

Then and now--couples featured in bridal section

Pages 7-10

Friends ready to lend a hand to Mallory family

Page 4

Red Hawks no match for potent USA squad

Page 6

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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VOLUME 98, NUMBER 45

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2006

FIFTY CENTS

16 PAGES PLUS THREE SUPPLEMENTS

Burtch charged in second case

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Cass City Band Director Doug Burtch now stands accused of having sexual relationships with 2 former Cass City High School students.

Michigan State Police troopers from the Caro post arrested Burtch last Wednesday night at his Cass City residence after county Prosecutor Mark Reene authorized 8 counts of criminal sexual conduct (CSC) against him. Burtch was lodged in the Tuscola County Jail until his arraignment Thursday morning.

Reene filed 2 counts of third degree criminal sexual conduct, a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison. In addition, Burtch faces 6 counts of fourth degree criminal sexual conduct, a "high misdemeanor" that carries a maximum penalty of up to 2 years imprisonment.

The charges stem from alleged incidents involving a 17-year-old female in October 2004 at Burtch's Cass City home, according to Reene, who said the young woman, now 19, was not a student of Burtch's.

Although the age of consent in Michigan is 16, Reene noted Burtch is being charged under a state law that makes it illegal for a teacher to have sexual contact with a student younger than 18 years of age who attends the school where the teacher is employed.

During Thursday's arraignment, Reene requested that Burtch be required to post a \$50,000 cash bond in order to be released. However, the magistrate ordered him released on a \$25,000 personal recognizance bond.

"It certainly has reached that point where it was an appropriate request," Reene said, referring to charges Burtch is also facing in Sanilac County District Court involving another former student.

In Sanilac County, Burtch has been charged with 2 counts of third degree criminal sexual conduct and 2 misdemeanor counts of fourth degree criminal sexual conduct.

In that case, Burtch is accused of having a sexual relationship with a former choir student 2 years ago at his then-residence in Sandusky. During his initial arraignment, he was freed on a \$25,000 personal recognizance bond.

Burtch appeared for his preliminary examination in Sanilac County District Court Friday. Following the hour-long proceeding in a packed courtroom, during which his accuser testified that she and Burtch engaged in sexual activity multiple times dating back to December 2003, Judge James Marcus bound Burtch over to Sanilac County Circuit Court, where he will face arraignment Monday, Feb. 6, at

Please turn to back page.

Dunham "officer of the year"

A Tuscola County Sheriff's deputy who spends 80 percent of his time working for the county's friend of the court office and the remaining time assisting at the county jail has been named Officer of the Year.

Tuscola County Sheriff Tom Kern presented the award to Deputy Gary Dunham along with honors to several other officers recently during the department's annual awards program.

"Deputy Dunham's evaluations from the friend of the court are outstanding," said Kern, who also presented Dunham with a Commendation for Professional Excellence.

"Comments like, 'excellent rapport with other workers', 'goes above and beyond', 'persistent in his efforts to apprehend dead beat dads'.

"Mary Lou Burns, director of friend of the court, goes on to say, 'reliable and dependable, Deputy Dunham is a great asset to our office'," Kern added.

"Deputy Dunham has the right stuff. He has absolutely the best attitude about life and his positive attitude



TUSCOLA COUNTY Sheriff Tom Kern presents the Officer of the Year Award to Deputy Gary Dunham.

rubs off on everyone."

Kern also honored the following officers with Commendations for Professional Excellence:

(names in bold)
*Sgt. Robert Baxter and Deputy Dale Tompkins.

Kern said the commendation stems from an incident last fall when the officers were on routine patrol near the city of Vassar.

"The officers observed an occupied older model pickup truck near a used car lot. They waited for the vehicle to leave. As the pickup left the lot, the officers observed several tires and rims in the back of the truck," Kern said. "A traffic stop was made, and subsequent investigation revealed that the tires and rims were, in fact, stolen. After a thorough investigation, the officers lodged a father and son for larceny in a building.

"Their keen observation and awareness lead to several arrests and the recovery of stolen property."

*Deputy Douglas Kinney.
"On Feb. 13, 2005, Deputy Kinney

was dispatched to a residential burglary at a home in Novesta Township. After processing the scene for evidence, Deputy Kinney followed footprints through snow and mud, and eventually confronted the suspect," Kern said.

"Once the suspect was confronted and interviewed, a second suspect was contacted by Deputy Kinney. Detective Skrent was called to assist in the investigation, and stated that the work done on this case was outstanding. The thorough and immediate follow-up by Deputy Kinney led to one of the suspects being sent to prison and the other suspect serving time in the county jail."

*Deputy Michael Mattlin.
According to Kern, Mattlin was on patrol in Millington Township last August when he observed a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of the Millington Baptist Church.

"Deputy Mattlin had knowledge of recent break-ins to local churches.

Please turn to back page.

Mertz backs out School board hires Wilson

In a surprise announcement Monday night at the regular meeting of the Cass City School Board it was revealed that John Mertz, assistant superintendent at Essexville-Hampton Public Schools, has withdrawn his name for consideration for the superintendent's post in Cass City.

Mertz was one of the final 2 survivors from among 21 candidates for the position and judging by the results of a previous vote was the favorite to be offered the position.

His withdrawal made it sure that the other finalist, Ronald Wilson, will replace retiring superintendent Ken Micklash as soon as agreement on contract terms can be arranged. The job is expected to pay in the \$90,000 to \$110,000 range. Currently, Wilson is the middle school principal and curriculum director at Harrison High School.

A committee is expected to meet with Wilson as quickly as possible to iron out the financial details.

Micklash officially resigned his post Monday, but will continue to act as Chief Financial Officer on a per diem basis as needed with an absolute deadline of June 30. By working as a consultant, Micklash explained, he will save the district money on retirement and health insurance.

In no case, Micklash stressed, will the district be charged for his salary and also that of the new superintendent. If I should work for 10 hours Wilson would not be paid for those 10 hours, he said. Micklash anticipates that it will take at least a couple of months before Wilson can settle affairs at Harrison and work full time at his new position.

