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
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Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study & Children's Activities 6:00 p.m.
Pastor - Rev. Darold Ward

Cass City Missionary Church
4449 Koepfgen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-2729
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service & Youth Group 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting & His Kids Bible Club 6:30 p.m.
Pastor - Robert Sweeney

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
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.
AWANA 6:45 p.m. Wednesdays
Pastor: Eric Holmgren
Youth Pastor: Bryan Heller
Website: www.fbccc.us

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

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 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.
Wed. (Family Training Hour) 7:00 p.m.
Pastor: Keith Misany

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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THE CASS CITY RED HAWK varsity baseball team will defend its Greater Thumb West league title with this team that includes 8 lettermen. Front row, from left: Brett Babich, Jeff Stoutenburg, Lee Hutchinson, Justin Glaza, Dustin Bader, Nick Stoutenburg, Brad Langenburg and Jarod Stoutenburg. Second row: Coach Ryan Walker, Coach Ryan Pritchett, Cody Halasz, Andrew Whittaker, Chris Landrith, Mike Havens, Derryl Schenk, coach Sean Kreiner.

Cass City fields veteran team

Hopes are high that this is the year for the Cass City Red Hawk baseball team. Coach Ryan Pritchett, starting his fifth year at the helm, will have a veteran-laced team ready to defend its Greater Thumb West co-championship.

Although Cass City will open the season with a veteran pitching squad and a cadre of good hitters, Pritchett feels that the league this season will be very competitive from top to bottom.

The Hawks lost the services of Tyler Erla, who posted a 7-2 record last year, but pitching is still one of the strengths of this year's squad. Leading the pack will be junior Brad Langenburg, who was 9-2 on the mound and a power hitter at the plate. Senior Mike Havens provided some solid relief pitching with a 4-3 mark and hit a sparkling .360 for the season.

Behind these veterans is a pair of juniors. Brett Babich has a strong arm and also will be looked at in the outfield. Derryl Schenk, a junior in his first season at Cass City, is one of 2 versatile, athletic players new to the squad. He can catch, play the outfield and pitch. Chris Landrith is available for catching or in the outfield. Junior Jarod Stoutenburg has a good glove and bat and will help fill some of the holes left open by graduation.

Gone is John Bennett, who led the team with 44 hits and a .423 batting average. Also graduated are Jake Brinkman, who hit .373, stole 13 bases and smashed 2 homers while covering center field defensively like a blanket; Chris Dillon hit .378 and was a 4-year member of the varsity, and Nathan Laming hit .310, walked 16 times and had 15 stolen bases.

The Hawks should be scoring runs in bunches this season. Nick Stoutenburg will be back at first base, where he has been very strong defensively, and at the plate. Stoutenburg, a senior, hit a gaudy .418 while driving in 32 runs and launching 3 round trippers. Junior Justin Glaza was the club leader in home runs with 5 and the top RBI man among the returning veterans with 36; junior Cody Halasz hit 2 home runs, and batted .319. Junior Jeff Stoutenburg stole 10 bases.

Out of 8 returning players, 6 received league honors and Langenburg and Nick Stoutenburg were named all district players.

Weather permitting, the Hawks were to kick off the season against Millington at home Tuesday and play at Caro Thursday.

Honor roll students

Cass City High School announces the 4th marking period honor roll.

Grade 9

All A's: Meleah Auten, Isaiah Battel, Jessica Bessler, Evan Bushong, Ethan Damm, Ashley Deel, Andrew Deering, Madeline Dooley, Stephanie Healy, Trey Helwig, Darrin Howard, Kristie Karr, Adam Kranz, Lacey Morrish, Thomas Parrish, Jeffrey Sparks, Derek Weidman and Jennifer Zmierski.

B or better: Rodney Abasso, David Acker, Matthew Bartnik, Christopher Binder, Ryan Brown, Erica Darr, Anna Deel, Danielle Delamarter, Lauren Dillon, Rebecca Doerr, Kevin Goniwicha, Travis Hoffman, Zachary Hopper, Lauren Hudson, Ashley Hutchinson, Devin Jamieson, Danielle Johnson, Brittany Karavas, Mark Koepf, Tianna McDaniel, Shane McFarland, Lauren Meck, Heather Moore, Alyssa Nicol, Alicia Osentoski, Stephanie Regnerus, Bria Romstad, Joseph Rule, Brandy Rychlewski, Nicholas Smith and Ashlee Spencer.

Grade 10

All A's: Ryan Biddinger, Dennis Bowen, Jennifer

Hacker, Lysa Knight, Jessica Lange, Andrew Martin, Laura McComas, Courtney Rabideau, Allyn Richards, Ryan Ross, Nicholas Sattelberg, Philip Strong and Kyle Swanson.

B or better: Rebecca Bennett, John Brown, Alyssa Cryderman, Terra Czekai, Jill Dillon, Jeremiah Fritz, Courtney Hacker, Jennifer Hadd, Allison Hillaker, Lauren Howard, Stephanie Jamieson, Andrew Jones, Kathryn Kloco, Sara Meeker, Brandon Miller, Thomas Mittlestat, Lindsey Montgomery, Megan O'Dell, Lief Parr, Andrew Peruski, Jessica Pratt, Ashleigh Rabideau, Micah Randall, Kyle Reif, Eric Romain, Kyle Sieradzki, Kari Spencer, Derek Suro, Rebecca Sweeney, Eric Thick, Adam Wentworth and Leah Whittaker.

Grade 11

All A's: Donna Bushong, Libby Doerr, Ashley Hendrick, Katherine McIntosh, Philip Nahernak, Tara Powell, Chad Sparks, Lindsey Speirs and Jenna Timko.

B or better: Dustin Bitzer, Renee Czekai, Danielle Dickson, Bethany Edwards, Nicole Froede, Ashley Gebhardt, Ivy Hiatt, Brent Kucharczyk, Bradley Langenburg, Dean Little,

Amy Martin, Stephanie Nizzola, Klyn Puterbaugh, Rebecca Putnam, Christopher Skiles, Jarod Stoutenburg, Jeffrey Stoutenburg, Amber Williams and Jeffrey Wills.

Grade 12

All A's: Ashley Barrigar, Tasha Bryant, Allison Ellis, Chad Francis, Samantha Glaspie, Caleb Hanby, Bryan Hill, Carrie Hillaker, Paul Hoelzle, Krista Homakie, Lee Hutchinson, Chad Keiser, Luann Laming, Bethany Langlois, Timothy Mills, Patrick Reed, Stephanie Richards, Andrew Schinnerer, Leah Sherman, Jason Speirs, Angela Stoeckle, Jeffery Tenbusch and Jessie Tuckey.

B or better: Holly Angle, Chancy Balk, Jessica Bellew, Adam Czekai, Jason Haight, Gail Hartwick, Michael Havens, Marcel Holland, Jenna Hoffman, Jessup Hoyt, Corey Johnson, Rose Krug, Nichole McComas, Sean McFarland, James McKnight, Katie Moore, Delores Rabideau, Jesse Rader, Alysha Rutkowski, Sean Severance, Tara Sherman, Sara Silipo, Justin Sorenson, Kristina Spaulding, Nicholas Stoutenburg, Aime Warack, Andrew Whittaker, Tara Whittaker, Jake Wilder and Michael Zmierski II.

Benefit concert slated

The gospel group "Not Ashamed" will be hosting their annual benefit concert "A Taste of Heaven" Saturday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Caro.

