

Portion of M-46 will be renamed to honor veterans

Page 4

Health officials: all may seek flu vaccines now

Page 5

You can shop till you drop without leaving the computer

Mcg's Peg - Page 2

# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 99, NUMBER 31

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2005

FIFTY CENTS

12 PAGES PLUS 3 SUPPLEMENTS

## Katrina concert draws 150 people

Attendance at Sunday's benefit concert in Cass City for Hurricane Katrina victims was disappointing for Richard Little, who spearheaded the event.

However, Little acknowledged the 80-minute concert accomplished what he had set off to do from the beginning - raise needed money that will enable American Red Cross officials help those victims put their lives back together.

"We can't change what happened that day, but we can help change what comes next," he told an audience estimated at about 150 people.

The concert, held in the Cass City High School gymnasium, featured vocal and/or instrumental pieces performed by the Tom Thumb Singers, First Presbyterian Church Choir, Cass City High School Jazz Band, Connie Iwankovitch and Scott Mills, Excel Dance Studio of the Arts dancers, Roger Parrish, Alyssa Nicol, Barbara Graff, Chelsea DeLuyck and Jim Hobbs.

"I thought it was excellent. All local talent, everyone did a really good job," Little commented following the concert.

"Today we took in

\$721.15," Little said, adding Cass City School students have also been busy with fundraisers of their own.

"I made a challenge to them, and they came through. Mr. (Chad) Daniels, high school social studies teacher and student council advisor, helped the student council raise \$385. The student council donated all the money taken in on their first school dance of the year," he said. "Mrs. Beth Howard, Campbell Elementary counselor, helped her students raise \$1,528.75 in 3 days, (and) eighth grade

teacher Mr. (Lloyd) Schinnerer organized the middle school in a project that netted \$1,087.04."

The Knights of Columbus donated another \$209, and an account set up at Independent Bank brought in some \$1,700 in contributions.

"It was pretty good. Altogether it came to \$5,633.94," Little said, adding the total doesn't include the many other individual contributions made by members of the community to the Red Cross.

Taking on fundraisers to assist those in need is famil-

iar territory for Little, who last spring organized a similar concert in an effort to raise cash for Tsunami victims. That event drew an audience of about 200 people and generated nearly \$1,150 that was subsequently donated to Habitat for Humanity.

A desire to do something prompted Little's efforts then and again over the weekend.

"I think the main reason was, I was kind of depressed after that hurricane, and I thought, don't be depressed.

Please turn to back page.

## Tilt 'teacher of year'

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Barbie Tilt has 16 years of experience as an educator in her own classrooms, but she's never forgotten those who helped make her the teacher she is today.

Campbell Elementary School teacher Linda Gray is among them.

"She was instrumental (in my decision to teach)," said Tilt, a lifelong Cass City resident who currently teaches

family living and health classes to students in grades 5 through 12 in the Unionville-Sebewaing School District.

"She (Gray) didn't settle for anything but perfection. It's not that you could fail, but she told every kid, 'you can do this,'" Tilt recalled. "Back then, I remember thinking, she's so strict, but when 'you got it,' it was such an accomplishment," she added.

"Now, when I'm in the gro-

cery store and I have to multiply, I think of Linda Gray. She was very motivating and she really cared about every student, and that's so important. And that's what I try to do with my students."

Tilt's efforts haven't gone unnoticed.

Officials with the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MAHPERD) recently named her the 2005 MAHPERD Health Teacher of the Year.

Tilt will be honored during an awards banquet scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City.

"It's very exciting to be named MAHPERD Health Teacher of the Year, but this honor would not have been possible for me to achieve without the support of my family, my students, the USA staff and my mentor, Bob Miner," Tilt commented last week.

"I hope to use this opportunity to educate the public about serious health issues facing young people today," she said. "I also want to stress how important it is for parents to talk to their children about issues like alco-

Please turn to back page.



