

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 99, NUMBER 1

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2005

FIFTY CENTS

12 PAGES PLUS TWO SUPPLEMENTS

Sanilac drug team: '04 another good year

Sanilac County Drug Task Force officers took on more criminal investigations and made more undercover drug buys in 2004 than they have in each of the previous years. The drug team made fewer arrests and confiscated smaller amounts of drugs overall, however. According to task force Director William Gray, those figures spell another successful year in the war against drugs following years of putting pressure on would-be drug traffickers in the Thumb.

"Once again I believe that the Sanilac County Drug Task Force continues to make significant contributions in this county's drug suppression efforts through our 3-phase program of drug education, drug counseling (and) drug law enforcement," Gray said.

"The ability of individuals to participate in illegal local drug trafficking activities continues to be heavily sup-

pressed through our strong law enforcement presence and enforcement efforts." Gray said Sanilac County's long-term ability to provide 5 full-time drug law enforcement investigators has been highly successful.

"Our investigators continue to be successful in tracking back to wholesale distribution points in Romulus, Detroit, Port Huron and Macomb-St. Clair-Lapeer-Tuscola-Huron counties, where substantial amounts of drugs were seized and the distributors arrested, charged and convicted."

"During the last 12 years, 818 people have been arrested and charged on primary drug related arrests, 817 of those were convicted, with only one acquittal, due to evidence being suppressed. That's a 99.877-percent successful conviction rate."

gan in 1997 and continued into 2004 was a reduced amount of marijuana manufacturing/cultivation in the county.

He attributed the reduction to increased police presence and success in prosecuting suspects, as well as the long-term success of helicopter fly-overs to locate outdoor marijuana growing operations. Gray said the increased availability of higher quality marijuana from Canada, which has been smuggled into the county, has also had an impact.

bringing in smaller amounts from outside our county," Gray noted.

"The task force conducted 34 searches of residences during the year, a 6-percent increase above the 11-year average of 32 searches annually.

"There were primary drug arrest warrants for 59 individuals and secondary/assist arrest warrants for 58 others. The number of primary drug arrests was down 14 percent compared to the 11-year average, but the combined 117 arrests marked an increase of about 8 percent. Gray pointed out that all 117 suspects were convicted on one or more charges.



STATISTICS

Gray offered the following statistics for the year:

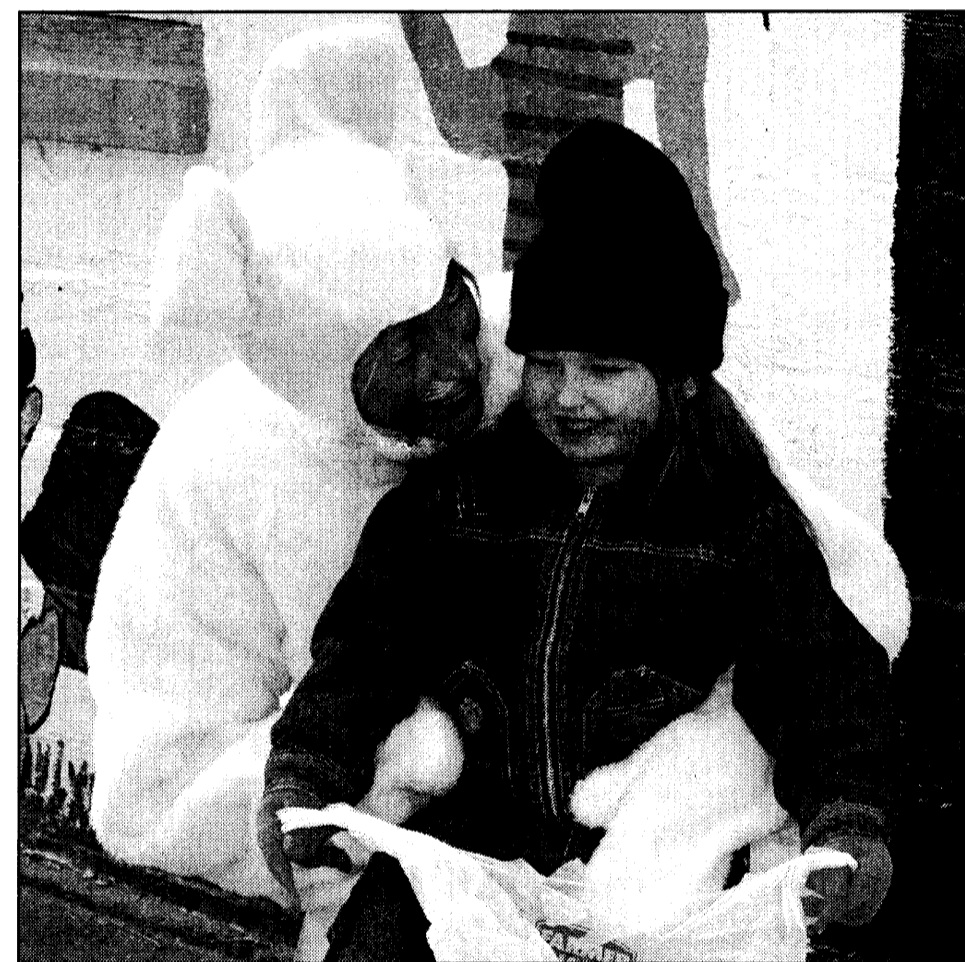
- The task force received 442 tips on persons within Sanilac County suspected of drug trafficking. The year saw tips and intelligence information increase by more than 25 percent over the prior 11-year average.
- There were 263 criminal investigations, the highest number in 12 years and a 53-percent increase above the prior 11-year average of 172 investigations opened annually.
- In all, 26 forfeiture complaints were opened, compared to an average of 31 complaints. The drug team's net gain in forfeiture revenue last year was \$48,944.21.
- Officers made 117 undercover drug purchases, the highest number of buys in 12 years, representing a 72-percent increase over the 11-year average of 68 buys per year.
- "Our 2004 undercover buy activity continued to show a generally 'tight' market at the street level of drug sales activities - most dealers not sitting on significant amounts of drugs stored in-county, but

•The drug team seized 23 marijuana plants (down 94 percent compared to a 5-year average); 178 ounces of processed marijuana (a 22-percent decrease compared to the 11-year average); 401 grams of cocaine/heroin, the second highest amount of powder drugs seized in 12 years; and 4 "hits" of ecstasy and 121 tabs of other controlled substances.

EDUCATION, COUNSELING

The drug team's education efforts include fully funding the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program in all 7 county school districts. The program's goal is to prevent substance abuse and violence among children.

"We are now in our 15th year of being the sole funding and supply source for the countywide DARE program," Gray said, noting the task force has poured more than \$665,000 into the edu-



THREE-year-old Olivia Brown, pictured above with her mother, Lisa Brown of Uby, collects her share during the Uby Lioness Club's annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday in the Uby Village Park. At left, the Easter Bunny, also known in Uby as Cam Hill, had no problem getting a smile out of Kortney Norman, 4, also of Uby.

Please turn to page 6.

Volunteers deserve understanding

Spouses: fire fighter critics all wet

by Tom Montgomery Editor

Do fire fighters cry?

It's a question Sue Pawloski along with the spouses of other firemen are well qualified to answer, although it's a difficult question for them.

The fact is, yes, fire fighters sometimes cry, according to Pawloski, whose husband, Ron, has been a member of the Elkland Township Fire Department since 1973 and has served as chief since 1997.

Pawloski is used to fielding questions from the curious, especially after a particularly tragic fire, such as the one that claimed the life of a father and daughter in Cass City in late January.

But she has never gotten used to the criticism she hears from bystanders who wonder why it took "so long" for the fire department to arrive at the scene, or "they're standing around drinking coffee and joking - they don't care", or "look at all the damage the fire department did to that house".

"Most of the questions are easy to answer, but the hardest one is 'do fire fighters cry' and 'how are the guys doing since that last bad fire,'" said Pawloski, who serves as a member of the fire department's women's aux-

iliary and is employed full time as an LPN in the emergency department at Hills and Dales General Hospital in Cass City.

"I am not trying to be impolite when I refuse to answer some of the questions. But I have an obligation to the fire fighter and the victims of a fire to also respect their privacy," she said. "To answer the last 2 questions, one has to understand what happens before, during and after a fire."

DUTY CALLS

When a fire is reported, day or night, volunteer firemen are alerted by pagers and head for the fire hall, the adrenaline in their bodies kicking in as they enter the hall to put on their turnout gear and board the trucks.

As a volunteer organization, the Elkland Township Fire Department, like others in the Thumb, is not manned 24/7, 365 days a year. The volunteers leave their homes or jobs to respond, and their pay totals just over \$7 an hour when battling a blaze.