This year's concert will once again feature gospel music through the talents of local instrumentalists and a large community choir. Special guests will include Dennis Gwizdala, Mark and Andrea Forrester, and Ted and Kaye Tackett.

No admission will be charged, but a free will offering will be taken to benefit the ministry of Forgotten Man Ministries. If you have any questions or need directions, please contact Don or Tina Scott at 989-673-4536.

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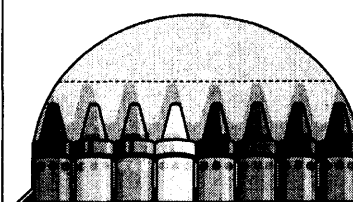
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CASS CITY HEAD START AND MSRP PRE-SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS FOR 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR



RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
APRIL 12, 2005
MSRP 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Head Start
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
For more information call:
Head Start: Mrs. Char
989-375-1016 or
866-851-1673 toll-free
MSRP: Ed Pasant
989-872-4397

Head Start and MSRP are comprehensive pre-school programs serving children who meet family income guidelines, *receive SSI *FIP *CDC (childcare) *foster children, and/or have a documented disability regardless of income.

Head Start serves ages 3-5 years old by Dec. 1st.
MSRP serves 4 years old by Dec. 2nd, who live in the Cass City School District.

TO ENROLL, PLEASE BRING:

1. Child's birth certificate
2. Child's shot record
3. Proof of income: 2004 tax return or current check stubs
4. Medicaid / insurance, dental & medical
5. Social security numbers for parents and child
6. Doctor & dentist address and phone #
7. Employer's address and phone #

CHILDREN NEED NOT ATTEND



Cass City Public Schools
PROGRESS IN EDUCATION
from the desk of Ken Micklash, Superintendent

SCHOOL INFORMATION

If you have questions or need more information about the May 3rd bond proposal, please come to the

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

on
TUESDAY, APRIL 12 at 7:00 p.m.

at the
CASS CITY HIGH SCHOOL.

There will be an informational presentation followed by a question and answer forum. Bring your family, friends and neighbors and get the facts. Hope to see you there!

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM SIGN-UP

Applications for the **CASS CITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM** (also known as the four-year-old program) will be available on Tuesday, April 12, 2005 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Cass City's Rawson Memorial Library.

The **CASS CITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM** has changed application procedure. In the past, parents have picked up and dropped off applications at the schools; again this year, we are going to have a joint enrollment with **CASS CITY HEAD START** at **RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY**.

For the enrollment, you need to bring:

- 1) certified birth certificate
- 2) immunization record
- 3) 2004 tax return (or Food Stamp/ FIP case number)
- 4) child's social security number

Parents may pick up an application from any Cass City School office beginning Wednesday, April 13, 2005 to be considered for any other openings, either at-risk or tuition.

Applicants wishing to apply for **TUITION ONLY** (if any positions are available) may pick up an application form beginning April 12, 2005 and return the form by June 1, 2005. If you have questions please call Ed Pasant at 872-4397 in the afternoon.

CAMPBELL SCHOOL ANNOUNCES KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP 2005

The spring kindergarten registration, for parents only, is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2005 at Campbell Elementary School's cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. If you have or know anyone who has a child that will be 5 years old by December 1, 2005, this meeting is important to you. Parents need to bring their child's birth certificate and immunization record to this meeting. To obtain a certified birth certificate you need to contact the county clerk's office in the county your child was born in. It is very important for you to have this document.

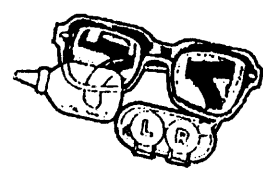
If you are unable to attend our Kindergarten Round-Up, please call the school for an appointment as soon as possible at 872-2158 after April 22nd. At Round-Up you will need to set up an appointment for a Gesell Screening and for Vision and Hearing Screening. Every child entering kindergarten will participate in each of these screening.

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

Cass City Red Hawks 2005 Boys' Baseball

Date	Team	Time
April 5	Millington	4:15 p.m.
April 7	Caro	4:15 p.m.
April 11	North Branch	
April 14	Brown City	4:15 p.m.
April 18	Uby	4:15 p.m.
April 21	Harbor Beach	4:15 p.m.
April 25	Marlette	4:15 p.m.
April 28	Valley Lutheran	4:15 p.m.
April 30	Birch Run Tournament	TBA
May 2	Lakers	4:15 p.m.
May 5	Bad Axe	4:15 p.m.
May 9	Mayville	4:15 p.m.
May 12	USA	4:15 p.m.
May 14	Caro Invite	9:30 a.m.
May 16	Deckerville	4:15 p.m.
May 19	Reese	4:15 p.m.
May 23	BCAS	4:15 p.m.
May 26	Sandusky	4:15 p.m.
June 3	Bad Axe	TBA

* Home games are bold



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Read Meg's Peg

Cass City Village Council PUBLIC NOTICE

The Cass City Village Council will be holding a Public Hearing at the Municipal Building, 6506 Main Street, Cass City, Michigan, as follows:

Monday - April 25, 2005 at 7:15 p.m.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider approval of an Industrial Facilities Tax (IFT) Exemption Certificate for

Walbro Engine Management, LLC,
for equipment to be located at
6242 Garfield Road, Cass City, MI.

Nanette S. Walsh
Clerk/Treasurer

POSTED AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON Friday, April 1, 2005.

Hawks eyeing GTW softball championship

The Cass City Red Hawk softball team is expected to be in the fight for the Greater Thumb West softball title,

fighting it out with Unionville Sebewaing as the team to beat.

Both clubs will lean on superior pitching in their race for league and tournament honors. The Patriot staff is lead by Sarah Alegria, who will also play in the infield when Erica Houthoofd is on the mound.

Countering the USA staff for the Hawks will be Courtney Rabideau, who worked her way up from the junior varsity last year as a freshman, and junior Ashley Hendrick. The girls will be at shortstop when not on the mound.

While there are experienced players to fill the gaps, the Hawks will miss 4 girls who graduated. Megan Toner was a top hitter and third baseman. Krystee Dorland is gone from shortstop and Kristi Fluegge covered second base. Mallory Powell was the pitcher who could be relied on for a creditable performance every time she took the mound.