THE CASS CITY HIGH School Jazz Band performs during Sunday's concert to benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina. Cass City resident Richard Little organized the event, which drew about 150 people and raised about \$720.

## Millennium to receive \$25,000

## Job training grants awarded

State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) applauded the announcement by Governor Jennifer Granholm that \$75.500 in Economic Development Job Training grants have been awarded to 4 Thumb companies.

The grants were awarded by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) through the Tuscola Intermediate School District to 4 automotive part suppliers in Huron and Tuscola counties.

The grants will be used to improve job skills for a combined 83 existing workers and 48 new employees at Berkley Industries in Bay Port (\$12,500), Cass Valley Enterprises in Vassar (\$10,000), Kaumagraph Flint Corporation in Millington (\$28,000) and Millennium Industries in Cass City (\$25,000).

"With global competition pushing companies to seek out cheaper and cheaper labor, it is critical that our workers maintain a competi-

tion edge over overseas competition," Barcia said. "These grants will help 4 local companies stay current with state-of-the-art training in advanced automotive manufacturing and keep their operations thriving right here in Michigan."

Millennium Industries designs, develops and manufactures products for use in the engine compartment of passenger automobiles and light trucks. The company's products include fuel rails, power steering reservoirs, oil separators, water pipes, EGR tubes and cam lock rings.

An outspoken critic of free trade agreements that have cost Michigan hundreds of thousands of jobs in the manufacturing sector, Barcia has worked closely with the MEDC to encourage investment in the Thumb.

Since returning to the Michigan Senate in 2003, he has helped secure millions of dollars in grants for local communities and businesses

to provide services like job training and infrastructure improvements that create and retain good jobs.

## Fortson pleads guilty, faces prison time

Former Cass City resident John D. Fortson Jr. is awaiting sentencing and probably another lengthy prison term following his plea of guilty to a charge of possession of marijuana, subsequent offense, last week in Tuscola County Circuit Court.

Charges of driving without a license in his possession and being an habitual offender (2 or more prior felony convictions) were dismissed.

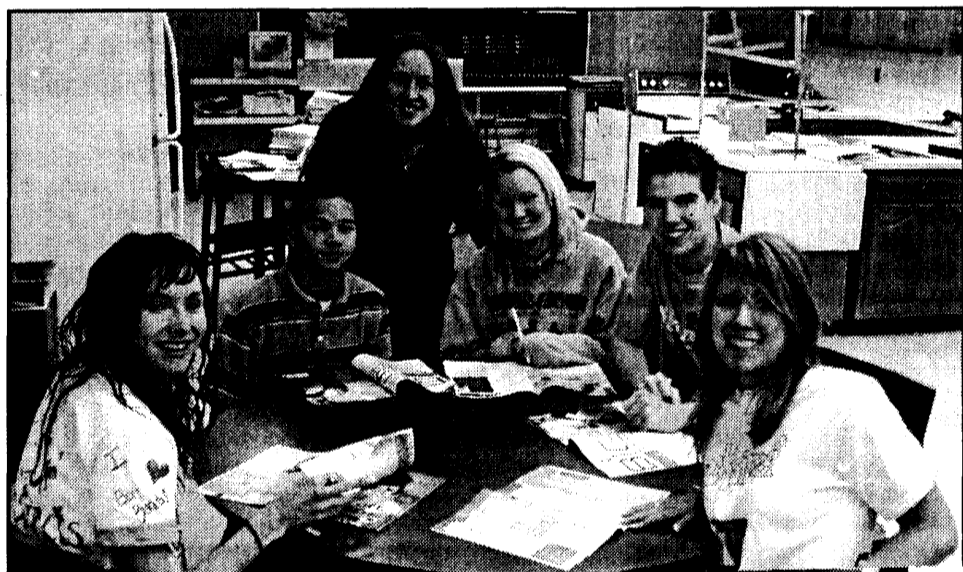
Fortson, 46, now of Flint, was arrested during a traffic stop in the Caro area in early July. The officer who stopped him obtained permission to search his vehicle and discovered the marijuana.

