

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2006

FIFTY CENTS

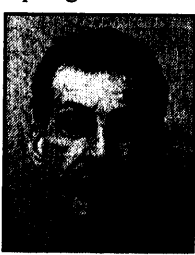
14 PAGES

Threat earns Deford man years in prison

Deford resident David J. Domine will have plenty of time to think about his decision to threaten to blow up the Tuscola County Courthouse.

Visiting Oscoda County Circuit Judge J. Richard Ernst sentenced Domine, 41, to 10 to 25 years in prison last week in Tuscola County Circuit Court for his plea of no contest to making a threat of terrorism last

spring.



David J. Domine

Domine was also convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

His sentencing also took into account his status as a habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions). Accord-

he drove to a child custody hearing in Kent's courtroom.

Domine's undoing in the case turned out to be a notebook belonging to him with several pages ripped out.

Tuscola County Sheriff's Department Detective Glenn Skrent's sharp eye and more detailed investigation by a Michigan State Police crime lab revealed the imprints of words on the remaining pages, including a detailed list of weapons and ammunition, and personal details about both the judge and caseworker.

Prosecutors say Domine not only threatened an explosion at the courthouse, but also stalked a judge and an FIA caseworker.

County gets \$50,339 for emergency food, shelter

Tuscola County has been chosen to receive \$50,339 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a national board chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and consists of representatives of the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities, Catholic Charities USA, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, and the United Way of America.

A local board will determine how the funds awarded to Tuscola County will be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area.

The local board is made up of several community agencies, including the Human Development Commission, Church of the Sacred Heart, Gagetown Church of the Nazarene, Bethel Chapel Assembly of God, Mayville Share Shop, Department of Human Services, Restoration Outreach Center, Caro Church of Christ, and the Tuscola County Baby Pantry.

Under the terms of the grant, local agencies chosen to receive funds must be private, voluntary non-profit groups or units of government; have an accounting system; practice non-discrimination; have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs; and, if they are a private, voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board.

Qualifying agencies are encouraged to apply for the funding by contacting Sean Smith, local board contact person, at the Human Development Commission at (989) 673-4121.

In the past, Tuscola County has distributed emergency food and shelter funds to a number of organizations, including the Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center, St. Agatha Food Pantry, Bay Shore Camp, Unionville-Sebewaing Food Bank, and the Mayville Share Shop. These agencies were responsible for providing a combined 20,724 meals.

ing to court records, his past convictions include unlawfully driving away an automobile, receiving and concealing stolen property, larceny in a building, and breaking and entering a building with intent to commit larceny.

Earlier this year, he pleaded no contest to second degree child abuse in another case in Sanilac County.

Prosecutors say Domine not only threatened an explosion at the courthouse in Caro, but also stalked Tuscola County Probate/Family Court Judge W. Wallace Kent and a Family Independence Agency caseworker. Both were involved in a case related to the termination of Domine's parental rights to his then-6-month-old son.

Domine was arrested last April as

Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark Reene said investigators found Domine's references to explosives and a listing of firearms, and his plans for "putting Tuscola County on the map" on the blank pages of the notebook. Reene said the notes also made it clear that Domine has been watching, following and documenting the activities of both Kent and the caseworker.

"I think when somebody goes to the extent of actually going to the residences of the individuals and writing down personal information, it goes beyond just making statements and comments," Reene said after Domine entered his pleas. "I think that's when it clearly crosses the line."

Gifts await first newborn

The arrival of 2007 will have special meaning to couples that are also expecting their own little arrivals, but just when the first baby of the new year will be born is anyone's guess.



The only question mark each year is timing. In 2003, Michelle Smith of Cass City gave birth to the first baby, Ian Matthew Vasquez, Jan. 23, and in 2004, the first baby, Trinity Marie Middaugh, was born Jan. 8 to Brenda and Chad Middaugh of Deford.

Last year, Ben and Tonya Schott of Cass City welcomed Landyn Frank Schott Jan. 9.

As was true in 2006, this year's proud parents will receive an evening out with 2 free passes and free refreshments at the Cass Theatre.

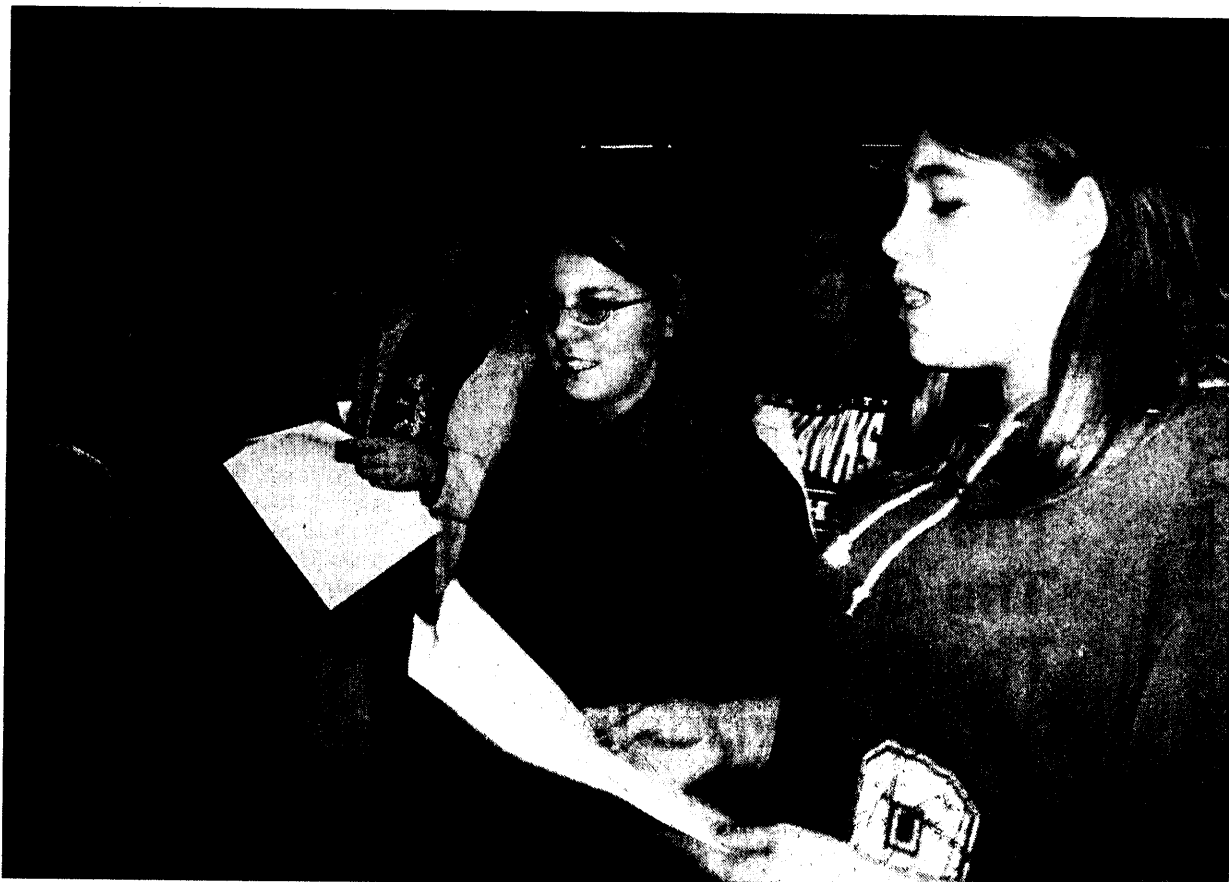
Coach Light Pharmacy will give a Hallmark Baby Memory Book, and Erla's Food Center will send best wishes to the new arrival with a \$10 gift certificate.

Special Scents Flower Shoppe has a \$20 floral bouquet to welcome the newborn, while Gaffney's Hometown Kitchen will treat mom and dad to a dinner for 2 (up to a \$20 value).

Also, 2 local banks will start the baby off with a savings account. Thumb National Bank and Chemical Bank each has a \$10 savings account waiting. Finally, the family can read about the new arrival and other local news all year long with a free, one-year subscription to the Cass City Chronicle.

Will the first birth take place just minutes or hours after the bells start ringing at midnight, Jan. 1, or will several days or even weeks pass before the blessed event?

Regardless, the first baby of the new year born and reported to the Chronicle by a Cass City area family will be showered with gifts and well wishes from local merchants, a tradition that has continued for many years.



THE CASS CITY HIGH School choir shared its musical talents with residents at Tendercare, Cass City, last week. Pictured above are choir members (from left) Lindsey Montgomery, Danielle Reed, Alex Rowe, Anita Hill and Jenna Barnes.

Year in Review 2006 a good (bad) year

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us..."

From "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens

The opening of Dickens' classic "A Tale of Two Cities" could apply to just about any community to describe just about any given year, and that certainly was true of Cass City in 2006.

The community saw its school district split apart by controversy surrounding popular band director Doug Burtch, and then rocked by a sea of red ink that is likely to threaten Cass City Schools for months to come.

But there was hope in a handful of individuals who proved their faith in the community by risking new business ventures, and area residents proved again and again that when neighbors find themselves faced with a life-threatening illness, they won't have to face it alone.

With the year nearly over, it seems fitting to take a brief look back at some of the events and stories that helped shape and define this community. With that in mind, the Chronicle presents its annual "Year in Review".

SCHOOL FINANCES

The year saw a changing of the guard at Cass City Schools, with former Harrison Schools principal and

curriculum director replacing longtime Cass City Supt. Ken Micklash.

Wilson inherited what turned out to be a financial nightmare. School officials, who have enjoyed a robust fund balance for years, suddenly found themselves struggling to maintain any fund balance due to a number of factors, including the loss of 100 students over 3 years, state funding cuts, soaring fuel costs, and the expense of paying 2 band directors as Doug Burtch awaited trial on criminal sexual conduct charges.

To-date, the board of education has slashed \$1.6 million in spending, including 17 full-time teaching/library jobs, and another 8 support positions.

School officials, who have been forced to file a deficit elimination plan with the state, fear they may have to implement even more cuts now as state officials continue to hint that they may significantly reduce a planned increase in student funding this year.

And, school officials are projecting the loss of another 45 students in the coming year.

BAND DIRECTOR

New Cass City Supt. Ron Wilson has had a challenging year, not only because of financial woes, but also because the controversy surrounding popular Cass City Band Director Doug Burtch, who earlier this year faced several charges stemming from alleged sexual relationships with 2 former students.

Burtch was suspended with pay, costing the district some \$100,000 over the course of the year. In the end, a Sanilac County jury

acquitted Burtch, clearing him of 2 counts of criminal sexual conduct last spring. A day later, Burtch resigned his position with the Cass City Schools.

A few months later, Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark Reene requested dismissal of 8 more counts of criminal sexual conduct, saying Burtch's attorney had successfully petitioned the court to suppress what he called significant evidence and exclusion of witnesses in the Tuscola County case.

School officials have hired another director of bands, but a rift in the community remains. Many of Burtch's supporters remained loyal to the end, while other community members felt the band director, while not convicted of any crime, crossed the line of acceptable behavior between an educator and a student.

Please turn to back page.

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Holbrook Area News

Mrs. Thelma Jackson
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Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Cleland of Bad Axe, Velma Cleland, and Don Cleland of Yale met Violet Cleland in Sandusky Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Todd Bowers and Shelly visited Mrs. Martin Sweeney Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Depcinski had dinner at Rachel's in Bad Axe Friday and later visited Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Depcinski where they spent the evening playing cards and visiting.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Particka spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. William Godell of Lincolnshire, Ill., and were Sunday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Particka, Jenni, Matt and Andrew of Adrian.

