

Sanilac deputies have suspects in Snover break-in

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Walk-in flu clinics scheduled in Tuscola

Page 4

Red Hawk wrestlers, cagers, ready for season

Sports, pages 6 and 7

# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 100, NUMBER 36

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2006

FIFTY CENTS

14 PAGES PLUS 2 SUPPLEMENTS



CASS CITY'S PARK facilities are typically deserted and covered with snow this time of year, but a string of mild days has lengthened the season for some, including Kaitlyn Reed, 2, and Ryker Brenizer, 4, the children of Angel Pena of Cass City. Also pictured is 17-year-old Danielle Reed, who was babysitting the children over the weekend. Forecasters are calling for a big dip in temperatures later this week.

## Council reviews '07 budget

The Cass City Village Council Monday presented portions of a \$4.5 million-plus 2007 Proposed Operating Budget with little discussion during its regular meeting.

Neither the handful of residents on hand nor the council offered comments on the spending plan that has proposed General Fund revenues in 2007 at \$1,354,395, nearly \$38,000 less than in 2006. General fund expenditures are set at \$1,353 million, or

about \$37,000 more than anticipated by the end of the current fiscal year.

Changes that will affect budgeting in 2007 include a 2% pay increase for full-time employees ranging from \$15.13 - \$32.61 per hour. Councilmen Dwight Thabet added that the village fee schedule is being updated, including swim lessons and season passes for the Helen Stevens Memorial Pool. Officials estimate next year's tax rate will remain the same as in 2006 at

18.1387 mills.

Village president, Bert Althaver, encourages the public to review all of the council's budget proposals before the Public Hearing date for approval of the 2007 Budget and Millage rates slated for Monday, Dec. 11 at 7:15 p.m.

Also Monday, the council approved an amendment to the zoning ordinance to allow residential use of the ground, or first floor, of any new or existing building structure in the B-1 Community Business District. The intent of the amendment is to provide a residential presence in the downtown area on a 24-hour basis and to improve the economic well being of the community.

Also Monday the council approved policy and procedure for use of the village credit cards and approved a resolution amending the village's Cafeteria Plan.

Councilman Don Richards comment that the cards shall be limited to the established criteria and "be used only as a last resort."

The council, as required by law, encourages its members to be "Better Every Day". Hudson likes that idea, but she also appreciates the corps' friendliness - something she saw in action on the first day of her weekend audition camp in Milwaukee.

Please turn to page 11.

## Christmas celebration coming in Cass City

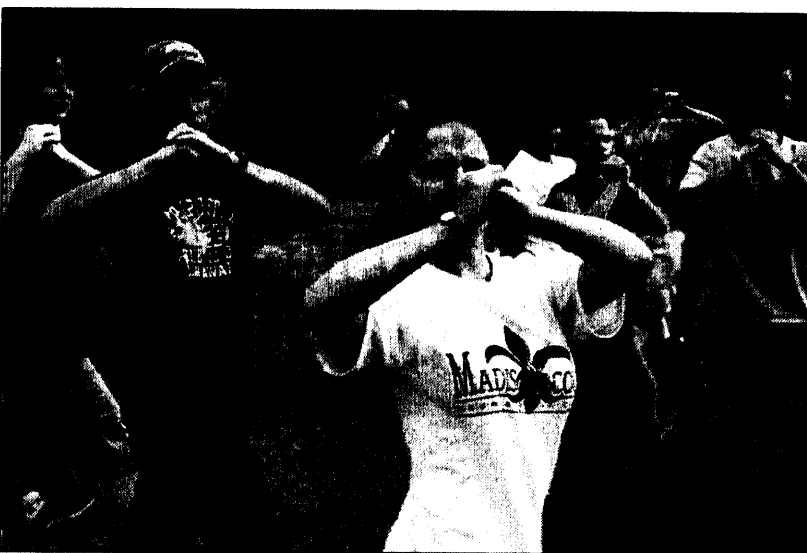
From a large craft show to a chili cook-off showdown to Santa's grand arrival, Cass City's annual "Christmas in the Village" celebration offers something for the entire family.

A host of events are planned for Saturday, according to new Cass City Chamber of Commerce Administrator Dee Mulligan.

"The day begins with a huge craft show at the middle school, running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.," Mulligan said. "Also at 10 a.m., Rawson Memorial Library will be hosting a free kids' craft activity for children ages preschool through 9 years old." During the event, kids will be decorating cookies and a box, and they are asked to pre-register by calling the library at 872-2856.

For area chili connoisseurs, there will be the annual chili cook-off, and visi-

Please turn to back page.



LAUREN HUDSON, 17, of Cass City, pictured above rehearsing with the Cass City High School Marching Band, will spend the coming summer touring and performing across the country with the Pioneer Drum and Bugle Corps. Her last stop will be in August, when she will perform with the corps during the Drum Corps International World Championships at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

## Drum corps summer Cass City teen lands spot with world class Pioneer

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

High school marching band camp will never be the same for 17-year-old Lauren Hudson, a junior at Cass City High School.

Hudson, who plays trombone and baritone, recently auditioned for and won a spot with the Milwaukee, Wis.-based Pioneer Drum and Bugle Corps. Not bad, considering this was Hudson's first audition, and top-level drum and bugle corps such as Pioneer draw hundreds of young people to auditions each fall.

Pioneer is among a host of Division I drum corps located throughout the United States that spend their summers performing across the country, concluding with the world championships in August. The groups' members range in age from 14 to 21. Pioneer's motto focuses on encour-

aging its members to be "Better Every Day". Hudson likes that idea, but she also appreciates the corps' friendliness - something she saw in action on the first day of her weekend audition camp in Milwaukee.

"I guess you could say their whole family ideal. I know that Pioneer is more of a family-related corps - it's not so much about winning. It's about the members enjoying themselves as a family, enjoying the music and enjoying the (travel) across the country," she said.

Pioneer's roots date back some 50 years and the corps has won a host of Drum Corps Midwest and Drum Corp International Division II and Division III titles during that time.

Although similar to marching bands, drum corps are distinctly different in

Please turn to back page.

## 4 more teaching jobs slashed in Cass City

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

More than 100 people attended Monday night's brief Cass City Board of Education meeting, but only one resident quizzed school officials during the public comment period before the board approved a fifth round of cuts, eliminating 4 more full-time teaching jobs.

Parent Joe VanAuken asked if the board is continuing to explore other alternatives to cutting more jobs.

The board is looking at all of the options, replied board President Michelle Biddinger, who said one option now under consideration is a 7-period day.

"If you're going to add time to the day, that's fine, but don't add another hour" if that means another elective instead of devoting the additional time to class subjects students need, VanAuken said. "That's worthless."

VanAuken also asked if the board has further discussed privatizing services such as the kitchen and custodial department. Yes, Biddinger said. However, she added, those options aren't justified because they would cost more than the district is now paying.

VanAuken pointed out that Cass City Schools is losing students, and teaching jobs are being cut, and he asked if the board has looked at cutting administrative positions.

"The answer is yes, we're looking at everything," replied Biddinger. When former Campbell Elementary School Principal Jody Miklovic left, she noted his position was filled by former Assistant Principal Aaron Fernald, whose job was subsequently eliminated.

Finally, VanAuken questioned the board's exploration of students possibly being required to pay for bus transportation to and from school, and/or to participate in athletics. VanAuken said he understands the board's apprehension, given the fact that the district's athletic and other programs attract Schools of Choice students. He added, however, "You won't know until you do it."

Biddinger said projections indicate that Cass City will lose another 30 to 40 students next year, which has the board focused even more on not only attracting and keeping Schools of Choice students, but also retaining local students. "You lose 5 or 6 kids

- that's another teacher," she added.

School board budget committee member and Treasurer Danny Haag made the motion to eliminate the equivalent of one full-time middle school teacher, 2 high school instructors and one elementary school teacher, saying the cuts will save a

combined \$124,544.

The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous. Biddinger pointed out that the district's budget report must be filed with the state this week. "These are the cuts that have to be

Please turn to page 12.

## 20 positions eliminated Hospital announces restructuring plan

Hills & Dales General Hospital officials announced Monday that they are restructuring their operations in an effort to increase efficiencies and reduce the hospital's expense budget by some \$1.5 million dollars annually.

"As the economy in Michigan and our area has continued to struggle, we have seen a slow down in the number of people accessing our facility," said Mike Falatko, president and CEO.

"People, in uncertain times will often delay elective treatments and care. Plus, employment reductions at other businesses have resulted in people losing their health insurance coverage. This results in less utilization of health care services. In addition, our building project is allowing us to consolidate and gain efficiencies and we are taking advantage of that to streamline some of our func-

tions," Falatko added.

The restructuring is effective Dec. 2 and includes both management and front line positions. It will result in the reduction of hours in several full and part-time positions and the elimination of 13 positions at the hospital.

In addition, the hospital will discontinue its fitness operations in the Caro area, which will eliminate 7 positions.

"The physical therapy and outpatient rehabilitation operations at our Caro site will continue without any reductions or interruptions," said Falatko. "In fact, we continue to see strong growth in our Caro physical therapy operations and have actually been expanding positions there.

Unfortunately, we have not seen the strong enrollment and use of the fitness area that we needed to sustain

Please turn to page 12.

## Troopers harvest pot

Michigan State Police troopers harvested a big load of holiday green over the weekend, but it wasn't holly.