At the time, Fortson was on parole, having been previously convicted of manslaughter and 2 earlier drug charges - delivery of cocaine and conspiracy to deliver cocaine.

The manslaughter conviction came after Fortson shot and killed John A. Bulla, 36, of Cass City, in January 1990 at Fortson's then-First Street residence in Mayville. Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies arrived to find Bulla dead in the driveway. He had been shot once in the head with a 12-gauge shotgun.

Fortson was released from prison in April 2004 after

Please turn to back page.



TILT IS PICTURED above with some of her students in the USA School District, where she currently teaches family living and health classes to students in grades 5 through 12.

## On Broadway!

## Osentoski lands role in new Disney production

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Area youth with a talent for singing, acting or dancing don't have to look far for inspiration to make it big someday.

They need only look as far as the Cass City High School Class of 1996 and graduate Whitney Osentoski, a Cass City native who followed his dream to dance professionally all the way to New York.

Osentoski realized his dream to perform on Broadway when he made his debut in July at the Cadillac Winter Garden Theater, performing in the ensemble cast of Mamma Mia.

More recently, Osentoski's talents paid off big again when he was selected to join the ensemble cast for a new Disney musical, a stage theater production of Tarzan.

"I'm going to be doing it.

They called me 2 weeks ago," Osentoski said Sunday afternoon while visiting with family in Cass City. "They offered me a swing position, which means I will be covering all of the male ensemble dance positions."

Rehearsals will begin in late December and the show is scheduled to debut May 10 at the Richard Rogers Theater.

"I'll be with the show, minimally, until next November," Osentoski, 27, noted. "It's going to be a big deal. This is going to be Disney's first Broadway musical in 5 years.

"It's going to be cool (not touring). It's nice to be doing what you love and also to be home - in the city."

It's a big break for Osentoski, but one that took time, talent and patience. He first auditioned for the musi-

cal 2 years ago and has since auditioned 8 to 10 times, including working in front of the legendary musician Phil Collins, who wrote the score for Tarzan.

Osentoski, the son of Lola Osentoski-Flores and Marty Osentoski, both of Cass City, began his journey to Broadway as a youth. He still recalls watching a male student for former Cass City dance instructor Sally Doerr perform a tap number during the village's annual Fourth of July Festival. He was 9 at the time.

"I said, 'mom, I want to do that', and the next fall, she signed me up," said Osentoski, who studied at Doerr's former Cass City dance studio through high school.

After graduation, Osentoski set his sights on a college degree at Saginaw Valley

State University, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2001 with a major in music and minor in physical education.

It was during the end of his college years that he first traveled to New York and spent 3 months in the summer of 2000, auditioning and attending classes at the Broadway Dance Center. He was 23 at the time and had been dancing for about 14 years.

"I was teaching at the Joan Malone Dance Center (in Saginaw) and I went with 2 other teachers, one of which was Pam Broyles, who was also from Cass City," Osentoski said. "They both ended up staying and I ended up coming back to finish my degree. So, that was my first taste of auditioning and the city."

The experience led

Osentoski back to New York a year later, after earning his bachelor's degree.

"I knew after being there that I wanted to perform, and I had a feeling I could get work - I did well at the auditions that I had that summer - so I went back and hit the Big Apple again," he said.

"When you go to New York, it's a little easier to break into performing for a guy because for every male dancer, there's probably 3 or 4 female dancers auditioning," Osentoski noted. "The competition isn't as stiff."

Osentoski said his living arrangement began by sharing a room with a friend in Washington Heights in upper Manhattan, so the rent was fairly cheap.

After just 3 weeks, Osentoski booked his first

Please turn to back page.