Mrs. Frank Sageman visited Mrs. Martin Sweeney and Thelma Jackson Wednesday.

Claude Mestack, Al Peruski, Tom

Talaski, Allen Farrelly, June Rutz, and Bernard Morley met at Big Boy Saturday morning.

Rick Stuart and Allen Farrelly delivered food baskets for the Lions Club Monday.

Mrs. Dan Franzel spent Thanksgiving with Sharon Franzel of Atlanta, Ga.

Erin Cleland and Marge Murdick of Snover visited Mrs. Curtis Cleland.

Eleven members of The Traveling Breakfast Club met at the Coffee Cup Plus. They will meet at Big Boy next week.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Mestack, June Rutz and Allen Farrelly had dinner at the Franklin Inn Saturday evening.

Mrs. Harold Ballagh of Cass City, Mrs. Kevin O'Connor of Minden and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jackson visited Thelma Jackson Thursday.

Cass City Middle School Honor Roll

Cass City Middle School announces the second marking period honor roll.

Grade 5:

Alexander Adams, Fabrisio Ballo, Rachel Bartnik*, Madison Brinkman, Lauren Bukoski*, Fred Colosky Jr., Curtis Dickinson*, Cecelia Dunn*, Jodi Engel*, Kristin Ewald*, Drew Field*, Ian Habicht, Jacob Hacker*, Katelyn Hacker, Dakota Hartel, Adrien Hartsell*, Collin Hartwick, Chelsea Hoppe, Katherine Hudson, Hanna Hulburt, Ashtyn Janiskee*, Tyler Kamrad*, Samantha Krueger, Matthew Lintner, Katherine Manwell*, Emily Mason, Amanda Matson, Heather McCormick, David McNaughton, Nicholas Middaugh, Elisabeth Mulligan*, Brett Morrish, Michael Mulligan*, Elisa Norcross, Rachel Patera, Jacob Perry*, Braeden Perzanowski*, Liberty Ann Quijas, David L. Radeka, Shane Rasmussen, Kara Reif, Alex Robinson*, Michaela Romain*, Kayla Schneeberger, Erin Schuette*, Alexina Somerville*, Alexander Tabar, Audrey VanAuken*, Miranda Williams*, Dakota Wilson, Brennan Winter*, Justin Zaleski and Kayla Zmierski*.

Grade 6

Shelby Abell*, John Ballard, Shannon Bardwell*, Nicole Boland, Taylor Brown, Zachary Deitering*, Austin Dunnuck, Meri Dzielinski, Hayden Ellis, Samuel Fisher*, Brandon Green, Nicholle Hartel, Stephanie Heckroth*, Patrick Horne, Ellen Hulburt, Cole Israelson, Justin Kerkau, Larissa King*, Jacob Kittle, Erica Kolacz, Charnelle Kucharczyk*, Emily Kuenzli*, Kassandra LaPonsie, Ryan Larson*, Alan Leslie, Stacey McArthur*, Rianna McConnell*, Amanda McCormick, Cody McGee, Nicholas McNeil, Katelyn Michalski, Brian Mohr, Kayla Montreuil*, Erin Moore*, Duane Morris, Lauren Perry*, Karley Peters, Mishelle Powell*, Briana Prill, Jake Quinn, Jacob Redmond, Brenden Ricker*, Kendra Rogers*, Kelby Rowell, Leah Sanders, Lukas Schenk*, Amy Sweeney, Jocelynn Venema, Paul Verhines, Victoria Walsh, Alex Warju*, Ashley Wilson and Ian Woodward.

Grade 7

Alison Blattner, Angela Braun, Morgan Erla, Alexis Fetterhoff, Rebecca Hacker*, Kyle Hanby, Jordan Hendrian, Carley Hendrick, Bridgette Homrocky, Korey Hool, Alexa Kamrad*, Troy Kausch, Kristen Kawecky*, Nicole Kelley, Tessa Kus*, Alyssa Lawrence*, Stephanie Leeson, Joseph Louks*, Macey Messing, Derek Mozden, Ethan Nicol, Megan Parrish*, Zachary Potrykus, Morgan Potter, Ashley Potts, Jessica Prieskorn*, Jordyn Rasmussen*, Logan Rowell, Rachael Rule*, Brena Rutkoski, Alexandria Smith, Shannon Stec*, Heather Sweeney*, Cortney Thompson*, Alyse Timko*, Cassandra Tomlinson, Jared Weidman*, Michael Wills, Ronald Wolschleger, Alexander Zaleski and Sarah Zmierski.

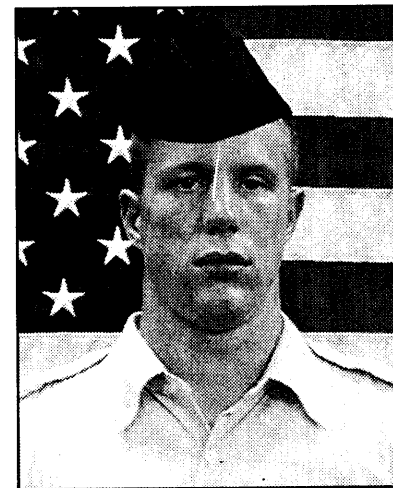
Grade 8

Mark Alfini, Jeffrey Bliss Jr., Tommy Brinkman, Nicholas Brown, Amanda Clifton, Cody Crouch, Zachary Deering, Cameron Dunnuck, Dylan Gibson*, Kendra Grady, Chelsea

Green*, Krista Guinther*, Brooke Hartwick*, Angela Janssen*, Justin Ketterer, Rebecca Leslie, Thomas LeValley*, Elizabeth Lintner, Kylie Maggard, Anthony McArthur*, Logan Mika, Michael Milligan, Eric Montreuil, McKensie Parrish*, Hayley Peters, Michael Potrykus II, Jessica Proctor, Caitlin Reed*, Mary Rivest*, Kelsey Russell, Victoria Spencer, Mariah Tabar, Robert VanAuken, Alexander Varney, Amber Warju, Zachary Weiss, Robert Wolschleger, Dallas Woodward, Jeremy Wright and Lauren Zdrojewski*.

*Denotes all A's

D. Schenk completes basic training



Derryll Schenk

Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Derryll J. Schenk has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the 6 weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, rifle training exercises, and special training in human relations.

Schenk is the son of Deanna Snyder of Uby. He is a 2006 graduate of Cass City High School.

Holik family gathers for meal, surprise

On Dec. 16, 65 members of the Holik family met at Brentwood in Caro for an annual family Christmas dinner.

Also, a surprise 80th birthday party was the highlight of the day for Lyle Holik of Caro.

All 8 children of the late Mitchell and Muriel Holik were in attendance, as were all four of Lyle and Elizabeth's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Meg's Peg
Good news
by Melva E. Guinther

It takes courage these days to read the newspaper. Most of the headlines in the dailies report ever new reasons to stay in bed and cover your head.

Suicide bombers, larcenies, jobs lost, identities stolen, embezzlement, cruelty, murders and rapes.

It's true that they're only reporting what's going on in our world, and the public wants to know. But wouldn't it be pleasant if the headlines were encouraging for a change?

These are some of the headlines I'd like to see in 2007:

Shopping carts returned

Shopping carts are being returned to their proper places after use. Customers who have been stressed out by carts blocking parking spaces and banging into innocent vehicles are grateful.

Music volume lowered

Citizens are complying with the decibel level law recently enacted, which protects the ears and hearing of the innocent, as well as those who don't seem to mind going deaf.

Caro rehab facility reopened

A generous anonymous donor has agreed to provide the finances necessary to reopen the fitness facility that was closed shortly before Christmas. The membership and staff, which has been reinstated, are extremely grateful to have the gym, pool and exercise equipment available again.

Schools enjoy adequate funds

The recent financial shortfall experienced by area schools resulting in cutbacks and layoffs has been resolved. Teachers and administrators previously pink-slipped have been recalled and the teacher-student ratio is now ideal.

Child abuse eradicated

It has been confirmed that children all around the world have been placed into loving, nurturing homes. Parents and foster parents are taking the job of child rearing seriously and

vowing to protect the innocent.

Unusual peace experienced

Striving factions appear to have set aside their differences and are making an effort to get along in spite of them. Jews and Arabs, Blacks and Whites, Democrats and Republicans, Muslims and Christians, have determined that their points of discord are not worth the price of war.

We'd also like to see such headlines as "Jobless rate plummets," "Cost of health care and prescriptions within the reach of all," "Cure for cancer found."

Not likely, you say? I know, but we can dream. Happy New Year!

Social club forming in Cass City

Mulligan's Irish Links in Cass City is the place to be for people looking for some afternoon fun and a place to get together with area locals.

Starting Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 2 p.m., whether you enjoy playing cards, such as euchre or take pleasure in board games, anything can be accommodated. Also available for the gaming enthusiast is pool and table tennis. Mulligan's also has a big screen TV for those that would like to relax to a movie.

Any card or board game may be brought and a snack or 2 will be provided. Snacks and beverage will also be available for purchase.

The cost is \$2 per person. For more information, contact Nathan Haag at (989) 872-2911 or email: recdirector@cass-city.net.

Thanks for calling
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with feature
story ideas

40th Annual New Year's Eve Gospel Sing

7:00 p.m.

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featuring

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The Gospelmen
The Royal Heirs
Dennis Gwizdala

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Frank Schinco, MD, FACS Opens Neurosurgery Clinic in Cass City

Dr. Frank Schinco is pleased to announce that he will now be serving patients in Cass City and the surrounding areas. As a board-certified neurosurgeon practicing in the Saginaw Valley for over 10 years, his specialties include:

- Pediatric neurosurgery
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Dr. Schinco will be available at the Cass City Specialty Clinic the first Thursday of every month.



Frank Schinco, MD, FACS

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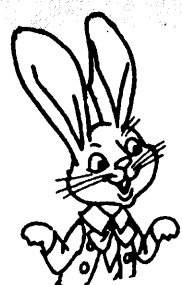
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Rabbit Tracks

by John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

We're sorry to say that this week's "Meg's Peg" column by Melva Guinther will be her last after 20 years. Guinther worked at the paper for 47 years before her retirement 5 1/2 years ago, but she continued to churn out her column for Page 2 each week.

Her warm sense of humor and wit will be sorely missed, not only by her many faithful readers, but by the Chronicle staff as well. We wish her the very best of luck.

The cupcake games that Michigan State plays (and Michigan, also) are not great crowd pleasers and when at Spartan games before the real rivalries begin, I often wonder why the upper decks are full. I was enlightened last week by a fan. Those guys (he was one of them) get in free, he confided, for working during the football season.

In my adjacent column I reported the inadequacies of the rooms at the Kellogg Center. It's fair to tell you about the food served. There are several options. One is to grab a sandwich, a cold drink and watch television.

The stateroom is for leisurely dining, more expensive, but worth it. It's as good as it gets and I've found that to be true each time I visited over the years. My selection was a 6-oz steak and a lobster tail. The plan was to share the lobster with Esther. She ordered a chicken salad. I ordered a glass of wine and Esther, a glass of cranberry juice. The rolls were warm and fresh. The veggie was fresh asparagus spears and I was able to pawn off 2 of the 3 on Esther and I left the last one.

While the meals were listed at \$45 and the wine at \$8.75 that was only the beginning. The room was \$86 and the total cost was \$164.44. The difference? Taxes. Here they are: stateroom gratuity \$12, stateroom food sales tax \$2.70, stateroom beverage sales tax 53 cents, room sales tax \$5.16, and county fee, \$4.30.