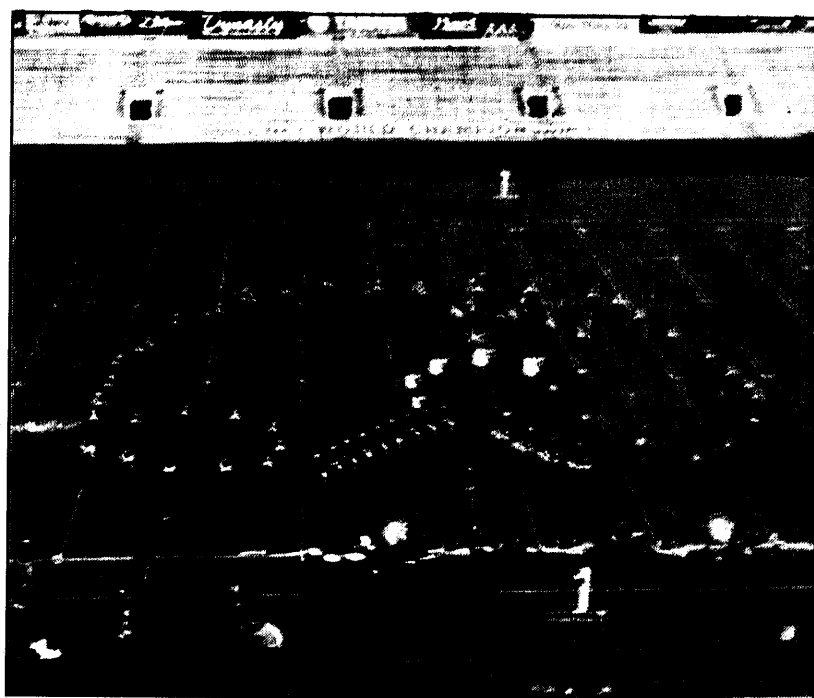
Troopers from the Caro post reported they were assisted by a farmer in harvesting 92 marijuana plants in Tuscola County's Fremont Township. The farmer was harvesting his corn when he discovered the plants.

Troopers said the marijuana was systematically planted throughout a field on O'Brien Road, between Leix and Chambers roads, and that the farmer advised them that he has seen

marijuana in the field before and was familiar with the plant's appearance.

The seized marijuana plants weighed a combined 75 pounds and have a street value of some \$75,000 based on estimates that one plant can typically produce one pound of marijuana and can sell for about \$1,000 per pound on the street.

Troopers reported the marijuana was cut and taken to the Caro post to be destroyed. An investigation into locating the individual(s) responsible for the illegal planting is continuing.



PIONEER IS A Division I (top-level) corps that will compete again next summer. The tour will conclude with world championships at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

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# Hymn sing set Dec. 3

The Cass City Ministerial Association is sponsoring a Christmas Community Hymn Sing Sunday, Dec. 3, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Cass City Missionary Church.

The church is located at 4393 Koepfgen Rd., one mile west of the

light in Cass City and a quarter-mile south of M-81.

A free-will offering will be taken and refreshments will follow the hymn sing. More information is available by calling 872-2729.



Kelley and John Trost

## Burk and Trost exchange vows

Kelley M. Burk of Cass City and John E. Trost of Pigeon were married Sweetest Day, Oct. 21, 2006 at the Cross Lutheran Church, Pigeon. Pastor Tom Zollman officiated the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Alfred and Susan Burk of Ubyly. The groom is the son of Henry and Barbara Trost of Pigeon.

The bride was given in marriage by her father.

She carried a bouquet of white roses tipped in baby blue. She wore a white spaghetti strap dress. The groom wore a black tux, silver vest and a black tie. The bridesmaids wore baby blue dresses and the groomsmen wore black tuxes, black vests and baby blue ties.

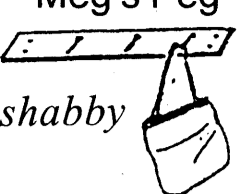
The maid of honor was Katie Moore of Snover, friend of the couple. The

bridesmaids were Samantha Quesnell of Monroe, Wis., cousin of the bride; Erica Becker of Caro, friend of the couple; and Liz Stoike of Grand Rapids, friend of the couple.

The best man was Corey Lawson of Gageton, friend of the groom. The groomsmen were Scott Henderson of Capac, brother of the bride; Matthew Cronk of Crystal Lake, Ill., friend of the bride; and James Trost of Grand Rapids, brother of the groom. The ring bearer was Corey Trost, nephew of the groom. Ushers were Jeffery and James Trost, brothers of the groom. Judy Gerisch was the organist.

The reception was conducted at Ubyly Heights Country Club, Ubyly. The couple honeymooned in Wisconsin and Iowa. They currently reside in Sanilac County.

**Meg's Peg**



*From lists to shabby sheiks*

by Melva E. Guinther

A feature article in a daily a while back told about a woman with the unusual hobby of collecting discarded shopping lists.

I've come across a few of those in shopping carts and parking lots, but it never occurred to me to save them.

One reason is that I suspect every shopper has his or her own shorthand system.

If this lady came across my recent list, she'd probably question "simp pot." Unless my list sits idle too long, I recognize it as Simply Potatoes, those wonderful hash browns I like too much.

At the same time, I wrote what looked like "for 1" on the list last week, and for the life of me, couldn't figure out what it meant. Formula 1? Forgo 1? Forklift? Forfeit? Foreign? 4 in one?

Items on grocery lists are often scratched down in haste, and if a person could remember everything needed from the store, she wouldn't need a list, would she?

I finally figured out that the item in question was "foil." The dot over the i had connected to resemble an r.

When my husband adds something to my grocery list, I inevitably have to ask him to decipher it. Sometimes he can't.

Misinterpretations can be funny. Even during the somber moments at the funeral home after my dad's death, my brother and I laughed uncontrollably when we read what looked like "Sick tree" on the tag of one of the memorials. (It actually was a silk tree.)

When I worked as a proofreader, it was often a challenge to read the handwriting when ads or articles were written in longhand. Even some of the beautiful script proved difficult.

Computers help a lot in that regard. Of course, the typist still has to hit

the right keys and avoid confusing sentences. Sometimes the simple arrangement of words makes a big difference.

Consider these items that appeared in various papers:

The license fee for altered dogs will be \$3 and for pets owned by senior citizens who have not been altered the fee will be \$1.50.

Dr. Porter visited the school and lectured on "Destructive Pests." A large number were present.

The ladies of the County Medical Society Auxiliary plan to publish a cookbook. Part of the money raised will go to Samaritan Hospital to purchase a stomach pump.

The sewer expansion project is nearing completion but city officials are holding their breath until it is finished.

She speaks English without a trace of an accident.

Litvinenko had suffered heart failure and was heavily sedated as medical staff struggled to determine what had made him ill.

Free Puppies - Mother AKC German Shepherd, father Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

For Sale - Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica, 45 volumes, excellent condition. No longer needed. Got married last month. Wife knows everything.

Wedding Dress for sale - Worn once by mistake. Call Sophia.

Washer and Dryer for sale - Must sell. Joining nudist colony.

Big Moving Sale - Primitives, cottage furniture, shabby sheik... (Is there such a thing as a shabby sheik?)

### Calendar of Events

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

**Thursday, November 30**  
Soup-Sandwich-Pie Supper, 4 to 7 p.m., Cass City VFW Hall, 4533 Veterans Dr. Adults, \$5; children 5-12, \$3.50; under 5, free. Various soups, sandwiches and pies. Take outs available, 872-4933. Seniors' Lunch, noon, Shabbona United Methodist Church.

**Friday, December 1**  
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 2**  
Children's Story Time & Christmas Craft Activity, 10-11 a.m., Rawson Memorial Library. Call to register, 872-2856.

**Monday, December 4**  
Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Ubyly. For additional information, call Angela R. at (989) 658-2319.  
Novesta Township Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 5**  
Traveling Place for Peace, 10-2 p.m., Cass City United Methodist Church. For additional information, call (989) 325-0024.  
Heartland Hospice Grief Group meeting, 6:30 p.m., VFW Annex building, Cass City. For additional information, contact Laura Shannes at 1-877-486-6671.

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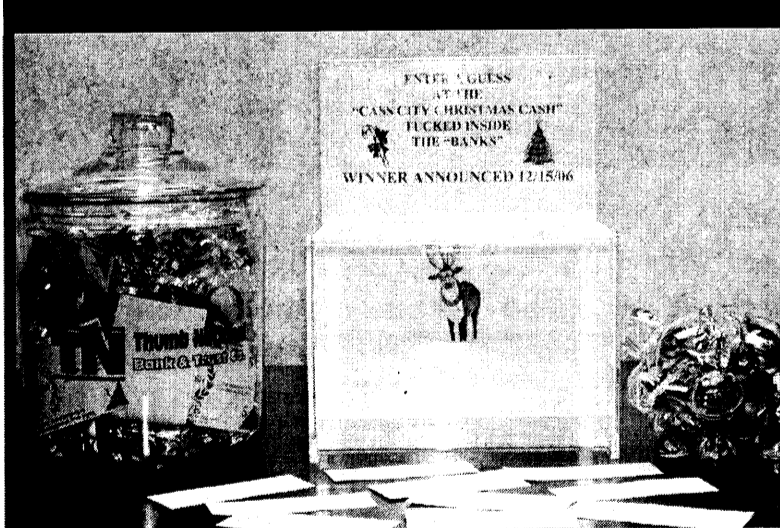
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## Rabbit Tracks

by John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

There was a traffic jam we experienced coming home from Thanksgiving Day at about 6 p.m. The jam was not on I-75 where traffic moved without interruption, but on M-83 at the Birch Run exit. Cars returning from Frankenmuth were backed up for better than 2 miles. The mass exodus didn't have much visible affect on the tourist Mecca. The streets were jammed and the parking lots full as we cruised through town.