CASS CITY NATIVE Whitney Osentoski visits with his grandmother, Marie Osentoski, in Cass City over the weekend. Osentoski was in town for a few days to visit with family before returning to New York, where he's gearing up for his new dancing role in a new Disney stage musical theater presentation of "Tarzan" on Broadway.











# Hawks roll over guests All Saints

The Cass City Red Hawks stayed in contention for at least a share of the Greater Thumb West title with an easy win over visiting Bay City All Saints last week, Tuesday, 57-35.

In an unusual quirk in the schedule, Cass City has played 2 weeks in a row with just single games and the next 2 games will be non-conference encounters. Cass City was to play at Brown City Tuesday and Deckerville Thursday, before returning to conference action next week, Tuesday, to face Valley Lutheran at home.

Against the Cougars the Hawks jumped off to an early lead and were never seriously threatened the rest of the way. Midway through the first quarter Cass City was in front, 10-2.

The first quarter offense was led by Ashley Hendrick, who hit 4 hoops. The Hawk press caused numerous turnovers.

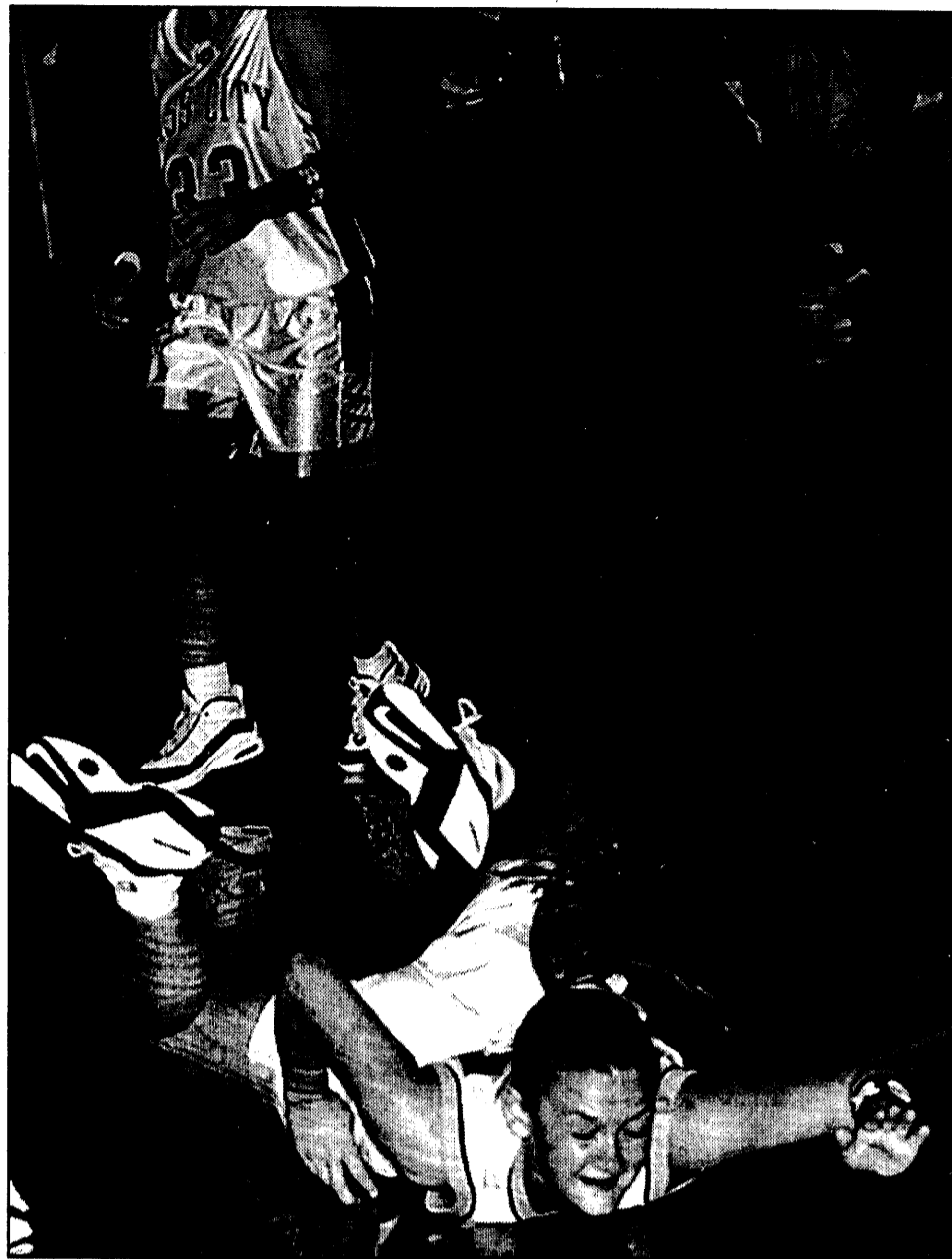
The closest the Cougars came to the Hawks was 6 points and coach John Maharg substituted liberally in the second quarter. At the intermission Cass City was in front, 28-18.