Many don't realize that most volunteer fire fighters also work full-time. Ron Pawloski, for example is employed in the maintenance department at Hills and Dales General Hospital.

"During the drive out to the scene, the adrenaline continues to rise and they hope that no one is inside the burning structure and that they can get there in time to save the building," Pawloski said, adding that one of the first jobs at the scene is to lay out fire hoses and hook them up to a tanker or fire hydrant.

"Some people may think that 'they' took too long to get the 50-pound hoses off the truck and drag them to the hydrant or tanker," she said. "Some even think that things look disorganized. In fact, things are very organized as each person has a specific task to complete before the water can start flowing."

"An incident command center is set up where all of the commands are given, from calling in more help to telling a fire fighter that he can't go back in because he is too exhausted," Pawloski continued. "The incident command center is at times a hectic place as fire fighters are assessing the situation, finding unsafe areas, instructing other fire-fighters where to go and giving information to central dispatch."

After donning a self-contained breathing apparatus, a fire fighter begins the task of entering the structure, break-

ing down doors and smashing windows if necessary. "It is dark inside the structure and it is very difficult to see what is in front of them," Pawloski noted. "Finding the 'hot spots' and putting them out is a matter of urgency to help prevent the fire from spreading. Heavy axes are used to break down walls or doors to find burning areas inside the walls."

"The time a fire fighter stays inside a burning structure is limited to approximately 20 minutes when an alarm goes off because their air tank is running low and it is time to get out before the oxygen runs out."

TAKES A TOLL

"By this time minutes turn into hours and the stress level is still high and the cold starts to set in, the fingers and toes become numb, the face flushed and icicles start forming around the opening of their protective hoods. In the summer, the heat can get unbearable and dehydration sets in quickly."

Pawloski and her fellow women's auxiliary members work to ensure the volunteers have water, coffee and even a donut or 2 to refuel at the scene. On many occasions, she said, local businesses such as McDonald's, Little

Caesar's and the People's Choice Market have donated food or beverages without question.

"By this time, exhaustion has started to set in, but the fire fighter continues on. He may laugh or joke with the guys as it helps to relieve some tension," Pawloski explained. "To the bystander it may look as if they don't care, but they do. If one could only look deep into their eyes, one could see the sadness or even a tear or 2."

Like Pawloski, Niccole Sommerville, wife of Elkland Township Fire Department Lt. Jeremy Sommerville, has heard critical comments about the department.

"I've heard some things and it's rather frustrating because if you're not in the fire fighting loop, it's not fair to judge. There's so much risk," said Sommerville, whose husband is a cash crop farmer and served as a fireman since 1997.

Later, after the volunteers return to the fire hall, the task of cleaning up and preparing for the next run begins.

"At the station there is a lot of loud talk and laughing; it helps relieve tension," Pawloski said. "You may see groups of guys standing around in the chief's office, apparatus room or meeting

room talking.

"Some may be shaking their heads and saying, 'if only I had gotten to the burning structure 2 minutes quicker I may have saved it'. Another may say, 'if only I had known that there were people trapped in the house' or 'if only I had known what area of the house the people were trapped in...'"

"These questions will remain in the minds of the guys and gals for the rest of their lives," Pawloski said. "The tragic scenes that involve the death of an individual or that of a pet are also forever in the minds of the fire fighter or ambulance personnel. These memories can never be erased and will be brought back when the next fire or incident occurs."

THE AFTERMATH

What bystanders never see, of course, is what happens when an exhausted fireman returns home, weary and coming down from that adrenaline high.

"The spouse is there to listen and offer what comfort they can give," Pawloski said. "It is difficult to see your spouse sad and feeling guilty about not saving the home, barn or person inside

Please turn to page 6.

Vassar woman killed

Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies are continuing their investigation into a one-vehicle traffic crash that claimed the life of a Vassar woman over the weekend.

Tuscola County Undersheriff Jim Jashinske said the accident was reported Saturday at about 11:20 a.m. in Vassar Township. He identified the victim as Sharon Marie Kennard, 32.

Jashinske reported Kennard was eastbound on Walton Road, just east of Ash Road, when her 1991 Chevrolet pickup truck left the road on the south side. Kennard apparently overcorrected, causing the vehicle to cross over to the north side before leaving the roadway and striking 2 trees.

"Investigation indicates the driver was not wearing a seatbelt, and due to her injuries she was deceased at the scene," Jashinske said. "It appears she was eating fast food prior to the crash. Speed was not excessive."

MMR Ambulance personnel and Vassar police assisted deputies at the scene.

Chamber dinner tickets available

There's still time to purchase tickets for the annual Cass City Chamber of Commerce Dinner, slated for Saturday, April 2, at 6 p.m. at Northwood Meadows in Cass City.

"There will be a new format for the annual dinner this year and the chamber feels everyone will have a great time," said Val Kemp, vice president of the chamber board.

"In the past, presentations for the Citizen of the Year and Junior Citizen of the year have been made after the dinner, and the party broke up shortly thereafter," Kemp said. "This year's format is to make the presentations prior to an excellent dinner prepared by Vicky Hyatt and her staff, and have great music provided by the Cass City High School Jazz Band, directed by Doug Burch, after the dinner."

"There will be plenty of time for pictures, congratulations and fancy footwork for all to enjoy."

The evening will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by presentations at 7 p.m.

Because of limited seating, only 160 tickets will be sold. They are available from any chamber board member by calling Kemp at 872-1941, or the chamber office at 872-4618.

Calendar of Events

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

Thursday, March 24

Seniors' Lunch, noon, Shabbona United Methodist Church. Free Senior Citizen Bingo Party, 1-4 p.m., Cass City VFW Hall, 4533 Veterans Dr. Sponsored by 3644 Ladies' Auxiliary.

Friday, March 25

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Cass City Community Good Friday Service, 1 p.m., Living Word Worship Center Church of God, 6536 Houghton St., Cass City. A special worship and music from community churches and a Good Friday message. For more information, contact Pastor Keith at (989) 872-4637.

Monday, March 28

Cass City Village Council meeting, 7 p.m., municipal building. Hills and Dales General Hospital Auxiliary meeting, 11:30 a.m., Charmont. Tuscola County Right to Life Organization meeting, 6:30-8 p.m., Caro Library.

Tuesday, March 29

Cass City School Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Fire fighter critics

Continued from page one.

the structure. The fire fighter may not eat or sleep well for the next few days and will need to talk with fellow fire fighters."

"Mentally, it's very overwhelming for any person," said Sommerville, who also serves with the local fire department's women's auxiliary. "You can tell, sometimes, emotionally they're not coping well."

Organized discussions are set up in the form of "debriefings" where volunteers gather and can talk about their feelings without being judged.

"At the end of the debriefing sessions, the fire fighter goes away smiling and feeling better, and you think they are fine. Then the pager goes off for another fire with

people trapped inside the structure and it begins all over again," Pawloski said.

For the spouse and family, the sound of a beeper often puts an immediate end to a planned family outing or gathering.

"We have a small daughter, and we can be packed up and getting ready for a family (activity), and that beeper goes off," Sommerville said. "No matter what we're doing, as long as he knows we're safe, that's the priority for my husband, and I don't know if he's going to be gone 20 minutes or 20 hours, but I support my husband."

"Some fire fighters stay on the department for 20 or 30 years; others stay only for a

short while," Pawloski said. "No matter how many years are served with the department, the memories will always stay with them and never be erased."

Ron Pawloski, too, has heard negative comments and criticism over the years, but maintains his volunteers are some of the most dedicated fire fighters around.

"We don't get a lot of thanks. We don't look for a lot of thanks or praise," he said. "We just want understanding."

Sommerville agreed. "God has given these men something special that they're willing to throw their lives on the line for others," she said.

Obituaries

Helen Bredemeyer

Helen M. Bredemeyer, 79, of Cass City, died Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ypsilanti. She was born June 11, 1925 in Detroit, the daughter of Martin and Mary (Buda) Bober.

She married Godfred Bredemeyer Nov. 15, 1957 in Plymouth. He died Nov. 7, 2004.

Bredemeyer worked for Sears Department Store and Michigan Seamless Tube before becoming a motel owner and manager with her husband.

She is survived by her children: Jim (Brenda) Bredemeyer of Brighton, and Bob (Annette) Bredemeyer of Cass City; 4 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Interment will be in the Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly.

Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association. Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

Irene Radovic

A. Irene (McComb) Radovic was born Jan. 13, 1916 at home in Sheridan Township, Huron County, the daughter of Floyd and Mabel (Fay) McComb.

She married Audley Walstead of Bay City at home Aug. 25, 1935. She later married Nicholas Radovic June 16, 1956. Radovic graduated as salutatorian of her class from Cass City High School in 1932 and attended Bay City Business College. She made her home in Pensacola, Fla., moving to Colorado in 2004.