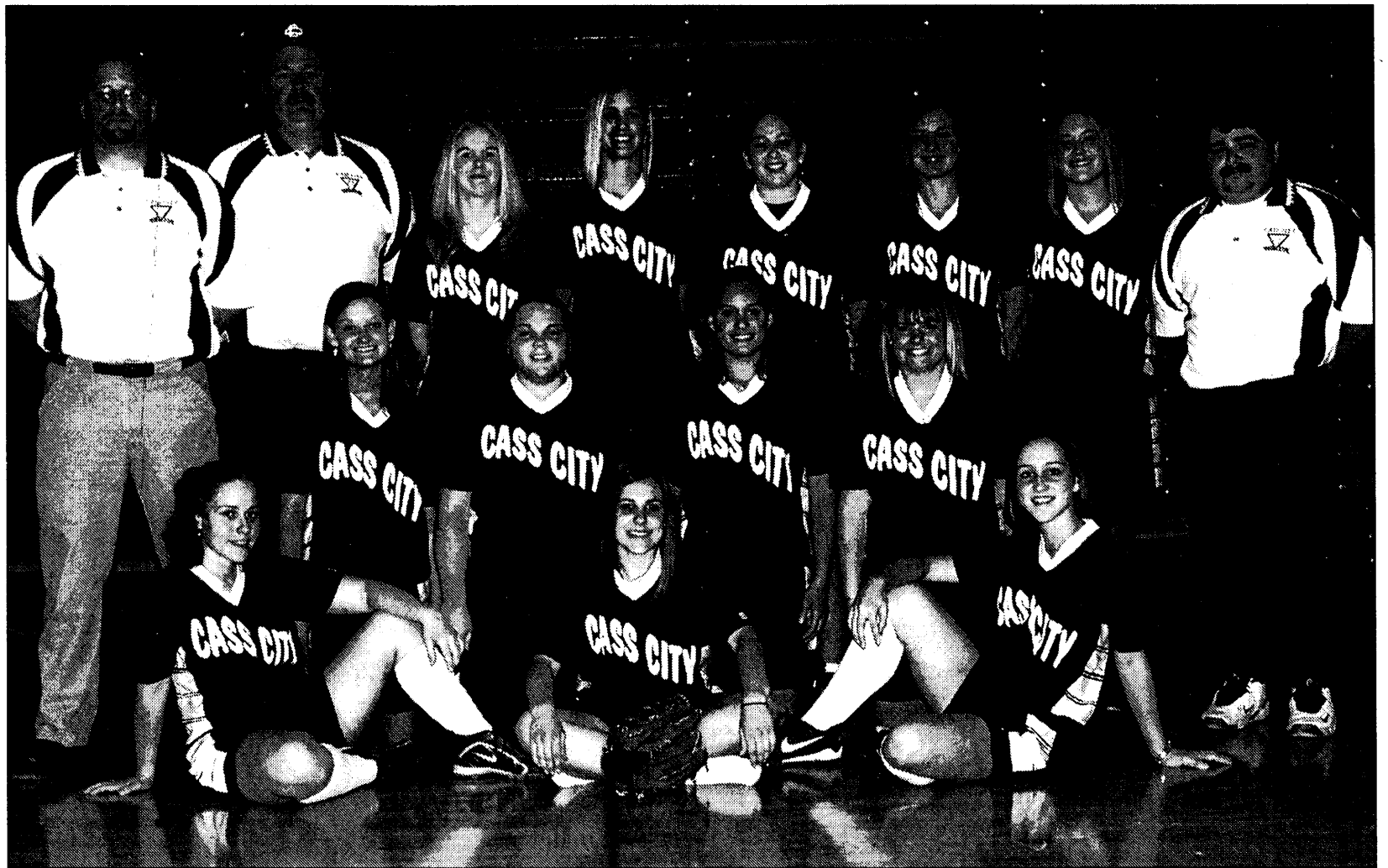
Replacing Toner at third will be senior Gail Hartwick, who moved to the infield from the outfield. Jenni Brinkman will be at second and senior Kristina Spaulding takes over at first. Senior Luann Laming will be back to patrol center field. Junior Renee Czekai will be behind the plate again.

Coach Josh Stern will have a veteran available at every position. The GTW promises to be very competitive with a host of teams loaded with veteran players.

Cass City Red Hawks 2005 Girls' Softball

Date	Team	Time
April 5	Millington	4:15 p.m.
April 7	Caro	4:15 p.m.
April 11	North Branch	4:15 p.m.
April 14	Brown City	4:15 p.m.
April 18	Uby	4:15 p.m.
April 21	Harbor Beach	4:15 p.m.
April 25	Marlette	4:15 p.m.
April 28	Valley Lutheran	4:15 p.m.
April 30	Birch Run Invite	8:00 a.m.
May 2	Lakers	4:15 p.m.
May 5	Bad Axe	4:15 p.m.
May 7	JV Invite	10:00 a.m.
May 9	Mayville	4:15 p.m.
May 12	USA	4:15 p.m.
May 16	Deckerville	4:15 p.m.
May 19	Reese	4:15 p.m.
May 21	Imlay City Invite	4:15 p.m.
May 23	BCAS	4:15 p.m.
May 26	Sandusky	4:15 p.m.
June 3	Bad Axe	4:15 p.m.

* Home games are bold



THE CASS CITY RED HAWK varsity softball team, front row, from left: Ashley Barrigar, Brandi Talaski, Luann Laming. Middle row: Kalen Trischler, Renee Czekai, Courtney Rabideau, Amber Weiss. Back row: Coach Josh Stern, assistant coach Ken Martin, Kristina Spaulding, Ashley Hendrick, Gail Hartwick, Jenni Brinkman, Aimee Hennessey, assistant coach Ron Czekai.

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Cass City Bowling

SUNDAY NO ROLLERS
as of March 13

Pinheads 42
Damn Near Last 33
Jebco 29
Par-T-Ranch 29
Sometimers 28
Deford Drifters 27
CB's 22

Individual High Games &
Series: T. Potrykus 223
(594); D. Silance 196 (500);
D. Witkovsky (504).
Team High Game & Series:
Pinheads 709 (2067).

Merchants
as of March 30

Lee Morgan Painting 63
Charmont 46
Patrick's Flooring 21
Curtis Chrysler 8

Individual High Games &
Series: T. Lis 245-232 (660);
R. Hull 257 (609); S. Nauka
236-203 (605); R. Wright
221-206 (585).



AMONG THE candidates for Cass City's 2005 Junior Citizen of the Year honor are: (from left) Krista Homakie, Leah Sherman, Paul Hoelzle, Jesse Rader, Stephanie Richards, Angela Stoeckle and Tara Whittaker. (See story page one)

CORRECTION

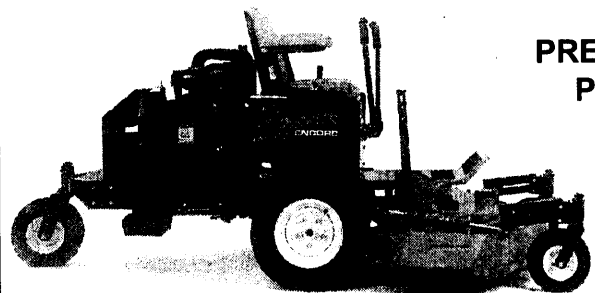
The Cass City Middle School Honor Roll submitted for the fourth marking period contained 2 errors. It should have reported Kristen Kawecki - All A's and Eli Kelley - A/B Honor Roll.

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with feature
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-Clean Deck
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Letters to the editor

Arts center meeting didn't answer questions

Editor,

On Wednesday, March 31, I attended what was advertised as an informational meeting concerning the impending millage request, which we will be asked to consider. The entire presentation took over one hour and 20 minutes and, after heated discussions, the conclusion that I came to was nothing, no answers were given. I didn't come to this meeting to hear the band director explain how he and an architect designed the building specifically for his band, or what experiences he had in the past. The explanation by the superintendent on the expenditure of the funds for building maintenance and renovations were once again

generalizations without specific costs attached to any items. A question was posed to the superintendent concerning the logic behind only requesting one proposal on such an expensive project. Superintendent statement was that we would seek additional bids if the bond was approved (non-answer). This method of procurement is either fiscally irresponsible, or is deliberately targeting one contractor for this award. The school board obviously is proud of the superintendent's methods, or failed to recognize the ramifications of his action. The contractor selected by the superintendent was the same used for the middle school construction.