The withdrawal is not as critical as it might have been because board members had high regards for Wilson before Mertz withdrew. He was the top choice of 2 of the board members and the other members rated him

almost at a par with Mertz.

SITE VISITS

To help with the decision in hiring a superintendent, a site team was developed to visit the final 2 candidates at their current work environment. The diverse 8-member panel represented several different interests and included school board members Danny Haag, Michelle Biddinger and Doug Lautner. Also included in the group were Scott Mills, Chamber of Commerce president, Aaron Fernald, assistant principal, Jim Green, high school teacher, Linda DuQuesnay, parent/paraprofessional and Kris Milligan, elementary teacher/union representative.

The site team conducted all day appointments concerning assistant superintendent Mertz at Essexville-Hampton Public Schools on Thursday and last Monday at Harrison Public Schools, regarding principal Wilson. Both visits were deemed useful, although if either of the finalist pairs gained much of an edge, it wasn't revealed.

"I am so glad we were able to take these trips," Milligan said. "No decision could have been done well without these site visits."

Each daylong visit had the team talking with members of the candidates' central office staff, administrative staff, teachers, community leaders, board members, support staff, parents and students.

What emerged from those meetings was that both candidates are motivated, intelligent people with high moral standards and that the district was lucky to have 2 such exceptional choices.

One recurring message was received during the site visit to Harrison. And

Please turn to back page.

Falatko ready to lead Hills and Dales

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Mike Falatko has spent the bulk of his healthcare career in hospital administration, but the personable Pennsylvania native hasn't lost touch with those who provide the care in hospitals across the country.

In fact, Falatko, who began his career as a registered nurse, has maintained his nursing certification over the years.

"It makes me keep up with what's going on in nursing, which helps me to better relate to the direct-care end of the industry," he said. "It maintains a better credibility with the caregivers and the physicians."

Falatko was recently named the new chief executive officer of Hills and Dales General Hospital in Cass City, he replaces Dee McKrow, who resigned last fall after 10 years with the local hospital.

Originally from Newcastle, Penn., Falatko brings with him a wealth of experience spanning 25 years in various positions at small and medium sized hospitals.

He initially earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English at Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio, but then went on to earn his nursing degree and pursued a career in healthcare.

He spent his first years as a registered nurse in large teaching hospitals. "I worked mostly medical/surgical units and the operating room," he said, adding his career included a stint at the 1,100-bed Ohio State University Hospitals.

Falatko also earned a master's degree in healthcare administration at Ohio State University. "I continued to work as a nurse while I did that, and I also got married and was raising 3 kids," he recalled.

"I was in direct-care nursing for 5 years, and then I shifted into administration. I became more interested in running hospitals and administering hospitals," he said.

Falatko's first administrative position was as executive vice president of Memorial Hospital, a 186-bed facility in Fremont, Ohio. He spent 9 years there. He then accepted a chief executive officer position with Doctors Hospital in Jackson, where he stayed for 10 years before spending one year as CEO at Lansing Genesis Surgery Centers.

Falatko indicated the Hills and Dales position fits well into the career direction he wants to take.

"I was looking to get back into hospitals, and I was basically looking at

Please turn to back page.



NEW HILLS AND Dales General Hospital Chief Executive Officer Mike Falatko talks with (from left) Administrative Assistant Carrie Kramer and Chief Operating Officer Jean Anthony.

Trial slated for teacher in Kingston

The Kingston High School English teacher charged with having a sexual relationship with one of her students will have her day court in the spring.

A trial date has been set for Tuesday, April 4, for Kristen Margrif, who faces 7 counts of third degree criminal sexual conduct - a 15-year-felony - and one misdemeanor count of fourth degree criminal sexual conduct.

"At this point in time, there is no offer," Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark Reene said of the longstanding plea agreement proposal he previously offered to Margrif.

"I'm sure we're going to have additional discussion, but it's not clear where that's going to lead," Reene said.

Until the proposed plea agreement, Margrif would have had to plead to 3 counts of criminal sexual conduct. In exchange, her sentence would not exceed one year in jail and 4 years probation.

The charges stem from what investigators say were several incidents of sexual activity between Margrif and a 16-year-old student last summer. She was charged under a state law that makes it illegal for a teacher to have sexual contact with a student younger than 18 years of age who

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Bulldog spikers fall to Warriors

North Huron kept its North Central Thumb League record perfect Thursday in Owendale with a 4-game decision over the Bulldogs.
The Warriors jetted to easy victories of 25-11 and 25-13 to open the match before Owen-Gage got on track with a 25-17 win in game 3. However, the visitors ended Owen-Gage's comeback bid with a 25-15 win in the final game.
Owen-Gage, 2-2 in NCTL play and 2-5-1 overall, will need a solid road effort this week to return to the win column. The Bulldogs were scheduled to meet Dryden Monday before traveling to Memphis on Thursday. On Saturday, the team's road show continues at the Laker Invitational.
Against North Huron, Michelle Brown led Owen-Gage with 3 aces, 3 kills and 12 assists, while Becky Schmidt added 3 aces, 2 kills and 10 digs and Amanda Faist had 2 aces, 8 kills and 7 digs.
Andrea Clancy had 16 kills, 3 aces, and 2 digs for the winners, while Ana Nienaltowski chipped in 22 assists and 6 aces.

AKRON-FAIRGROVE
Earlier in the week, on Monday, the Bulldogs traveled to Akron and returned home with a North Central Thumb League win in straight games. The Bulldogs won the match, 25-23, 25-19, and 25-21.
April Nowaczyk had a big night for the winners, recording 9 aces, 12 assists and 5 digs, while Brown added 4 aces, 11 assists and 2 kills; Faist, 5 aces and 4 kills; Schmidt, 3 aces and 7 kills; and Nicole Nowaczyk, 11 kills.

Short Sports

The Cass City Boosters will be holding a silent auction during Friday's Greater Thumb West basketball game against visiting Reese. The auction will be held at Cass City High School starting at 5:30 p.m. and will continue through halftime of the varsity game. All proceeds will be used to benefit the Cass City High School athletic programs.