She is survived by a son, Nicholas Radovic of Idaho Springs, Colo.; a brother, Manly (Ruth) McComb of Caseville; a sister, Harriett Collins of Pigeon; a sister-in-law, Shirley McComb of Cass City; 3 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Radovic was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Nicholas; 3 sons: George, Floyd and Gordon Walstead; 3 brothers: Harold, Fay and Frank McComb; and a sister, Helene Burns.

A memorial service is planned for June 18 in Cass City.

Memorial services are pending. Burial will be in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Memorials may be made to the Family Discretionary Fund and mailed to Kranz Funeral Home.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

Joseph Rensing Jr.

Joseph Darwin Rensing Jr., 3 hours, died Monday, March 14, 2005. He was born premature March 14, 2005 in Pontiac, the son of Joseph D. and Sherrie (Poole) Rensing.

Joseph is survived by his grandparents: Doug and Donna Poole Sr. of Pontiac, Linda (Curtis) Rensing of Pontiac, and Joe and Lois Rensing of Cass City; a great-grandmother, Martha Rensing of Cass City; aunts: Kelly Knight of Cass City, Christy Bell of Norfolk, Va., Julie and Joenie Rensing, formerly of Cass City; uncles: Jamie and Jeramie Rensing, both formerly of Cass City; cousins: JC Knight of Cass City, Devin Rivera, MJ and Malik Bell of Norfolk, Va.; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents: Albert Darwin "Dart" and Leona Curtis, and George Rensing.

Cremation has taken place. Arrangements were made by Huntoon Funeral Home, Pontiac.

Arrangements were made by Huntoon Funeral Home, Pontiac.

Sanilac drug unit

Continued from page one.

not welcome. "While local drug trafficking activity has certainly not been eliminated, it is drastically reduced, especially when one looks at the types/amounts of drugs readily available for retail distribution in this county as compared with our immediately neighboring counties," he said.

"All of which helps Sanilac to maintain an increased quality of life for all of our citizens."

For the past 12 years, the task force has made available funding - more than \$220,000 in all - for an on-site high school counseling program in all county schools and the career center.

"The program operates for one-half day per week in each of the county's 7 high schools," Gray explained. "During the first 11 years of the program, an average of 72 high school students have received counseling each year. During 2004, 79 students voluntarily sought and received counseling in the high schools through this program."

Combined with enforcement activities, Gray continued, the Sanilac County Drug Task Force has put drug traffickers on notice and offered additional reminders over the years that they are

not welcome. "While local drug trafficking activity has certainly not been eliminated, it is drastically reduced, especially when one looks at the types/amounts of drugs readily available for retail distribution in this county as compared with our immediately neighboring counties," he said.

"All of which helps Sanilac to maintain an increased quality of life for all of our citizens."

Departments ready to test sirens

The Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness and Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm have declared the week of March 20-26 as Severe Weather Awareness Week for 2005.

In Tuscola County, all county fire departments will again implement a siren testing program.

The departments have been asked to begin testing their tornado sirens Saturday, April 2, at 1 p.m., and they will continue to test the sirens on the first Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. during the severe weather months (April through October).

Deputy Patrick Finn, director of the Tuscola County Office of Emergency Management, reminds area residents that a tornado watch is issued when conditions are right for tornados to form, while a tornado warning is issued when a tornado funnel has been sighted or indicated on radar.



ELKLAND TOWNSHIP Fire Chief Ron Pawloski and his wife, Sue, enjoy a quiet Sunday afternoon watching television in their Cass City home. Both work full-time jobs in addition to their responsibilities with the local fire department.

Call Us - 872-2010
With Ideas For Feature Stories

Creating Awareness and Understanding of Mental Illness

- ◆ Mental Health Issues are *REAL, COMMON and TREATABLE*
- ◆ Mental Illness affects *ONE* in every *FOUR* adults in the United States
- ◆ Mental Illness affects *ONE* in every *FIVE* children in the United States

Early and appropriate services can be the best way to prevent an illness from getting worse. To inquire about services or if you have questions regarding programs offered call:

Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems
(989) 673-6191 or 1-800-462-6814



P.O. Box 239 • Caro, MI 48723 • PH. (989) 673-6191 or 1-800-462-6814 • TDD (989) 672-4780

Pat Curtis
Chevy - Olds - Cadillac

Curtis
Chrysler - Dodge - Jeep

BRYAN ABBE
Sales Professional

(989) 673-2171 Cell: (989) 977-1112 (989) 872-2184
Elliott Street Fax: (989) 872-5154 6617 Main Street
Caro, MI 48723 1-888-ANY-DODGE Cass City, MI 48726

Chronicle Liners Work Like Magic

Cass City Chronicle
6550 Main St.
Cass City
Phone 872-2010

Feather your basket with holiday savings... Save THIRTY percent during Book Mart's Easter Sale!

Valuable Savings Certificate!

Save THIRTY PERCENT off of regular prices on ALL gift items and on ALL greeting cards at Book Mart Photography and Photo Lab now through the end of March!

We have started spring cleaning to make room for new merchandise, while passing *thirty percent savings* on to you! This offer is good for ALL items in our Gift Department and for ALL Greeting Cards, so hurry in while the savings last!

**All eligible items will be rung as a separate purchase to properly apply discount. Clerks must save this certificate with a receipt copy as a coupon record.*

Shop at Home...Shop at Book Mart!

Offer expires at 6 p.m. on 03/31/2005

Plus...Book Mart Photography and Photo Lab has the best same-day photo processing prices in the entire Thumb! Prices per processed roll include the choice of ONE free premium, FREE second set of prints, FREE roll of sample film, two FREE enlargements from one negative of your choosing, or \$1.00 OFF on single prints!

Dare to compare us with any other photo lab...and SAVE!

Book Mart Photography & Photo Lab
Cheryl Shores, Photographer
Weddings~Portraits~High School Seniors
6498 Main at Seeger, Cass City, MI 48726
(989) 872-2075 ~ www.bookmartphotography.com



TOURNEY CHAMPS

CASS CITY'S 8th grade volleyball team completed a highly successful season by winning the Bad Axe Tourney. Team members are: (front) Jennica Richards (middle l-r) Cassandra Parker, Cassady Frank, Brittany Loomis, Carly Rabideau, Amanda Miller, Carly Howard (back l-r) Taryn Vatter, Amanda Langenburg, coach Sally Pergande, Sarah Howard, Megan VanVliet, Abby McCallum and Adrianna Devine.

North Central Thumb League airs all conference basketball teams

Caseville dominated the North Central Thumb League - North Division all conference teams with 5 selections.

Selected to the first team were Eagles Kyle Quinn, the school's all-time leading scorer, Chad Davis and Andy Kretzschmer. Joining the trio are Eric Neumayer - North Huron, Joe Gust - Port Hope and Kyle Rahn - Akron-Fairgrove.

Owen-Gage placed 2 players on the NCTL-N second team in senior Aaron Faist and freshman Brandon Dubs. Mike Frencavilla and Cody Quinn -Caseville; Kevin Risch - North Huron and Dustin Weiss - Port Hope, accompanied them.

Honorable mention picks were Dan Dobson - North Huron; Matt Koglin - Port Hope; Tommy Ruppall and Andrew Foster - Akron - Fairgrove.

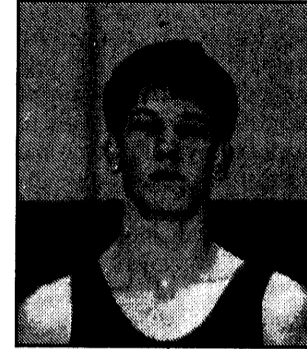
SOUTH DIVISION
Only 2 schools were represented on the NCTL - South Division all conference dream team. League champion Kingston had 4 players

earning tribute and district champion Carsonville-Port Sanilac landed 3 players on the elite squad.

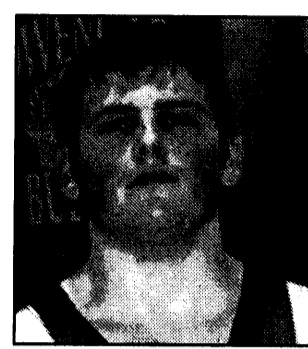
Eagles Brennen Osantowski, Chad Jobson, Marcus Bastian and Brandon Jones join Tigers Kevin Calahan, Grant Nagelkirk and Ted Falcon on the first team.

The second team members included Nathan Harneck - Kingston; Nick Arnold, Josh Thomson, Bobby Jock and Cody McIlhargie - Memphis; Jon Bezemek - Carsonville-Port Sanilac; Brandon Favell - Peck; and Nick Furgerson - Dryden.