\*\*\*\*\*

It's Santa letter time. As usual we will publish Santa letters free, along with a provided photo, preferably wallet sized. Letters must be signed and a phone number included so that we can contact you if necessary. The letters will be published in an issue before Christmas. Letters must be received on or before Thursday, Dec. 14.

\*\*\*\*\*

It goes against the grain to buy just plain water. After all, unless your free water supply is so tainted that it tastes like something rotten why pay for something that is available free? Speaking of bad-tasting water reminds me of the water available at a home on Tittabawassee Road, west of the river, before the area switched to its present source many years ago. Buying bottled water there would have been a godsend. Other than that, how can you beat the water from the flowing well on Cemetery Road, south of Elkton? You can't and it's free.

All of this prattling about water was churned up because Esther had to have a bottle of water at the Michigan State-Oakland basketball game Saturday. The cost? \$3.50 a bottle.

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### AFTERCARE PROGRAM FOR GRIEF COUNSELING

The first Tuesday of every month, at 6:30 p.m. in the V.F.W. Annex Building, 4530 Veterans Drive, Cass City (behind funeral home parking lot)  
Next meeting December 5<sup>th</sup>

We are now offering a grief counseling program for our area youth through young adults called **HEARTLAND KIDZ KLUB** for the kids. We will be doing activities that involve •Painting •Crafts •Games •Etc. Please wear appropriate clothing..  
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### With Ideas For Feature Stories

**Cass City Chronicle** Nov. 29, 2006

5-Day Local Forecast	In-Depth Local Forecast	Upcoming Moon Phases																																																
<p><b>Wednesday</b> Scat'd T-storms High: 57 Low: 41</p> <p><b>Thursday</b> Rain/Snow High: 43 Low: 32</p> <p><b>Friday</b> Mostly Cloudy High: 37 Low: 25</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> Mostly Cloudy High: 34 Low: 24</p> <p><b>Sunday</b> Mostly Cloudy High: 34 Low: 21</p>	<p>Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms, possibly a record high temperature of 57°, humidity of 94% and an overnight low of 41°. The record high temperature for today is 56° set in 1962. The record low is 0° set in 1955. Thursday, skies will remain mostly cloudy with a 40% chance of rain and snow.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">                   Full 12/4    Last 12/12    New 12/20    First 12/27             </p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunrise/Sunset Times</b></p> <p>Sunrise today ..... 7:43 a.m. Sunset tonight ..... 4:58 p.m.</p>																																																
<p><b>Last Week's Local Almanac</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: 0.8em;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Day</th> <th>High</th> <th>Low</th> <th>Normals</th> <th>Precip</th> <th>Precipitation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>37</td> <td>25</td> <td>42/29</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>43</td> <td>25</td> <td>42/29</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td>0.65"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday</td> <td>48</td> <td>27</td> <td>41/29</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td>-0.65"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>52</td> <td>23</td> <td>41/28</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td>39.3°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>54</td> <td>25</td> <td>40/28</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td>34.5°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>54</td> <td>34</td> <td>40/28</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td>+4.8°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>55</td> <td>48</td> <td>39/27</td> <td>0.00"</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Data as reported from Bad Axe, Michigan © 2006 Accessweather.com, Inc.</p>			Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation	Monday	37	25	42/29	0.00"	0.00"	Tuesday	43	25	42/29	0.00"	0.65"	Wednesday	48	27	41/29	0.00"	-0.65"	Thursday	52	23	41/28	0.00"	39.3°	Friday	54	25	40/28	0.00"	34.5°	Saturday	54	34	40/28	0.00"	+4.8°	Sunday	55	48	39/27	0.00"	
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## Sanilac deputies nab 2 suspects in recent party store burglary

Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies Monday reported the arrests of 2 men suspected in the breaking and entering of a Snover party store earlier this month. Detective Sgt. Jim Johnson of the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department Detective Bureau said Deputy Greg Barker responded to a reported breaking and entering of the R & R Party Store, 4506 W. Sanilac Rd., Nov. 13. He arrived to find the front door of the business pulled open by force, and that liquor and tobacco products had been stolen. "A video camera caught the male suspect on tape and was used in identifying one of the suspects involved," Johnson said. "Follow-up investigation by Deputy Barker and the detectives bureau led to the issuance of a search warrant for a residence in the 1500 block of Main Street in Snover. Investigators were able to execute the search war-

rant on Wednesday, Nov. 22," he continued. "Several items that had been taken from the party store were recovered and interviews resulted in a second subject being involved. Johnson said Barker will be seeking warrants for 2 Snover men on charges related to the store break-in. "Both men believed to be involved were arrested by officers for charges not related to the store break-in," Johnson said. "One was transported back to the Sanilac County Sheriff's Office for booking on those non-related charges, and the second man was turned over to the Tuscola County Sheriff's (Department) on separate warrants held by them." Johnson said deputies were assisted by members of the Sanilac County Drug Task Force. Area residents in Snover are also credited for helping law enforcement confirm the suspects' identity, he noted.

## The Haire Net

*A little of this and that*

*A little of this and that from the corner of Oak and Main streets. Activities in the passing parade probably without significant importance, but interesting to witness.*

There have been numerous reports of hunting success in the area, including some good size bucks. One nimrod reported seeing the largest deer of a lifetime, but didn't have a shot.

As a fisherman, I know that the biggest and best fish that got away always gains pounds and length with each telling of the tale. I'm guessing that it's the same for the hunters.

There's no disputing the fact that when the village took over, the decorations were installed on time as planned and sighs of relief wafted through the town's business places.

All of today's senior citizens have lived through remarkable changes sparked by the arrival of the computer, but their children and grandchildren seem destined to see changes that make the changes we have seen seem puny.

In the Detroit Free Press a story revealed that 7 countries, including the United States, are uniting to build a \$12.8 billion fusion reactor in France that is expected to replace 10% to 20% of the world's energy. Don't junk your oil furnace just yet. Authorities estimate that the fusion center will be ready for demonstration by 2040.

Again this year, the trend to celebrate the commercial aspects of the Christmas season earlier and earlier continued. Not too many years ago if the Main Street decorations were up by the Thanksgiving weekend it was hailed for its early completion.

This year, of course, they were going a week before the Thanksgiving holiday as they were in nearly all of the Thumb communities.

Two decades or so ago the decorations were not the responsibility of the village. Volunteers and businessmen spent the weekend erecting the decorations. When recalling the days when we were responsible, it always seemed to me that they were better and more attractive than today's. (Sort of like the huge fish and trophy deer that got away.)

Predicting changes in advance is risky business. In the early 1930s when airplane was in the midst of rapid development and increased use, one of the popular predictions was that by the end of the century airplanes would commonly have a spot in garages next to the family auto and be used much the same way.

No one predicted that before the end of the century a man would walk on the moon.

## The back forty by Roger Pond

Talk about grinches! Here's a news story saying folks shouldn't give pets as presents, especially Christmas presents. Animal welfare professionals suggest giving someone a pet for Christmas is like tossing them a grenade without the plug. "Don't even think about putting a puppy or kitten under the tree," these experts recommend. "Instead, purchase and wrap the items the new pet will need for its arrival."

These experts suggest buying doggie toys, leashes, collars, and food dishes for puppies. For a kitty, we are supposed to buy scratching posts, litter boxes, litter, cat condos, and catnip toys. "Both will need brushes, combs, nail trimmers, and pet toothpaste," they say.

All of these items should be wrapped and placed under the tree. Then, the gift recipient is supposed to unwrap this stuff and embark upon a long and intensive search for the perfect pet. That might work for some folks, but it won't work for me. I don't have the patience for that kind of thing.

When I need puppies, I need puppies. I don't have time to search around for the perfect dog.

My cousin, Dean, is the same way. Dean acquired so many bird dogs years ago that he named one of them "Alimony". The situation wasn't that serious, but it gives an idea what can happen to a person.

I'm kind of skeptical about giving folks presents that lead to another

present. If I opened a box of dog brushes and nail trimmers, I'd think, "Well, this takes the cake. I ask for puppies, and all I get is dog hair."

I'm reminded of the two little boys with widely divergent personalities. One boy was such a pessimist nothing seemed to make him happy, while his brother was wildly optimistic.

The kids' personalities were so extreme their parents worried about what to give them for Christmas. They knew the pessimist would be happy with anything, and the pessimist always thought his little brother got the best presents.

The boys' parents vowed this year the little pessimist the fanciest electric train set they could find, thinking this would make him happy.

Then, they found an old shoebox filled with horse manure, and wrapped it for the little pessimist. Maybe this would make him a little less exuberant?

On Christmas morning, the pessimist opened his train set and started to cry. He figured the train wouldn't work, and it was sure to break sooner or later. Nothing his parents said could cheer him up.

Then, the little optimist opened his box of horse manure and began running around the room shouting, "Oh boy! Oh boy! This is wonderful!" he said.

"There's gotta be a pony around here somewhere!"

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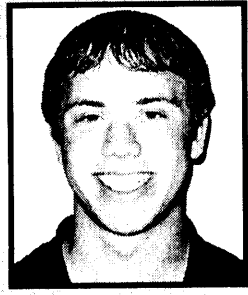
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## Red Hawk Talk

by Kyle Swanson

Ask any of the 6 students from Cass City High School that are involved in Future Youth Involvement what their favorite extra-curricular activities are and chances are that they will respond by telling you that FYI is at the top of the list.

Future Youth Involvement, also known as FYI, is the permanently endowed youth advisory committee to the Tuscola County Community Foundation. Youth from throughout Tuscola County come together with the goal of improving their community through community service and grantmaking.