Statement by the superintendent that the enrollment is increasing and we need the additional space this millage will furnish. I produced documentation from Standard and Poor's showing that in 2002, we had a total of 1,567 students, in the 2-27-05 article of the Chronicle, the superintendent reported a total of 1,542 students, of this total 14 are at Deford (ACE). Our enrollment is decreasing yearly. Additional questions were raised as to who authorized the practice of going out of the district to procure and bus students to our district? Attending school board members and superintendent did not deny that this practice was taking place.

The major enrollment concern which needs to be addressed by the school board is bullying, which it appears we have lost students this year, and will continue to lose students until the superintendent learns the definition of bullying as alluded to at the last school board meeting, and ENFORCES the school policy as written.

The single page tri-fold handout furnished was inaccurate, and attempted to minimize the impact of the true obligation to the taxpayer.

The sentence (by reducing the payoff schedule to 12 years instead of 25 to 30 years, the district will save millions in interest costs). Sounds good, but in reality total indebtedness of the school district will not exceed 15 percent of the taxable valuation of the school district for any given year. We all know, and as I brought up the figures are inaccurate, as they don't reflect the increases in the SEV, annual increases.

What is this building for; the advertised purpose is for students and the community. In reality it's for the school to earn money from the performances, which will be placed in one of the superintendent's 7 discretionary funds. Not debt retirement.

Our students are doing very well where they are at winning awards, without the need of a huge auditorium intimidating them. "The community need". How

many times have you or anyone in the community been invited to use the auditorium for your clubs or organizations? Once, twice, none probably. How many times do you think it will be available for community use, as there is no custodial services being factored into the cost, the superintendent stated at Shabbona that the school teachers and employees will be glad to pitch in and help clean.

School electioneering, sounds complicated but it's

not. Units of government may not engage in electioneering, the spending of tax dollars or the use of public resources, either directly or indirectly, to influence electors. This is a legal and ethical fact that Michigan's attorney general has repeated on several occasions. It is illegal to use telephones, computers, mailing lists, facilities, on-duty personnel, or children in the classroom to get out the yes vote.

Public schools have a duty to uphold a posture of neutrality toward their elections, particularly since they themselves are in charge of running the elections. Purity of elections is a cornerstone of democracy.

The superintendent mentioned that some of the funds wouldn't be used right away. One item, the middle school technology upgrade, will not take place for years as we have good equipment now. The funding would be set aside in an interest bearing fund for future use possibly

6 years or so. This is poor business management, as the interest, which will be realized from this set aside funding, will be less than what we are paying in. The only winner is the ones who ever issued the loan.

To all the citizens of this district, you must, I repeat, you must vote, whether you are for the proposal, or against it, you must vote. If you ignore your right and responsibility to express your opinion in the voting booth,

then you are allowing someone else to decide your financial future, and the welfare of your children.

I can predict that everyone in favor of this will be at the polls. For anyone who needs a ride to vote, call me, I'm in the book.

Thank-you,
Homer Bailey
Cass City

It's time to stop the waste

Re: Donaldson's proposal

The Deford School closed because of declining enrollment. It was later reopened as an Alternative Center for Education for just 9 students. The cost of operating this building, staff, utilities, insurance and maintenance is significant.

Now, plans call for resealing the roof of this building at a cost of \$240,000. You couldn't sell the building for \$240,000. It doesn't make any sense. It's no wonder school taxes aren't going down and now they want more taxes.

I propose they close the Deford School (no "good neighbor" roofing job) and sell it as it is. The proceeds can go toward any necessary repairs to the remaining Cass City School buildings. If the school board and superintendent can't handle it, they should be replaced. In my opinion, they are all out to lunch on this one.

For those of you who still feel the need to pay for something so badly, the arsenic treatment plant will keep you busy for a long, long time. The estimated yearly costs added to your water bill is \$400 (reference: village council meeting March 28, 2005). The needs of the DPW have been neglected for far too long. They are the best value for your money in the Thumb. It's time to stop waste and put our priorities in order.

God bless Cass City!

Ray Donaldson
Cass City

Bailey letter included much misinformation

To the editor,

In response to Mr. Bailey's letter last week, you sir are entitled to your opinion and the right to tell others. That's what makes America great, but when misinformed opinions cloud and overshadow the facts, then that needs to be addressed.

Your reference to "A total disregard for students, the

parents and the elderly who endured hours waiting for their children to perform, and require the youngest to stay for the total program on a school night being insensitive, irresponsible, dangerous and contrary to past practice" was uncalled for and absurd.

To correct your misinformation, the facts to this matter and other statements are:

1. The concert started at 7:30 p.m. and was completely finished before 8:50 p.m. Myself and some of the other high school band parents, and students, were finished putting the equipment away, and left the school before 10:15 p.m. Which I might add was earlier than many of the sports practices, because of scheduling conflicts of the gym usage. A problem that can be alleviated with the passage of the upcoming proposal.

2. Another fact: many of the young students left before the whole concert was over which was fine, those who stayed chose to do this. As I was passing out programs, I had the opportunity to talk to many parents and grandparents, and it was the thought of them sitting there on those outdated bleachers, that makes just one hour seem like an eternity. This problem also would be taken care of with the passage of this proposal.

How many of those same families that you referred to in your letter, allowed their children "on a school night" to stay out later when Finding Nemo, A Shark's Tale, Harry Potter or many other movies were playing at the theatre?

3. I have also talked to the people at Lakers, Caseville, USA, Frankenmuth and Caro, and they all have said that if they could do it over, they would make their facilities with more seating, or putting a full fly in their buildings.

You made references in a previous letter to Zeeland's performing arts center costing only \$4 million to build. Considering it was built in 1998, and with the rising costs of everything today, then \$7.5 million dollars is not a bad price at all.

4. You, Mr. Bailey, make it appear that scheduling concerts like the one in March is done just to promote the need of a larger facility, and "proves to the audience just how crowded the auditorium could become." The fact is once again, because of having to schedule band performances in the gymnasium, around all the other activities, instead of in a proper location where all these talented individuals could shine, just as our wonderful athletes can shine on the football field, track or baseball diamond, etc.

With a performing arts center we would be able to schedule the middle school performances at a different time than the high school, and so on.

5. Your misinformation about the seldom use of the building is a false statement also.

Anyone who would have come to any of the "open to the public" school board meetings, or question and answer times with the architects, would have known that

the building will be used every day that school is in session, since the band room, practice rooms and music room will be located there. This allows for the existing band room, which I might add, was built to accommodate 65 students, to be converted into much needed classrooms.

As for the need for storage for uniforms, equipment, etc., have you tried to store marching band uniforms, concert band uniforms, etc., for 80 students in the existing accommodations? It is almost an impossible task, let alone next year when we have over 100 members. There is a motto that many bands across the nation use, "One Band, One Sound". This applies to our Red Hawk Band as well.

Many of the concerts are from 7 to 9 p.m. right now only due to scheduling conflicts. There have been many activities in the past and future that could be done at different times. For example, hosting band festivals (which are all day Saturdays), Academic Track meets, dance recitals, and even Sunday afternoon events like the fundraiser concert made up of not just the high school band, but many talented groups and individuals from the community to help with Tsunami relief. A job well done to all who participated.

A great man once said, "The life of the arts, far from being an interruption, a distraction, in the life of a nation, is close to the center of a nation's purpose and is a test of the quality of a nation's civilization." - John F. Kennedy.

A great man once said, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds, and praise your Father in heaven."