Peck's Brian Sheridan and Travis Keen were honorable mention selections.



BRANDON DUBS



AARON FAIST

Spikers Swiastyn, Zaleski repeat choices on North Central Thumb League dream team

Four of the 6-member North Central Thumb League - North Division all conference volleyball dream team are repeat selections.

Topping the list from conference and district champion Owen-Gage are 4-year starters Kayla Zaleski and Katie Swiastyn. North Huron, the NCTL-N runner-up, also had a pair included on the first team in senior Kayla Kreh and junior Andrea Clancy. Completing the fantasy team are Akron-Fairgrove senior Katie Spencer and Port Hope junior Kelsey Mausolf.

Selected to the second team

are Bulldogs Mary McKee and Michelle Brown; North Huron's Nicole Simmons and Katie Piotter, Akron-Fairgrove's Beth Sanburn and Allison Latimer, Port Hope's Breanne Iseler and Caseville's Kelly Ross.

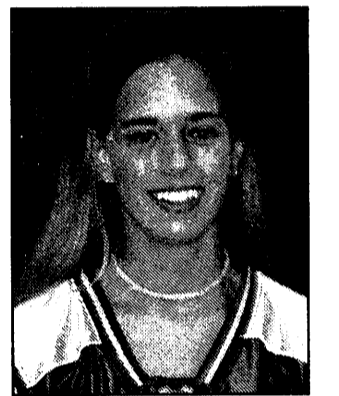
Honorable mention selections included Nicole Schmidt and Wendy Errer - Owen-Gage; Jessica Rice - North Huron; Jessica Gehrls - Akron-Fairgrove; and Shannon McIntyre - Caseville.

dinals Brittini Hill and Allison Walkiewicz and Memphis' Sarah Lang and Amber Bailey join Courtney Willis - Carsonville-Port Sanilac and Liz Cummings - Dryden on the first team.

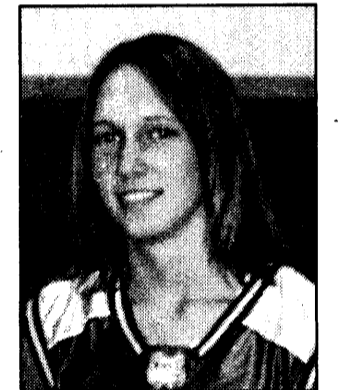
Chosen to the second team were Alica Ruff, Dana Lang and Jenni Wessel - Memphis; Crystal Barrett - Kingston; Cory Willis - Carsonville-Port Sanilac; and Stephanie Roles - Peck.

Honorable mention selections included Kayla Diegel and Melissa Haarz - Kingston, Sarah LeTarte - Memphis; Stephanie Aebel - Carsonville-Port Sanilac;

Amanda Kopas and Melissa Klave - Dryden and Chelsea Affer - Peck.



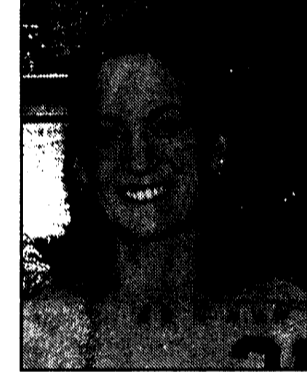
KATIE SWIASTYN



KAYLA ZALESKI



MICHELLE BROWN



WENDY ERRER



NICOLE SCHMIDT

Call Us - 872-2010
With Ideas For Feature Stories

Cass City AYSO

Still time to sign up

Registration Forms are available at All Pets Veterinary

GAMES START APRIL 16

Surrounding areas welcome!

NO HUNTING SIGNS

Black Ink 5 for \$1

25¢ each

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

6550 Main
872-2010

MEN'S POOL LEAGUE

Men's Midwest Pool League
end of second half

Pigeon 1	76
Bud's	62
Gagetown	59
Blue Moon	57
Pigeon 2	56
Mulligan's	50

Pigeon 1 vs. Blue Moon for League Champion
Winner - Blue Moon

Stop in and see Garth for your New Chrysler or Ford vehicle

Moore Motor Sales
THE NEW GENERATION

Garth O'Mara
Sales Consultant

1725 W. Caro Rd., Caro, MI
(989) 673-4171
TOLL FREE 1-800-516-6673

Cass City Bowling Leagues

Thursday Nite Trio as of March 17

Martin Electric	26
Doerr Landscaping	22
Dairy Queen - Caro	20
Mycogen Seeds	20
Schmaltz Construction	19
United Building Centers	16
Jebo Consulting	15

Individual High Games & Series: W. Laming 214 (612); E. Schmaltz 226 (606); G. Robinson 214 (590); D. Doerr 217 (587); R. Doerr 213 (578); T. Summers 223; J. Churchill 221.

Team High Game & Series: Doerr Landscaping 670 (1912).

Individual High Games & Series: T. Lis 279-209-245 (733); L. Morgan 214-246 (637); T. Potrykus 247-231 (636); R. Wright 212-200 (589); J. Mathewson 223-255 (633); D. Curtis 210; B. Joseph 214; C. Gruzwaliski 214.

Merchants as of March 16

Lee Morgan Painting	49
Charmont Lanes	41
Patrick's Flooring	16

Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas

Cass City Middle School Student Spotlight

for the fourth Marking Period

Teachers select students who possess the following:

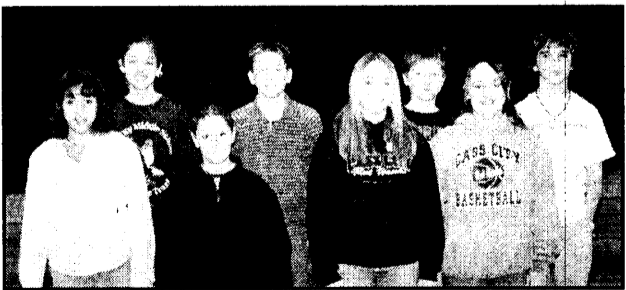
- 6 Pillars of Character: *Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship*
- Good grades
- A positive attitude
- Regular attendance
- Shows improvement (academic and/or behavior)



5th Grade: (front, l-r) Treanna Dietrich, Morgan Erla, Tim Finkbeiner, Jordan Hendrian, Carley Hendrick, Alexa Kamrad; (middle, l-r) Kristen Kawecki, Drew King, Ashley Potts, Paul Slater, Shannon Stec; (back, l-r) Alex Sutherland, David Terbush, Michael Wills, Ronnie Wolschleger and Haley Wynn.



6th Grade: (front, l-r) Robbie Wolschleger, Brittany Asher-Lynch, Stephanie Bock, Matt Goniwicha, Chelsea Green, Matt Harris; (middle, l-r) Michael Lange, Jeff Leslie, Thomas LeValley, Kelsey McMillan, Michael Milligan, Geneava Morris; (back, l-r) Amanda Phillips, Andrea Retan and Jeremy Wright.



7th Grade: (front, l-r) Halena Farkas, Keegan Hagen, Teriona Harper, Amanda Kaake; (back, l-r) Paige Lester, Kyle Pine, Joe Schotter and TJ Marker.



8th Grade: (front, l-r) Chelsea Depner, Brad Hanby, Rebecca Perry; (back, l-r) Kim Proctor, Sarah Reed and Andrea Zimmerman.

Curtis
Chrysler - Plymouth - Dodge - Jeep

(989) 872-2184
Downtown Cass City

Toll Free
1-888-ANY-DODGE

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

THE GAGETOWN INN
989-665-2466

Come Join Us On **SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2005**

with D.J. from 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

HAPPY HOUR Mon.-Fri. 3:30-6:00 p.m.

Bottled Beer	\$1.75
Draft Beer	\$1.00

Poison Prevention Week slated for March 20-26

Children act fast...so do poisons.

In an effort to raise awareness of the dangers of accidental poisonings and to encourage people to take preventive measures, March 20-26 has been designated as National Poison Prevention Week.

Numerous substances around the home are potential poisons in the hands of a child. Glass cleaners, all-purpose cleaners, laundry detergent, plants, paint and medicines are some of the many examples of substances that can be poisonous when used incorrectly. "Children Act Fast...So Do

Poisons" is the slogan for Poison Prevention Week to remind everyone to keep potentially harmful substances out of the sight and out of the reach of children.

Each year, the state's certified regional poison control centers receive more than 100,000 total calls. Many of these calls would not have to be placed by following some basic rules regarding substances around the home:

- *Keep medicines in child-resistant containers.

- *Never call Medicine "candy".

- *Store household cleaners, bug sprays, medicines, etc., out of the sight and reach of children.

- *Don't transfer a poisonous substance to a food or drink container.

- *Put a poisonous product away immediately after using it.