Any doubt about the outcome of the game was eliminated in the third quarter as the Hawks posted a 15-7 advantage paced by Jenni Brinkman with a trey and a deuce.

Cass City's scoring was well divided with 9 players sharing the scoring load. Hendrick was in double figures with 14 points, led the rebounders with 11 and was credited with 5 assists. From the field Cass City converted 24 of 64 shots for 38 percent. Courtney Rabideau contributed 7 steals.

**CASS CITY** - Richards 0-1 (1-2) 4; C. Rabideau 2-0 (1-2) 5; Brinkman 3-1 (0-0) 9; A. Rabideau 0-0 (2-2) 2; Meeker 3-0 (1-4) 7; R. Czekai 1-0 (1-3) 3; Trischler 4-0 (0-0) 8; Hendrick 7-0 (0-1) 14; Schinnerer 2-0 (1-2) 5.  
**TOTALS - 22-2 (7-15) 57.**

**ALL SAINTS** - Malott 1-0 (0-2) 2; Lukowski 1-0 (1-1) 3; Weaver 0-1 (0-0) 3; Janer 4-0 (1-3) 9; Middleton 3-0 (0-1) 6; Gerulski 3-0 (1-1) 7; Kwapiszewski 2-0 (1-3) 5.  
**TOTALS - 14-1 (4-13) 35.**



**ALL-OUT HUSTLE** by Cass City's Kalen Trischler and her Red Hawk teammates resulted in a 57-35 victory over guests Bay City All Saints.

# Bulldogs win pair

Owen-Gage doubled its win total on the season last week with North Central Thumb League victories at home over Peck and Akron-Fairgrove.

It's unlikely that the Bulldogs will be able to continue their current win streak this week as they travel to face 2 of the stronger NCTL squads in Port Hope and Kingston.

Still, Coach Dave-Fritz has to be pleased with his team's progress of late, especially in Thursday's triumph over the Pirates, who turned back Owen-Gage 47-26 earlier in the year.

Crisp ball movement by the Bulldogs led to several open jump shots for the winners. Converting most of the looks for the Bulldogs were sophomore April Nowaczyk and freshman Amanda Faist.

The pair combined for 21 points in the opening half. But despite their antics, the Pirates used a balanced scoring attack to gain a 31-26 cushion at the break. Peck saw 8 different girls enter the scorebook over the game's opening 2 quarters, led by Tiffanie Fletcher's 6 points.

Nowaczyk and Faist picked up where they left off after the break and led Owen-Gage on a 17-8 run entering

the final period. Owen-Gage also received 3 field goals from Michelle Brown in the period that ended with the hosts clinging to a 43-39 advantage.

The advantage proved too much for the Pirates to overcome as they could only trade baskets with the winners throughout the final period.

Nowaczyk led Owen-Gage with 20 points, while Faist added a season-best 19 tallies.