I talked with Courtney Rabideau, vice president of the organization, who told me that FYI is a great way for her to get involved in her community. She said that the FYI group is currently working on several projects, from grantmaking decisions to planning its annual "Cardboard City Sleep-out."

Attendance Secretary Jill Dillon said that her favorite part about FYI is grantmaking. She told me that she likes to review the applications and to discuss the benefits and drawbacks of each application with other members. To date, FYI has given out over \$100,000 in grants.

Member Lukas Varney said he is currently working with some other FYI members to compile a "needs assessment survey." Varney explained that the survey serves as an evaluation of issues facing teens throughout the county and serves as

the primary tool in evaluating grants. He added that the group is also busy planning the annual Cardboard City Sleep-out event.

Kelli Lautner, also a member, said that she is busy working on the raffle for the Cardboard City Sleep-out. She told me that in addition to working on a raffle the group is also exploring the possibility of a luncheon on the day of the event.

All proceeds from the event would go to the Homelessness Endowment Fund of the Tuscola County Community Foundation. Funds are then endowed and the interest is granted out to interested groups that qualify and are working to improve conditions for the homeless or prevent homelessness.

Austin Babich, a new member to FYI, commented that although he hasn't actually attended a meeting yet, he has been talking to other members from Cass City about what is going on and that he is excited to attend his first meeting next week.

Whether through grantmaking, community service, or an event like the annual Cardboard City Sleep-out on the Caro Courthouse Lawn, members in the Future Youth Involvement group seem to be working hard to try to improve their community.

If you are interested in learning more about this group, please feel free to contact me or call the Tuscola County Community Foundation at (989) 673-8223.

# Walk-in flu clinics slated

Tuscola County Health Department officials are now scheduling walk-in flu clinics for anyone ages 19 and older who wishes to receive a flu shot.

Parents who would like to have their child (ages 6 months to 18 years) vaccinated are asked to call the health department at (989) 673-8114 (ext. 100) for an appointment.

The walk-in clinics are scheduled on the following days:

- \*Wednesday, Nov. 29, from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the health department.
- \*Thursday, Nov. 30, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. at the health department.
- \*Friday, Dec. 1, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. at the health department.
- \*Monday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Caro Church of the Nazarene.
- \*Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. at the health department.
- Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. at the health department.
- Thursday, Dec. 14, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. at the health department.
- Monday, Dec. 18, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. at the health department.

ment. The price of the vaccine is \$25.

Health department officials noted that Medicare Part B and Medicaid will be billed for those who have coverage. Those who are enrolled in a Medicare health plan should receive their flu shot at their doctor's office, as it may not be covered if they receive a flu shot at the health department. Those planning to attend are asked to bring any Medicaid or Medicare cards they have, including their Prescription Drug Plan card or Medicare Health Plan card.

Health officials say residents can take several steps to avoid getting the flu. They include:

- \*Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick, too.
- \*Stay at home when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.
- \*Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- \*Wash your hands often.
- \*Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touched their eyes, nose or mouth.

## Several appear in circuit court

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

\*James H. Carpenter Jr., 35, Otisville, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, July 12 in Millington Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case, bond was revoked and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

\*Troy R. Inches, 27, Tuscola, pleaded no contest to third degree home invasion July 29 in Dayton Township, and to being an habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued at \$50,000 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be set.

\*Jaime M. Surgent, 30, Vassar, pleaded guilty to assaulting a police officer and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor July 7 in Vassar.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$3,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

\*Marcos A. Garcia, 18, Caro, pleaded no contest to felonious assault June 13 in Caro.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$30,000. Sentencing is to be set.

\*Joey E. Staten, 39, Fairgrove, pleaded no contest to driving a motor vehicle while his license was suspended or revoked - causing serious injury Dec. 15, 2005, in Vassar Township, and to being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and the defendant was remanded to the Michigan Department of Corrections. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

\*Theodore G. Dorics, 60, Caro, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Aug. 5 in Caro, and to being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$1,000. Sentencing is to be set.

\*Steven W. Stratton, 28, Mayville, pleaded no contest to possession of a narcotic/cocaine (less than 25 grams) Dec. 6, 2005, in Mayville.

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

## OES meeting set

The next meeting of Kedron Chapter #33 O.E.S. will be Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Masonic Temple in Caro.

Members are suggesting that the women wear a long skirt and their favorite Christmas blouse, sweater, etc. Also, bring a \$1 gift for exchange in the dining room during the social time.

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# Local spelling bee winners



SEVENTH AND EIGHTH grade spelling winners are (from left) Jared Weidman (first place), Rob VanAuken (second place), Shannon Stec (third place), Jeff Bliss (fourth place) and Heather Sweeney (fifth place). They are also invited to participate in the K of C-sponsored spelling bee in January, and their prizes also included McDonald's gift certificates and Cass Theatre passes.



CASS CITY MIDDLE School fifth and sixth grade spelling bee winners are: (left to right) Kristen Ewald (second place), Mishelle Powell (fourth place), Larissa King (first place), Garrett Ferguson (fifth place) and Curtis Dickinson (third place). They are now invited to participate in the Knights of Columbus-sponsored competition in January. Their prizes, donated by the local K of C, included gift certificates from McDonald's and free passes to the Cass Theatre.

## Tilt honored by "Who's Who"

The national "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" organization has honored Cass City native Barbara (Merchant) Tilt with the inclusion of Tilt's biography in the 10th edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers"

The honor recognizes the difference Tilt has made in her students' lives, organization officials said.

Tilt, a veteran Unionville-Sebewaing Area (USA) School health teacher, has racked up a number of honors for her work in the classroom, focusing on encouraging her students to make positive choices in the area of risky behavior.

Her honors include being named the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and



Barbara Tilt

Dance Michigan Teacher of the Year. She was also recently selected to be a national speaker at the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Conference in Baltimore, Md., where she will speak on sex education and HIV/AIDS education in public schools in the spring.

## Down Memory Lane

By Harmony Doerr



### 5 YEARS AGO

TI Automotive has received supply contracts for brake and fuel-storage systems from 4 major auto manufacturers worth more than \$350 million over the lifetime of the awards. The contract awards are from Ford, Mazda, Volkswagen and Land Rover, according to William J. Laule, TI Automotive's chief executive officer. The newly awarded business includes: A contract with Ford Motor Company's European operations to serve as Ford's full-service supply development partner for brake and fuel-fluid handling systems; an agreement with Mazda in Hiroshima, Japan, to provide product development and production support through Sanoh, a Mazda supply partner; a supply contract with VW Group in Europe and South Africa for rigid and flexhose brake lines. Production on the components will begin in 2002 at TI Automotive facilities in Europe and South Africa; and a contract to provide Land Rover with totally integrated fuel systems for 2 models. The first major OEM contract involving TI's new "Ship-In-Bottle" (SIB) technology.

Construction crews are busy wrapping up interior work on the Northwood Meadows Assisting Living and Dementia Care facility in Cass City. The grand opening can't come soon enough for Administrator Cindy Doerr Joseph, whose enthusiasm was evident during a recent tour inside the 33,174-square foot senior living facility, located on a 6-acre site in the northwest corner of the village. "It's moving very fast. We're very much on track," Doerr Joseph said of the construction schedule, which initially estimated completion next April. "We are planning to open the first of January, and the dementia care unit is expected to open Jan. 15," she added. Freshman Craig Emmert, a native of Cass City, has helped Milligan College to a 3-1 start to the 2001-2002 season. Inserted into the starting lineup in only his second college game, Emmert has responded by scoring double figures in all of Milligan's games.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Fred Auten, Cass City, was astounded recently while attending a wedding on Huron Line Road. He was seated opposite a lady who lives in Wisconsin, but came to the wedding from New York City. She had no trouble finding where to go. She looked it up on the internet. The computer directed her not to Cass City but right to the home where the wedding was held. In addition, it outlined 3 different routes: the shortest, the easiest and the quickest. How that ever got on the computer is beyond me, Auten said. (From Rabbit Tracks)

It can take 10 or 12 years of traditional plant breeding to develop a plant with a specific genetic characteristic, whether it's good taste or resistance to disease. But biotechnology is much more selective and precise. Scientists no longer have to roll the dice to bring out a single desirable trait.

Ask Huron County Extension Director Bob Johnson about bundling up wheat and other grains exhibited for judging at 4-H shows, and chances are good he'll tell you it's a lost art of sorts. He's also likely to say that Wilfred Depcinski is keeping the art alive with skilled hands and love for 4-H. Depcinski, 73, began showing crops at the state fair in 1947 and he hasn't missed a year since. In the process, he has shared his knowledge and time with countless Huron County youth through the 4-H program. The retired farmer was among several 4-H leaders who were honored at the annual Huron County 4-H Leaders' Banquet, held earlier this month in Bad Axe. Depcinski, who has served 4-H for the past 55 years, started at the age of 18, when he helped take over the reins of the county livestock club. Two years later, in 1943, he played a key role in founding a new 4-H club.

### 25 YEARS AGO

The house that stood at the corner of Oak and Pine Streets for many years, recently purchased by the Pinney State Bank, was torn down last week to make way for a parking lot. The bank plans to build a drive-in facility in the lot next door, hence the need for the additional parking space.

Cass City High School student Rob Sutter will be one of only 1,000 students across the state to compete in part II of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition Contest (MPCC). He was one of 35 Cass City High School students to compete in part I of this test Oct. 19, which was administered at the school. Altogether, 23,707 students statewide took the test. He will be taking part II at the high school Wednesday of next week. The top 100 competitors in part II will be honored at a banquet at Central Michigan University in February.

Several \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to those who place the highest.