The annual Chronicle bridal issue is coming Jan. 17. One of the features that has proven to be popular is pictures of couples married 25 years or more. Pictures when married and a picture today are requested. If you do not have a current picture, call the Chronicle and we will arrange to have one taken. As always, there is no charge for pictures in the special section. The deadline for submitting the pictures is Jan. 12.

New Year's sing on tap Sunday

A New Year's Gospel music tradition spanning 4 decades will continue this weekend in Cass City.

The 40th annual New Year's Eve Gospel Sing will get underway Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Cass City High School auditorium. The event is free, but a free-will offering will be taken and refreshments will be served at intermission.

This year's program once again promises a variety of Gospel music styles to suit just about everyone. As always, the featured group will be "Michigan's Goodwill Ambassadors", the Flint-based Calvarymen Quartet, whose traditional Gospel sound is a perennial favorite in Cass City. Although the members' faces have changed over the years, the group's faithfulness to the local event has never waned - the Calvarymen appeared at the first New Year's Eve Sing and have returned every year since.

The Calvarymen have represented Michigan many times at the National Quartet Convention in Louisville, Ky., and are featured guests on the Gospel Music Television satellite network. From close harmony to

acappella to traditional southern Gospel, the group today is continuing a legacy dating back to 1956.

Also returning from last year's slate of groups are the Gospelmens and the Royal Heirs, both from Flint, and Bay City resident Dennis Gwizdala.

The Gospel music program was organized and has been sponsored by the Cass City Laymen's Club, a small group of area men dedicated to serving God as laymen. The group was officially formed in 1967, with the late Lloyd Severance serving as the club's first president.

Club members organized the New Year's concert in an effort to offer the community an alternative to traditional New Year's celebrations. The goal was, and still is, to provide a full evening of Gospel music for the whole family.

The program typically costs about \$2,000 annually, most of which is covered by free-will offerings. Attendance averaged some 400 people during the first few years, with those numbers climbing to 800 or more people in recent years, depending on the weather.



The back forty

by Roger Pond

It's hard to please everybody. Animal rights groups cheered when the NBA tossed their old leather game ball and replaced it with a synthetic at the beginning of the season. Now the NBA has decided to go back to a leather ball, and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is worried that too many cows are giving up their hides.

NBA players complained so much about the new synthetic game ball that league commissioner David Stern said the NBA would have returned to the old ball sooner but had to make sure there were enough available and that they were broken in properly for game conditions.

What is he talking about? How many basketballs does the NBA need?

And "game conditions?" What does the NBA know about game conditions?

Our goal was in the hay mow when I was a kid, and we had game conditions. There was always a bunch of cows below the court, all looking for a chance to get into the game.

Our mow had holes in the floor along each wall to allow dropping hay into the mangers below. And there was a big hole at each end, where we threw straw bales down for bedding.

When a basketball went down one of those holes lots of bad things happened to it. By the time one of the players got down the ladder to retrieve the ball the cows had gotten in their licks.

If you've never shot a basketball that has been licked and slobbered

on by a cow, you have no idea how sticky that is. Now, we're talking game conditions.

We didn't have towels to dry the ball, either. We just grabbed a big wad of hay and wiped it off the best we could.

Sometimes the cows would choose up sides and roll the ball in the manure before we got to it. The kid who went after the ball in those instances would pick it up with his finger tips, trying not to get any more on him than necessary.

Once the player got back upstairs he might toss the ball to the other team, hoping they wouldn't know what was coming. If one of our team members retrieved the ball, we got a big wad of hay and went to work on it. If the other team retrieved it we let the ball bounce a few times before anybody touched it.

That's why players shot their foul shots underhand in those days. Nobody wanted the ball anywhere close to his face.

Can you imagine those billionaires in the NBA griping about whether their ball is synthetic or leather? Give them one of the balls we used to play with and see how they feel about that.

All of this flap about the NBA returning to a leather basketball has led PETA to say, "Although basketball may be a game for us, it's no fun for cows whose skins are used to make basketballs."

That just shows how much PETA knows about livestock. I've played a lot of basketball with the cows, and I can guarantee they have as much fun as we do.

The Haire Net

Warm weather sparks memory



This is Thursday, four days before Christmas, and looking out the window as the sun shines through bright and warm brings back memories.

In a flash the weather transports me back to northern Texas and a motorcycle ride to Dallas-Fort Worth, about a 100-mile trip, at Christmas time.

There was an advantage of not owning or driving a bike. I was able to huddle behind the driver out of the wind. It would be interesting to compare the temperature that day in Texas with the temperature here today. It would have been close. That kind of weather in Texas was not that unusual. In Michigan it is.

Although our weather has been unseasonably warm, it's not totally unheard of. It is about 13 years ago now since golf fanatics busted out of the clubs and played a few holes during the holidays. There were no flags out, of course, but the price was right. No charge.

The nice weather was a boon for traveling. Esther and I were in East Lansing to attend a Michigan State basketball game Tuesday. For the first time in perhaps 30 years a room was booked at Kellogg Center.

When the Michigan Press Association held its annual winter meeting at Kellogg I stayed there for the week-

end. That probably was 30 years or so ago now, more or less, who can remember?

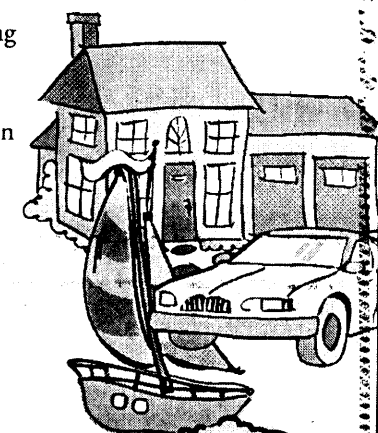
What the hotel has going for it is location, location, location. A hotel guest has free parking in the attached garage and can enter or exit as many times as desired. The garage is about a block from the basketball court.

It's not cheap and the rooms are anything but luxurious. Our room for the night cost \$86 plus taxes. It was with a double bed that filled the small room to capacity. It's hard for me to believe the hotel's excuse for a shower. It includes a shower curtain that circles the spray head. There is no tub and the floor in the shower area is the same as the entire bathroom. The water leaks to a drain inserted in the floor. It reminds me of the drain that is in the middle of our basement and it's impossible to keep the floor dry. If you should stay at Kellogg, ask for a room with a tub, there are a few remaining before the hotel expanded. It's a case of old is better.

Kellogg Center is a training school for Michigan State students and if one of their training jobs is to clean after guests who take a shower, they earn a 4-point plus just for doing it.

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Cass City Chronicle Dec. 27, 2006

5-Day Local Forecast	In-Depth Local Forecast	Upcoming Moon Phases																																																				
Wednesday Partly Cloudy High: 35 Low: 23 Thursday Partly Cloudy High: 37 Low: 26 Friday Mostly Cloudy High: 41 Low: 32 Saturday Mostly Cloudy High: 38 Low: 26 Sunday Mostly Cloudy High: 31 Low: 25	Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 35°, humidity of 86% and an overnight low of 23°. The record high temperature for today is 47° set in 1959. The record low is -6° set in 1950. Thursday, skies will remain partly cloudy with a high temperature of 37°, humidity of 87% and an overnight low of 26°.	<p>First 12/27 Full 1/3 Last 1/11 New 1/18</p> <p>Sunrise/Sunset Times Sunrise today 8:05 a.m. Sunset tonight 5:03 p.m.</p>																																																				
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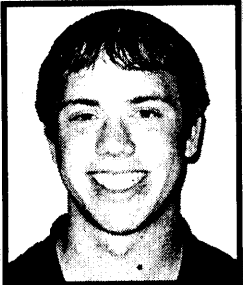
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Red Hawk Talk

by Kyle Swanson

With approximately \$1.6 million in budget cuts in the Cass City Public School District, parent Sloane Stimpfel has decided that it is time to act. Ever since last year when a new student's mother asked Stimpfel about the local PTO, Sloane has been thinking about forming one.

Now, with so many budget cuts in the district, she has decided that it is essential that one be formed. Last week I talked with Stimpfel about what her goals were for the PTO and what the group was planning to do in the near future.

Stimpfel started by telling me that already the group has held 2 concession stands. The first took place at the middle school dance earlier this month and the second occurred just last week at the high school's annual Jingle Bell Ball.

One of the biggest upcoming events that she told me about was the PTO New Year's Eve Spaghetti Supper. The dinner will take place in the Cass City High School cafeteria on New Year's Eve from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Anyone in the community is invited to attend and a free will donation will be collected. All profits will go towards teaching supplies, school assemblies, and field trips.

Stimpfel said they chose New Year's Eve because the annual New Year's Eve gospel sing will start at 7 p.m. at the high school that night. She also added that Olive Garden will be donating the breadsticks and that Gordon's Food Service will be supplying the sauce.

In addition to the spaghetti dinner, Stimpfel mentioned that she has been

in contact with the Palace of Auburn Hills to see about working at one of the concession stands. She told me that nothing has been finalized yet, but that it was a work in progress.

Another idea that she had is to hold a talent show. Stimpfel told me that this would not be as much about making money as it would be increasing community awareness. No date has been finalized yet, but Stimpfel seemed excited about the possibility.

All of these activities can't just happen, though. It will take a small army of dedicated individuals. Fortunately, Stimpfel told me that she has gotten a wonderful response from the community. She said that 38 people attended the first meeting and about 22 other people phoned her for more details.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. at Northwood Meadows. I would encourage anyone who is interested to attend.

Stimpfel said she is looking for ideas from teachers within the school district as to what the money can go for. She has already targeted to raise money for supplies, assemblies, and field trips, but would like to get more details from the teachers as to what is needed the most.

It takes dedication from parents, teachers, and administrators, but I know that we can survive this. This is not the first time that the school has faced financial hardship, and if we all work together we will be able to grow stronger and maintain our commitment to academic excellence.

Several appear on felony charges

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

•Sabrina J. Wilkie, 21, Deford, was sentenced to 15 days in the county jail (suspended) and 24 months probation for her pleas of guilty to tapping or cutting telephone lines and domestic violence Aug. 9 in Novesta Township.

She was also ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$885.

•Stacy J. Wright, 32, Clifford, was sentenced to 365 days in jail for his plea of guilty to domestic violence, second offense, Feb. 16 in Koylton Township.

He was also ordered to pay \$95 in costs and fines.

•Lisa A. Sanders, 46, Deford, was sentenced to 18 months probation and 60 days in jail, with work release, for her plea of guilty to possession of a controlled substance June 24 in

Caro. She was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,040.

•Jason M. Stewart, 28, Vassar, was sentenced to 60 months probation and 180 days in jail (90 days deferred), with work release, for his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, July 23 in Millington Township.

He was also ordered to pay \$3,520 in costs and fines.

•Ricky D. Enos Jr., 23, Caro, was sentenced to 24 months probation and 180 days in jail, with work release, for his pleas of guilty to uttering and publishing involving a \$151.45 check drawn on Comerica Bank, and forgery involving a \$92.64 check last May-June in Caro.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,340. Restitution in the case is to be determined.