Kayla O'Connor's 11 markers were tops for Peck, while Fletcher added 10 points.

**AKRON-FAIRGROVE** Earlier in the week, on Tuesday, the Bulldogs registered their second win of the season over guests Akron-Fairgrove, 47-32.

After falling behind early, Owen-Gage outscored the Vikings in each of the final 3 periods to earn the win.

Nowaczyk handled most of the scoring duties for the winners and handed in a season-high 24 points.

Leading 19-16, Owen-Gage extended its advantage to double digits after the break as Faist headed up and tossed in 8 of her 12 points

during the third quarter. The Vikings, who received 14 points from Shayna Petiprin, were hammered by a dismal showing at the foul line, converting just 4 of 15 tosses.

**OWEN-GAGE** - Faist 4-0 (4-4) 12; Schmidt 2-0 (1-2) 5; Brown 0-0 (1-2) 1; Nowaczyk 10-1 (1-2) 24; Error 1-0 (0-0) 2; Collon 0-1 (0-0) 3.  
**TOTALS - 17-2 (7-10) 47.**

**AKRON-FAIRGROVE** - Avila 2-0 (1-2) 5; Hillaker 2-0 (0-0) 4; Petiprin 4-2 (0-0) 14; Fogarsi 2-0 (2-5) 6; Trish 1-0 (0-1) 2; Ahrens 0-0 (1-5) 1.  
**TOTALS - 11-2 (4-15) 32.**

**OWEN-GAGE** - Faist 8-0 (3-5) 19; Brown 3-0 (2-4) 8; Nowaczyk 7-2 (0-1) 20; Error 3-0 (0-0) 6.  
**TOTALS - 21-2 (5-10) 53.**

**PECK** - Fletcher 4-0 (2-2) 10; Merkau 2-0 (0-0) 4; Williams 1-0 (2-2) 4; McNary 1-0 (0-1) 2; Smith 2-0 (0-0) 4; Quandt 2-0 (1-1) 5; O'Connor 4-0 (3-8) 11; Maitland 1-0 (1-2) 3; Kiley 3-0 (1-1) 7.  
**TOTALS - 20-0 (10-17) 50.**

## BASKETBALL STANDINGS

GREATER THUMB WEST			
Team	W	L	W L
Lakers	5	1	9 3
Cass City	4	2	9 3
USA	4	2	6 6
V. Lutheran	3	3	6 7
Reese	3	3	3 8
BCAS	1	5	4 8
Bad Axe	1	5	1 12

GREATER THUMB EAST			
Team	W	L	W L
Marlette	5	1	10 3
Brown City	4	2	10 2
Sandusky	4	2	9 4
Ubyly	3	3	10 3
Harbor Beach	3	3	5 7
Mayville	2	4	5 7
Deckerville	0	6	2 9

NCTL NORTH			
Team	W	L	W L
North Huron	9	2	9 3
Port Hope	9	3	9 4
Owen-Gage	4	8	4 8
A-Fairgrove	1	12	1 12
Caseville	0	11	0 11

NCTL SOUTH			
Team	W	L	W L
Memphis	12	0	14 0
Kingston	8	3	8 4
Dryden	6	6	6 6
CPS	5	7	6 8
Peck	5	7	5 7

## Hunter safety tips offered

Michigan's fields and forests will soon be alive with blaze orange hunting gear, and Tuscola County Sheriff Tom Kern wants both visitors and residents of Tuscola County to know some important safety rules before setting out to deer camp.

Those tips include:  
\* Your hunting license and the identification used to purchase it (Michigan driver's license, identification card, or DNR sport card) must be

carried with you at all times while hunting.

\* All hunters must wear an item of clothing (hat, cap, vest, jacket, or rain gear) in "hunter orange"; it must be the outermost garment; and it must be visible from all sides. If it is camouflage, at least 50 percent of the garment must be orange.