None of these kids were asked to be brought into this world, but as parents and grandparents it is our duty to look out for their best interests. As God has given all of our athletes the talent to compete, God has given all the kids involved with the fine arts program, whether singing, dancing, drama, or playing in the bands, the talent to perform. Let us give them the proper place to shine, thus glorifying Him.

I commend Mr. Burtch, Miss King, Mrs. Anselm, Mr. Hobbs, Mr. Micklash, all the faculty, and school board for a job well done, looking out for the best interest of all of our kids. You are right about one thing, Mr. Bailey, it is only money. For the price of one Coke or cappuccino a week, we could make a difference for generations to come. I can't think of a better way to spend that little bit.

I would encourage all of our college students or parents that have ever participated in the fine arts programs in the past to vote "Yes" and help make a difference in our community.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Windsor,
Proud band parent, member of Citizens for Pride in our Community and Schools Committee, and also taxpayer/homeowner affected by this proposal.

Letter to the Editor,

Just an observation on this bullying issue. How can we reasonably expect our children, especially our teenage children, to overcome their urge to be bullies when the Cass City Village Council members are setting such a fine example on how to become perfect adult bullies by refusing to accept the fact that they may be wrong, that the vast majority of the community does not agree with them and that some people will actually stand up to their bullying?

Their childish, spoiled-brat actions kind of remind me of the bossy playground bullies in elementary school who demanded that everyone play the games their way and then got angry and mean if they didn't win. Were these adult bullies also bullies in school, or were they the unfortunate children who were bullied?

Since nobody complained at the time and, to my knowledge, no permission for a variance was requested or granted, I believe the most recent ordinance which discriminates against wall signs was adopted after the wall sign was painted on "Timeless Treasures".

If I'm not mistaken, Jane from Livonia was village manager when this ordinance was adopted which would come as no surprise to me having lived in the Detroit Metro area for 37 years, dealing with this fascist mindset quite regularly. (City ordinances or country?)

I think everyone would agree that there is a reasonable, logical explanation for everything. We may not always know the reason for something, but there is always a reason. That said, I believe the village council needs to answer some questions concerning this city ordinance; 1. Is there a chance that a sign or mural painted on a wall can fall off and injure or kill someone? 2. Is a sign painted on a wall any more of a traffic distraction than any other sign?

Just in case the members of the village council didn't know, the answer to both of these questions is "NO".

Now that they are aware that painted wall signs are not a public safety issue, the VFW and the entire community deserves and should demand a reasonable, logical explanation for their sign ordinance, which discriminates against painted wall signs, probably the least expensive form of advertising any business owner can buy.

Considering their states of mind, I realize that it would be very difficult for any of the village council members to acknowledge that a property owner just might know what's better for his own property and business than they could possibly know. But, if the council members do not believe they were somehow endowed by their Creator to know what's best for everyone and that they should be the ultimate authorities over everyone's lives and properties, I have a perfectly simple solution to their problem. They can set an example for all of the other would-be bullies by overcoming their apparent psychological disorders and eliminating the wall sign ordinance.

It may be time for the village council to join the anti-bullying campaign and try to set a positive example for their much younger would-be-bully peers. In case they haven't quite figured it out yet, "just because I said so" doesn't really carry much weight in the world of adults who can actually think.

Of course, if I'm wrong about the village council members' belief that they have some infinite wisdom not available to the rest of us common folk, and if I'm wrong about them being the adult bullies in our community, then I assume we will soon receive a reasonable, logical explanation for their ordinance concerning wall signs. We are waiting, impatiently!

P.S. No. "The 'Jane' made me do it" is neither a reason nor an excuse for your adolescent actions.

Bob Papovich
Cass City

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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.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Caroline A. Stratton, a single person, original mortgagor, to ABN AMRO Mortgage Group, Inc., Mortgagee, dated December 11, 2001 and recorded on January 28, 2002 in Liber 859 on Page 975 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Five and 39/100 Dollars (\$49,985.39), including interest at 6.5% 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 at 10:00 AM, on April 28, 2005.

Said premises are situated in Township of Vassar, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

The West 400 Feet of the East 500 Feet of the South 200 Feet of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 30, Township 11 North, Range 8 East, Tuscola County Records.

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

Dated: March 30, 2005

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC X (248) 593-1301
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys For ABN AMRO Mortgage Group, Inc.
30400 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 200
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025-5822
File #022034F04

3-30-4

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

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Dennis A. Girduckas and Rebecca L. Girduckas, husband and wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., Mortgagee, dated June 19, 2002 and recorded on June 27, 2002 in Liber 883 on Page 490 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Eight and 87/100 Dollars (\$30,428.87), including interest at 9.625% 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 at 10:00 AM, on April 21, 2005.

Said premises are situated in Village of Cass City, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Lot 10, Block "K" of L.L. Hitchcock's Second Addition to the Village of Cass City, Tuscola County, Michigan, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1 of plats, page 55, now Liber 1, Page 5-A, Tuscola County Records.

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

Dated: March 23, 2005

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC X (248) 593-1302
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys For Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
30400 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 200
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025-5822
File #051939F01
3-23-4

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the condition of a certain mortgage made by RICHARD K. SPRAGUE and NANCY M. SPRAGUE, HUSBAND AND WIFE, to NOVI COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION, now known as HOMETOWN COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION, Mortgagee, dated August 19, 2002 and recorded on September 9, 2002 in Liber 892 on Page 1426, TUSCOLA County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Forty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Four and 27/100 Dollars (\$48,954.27), including interest at 7% 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, Michigan, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., on Thursday, April 28, 2005.

Said premises are situated in the Township of Juniata, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

LAND SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF JUNIATA, COUNTY OF TUSCOLA AND STATE OF MICHIGAN, PART OF

THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 24, TOWN 12 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST, DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 24, WHICH IS N88 DEG 21' 50" W, 250.00 FEET FROM THE NORTH 1/4 CORNER OF SAID SECTION 24; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTH LINE N88 DEG 21' 50" W, 150.00 FEET; THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES TO SAID NORTH LINE, S01 DEG 38' 10" W, 220.00 FEET; THENCE S88 DEG 21' 50" E, 150.00 FEET; THENCE N01 DEG 38' 10" E, 220.00 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 24 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

A.P.N. # 014-024-000-1000-00

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: March 11, 2005

Novi Community Credit Union
n/k/a Hometown Community Credit Union
22245 Haggerty Road
P.O. Box 8000
Novi, MI 48376
Mortgagee

Charles R. Harroon (P-31949)
P.O. Box 57
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
(248) 348-8500

3-23-5

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

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Dane L. Byrd, a married person and Ladmia M. Byrd, his wife, to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., mortgagee, dated January 13, 2003 and recorded January 22, 2003 in Liber 911, Page 1318, Tuscola County Records. Said mortgage is now held by EMC Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated November 20, 2003 and recorded March 03, 2004 in Liber 982 on Page 1031, by the Tuscola County Register of Deeds. There is claimed to be due on such mortgage the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Two and 15/100 Dollars (\$133,722.15) including interest at the rate of 6.50% 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 April 28, 2005.

The premises are located in the Township of Dayton, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:
The South half of the South half of the Northwest quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 1, Town 11 North, Range 10 East.

The redemption period shall be 12 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.

TO ALL PURCHASERS: 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. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale.