Bach will be back. This year's Village Bach Festival, the third annual, drew the largest turnout yet and means the event will return to Cass City Thanksgiving weekend of 1982. "Oh, sure," replied chairman Holly Althaver when asked if there would be a fourth annual event. "As far as I'm concerned there will be," conductor and music director Don Th. Jaeger responded when asked the same question. A total of 782 tickets were sold, according to Vicki Patrick of Ouvry Chevrolet-Olds, which handled ticket sales, 82 more than last year.

### 35 YEARS AGO

The problem of raising cash now to pay for the fire hall-township building under construction has been solved with the creation of the Elkland Township Building Authority. It was voted into existence at a special meeting of the Elkland township board Tuesday night, Nov. 23, after meeting with a representative of the Detroit bonding firm Miller, Canfield, Haddock and Stone. The financing of the fire hall was approved July 12 when township voters approved a 1 mill levy for five years to raise \$64,000. That money, however, will not be available to pay the bills now. The building authority will issue \$2 \$1000 bonds, which will be offered for public sale in about three or four months. The township had \$25,000 and will have collected \$12,000 from this year's tax by the time the bonds are issued, according to Art Randall, township treasurer.

How many firms in Cass City employ so many that everyone working doesn't know each other? Walbro and General Cable come immediately to mind. Perhaps Anrod Screen. There's one more that most of us wouldn't think of off the top of our heads. It's Hills and Dales General Hospital. I learned this last week when I took a picture of two employees and had the print identified at the hospital office. I learned after the paper came out that the wrong Carol was named. The real Carole as pictured is Carole Holland, a nurse's aide.

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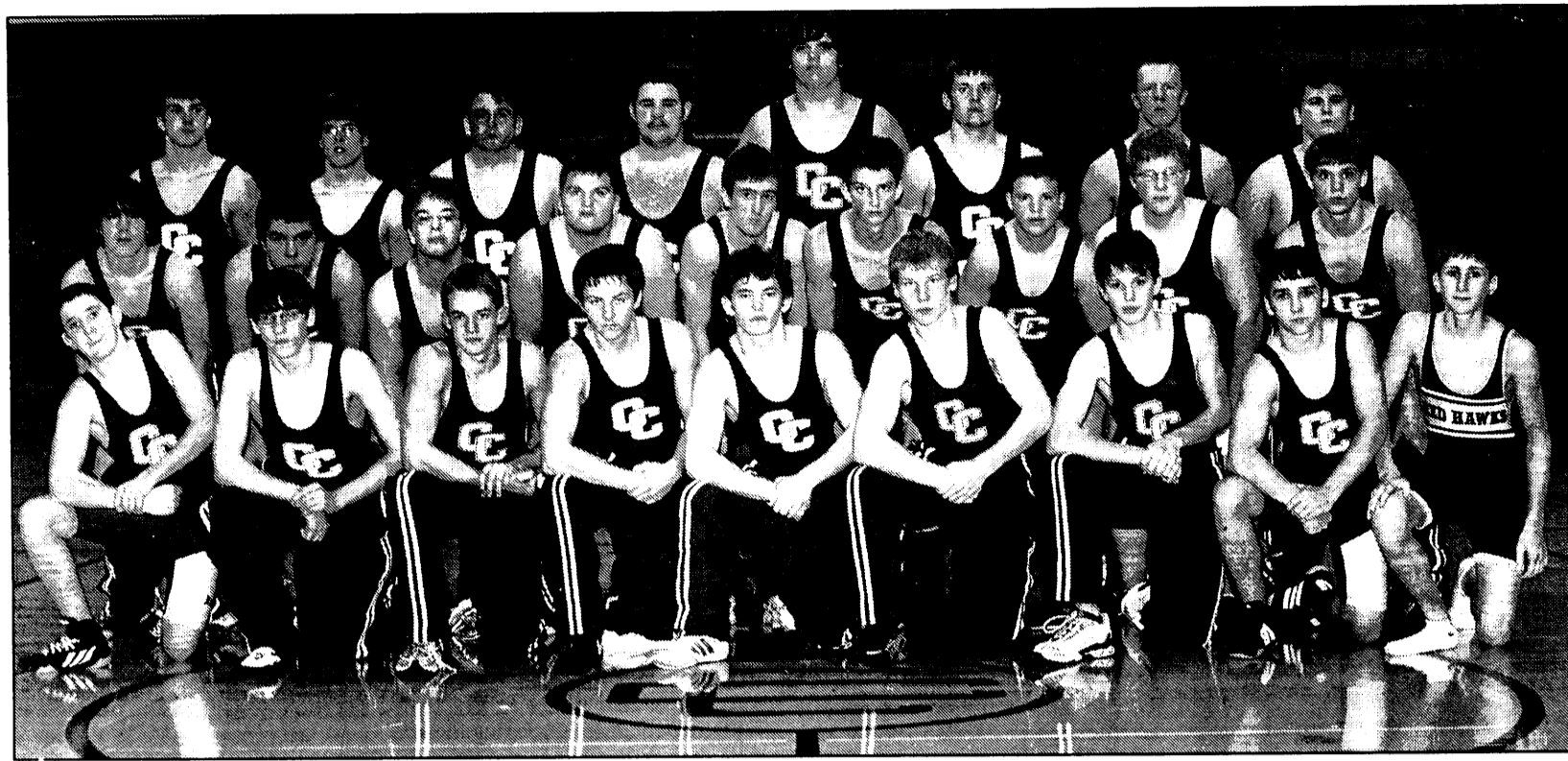
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<p><b>Cass City Church of Christ</b> 6743 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726 Contacts 872-2367 or 872-3136 Worship Service Sunday 11:00 a.m. &amp; 6:00 p.m. Bible Study Sunday 10:00 a.m. &amp; Wednesday 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> 6420 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 &amp; Bible Study, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. AWANA 6:45 p.m. Wednesdays Pastor: Eric Holmgren Website: www.fbccc.us</p>	<p><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. &amp; 10:45 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. &amp; 10:45 a.m. Youth Group &amp; Sunday Evening Services 6:00 p.m. Minister: Chuck Emmert Youth Minister: Brad Speirs Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org</p>	
<p><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 &amp; Bible Study &amp; Children's Activities 6:00 p.m. Pastor - Judy A. Esckilsen</p>	<p><b>First Presbyterian Church</b> <i>Barrier Free</i> 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</p>	<p><b>Potter's House</b> <b>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</p>	
<p><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 &amp; Youth Group 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m. Pastor - Bob Sweeney www.casscitymc.org</p>	<p><b>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</b> 6820 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726 872-2770 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Bible Class &amp; Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Gerald Meyer</p>	<p><b>St. Agatha Catholic Church</b> 4618 South St., Gageton, MI 48735 665-9966 Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.</p>	
<p><b>Cass City United Methodist Church</b> 5100 N. Cemetery Rd., P.O. Box 125, Cass City, MI 48726 872-3422 Worship: 8:30 &amp; 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</p>	<p><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</p>	<p><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</p>	
<p><b>THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HILLS AND DALES GENERAL HOSPITAL</b> CASS CITY, MICHIGAN</p> <p>Is soliciting interest from qualified individuals to fill two vacancies on its Board. The Board of Trustees is filling vacancies according to desired competencies. The Board is seeking individuals who have a demonstrated competency and track record in one of the following areas (listed in priority order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Quality Improvement (process, audit and personnel development)</li> <li>•Human Resources (compliance, regulation, benefits, compensation and team/leadership building)</li> <li>•Marketing/Public Relations (media interface and public image)</li> <li>•Strategic Planning</li> </ul> <p>Interested candidates should have a demonstrated history and track record in one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•corporate/non-profit or other organization experience</li> <li>•responsibility at a minimum of the middle management level</li> <li>•comfortable working in a policy oriented structure</li> <li>•a record of accomplishments as a professional</li> </ul> <p>If you are interested in serving an outstanding healthcare provider in the Thumb area and the residents of portions of Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties please forward a cover letter and resume to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hills and Dales General Hospital</b> 4675 Hill Street, Cass City, MI 48726 Attn.: Michael J. Falatko, President &amp; CEO</p>			<p><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</p>

*Vistors always welcomed ....  
Please join us today*



THE CASS CITY wrestling team members are: (front, l-r) Jeff Mulrath, Kevven Dorland, Bryan Burk, Tim Sangster, Jeremy Farr, Clark Walsh, Travis Mabe, T.J. Marker, Zach McCreedy (middle) Ken Grady, Michael Spencer, Travis Hoffman, Eli Kelley, Zach Carter, Dean Rabideau, Eric Reif, Clinton Ellis, Kyle Reif (back) Kyle Sieradzki, Guy Sommerville, Ryan King, Abe Swires, Lyle Hutchinson, Preston Stec, Dennis Bowen and Sam Patnaude.

## At Imlay City Hawk wrestlers ready to open season Thursday

The Cass City Red Hawk wrestling team will kick off the season Thursday at Imlay City and it should be a tough test for Cass City as the Spartans have one of the elite programs in the Thumb.

Coach Don Markel will be able to build around 3 returning regional qualifiers and 4 other wrestlers who placed in the Greater Thumb Conference last season.

Markel is starting his 22nd year at Cass City and has elevated the program in Cass City so that it ranks with the traditional Thumb wrestling powerhouses. His overall record is 304-190-2 and at Cass City 294-184-2.

The returning regional qualifiers are seniors. Jeremy Farr placed 4th in the GTC, posting a 32-28 record. Kyle Reif was second in the GTC with a season's record of 40-22. Kyle Sieradzki was a conference champion with a season's record of 52-7. The 52 wins established a new Red Hawk record.

Also counted on will be 4 wrestlers that placed in the GTC last season. They are: sophomore Travis Mabe, senior Andrew Peruski, senior Dennis Bowen and junior Ken Grady.