Should a poisoning occur, however, it is important to act appropriately. Before doing anything else, you should call the local poison control

center, so have that phone number located next to the phone with other emergency numbers. The toll-free number is 1-800-222-1222. By calling this number from anywhere you will immediately be directed to the poison control center serving your area.

Ask your local pharmacist about poison prevention. Pharmacists are a readily accessible community resource with a wealth of information to share that will help improve the health and well being of their patients.

Poison Prevention Week is sponsored by the Poison Prevention Week Council and supported by the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA). MPA, representing more than 3,500 pharmacy professionals, strives to be a leader in professional and scientific advancement by following its mission of encouraging and supporting its members as the professionals responsible for the delivery of patient-focused care.



RICHARD LITTLE hands out a Tootsie Roll to a passing motorist who made a donation during the annual Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll sale over the weekend at the corner of Main and Seeger streets in Cass City.

MAIN STREET BOOKKEEPING SERVICES

- Experienced tax preparation services
- Reasonable rates

6436 Main Street, Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-8439
Denise Guinther Cyndi Martin

Letters to the editor

Proposed co-op changes bad idea

Editor:

I am writing this letter regarding the proposed change of credit/no credit for the coop/work experience program at Cass City High School, which the administration has recently proposed. I am also concerned with the changes that have already been made in the last year and a half with the coop/work experience program.

Since retiring, several changes have been made in the coop/work experience program and I feel these changes are designed to eliminate the program as an important part of the Cass City High School curriculum. Some of the changes that have already been made are: 1) no longer are students who are 16 and not of junior or senior status allowed to participate (the same is true for the Tech Center participation), 2) the credit, as an elective, is limited to one credit per year, whereas students previously were able to earn up to 3 credits depending on hours worked.

These changes have resulted in a drastic drop of students involved in the program from about 130 per year to 57 this year. Currently only 16 percent of the seniors are involved in the program. In 2003, it was over 50 percent. I feel the credit/no credit proposal will drop the numbers even further.

Some questions I have are:

- * Why are these changes being made?
- * Who proposed and made these changes?
- * Was the school board aware of all the changes and did they approve them?
- * Does the proposed change mean eventually we will no longer give a letter grade to other activity classes such as: art, band, industrial education, physical education and tech center?
- * Are we only going to count academic classes to figure grade point averages?
- * Are these changes designed to lower the student's GPA?

I have always believed that Cass City was a comprehensive high school, not just a college prep high school and I also believe in the coop/work experience program. I also feel the coop/work experience program helps teach ALL students that education is important and encourages a strong academic preparation along with a strong work ethic.

The cost of the work experience program I estimate is around \$20,000. I feel that this is a small price to pay for something students of today, regardless of their career goals, need. I am a strong believer in the value of a high school education and the extended education after high school. I realize that in spite of what some people want, not all students are going to achieve a bachelor's degree, or higher, in life. Many non-degreed people I know are extraordinarily successful and happy. I believe in them

and their choices in life.

For forty years, four years as a student and 36 years as an educator, Cass City Public Schools has been a very valuable part of my life and even though I am retired, I still care about all the stu-

dents that go through our educational system.

The school board may be acting on this proposal Tuesday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. I would hope they would turn down this current proposal and reconsider the changes

that already have been instituted.

Sincerely,
Wayne Dillon,
Cass City
Retired Coop/Work Experience Coordinator

Music program deserves praise

To the editor:

This letter is to praise the Cass City music program that held its March concert this week.

Sitting there listening, I couldn't help but remember how far our music program has come. Those of us that were asked to stand from past band alumni will agree to that fact.

I have heard a lot of conversation in my beauty shop about the new bond proposal we are facing. I have heard how much our taxes are going to be raised. I think this is sending a bad message to our band students. It is not the fault of our kids that we have lost jobs in our community. Nor is it their fault that the economy has been slow.

We need to remember that our taxes will certainly rise in the future regardless of what the outcome of this bond issue is. I feel it is a small price to pay seeing how I see so many of you in the coffee shops and stores buying all the things that you say people cannot afford.

Remember a lot of us cannot afford the extra coffee every morning or the lotto tickets or the other things that some of us choose not to buy. We have an obligation to our students to give them the best opportunities we can. How many alumni students have worn a university uniform out on a football field or basketball court?

But pose that question to band members and you will find they have graced many of our fine universities and taken the field in a university band uniform.

My sister and my nephew have traveled all over the world with the Michigan Lions Band, places like Japan and Hawaii. What a great opportunity. My nephew is

one of those university students that puts on his SVSU band uniform with pride.

Those of us that have used the talents that we learned way back in fifth grade are thankful for our music background, even though that band room has not changed in the 20 years that I have been gone. In the 28 years that I have lived in our community I have always had the feeling that band came second to our sports programs.

We do not ask our basketball team to play or practice in our band room. Why can't the band have a deserved meeting place of their own, where we don't have to arrive one hour early to get a

chair on the floor so we don't have to sit in a seat without a back on it.

The problem will not go away. Our band program will continue to grow. We have more students in the band program in the middle school than our high school band room will hold in the next 2 to 4 years.

Please consider the future of our music program and the future of our students. Keep up the good work kids. I'm so looking forward to my children continuing in our growing music program.

Sincerely,
Melanie Nicholas,
Cass City

Notice of BUDGET HEARING & ANNUAL MEETING

For
Evergreen Township

Will Be Held
April 2
1:00 p.m.

Evergreen Township Hall, Shabbona

Arthur Severance, Supervisor

The Want Ads Are Newsy Too!

POISON PREVENTION WEEK - MARCH 20-26

Never refer to medicine as "candy" in front of children
Always turn on the lights when taking or giving medication
Clean out medicine cabinets regularly
Empty and flush all expired contents before disposing of containers

THIS SAFETY MESSAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

S.H. RAYTHATHA, M.D., P.C.
(Dr. Ray)
"All Ages Welcome"

(989) 872-5010

FAMILY PRACTICE 4672 HILL STREET CASS CITY, MI

Knight Insurance Agency
Your Insurance Protector

872-5114

Steve Eyer, R Ph
Pharmacy Manager

6480 West Main St
Cass City, MI 48726

Coach Light Pharmacy
Your Home Town Pharmacy

Phone: 989-872-3613 Fax: 989-872-5149

Thumb Insurance Group, Inc.
INSURANCE FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS

JIM CERANSKI OFFICE: MARK WIESE
Agent 872-4351 Agent

ERLA'S FOOD CENTER
CASS CITY

WHOLESALE & RETAIL FRESH MEATS,
HOMEMADE SAUSAGES
IN-STORE DELI & BAKERY
★ FULL CATERING SERVICE ★
Senior Citizens 5% Discount
Every Wednesday (excludes alcohol & tobacco products)

989-872-2191

Pre-Arrangements
Monuments - Markers

Thabet Funeral Home

989-872-9700
6255 Main St.
Cass City, MI 48726

DWIGHT D. THABET ELIZABETH THABET
DIRECTOR DIRECTOR

HILLS & DALES
GENERAL HOSPITAL

BRANCHING OUT...REACHING OUT

4675 Hill Street, Cass City
Phone: 989-872-2121

HARRIS & COMPANY
DAVID A. WEILER - AGENT

LIFE - ANNUITIES - INVESTMENTS
PENSION & PROFIT SHARING PLANS
6815 E. CASS CITY RD. - CASS CITY
(989) 872-2688

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS
Scheduling Appointments Now
Judith McElhinny, D.O.

Specializes in Family Practice

- General Health Maintenance
- Well Child Care Check ups
- Acute Care • Minor surgery • And More!

Now seeing infants through seniors
Practicing with
CANFIELD FAMILY PRACTICE, L.L.P.
616 Unionville Rd. • Sebawaing, MI 48759
Phone: 989-883-9088
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CALL 872-2010 TO PLACE AN ACTION AD

Services

Simpson's Tree & Brush Removal
Cass City, Michigan

Residential & Commercial

- Fence Row Clearing • Lot Clearing
- Wood Splitting Available
- Yard Light Replacements • Odd Jobs

No Job Too Small!

(989) 872-2128

Ron Simpson, owner/operator

Services

Dr. John Geissinger
Chiropractic Health Services
Caro

Tuesdays & Thursdays
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

(989) 673-4464

Call for an appointment

Services

Licensed Insured 20 Years Experience

BC Construction

Rough & Finish Carpentry

- Decks • Siding • Garages
- Additions • Home & Basement Remodeling
- Pole Barns • Etc.

Bob (989) 635-8328
Chuck (810) 537-1637

Services

Ken Martin Electric, Inc.