Football standouts Cody Halasz, Cass City, and Brandon Kretzschmer, Owen-Gage, have earned spots on the 2006 Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All-Star Game. Kretzschmer, the Bulldogs' senior captain, was selected to the East Squad as a center, while Halasz, the Red Hawks' 1,000-yard rusher, will play fullback on the West squad.
The All-Star game is scheduled for July 22 at Spartan Stadium in East Lansing.

Add another flower to the bouquet of honors that have been bestowed on Ashley Hendrick during her high school career. The star 3-sport athlete was named scholar-athlete of the week in a TV-5-McDonald's program honoring area students.
She said that she was very honored and attributed her success to hard work.

Charmont Lanes Mens Leagues

Merchants as of Jan. 18	
Charmont Lanes	27
Ted Furness Builders	19
Lee Morgan Painting	19
R&H Body Shop	18.5
Patrick's Flooring	13.5
Curtis Chrysler	11
Individual High Games & Series: T. Lis 218-211-202 (631); M. Zawilinski 225 (608); K. Zawilinski 199 (582).	
Thursday Nite Trio as of Jan. 19	
United Building Centers	15
Mycogen Seeds	11
Doerr Landscaping	10
Schmaltz Construction	9
Martin Electric	8
Jebco Consulting	7
Individual High Games & Series: G. Robinson 230-213 (614); E. Schmaltz 231 (575); J. Hacker 224; L. Summers 222; W. Laming 211.	
Team High Game & Series: Martin Electric 647 (1678).	



OWEN-GAGE'S NICOLE Nowaczyk watches a shot go long in Thursday's match with visiting North Huron. The Warriors captured the NCTL match in 4 games.



Hawk grapplers Kyle Sieradzki (left) and Scott Meeker led the Cass City effort Saturday during the Spartan Invite with a pair of runner-up finishes.

Hawk wrestlers keep GTC mark perfect

Cass City improved to 5-0 in Greater Thumb Conference matches Wednesday night with a pair of lopsided victories at Saginaw Valley Lutheran.
The Red Hawks trounced Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port 66-15 to open play on the night and then blanked Valley Lutheran 84-0 to improve to 17-10 overall on the year.
Several of coach Don Markel's grapplers picked up double wins on the night including: Travis Mabe (103 lb. division), Andrew Peruski (112 lb. division), Ken Grady (119 lb. division), Jeremy Farr (125 lb. division), Tim Sangster (130 lb. division), Kyle Reif (135/140 lb. divisions), Ross Forrest (135/140 lb. divisions), Dean Wilson (145/152 lb. divisions), Kyle Sieradzki (160/171 lb. divisions) and Scott Meeker (275 lb. division).
SPARTAN INVITE
On Saturday, the Hawks traveled to compete at the always-tough Imlay City Invitational. The Hawks finished 7th in a field of 15 teams.
"This tournament included top notch division 2 and 3 teams and is one of the toughest tournaments that we compete in during the regular season," Markel said.
The complete team standings, and their point totals, were: Oxford 199, Imlay City 193, Capac 142, Ogemaw Heights 138.5, Lapeer West 131, Durand 114.5, Cass City 102, Almont 73.5, Brown City 59.5, Elkland-Pigeon-Bay Port 42, Millington 31, Burton Bentley 30, Dryden 17.5, Sandusky 17 and Saginaw Nouvel 9.
Sieradzki and Meeker recorded the Hawks' best finishes on the day, each receiving second place medals. Also collecting medals for Cass City at the tournament were Mabe and Farr with fourth place efforts.
The Hawks are scheduled to travel to Marlette tonight (Wednesday) before competing Saturday at the Maryville Invitational.

Cass City earns easy GTW win

Cass City will be looking to improve its Greater Thumb West record to 2-0 tonight (Wednesday) when Valley Lutheran plays guest for the Red Hawk's home conference opener.
Coach Beth Howard's spikers made little work of collecting their initial GTW win Thursday against hosts Bay City All Saints, winning in straight games by the scores of 25-18, 25-22 and 25-22. With the win, Cass City improves to 16-6-1 on the season.
"They (Bay City) played well defensively, but they don't have the hitters we do," Howard said. "I think our offense is a little stronger right now than our defense. We need to work on that."
Leading the offensive charge, against the Saints was junior middle hitter Sara Meeker and freshman setter Amanda Langenburg.
"Sara averaged 5 kills a game and played really well," said Howard. In addition to her team-high 15 kills, Meeker was credited with 3 blocks.
Howard also stated that Langenburg is starting to take more chances and uses a variety of shots to set up her teammates. She ended the night with 32 assists for the winners.
Defensively, Cass City had Carly Howard with 14 digs, while Courtney Rabideau added 9 digs, Emily Schinnerer, 8, and Ashley Hendrick, 7.
Cass City will travel Saturday to compete at the Northwood Invitational.

Banquet set

Whitetails Unlimited (WTU) is sponsoring the Caro Area Whitetails Unlimited Banquet Friday, Feb. 17, at the Caro Knight's of Columbus, 903 Ryan Rd., Caro.
This event will feature a buffet dinner, auction, door prizes, sporting equipment, limited edition wildlife and outdoor art, and WTU collectibles. Proceeds will go toward local projects that uphold WTU's mission statement.
The social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 each, \$20 for a spouse, or \$20 for juniors 15 & under. There is a Feb. 10 deadline for tickets, and tickets will not be sold at the door.
To order tickets, call Jeff Goss at (989) 843-7548, or WTU National Headquarters at 800-274-5471, or go online at www.whitetailsunlimited.com.
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Charmont Lanes Womens League

Merchanettes	
Gagetown Cutting Corners	67
Charlie's Angels	63
Crowley Chiropractic	55
Cablettes	54
All Season Video	54
Thumb Octagon Barn	48
Osentoski Realty/Auct.	41
Individual High Games & Series: B. Watson 184 (485); R. Diaz (482); D. Sweeney 181 (465); J. Koch 172 (456); L. Hanson 178; J. Morell 176.	
Team High Game & Series: Thumb Octagon Barn 823 (2352).	

