

Summer food programs are lacking in the Thumb area

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Crow-Hendrick says her job landed her on TV game show

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Chemical Bank takes cake in chili, float contests

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# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2006

FIFTY CENTS

14 PAGES PLUS ONE SUPPLEMENT

## Victims retaliate

# Taylor faces charges in Lapeer break-in

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

A Cass City man arrested for his alleged part in the home invasion and armed robbery of a Lapeer family last week faced some physical vengeance from 2 of his victims, landing him in a Lapeer hospital.

David Taylor, 34, Cass City, suffered a collapsed lung in the attack, but was expected to be medically able to face arraignment in front of a Lapeer County judge Monday on several charges, the most serious carrying penalties of life in prison.

"As I understand it, 2 of the victims got to him (Taylor) before the police did," Lapeer County Prosecutor Byron Kenschuh said of the attack on Taylor last Wednesday before his arrest.

Charges have not been levied against the victims.

Lapeer County Sheriff's detectives say Taylor and his co-defendant,

Dwayne Rocca, 38, of Fairgrove, were behind the bizarre crime at a Lapeer Township home during the early morning hours of Monday, Nov. 27, when the pair, posing as FBI agents, allegedly shot 2 of the family's pit bulls and then entered the home, using a Taser gun against some of the residence's 5 occupants before fleeing with property and cash.

Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the private residence at about 4:53 a.m. to investigate an armed robbery. Deputies arrived to find 5 occupants - a married couple, ages 25 and 19, their 2-year-old son, and 2 male friends, both aged 17, who also live in the home.

Earlier that morning, at about 1:30 a.m., the homeowner had let the dogs outside, according to detectives, who said the armed suspects were in the yard near the door and shot 2 of the dogs, one of which died. The suspects then entered the residence and

used duct tape to secure the 3 males. The female and her son were not secured with duct tape, but were placed in a separate room.

The suspects, whom investigators say knew the homeowner, were inside the residence for a few hours. Detectives reported that Taylor and Rocca used a Taser on 2 of the 3 males to obtain information on the whereabouts of money and other items.

The suspects took stereo equipment, a Playstation, clothing and an undisclosed amount of cash.

After the suspects left, the female freed the males. She made a call to police about 10 minutes after the suspects fled the home, according to reports.

Two days later, investigators developed information that Taylor and Rocca were the suspects.

Taylor was arrested in the afternoon at a residence in Lapeer. Rocca was arrested in the evening at his residence in Fairgrove by deputies and officers from the Lapeer and Tuscola County sheriff's departments and Fairgrove police.

While Taylor was hospitalized with the injuries inflicted by 2 of the alleged victims last Wednesday, Rocca was arraigned Thursday in Lapeer County on charges of armed robbery and torture - both punishable by up to life in prison - first degree home invasion, torturing/killing an animal, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony. He is also charged with being a habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

Bond was set at \$1 million. A preliminary examination is to be scheduled.

Taylor will face identical charges, according to Kenschuh, who said both men have extensive criminal records, including convictions on drug- and property-related offenses.

If convicted, the habitual offender charge will provide for enhanced sentences for both men, whom Kenschuh described as being "a couple of guys that shouldn't have been walking the streets."



KEVIN MULLIGAN, OWNER of Mulligan's Irish Links, demonstrated his creativity during Cass City's Christmas in the Village celebration Saturday. Mulligan was one of 27 entries in the second annual Lighted Christmas Parade, which escorted Santa himself into town.

## Michigan author to visit school

# Kingston educator's passion for writing, kids earns grant

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Lane Walker will tell you that when it comes to the children in his fourth grade class, one of the most important messages he tries to relay day in and day out is an important one: no matter what you do in life, be passionate about it.

That's a message Walker will again emphasize in February, when the students and staff at Kingston Elementary School play host to noted Michigan Author Jonathan Rand in conjunction with a full-day program devoted to encouraging kids to develop a passion for writing.

The program, slated for Feb. 28, was made possible through a Meemic Foundation grant successfully written by Walker, whose proposal was good enough to beat out a couple hundred other applications submitted by educators across the state.

"They break the grants down by core subjects and we received this in the literacy category," Walker said of the \$2,250 grant. "Independent Bank of Kingston also gave us \$50 and the Kingston PTO donated \$150."

Walker's motivation in writing the grant stems from his own love of writing. He is a former community newspaper reporter in the Thumb and continues to be a regular contributor to Michigan Outdoor News.

"Kids just don't have a passion for writing, and it shows when they write. I just want the kids to develop a love for writing," said Walker, who completed his student teaching in the Cass City Schools and is in his second year of teaching at Kingston Elementary School.

### INSPIRING KIDS

The program that will be funded by Walker's grant is entitled "Writing & Rand; Hand to Hand."

"Our goal is to inspire young writers to believe in themselves," Walker said. "We want to teach them that

writing is fun and entertaining. In addition, we want our students to have confidence when they write."

Rand writes "American Chillers" and "Michigan Chillers" books and has sold more than 5 million copies worldwide.

"Students are in love with Mr. Rand's books. We really wanted to bring him in last year but couldn't afford it," Walker noted.

"Rand does an excellent job of motivating and entertaining children. His seminar will inspire students and instill self-confidence in their writing," Walker said. "As a teacher, writing is sometimes stale and hard for students.

This will promote writing and give them someone to look up to."

Walker will spend the entire day at Kingston Elementary School inspiring our young writers. We are going to dedicate an entire school day to writing and have a wide variety of events planned," Walker explained.

The day will begin with a school-wide assembly. Afterwards, each class will go back to their rooms and work on a writing project. The day will include each student receiving a blank book that they will use to create their own "Michigan Chiller" book, according to Walker, who is tossing in some social studies and Michigan history lessons by asking the students to select and then research a Michigan town on which to base their books.

### THE BENEFITS

"Students will benefit in many ways," Walker said. "Most of all students will learn that writing can be fun and that they can believe in themselves as writers. Confidence is something that is hard to develop with struggling writers. Through our writing day, students will develop confidence and learn authentic writing skills."

"Let's face it, if something isn't fun,

then kids won't want to do it."

Walker pointed out that the writing day will impact more than 400 Kingston Elementary students.

"In addition, various community organizations and members will be present throughout the day," he said. "This program will involve the entire town of Kingston. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) will be helping the entire day and have

Please turn to page 9.

## Teen dies in traffic accident

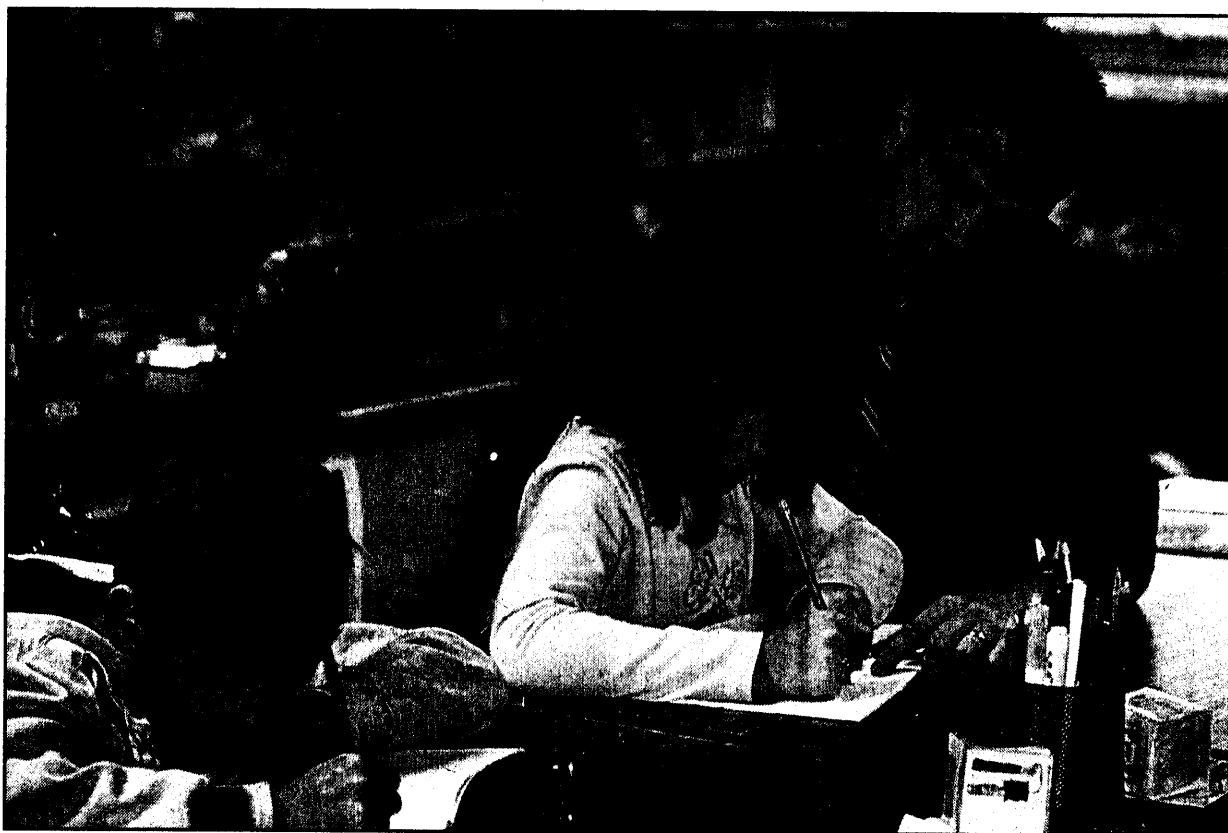
A 16-year-old teen was killed in a one-vehicle traffic crash Sunday afternoon in Huron County's Olive Township.