Homes - Farms
Commercial
Industrial

STATE LICENSED

Phone 872-4114

4180 Hurds Corner Rd.
8-8-10-1f

Services

Homes & Offices Cleaning

- 25 years experience
- Licensed • Insured
- Bonded

(989) 665-0166
(810) 938-1555

Services

SNOWPLOWING - driveways and parking lots. Senior rates. 872-8537.
8-1-26-10

Farm Equipment

JOHN DEERE 2010 tractor with hydraulic loader and 2 buckets, runs and drives good, \$4,300; Farmall A, \$1,500. 989-551-7516.
9-3-23-1

OSENTOSKI Realty & Auctioneering

Barbara Osentoski

"Cutie in the Country!!"

This 3-bedroom home is all set to go with some...many updates: central air, updated bath, freshly painted, flooring with coordinated decor, newer roof and a partially finished basement with work area. Updated 12x24 shed with cement, electric and (2) 8 foot overhangs. All setting on 3 acres. This home will not last long at only \$94,900. OW-137

(989) 672-7777 528 N. State St., Caro, MI 48723
www.barbosentoski.com

Kurtz's Small Engine Repair

All Makes & Models

Certified Authorized Dealer of Honda Power Equipment, Husvarna & Delta Interstate Batteries "We Ship Anywhere"

4235 Lamton Rd. Deford, MI 48729
(989) 872-8257

SALT FREE iron conditioners and water softeners, 24,000 grain, \$750. In-home service on all brands. Credit cards accepted. Call Paul's Pump Repair, 673-4850 or 800-745-4851 for free analysis.
8-9-25-1f

PAUL'S PUMP REPAIR - Water pump and water tank sales. In-home service. Credit cards accepted. Call 673-4850 or 800-745-4851 anytime.
8-9-25-1f

ELECTRIC MOTOR and power tool repair, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. John Blair, 1/8 mile west of M-53 on Sebawing Road. Phone 269-7909.
8-12-13-t

Replace the winter BLAHS with AH-HHS! call:

TIME 2 PAINT
989-872-3462

Interior, Exterior & Drywall Repair
10% OFF Pre-Spring Sale
FREE ESTIMATE

JOHN DEERE TRACTOR 1958 420U slant wheel, restored. 800 actual hours. \$5,000. 810-378-2518.
9-3-16-2

OSENTOSKI Realty & Auctioneering

Tavis Osentoski

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 on CCT-223

Robert Bliss Builder

- Commercial
- Custom Homes & Remodeling

Also specializing in:

- Ceramic Tile
- Hardwood Flooring

Licensed & Insured

Call 872-3579

Cass City Tire and Auto Repair

6415 Main St.
(989) 872-5303

VP Racing Fuels
Propane Filling Station
Certified Master Mechanic
Full line of tires
Computer Alignments
Front-end Parts
Shocks, Struts, Brakes
Tune-ups, Oil Changes
Engine Diagnostics
A/C Recharge

For all your automotive needs, stop in today!

de Beaubien Lawn Service

Residential Commercial

Mowing-Trimming
Shrub Trimming
Lawn rolling/Thatching
Core aeration, Edging
Rotary broom parking lots

Insured
989-670-6700

Hartwick Farms Excavating

- Site Development
- Demolition • Ponds
- Basements • Septics
- Driveways • Gravel
- Sand • Limestone
- Top soil • Decorative Stone walls • Trucking
- Grade-work
- And ALL excavating

(989) 553-2212
(989) 872-4794

PET GROOMING BY CAROL - Monday through Friday at your convenience, Saturday, 7-1 p.m. 989-872-3160.
8-4-21-1f

Interior & Exterior Painting

Ross Kraft

Cass City, Mich.
(989) 872-3601

Now accepting Visa & Mastercard

Help Wanted

RETAIL HELP WANTED - part-time, includes Saturdays. Coach Light Pharmacy.
11-3-9-3

Help Wanted

Card of Thanks

DAVID ZARTMAN (989) 872-2485
LICENSED & INSURED BUILDER

ZARTMAN'S MASONRY

- Block Basements • Crawl Spaces • All Types of Cement Work
- All Types of Home Repairs
- Carpenter Work • Brick • Cultured Stone

Smith Refrigeration and Appliance Repair

All makes and models

Call 872-3092

Thomas Roofing

YOUR TOTAL ROOFING CONTRACTOR

Serving the area for 34 years

LICENSED - INSURED BONDED

(989) 872-2970

Cass City

Help Wanted

WANTED: SUBSTITUTE Bus Drivers - We will train, pay for schooling, physical and CDL license. Call 989-678-4261 or contact: Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools, 7166 Main Street, Owendale, MI 48754, Attn: Maurice Winchester, Transportation Supervisor.
11-3-23-2

RN & LPN Positions available.

Benefits and Competitive Wages

Send resume to: Caro Community Hospital Attn: Human Resources P.O. Box 71, Caro, MI 48723
(989) 673-3141

WE WOULD LIKE TO thank all those who called, sent cards, flowers, food and remembered our family at the time of the loss of our Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother. We also would like to thank the staff at the Crow's Nest, Hills and Dales General Hospital, Kranz Funeral Home, and Dr. Ray for their compassionate care. A special thanks to Pastor Ellen Burns and all those who participated in the funeral service, and the ladies of the Shabbona United Methodist Church for the wonderful lunch. We appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness. The family of Esther Severance.
13-3-23-1

When you're serious about sound...

Impulse D.J. Service

"For ALL Occasions"

D.J. Jeremy Loeding
(989) 872-4126
(810) 414-7215

Pro Temp Heating & Cooling

- Gas & Oil Furnaces

John's Small Engine Repair

6426 E. Cass City Rd.

Reasonable Rates

Lawnmowers, Riders, Trimmers, Rototillers, Chainsaws & Snowthrowers

All Makes & Models

21 Years of Experience

All Work Guaranteed

Hours:
Monday-Friday 8-5 p.m.
Saturday 9-4 p.m.

872-3866
Pickup & Delivery Available

Executive Director

Tuscola County Community Foundation

The Tuscola County Community Foundation, with \$3.8 million in assets, is seeking a dynamic professional to serve as Executive Director of this organization. The position is responsible for directing the overall program and administrative activities of the Foundation and for the effective use of its financial resources. This individual has primary responsibility for planning and managing the Foundation's programs and services; attracting additional gifts to expand the Foundation's assets; serving as liaison with local groups and agencies that comprise the Foundation's various constituencies, and with state organizations when appropriate; increasing awareness of the Foundation in the community; and encouraging measures to improve the quality of local philanthropy. This position could be part-time or three-quarter time. The Tuscola County Community Foundation is an equal opportunity employer.

Interested candidates should submit resume to:

Board Chair
Tuscola County Community Foundation
P.O. Box 534
Caro, MI 48723

In Memory

IN MEMORY OF our father and grandfather, Walter Zmierski, March 24, 2004. We love and miss you dad, Angela, Mike, Mark, Teresa, Birdie and your 15 grandchildren.
15-3-23-1

Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas

Real Estate For Sale

Great Family Home On Paved Road CALL ME!

KELLY & CO. REALTY

989-872-2248 or 989-375-2386
coopers@kvcrl.net

Billy Cooper

HEATING and AIR CONDITIONING

Paul L. Brown
Owner

State Licensed
24 Hour
Emergency Service
CALL 989-872-2734

Cass City 989-872-2248
Caro 989-673-2555

KELLY & CO. REALTY

Caseville 989-856-8999
Bad Axe 989-269-6977

Email addresses - kellyco@tband.net, kellyco@centurytel.net, kellycv@midmich.net, fdible@echoiceml.com
Web Page: kellyandcompanyrealty.com

Everything Kelly & Co. Realty touches turns to SOLD!!