Markel feels that we will be battling again this season to find wrestlers in the middleweight classes. We will have several inexperienced wrestlers that will need to step into the varsity line-up and how quickly they improve

will be a determining factor in the success of this year's squad.

Again this season Markel will have a large squad to work with. It includes 17 letter winners.

With a solid core of seniors, Markel says that early season practices have been very good and if maintained will reap benefits as the season progresses.

There are several top performers that have graduated. Sure to be missed is Steve Meeker, 275 pounds, a 4-year starter and 3-time conference champion. He qualified for state finals 2 times and last year posted a 47-8 record and a career record of 130-43. Other key graduates include Ross Forrest, 135 pounds, Gavin Mills, 189 pounds, and Andrew Kico, 215 pounds.

### STRONG COMPETION

Last season the Hawks, with a 26-16 record, were second in the conference behind Mayville and Markel says the Wildcats will be odds-on favorites to win the league again. Marlette is a perennial power and has several outstanding wrestlers returning. Sandusky should be vastly improved and another team to watch is Brown City that continued to improve last season and has a relatively young squad.



THE CASS CITY gymnastic team members are: (front, l-r) Danielle Johnson, Leah Whittaker, Cassie Simpson (middle) Ashley Weiss, Lindsey Bliss, Vicki Scasny, Theresa Imgraben, Nessa Scasny, Chantel Beyette and coach Kathy Bouverette (back) Taryn Vatter, Caitlin Sorenson, Amanda Foster, Kelli Pettit, Sam Swiderski and Allie Richards.

## Howard shines at SVSU

Former Cass City volleyball standout Amy Howard has enjoyed success both on and off the court at Saginaw Valley State University.

Howard, a junior, has played a major role in transforming the Cardinals from a 2-win season in 2004 into this year's squad that finished above .500 at 14-13.

Howard, the team's main setter, led the Cardinals with a team-high 827 assists, currently ranking 4th in the SVSU record books for assists in a season.

The Cardinal team co-captain, Howard was also named to the All Tournament Team at Ferris University during the season.

Off the court, Howard has maintained a 4.0 GPA. Her major is Business Management.

## Read Meg's Peg

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

\*Home matches are in bold

Cass City Red Hawks 2006-2007 Gymnastics			
Dec. 20	Vassar	6:30 p.m.	H
Jan. 8	Midland	6:30 p.m.	A
Jan. 16	Vassar	6:30 p.m.	A
Jan. 30	Midland	6:30 p.m.	H
Feb. 10	Vassar Invite	12:00 p.m.	A
Feb. 13	Midland Invite	6:00 p.m.	A

\*Home matches are in bold



SAM MCCREEDY, 14, of Cass City, took this 6-point with a blast from his single shot 20 gauge. The buck harvest was McCreedy's first.

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# Hawk cagers should provide interesting year

The race in the Greater Thumb West this season promises to be wide open and no clear pre-season favorite is apparent, unlike other years when USA was expected to be the dominate team and lived up to expectations to sweep to the conference championship undefeated.

It should be a very interesting year, coach Aaron Fernald points out. Cass City finished last season 6-6 in the GTW and 12-8 overall and will need players from the junior varsity to step up and help the 5 returning lettermen on the squad.

Much will ride on the shoulders of center Andrew Martin, who starts his 4th year on the varsity and played all 21 games last year, averaging 8 points and 4 rebounds. There is experience and talent in the backcourt. Brad Hartel started 7 games last year and averaged 5 points. He is a defensive stopper. Hard work all season earned Cameron Lautner the point guard position at the end of the season. Derek Halasz is a strong athletic player and can finish around the basket.

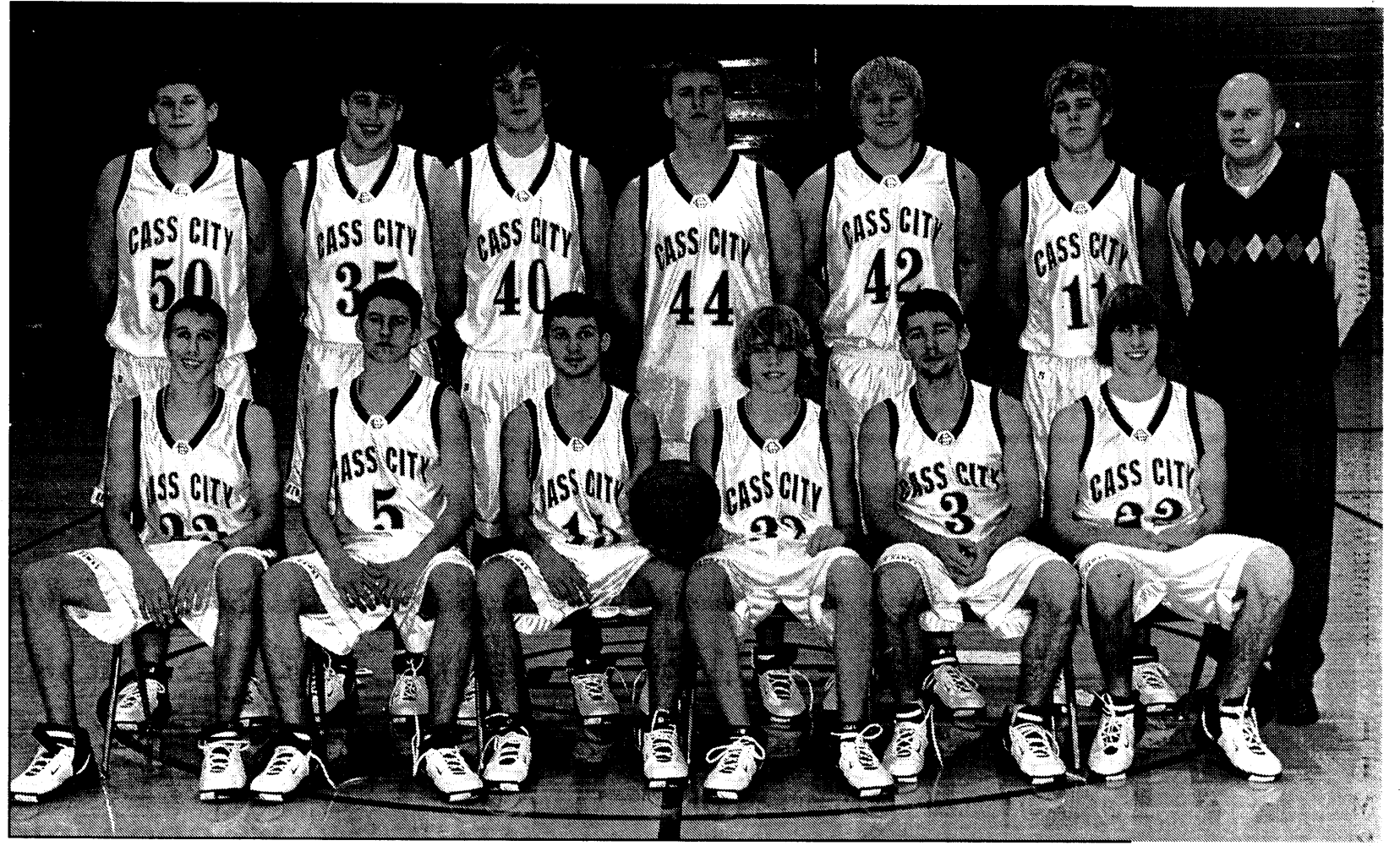
Ryan Biddinger is a good outside shooter who saw limited action last year.

Filling the holes left by graduation promises to be a problem for Fernald. Start with Justin Glaza, all-conference first team and the leading Hawk scorer. Brad Langenburg, all conference second team player, will be missed on the boards and on the offense. Jeff Stoutenburg could play either guard spot and was a veteran who shot well. Chris Landrith was a point producer and an aggressive rebounder. Derryl Schenk was a force on both the offensive and defensive boards.

We should have a very quick and athletic team, but must find consistent scorers on the offense, Fernald points out.

Working to fill that need are 7 players up from the junior varsity. They are Chris Childs, Shane Bloomfield, Shane McFarland, Austin Babich, Chris Zawilinski, Chris Binder and Darrin Howard.

The Hawk season opens Friday, Dec. 8 at Ubyly.



THE CASS CITY varsity basketball members are: (front, l-r) Austin Babich, Brad Hartel, Cameron Lautner, Chris Binder, Chris Childs, Chris Zawilinski (back) Shane McFarland, Darrin Howard, Andrew Martin, Dereck Halasz, Shane Bloomfield, Ryan Biddinger and coach Aaron Fernald.

### CASS CITY BOWLING

Merchants as of Nov. 22

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Lee Morgan Painting	6
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Barrons Team Bears	6
R & H Body Shop	5

Individual High Games & Series: R. Wright 237-237 (634); M. Zawilinski 221 (607); D. Miller 221-212 (595); B. Joseph 216; D. Curtis 210.

Awards: D. Curtis - 200 Game (160 Average or less) (210); E. Bullock - 200 Game (160 Average or less) (208); J. Thorp - 180 Game (140 Average or less) (185).

Team High Game & Series: Lee Morgan Painting 639 (1746).