Troopers from the Michigan State Police post in Bad Axe said the accident occurred at about 2:35 p.m. on Richardson Road. The name of the victim had not been released as of press time.

Troopers said the 16-year-old male driver was driving west on Richardson Road when his vehicle's right side dropped off the edge of the roadway. The driver over-corrected losing control, according to reports, which state his car skidded sideways leaving the roadway on the north side and hitting a tree on the driver's side door.

A 15-year-old passenger was transported to Huron Medical Center for treatment of his injuries. Both the driver and the passenger were wearing seatbelts. No other information was released.

Troopers were assisted at the scene by the Elkton-Oliver Fire Department, Elkton-Oliver EMS, Central Huron Ambulance and Huron County Sheriff's deputies.



KINGSTON ELEMENTARY School teacher Lane Walker works one-on-one with student Alex Mallory last week. Also pictured is Tyler Devine. Walker was recently awarded a \$2,250 grant to host Michigan Author Jonathan Rand in conjunction with a school-wide "writing day" in February.

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# Holbrook Area News

Mrs. Thelma Jackson  
Phone 989-269-6994



Mr. and Mrs. Ray Depcinski watched the Christmas parade in Bad Axe Saturday evening before going to the polka dance at the K of C Hall in Bad Axe.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Depcinski, Mr. and Mrs. Art Osantoski of Bad Axe, Mrs. Dean Carpenter, Dean Jr., Michael, Jessica, and Timothy of Caro, Betty and Joe Myers of Gladwin, Dave and Kimberly Roland of Lansing, and Susan Krozek, Ryan and Samantha were Thanksgiving guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Osantoski and family.

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

Kathy Salowitz, June Rutz and Allen Farrelly went to see the play Wizard of Oz at Dakota High School in Mt. Clemens in which Kathy played a part.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Osentoski of Ubyly visited Thelma Jackson Sunday afternoon.

Ron and Darlene Gornowicz, and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Particka returned home from a 2-week trip to Paris and Italy. While in Italy, they visited Florence, Assisi and Rome. The highlight of the trip was the papal audience with Pope Benedict XVI.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Particka, Mark and Rosalind Particka, Adam and Ashley of Houston, Texas, William and Melanie Godell from Lincolnshire, Ill., Laura and Amy, Greg and Michelle Reid and sons, Ethan and Joshua of Clinton Township, Mark and Christie of Adrian, Ted and Kristie of Adrian, Ted and Kim Particka of Madison Heights and daughter, Ashley, spent Thanksgiving in the Smokey Mountains in Tennessee for 4 days and came home Monday afternoon.

Thanksgiving Day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sweeney were Wayne and Kate Sweeney of Auburn Hills, Sally and Pat Bell, Loren and Katelynn of Cheboygan, Mary Ritter, Alex and Beth of Elkton, Eric and

Heidi Sweeney, Brandon, Nicole and Brett, and Bruce Sweeney of Ubyly.

June Rutz and Allen Farrelly had breakfast at Big Boy Restaurant on 18 Mile Road Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sweeney were Sunday supper guests of Phil and Cheryl Sweeney of Brown City.

Janis Perek visited Thelma Jackson Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Sweeney and Mrs. Martin Sweeney visited Thelma Jackson Wednesday evening.

Ten members of The Traveling Breakfast Club met at the Coffee Cup Plus Thursday morning. They will meet at the Franklin Plaza in Bad Axe next week.

June Rutz of Sterling Heights and Allen Farrelly were Thursday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Rackling of Rochester Hills.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Todd Bowers, a 7 pound, 11 ounce daughter, Shelly Lynn, on November 17 at Huron Medical Hospital, Bad Axe. She was 20 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Russell and Doris Bowers of Bad Axe, and Brian and Sally Sweeney of Ubyly. Her great grandmother is Mrs. Martin Sweeney.

Richard Filar of Almont and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Filar of Washington, Mich., visited Veronica Dolinski and Thelma Jackson Sunday afternoon.

The Young Ideas Farm Bureau Group met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wolschlagler Thursday evening. After the group watched a tape on TV and had a meeting, Euchre was played. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Depcinski won high prizes, Mrs. Joe Wolschlagler and Russell Bouchard won low prizes. The group plans on a Christmas party at Cousins in Bad Axe. The next meeting will be at Russell Bouchard's in January.

June Rutz of Sterling Heights, Allen Farrelly, and Mr. and Mrs. George Farrelly of Armada were Thanksgiving Day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Farrelly of St. Clair Shores.

Thanksgiving Day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Hurford were Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hurford and family of Attica, Mr. and Mrs. Kohtz and family of Wayland, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Rubey and Paul of Cass City, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jackson of Ubyly, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Damm of Pigeon, and Thelma Jackson.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Konkel were Thanksgiving dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Brent Riehl.

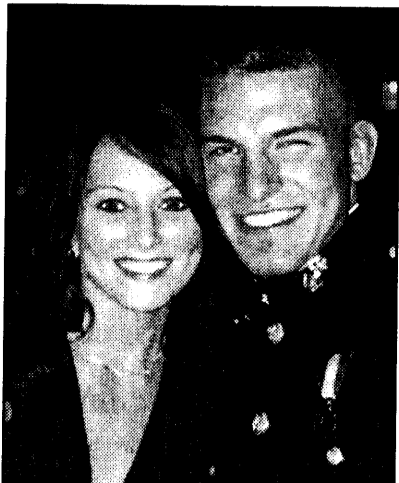
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Depcinski had Sunday supper at Mancino's before spending the evening at Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Depcinski's.

Allen Farrelly spent a few days in Sterling Heights.

Betty and Joe Meyers of Gladwin, Mathew and Bradley, were Thanksgiving guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Osantoski.

Mrs. Ray Depcinski, Mrs. Allen Depcinski and Dennis Yaroch visited Thelma Jackson Friday.

# Engaged



Lisa Feeley and Noah Gould

Jack and Linda Feeley of Bowie, Maryland, announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Danielle, to 2nd Lieutenant Noah Todd Gould, USMC, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Todd Gould of Cass City.

Lisa is a 2003 graduate of Archbishop Spalding High School in Severn, Maryland. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in professional aeronautics.

Noah is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in English. He is currently a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps, and will be attending flight school in Pensacola, Fla. The couple is planning a spring 2007 wedding at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis, Maryland.

# Band concerts set in December

The holiday music concert season is in full swing, and the Cass City Schools music programs are gearing up for their annual performances this month.

The Cass City fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade bands will perform a concert under the direction of Katie King Thursday, Dec. 14, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Cass City High School gym. The night will also feature the high school symphony, concert and early bird jazz bands, all under the direction of Suzanne Harris, director of bands.

In addition, the middle school choirs, under the direction of Michelle Anscomb, and the high school choir, under the direction of Harris, will present their holiday concerts Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. in the middle school cafeteria. The choirs will combine for the finale of the concert to sing a medley of songs from the movie, "White Christmas".

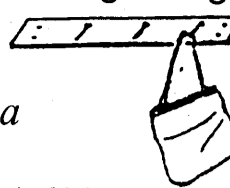
# Services slated

Advent Services at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church are set for 7 p.m., Dec. 6, 13 and 20.

A meal will be available prior to each service for a free will donation. The children's Christmas program, "From Heaven Above" is slated for 6 p.m., Sunday Dec. 10.

The community is invited to attend these services.

# Meg's Peg



Mea culpa

by Melva E. Guinther

Ignorance of the law is no excuse. These familiar words were driven home recently when the Chronicle was threatened with a lawsuit for copyright infringement.

It seems a column I wrote 5 years ago contained a poem without permission of the author, who had copyrighted it.

It had been sent to me by email and I've seen it several times since without the author's name attached. I wrote that the author was unknown. Unfortunately, that wasn't enough.

The poem was entitled "The Dash" and it was written by Linda Ellis. I should have checked to see if it was copyrighted and asked for permission to use it.

I admired the work and wanted to share it with readers, mistakenly thinking that anything that was floating around cyber space was available to the public. I was wrong, and I'm sorry. No harm was intended and I certainly regret whatever problems it may have caused Ms. Ellis, as well as The Chronicle.

As a result of these events, I discovered that there is a website, lindalyrics.com, where you can order the poem, which refers to the importance of the dash between the years of one's birth and one's death. Several other gift items are available at the site.

You might find some neat Christmas gifts there.

\*\*\*\*  
Speaking of Christmas presents, in case you're stumped for ideas, here are a few items available from the hundreds of catalogs we get.

There's the "Dissect A Frog" - a life-like model with squishy removable lungs, stomach, liver, etc., \$24.95 (Or you could just catch a real one and give the kid a knife???)

Some friends have a Roomba, the robotic vacuum cleaner, a nifty little guy that vacuums the floor all by himself. I envy them. Now Roomba has a companion, the Scooba. Scooba prepares, scrubs and dries floors. Only \$298 plus 2 D batteries.

For those with iPods, there are animated iPod Docking Stations and iDogs. The docking station (\$99) is fully automated with arms that move rhythmically and LED lights that flash.

The iDog bobs his head, moves his ears and lights up in time to the music. He's only \$29.95.

For the sneaky golfer (The script calls him discreet, but I think sneaky says it better), you might choose the Electronic Drink Caddy. It looks like a driver, but secretly holds and dispenses 54 oz. of hot or cold drinks with the push of a button. \$99.