New On The Market. 4 bedroom, 1 bath stick built home located in the southeast part of Cass City on a corner lot. An 18'x28' insulated 2 story garage/workshop has 220 amp service. TCC1443

Price Reduced. Owners want to sell. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath home located south of Cass City on 10 acres with a large pond in front. Well laid out with open living/dining room. Has a gas fireplace in living room. Home is beautiful inside. Deck in rear and a 30'x40' pole barn. F735

On Paved Road. Located southeast of Cass City. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured home on just under 2 acres. Well laid out with open kitchen/dinette. Has a full basement. Outside is a 3-tier deck off the dinette. CY2427

Price Reduced! Beautiful 3 bedroom condo located in Cass City. Lower level is finished with a L-shaped family room with a natural gas fireplace. Also one bedroom is in the lower level. All appliances are included. Well decorated. Home Warranty. TCC1410

Neat, Clean & Nice. Beautiful 3 bedroom tri-level home close to Cass City on 10 acres. Neutral carpet colors. Fireplace in family room. Well kept and ready to move into. F720

CASS CITY. Beautiful 2 story 3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath home close to downtown. Almost completely remodeled in the last 3 years. Master and guest bedrooms have 4'x8' walk-in closets. Kitchen cupboards are Hickory. This home is beautifully decorated and ready to move into. TCC1423

JUST LISTED. Beautiful 3 bedroom home, located in Cass City. This home has been completely updated within the last 2 years. New 12'x30' deck and new 10'x13' shed. A must see. TCC1441

BEAUTIFUL. This 3 bedrooms, 2 baths home is located east of Cass City. Has been remodeled in the last 5 years. 2 1/2 car garage and a 14'x60' shed. CY2438

OSENTOSKI REALTY AND AUCTIONEERING

Cass City 989-872-4377
Caro 989-673-7777
Kingston 989-683-8888
North Lapeer. 810-793-7777

E-mail: osentosk@avci.net

6501 Main Street, Cass City, Michigan 48726

Motivated Seller. Real nice condo in Cass City. Seller kept this one real NICE! Appliances to stay, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, extra tall full basement that could easily be finished. Sets on corner for overlooking glorious sunsets. Ask to see CCT-334

Calling all weekenders! This is a real steal for a cabin. There is lake access in the area. Home offers two bedrooms and 1.5 baths. It sets on two lots. Call for showing instructions, ask to see K-316.

NEW LISTING! Comfortable home, offers 3 bedrooms, one bath. Updates include new drywall and insulated throughout, siding, furnace in last 5 years. Has a stove, fridge included. Carport and shed in back yard. Quiet neighborhood. Call for a showing today! CCT-336

Out Shines the Rest! Features 2,250 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms total of 1 full, 3/4 & half baths, formal dining room, 8'x8' pantry, living room w/ fireplace, kitchen. On 3.5 acres, has 38'x46' and attached taller 40'x40' pole barn. Class A road between Bad Axe and larger southern cities. UB-90

Martin Osentoski Sales Associate 872-3252 or 550-3400

Lola Osentoski Flores Sales Associate 872-3942

Barb Osentoski Associate Broker 672-7777

Lee LaFave Sales Associate 665-2295

Roger Pohlod Sales Associate 872-2747

Tavis Osentoski Associate Broker 989-551-2010

David Osentoski Associate Broker New Booking Auctions

Organizing success

Warner leaves chamber after years of service

You may not know Kay Warner, but if you've ever attended Summer Mania in Cass City, or taken part in any of the many Christmas in the Village events, you've enjoyed a taste of her talent for organization.

Warner has served as administrator of the Cass City Chamber of Commerce since the position was created 8 years ago.

Since then, she has played a key role in boosting chamber membership, building on popular events that showcase the community each year, and making hundreds of contacts with existing business owners as well as businesses and residents interested in relocating to Cass City.

Warner recently retired from her job with the chamber, but remains active as coordinator of the Cass City Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

"They're (chamber and DDA-EDC) 2 separate entities, but they do have a lot of the same goals and interests and problems," said Warner, who volunteered with the chamber several years before she was named administrator. "The goal is to work together."

Working with the chamber came naturally for Warner, who owns her own administrative and organizational support consultation business, Diversified Services.

Putting her organizational skills to work, Warner focused on setting up a system in which the chamber could realize significant growth.

"There's been a lot of growth," she said. "They hired me because there was no system in place. There wasn't even an office. They wanted to grow and they wanted the chamber to be more active. Now there's a whole organizational system in place."

Participation in the cham-

ber has since grown dramatically, from some 50 members to a current membership of roughly 200.

"We're totally electronic now. We were doing that even before the big chambers were," said Warner, who explained that chamber minutes, agendas and meeting notices are now e-mailed. The village also has its own website.

Warner's major projects over the years have included transforming some annual events into bigger events, including Summer Mania, which replaced the Sidewalk Sale Days held each summer.

The event has grown, with a number of events becoming very popular, including a car show, town wide garage sales, a book sale at Rawson Memorial Library and free inflatable games for kids. Annually, hundreds of people visit during the summer festival.

Warner explained that one of the village's consulting firms in 2000 suggested making one or 2 downtown events into signature events for the community.

"That's what we tried to do with Summer Mania and Christmas in the Village. They're both events that

showcase the community," she said.

The past few years, Warner's office has been located in a donated space inside the Cass City Municipal Building. She has worn a number of hats from personal tour guide to point "man" when it comes to sharing information about the community with folks planning to make a visit. And, she has promoted the chamber as a useful organization that deserves a close look by the business community it serves year in and year out.

"Most people think of the chamber as local people who sit and have coffee," she said. "We're here to attract new businesses, but we're also here to support businesses that are already here. The chamber works for the good of the whole community. The chamber does it all - we are the one who people call" when they want information about the town, where to stay, where to eat, what to do.

"As far as I'm concerned, every business should be involved because we're supporting the community," Warner continued. "Not only should you belong to contribute that support, but

when you belong, you get discounts."

Although Warner has no plans to retire completely, she said she needs some time for herself.

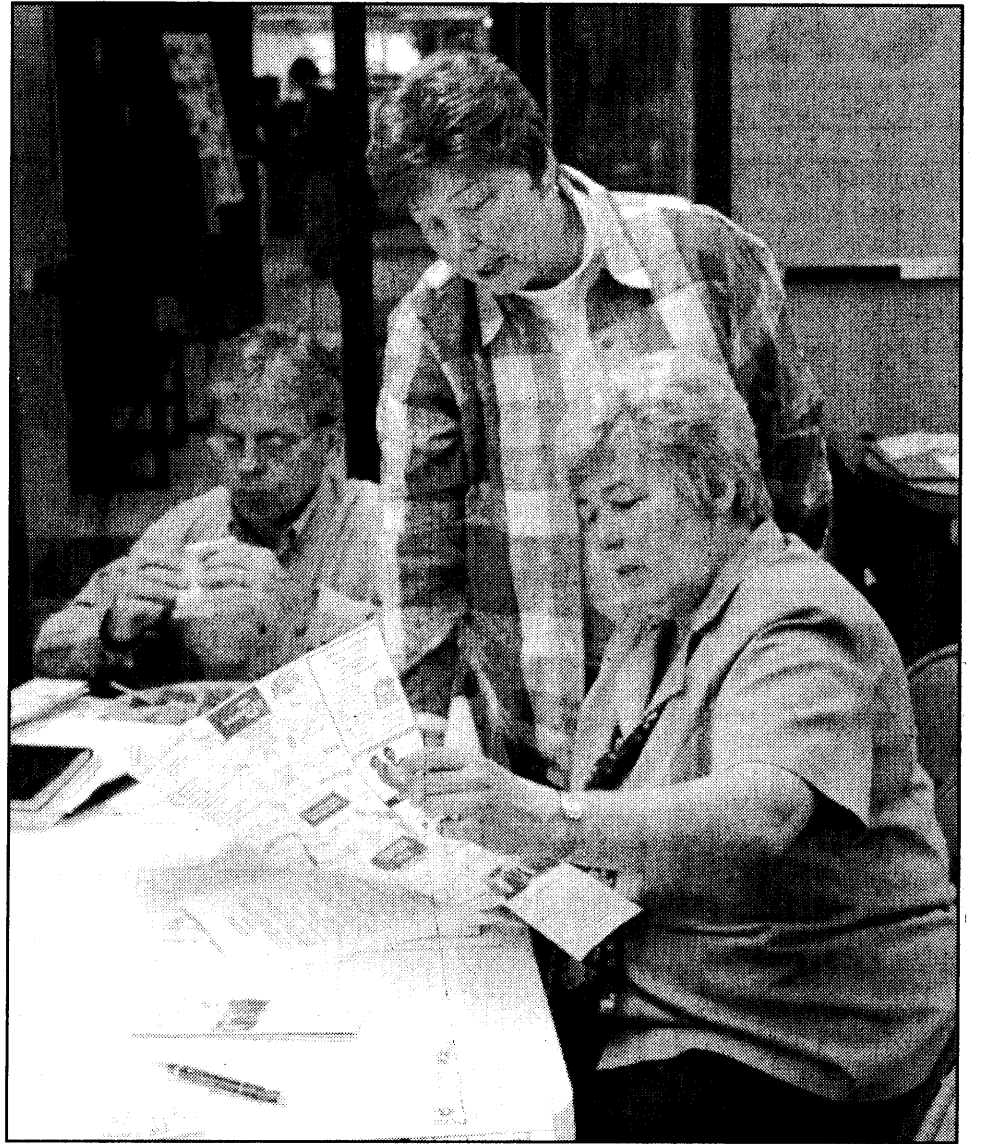
"I didn't start out looking for a full-time job" outside the home, she recalled. "But I'm not going to retire. This is what I'm good at."

"I just need to get my health on track and my own life back on track."