Schneeberger's ATHLETES of the WEEK

Coach Beth Howard's Red Hawk spikers recorded an easy 3-game victory over hosts Bay City All Saints Thursday during the team's opening Greater Thumb West Conference match. Despite a team consisting of 3 freshmen, one sophomore, 5 juniors and one senior the Hawks hold an impressive 16-6-1 record.



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MEMBERS OF THE Cass City varsity volleyball team are (front l-r) Courtney Rabideau, Carly Howard, Sara Meeker, Ashley Hendrick (2nd row) Sarah Howard, Ashleigh Rabideau, April Pica (3rd row) Lauren Dillon, Amanda Langenburg and Emily Schinnerer.

PLAIN UGLY

USA records one-sided win over Cass City

The 2 games this week and the one next Tuesday will go a long way in deciding whether the Cass City Red Hawks will remain one of the stronger teams in the Thumb or sink into mediocrity after winning the first 8 games of the season.

All of the games are at home, starting with a make-up game against Harbor Beach slated Tuesday and followed by always tough Reese Friday and Bay City All Saints next week that will make or break the Hawks' season.

To win these critical games Cass City will have to bounce back from a one-sided loss to Unionville-Sebewaing Friday, 63-41.

The Hawks were ahead for the first and only time of the game early in the first quarter when Andrew Martin connected for a trey to open the scoring.

Justin Johnson countered that trey moments later and the Patriots went on a 12-0 run before Martin connected for his second trey of the quarter.

At the end of the first quarter USA was in command, 20-6. Whatever

thoughts the Hawks had of coming back were dispelled quickly in the opening moments of the second quarter by Justin Bitzer, the ramrod of the Patriots' offense and one of the premier players in the state.

Bitzer, who is 6-2, shot over the shorter Hawk defender from outside the circle and swished 3 3-pointers in a row and USA was comfortably in front, 29-7, with most of the second period left to play.

Besides the performance by Bitzer, the key to the game was the USA defense. It caused turnover after turnover and kept the Hawks out of their regular offensive game. Coach Aaron Fernald said that it was the first time this year that Cass City has had to deal with the kind of pressure that his guards were under. We'll be looking at the results and see what changes can be made as the season progresses.

Leading 36-15 at the intermission, USA wasted no time in cementing the win. Using balanced scoring with Steve Koch (6 points) and Bitzer (5 points) in the quarter, the Patriots opened the period with a 13-2 run and

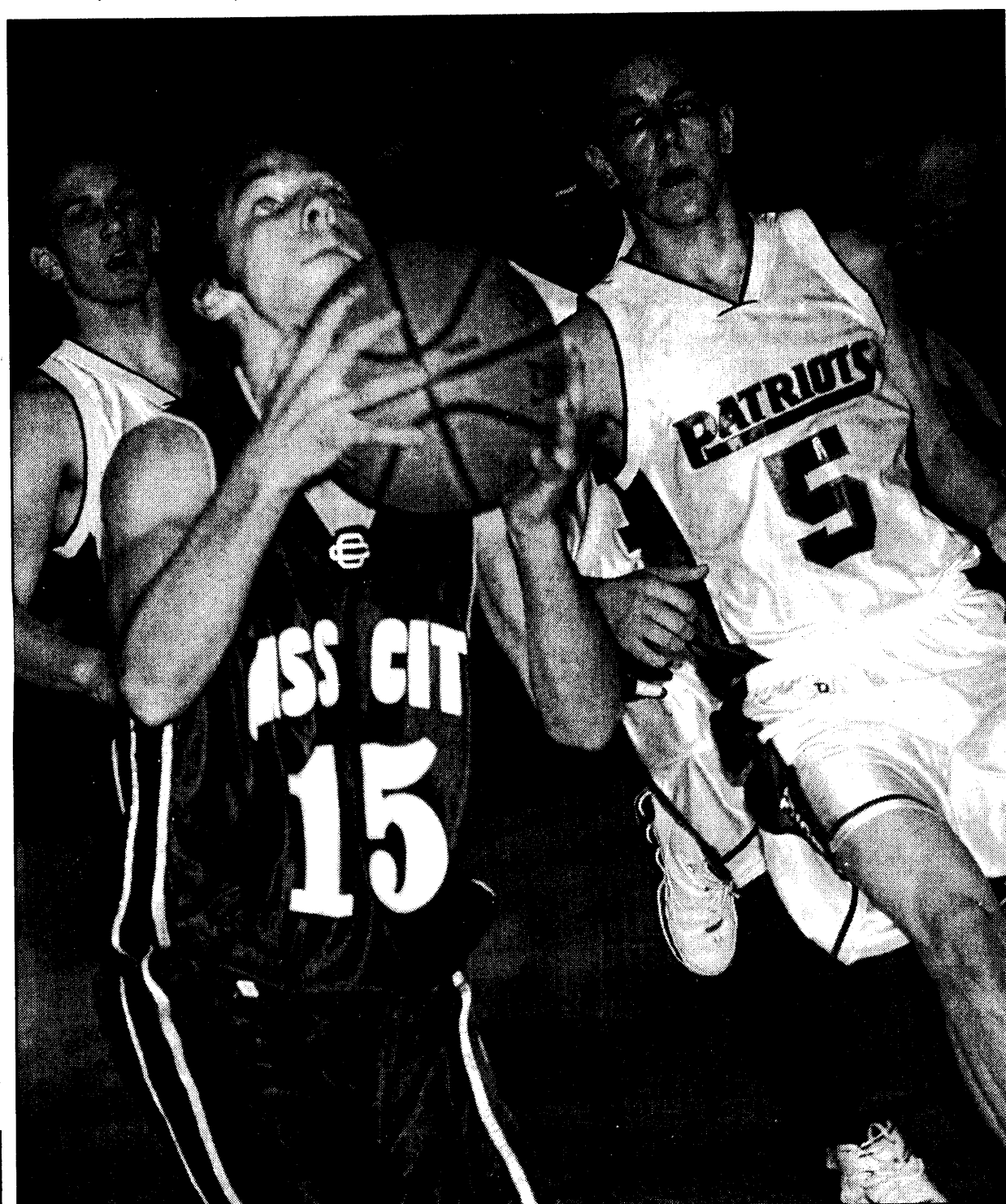
were in front, 55-25, going into the last quarter.