If you're really stumped for ideas, how about a gourmet dinner? The food pictures in the catalog positively make you drool, especially the desserts. You can order a gourmet meal-a-month for a year for \$199.

I'm fascinated by the 20 Questions Challenge game. How can an inanimate object guess what you're think-

# Engaged



Courtney Green and Adam Gross

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Green of Cass City announce the engagement of their daughter, Courtney Ann Green, to Adam Gregory Gross, son of Thomas and Michelle Gross of Raleigh, NC.

The bride elect is a 2003 graduate of Cass City High School and is currently attending the University of Michigan pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in dental hygiene with plans to graduate in the spring.

Her fiancé is a graduate of the University of Michigan, and resides in Palo Alto, Calif. He is employed by VM Ware, a computer software company.

A June 23, 2007 wedding is planned for the couple at the museum church in the historic town of Huron City at the tip of Michigan's Thumb.

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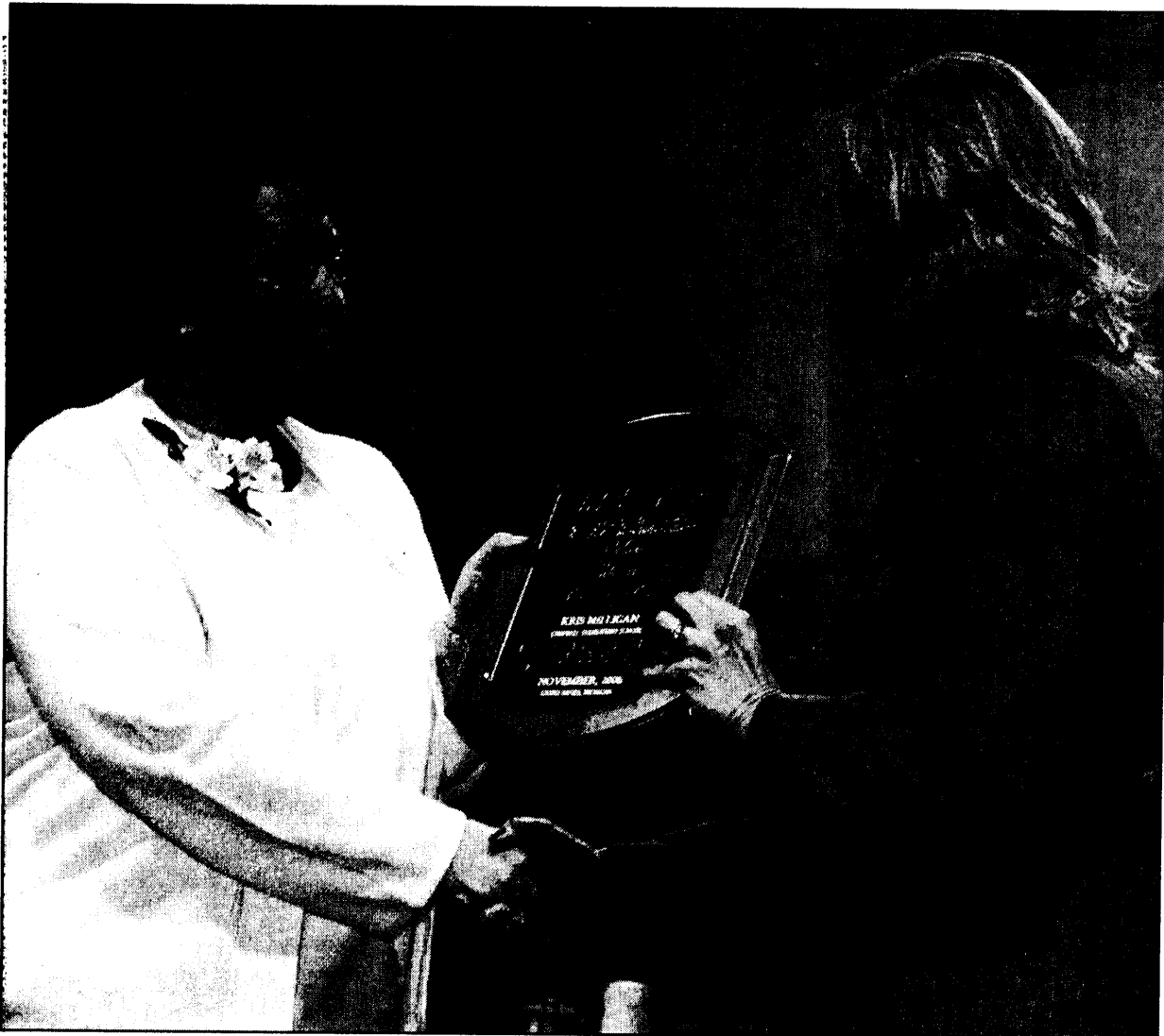
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CAMPBELL ELEMENTARY School teacher Kris Milligan (left) accepts Michigan Farm Bureau's (MFB) 2006 "K-12 Educator of the Year Award" from Jennifer Lewis of MFB's state-level Promotion and Education Committee during the organization's annual meeting Nov. 30 in Grand Rapids.

**K-12 Teacher of the Year**

**Milligan honored by MFB**

The best teaching doesn't always happen in the classroom, and the best teachers are often those who balance in-class curricula with real-world experience.

Both of Michigan Farm Bureau's (MFB) 2006 Agricultural Educators of the Year exemplify this idea, by augmenting "book learning" with hands-on activities that put students in direct contact with food and fiber production.

Ravenna High School's Melanie Block is MFB's 2006 Agriscience Educator of the Year Award winner. The award recognizes instructors who teach agriculture and natural resources to prepare our youth for a possible career in agriculture.

Kris Milligan, of Campbell Elementary School in Cass City, is this year's K-12 Educator of the Year Award winner. The award honors teachers who excel at integrating basic agricultural concepts into the general curriculum

and challenging students to develop critical thinking skills through analysis of agricultural issues and information.

Both instructors were honored Nov. 30 at MFB's 87th Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids. Each received a \$500 grant, sponsored by the MFB Member Services Department, for use in their classrooms. They were chosen from a field of 15 nominations submitted by county Farm Bureaus across the state and reviewed by members of MFB's Promotion and Education Committee.

Do the math: 27 years teaching, times approximately 24 students per year, equals almost 650 Cass City third-graders who have gained a better understanding of the industry surrounding their central-Thumb town thanks to the efforts of Milligan. Milligan uses her own real-life farm experience to give her students perspective on agriculture, combining personal accounts and images to connect

with children from farm families and those from non-farm backgrounds. She emphasizes the impact of agriculture on everyday life by clearly illustrating for students where their food comes from.

Her farming curriculum doesn't stop at basic information about different types of crops, livestock, farm buildings and machinery. Milligan's students also look at the relationships between farming and wildlife management, alternative energy sources, land stewardship and conservation. Direct contact with agriculture comes through exposure to 4-H and Farm Bureau events like Project Rural Education Day (RED) and annual poster contests that challenge students to illustrate their understanding of food and fiber production in Michigan.

Milligan's efforts to connect young people with agriculture doesn't stop at her classroom walls, either. She regularly hosts groups of young students at her family's pumpkin farm, actively recruits Cass City High School students to attend MFB's Young People's Citizenship Seminar, and shares her electronic presentation about agriculture with the greater community via the school's Web site.

**Down Memory Lane**

By Harmony Doerr



**5 YEARS AGO**

Jack Laurie may have stepped down as long-time president of the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB), but his footprint on Michigan agriculture remains. For this reason, MFB honored Laurie with the organization's highest honor, the Distinguished Service to Agriculture (DSA) award, during the MFB 82nd annual meeting in Acme, near Traverse City. Current MFB President Wayne Wood presented Laurie with the award at the Nov. 29 annual banquet. Since 1956, MFB has presented the DSA award to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the state agriculture industry.

Two Cass City runners have been named to the academic cross-country all-state team. Named were Brandon Vargo and Annjea Tanton. To qualify, runners must have earned an academic average of 3.50 or better and finish in the half among the racers in the state cross-country meet. Vargo finished 123 among the boys and Tanton 117 among the girls. Both students have a 3.8 average.

Cass City High School wrestlers opened the season Thursday at home in a dual meet with Caro and Sandusky. The Hawks split in the meet. The "young" Red Hawks squad defeated Sandusky 54-24, before losing to a very talented and state-ranked Caro team, 72-9. Double winners for the Hawks were Aaron Dorland and Travis Jensen.

**10 YEARS AGO**

Plenty of lip service is given to the "spirit of giving" when the holiday season rolls around. But the sentiment has proven to be food for thought this year in the Owen-Gage School District, where junior/senior high school students have collected literally a ton of food for those less fortunate than themselves. The food was collected during a 5 1/2-week "Second Harvest" canned food drive sponsored by the school's National Honor Society chapter, according to NHS Advisor Deb Gleissner.

It was worth the sacrifice, spending the summer away from his wife and kids at home in Cass City. Lieutenant Doug Lautner of the Caro post of the Michigan State Police gives rave reviews to a school he attended for 11 weeks this summer in the Washington, D.C., area. The school is the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy started in 1935 by the late J. Edgar Hoover. Speaking before the Cass City Rotary last week, Lautner said that there is a 5- to 10-year waiting period to enter the program. It's worth the wait, Lautner feels. He gained admittance because the Michigan State Police are allotted 5 members. Every state in the

union but one was represented in the 250-member class, which included women and 18 foreign students.