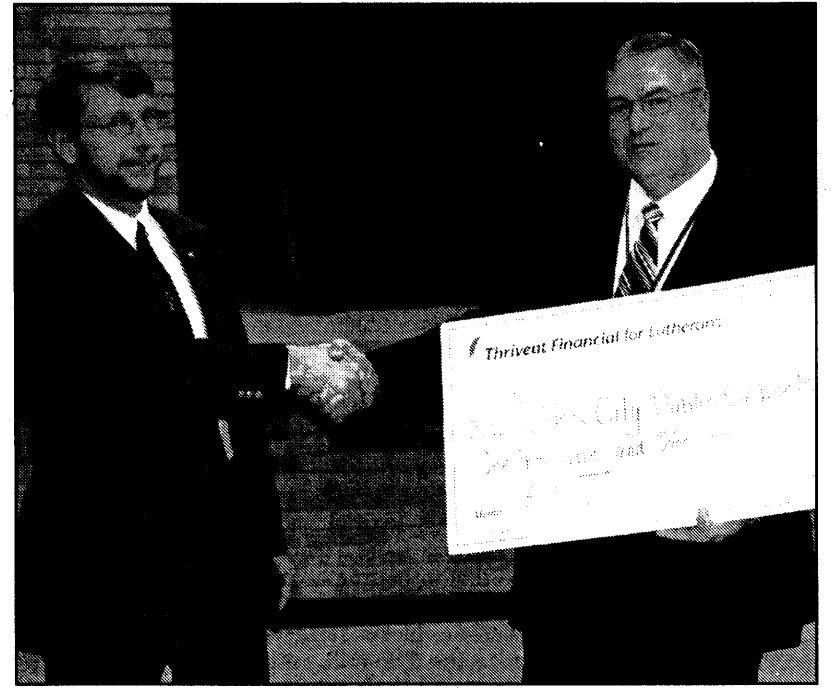
•Michael W. Kern, 25, Vassar, was sentenced to 90 days in jail for his plea of guilty to maintaining a drug house May 19 in Caro.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,120.

•Chad L. Downing, 21, Caro, re-

ceived a one-year delayed sentence for his pleas of guilty to uttering and publishing and forgery involving a \$117.19 check draw on Comerica Bank.

He was ordered to pay \$860 in costs and fines plus restitution of \$117.19.



CHUCK VOLZ (LEFT), representing Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, recently presented a \$1,000 check to Cass City Schools Supt. Ron Wilson for the purchase of the ACT Prep Online School Edition. The program will provide local students with a customized ACT study plan, timed practice tests, counselor reports, detailed explanations of correct/incorrect responses, and practice for the ACT writing test with immediate scoring.

Missing Tuscola man reported safe Sunday

A Tuscola County man reported missing by his wife Saturday was reunited with her in time for Christmas.

Mildred Barton contacted Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies Saturday at about 4:30 p.m. to report her husband, Robert Sova, 79, had left their Mayville area residence on Cat Lake Road and said he was going to get some gasoline for his vehicle. According to deputies, Sova called Barton at about 8 p.m. and told her

that he was in Vassar.

"He was confused and asked her for directions to get home. She provided him with 2 different routes to take home, but he never arrived," said Deputy James Hook. "Although Mildred said he does not have Alzheimer's, she said he does have short-term memory issues."

Deputies reported Sunday night that Sova had been located safe at a family residence in the Fenton area.

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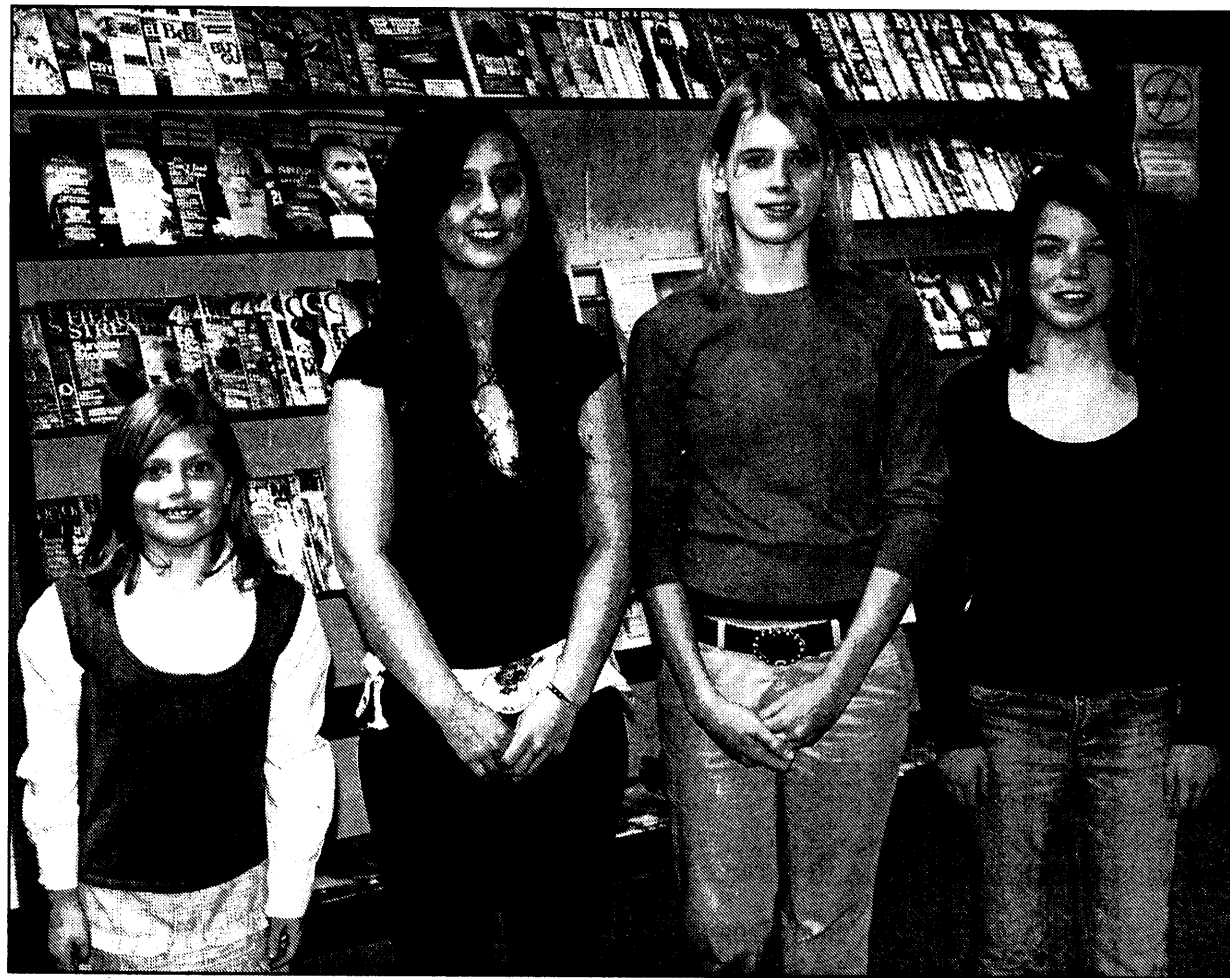
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<p>Wishing You Well! \$10.00 Gift Certificate from Erla's Food Center <small>Cass City 872-2191</small></p>	<p>Welcome Baby!! Hallmark Baby Memory Book from Coach Light Pharmacy <small>Cass City 872-3613</small></p>	<p>Savings To Grow On! \$10.00 Savings Account CHEMICAL BANK. <small>We think you'll like the chemistry!</small> <small>Member FDIC</small></p>
<p>Good News! One-Year Subscription from Cass City Chronicle <small>872-2010</small></p>	<p>Dinner for Two! Up to a \$20.00 value from Gaffney's Hometown Kitchen 6209 Main St., Cass City <small>872-4509</small></p>	



THE DECEMBER "Red Hawk Award of Excellence" winners are (from left) Tara Nicholas, Stephanie Healy, Stephanie Steely and Kelsey Dillon.

Nicholas, Healy, Steely and Dillon earn Red Hawk Award

Cass City School officials honored the December "Red Hawk Award of Excellence" winners last week and for the first time 2 high school students were among the honorees.

The award, presented 4 times a year to a student in each building, recognizes leadership, service, outstanding behavior, excellent academic performance, most improvement or other accomplishments in or outside of school.

Each student receives a maroon ribbon and certificate, along with the personal congratulations of each board of education member.

The December winners include Tara Nicholas, a third grade student at Campbell Elementary School. She is the daughter of Terry and Melanie Nicholas.

The school staff described Nicholas as an exemplary student in every sense of the word.

"She enters the class each day with

a smile and is eager to start the day. Her positive nature and sense of humor make her a pleasure to be around. When there are students in the class who need extra help, Tara is always willing to lend a hand. She can be depended on to be kind and considerate when assisting others," they said.

"Academically, Tara excels in all subjects because of her thoroughness and excellent work ethic. Her contributions to classroom discussions are appreciated and informative. Not only does Tara complete her assignments well, she is willing to tackle difficult projects to further challenge herself."

The middle school winner is Kelsey Dillon, a seventh grade student and the daughter of Ruth Dillon and Pat Dillon.

"Kelsey exhibits all the positive characteristics of an exemplary student at Cass City Middle School. She

strives to be academically successful on a daily basis. Kelsey's work is always turned in on time and done to the best of her ability," she staff wrote.

"Kelsey consistently displays a respect for staff and her fellow students. She is also kind and caring for classmates. She will go out of her way to help students who are struggling in class. Kelsey has also participated in a range of extracurricular activities that have broadened her experiences and strengthened her character. She volunteers to work in the garden at Tendercare. She also volunteers at Rawson Memorial Library to take part in their reading program."

Sharing the high school excellence award for December are freshman Stephanie Steely, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Steely, and junior Stephanie Healy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Healy.

School staff members lauded both students. "Stephanie (Steely) is a quiet, hard working student," they said. "She has excellent grades and has no discipline problems. Her citizenship is also exceptional."

Healy, they said, "is a conscientious student who works hard and gets along well with others. She is willing to help others and is courteous to other students and staff. She is an overachiever with work that is second to none."

Down Memory Lane

By Harmony Doerr



5 YEARS AGO

The new year will be a busy one for Millennium Industries officials, who recently closed on their purchase of the former General Cable Co. building in Cass City. In fact, the task of preparing and moving into the facility has already begun, with plans to start manufacturing in early spring, according to Gary Vollmar, president of Millennium Industries. The company's decision to purchase the building was clinched last month when state officials designated the facility a Michigan Renaissance Subzone. "It was really important - the Renaissance Zone designation - for us," said Vollmar who lauded the efforts of village and county government and EDC officials in convincing the state to approve the subzone, which will enable Millennium Industries to operate virtually tax-free over the next several years.

Christmas for Kids assured 85 families and 250 children that there would be something under the tree this year. The ages of all children were learned and gifts to suit were in each bundle of toys. In addition, a certificate for \$35 to spend at Erla's together with a coupon for a sandwich at McDonald's were distributed. Rotarian Jeanne Lohela supervised the program for the Cass City Rotary Club, program sponsor. It was made possible, she said, because of the cooperation of the entire community. Over \$5,000 was donated in cash and toys.

The Cass City Red Hawk volleyball team opened its season Thursday with plenty of promise during a quadrangular meet with visiting Vassar, Brown City and Mayville. The Hawks disposed of the Vulcans and Green Devils in straight games, winning 15-11, 15-9 and 15-9, 15-4, respectively. Coach Beth Howard's spikers split the final match of the night with the Wildcats, grabbing the opener 15-10 before bowing 1-15. "I have a good feeling about this team," commented Coach Howard. "The girls played very well for their first showing of the season."

10 YEARS AGO

Cass City and Caro are among several Michigan communities who will receive grants to help put an additional full-time police officer on duty. U.S. Department of Justice officials announced the grants as part of its Community Oriented Policing Services Universal Hiring Program.