Dated: March 30, 2005

ORLAND ASSOCIATES PC
Attorneys for EMC Mortgage Corporation
As Assignee
P.O. Box 5041
Troy, MI 48007-5041
(248) 457-1000
File No. 199.1967

3-30-5

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.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Jesse Bachman, a married person, and Shelly Bachman, his wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., Mortgagee, dated April 13, 2001 and recorded on April 18, 2001 in Liber 828 on Page 1427 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Seven and 54/100 Dollars (\$52,877.54), including interest at 7.375% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the Front entrance to the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County at 10:00 AM, on April 21, 2005.

Said premises are situated in Township of Novesta, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Part of the Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 32, Town 13 North, Range 11 East, Novesta Township, Tuscola County, Michigan, described as commencing at the North quarter of said Section 32; thence along the North line of said Section 32, East 962.14 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing along said North line of Section 32, East 66.00 feet to a point 198.00 feet Westerly of abandoned railroad right of way; thence South 00 degrees 05 minutes 58 seconds East, parallel to the East line of said Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 32, 676.50 feet; thence West 66.00 feet; thence North

00 degrees 05 minutes 58 seconds West, 676.50 feet to the point of beginning. Right of Way for Deckerville Road over the Northerly side thereof.

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

Dated: March 23, 2005

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC W (248) 593-1312
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys For Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
30400 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 200
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025-5822
File #050828F01
3-23-4

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

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Nicholas D. O'Kelly, a single man, and Jennie Keith, a single woman, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., Mortgagee, dated April 11, 2002 and recorded on April 18, 2002 in Liber 874 on Page 927 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Eight and 91/100 Dollars (\$55,828.91), including interest at 7.375% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the Front entrance to the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County at 10:00 AM, on April 14, 2005.

Said premises are situated in Township of Arbelia, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

A parcel of land described as: beginning at a point which is North 89 degrees 16 minutes East 801.9 feet from the Southwest corner of Section 31, Town 10 North, Range 7 East; thence North 0 degrees 10 minutes 30 seconds West 250.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 16 minutes East 100.00 feet; thence South 0 degrees 10 minutes 30 seconds East 250.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 15 minutes West, 100.00 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 MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 16, 2005

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC G (248) 593-1310
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys For Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
30400 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 200
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025-5822
File #028655F02

3-16-4

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

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Bradley Wescoat, a married man, and Victoria Wescoat, his wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., Mortgagee, dated August 14, 2003 and recorded on August 25, 2003 in Liber 950 on Page 736 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Five Thousand Six Hundred One and 83/100 Dollars (\$105,601.83), including interest at 7.5% 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 at 10:00 AM, on April 28, 2005.

Said premises are situated in Township of Arbelia, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Arbelia Township, Tuscola County, State Of Michigan, Section 20, Township 10 North, Range 7 East: commencing at a point 250 feet North of Southeast corner of North 3/4 of East 1/2 of Southeast 1/4; thence North 130 feet, West 298 feet, South 130 feet, East 298 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 MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 30, 2005

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC W (248) 593-1312
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys For Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
30400 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 200
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025-5822
File #051857F01

3-30-4

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

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Keith A. Staple, a married man and William K. Staple, an unmarried man, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., Mortgagee, dated May 21, 2004, and recorded on June 22, 2004 in Liber 997 on Page 691, in Tuscola county records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Two And 62/100 Dollars (\$108,382.62), including interest at 6.75% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the Front entrance to the Courthouse in the village of Caro, Tuscola County at 10:00 AM, on May 5, 2005.

Said premises are situated in City of Vassar, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot (s) 1, Block 2, Hutson's Addition, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of plats, Page 20A.

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

Dated: April 6, 2005

For more information, please call:
FC R 248.593.1305
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys For Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
30400 Telegraph Rd Ste 200
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025-5822
File #051264F01

4-6-4

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

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Morris J. Houthoofd, a single man, Mortgagor, to Conesco Finance Servicing Corp., Mortgagee, dated February 9, 2002 and recorded on February 22, 2002 in Liber 866, Page 1039, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which said mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, the sum of Thirty-Six Thousand Three Hundred Eighty and 35/100 Dollars (\$36,318.35), including interest at 11.75% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at front entrance of the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan, on Thursday, April 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

Said premises are situated in the Township of North Akron, County of Tuscola, State of Michigan, and is described as follows, to-wit:

Part of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 32, Town 15 North, Range 8 East, North Akron Township, Tuscola County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at a point of the North and South 1/4 line of said Section 32, which is South 00 degrees 12 minutes 20 seconds East, 457.00 feet from the North 1/4 corner of said section; thence continuing along said North and South 1/4 line, South 00 degrees 12 minutes 20 seconds East, 153 feet; thence at right angles to said North and South 1/4 line, South 89 degrees 47 minutes 40 seconds West, 183 feet; thence North 00 degrees 47 minutes 40 seconds West, 183 feet; thence North 00 degrees 12 minutes 20 seconds West, 153 feet; thence North 89 degrees 47 minutes 40 seconds East, 183 feet to the North and South 1/4 line of said Section 32 and the point of beginning.

Said premises are situated in the Township of North Akron, County of Tuscola, State of Michigan, and is described as follows, to-wit:

Part of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 32, Town 15 North, Range 8 East, North Akron Township, Tuscola County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at a point of the North and South 1/4 line of said Section 32, which is South 00 degrees 12 minutes 20 seconds East, 457.00 feet from the North 1/4 corner of said section; thence continuing along said North and South 1/4 line, South 00 degrees 12 minutes 20 seconds East, 153 feet; thence at right angles to said North and South 1/4 line, South 89 degrees 47 minutes 40 seconds West, 183 feet; thence North 00 degrees 47 minutes 40 seconds West, 183 feet; thence North 00 degrees 12 minutes 20 seconds West, 153 feet; thence North 89 degrees 47 minutes 40 seconds East, 183 feet to the North and South 1/4 line of said Section 32 and the point of beginning.

Parcel ID: 001-132-000-0600-00

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

Dated: March 15, 2005

Conesco Finance Servicing Corp.
N/A Green Tree Servicing, L.L.C.
Mortgagee

Keith A. Sotiroff, Esq.
SOTIROFF & ABRAMCZYK, P.C.
30400 Telegraph Road, Ste. 444
Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4541
(248) 642-6000
3-23-5

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.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Ruth M. Elwart, a single person, original mortgagor, to Bank One N.A., Mortgagee, dated November 6, 2003 and recorded on January 13, 2004 in Liber 973 on Page 453 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Forty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Six and 85/100 Dollars (\$42,506.85), including interest at 6% 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 at 10:00 AM, on April 14, 2005.

Said premises are situated in Township of Fremont, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Premises is situated in the Township of Fremont, Village of Mayville, County of Tuscola, State of Michigan to-wit: Section 36, Town 11 North, Range 9 East, Lots 5 and North half of Lot 6, Beechwood Annex, Village of Mayville, as recorded in North half of Lot 8, Block 6, Beechwood Annex, Village of Mayville as recorded in Liber 1, Page 31, as recorded in Tuscola County Records.

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

Dated: March 16, 2005

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC G (248) 593-1310
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys For JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., successor by merger with Bank One N.A.
30400 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 200
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025-5822
File #049923F01

3-16-4

PETER M. SCHNEIDERMAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C., IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT (248) 539-7400 IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by ROBERT SPARKS, JR., A SINGLE MAN, to REPUBLIC BANK, Mortgagee, dated April 16, 2002 and recorded on May 2, 2002 in Liber 876 on Page 760, TUSCOLA County Records, Michigan, and assigned by said mortgagee to GMAC MORTGAGE CORPORATION, TUSCOLA County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of FORTY-EIGHT THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY-NINE AND 05/100 DOLLARS (\$48,299.05), including interest at 7.0% 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, front entrance of the Courthouse Building in the Village of Caro, Michigan, Tuscola County, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., on April 21, 2005.