After that the benches for both teams received playing time and the Hawks cut into the huge USA lead with a 16-8 margin.

Bitzer, with 25 points, and Koch, with 11, were in double figures for USA. Martin, 11 points, and Glaza, 10, were in double figures for the Hawks. Playing only in the last quarter, Dereck Halasz netted 9.

CASS CITY - Landrith 0-0 (3-4) 3; Martin 1-3 (0-0) 11; Glaza 2-0 (6-6) 10; Otulakowski 1-0 (0-0) 2; Stoutenburg 1-0 (0-0) 2; Lautner 1-0 (0-0) 2; Whittaker 1-0 (0-0) 2; Halasz 3-0 (3-4) 9. **TOTALS** - 10-3 (12-14) 41.

USA - Hoppe 1-0 (0-0) 2; Bitzer 5-4 (3-5) 25; Johnson 0-2 (2-2) 8; Jackson 1-0 (0-0) 2; Richardson 1-1 (0-0) 5; Kemp 1-0 (0-0) 2; Koch 5-0 (1-2) 11; Kuhl 1-0 (0-0) 2; VanHoost 2-0 (0-0) 4; VanBever 0-0 (2-2) 2. **TOTALS** - 17-7 (8-11) 63.



CASS CITY'S Cameron Lautner beats the Patriot defense for an easy basket during Friday's battle of the unbeaten in Sebewaing.

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North Huron whips Bulldogs

At the halfway point of the North Central Thumb League campaign, the race for the North Division title remains wide open.

Owen-Gage made room at the top of the conference standings last Tuesday, as North Huron improved to 4-3 in league play with a 74-53 drubbing of the visiting Bulldogs.

Owen-Gage, also 4-3 in conference tilts, has now dropped 3 of their last 4 outings following a 4-game win streak. Coach Arnie Howard's cagers, who were scheduled to meet Memphis Tuesday night, are hoping to get back on track and will travel to face Dryden Friday for the second time this season.

After trading points in the early going, the Warriors took control of the game and entered the second quarter in front, 21-11.

The hosts then extended their advantage to 43-23 by the half as they

were able to beat the Bulldog press for several easy baskets.

Down by 20 points, Owen-Gage used a pair of treys from Brent Reil and Brandon Dubs after the break to slice into the Warrior margin and closed to within 57-42 entering the final 8 minutes. However, North Huron outscored their guests 17-11 to the final whistle for the easy win.

Eric Zaleski and Josh Howard split 22 markers to pace Owen-Gage, while Dubs added 10.

Mitch Dhyse recorded a game-high 18 points for North Huron, who had

Eric Neumayer with 16 points and David Navock with 13.

BASKETBALL STANDINGS

GREATER THUMB WEST			
Team	W	L	W L
USA	4	0	8 0
Cass City	3	1	8 1
Reese	3	1	4 4
BCAS	1	2	6 2
Valley Lutheran	1	2	1 8
Lakers	0	3	3 7
Bad Axe	0	3	0 8

GREATER THUMB EAST			
Team	W	L	W L
Brown City	4	0	8 1
Sandusky	3	1	6 3
Ubyly	2	1	5 4
Harbor Beach	1	2	5 4
Marlette	1	2	5 3
Mayville	1	2	3 6
Deckerville	0	4	1 8

NCTL NORTH			
Team	W	L	W L
Owen-Gage	4	3	5 4
North Huron	4	4	4 4
Caseville	2	5	2 6
Port Hope	1	6	2 6
Akron-Fairgrove	0	7	0 8

NCTL SOUTH			
Team	W	L	W L
Kingston	8	0	10 0
CPS	6	1	8 2
Peck	3	2	3 4
Memphis	4	2	4 4
Dryden	3	4	3 5

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Mulligan's	12
Pigeon 1	10
Pigeon 2	9

*Winner of first half.

Read Meg's Peg

OWEN-GAGE - Reil 2-0 (2-2) 6; Dubs 3-1 (1-1) 10; Dronsella 1-1 (0-0) 5; Howard 3-0 (5-7) 11; Rogers 0-0 (3-4) 3; Zaleski 5-0 (1-2) 11; Champagne 1-0 (0-3) 2; Gaeth 0-1 (2-2) 5. **TOTALS** - 15-3 (14-21) 53.

NORTH HURON - LesPerance 2-0 (0-2) 4; K. Dhyse 1-0 (2-2) 4; M. Dhyse 5-1 (5-9) 18; Pedler 0-1 (0-0) 3; E. Neumayer 8-0 (0-2) 16; B. Neumayer 4-0 (0-1) 8; Empkie 0-0 (2-2) 2; Schmidt 3-0 (0-0) 6; Navock 6-0 (1-2) 13. **TOTALS** - 29-2 (10-20) 74.