The Cass City Red Hawks placed 4 players on the Thumb C National League all conference squad, one on the first team, one on the second, and 2 on the honorable mention list. Selected for the first team was Shelly Ulfig, one of 2 sophomores on the first team. No school placed more than one player on the first team. Just missing the first team was Kara Mellendorf, Cass City, the only sophomore named to the second team. The Hawks placed a pair on the honorable mention list, Ashlie Chappel and Peyton Daniel. Both are seniors.

**25 YEARS AGO**

For years now, Wayne Dillon has been conducting a raffle based on the final total score of Cass City basketball games. Over the years when the ante was 25 cents I won more than my share. But inflation has hit and now it costs \$1 to play and my luck probably has run out. The reason for the big increase in price is that 50 cents of every buck goes to the school boosters for extracurricular activities. That makes every player a winner every time they enter. (From Rabbit Tracks)

The saxophone was invented by Adolphe Sax in the year 1846.

The Michigan Department of Labor has approved the self-insurance program of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) and 11 participating rural electric cooperatives. The MECA Board of Directors received the certificate of approval for the self-insurance fund from the department's Bureau of Workers' Disability Compensation during a board meeting in Lansing Dec. 2-3. MECA General Manager Ray Kuhl said the self-insurance program is expected to save participating cooperatives tens of thousands of dollars a year. Rural electric co-ops participating include Thumb Electric Cooperative. Also at

the meeting, Thumb Electric was presented with the safety accreditation award of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Refrigerated orange juice retains its Vitamin C content even after a week. Fruit drinks lose their vitamin content at a faster rate than pure fruit juice.

**35 YEARS AGO**

A Christmas tree is a Christmas tree...or is it? Not according to some of the experts. Since many trees are cut in early fall to meet the Christmas demand, your primary concern is that of buying a fresh tree. Give the tree you're considering a quick test for freshness. Look at the color. Is it a healthy green? Some producers spray their trees with a non-toxic green colorant. That makes it impossible to judge freshness by color alone. Smell the tree. If you smell a fragrant odor, the tree is probably fresh. Check the cut end for stickiness. A fresh tree will be sticky when it's been cut. You'll also want a straight butt end of at least five to six inches to place in the stand. Test the needles for freshness. Do they break easily and drop off the tree when it's bounced lightly on the ground? If so, the tree is probably not fresh. Fresh needles are less brittle and few will drop from the tree. A fresh tree is not only a prettier Christmas tree, but it's safer. (By Margaret Ross - Extension Agent)

Facilities for tobogganing and skating are being prepared by the village with snow and colder weather the only things needed. The ruts are being removed from the sledding hill in the park by filling them with dirt, and the 300 yard long slope is being prepared especially for toboggans. A hockey ice skating rink is being made over the tennis courts. The base is done, and Tuesday morning saw the initial flooding to test run off. The rink will be available for skaters when it is cold enough to keep the ice solid.

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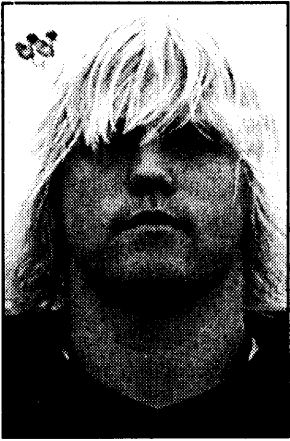
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**Cass City Area Church Directory**

<b>Calvary Bible Fellowship</b> 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	<b>Evangelical Free Church of Cass City</b> 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	<b>Novesta Church of Christ</b> 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. Minister: Chuck Emmert Youth Minister: Brad Speirs Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org
<b>Cass City Church of Christ</b> 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.	<b>First Baptist Church</b> 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	<b>Potter's House Christian Fellowship Church</b> Corner of 6th and Leach, Cass City, MI 48726 872-5186 Thursday Evening 7:00 p.m. Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. Pastor: F. Robert Tucker
<b>Cass City Church of the Nazarene</b> 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. Eskilsen	<b>First Presbyterian Church</b> 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	<b>St. Agatha Catholic Church</b> 4618 South St., Gageton, MI 48735 665-9966 Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
<b>Cass City Missionary Church</b> 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	<b>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</b> 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	<b>St. Pancratius Catholic Church</b> 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
<b>Cass City United Methodist Church</b> 5100 N. Cemetery Rd., P.O. Box 125, Cass City, MI 48726 872-3422 Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. (Summer 9:30 a.m.) Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m. Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon) Pastor: Rev. Paul G. Donelson	<b>Living Word Worship Center</b> <i>(Where the Word is Life)</i> 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	<b>Shabbona United Methodist Church</b> 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 Visit our website at: www.dasuparish.com

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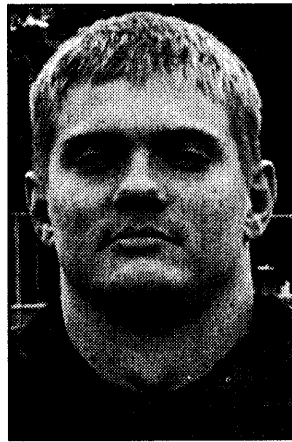
# SEVERAL RED HAWKS NAMED GTW STARS



Dereck Halasz



Courtney Rabideau



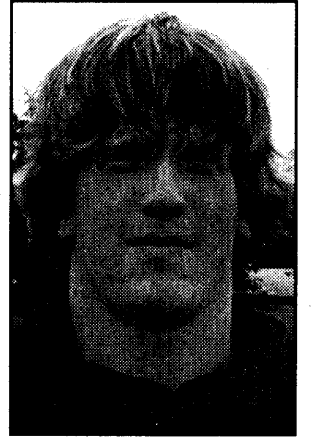
Micah Randall



Derek Ricker



Emily Schinnerer



Brad Severance

## Cass City's Halasz, 2-way all star

Several Cass City seniors were named among the Greater Thumb West best football players as judged by league coaches.

Named to the GTW first team all conference offensive squad were Red Hawks Brad Severance, guard; Micah Randall, back; and Dereck Halasz, end. On defense, Halasz, at linebacker and Derek Ricker, at back, were Cass City's lone first team choices.

The complete GTW first team picks were: quarterback - Corbin Oldenburg, Reese; backs - Lance VanHoost, USA; Nick Simpson, BCAS; Micah

Randall, Cass City; ends - Dereck Halasz, Cass City; Isaac Zimmer, Reese; tackles - Keith Spiekerman, Reese; Travis Coburn, BCAS; guards - Brad Severance, Cass City; John Sahr, Reese; center - Adam Smith-Urbany, Reese; Kicker - Erik Kuhl, USA.

The complete GTW second team all conference picks are: quarterback - Brandon Bitzer, USA; backs - Kevin Baur, Reese; Andy Grocholski, BCAS; Kyle Sieradzki, Cass City; ends - Evan Supernaut, BCAS; Caleb Brow, USA; tackles - Dave Hasty,

Reese; Tim Holland, USA; guards - Carl Bednarski, USA; Marc Kwapiszewski, BCAS; center - Matt Gwizdala, BCAS.

Quarterback Brad Hartel received honorable mention accolades for Cass City.

The GTW all conference defensive first team members were: line - Adam Smith, Reese; Keith Spiekerman, Reese; Nick Leipprandt, EPBP; Tim Holland, USA; linebackers - Dereck Halasz, Cass City; Andy Grocholski, BCAS; Lance VanHoost, USA; Mitch Houghteling, Reese; backs - Corbin

Oldenburg, Reese; Zach Heinlein, Reese; Derek Ricker, Cass City; punter - Andy Grocholski, BCAS.

Selected to the second team were: line - Kevin Bisel, BCAS; Ethan Gainforth, USA; Dennis Bowen, Cass City; Brad Iskow, Bad Axe; linebacker - Marc Kwapiszewski, BCAS; Nick Simpson, BCAS; Will Tack, Reese; Nathan Janik, Bad Axe; backs - Taylor Montey, Reese, Brad Hartel, Cass City.

## Hawks land 2 on GTW dream team

Cass City was well represented among the Greater Thumb West all conference basketball teams as selected by league coaches.

Red Hawks Emily Schinnerer and Courtney Rabideau were chosen to the GTW first team, while Sara Meeker received second team honors.

Samantha Krueger and Megan Schaper, of EPBP, and USA's Katie Rayl and Carly Treiber joined Schinnerer and Rabideau as dream team members.

Besides Meeker, the GTW all conference second team included Kelsey Richards, Amber Gotham, Reese; Amanda Dube, EPBP; Lynsay Weaver, BCAS; and Dani Gremel, USA.

Red Hawk Allie Richards received honorable mention praises.

The GTE first team all conference members included Sandusky's Marissa DeMott, Cassy VanConant, Bobbie May; Marlette's Kelsey Hall, Jenna Lange; Harbor Beach's Rhonda Gusa; and Brown City's Kristen Greene.

Members of the GTE second team all conference squad were Ubyl's Alicia Leipprandt, Shannon Weber; Marlette's Kayla Thompson; Brown City's Liz Bartle; Mayville's Danielle Nelson; and Harbor Beach's Carisa Seltz.

Ubyl's Jade Kaufman was an honorable mention choice.

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**Schneeberger's ATHLETES of the WEEK**

Cass City grapplers Kyle Sieradzki, Jeremy Farr and Dennis Bowen are this week's recipients of Schneeberger's Athletes of the Week honor.