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

SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF ARBELA, TUSCOLA COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT WHICH IS N 89 DEG 16' E, 701.9 FEET FROM THE SW CORNER OF SECTION 31, TOWN 10 N, RANGE 7 E; THENCE N 00 DEG 10' 30" W, 250 FEET; THENCE N 89 DEG 16' E, 100.00 FEET; THENCE S 00 DEG 10' 30" E, 250 FEET; THENCE S 89 DEG 17' W, 100.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

PARCEL ID # 79-003-031-400-1700

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

Dated: March 11, 2005

GMAC MORTGAGE CORPORATION
Mortgagee

PETER M. SCHNEIDERMAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
23100 Providence Drive, Suite 450
Southfield, Michigan 48075
3-23-4

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ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by John W. Homakie, a Married Man, and Julie Homakie, His Wife, a/k/a Julie L. Homakie, original mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., Mortgagee, dated May 31, 2002, and recorded on June 18, 2002 in Liber 882 on Page 133, in Tuscola county records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Three Thousand Three Hundred Nine And 76/100 Dollars (\$73,309.76), including interest at 8.75% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the Front entrance to the Courthouse in the village of Caro, Tuscola County at 10:00 AM, on May 5, 2005.

Said premises are situated in Village of Cass City, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 4, and a piece of land commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot 3 and running East 1 rod; thence North 4 Rods; thence West 1 Rod, thence South 4 Rods to the place of beginning, all being in Block 7 of the Plat of the Village of Cass City, according to the Plat recorded in Liber 15 of Deeds, Page 276.

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

Dated: April 6, 2005

For more information, please call:
FC X 248.593.1302
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys For Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
30400 Telegraph Rd Ste 200
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025-5822
File #052903F01

4-6-4

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STAFF ACCOUNTANT - Huron Medical Center, the largest hospital in the Thumb of Michigan, seeks a staff accountant who will work closely with the Controller and accounting staff to assist with the following responsibilities: Record cash transactions, assist Controller with monitoring cash flow, monitor and reconcile general ledger accounts, assist with manual collection efforts, maintain prepaid and accrual schedules, maintain fixed asset system, reconcile bank accounts, prepare monthly journal entries for the monthly financial close, prepare general and ad hoc reports for Controller and Chief Financial Officer, work as a team member to accomplish other specific tasks and responsibilities as needed. Requirements: BS or BA in accounting, accounting experience preferred, intermediate working knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Word.

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Help Wanted

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WHY NURSING?
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-career opportunities,
-financial aid available.
Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) & Certified Nurse's Aides (CNA) are needed. Classes now forming at St. Clair County Community College Nursing Center in Bad Axe.
Call 989-269-6611
11-4-6-1

Card of Thanks

WE WOULD like to thank Dr. Hall, Hills and Dales Hospital and Tendercare for their excellent care and compassion. Also special thanks to Pastor Meyer, Joan Wyskiel, Warren Jeungel, St. Peter's Lutheran Ladies Aid (for their excellent meal), our family and friends for their help and support, the pallbearers and everyone for their prayers, flowers, memorials, food, cards and calls during the loss of our mother. We couldn't have done it alone. God bless you all. The family of Viola Kohl.
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LIKE NEW. Completely remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with 5 acres, large 2 car garage and a barn. Property has an apple orchard. Very nice. Check it out. CY2418

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION. Very nice, 2 bedroom home on M-81 between Cass City and Caro. Can be purchased with up to 6 acres. Home comes with 30'x60' pole barn with cement floor. There is another building. Very nice workroom. \$109,900. CY2441

CASS CITY - COUNTRY. 3 bedroom, 1 bath ranch on 10 wooded acres. 24'x32' insulated garage plus a 10'x12' & 10'x16' shed. Home has many updates inside & out within the last 2 years. Excellent hunting area. Price reduced. F732

BEAUTIFUL. Close to town and back off the road. 2 story home on 2 acres, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, 2 1/2 car garage. CY2397

CASS CITY. 6370 Third St. 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath with attached garage. Partially finished basement. Natural fireplace in living room. Nice, well maintained home. Seller motivated. \$89,900. TCC1385

NEW ON THE MARKET. 38 acres of excellent hunting and a pond. Located at the end of road. Very isolated. \$97,000. A547

IN TOWN 4 bedroom, 1 bath, stick built home is located in the southeast part of Cass City on a corner lot. 18'x28' insulated, 2 story garage/workshop has 260 amp service. \$87,900. TCC1443

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SMALL TOWN LIVING. Here is your chance. 2 bedroom, 1 bath home close to park and schools. New roof in 2004. New 12'x14' shed. Very spacious living room. The basement could easily be finished off. Corner lot with fenced in yard. CCT-328

REDUCED. First time on the market! 4 bedroom 2 bath home with 1,700 sq. ft. Newer carpet throughout, central air, partially finished basement and close to schools and village park. This is a wonderful family home. Call today. CCT-223

SELLER SAYS SELL! This is a charming 1,100 sq. ft. home that has gone through a facelift inside and out. Kitchen cupboards, bathroom, carpet, Pergo floor, roof and furnace. Please call Marty and get a tour for the money. CCT-328

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Continued from page one.

body vice president, student council vice president and student council representa-

Obituaries

Dale Brown

M. Dale Brown, 77, of Cass City, died Saturday, April 2, 2005, at his home after a long illness.

He was born March 23, 1928, in Elmwood Township to Bruce and Eliza (Clow) Brown.

He married Pauline A. Hendrick Feb. 22, 1950, in Cass City.

Brown served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He worked for Walbro Manufacturing for about 35 years. He attended the Colwood United Brethren in Christ Church.

Brown is survived by his wife, Pauline; children, Linda (John) Smentek of Crete, Ill., Randy (Deborah) Brown of Akron, Ohio, and LaDonna (Paul) Bliss of Cass City; 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Ray Brown, Arlan Brown and Arthur Brown.

Funeral services were scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, at 11 a.m. at the Colwood United Brethren in Christ Church, with Pastor Rocky Spear officiating. Military honors were under the direction of Cass City VFW Post 3644.

Interment was in Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Memorials may be made to United Hospice of Marlette or the Colwood United Brethren in Christ Church Building Fund.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

Active in all school affairs, Homakie has served on the homecoming float committee, Decorations committee, and Snowcoming dance

Protest

Continued from page one.

students could earn the number of elective credit hours needed to graduate. However, it's necessary to take 6 classes in the senior year and students then fill out their class schedule with courses they really are not interested in.

That leads to students not attending class or becoming a behavior problem.

While the grading system definitely will not change, the concerns expressed in the meetings has resulted in the entire work experience program to be under review.

A committee was authorized that will include Strickland from the business community, Randy Severance and Michelle Biddinger from the school board and members of the administration.

OTHER BUSINESS

Financing a new sign at the football field, together with an improvement of the present building, moved ahead when the board approved \$4,000 for the \$12,000 project. Matt Prieskorn, who is directing the project, said that the Rotary Club has agreed to donate \$1,000 and the Gavel Club, Lions Club and Boosters Club have been asked to contribute \$1,000. The Pinney Foundation will be asked to contribute \$4,000 to complete the financing campaign.