### Cass City Red Hawks 2006-2007 Boys' Basketball

Dec. 5	Vassar	6:00 p.m.	H
Dec. 8	Ubyly	5:00 p.m.	A
Dec. 12	Sandusky	6:00 p.m.	H
Dec. 15	Mayville	6:00 p.m.	A
Dec. 19	Bad Axe	6:00 p.m.	A
Dec. 29	Imlay City	4:30 p.m.	H
Jan. 5	Lakers	6:00 p.m.	H
Jan. 9	Caro	6:00 p.m.	A
Jan. 12	USA	6:00 p.m.	H
Jan. 16	Harbor Beach	6:00 p.m.	A
Jan. 19	Reese	6:00 p.m.	A
Jan. 23	Deckerville	5:00 p.m.	A
Jan. 26	BCAS	5:00 p.m.	A
Feb. 6	Bad Axe	6:00 p.m.	H
Feb. 9	Lakers	6:00 p.m.	A
Feb. 13	USA	6:00 p.m.	A
Feb. 16	Reese	6:00 p.m.	H
Feb. 23	BCAS	6:00 p.m.	H
Feb. 27	John Glenn	6:00 p.m.	H
Mar. 2	Saginaw Nouvel	6:00 p.m.	H

\*Home matches are in bold



THE CASS CITY junior varsity basketball members are: (front, l-r) Justin Hool, Steven Schotter, J.C. Knight, Josh Peters, Lukas Varney, Thomas Cotton (back) Carl Nicol, Alex Hoyt, Chris Summersett, Brent Doerr, Blake Messing and Cole Miller.

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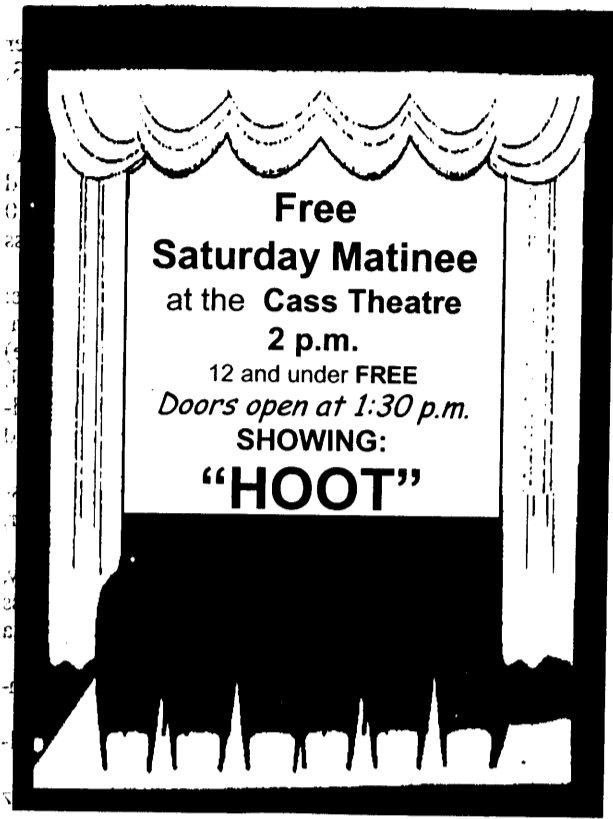
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# Cass City's Christmas in the Village



**Christmas in the Village  
Residential Outdoor Decorating Contest**  
1st Place - \$100 & Trophy; 2nd Place - \$75 & Trophy; 3rd Place - \$50 & Trophy  
Sign up by stopping into the Chamber of Commerce or calling 872-4618  
Deadline to sign up is Monday, December 4th  
Judging will be on Friday, December 15th  
The winners will be announced in the paper the following week.



**Free  
Saturday Matinee**  
at the Cass Theatre  
2 p.m.  
12 and under FREE  
Doors open at 1:30 p.m.  
SHOWING:  
"HOOT"

## Saturday, December 2nd Schedule of Events

All events free to the public

**10 a.m.-4 p.m.** Craft Show at the Cass City Middle School

**11 a.m.-3 p.m.** Chili Cook-off Local businesses  
(must purchase \$2.00 ballot)

**1:30 p.m.** (Doors open, movie starts at 2 p.m.)  
Free kids' movie matinee "Hoot"

**2-9 p.m.** Warming Tent in Rotary Park

**5 p.m.** Community Gathering (free bean soup,  
hot chocolate, cookies) in Rotary Park

**5-6 p.m.; 7-9 p.m.** Carriage Rides next to the  
Municipal Building

**5:30 p.m.** Christmas Carols in Warming Tent

**6:30 p.m.** Lighted Christmas Parade with  
Santa's Grand Arrival

After the parade ( 7 p.m.?) visit with Santa in Rotary Park  
(This will be the ONLY opportunity to get  
tickets for the Kids' Prize Drawing

## Saturday, December 9th

**12:30 p.m.** Winners of Kids' Drawing Will Pick Prizes

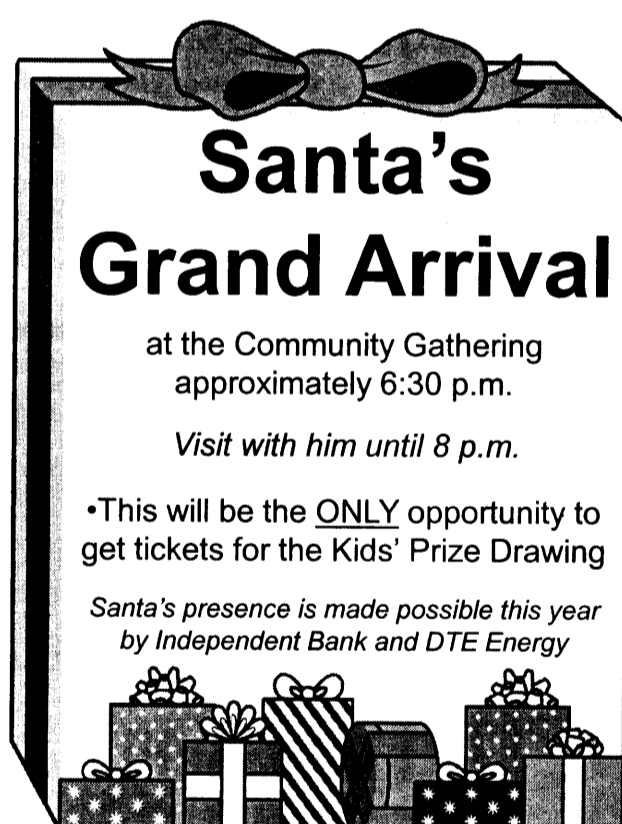
**1:30 p.m.** (Doors open, movie starts at 2 p.m.)  
Free Kids' Movie Matinee "Everyone's Hero"



**Big Craft Show**  
December 2 - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Cass City  
Middle School  
Wonderful Christmas Presents!  
Crafter Space Available



**Activities  
for  
Saturday, December 9**  
12:30 p.m.  
Winners of Kids' Drawing  
will pick prizes  
1:30 p.m.  
(doors open, movie starts at 2 p.m.)  
**FREE KIDS' MOVIE MATINEE**  
"Everyone's Hero"



**Santa's  
Grand Arrival**  
at the Community Gathering  
approximately 6:30 p.m.  
Visit with him until 8 p.m.  
•This will be the ONLY opportunity to  
get tickets for the Kids' Prize Drawing  
Santa's presence is made possible this year  
by Independent Bank and DTE Energy

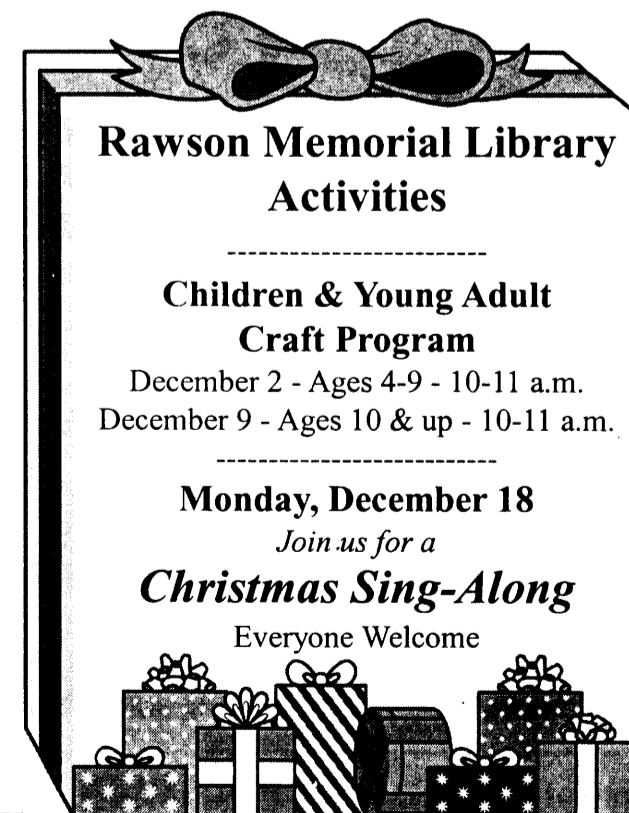


**Lighted  
Christmas Parade**  
Saturday, December 2  
starting at 6:30 p.m.  
Theme: "Christmas Around the World"  
You are invited to join in on this great family event  
It is not too late to participate.  
• Clubs & Organizations • Church Entries  
• Horse Entries • Commercial Entries  
• Marching Bands • Farm Implements  
• Family Entries  
Trophies will be awarded in each category  
Call Parade Coordinator: Richard Little at  
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**Rotary Christmas  
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**Rawson Memorial Library  
Activities**  
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Craft Program  
December 2 - Ages 4-9 - 10-11 a.m.  
December 9 - Ages 10 & up - 10-11 a.m.  
Monday, December 18  
Join us for a  
**Christmas Sing-Along**  
Everyone Welcome



**Big Community  
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5:00 p.m.  
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•FREE HOT CHOCOLATE  
•FREE COOKIES  
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**Concert by  
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December 2  
and  
December 3



# Saturday, December 2

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## Obituaries

**Audrey Dillon**

Audrey M. Dillon, 75, of Ubyly, died Saturday, Nov. 25, 2006.