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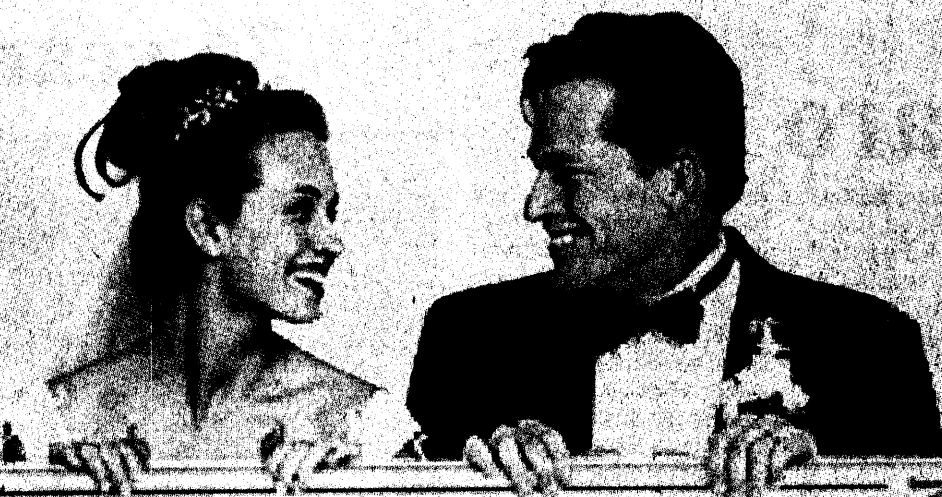
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This Week's Forecast	John Haire	Clarke Haire	Tom Montgomery	Doug Hyatt
	<p>Tuesday, January 24 Mayville at Bad Axe Bridgeport at USA Dryden at Akron-Fairgrove Kingston at Caseville Owen-Gage at Memphis Harbor Beach at Cass City North Huron at Peck</p> <p>Friday, January 27 BCAS at Bad Axe Reese at Cass City Ubyly at Marlette Mayville at Harbor Beach Deckerville at Sandusky Akron-Fairgrove at Peck Caseville at CPS Owen-Gage at Dryden North Huron at Kingston Bridgeport at Caro</p> <p>Last week's results Season's results</p>	<p>Mayville USA Dryden Kingston Owen-Gage Cass City North Huron</p> <p>BCAS Cass City Ubyly Harbor Beach Sandusky Peck CPS Owen-Gage Kingston Bridgeport</p> <p>10-2 59-13 (82%)</p>	<p>Mayville USA Dryden Kingston Memphis Cass City Peck</p> <p>BCAS Cass City Ubyly Harbor Beach Sandusky Peck CPS Owen-Gage Kingston Bridgeport</p> <p>10-2 58-14 (81%)</p>	<p>Mayville USA Dryden Kingston Owen-Gage Cass City North Huron</p> <p>BCAS Cass City Ubyly Harbor Beach Sandusky Peck CPS Owen-Gage Kingston Bridgeport</p> <p>7-5 55-17 (76%)</p>



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JAY AND VICTORIA Smith in 1955.

-50 years-

Victoria Maxine Kappen and Jay Lee Smith were married July 23, 1955 in Mt. Clemens. They celebrated their 50th anniversary last July by spending a weekend with their children and grandchildren at Smith's cottages in Caseville.

Their children are Kim Smutek, and sons Kelly (wife Kelly Ann Pobanz) and Kevin.



JAY AND VICTORIA Smith today.

**Music:
DJ or
band?**

Every couple wants their wedding to be perfect. From choosing the right wedding dress to making the guests comfortable to picking the right menu at the reception, choices have to be made at seemingly every turn. And music for your wedding is no exception. This decision essentially comes down to choosing a DJ or a band for the wedding reception. Both a DJ and a band come with their advantages and disadvantages. To help you make a more informed decision, here are some things to consider:

•**Price:** If you're worried about how to afford the music, you might want to go with a DJ. DJ's are almost always less expensive than a live band. The asking price for a DJ might start out around \$1,000 for a typical four-hour reception. If the DJ has a stronger reputation and is known to involve audiences more, this price can double. Meanwhile, most bands can command between \$2,500 to \$5,000 for the same four-hour period. Plus, with a DJ, you'll only need to provide a courtesy meal for one or two people. A band can have five or more players. That adds up to more out-of-pocket expenses.

•**Length of the wedding:** Most receptions last in the neighborhood of four hours, which can be a long time for a band to keep up a full head of steam. They may supplement with pre-recorded

Turn to page 8

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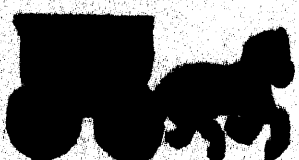


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Town and Country Bridal

National acclaim for Caro firm



A DEDICATED STAFF is credited by owner Laura Polega for the success of Town & Country Bridal. From left, Mary Jo Shelson, Kristie White, Lori Weinlander, Polega, Mandy Jickling, Cara Fisch and Katie Churchill.

Town and Country Bridal, 200 North State Street, Caro, last year celebrated its 10th anniversary and because it has prospered in rugged economic conditions it was selected for a feature story in the November/December issue of a national publication, The Bridal & Wedding Business Journal.

Laura Polega, owner, the article says, has developed the "right strategies for home-grown success and proven that running a business in a small market doesn't necessarily equate to limited potential."

Polega believes that a changing consumer mindset has helped the business grow. In recent years she has observed people are coming back to shop in small town downtowns, especially for specialty merchandise.

Town & Country Bridal stresses service that it can and does deliver - personal service that is missing in chain-type stores. Polega also points out in the

story that in a rural area you have cost conscious shoppers who are getting the most for their money so we have to sell our product and ourselves rather than being focused on giving the best deal.

Four years ago Polega expanded the business into an adjoining space and opened a casual clothing store. That part of the business was phased out and now the 2,800-square foot space is devoted to bridal.

The national publication says that Town & Country Bridal credits its success to a stellar staff, service and stamina.

Business comes from the tri-county area and from Saginaw, Bay City and Detroit.

Polega expects her business to continue to grow. Her business philosophy is simple, the magazine reports. "Prove to each and every customer that comes in that they are special, and that they will be taken care of as if they are the only bride that we have."



JAMES AND JOYCE Turner in 1969.



JAMES AND JOYCE Turner today.

Joyce Nicholas and James Turner were married in St. Pancratius Church, Aug 2, 1969. Father Peter Pijanapples officiated.

The couple has 3 children, Laura (Brian Bish) Grand Rapids, Kristi Turner in Chicago and Nicholas, a junior at Grand Valley State University in Allendale.

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DJ or band?

Continued from page 7

music during breaks. If you know your reception might run longer than that, perhaps a DJ is the way to go.