The trio recorded double wins for the Red Hawks against Imlay City and Capac to open the season Wednesday.

Sieradzki's victories came in the 160 pound division, while Bowen wrestled in the 189 pound division. Farr challenged in 2 divisions, 125 and 130 pounds.

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: KYLE SIERADZKI, DENNIS BOWEN AND JEREMY FARR.

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# BULLDOG BULLIES?

## Owen-Gage opens season as team to beat in NCTL-N

Hopes run high for the Owen-Gage Bulldogs as they prepare to kick off

the 2006-07 cage season Friday in a North Central Thumb League cross-over battle at Dryden.

Coach Arnie Howard will field a veteran squad that includes 7 returnees from last year's team that posted a 9-12 record. Besides experience, the Bulldogs are blessed with some beef and are considered, along with perennial power North Huron, to be the teams to beat in the wide-open North Division.

Among the seasoned players are juniors Brandon Dubs and Eric Zaleski. Both have started since their freshman year. Dubs earned first team all conference honors as a sophomore and should be a force during conference play. At 6' 2", Dubs can compete in the lane, but also is deadly from the perimeter.

Zaleski, named to the NCTL-N all conference second team last year, is capable of creating his own shot off the dribble and will create easy baskets around the rim with penetration in the paint.

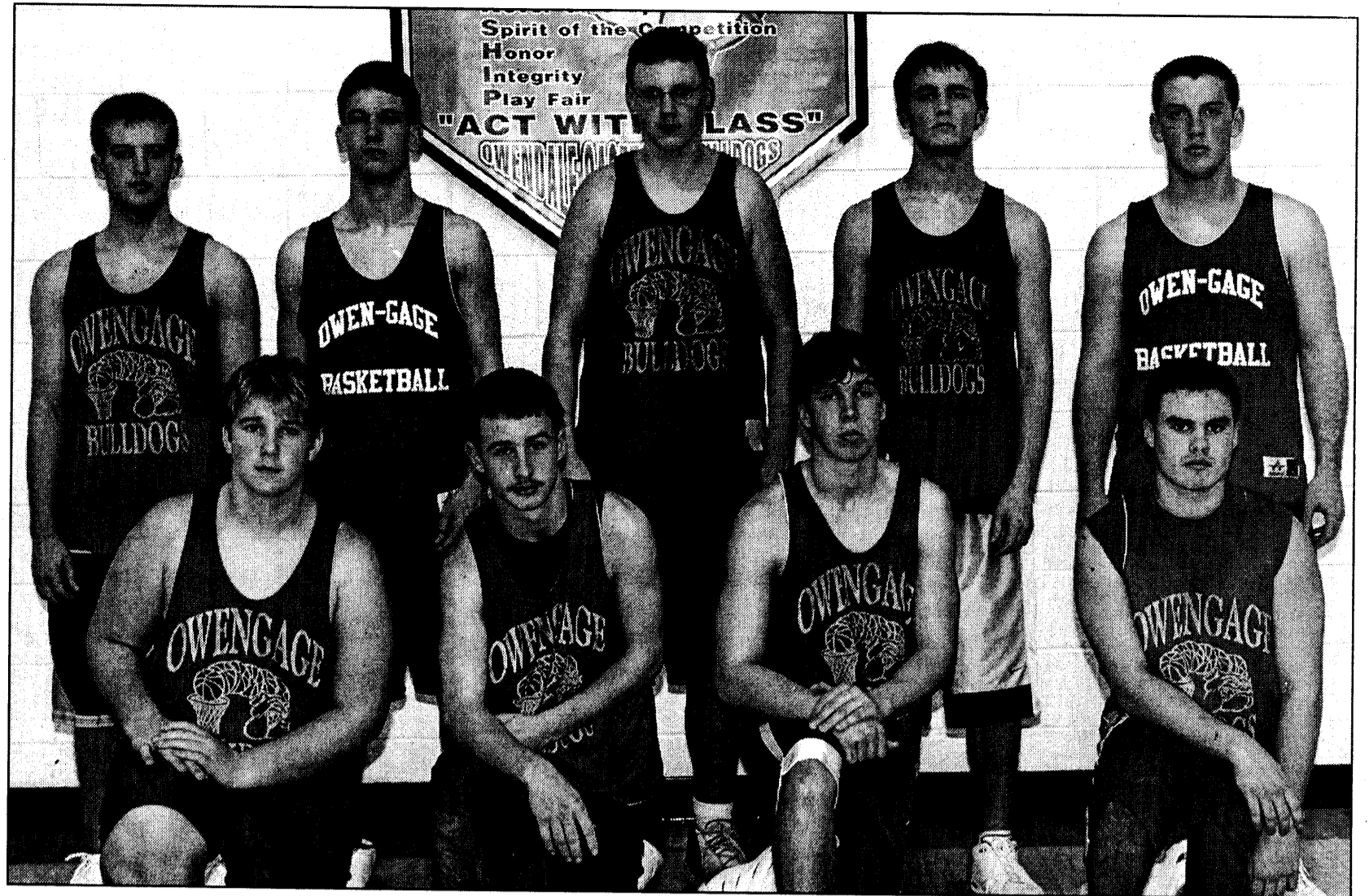
If size matters, Owen-Gage should be a solid rebounding team. Dubs, a high leaper, will get plenty of help around the glass from senior returnee Grant Champagne. Champagne, a husky 6' 2" bull, will also give Owen-Gage another option on offense in the low post area.

Kevin Bucholtz, at 6' 4" is the Bulldogs' tallest player. How quickly the junior can adapt to the next level may determine if the Bulldogs can challenge for the 2007 crown.

In the backcourt, Owen-Gage will have no shortage of experience as Aaron Gaeth, Andy Dronsella, Brent Reil and Josh Howard all return.

Gaeth, an honorable mention all conference pick in 2006, and Dronsella are the Bulldog sharp shooters and will need to make shots to prevent opponents' defenses from collapsing inside.

Rounding out the Bulldog roster is varsity newcomer Branden Edler.



THE OWEN-GAGE varsity basketball team members include: (front, l-r) Branden Edler, Brent Reil, Andy Dronsella, Aaron Gaeth (back) Josh Howard, Eric Zaleski, Kevin Bucholtz, Brandon Dubs and Grant Champagne.

### CASS CITY BOWLING LEAGUES

#### Sunday No Rollers as of Nov. 19

Sometimes	16
Par-T-Ranch	11
Damn Near Last	11
Pinheads	11
Gutter Gods	10
Jebco	9

Individual High Games & Series: J. Mathewson 203 (536); B. Montgomery 201 (510); D. Silance (524).  
Team High Game & Series: Sometimes 648 (1825).

#### Merchants as of Nov. 29

Team 1	11
Curtis Chrysler	10
T. Furness Builders	10
Lee Morgan Painting	9
Barrons Team Bears	9
Charmont	7
R & H Body Shop	6

Individual High Games & Series: L. Morgan 226-222 (638); D. Doerr 238 (629); M. Zawilinski 246 (591); R. Wright 225 (581); D. Miller 212 (576); J. Mathewson 215; B. Joseph 211; G. Barrons 211; T. Furness 210.

Awards: D. Curtis - 200 Game (160 Average or less) (202).

Team High Games & Series: Lee Morgan Painting 635 (1778).

#### Thursday Nite Trio as of Nov. 30

Mycogen Seeds	30
Martin Electric	30
Doerr Landscaping	29
United Building Centers	22
Jebco Consulting	22

Individual High Games & Series: K. Martin 279-216 (688); E. Schmaltz 234 (618); D. Miller 236-220 (611); T. Summers 216 (596); T. Lis 237 (589); D. Doerr 219.

Awards: K. Martin - 75 Pins Over Average Game (279-195=84).

Team High Game & Series: Martin Electric 661 (1800).

#### Merchanettes as of Nov. 30

Thumb Octagon Barn	39
All Season Video	36
Gagetown C. Corners	26
Osentoski Realty	25

Individual High Games & Series: J. Koch 198; M. Harris 192 (472); C. Brown 185 (504); E. Romain 174 (451); K. Maurer 172 (465).

Splits: K. Maurer 2-7, 3-6-7-9-10; E. Romain 5-6-7; P. Hellwig 2-7.

Team High Game & Series: Gagetown C. Corners 601 (1707).