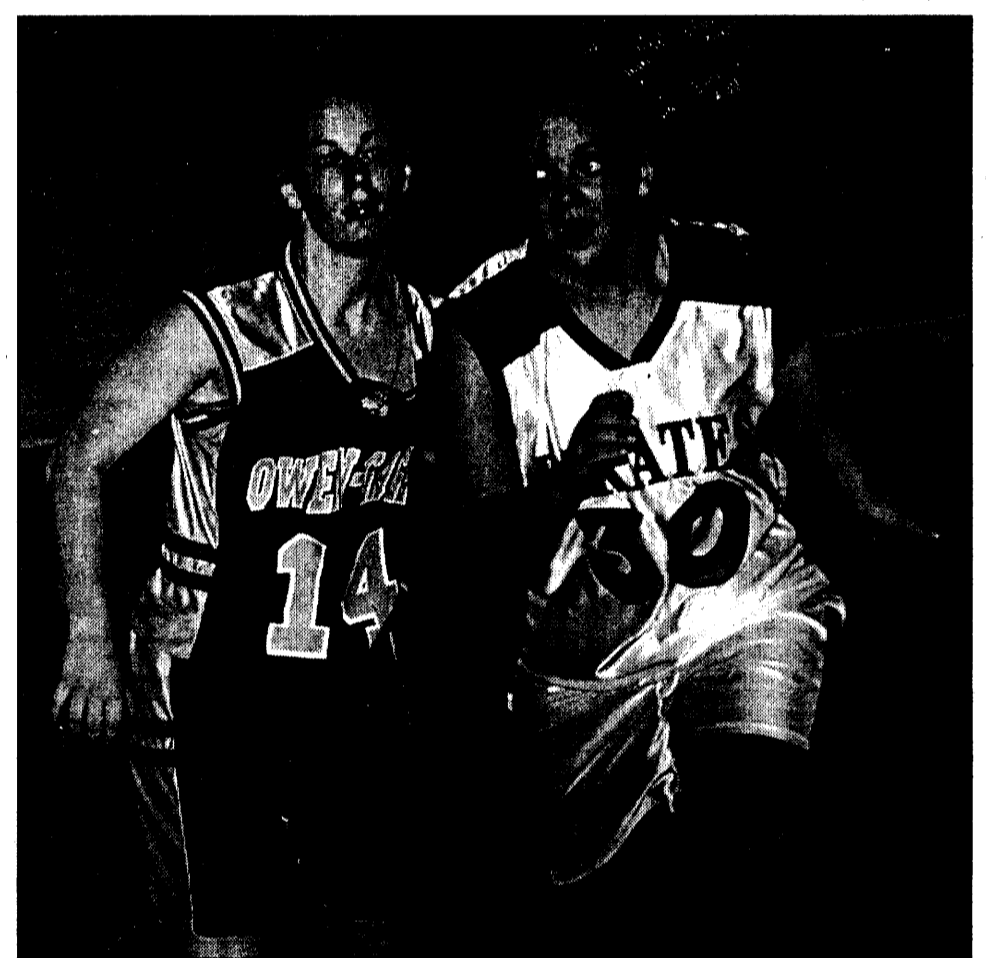
\* Hunting hours are approximately one-half hour before sunrise and last until approximately one-half hour

after sunset.  
\* Safety zones are all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, house, cabin, barn, or other farm building. You may not hunt in this area or shoot at any animal within this area, unless you have the written permission of the property owner.

\* It is illegal to drink alcohol or use intoxicating drugs before hunting.

Kern also reminds hunters to take the following precautions to prevent injury or death while hunting this season:

- \* Familiarize yourself with the area where you will be hunting.
- \* Never assume you are alone in the woods.
- \* Never assume other hunters are acting responsibly.
- \* If sitting against a rock or tree, make sure it is wider than your shoulders so you are not mistaken for a target.