•Size of the reception hall: Many times the size of the reception hall can help make the decision of a band versus DJ easier for you. Some reception halls aren't quite big enough to hold a band and a dance floor. Such halls may also restrict the type of music that can be played as well.

•Atmosphere: The degree of formality of a wedding can also dictate which way to go. If you're getting married a little later in life and your guest list is older, then a band is likely the way to go. But if you're getting married in your 20s and your guest list is made up mostly of people of a similar age, then a DJ can be a more fun and suitable option for you and your guests.

•Talk to the DJ/Bandleader: A good DJ or bandleader can be the emcee of a reception. On the other end of the spectrum, a less-than-personable DJ or bandleader can bring down the mood of what is supposed to be a fun night. Interview a DJ about his music selection and his overall attitude during a performance. To see what a bandleader might be like, ask him about his

schedule and try to catch his band's performance at another wedding. You can also ask married friends

about bands or DJs they might have used.

There are also many types of bands you can choose from. A band known as a "General Business" band, for instance, is typically very versatile, capable of playing several different styles of music. If your wedding will have a particularly ethnic flavor, there are also numerous bands catering to every ethnicity imaginable.

•Decide early on: The type of music will likely have to be one of the first decisions you make with regards to your wedding. This is thanks to talented bands or DJs being in high demand come wedding season. Oftentimes, a DJ or a band will have their schedule booked at least a year in advance, meaning you need to know far ahead of time which route you want to take.

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-36 years-



TERRY AND DEB Kosto in 1969



TERRY AND DEB Kosto today.

Terry and Deb Kosto were married Sept. 20, 1969, at the Fairgrove Presbyterian Church.

Married for 36 years, they have 2 children.

Plan for trouble-free wedding

To help you get a better understanding of how to plan a wedding and when you should be making certain decisions, here's a timeframe you can follow that should ensure that your wedding goes off as smoothly as possible.

10 to 12 Months Before

If you haven't done it already, this is a good time to announce your engagement and introduce your respective families. Since most reception halls and churches have busy wedding schedules, it is also important to book both as early as possible, preferably at least a year in advance of your wedding day. It's also a good idea to start putting together a guest list around this time and ask your parents whom they'd like to invite as well. Also, since your budget will determine just about every aspect of your wedding, sitting down and determining what you can spend, and developing a savings plan should be first and foremost.

6 to 9 Months Before

This is the time when you want to start booking some services, such as a florist, caterer, a DJ/band, and a photographer. However, some of the more experienced DJs and bands as well as photographers might have their schedules booked a year in advance, so this might be something you'll want to consider doing shortly after you get engaged and choose a date. Also, this is a good

time to inform any guests who will be traveling significant distances of the date of your wedding. The earlier your guests can book a flight, the less expensive that flight will be.

This is also a good time to order gowns for both the bride and bridesmaids, as some manufacturers require a few months to ship to bridal shops. You might want to ask someone such as your priest or rabbi to be the officiant of your wedding. And much like out-of-town guests will save travel dollars the earlier they learn of your wedding date, you will likely save money, too, if you book your honeymoon around this time.

4 to 5 Months Before

This is a good time to decide on wedding invitations, of which there are many styles to choose from. Also, now is ideal to start hunting for a wedding cake by sampling a number of different bakeries and their style of cakes before ultimately making a decision. Just to be sure, confirm that all of the bridesmaids have ordered their gowns and start looking for a tuxedo for the groom as well as the groomsmen. If you haven't done so already, purchase your wedding rings and let any other people you'd like to participate in your wedding (ushers, readers during the ceremony, etc.) know of your intentions.

2 to 3 Months Before

Finalize your guest list and mail out your invitations. If your guest list includes a considerable amount of people who are spread out geographically, mail the invitations as close to 12 weeks in advance as possible. This is also a good time to finalize your menu choices for your guests, and find all your wedding accessories such as the ring pillow, candles, etc. Also, since it is tradition to provide gifts for those in the wedding party as well as the parents of the bride and groom, this is a good time to decide on

and purchase those gifts. Just to be safe, confirm that all groomsmen have ordered their tuxedos and finalize all transportation, both to and from the wedding and to the airport for your honeymoon.

1 to 2 Months Before

Schedule the first bridal-gown fitting. Also finalize the readings you'd prefer during the ceremony and mail them out to anyone who has agreed to do a reading. If your family prefers to host a small gathering for close family and friends after the wedding rehearsal, the night before the wedding, this is a good time to order any food or

serve that night, or make a restaurant reservation.

3 to 4 Weeks Before

Confirm your honeymoon arrangements and see if your wedding rings are ready. This is also when you should get your marriage license and check the guest list to see who has and hasn't RSVP'd. For those who have yet to RSVP, you might want to contact them so you can get a closer idea of what the head count will be. You should also prepare and order your wedding program around this time.

1 to 2 Weeks Before

Get a final attendance count and submit it to the caterer as soon as you know of it, while also providing a final seating chart. Pick up the wedding gown and tuxedo. Make sure the wedding party picks up their attire. Also, finalize your vows and confirm all wedding-day details such as transportation, photo schedules, and addresses. And don't forget to pack for your honeymoon.

The Day Before

This is mainly when you rehearse for the ceremony and make any final confirmations you might have to make. Also, make sure to get some sleep so you'll look good in all of your wedding-day photos.

-60 years-



DICK AND CHRIS Erla in 1946.



DICK AND CHRIS Erla today.

The Erlas celebrated 60 years of marriage Jan. 19. The couple met in San Diego while in the U.S. Navy during World War II and were married in Imlay City.

They have 3 children, Yvonne LeValley and Richard Jr., and a son who is deceased. Erla is retired from Erla's, Inc. where he was a co-owner.

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Consider whole picture for wedding hairdos

When couples go over their list of priorities for wedding planning, their appearance probably ranks very highly among other items such as booking the ceremony, finding a reception site and picking out wedding bands. While attire that fits your frame and personality can enhance your best assets, also keep in mind that the right wedding-day hairstyle is key to completing the look.