The grants pay up to 75 percent of the total salary and benefits for new police officers for a period of 3 years. Here's an item from the "Michigan Trivia" book. The question: Where does more than half of the garden seed used throughout the country come from? Answer, Detroit. Sur-

prised? (From Rabbit Tracks)

Ackerman's Bike Repair proprietor Scott Ackerman presented Cass City's Louise Ponder with a new 20" bike for her guess of 2,754 spoke nipples bottled during the store's in house Christmas give-a-way. Actual nipples in the bottle totaled 2,850.

25 YEARS AGO

The Bible isn't the only textbook, but it certainly is the guiding light at the Deford Christian Academy. The new school operated by the Deford Community Church opened its doors for the first time in September. There are 32 students enrolled, according to its principal, Rev. John Motter, ages 5-17, in kindergarten level through 11th grade, though the school does not have grades, as such. Parents who attend the church pay \$70 a month tuition for their children. Non-members pay \$75. In addition, there is an \$80 registration fee. Only two students are in the nonmember category. Financially, Motter said, "It's carrying its own weight, which is kind of unusual for a first year school." The church already had good facilities, so minimum investment was needed.

U.S. farm exports are very important to the American economy. In 1980, these exports created a million-plus jobs for Americans and they also generated more than \$82 billion in export-related economic activity.

Because the Lakers were unable to field contestants in four weight classes, the Cass City Red Hawk grapplers scored an easy decision, 42-27. The meet was held at Lakers. In the actual competition Cass City and Lakers each scored four wins by pins or decision.

Owen-Gage never got close as it lost at Ubyly in a non-league contest last Tuesday night, 55-39. The Bearcats pulled out to a 17-6 first quarter lead and were ahead to stay. In double figures for the Bulldogs were Terry Muntz with 12; Mike Powell, 11, and Dan Glidden, 10.

35 YEARS AGO

Luck seems to be on the upswing for the Frank Preba family of Bay City Forestville Road, winners of the

Chamber of Commerce all expense, paid trip to Disney World in Florida. Their name was drawn Friday afternoon, Dec. 24, from the 15 names drawn periodically over the past three weeks. When Keith McConkey, who headed the Chamber project, called the Preba home, he asked Mrs. Preba if she had a chair beneath her. "I was just so shocked, I didn't know what to say," said the happy woman. "I was just flabbergasted."

The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners moved to participate in a Department of Natural Resources program to maintain a snow machine for the sheriff's department at its regular meeting Tuesday at the Courthouse. The machine will be used by the sheriff's department in enforcing the recently passed snowmobile law. There will be no dollar expense to the county, but the 25 percent cost will be shared in kind, with 75 percent being paid by the state. A grant by the state provides for the machine.

A casual conversation between the Rev. E. D. K. Isaacs, pastor of the Trinity United Methodist Church, and J. D. Turner of Cass City has resulted in a unique chair lift for the church. Turner, who cannot climb stairs today as he once did, was chatting with the pastor and saying how nice it would be to come to church...except that he was unable to negotiate the church stairs. Mrs. Isaacs took the problem to the board of trustees and to Mrs. Mary Rexin, chairman of the memorial committee.

The result was the first chair lift installed in a church in the area. The unit features a chair that swivels for easy access and is powered by a button that the passenger operates. The cost is about \$1,000 and money was raised from memorials. While it is probably a church first, the units are popular in business, Mrs. Isaacs says. They have been installed in doctors' offices and there was one recently placed in operation in a restaurant.

Thanks for calling
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with feature
story ideas

Calendar of Events

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

Friday, December 29

Christ-centered 12-step recovery: pain management, addictions, divorce, "Celebrate Recovery," 7-9 p.m. New Creations Church, 114 N. Almer St., Caro (across from Caro Post Office). For more information, call (989) 673-3274 or visit www.colwood.org.

Closed Al-anon meeting for family and friends of alcoholics, 7 p.m., United Methodist Church, Elkton. For more information, call (989) 872-4042.

Monday, January 1

Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Ubyly. For additional information, call Angela R. at (989) 658-2319.

Tuesday, January 2

Traveling Place for Peace, 10-2 p.m., Cass City United Methodist Church. For additional information, call (989) 325-0024.

Heartland Hospice Grief Group meeting, 6:30 p.m., VFW Annex Building, Cass City. For additional information, contact Laura Johannes at 1-877-486-6671.

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an Independent Baptist Church**
4446 Ale St., Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-4088
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Pray/Bible Study & Youth Group 7:00 p.m.
Pastor - Chuck Carr
Transportation available

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

Cass City Church of the Nazarene
6538 Third St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-2604 or 872-5201
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study
& Children's Activities 6:00 p.m.
Pastor - Judy A. Esckilsen

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 Family Night 6:30 p.m.
Pastor - Bob Sweeney
www.casscitymc.org

Cass City United Methodist Church
5100 N. Cemetery Rd.,
P.O. Box 125, Cass City, MI 48726
872-3422
Worship: 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. Paul G. Donelson

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
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
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 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. & 10:45 a.m.
Worship Service 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Youth Group & Sunday Evening
Services 6:00 p.m.
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Youth Minister: Brad Speirs
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Christian Fellowship Church**
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872-5186
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Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
Pastor: F. Robert Tucker

St. Agatha Catholic Church
4618 South St., Gagetown, MI 48735
665-9966
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.

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., 7:00 p.m.
Pastor: Ellen Burns
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Markel blasts Red Hawk grapplers' effort following poor showing

Members of the Cass City wrestling team shouldn't expect much of a break over the holidays according to veteran mentor Don Markel.

Markel was fuming Thursday after his squad's final meet before Christmas in Caro. The Red Hawks fell to 6-5 in dual meets for the season after bowing to hosts Caro, 51-25, and Sanford-Meridian, 48-30, in non-conference action.

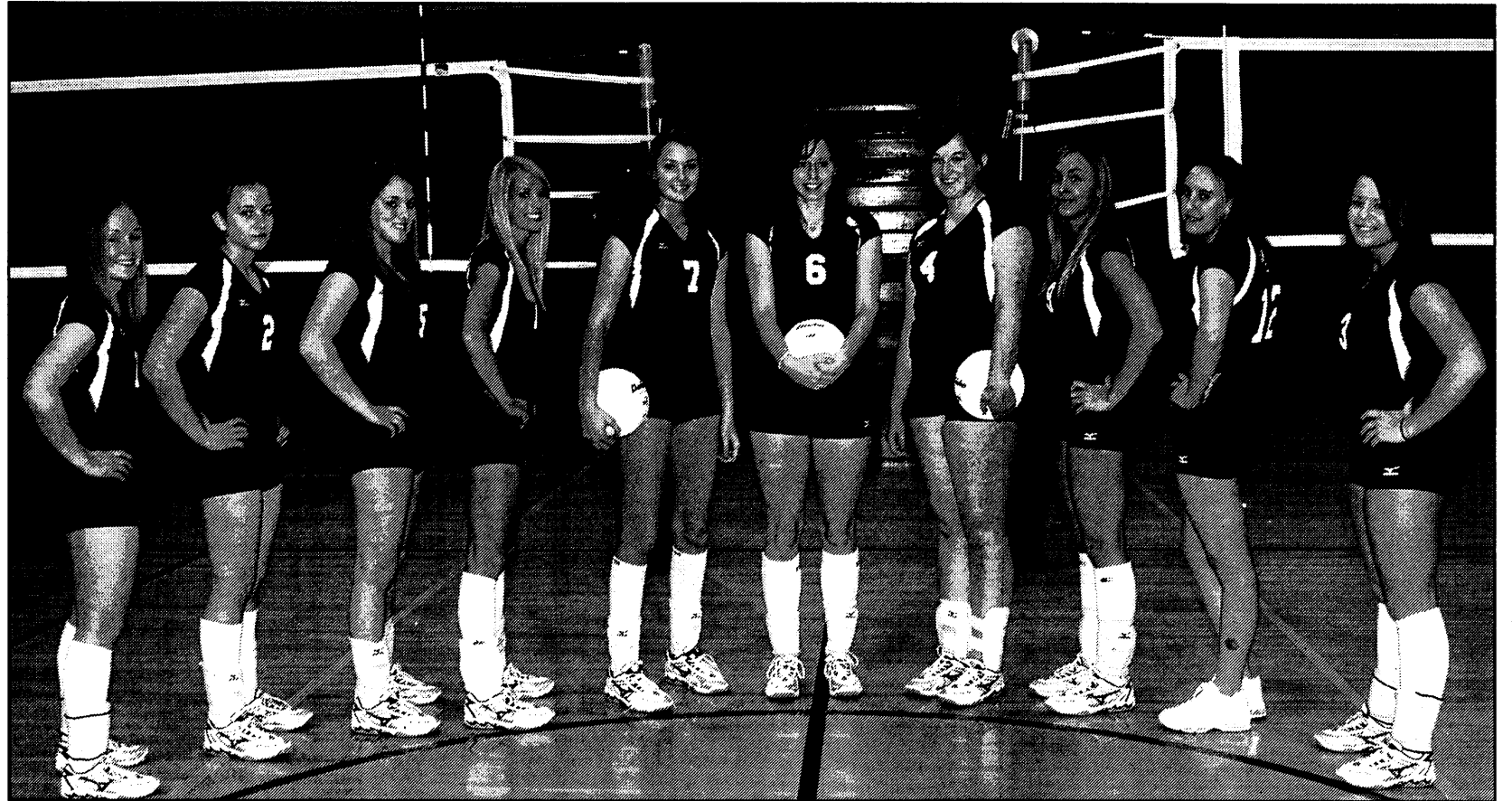
"This was one of our poorest showings in quite some time. Not to take anything away from either Caro or Sanford-Meridian, both have outstanding programs and very good teams," Markel said. Adding, "We have a great deal of work to do over

the Christmas break to get back to where we were a couple of weeks ago."

The Hawks recorded just 2 pins in each match. Against Sanford-Meridian, Cass City's Kenny Grady (130 lbs.) and Kyle Sieradzki (160 lbs.) earned pins, while Jeremy Farr (125 lbs.) and Sieradzki posted pins in the Caro match.

Sieradzki and Kyle Reif were the lone double winners for Cass City.

"We were not focused and lost several matches in which we were actually ahead before making a mistake or lost concentration opening the door to victory for our opponents," said Markel.



THE CASS CITY 2006-07 varsity volleyball team members include, from left, Megan VanVliet, Ashleigh Rabideau, Amanda Stevens, Carly Howard, Sarah Howard, Sara Meeker, Kristie Karr, Emily Schinnerer, Brandi McKee and Amanda Langenburg. Missing is Lauren Dillon.

Hawk spikers off to solid start

The Cass City volleyball team's impressive start to the 2006-07 season continued Friday as the Red Hawks improved to 9-1-1 on the season with a pair of non-conference wins at Essexville-Garber.

Coach Beth Howard's Red Hawks open the night defeating hosts Garber

in straight games, 25-22 and 26-24, before rallying to nip Bay City Western in the triangular match.

Despite her team's lofty mark, coach Howard is looking for improvement from her Lady Red Hawks when they swing into Greater Thumb West play Jan. 8th in Bad Axe.

"Right now we are playing really inconsistent. We are starting out behind and have to fight hard to win

the match. Defensively we are playing well, but we need to start putting the ball away. We had 29 hitting errors on the night, which is just unacceptable. I'll take the wins but we need to start playing better," Howard said.

In the Hawks' opening match, sophomore middle hitter Sarah Howard led the winners with 6 kills in 10 attempts.

In the nightcap, Cass City dropped game one, 23-25, but rallied with back-to-back decisions of 25-22 and 25-23 to defeat Bay City Western.

Individually for Cass City, Sara Meeker had 11 kills and 9 blocks; Amanda Langenburg 28 assists, 7 kills and 21 digs; Emily Schinnerer 22 digs; Megan VanVliet 21 digs; Carly Howard 17 digs; and Ashleigh Rabideau 17 digs.