Owen-Gage Bulldogs 2006-2007 Boys' Basketball			
Dec. 8	Dryden	6:00 p.m.	A
<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>Marlette</b>	6:00 p.m.	H
Dec. 15	Memphis	6:00 p.m.	A
Dec. 19	Port Hope	6:00 p.m.	A
<b>Jan. 5</b>	<b>Peck</b>	6:00 p.m.	H
<b>Jan. 9</b>	<b>Akron-Fairgrove</b>	6:00 p.m.	H
Jan. 12	Kingston	6:00 p.m.	A
Jan. 16	Caseville	6:00 p.m.	A
<b>Jan. 19</b>	<b>CPS (Snowball)</b>	6:00 p.m.	H
<b>Jan. 23</b>	<b>North Huron</b>	6:00 p.m.	H
<b>Jan. 26</b>	<b>Memphis</b>	6:00 p.m.	H
<b>Feb. 2</b>	<b>Dryden</b>	6:00 p.m.	H
Feb. 6	Akron-Fairgrove	6:00 p.m.	A
Feb. 9	Peck	6:00 p.m.	A
<b>Feb. 13</b>	<b>Port Hope</b>	6:00 p.m.	H
<b>Feb. 16</b>	<b>Kingston</b>	6:00 p.m.	H
<b>Feb. 20</b>	<b>Caseville (Parent's Night)</b>	6:00 p.m.	H
Feb. 23	CPS	6:00 p.m.	A
Mar. 2	North Huron	6:00 p.m.	A
Mar. 5	Districts	TBA	

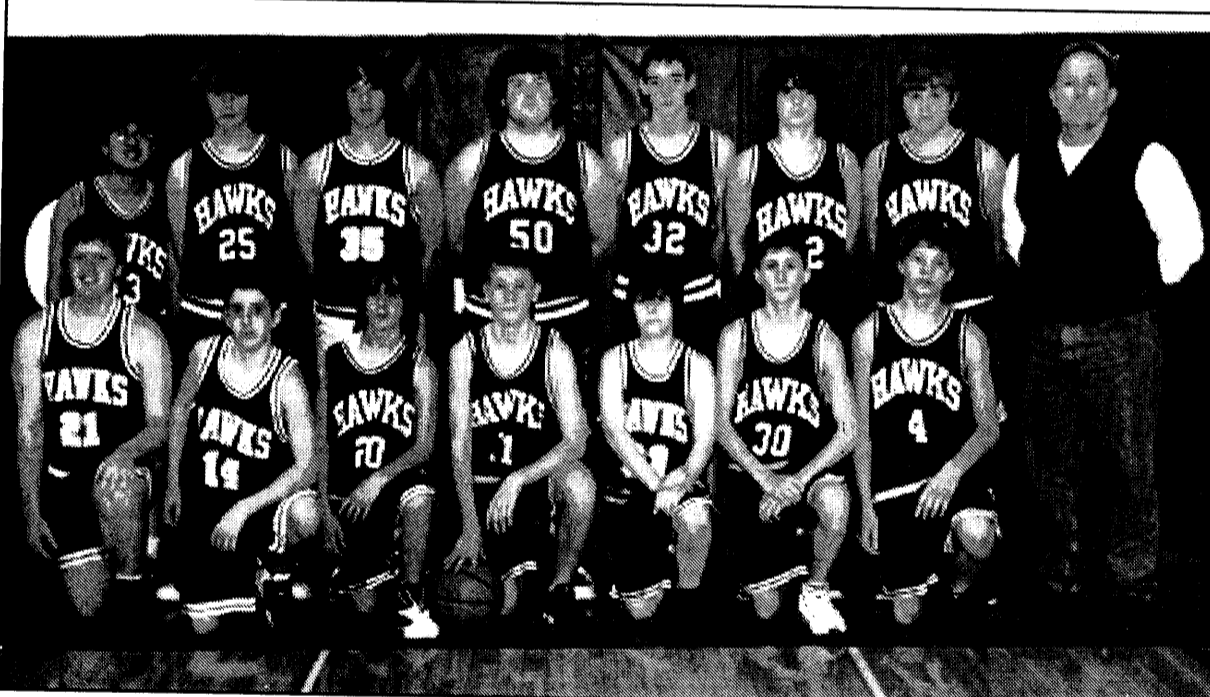
\*Home matches are in bold

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*Let's show our Red Hawk Pride!!!*

Notice of  
**BOARD OF REVIEW**  
for  
**Greenleaf Township**  
Will Be Held  
**TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 2006**  
at 6:30 p.m.  
To correct errors and omissions  
Greenleaf Township Hall  
2 miles north of Cass City Rd. on Gilbert Rd.  
Judy Doerr, Clerk

Notice of  
**BOARD OF REVIEW**  
for  
**Elkland Township**  
Will Be Held  
**TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 2006**  
9:00 a.m. till completed  
To correct errors and omissions  
Elkland Township Fire Hall  
6691 Church Street, Cass City  
Dan Erla, Supervisor



THE CASS CITY freshman basketball members are: (front, l-r) Jalen Ferris, Jeff Mulrath, Trevor Phillips, Aaron Bader, Keegan Hagen, Zach McCreedy, Jake Mozdzen (back) George Young, Zachary Abell, Mason Doerr, Paul Rubey, Kent LaFave, Andy Knight, Josiah Battel and coach Craig Weaver.

### Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

#### This Week's Forecast



Day	John Haire	Clarke Haire	Tom Montgomery	Doug Hyatt
<b>Tuesday, December 5</b>	Bad Axe at Sandusky Lakers at Brown City Marion at USA Vassar at Cass City A. Eastern at A-Fairgrove BCAS at Mayville Reese at Deckerville Merrill at Caro	Sandusky Brown City USA Vassar Arenac Eastern BCAS Reese Merrill	Sandusky Brown City USA Cass City Arenac Eastern BCAS Reese Merrill	Sandusky Brown City USA Cass City Akron-Fairgrove Mayville Reese Merrill
<b>Friday, December 8</b>	Deckerville at Bad Axe Marlette at Lakers Mayville at USA Cass City at Ubyly Brown City at Imlay City Port Hope at Memphis North Huron at Kingston Akron-Fairgrove at Peck	Deckerville Lakers USA Ubyly Brown City Memphis Kingston Peck	Deckerville Lakers USA Cass City Brown City Memphis Kingston Peck	Bad Axe Marlette USA Ubyly Imlay City Memphis Kingston Peck

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# Obituaries

## Arthur Battel

Arthur William Battel, 89, of Cass City, died Dec. 2, 2006 in Tendercare Nursing Facility, Cass City.

He was born Jan. 14, 1917 at home in Elkland Township, the son of John and Bessie (Sowden) Battel.

He married Marjory Magdalene Schwegler Nov. 19, 1942 in the Cass City Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Battel was a livestock farmer, raising dairy cows and swine. He produced maple syrup on the family farm. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living member of the Fraser Presbyterian Church, in which his family were founding members. Battel was a 4-H member in his youth and a 4-H leader as an adult. He was an active supporter of the Tuscola County Fair and the Michigan State Fair and participated in both, exhibiting livestock. During his years as a member of Fraser Presbyterian Church, he held various offices including serving as Elder since 1949 and he was a former Sunday school superintendent.

Battel is survived by his wife, Marjory; children: John (Reba) Battel of Dandridge, Tenn., Mark (Diane) Battel of Cass City, and Margaret (Richard) Bethel of Belmont; 6 grandchildren; 6 great-granddaughters; a sister, Lillian (Lawrence) Neaves of Las Vegas, Nev.; a sister-in-law, Betsy Sowden of Vassar; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a foster brother, Morris Sowden. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with the Rev. David Blackburn officiating.

Interment was in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Memorials may be made to Fraser Presbyterian Church or Tuscola County Fair Association.

## Louise Zdrojewski

Louise Ann Zdrojewski, 83, of Palms, died Saturday, Nov. 25, 2006 at her residence.

She was born Feb. 28, 1923 in Helena, the daughter of the late Henry and Mary (Weber) Essenmacher.

She married Daniel Zdrojewski May 13, 1942 in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bad Axe. He died Jan. 10, 2006.

Zdrojewski grew up in Bad Axe and attended Sacred Heart Elementary School. She was a parishioner at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Palms for 64 years.

Zdrojewski is survived by her children: Roger (Nannette) Zdrojewski of Aguila, Ariz., William Zdrojewski of Aguila, Ariz., and Phillip (JoAnn) Zdrojewski of Palms; a daughter-in-law, Michelle (Fred) Leeson of Cass City; 10 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters-in-law: Gracie Graff, Eddie (Bernita) Zdrojewski, Whitey (Doris) Zdrojewski, Florence Hamill, and Clara Essenmacher; a half-brother, Marv Essenmacher; half-sisters: Helen Lemanski and Naomi Rogers; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a son, Kenneth Zdrojewski on April 27, 2004; and a half-brother, Robert Essenmacher.

A joint memorial service for Daniel and Louise was held Saturday, Dec. 2, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Palms. Cremation has taken place.

The joint burial will be in the church cemetery in the spring.

Memorials may be made to the Family Discretionary Fund.

Arrangements were made by Smigielski Funeral Home, Minden City.

# Educator

Continued from page one.

pledged money and support. Local businesses have donated money and volunteers to help make the writing day successful and something each student will always remember."

Walker also predicts Rand will remember his visit.

"He's going to get all the glitter and lights," he said. "He goes to a lot of schools, but he's going to remember Kingston."

"When it's all said and done, Walker expects that both students and teachers will be "fired up" to write and learn more about writing in the future.

"I cannot wait to see the faces of our students when their hero talks about how he struggled as a writer and how writing changed his life," said Walker, whose enthusiasm has a lot to do with the fact that the program is taking place in his own hometown.

## GLAD TO BE HOME

A Kingston native, Walker graduated from Kingston High School in 1997 and went on to earn his bachelor's degree at Saginaw Valley State University. He's currently working on his master's degree in educational leadership.

"I bleed red and black - people will tell you that," he joked. "It was always my dream to come here. This is where I always wanted to go to teach - and to live. I love the people. Kingston's a good community."

And Kingston Community School officials are glad to have him.

"He's a real fireball, isn't he," school Supt. George Bednorek said of Walker. "He loves to be with the kids. He loves to see them succeed."

"He was a great addition to our staff," Bednorek added. "He's just very, very dedicated. He refuses to let a student fail. He'll do what he has to do to help a student succeed."

"I don't want this to be about me," Walker said, noting his fellow teachers and staff, along with the community, have embraced the project. "I wrote this grant, but I'm getting help from everybody. I've had all kinds of support."

"I saw this as an opportunity to give the kids something," he added. "It's all about the kids for me."