**TIGHT DEFENSE**, like this by Owen-Gage's Michelle Brown on Peck's Kayla O'Connor, helped the Bulldogs post a 53-50 win over the visiting Pirates Thursday in NCTL play.

## Schneeberger's ATHLETES of the WEEK



**THE CASS CITY 2005 varsity basketball team members are:** (front, l-r) Renee Czekai, Jenni Brinkman, Kalen Trischler, Ashley Hendrick (back, l-r) coach Sara Homakie, coach Ken Martin, Terra Czekai, Ashleigh Rabideau, Emily Schinnerer, Sara Meeker, Courtney Rabideau, Allie Richards, coach John Maharg and coach Kelli McIntyre.

The Cass City Red Hawk basketball team used a total team effort to easily turn back visiting Reese and Bay City All Saints during its latest outings. The Hawks have also won 3 straight since bowing 42-40 to league leading Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port and stand just one game back of the Lakers in the Greater Thumb West standings.

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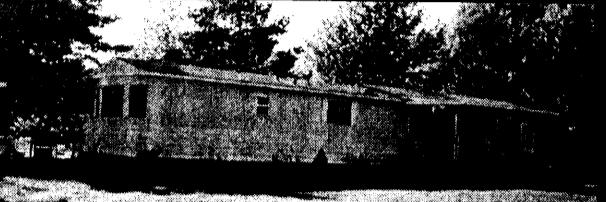
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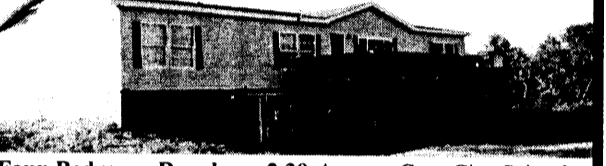
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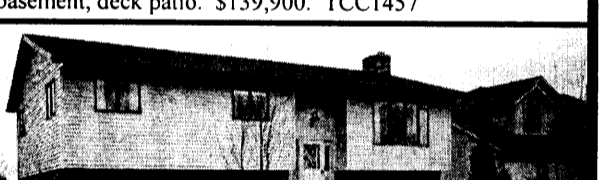
NEED SOME FALL or everyday cleaning? Either too busy or too much to handle? Call Jennifer at 989-269-5069. 12-10-12-2

JEANNIE'S DAYCARE has openings for children of all ages (0-12 years). Meals provided. FIA accepted. Call 989-912-0279. 12-10-5-4

17-YEAR-OLD girl looking for an after school job. Have transportation and references. 665-9942, after 4 p.m. 12-10-12-3



Looks Are Deceiving - This home sets on a cul-de-sac street. Cape Cod with more space than it looks. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, basement, deck patio. \$139,900. TCC1457




Nothing To Do But Move In! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room, large deck off the dining area overlooking a nicely landscaped yard. Neat and clean. \$139,900. TCC1452

**Help Wanted**

THANKS SO MUCH to everyone who contributed to the Fred Francis Benefit, including the local community businesses and also to the Cass City United Methodist Church and volunteers, for which this would not have been possible. We were overwhelmed by your caring and generosity. It would take more than a lifetime to express our appreciation. God bless! Sincerely, Fred Francis and family. 13-10-19-1




Start Your Own Business - Nice building with 4 bays, lobby area, office, cement parking area. Call today. COM1104




Priced To Sell - Outside the village limits, this home has had a lot of remodeling and decorating done. 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths. Take a look. \$89,900. Cy2474

**Real Estate For Sale**

**Hometown USA Realty**



5556 Severance Rd., Deford  
 Total Remodel, Paved Road, 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, 2.45 Acres, \$95,000



DALE CHURCHILL  
 Sales Consultant  
 (989) 872-4429 Home



Fantastic Setting - This home sets on 18 acres of hardwoods with a pond. Plus a pole barn, garage and lean-to storage. Call today. F745

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Bonnie Haley Office 989-872-2248  
 Evenings 989-872-8300