Cass City gymnasts open play

Coach Kathy Bouverette's Cass City gymnastic squad opened its season Wednesday evening hosting Tri-Valley East foe Vassar.

Despite being on the short end of a 120.65 - 103.40 defeat, Bouverette feels the Lady Hawks are off to a good start.

"As long as the girls are working towards their goals, I am pretty happy," Bouverette said.

Two of those goals are qualifying for regional competition, both as individuals and as a team. To accomplish those feats, individuals must post 4 scores equal or above the regional qualifying standard in their event, while the team has to earn 4 scores above 118 during the course of the season.

Several Hawks, much to the delight of Bouverette, earned their initial regional qualifying mark against the Vulcans.

In the vault, Caitlin Sorenson, Allie Richards and Theresa Imgraben all recorded scores meeting the criteria for regional action. Sorenson earned Cass City's best showing with a second place score of 8.1. Imgraben, who placed 4th, recorded a score of 7.9, while Richards' vault was judged at 7.8.

The hosts also received regional qualifying marks on the bars and beam.

Sorenson placed 4th on the bars with a score of 7.15 and Richards was the meet runner-up on the beam with a mark of 8.2.

Cass City is now off for the holidays and will swing back into action Jan. 8 in Midland.



THE CASS CITY junior varsity volleyball team has enjoyed success throughout Dec. The Hawks took first place at the Laker Invite and finished as runners-up at the Caro tournament. Posing with their championship trophy are: (front, l-r) Lindsay Jamieson, Chelsea Depner, Jennica Richards, Kelli Lautner (back) Amanda Miller, Jennie Turner, Abby McCallum, coach Sally Pergande, Brittany Loomis, Teriona Harper, Megan Zawilinski and Carly Rabideau.



ALLIE RICHARDS puts the finishing touch on her vault during Cass City's opening gymnastic meet against Vassar.

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Owen-Gage downs NCTL foe Port Hope to end year

Coach Arnie Howard's Owen-Gage Bulldogs will use the holiday break to sharpen up the team's offense and defense. It's not that the Bulldogs have been disappointing in the early encounters. In fact, the exact opposite is the case.

Following last Tuesday's win over Port Hope, 54-38, Owen-Gage will enter the New Year with a game against Peck and the lead in the NCTL North. The Bulldogs have won 3 of their first 4 games and are 3-0 in conference play.

We need to work on the press and the double traps and since we have no games scheduled during the holidays we can stress ball handling and reduction of turnovers, Howard pointed out.

It would be hard to criticize the results in the Port Hope game. The Bulldogs used balanced scoring to dominate the game. In the first quarter 5 Bulldogs scored, led by Eric Zaleski with 5 of his team-high 13 points for the night.

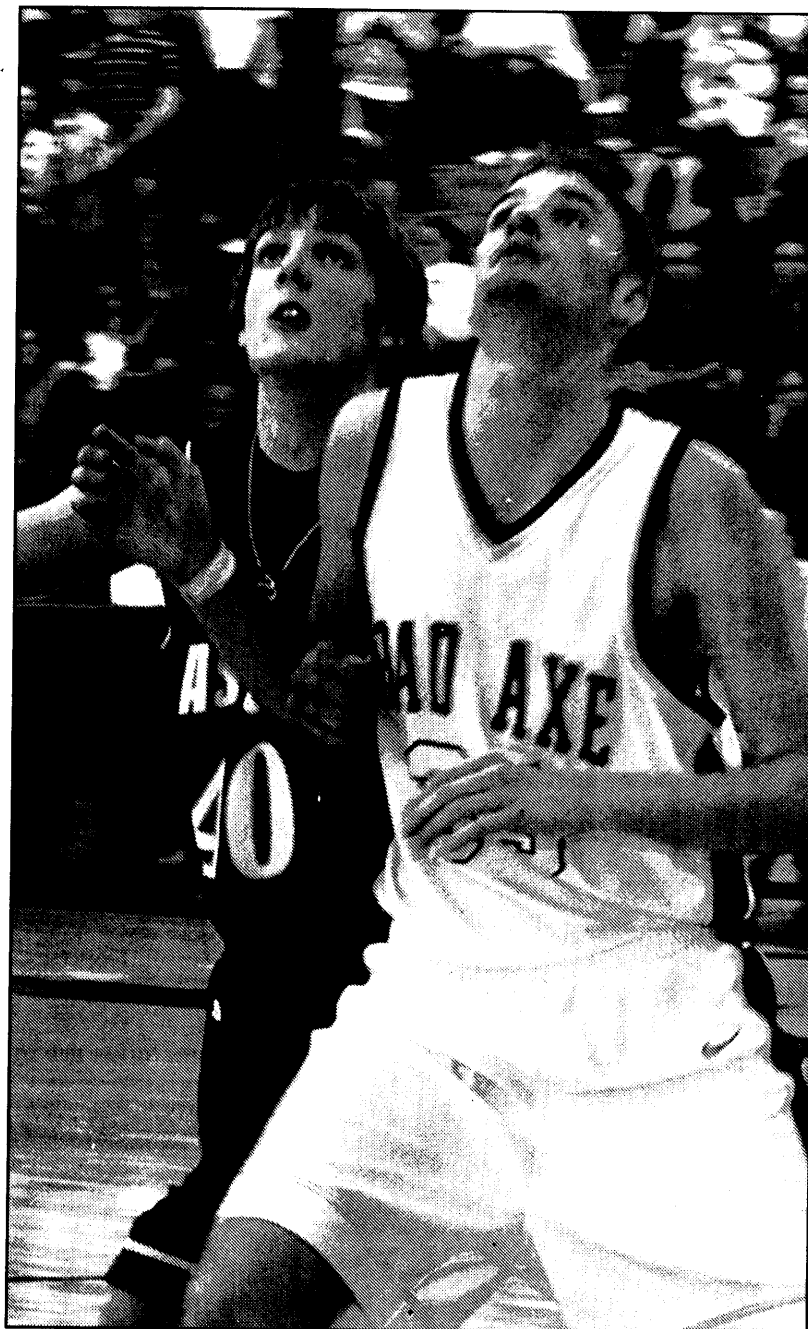
Going into the second quarter Owen-Gage was in front, 15-7. By the half, the lead was stretched to 28-14. Port Hope picked up the pace in the third quarter and played the Bulldogs on even terms. Branden Smith and Tyler Oeschger each hit a trey and a regular hoop and Joey Woodke also hit a trey in Port Hope's best offensive show of the night. Five Bulldogs scored in the third quarter to match the spurt by the Bluestars.

In addition to Zaleski, Grant Champagne was in double figures with 12 points for Owen-Gage that had 8 players sharing the scoring honors. Oeschger with 10 points led Port Hope.

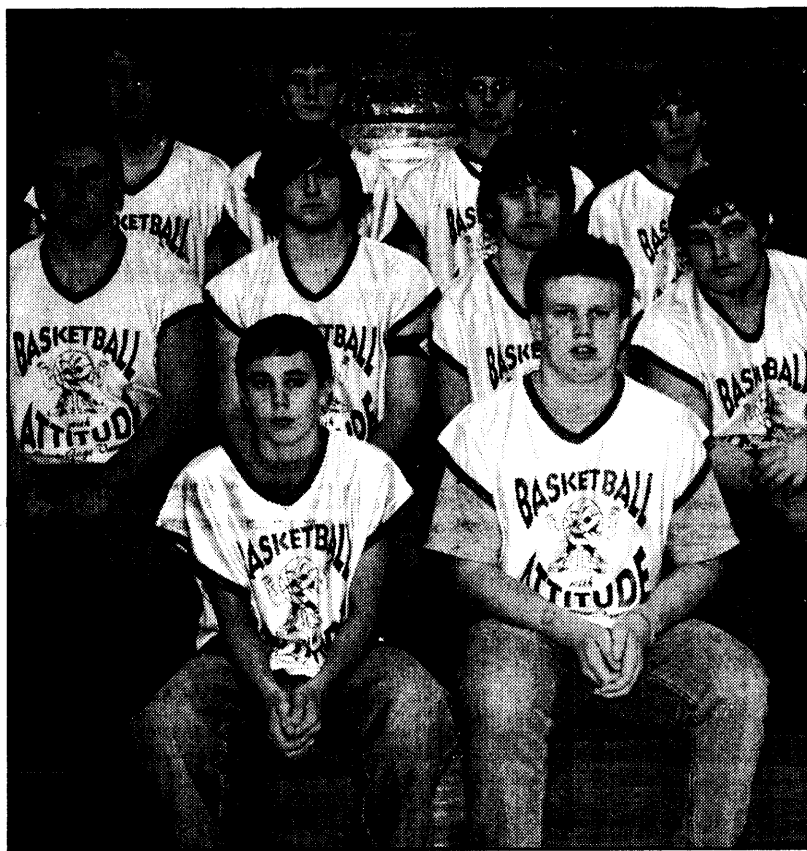
PORT HOPE - Woodke 2-1 (0-0) 7; Oeschger 2-2 (0-0) 10; Smith 1-1 (0-1) 5; Doud 0-0 (3-4) 3; Gust 2-0 (1-2) 5; Bender 1-0 (0-2) 2; Schulte 1-1 (1-1) 6. **TOTALS - 9-5 (5-10) 38.**

OWEN-GAGE - Reil 1-0 (3-4) 5; Dubs 3-0 (0-2) 6; Dronsella 3-1 (0-0) 9; Howard 1-0 (0-0) 2; Zaleski 5-0 (3-3) 13; Champagne 4-0 (4-5) 12; Edler 0-0 (1-2) 1; Gaeth 0-1 (3-8) 6. **TOTALS - 17-2 (14-24) 54.**

Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas



LOOKING FOR a possible rebound in GTW play are Bad Axe's Chris Cove (front) and Cass City's Andrew Martin.



THE 2006-07 OWEN-GAGE junior varsity basketball team members are: (front, l-r) Nathan Minkler, James Harris (middle) Derek Bucholtz, Ryan Francis, Drew Howard, Jordan Sprague (back) Stephen Roemer, Nick Zaleski, Justin Trupe and Devin Prich.

Recycle trees

Each Christmas, some 34 million Christmas trees end up buried in landfills in the United States.

"Don't let this happen to your tree," said Kate Neese, recycling coordinator at the Tuscola County Recycling Facility. "Complete the season by sending your tree back to nature."

Neese said trees will be accepted at the recycling center, located at 1123 Mertz Rd., Caro, beginning Wednesday, Jan. 3, through Friday, Jan. 19. The hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Residents are asked to remove all decorations before dropping off their trees.

"For each tree you bring to be recycled, you will receive a coupon for a free tree seedling donated by the Tuscola County Soil Conservation District, which can be picked up in April during the spring tree sale," Neese said.

"Once your tree has been chipped into mulch, it can be composted for later use in the garden," she added. Compost and mulch can also be used around trees and shrubs to help retain soil moisture and suppress weeds."

More information is available by calling the recycling center at (989) 672-1673.

Hawks escape with opening GTW victory over Bad Axe

Cass City opened its Greater Thumb West schedule at Bad Axe on a positive note, earning a hard fought 67-64 victory over the towering Hatchets.

While the win improves coach Aaron Fernald's Red Hawks to 4-1 entering the Christmas break, the veteran mentor knows there's plenty of basketball to be played from now until March.

Cass City's impressive mark at the holiday break is no surprise to the Red Hawk faithful. Since 2003, Fernald's teams have compiled a 15-2 record over the years. However, a tougher GTW schedule awaits the Hawks in the new year.