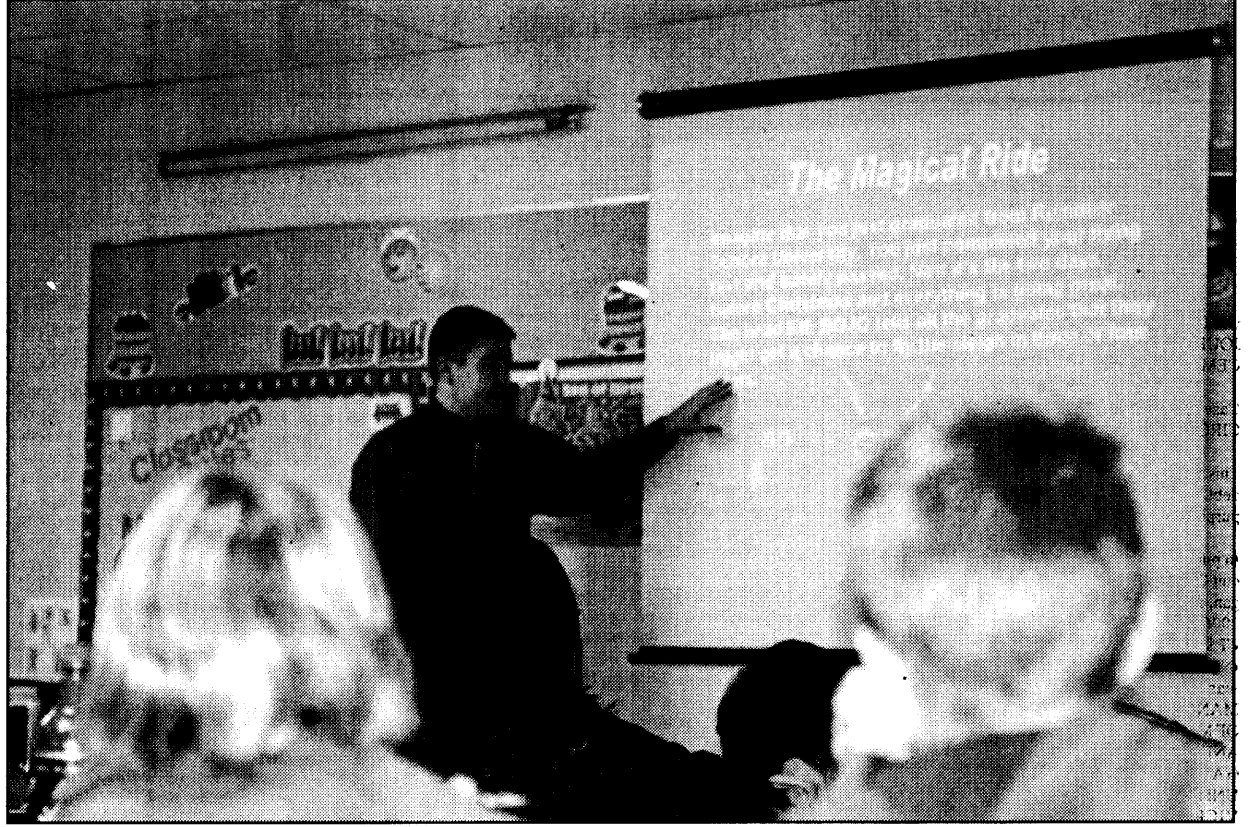
## Northstar completes acquisition

Northstar Financial Group, Inc. (NFGI), parent company of Northstar Bank, recently announced the successful completion of its acquisition of Valley Financial Corporation (VFC), and its wholly-owned subsidiaries - Community Bank, Valley Title Agency, Valley Insurance Agency and Valley Financial Services.

Future plans will include the merger of Community Bank with Northstar Bank scheduled for early February 2007.

"The acquisition of VFC is a terrific fit with Northstar Bank," said John Booms, president of NFGI. "Community Bank is well known for excellent service and brings Northstar Bank additional client relationships and markets."

"This merger represents a unique opportunity to create a stronger bank that delivers more services to our customers and communities," added Joseph Maust, Chairman of VFC, who will join Northstar Bank's Board of Directors in 2007. "Northstar Bank has the capability to provide our customers access to the latest in banking technology and a comprehensive range of banking services while continuing to deliver the highest in personal service."



**WALKER ENCOURAGES** his students to develop a love for writing. Walker will be getting a little help in February, when Author Jonathan Rand joins him and all Kingston Elementary students for a day devoted to writing. The visit is being funded by a grant recently awarded to Walker. (See story, page one.)

# Several appear in circuit court

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

•David J. Diener Jr., 21, Caro, stood mute to 2 counts of larceny from a motor vehicle, breaking and entering a motor vehicle with intent to steal property valued at \$200 to \$1,000, and breaking and entering a motor vehicle with intent to steal property valued at less than \$200 Sept. 26 in Caro, and to being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled in the case and bond was continued at \$10,000.

•Samantha J. Barrett, 26, Unionville, pleaded guilty to 2 counts of uttering and publishing involving a \$908 check drawn on National City Bank July 21.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$10,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Kenneth D. Krueger, 55, Deford, pleaded no contest to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, July 27 in Novesta Township, and to possession of a firearm by a felon April 7 in Kingston Township, and to being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at a combined \$14,000. Sentencing is to be set.

•Judy M. McCaul, 33, Fostoria, pleaded guilty to writing no account checks for \$500 and \$650 between March 1 and March 30 in Mayville, and to stealing/retaining a financial transaction device without consent of the device holder, uttering and publishing involving checks for \$895 and \$700, both drawn on Mayville State Bank in May-June in Watertown Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at a combined \$40,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Foster C. Findlay II, 54, Fairgrove, pleaded no contest to assaulting a police officer and possession of a firearm while under the influence of alcohol June 10 in Gilford Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$7,500. Sentencing is to be set.

•Matthew J. Slater, 40, Traverse City, stood mute to a charge of absconding or forfeiting bond July 17 in Caro.

A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled and bond was continued at \$10,000.

•Michael P. McGeshick, 29, Vassar, pleaded guilty to assaulting a police officer Aug. 1 in Vassar, and to being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$5,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Kenneth D. Schultz, 44, Vassar, pleaded no contest to possession of a narcotic/cocaine less than 25 grams and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance, second offense, July 24 in Indianfields Township, and to domestic violence, third offense, Aug. 25 in Tuscola Township, and to being an habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued at \$12,500 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be set.

•George M. Clark Jr., 43, Reese, was sentenced to 24 months probation 270 days in the county jail (60 day deferred), with work release, for his pleas of no contest to assaulting a police officer and driving while his license was suspended or revoked, subsequent offense, June 6 in Reese, and to being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

He was also ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$2,820.

•Michael S. Wilber, 20, Vassar, was sentenced to 365 days in jail (180 days deferred), with work release, for his pleas of guilty to carrying a concealed weapon and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor April 20 in Vassar, and to being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

He was also ordered to pay \$560 in costs and fines.

•Maryann T. Parker, 42, Millington, received a one-year delayed sentence for her plea of guilty to unlawfully driving away an automobile July 5 in Tuscola Township.

He was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$620.

•Jennifer L. Sayles, 40, Millington, was sentenced to 60 months probation and 270 days in jail for her pleas of no contest to malicious destruction of property totaling \$1,000 to \$20,000 July 5 in Vassar and Tuscola townships, and larceny in a building April 2 in Caro, and to being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

She was also ordered to pay \$5,240 in costs and fines plus restitution of \$2,015.95.

•Larry R. Burnham, 42, Caro, was sentenced to 60 months probation and 180 days in jail (60 days deferred), with work release, for his plea of guilty to criminal sexual conduct intent to commit sexual penetration June 14 in Caro.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$5,620.

•Melissa M. Hoch, 26, Vanderbilt, was sentenced to 300 days in jail and 60 months probation for her pleas of guilty to absconding or forfeiting bond Aug. 8 in Caro, Receiving and concealing stolen property valued at more than \$1,000 and assaulting a police officer March 12 in Indianfields Township, and to being an habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

She was also ordered to pay \$380 in costs and fines plus restitution of \$200.

•Angel Jose-Garcia Padro Jr., 28, Caro, was sentenced to 2 to 15 years in prison for his pleas of no contest to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor March 12 in Indianfields Township, and to being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

He was also ordered to pay \$225 in fines and costs.

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# Chemical Bank takes the cake in chili cook-off, float contest

Chemical Bank, Cass City, earned bragging rights for the best chili in the village and the best commercial parade float during Cass City's Christmas in the Village celebration over the weekend.

The annual chili contest drew the best chili chefs from 27 local businesses, not to mention well over 100 chili tasters. In the end, though, the judges voted Carol Wright's recipe the best of all. Wright is head teller at

Chemical Bank.

New Cass City Chamber of Commerce Administrator Dee Mulligan indicated she was pleased with the turnout Saturday.

"Richard Little worked hard on the parade and we had a lot of entries," she said. "The warming tent was a big hit, and the weather couldn't have been better."