Still, it's certain she'll continue to do her part to promote the community through her role with the DDA-EDC, and to contribute where she can using both her business experience and her work with the chamber.

"I like Cass City and I think it's (chamber) an important organization, and more than ever, we can see this organization needs to be on top of things," she said. "My love is organization - that's my thing. So, to jump in there and take a box of stuff, a box of old papers, and put it in order, that's my love. And, I really enjoy working with the businesses."

"Cass City has so much we have to offer," she added. "We just have to do a better job of promoting ourselves. It's an on-going process."



RETIREE Cass City Chamber of Commerce Administrator Kay Warner points out the location of various medical facilities in the village to Judy Murphy, HDC transportation director, during a meeting last fall to discuss Thumbbody Express' planned service expansion to Cass City.

No CWD found in captive herds

As the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) and Michigan Deer and Elk Farmers Association anticipated, a state audit of Michigan's privately owned cervidae found no documented cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the farm-raised deer and elk surveyed.

Results of the audit were reported Thursday at a joint meeting of the Natural Re-

sources Commission and Michigan Commission of Agriculture. The audit was recommended by a CWD Task Force appointed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm last year.

Although CWD has not been found in Michigan, the task force was concerned about the possibility of the fatal brain wasting disease being transmitted between free-ranging and farm-raised deer and elk, and recommended that privately owned cervid farms be inspected for their compliance with state regulations covering matters such as proper fencing to prevent animal escapes, animal identification and CWD testing.

"One of the main objectives of this audit was to determine whether privately owned deer and elk were infected with CWD, and we're pleased that this audit showed our industry to be free of the disease," said Alex Draper, president of the Michigan Deer and Elk Farmers Association.

Follow-up inspections of 15 farms are pending, and once these re-inspections are completed, 100 percent of the privately owned cervid farms audited would be in compliance with the state regulations. At the time of the audit, 37 percent of the farms surveyed were not in compliance, but officials at Thursday's joint commission meeting said most of the outstanding farms only required fixing fencing problems.

Officials at MFB and the Michigan Deer and Elk Farmers Association say they look forward to jurisdiction of the privately owned cervid industry transferring back to the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) based on results of the audit.

Last spring, the governor issued an executive order transferring regulatory authority of privately owned cervidae from MDA to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in order to complete the audit as requested by the CWD Task Force. Shortly thereafter, in a letter to the state Legislature, Granholm pledged that she would return regulatory oversight of privately owned cervidae to the MDA if the audit showed Michigan farms free of CWD.

Owen-Gage round-ups scheduled

Preschool, developmental kindergarten and kindergarten round-up in the Owen-Gage Schools will be held Wednesday, April 6, in the school library.

To register, call Cindy at (989) 678-4141 and sign up for a day or evening meeting for yourself and your child to see the classroom and meet the teacher. Times are 9 to 10 a.m. or 6 to 7 p.m.

EYECARE & EYEWEAR FOR EVERYONE

- Professional eye exams
- Prescriptions filled
- Large selection of frames
- All types of contacts
- No-line bifocals
- Glasses repaired
- Blue Cross & VSP participant

DAVID C. BATZER II, O.D.
Professional Eye Care
4672 Hill St., Cass City
872-3404
Bad Axe 269-7263

Call Paul for a quote on a New Ford or Chrysler today!

Moore Motor Sales
The New Generation

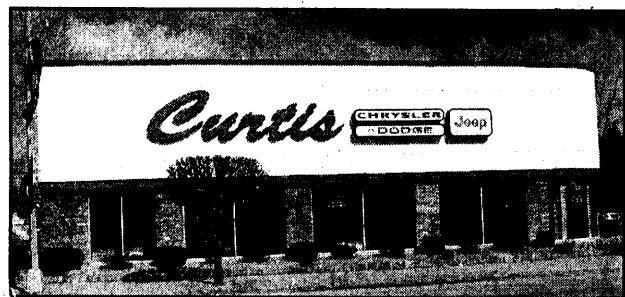
Paul Bessler
Certified Sales & Leasing Consultant
New & Used Cars

ph. (989) 673-4171, ext. 252
toll free 1-800-516-6673
fax: (989) 673-7229
1725 W. Caro Rd., Caro, MI 48723

CURTIS CHRYSLER - DODGE - JEEP

is very proud to be part of the Cass City community and in its progress while serving the Thumb area for their automotive needs, both in sales and quality service.

989-872-2184 • TOLL FREE 1-888-269-3634



Stop in and check out our new inventory of Chrysler Pre-owned vehicles



BRYAN ABBE
Stop in to see me for your best deal on a pre-owned vehicle

2004 DODGE STRATUS		2003 DODGE RAM QUAD CAB		Pre-owned	
	SXT, CD & Cassette Only \$11,500*		SLT, 4x4 Only \$20,995*	2000 Chrysler Concorde.....Arriving soon	
8 yr./80,000 mile warranty		8 yr./80,000 mile warranty		2001 Chrysler Sebring Convertible\$10,995*	
2005 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT (stow-n-go)	\$20,995*	2004 Dodge Stratus (12,000 miles)	\$11,995*	1998 Dodge Grand Caravan Sport.....\$8,995*	
2005 Dodge Grand Caravan (rear heat & air)	\$17,500*	2003 Dodge Ram Quad Cab (Hemi - 8,000 miles).....	\$21,495*		* Tax, title and license extra.
2004 Dodge Grand Caravan (low miles).....	\$16,995*	2004 Dodge Durango SLT (leather)	\$23,900*		
2004 Dodge Stratus SE (V-6)	\$12,650*	2002 Dodge Ram (V-8, 29,000 miles)	\$14,995*		
		2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee (2 to choose from)	\$17,995*		

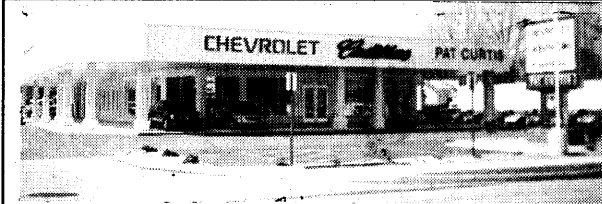
Two Great Product Lines To Choose From, One Name You Can Trust!

PAT CURTIS CHEVROLET-OLDSMOBILE-CADILLAC

425 ELLINGTON STREET, CARO • 989-673-2171

OPEN 'TIL 8 P.M. MON. & THURS.; T, W, F 8-6;
Sat. 9-3; SERVICE HOURS: M-F 8-5; Sat. 9-3

989-673-2171



Pat Curtis Chevrolet and Cadillac would like to invite you to their "MARCH MADNESS" Sale. We are celebrating by offering **\$0 DOWN** lease specials like these... And you pay no 1st month's payment.

<p>2005 CHEVY MALIBU MAXX LS Trim, Power Seat, Remote Starter MSRP \$23,245.⁰⁰ GMS \$20,699.⁶⁵ 3 Year Lease 12,000 miles per year \$0 DOWN PAYMENT Plate, title and tax due on delivery</p> <p>Now Only \$193.00 plus tax</p>	<p>2005 CHEVY MONTE CARLO Sunroof, Sport Appearance Pkg, Power Seats MSRP \$25,145.⁰⁰ GMS \$21,915.85.⁸⁵ 2 Year Lease 12,000 miles per year \$0 DOWN PAYMENT Plate, title and tax due on delivery</p> <p>Now Only \$143.00 plus tax</p>	<p>2005 CHEVROLET SILVERADO Automatic, Air, Tilt, Cruise, CD Player MSRP \$20,825.⁰⁰ GMS \$18,327.³⁰ 3 Year Lease 12,000 miles per year \$0 DOWN PAYMENT Plate, title and tax due on delivery</p> <p>Now Only \$204.00 plus tax</p>	<p>2005 CHEVY IMPALA LS MSRP \$26,460.⁰⁰ GMS \$23,553.⁶³ 3 Year Lease 12,000 miles per year \$0 DOWN PAYMENT Plate, title and tax due on delivery</p> <p>Now Only \$209.00 plus tax</p>	<p>2005 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500 Ext Cab, 4x4, LS Trim, Diesel, Allison Trans. MSRP \$41,731.⁰⁰ GMS \$35,342.⁹³ 2 Year Lease 12,000 miles per year \$0 DOWN PAYMENT Plate, title and tax due on delivery</p> <p>Now Only \$411.00 plus tax</p>	<p>2005 CADILLAC CTS MSRP \$33,595.⁰⁰ GMS \$30,125.⁵⁰ 3 Year Lease 12,000 miles per year \$0 DOWN PAYMENT Plate, title and tax due on delivery</p> <p>Now Only \$313.00 plus tax</p>
---	---	---	---	--	--