"At times we look pretty good, but then we have some type of breakdown. When we can get in the lane or break down a defense with the dribble, we're pretty good. When we settle for the quick shot, we're not so good," Fernald said.

The Hawks used precision passing to attack Bad Axe's impressive front-line that boasts 3 players hovering around 6'4". After a 3-point play from Bryan Talaski gave the hosts a 13-12 edge, Cass City went on a 7-0 run that included a pair of lay-ins from Shane McFarland.

McFarland's first hoop came on a pretty pass as he trailed a Hawk break down the lane. Then, before McFarland could return to the defensive end of the court, he cashed in on an easy lay-in as a good hustle play from teammate Austin Babich found McFarland alone under the basket.

"He (McFarland) had some nice moves in the post. He came off the bench and gave us a big lift," Fernald said.

With the middle plugged, guard Brad Hartel took aim from the perimeter and torched the Hatchets for a season-high 21 points. Hartel hit for 3 consecutive triples to hand Cass City its biggest lead of the half, 25-18, with 6:15 remaining on the clock.

The Hawks, who recorded season-best 6 triples, stretched its advantage to double digits after the break, but midway through the period center Andrew Martin collected his 4th foul.

With Martin on the bench, Bad Axe's 6'7" Chris Cove took over and pulled the visitors to within 48-46 with 8 points in a 3-minute span. Cove finished with a game-high 22 points, but was held in check over the final stanza.

"We switched to a triangle and 2 defense, he (Cove) was killing us there for awhile," said Fernald.

Cass City established a comfortable lead, 60-53, in the final stanza and was content to eat large chunks of time off the clock on each possession that proved fatal for the Hatchets. Fernald credited senior playmaker Cameron Lautner for running the offense efficiently, claiming he did a pretty good job of getting everyone involved.

Hatchet Jason Brown, with 10 points and McFarland with a dozen were the game's only other double-digit scorers.

The Hawks will have one more tune-up outing - Friday against Imlay City - before returning to league play to kick off action in the new year.

"I don't know much about Imlay City,

but I am going to get a game film from Brown City. It's nice to play somebody different, out of the conference," said Fernald.

CASS CITY - Childs 0-1 (0-0) 3; Hartel 3-4 (3-4) 21; Lautner 1-1 (0-0) 5; Babich 2-0 (3-6) 7; Martin 3-0 (2-2) 8; Halasz 5-0 (1-5) 11; McFarland 6-0 (0-2) 12. **TOTALS - 20-6 (9-19) 67.**

BAD AXE - Brown 2-2 (0-0) 12; Talaski 3-0 (5-5) 11; Paganini 0-0 (1-2) 1; Hewens 1-1 (2-2) 7; Cove 6-2 (4-4) 22; Radar 0-0 (2-2) 2; Iskow 4-0 (1-1) 9. **TOTALS - 17-5 (15-16) 64.**



JEREMY JAMIESON, Owendale 12-year-old, bagged this late season spike with a blast from his muzzleloader in Huron County. He is the son of Mary and Dave Jamieson.

BASKETBALL STANDINGS

GREATER THUMB WEST

Team	W	L	W	L
USA	1	0	5	0
Cass City	1	0	4	1
Reese	0	0	4	0
Lakers	0	0	1	4
BCAS	0	1	2	1
Bad Axe	0	1	2	2

GREATER THUMB EAST

Team	W	L	W	L
Sandusky	1	0	4	1
Ubyly	1	0	2	2
Brown City	0	0	2	1
Marlette	0	0	1	2
Harbor Beach	0	0	1	1
Mayville	0	1	0	6
Deckerville	0	1	1	3

NCTL NORTH

Team	W	L	W	L
Owen-Gage	3	1	3	0
North Huron	3	1	3	1
Port Hope	1	3	2	3
Caseville	0	3	0	3
Akron-Fairgrove	0	4	1	4

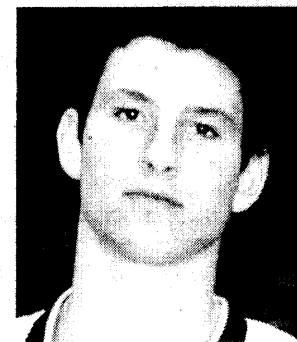
Schneeberger's ATHLETE of the WEEK

Cass City senior Brad Hartel is this week's recipient of Schneeberger's Athlete of the Week honor.

The Red Hawk southpaw fired in a career high 21 points against hosts Bad Axe, leading Cass City to an opening night Greater Thumb West victory.

Hartel's effort included 4 triples, also a personnel best.

Brad is the son of Ann and Jeff Hartel.



BRAD HARTEL

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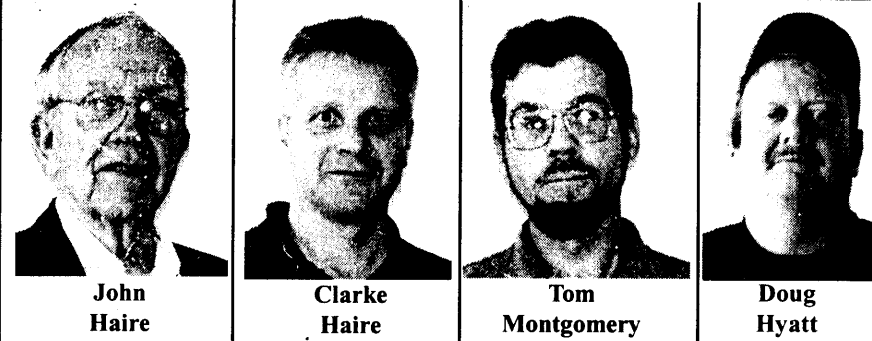
CASS CITY RED HAWKS PTO Spaghetti Dinner

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To find out more about Cass City's Parent, Teacher Organization, E-mail Sloane Stimpfel at: sloanes@localnet.com

## Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

### This Week's Forecast



**John Haire**

**Clarke Haire**

**Tom Montgomery**

**Doug Hyatt**

| Wednesday, December 27 at Ubyly Tournament | Kingston           | Kingston          | Kingston          | Kingston          |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Kingston vs. Yale                          | Kingston           | Kingston          | Kingston          | Kingston          |
| Caro vs. Ubyly                             | Ubyly              | Ubyly             | Ubyly             | Ubyly             |
| <b>Friday, December 29</b>                 |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| Imlay City vs. Cass City                   | Cass City          | Cass City         | Cass City         | Cass City         |
| North Huron vs. Bad Axe                    | Bad Axe            | Bad Axe           | North Huron       | Bad Axe           |
| Peck vs. Harbor Beach                      | Harbor Beach       | Harbor Beach      | Harbor Beach      | Harbor Beach      |
| CPS vs. Cros-Lex                           | Cros-Lex           | Cros-Lex          | CPS               | CPS               |
| <b>Last Week's Results</b>                 | <b>9-1</b>         | <b>10-0</b>       | <b>10-0</b>       | <b>10-0</b>       |
| <b>Season's Results</b>                    | <b>29-14 (67%)</b> | <b>35-8 (81%)</b> | <b>34-9 (79%)</b> | <b>37-6 (86%)</b> |

# Obituaries

## Evelyn Bell

Evelyn G. Bell, 94, of Sun City, Ariz., formerly of Shelby Township, died Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006 at Hospice of Arizona - Plaza Del Rio, Peoria, Ariz. She was born Feb. 13, 1912 in Detroit, the daughter of the late Adam and Rachel (DiLaura) Bell. Bell taught piano and organ, and was the organist at St. Matthew Catholic Church in Detroit for many years. She is survived by her sisters: Norma Young and Clara Peters; and many nieces and nephews. Bell was preceded in death by her siblings: Eleanor, Johnny and Virginia. A committal service was held Thursday, Dec. 21, at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit, with Fr. Don Sopiak of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, Detroit, officiating. Burial was in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Arrangements were made by Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City.

## Florence Hurd

Florence Mae Hurd, 79, of Deford, died Monday, Dec. 18, 2006 in Tuscola County Medical Care Facility, Caro, following a short illness. She was born Aug. 8, 1927 in Elkton, the daughter of William and Vera (Brown) Commins. She married Norman Edward Hurd. He died March 28, 1983. Hurd farmed with her husband until the children left home. Then she took jobs in manufacturing plants including Anrod, Snover Stamping and Walbro. She was a member of Novesta Church of Christ. She is survived by her children: Janet (Russ) Bradley of Branchville, SC, Raymond (Gayle) Hurd of Marlette, Grace (Harland) Murdick of Caro, Ellen (Donald) Mills Jr. of Watertown, and Norman Hurd Jr. of Florida; 26 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; a brother, Raymond (June) Commins of Romeo; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Norma Connolly; sisters: Stillborn Vera, and Jeanette Grimsley; and brothers: Bert and Roy Commins. Funeral services were held Friday, Dec. 22, at Novesta Church of Christ with Chuck Emmert officiating. Interment will be in the Novesta Township Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Gideon's International or Novesta Church of Christ. Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

## Huron sheriff honored by academy

Huron County Sheriff Kent D. Tibbits was recently honored with an award during the 79th Class Commencement Program of the Delta College Police Academy. Tibbits was named the first recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award. Delta officials said the award was established as a tribute to recently retired and longtime training coordinator Jill Gallighugh. The honor recognizes Delta Police Academy graduates with outstanding accomplishments in law enforcement and community service.



## BOTTLE DRIVE

Tues., Jan. 2nd noon to 3 p.m.

Proceeds to benefit the Cass City baseball program. For more information contact coach Bill Hartzell at 989-872-2148.

Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas

# BASKETBALL • VOLLEYBALL • WRESTLING • GYMNASTICS

| 2006-2007 Boys' Basketball |                           |           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Dec. 5                     | Vassar 48, Cass City 60   |           |
| Dec. 8                     | Ubyly 62, Cass City 39    |           |
| Dec. 12                    | Sandusky 38, Cass City 41 |           |
| Dec. 15                    | Mayville 50, Cass City 56 |           |
| Dec. 19                    | Bad Axe 64, Cass City 67  |           |
| Dec. 29                    | Imlay City                | 4:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 5                     | Lakers                    | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 9                     | Caro                      | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 12                    | USA                       | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 16                    | Harbor Beach              | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 19                    | Reese                     | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 23                    | Deckerville               | 5:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 26                    | BCAS                      | 5:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 6                     | Bad Axe                   | 6:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 9                     | Lakers                    | 6:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 13                    | USA                       | 6:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 16                    | Reese                     | 6:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 23                    | BCAS                      | 6:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 27                    | John Glenn                | 6:00 p.m. |
| Mar. 2                     | Saginaw Nouvel            | 6:00 p.m. |

\*Home games are in bold

| 2006-2007 Wrestling |                          |            |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Nov. 30             | Imlay City               | 6:00 p.m.  |
| Dec. 2              | Cros-Lex                 | 9:00 a.m.  |
| Dec. 9              | Marlette Invite          | 8:00 a.m.  |
| Dec. 13             | Marlette/Lakers          | 6:00 p.m.  |
| Dec. 21             | Caro                     | 6:00 p.m.  |
| Jan. 3              | Almont/Imlay City        | 5:30 p.m.  |
| Jan. 6              | North Branch Invite      | 9:00 a.m.  |
| Jan. 10             | Brown City/USA           | 6:00 p.m.  |
| Jan. 13             | Port Huron Northern      | 8:00 a.m.  |
| Jan. 17             | Lakers/Nouvel            | 6:00 p.m.  |
| Jan. 20             | Imlay City Invite        | 8:30 a.m.  |
| Jan. 24             | Marlette/Bad Axe         | 6:00 p.m.  |
| Jan. 27             | Marysville Invite        | 9:00 a.m.  |
| Jan. 31             | Mayville/Sandusky        | 6:00 p.m.  |
| Feb. 3              | Standish/Sterling Invite | 8:00 a.m.  |
| Feb. 10             | League Tourney           | 10:00 a.m. |