For help finding the right style, consult a professional stylist who has years of experience creating beautiful wedding-day looks. To get you started, here is some advice from Damian Carney, international artistic director of hair-product manufacturer Joico, who offers these

dos and don'ts for wedding day style.

DO consider the entire picture, which includes a style that fits the theme of your wedding and is cohesive with the rest of your look. When you've come up with a theme — i.e. classic, contemporary, casual, etc. — discuss your plans with your stylist. He or she can suggest hairstyles that will complement the theme you'd like to achieve.

DON'T feel you have to emulate everything you see in bridal magazines. If the look of the moment is free-flowing tresses, but you prefer a sleek, tight bun, go with what you like. Your stylist can offer variations, such as escaped tendrils or pins and

other accessories to add distinct appeal.

DO highlight your personality. Although you want to look radiant and special on your wedding day, don't wear a hairstyle that isn't "you." In other words, if you're known for your pixie cut, don't feel the need to grow out your locks just because you'll have more style possibilities. Similarly, don't fight what nature gave you. Embrace your ringlet curls, rather than trying to flatten them out for your wedding. Understandably, you will want to look special on your wedding day, but take care to ensure that you are recognizable when you walk down the aisle.

DON'T compete with your gown. The lines and flow of your gown should be paralleled with the lines of your hairstyle. A simple, sheath gown works well with a tailored upswept chignon, while a princess gown with lots of tulle may work better with long, cascading waves.

DO practice your look prior to your wedding. Set up a rehearsal with your stylist and finalize your style. Take a photo so that he or she will have it for reference. This is your big day, so don't be afraid to voice your opinion and say what works for you and what doesn't. Ultimately, styling decisions are up to you, so don't feel pressured to go the way your stylist suggests.

DON'T leave your wedding day hairdo to chance. The right products, like those from Joico, can help keep your style looking beautiful throughout the day, with minimal retouching.

DO make sure the groom-to-be takes grooming and haircare seriously as well. A haircut and style schedule a few weeks prior to the wedding will ensure his hair is in prime shape for wedding photo opportunities.



JOHN AND MARGIE Zawilinski in 1943.

Margie Peters and John Zawilinski were married June 5, 1943 in St. Ignatius Catholic Church. He was serving at

—62 years—



JOHN AND MARGIE Zawilinski today.

Camp Clairborne, La.

The couple has 6 children, 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Relax and ponder

Pre-wedding jitters common

You are about to take the plunge. You should be a glowing bride, but instead you are breaking out into a cold sweat. You are panicky about more than just whether the flowers will look right and if your mom or your mother-in-law will do anything to embarrass you on your big day. You are worrying about your spouse-to-be. Can you live with the fact that he can't be interrupted during a baseball game or how he leaves water all over the bathroom sink? Are you ready to spend the rest of your life with the same person?

Relax! Pre-wedding jitters are common among those about to get hitched. Occasionally, there are real reasons to call off a wedding. But more often than not, it's just a case of cold feet. What should you do? First, go to a quiet place to think. Do some deep breathing, and get in touch with your emotions. Ponder things like:

- What you enjoy most about your spouse-to-be
- The moment you knew you wanted to spend the rest of your life with him/her
- What you look forward to during your marriage
- Couples who have been married for years as a source of inspiration
- Changes in your partner.

Things like less bedroom activity or petty annoy-

ances like the fact that he didn't empty the dishwasher this morning are related to wedding-planning stress. However, if your partner is really acting in a way or doing things you don't like or didn't know about him, such as abusing drugs or alcohol,

Most likely, you are both having the same jitters. If

you have time, arrange a romantic evening with your partner that is free of talks about florists and photographers and away from both of your mothers! It will ease the stress and reaffirm the reasons why you are getting married in the first place.

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Owendale Special! Immediate occupancy. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, extra nice size kitchen and dining area. 2 car attached garage plus workshop on 4 lots with fruit trees. \$79,900. TO711

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\$64,900! That's the price for a 5 bedroom older home. The cool part is the newer kitchen, bath and tear-off roof. Energy efficient with wood burning heat. Country location on 1.5 acres to call your own. Ask to see CC-550

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Sales Associate
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Lola Osentoski Flores
Sales Associate
872-3942

Barb Osentoski
Associate Broker
672-7777

Lee LaFave
Sales Associate
665-2295

Roger Pohlod
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Located on #1 Green in Gageton! Yes, this 3 bedroom ranch home includes family room w/fireplace, screened-in room off dining room, recreation room. 2 car garage beautifully landscaped yard and lots more. \$169,900. TO710

Immediate Possession! Nestled on the hill just east of Mulligan's Irish Links Golf Course. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room, living room, nice size kitchen & dining area, over-size deck, facing number 2 green. Price also includes 2 car garage, storage shed, stove, refrigerator and all window treatments. \$99,900. TCC1465

Homes Under \$75,000

C-531 - 2,400 sq. ft., full basement, \$36,500
CCT-328 - 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, newer roof, \$69,900
CCT-330 - 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, newer windows & siding, \$73,000
CCT-340 - 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, appliances stay, \$68,900
CCT-341 - 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, many new features, \$74,900
CCT-344 - 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, new roof, \$56,900
CCT-352 - 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, deck, \$69,900
CCT-353 - 2/3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1 car garage, \$69,900

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Card of Thanks
THE FAMILY OF Harold Koch wish to thank family and friends for their prayers, cards, memorials, food and kind expressions of sympathy. A special thank you to Rev. Meyer for his comforting words and the Ladies of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the meal served. Also, Gageton Funeral Home for kindness shown. We appreciate you all. Thank you and God bless you all. 13-1-25-1

Price Reduced! Country style home on the edge of Cass City. Home features 3 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Florida room, nice size kitchen and 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

New on the Market! 3 bedroom Cape Cod style home on 2 acres with a park-like setting. Located just south of M-81 & M-53 corner. Natural gas heat, full basement, mostly finished. Home built in the 60s but has been completely updated. 2 - 1 1/2 car garages. Call today! Cy2481

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