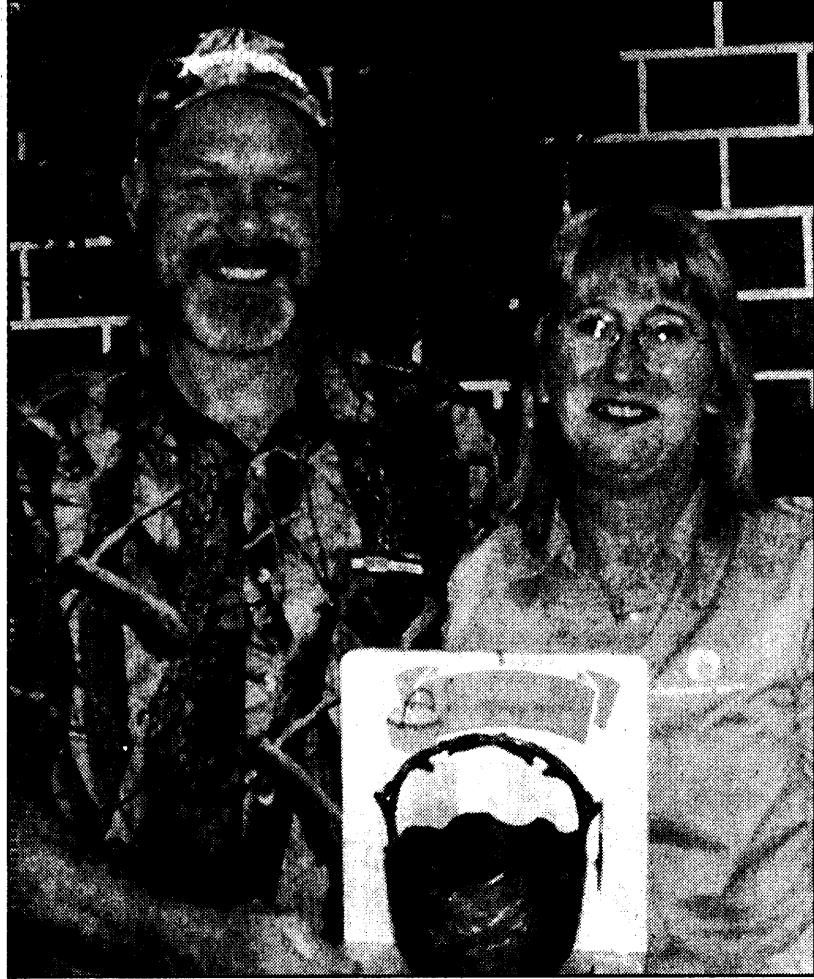
"I think there may be some things organizationally that we might want to do differently next year, but I thought it went very well."

The Lighted Christmas Parade, in its second year, was deemed a success by Little, who again served as coordinator of the event.

"I thought the parade was exceptional and showed a lot of creativity, skill and hard work," Little commented. He lauded everyone involved.

"It was very hard to judge, as each and every float was of such high quality," he added. "Last year we had 12 floats and this year we had 27."

This year's winners are: Most Creative with Lights - Independent Bank, Cass City; Best Club/Organization - Girl Scouts of Kingston; Best Children's Category - St. Pancratius Youth Ministry; Best Commercial Entry - Chemical Bank, Cass City; Best Parade Theme - Rawson Memorial Library; Judges' Choice - Erla's Food Center; Best Family Entry - Martin Laahman of Attica; and Best Farm Implement - Two Cylinder Club.



CHILI COOK-OFF winner Carol Wright and her husband, Randy.



## 'Tis the season...

SANTA AND MRS. Claus were kept busy after arriving in Cass City Saturday night. Above, Martha Brooks, 6, daughter of Richard and Pamela Brooks, shares her list with the jolly old elf.

## Owen-Gage

Continued from page one.

"We're looking at it and the league will have to look into it," he added. "We'll have to talk about it and see what we have to do to make it work for everybody."

In other business during the Nov. 27 meeting, the board:

\*Reviewed a draft of the district's 5-year School Improvement Plan.

\*Filled several coaching positions. Hired were: Corbin Swiastyn, junior high boys basketball; Arnie Howard, boys varsity basketball; Jason Pierce, boys junior varsity basketball; Ashley Pawlak, varsity volleyball; Karen Gaeth, junior varsity volleyball; and Liz Robinson, junior high volleyball.

\*Approved the hiring of Christina Hofmann as assistant cook.

\*Passed a resolution recognizing the girls varsity basketball team and coaching staff for their recent district tournament victory.

\*Approved the nomination of Mindy Erer as "Senior Student of the Month" for November.

## Gardening series set in January

Michigan State University Extension officials in Huron County are hosting a winter Master Gardener educational series.

This series is the ninth offered since 1994 by the county and will be held on Thursday evenings beginning Jan. 18 and is scheduled to run through March 29 from 6 to 10 p.m. in the conference room at the MSU Extension office, 99 W. Soper Rd., Suite B, Bad Axe.

Participants will be completing their 40 hours of educational training just in time to begin spring gardening and yard work with new knowledge fresh in their minds.

Any resident of Michigan 18 years of age or older with an interest in horticulture and helping people with horticultural concerns, and who is dependable, open-minded, and willing to provide volunteer service in their community is invited to participate.

For an informational brochure on the Master Gardener Program, contact MSU Extension in Huron County at (989) 269-9949.

## Calendar of Events

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

### Wednesday, December 6

United Sportsmen's Alliance meeting & annual venison cook-off, 7 p.m., Sebewaing Sportsmen's Club. All are invited to attend. Call (989) 872-2398 for more information.

### Friday, December 8

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](http://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.

### Saturday, December 9

Young Adult Christmas Craft Activity, 10-11 a.m., Rawson Memorial Library. Open to children 10 and up. Please call to register, 872-2856.

Visit with Santa, 10:30 a.m. to noon., Sleeper Public Library, Uby. Sponsored by the Uby Lioness Club.

### Monday, December 11

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

Elkland Township Board meeting, 7 p.m.

### Tuesday, December 12

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

Thumb Octagon Barn meeting, 7 p.m., fire hall in Gagetown. Tuscola County Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Family Support/Education Group meeting, 1:30 p.m., Adult Day Services building, 435 Green St., Caro. For additional information, call (989) 672-2273.

### Wednesday, December 13

Meatloaf & Scalloped Potato Dinner, noon, Cass City United Methodist Church, 5100 N. Cemetery Rd. For takeouts, call 872-4604 and pick up between 11 a.m. and noon or after 12:30 p.m. Flu Shot Clinic, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Cass City United Methodist Church. Cost is \$25.

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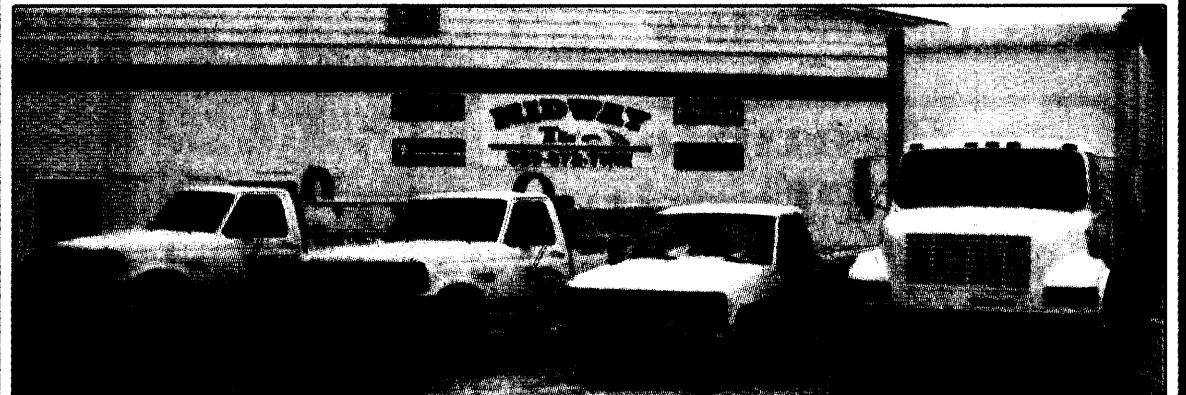
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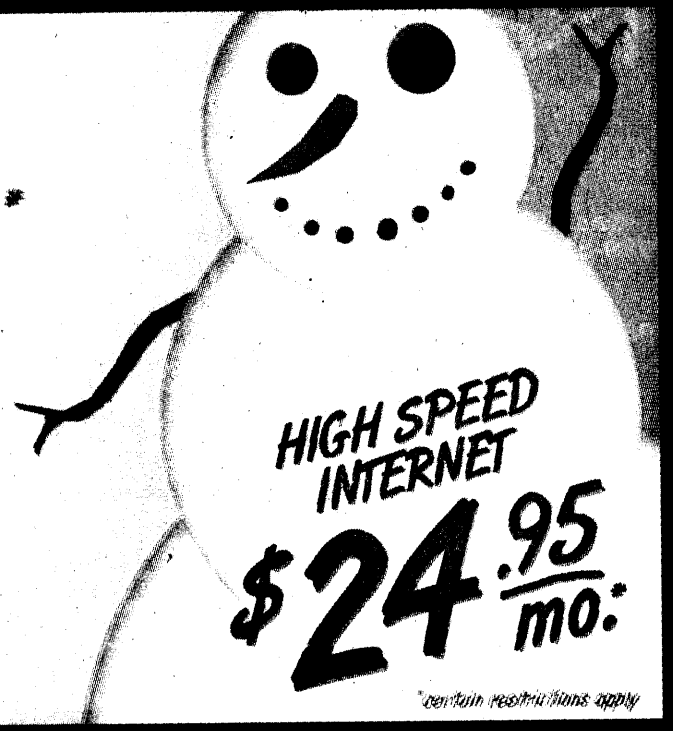
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