\*Home matches are in bold

## Follow the Hawks At Home BASKETBALL

December 29  
Cass City vs. Imlay City  
VOLLEYBALL

January 8  
Cass City vs. Bad Axe  
WRESTLING

January 17  
Cass City vs. Lakers/Nouvel  
GYMNASTICS

January 30  
Cass City vs. Midland

| 2006-2007 Volleyball |                       |           |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Dec. 9               | Lakers Invite (JV/F)  | 9:00 a.m. |
| Dec. 13              | Caro (V)              | 6:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 13              | Caro/BC (JV)          | 6:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 13              | Caro/BC (F)           | 6:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 15              | Caro Invite (JV)      | 4:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 16              | Caro Invite (V)       | 8:30 a.m. |
| Dec. 22              | Essexville-Garber     | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 5               | Bad Axe Invite (JV/F) | 3:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 8               | Bad Axe               | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 11              | Reese                 | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 13              | Birch Run Invite (V)  | 8:30 a.m. |
| Jan. 15              | Sandusky              | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 18              | USA                   | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 22              | Lakers                | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 25              | BCAS                  | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 27              | Birch Run Invite (JV) | 8:30 a.m. |
| Jan. 27              | Yale Invite           | TBA       |
| Feb. 1               | Bad Axe               | 6:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 5               | Reese                 | 6:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 8               | USA                   | 6:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 10              | SVSU Tourney (V)      | 9:00 a.m. |
| Feb. 15              | Lakers                | 6:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 17              | Northwood Invite (V)  | 8:00 a.m. |
| Feb. 17              | SVSU Invite (JV)      | 9:00 a.m. |
| Feb. 22              | BCAS                  | 6:00 p.m. |

\*Home matches are in bold

| 2006-2007 Gymnastics |                |            |
|----------------------|----------------|------------|
| Dec. 20              | Vassar         | 6:30 p.m.  |
| Jan. 8               | Midland        | 6:30 p.m.  |
| Jan. 16              | Vassar         | 6:30 p.m.  |
| Jan. 30              | Midland        | 6:30 p.m.  |
| Feb. 10              | Vassar Invite  | 12:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 13              | Midland Invite | 6:00 p.m.  |

\*Home matches are in bold

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**Amish Country!** Yes, Amish home for sale. Located between Cass City & Ubyly. 2+ acres, barnyard, barn with newer roof, 2 car garage. 3-4 bedrooms, country kitchen, full bathroom, living room, canning & laundry room, basement. Can be purchased Amish style or seller will consider installing the modern conveniences. \$89,900 or Best Offer! Cy2510

**Motivated Seller!** Casseville country. Nestled in the woods along M-25 with over 700 acres of state land attached. 2,500 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, hardwood floors. This custom built Cape Cod has everything your family needs for either a home or a cottage. Lake view and basement! WAF204

**Immediate Possession!** Over 2,000 sq. ft. of living space, all newly remodeled (siding, roof, kitchen, bathroom, furnace, air conditioning). Home features country kitchen, great room, office, 3 extra large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full basement and extra large garage. Pond, waterfall and up to 5 acres. \$149,900. Cy2527

**Chance of a Lifetime!** 2,500 sq. ft. country home, all newly remodeled. This home is a must to see. The finest kitchen cupboards, master suite with whirlpool tub, formal dining room, living room, family room, 3 large bedrooms, recreation room in basement, brand new furnace in family room. Attached heated garage, 30'x50' shed. Located at 5291 Koepfgen Rd., less than 2 miles from town! Cy2528

**Lakefront Lot in Cass City!** Yes, this 1,200 sq. ft. 3 bedroom home sets on Cass City's finest lake. Just minutes from town. Beautiful views. All maintenance free, economical to live in. Call today for your personal viewing. Price reduced to \$47,900. MH919

**Priced Below the Market!** Country style home on the edge of Cass City. Home features 3 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Florida room, nice sized kitchen & dining area. Lower level is finished off with bar area. Over 2,200 sq. ft. of living space. 4 car attached garage and backyard garden shed that matches house. TCC1464

**Think Spring!** Yes, this fine custom built ranch home sets on the #1 green of Sherwood on the Hill Golf Course. Must be sold to settle the estate. Features 3 bedrooms, family room, living room, sun room, large kitchen and full basement. Call today! TO710

# Year in Review: 2006 was a good (bad) year

Continued from page one.

## HILLS AND DALES

Hills and Dales General Hospital also saw a changing of the guard in 2006, with Michael J. Falatko taking over as CEO following the surprising and unexplained resignation of Dee McKrow.

And, like local school officials, Falatko has weathered some difficult financial decisions.

Months after hospital officials broke ground on a 3-phase, \$8 million expansion/renovation project, Falatko announced a restructuring at the hospital due to declining patient numbers.

The restructuring is designed to trim \$1.5 million in expenses annually as part of a long-term financial strategy. The cost has been fewer hours for several full- and part-time employees along with the elimination of 13 positions. Another 7 jobs were lost with the closing of the hospital's fitness center in Caro.

## ARSENIC TREATMENT

Many months of planning and preparing to meet new, tougher fed-

eral guidelines for acceptable levels of arsenic in public water supplies were rewarded with the start of construction of an arsenic treatment plant in Cass City this summer.

Officials broke ground on the \$1.858 million facility in August. Completion is expected in 2007.

Village officials say the plant will virtually eliminate arsenic levels in the water, but there will be a cost, starting with a minimum annual payment of \$97,000 to cover the cost of a federal loan approved earlier this year.

As part of the project, village officials were able to negotiate construction of new facilities for the department of public works at a cost of about \$200,000.

## ELECTION

The November general election drew plenty of interest and voter participation, with record turnouts reported both locally and across the state.

A heated race for governor saw incumbent Jennifer Granholm defeat Grand Rapids businessman Dick DeVos, while a number of other in-

cumbents representing the Thumb, including Congressman Dale Kildee and state Senator Jim Barcia, kept their seats for another term.

The race for Tom Meyer's 84th District House of Representatives seat also drew a lot of attention, with 6 Republicans and 2 Democrats vying for the right to represent citizens in Huron and Tuscola counties.

Veteran Huron County educator and minister Terry Brown won the seat and made a bit of history by becoming the first Democrat to represent the district. Brown garnered 18,421 out of 35,799 votes cast in the election, defeating Huron County businessman and veteran road commission official John Hunt.

## NEW BUSINESS

Although the local economy reflected difficult times in 2006, there were some bright spots.

Area artisans Dave and Mimi Nicol agreed to lease the former NAPA building in Cass City through a special arrangement with the local downtown development authority. They are restoring the structure with plans to relocate their home-based busi-

nesses as well as open the doors to other area artisans.

Former longtime Pizza Villa owner Carol Gaffney, along with her husband, Dick, meanwhile, closed on the purchase of the former Hardee's building, which had set vacant for nearly 10 years. The couple has since opened a home-style restaurant.

Former area resident Mark Auvil returned to Cass City and purchased the old Bassett building, which now houses his Midway Tire company. Auvil hopes to expand and incorporate manufacturing (tire retreading) into the operation in the future.

Also, Millennium Industries officials announced an expansion totaling \$5 to \$8 million that is expected to translate into 100 new jobs over the next year.

## BENEFITS

The Cass City community has a reputation for rallying around its own in times of disaster or illness, but 2006 stands out as a year of generosity in spite of tough economic times.

Benefits were organized and held for several area residents, including Elkland Township fire fighter Dale Tabar after he was stricken with a heart condition; Cass City resident and Owen-Gage educator Theresa Hurley, who lost her battle with cancer; and area college instructor Mike Kropewnicki, who also lost his fight with cancer.

The effort that stands out, however, was a carnival-style benefit for 7-year-old Chase Szczepanski, whose teachers in Cass City organized an event that saw virtually every facet of the community get involved, especially area students and sports teams. Organizers estimated the attendance at 2,000 people or more, and preliminary figures showed a profit of some \$25,000.

## SPORTS

While several area high school teams enjoyed banner seasons, none could match the success at Ubyly High School in 2006.

Both the men and lady Bearcats created life-long memories during the year for many Thumb residents. First, the Lady Bearcats captured the Division 4 Track and Field State Championship in dramatic fashion, winning the final relay, which sent the Ubyly community into a celebratory mood over the summer.

Then in the fall, the Bearcat gridiron team advanced all the way to the semifinals before bowing 42-21 at the hands of Grass Lake.

The Bearcats weren't the only Thumb area football team to enjoy banner seasons and journey into the state playoff picture, however both Cass City and Kingston bowed during the opening rounds.

A pair of first year coaches were blessed with titles in their maiden sea-

sons. In Owen-Gage, softball coach Doug Hyatt's Bulldogs were crowned champions of the North Central Thumb League-North, while in Cass City coach Lloyd Schinnerer's Red Hawk cagers collected a Class B district toga with a win over Frankenmuth.

Also earning a league crown in 2006 were the Cass City Cross Country team and Kingston softball team. Also, the Red Hawk spikers won the school's first district championship in 29 years.

2006 also marked the inaugural season of Cass City's Youth Football program, geared to develop both young boys and girls in grades 3-5. Over \$10,000 in donations has been raised to help fund the program.

Individually, several area residents left their mark during the 2006 campaigns.

Red Hawk Chris Zawilinski earned a regional title in the high jump. As a sophomore, Zawilinski cleared 6' 3" and eyes the current school mark set at 6' 4 1/4" by Don Englehart.

Wrestler Kyle Sieradzki erased Aaron Dorland's 167 career wins at Cass City and also bettered Bob Leffler's mark of 50 wins in a single season.

2006 also proved lucky for Rolling Hills golfers Jon Langley and Marv Irer, who each posted holes-in-one. Still, the best golf shot of the year went to Frank Kelly, 84, who recorded his second lifetime ace at Mulligan's Irish Links Golf Course in Cass City.



## Construction now well underway

CASS CITY VILLAGE officials broke ground in 2006 for a \$1.858 million arsenic treatment plant designed to help the village meet tougher new federal guidelines on acceptable levels of arsenic in drinking water.

(Related story, page 12)

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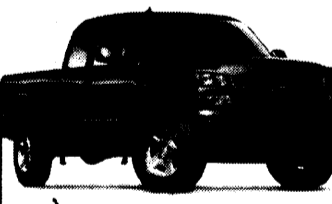


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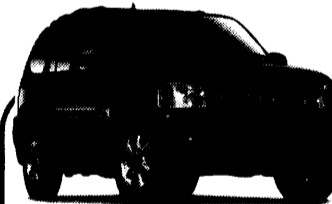


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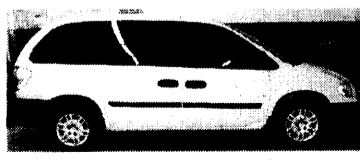
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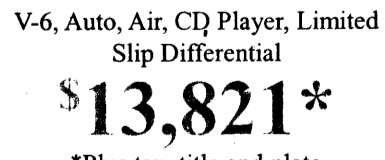
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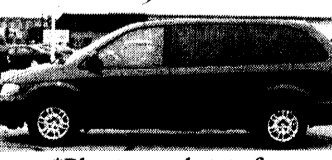
\*Plus tax and state fees

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Stow 'n' Go  
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