A new sportsmanship policy was reviewed by the board and when final approval is obtained, will become part of the programs and all sports activities at the school.

committee.

Her service to the community includes volunteer time at the Octagon Barn, with the American Red Cross blood drive, Bay Shore Camp, Hills and Dales Hospital, Christmas for Kids and Adopt-A-Highway.

While in high school she has participated in track, basketball and volleyball. In addition she has worked as a teacher's assistant and team coordinator assistant.

Homakie is the daughter of Michelle Homakie and John and Julie Homakie.

Blazes

Continued from page one.

The Elkland Township fire department also extinguished a pair of grass fires last week, including one that started during Wednesday's house fire. The second blaze, reported Friday, sent 2 firemen to the hospital.

Fire fighters were called to the Maurice Rosenberger residence, 3745 Cedar Run Rd. Wednesday.

"He (Rosenberger) was using a cutting torch and the wind carried some sparks to the grass, and there was 3 acres burned," Pawloski said.

The grass fire Friday was reported at the Alvin McKee residence and apparently was ignited by sparks from some burning trash. The blaze also ignited some vinyl siding against a garage, releasing toxic PVC gas, according to Pawloski, who said 2 of his fire fighters were later treated for smoke inhalation at Hills and Dales General Hospital and then released.

The volunteers risked fumes of another kind during the blaze when a skunk that was living under the vinyl siding came running out, his tail up in the air and on fire.

"I believe they did (hose down the skunk)," Pawloski said. "They didn't get sprayed, thankfully."

Also honored during the 2-hour program were junior citizen candidates Paul Hoelzle, son of Larry and Judy Hoelzle, Jesse Rader, son of Susie Dennis and Randle Hiatt, Stephanie Richards, daughter of Scott and Janet Richards, Leah Sherman, daughter of Rod and Yvonne Sherman, Angela Stoeckle, daughter of Mark and Carol Stoeckle, and Tara Whittaker, daughter of Larry and Michelle Whittaker.

PAST CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Willis Campbell	1963
Herb Ludlow	1964
M.B. Auten	1965
Lucille Bauer	1966
E.B. Schwaderer	1967
Dr. H.T. Donahue	1968
James Bauer	1969
Audley Rawson	1970
Curtis Hunt	1971
W.E. Walpole	1972
H.M. Bulen	1973
Harry Little	1974
Cliff Croft	1975
Evelyn MacRae	1976
Helen Baker	1977
Lambert Althaver	1978

"Music in Motion" Sunday

The second annual "Music in Motion" will showcase the talents of the Cass City High School Concert and Jazz bands, and the competitive dancers of Excel Dance Studio in Cass City.

The event is slated for Sunday, April 10, starting at 3 p.m. in the Cass City Middle School gym.

The cost for the performance is \$5 per person, \$6 at the door, with children under 5 free. Tickets are available at Thumb National Bank, Excel Dance Studio, from band students and dancers, or at the door.

William Kritzman	1979
Dr. D.E. Rawson	1980
Esther McCullough	1980
James Ware	1981
Holly Althaver	1982
Arthur Holmberg	1983
Thomas Herron	1984
Geraldine Prieskorn	1984
Thomas Proctor	1985
Jack Esau	1986
Lou LaPonsie	1987
Michael Weaver	1988
B.A. Calka	1989
Lloyd Vyse	1989
Ken Jensen	1990
Arlan Hartwick	1991
Wayne Dillon	1991
Nina Davis	1992
Edward Scollon	1993
Robert Tuckey	1994
Robert Stickle	1995
Jane Mitchell	1996
Janice Winter	1997
Marv Winter	1997
Barbara Hutchinson	1998
Katie Jackson	1999
Gary Jones	2000
Bob Hirn	2001
Roger Marshall	2002

Jane Hittler	2003
Arthur Severance	2004
Janet Severance	2004

PAST JUNIOR CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Betty Kennedy	1965
Robert Rabideau	1966
Tim Knight	1967
Joan Maleck	1968
Lynn Haire	1969
Sally Geiger	1970
Cindy Strickland	1971
Anne Bulen	1971
Ron Crandell	1972
Kim Glaspie	1973
Melody Bacon	1974
Marie Hobart	1975
Ann Hobart	1976
Sue Pobanz	1976
Cathy Hobart	1977
Ross Ridenour	1978
David Heins	1979
Frances Kozan	1979
Ken Martin Jr.	1980
Tammy Tibbits	1981
Scott Hobart	1982

Carrie Lautner	1983
Suzy Scollon	1984
Julie Smith	1985
Tammy Iseler	1986
Clayton Hobart	1987
David Burnette	1988
Jane Dickinson	1988
Amy Francis	1989
Jeff Bader	1990
Jane Marker	1991
Steve Tuckey	1991
Jodi Erla	1992
Melissa Micklash	1993
Amy Osantoski	1993
Ryan King	1994
Stacey Klinkman	1994

Michelle Brown	1995
Mandy Nizzola	1995
Andrea Cooper	1996
Whitney Osentoski	1996
Elizabeth Bashur	1997
Lori Brown	1998
Ryan Hutchinson	1998
Becky Oesch	1999
Jim Dale	1999
Alyssa Glaspie	2000
Melissa Homakie	2000
Randy Diebel	2001
Katie Hacker	2001
Sara Homakie	2002
Jessica Nicol	2003
Leslie Hacker	2004



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2004 Dodge Stratus SE (V-6)	\$12,650*
2004 Dodge Stratus (12,000 miles)	\$11,995*
2004 Dodge Durango SLT (leather)	\$23,900*
2002 Dodge Ram (V-8, 29,000 miles)	\$14,995*
2004 Dodge Stratus (SXT, CD, Cassette).....	\$11,500*
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2002 Jeep Liberty.....	Arriving soon!



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2003	Chevrolet Trail Blazer LT 4x4	0	72	\$275.67
2003	Chevrolet Malibu	0	60	\$169.33
2004	Buick Century Custom	0	60	\$237.10
2004	Chevrolet Malibu LS	0	66	\$243.81
2002	Chevrolet Silverado 4x4 Ext. Cab	0	66	\$290.33
2002	Pontiac Bonneville SE	0	66	\$237.66
2003	Chevrolet Trail Blazer LT EXT 4x4	0	72	\$334.07
2000	GMC Sierra 4x4 Short Box	0	60	\$263.46
2001	GMC Jimmy SLE 4x4	0	60	\$206.98
2003	Chevrolet Silverado LS 4x4	0	72	\$339.96
2002	Chevrolet Blazer LS 4x4	0	60	\$263.46
2000	Ford F-150 XLT 4x2	0	60	\$208.75
2001	Ford Ranger XLT 4 wd Ext. Cab	0	60	\$189.76
2003	Pontiac Vibe GT	0	66	\$259.68
2003	Chevrolet S-10 4x4 Ext. Cab	0	72	\$275.64
1998	Dodge Ram Van 15 Pass.	0	48	\$228.23
2001	Oldsmobile Alero GL 4-door	0	60	\$159.92
2004	Chevrolet Avalanche Z-71 4x4	0	72	\$454.11
2004	Chevrolet Malibu	0	60	\$218.24
2001	Chevrolet Impala LS	0	60	\$244.63
2001	Pontiac Aztek	0	60	\$188.16

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