She was born Dec. 21, 1930 in Detroit, the daughter of the late Martin and Clara (Vahovick) Rutkowski.

She married Richard Dillon June 30, 1962 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Argyle. He died May 4, 2001.

Dillon was a graduate of Proctor Country School. She worked at Square D Company in Detroit for a few years. Dillon and her family farmed and helped raise her siblings. She was a member of St. Ignatius Catholic Church.

Dillon is survived by a daughter, Denise (Larry) Gornowicz of Ubyly; a son, Brian (Debbie) Dillon of Ubyly; 2 granddaughters; 2 sisters: Delphine (Edward) Dombrowski of Cass City, and Bernice (Joseph) Grifka of New Baltimore; a brother, Bazyle (Dorothy) Rutkowski of Warren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Lynne Marie; and a brother, Jerome "Jim" Rutkowski.

Funeral mass was held Monday, Nov. 27, at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Frieberg, with the Rev. Joseph Griffin, pastor, officiating.

Burial was in the church cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Family Discretionary Fund.

Arrangements were made by Zinger-Smigielki Funeral Home, Ubyly.

**Edward Hillaker**

Edward Albert Hillaker, 91, of Argyle, died Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2006 in Satchell's Christian Retirement Home, Caro.

He was born March 2, 1915 at home in Argyle Township, the son of William and Elizabeth (Willerton) Hillaker. He married Belva Ann Phillips March 6, 1937 in Belva's parents' home. She died April 12, 2004.

Hillaker was a dairy and crop farmer. He also worked for a time for Guerdon

### Scholarship myths busted by experts

College application season is in full swing. As students live in fear of a rejection letter, parents worry more about how they'll afford the tuition when their child is accepted.

College is expensive, but tuition fears shouldn't overshadow an otherwise exciting time in a teen's life. The key is not to believe the financial myths surrounding the price of a higher education.

**Myth #1:** You can't afford college.

Many parents and students see the tuition price, cost of living in the dorms and the textbook fees, and say there is no way they can afford college. The truth is most college students require some form of financial aid. In fact, nearly 75 percent of 2006 high school graduates who took the ACT reported that they need help to pay for college. Don't ignore college because of its "sticker price." Students can receive a combination of grants, loans, scholarships or Work Study jobs to help reduce the cost.

**Myth #2:** You have to be very poor, very smart or very talented to qualify for financial aid.

Financial aid comes in many forms - grants and scholarships that you don't have to repay, and loans, which you do have to repay. There is need-based aid for students of lower income families, and merit-based aid for students who excel in athletics, music, community service, and many other areas. Financial aid sources are as varied, too - the federal government, the college or university itself, a parent's employer, and others. When students take the time to explore all the possibilities, they will be surprised at what offers they may receive.

**Myth #3:** You can get more scholarships by paying someone to search for you.

Scholarship scams are everywhere. Beware of any group or individual that guarantees a scholarship if you pay a fee. There are many good and FREE scholarship sources on the Internet. Check out [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) or [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) for more information.

**Myth #4:** My child will pay for college, so my salary doesn't matter.

Most need-based financial aid is based on parents' income and assets. Most schools require students to fill out the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, in order to qualify for need-based aid. The form, available online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), asks for information similar to what you need for your income taxes. After submitting the FAFSA, students receive a report that shows how much the government expects you to pay toward your child's education. If you aren't ready to file yet, visit [www.act.org/fafsa/](http://www.act.org/fafsa/) to get an estimate of your expected family contribution.

Industry in Marlette and several years for General Cable in Cass City. He was a member of Cass City First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his children: Richard (Janet) Hillaker of Port Huron, and Jerry (Sharon) Hillaker of Snover; 5 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; a sister, Muriel Parrott of Lazerne; 2 brothers: Russell (Elaine) Hillaker of Cass City, and Lorn (June) Hillaker of Cass City; a sister-in-law, Thelma Phillips of Decker; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Nov. 25, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with the Rev. Eric Holmgren of Cass City First Baptist Church and the Rev. John Wood of Corner Stone Baptist Church, Bay City, officiating.

Interment was in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Memorials may be made to United Hospice of Marlette, Cass City First Baptist Church or American Heart Association.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

**Linda Marker**

Linda L. Marker, 58, of Fairgrove, died Saturday, Nov. 25, 2006 at her residence.

She was born March 10, 1948 in Cass City, the daughter of Alfred Seeley and Dorothy (Stoutenburg) Kain.

She married Howard A. Salgat Oct. 19, 1968 in Cass City. He died in 1984. She then married Fred J. Marker Sept. 18, 1994 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Marker was a 1966 graduate of Cass City High School. She was a member of Trinity St. James Lutheran Church in Munger.

Marker is survived by her husband, Fred Marker of Fairgrove; children: Wendy (Tony) Streeter of Fairgrove, Dawn (Dennis) Prueter of Reese, and Jennifer (Regi) Parsons of Bay City; 5 grandchildren; her mother, Dorothy Kain of Valrico, Fla.; a sister, Brenda (William) Dutch of Valrico, Fla.; her father- and mother-in-law, James and Dee Marker of Munger; in-laws: Janice (Al) Wheeler, Laura (Randy) Poirier, James Marker Jr.; step children: Jeremy (Laura) Marker, Yvonne Powell, Keith (Rebecca) Marker, and Vicki (Mark) Gammert; 16 step grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

James Lutheran Church, Munger, with Pastor Theodore Voll officiating. Cremation will follow.

Memorials may be made to Trinity St. James Lutheran Church.

Arrangements were made by Martin Funeral Home, Mt. Morris.



She was preceded in death by her father, Alfred Seeley; and grandparents: Jay and Hazel Stoutenburg.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 28, at Trinity St.

Memorials may be made to St. Agatha Catholic Church or the Thumb Octagon Barn.

Arrangements were made by Gagetown Funeral Chapel.

### Evelyn Warmbier

Evelyn Elizabeth Warmbier, 96, of Cass City, died Thursday, Nov. 23, 2006 in Tendercare Nursing Facility Cass City, following a long illness.

She was born January 5, 1910 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, the daughter of George L. and Elizabeth M. (Clifton) Duncan.

She married Alfred R. Warmbier Sept. 7, 1932 in Flint. He died Nov. 13, 1960.

Warmbier worked at the water department for the City of River Rouge. She and her husband owned and operated Juniata General Store for 10 years. She worked at Cardinal's Dress Shop in Detroit for over 12 years.

Warmbier is survived by her sons: Richard C. (Patricia) Warmbier of Richmond, Virginia, Gerald F. (Margie) Warmbier of Cass City, and William J. (Linda) Warmbier of Caro; 9 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Irene Shanahan; and a brother, William G. Duncan.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 27, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with Chuck Emmert of Novesta Church of Christ officiating.

Interment was in the Glen Eden Cemetery, Farmington.

Memorials may be made to The Salvation Army.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

### Cass City church to host Christmas Tea Dec. 7

The Calvary Bible Fellowship of Cass City will host a Ladies' Christmas Tea Thursday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m.

"This event will be of particular interest to area quilters as it will feature a magnificent king size quilt intricately designed and hand-constructed by the Thumb area's own Letha Lundquist," said Cynthia Carr, whose husband, Chuck, is pastor of the church.

"In memory of her own son, Lundquist portrays the nativity in beautiful Renaissance fashion and frames it with numerous symbolic borders," Carr explained. "The combination of a mother's heart and an artist's touch make this piece not only a unique family heirloom, but a significant work of art as well."

The public is invited to attend the tea. More information is available by contacting Carr at 872-8755.

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**Card of Thanks**  
A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to the lady who found and turned my ring in at Tendercare. It was a ring given to me by my husband 20 years ago and meant very much to me. Thank you so very much!  
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**Medical Staff Services Coordinator**  
Hills and Dales Hospital is seeking a Part Time Medical Staff Services Coordinator who will report to the Director of Corporate Services. Primary responsibilities include physician credentialing, reappointment and privileging processes including license verification, professional affiliation, educational references and maintenance of records and malpractice insurance information. Must have strong computer and organizational skills, word processing, composition, telephone etiquette and proof reading experience. Must also be a self starter with ability to work independently and collegially within all levels of the organization. Prior medical experience is an advantage.  
Please direct your cover letter and resume to sivanhr@hdghmi.org or mail to Human Resources, Hills and Dales General Hospital, 6190 Hospital Drive, Suite 102, Cass City, Michigan 48726. 11-11-29-1

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**Adorable Bungalow** - 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, immaculate. Ready to move in. Newer appliances. Nicely landscaped. Well taken care of. Full basement, 1 1/2 car garage. Nice neighborhood. Reduced to \$69,900. OW-145

**SOLD!!!** Think low! That's where you'll find the price on this spacious 1 1/2 story home with 5 bedrooms located on 2.25 acres. This property is within 6 miles of Cass City and offers a 20'x30' pole building and a hip roof barn. To get directions and more info, call Marty and ask about CC-567

**This 4 Bedroom Home Is In Immaculate Condition** - Large country kitchen and large living room, semi-finished basement, 2 car detached garage, cement patio, large backyard. Reduced by \$10,000 to \$69,000. OW-143

**Nature Lovers This One Is For You!** Located just 2 1/2 miles from downtown Cass City on a paved road. Mostly wooded property with lots of deer, turkey & small game w/ 2 deerfood plots for hunting. Property includes a TB free accredited whitetail deer herd consisting of 1-2 yr. old buck, 2 adult does and 3 fawns. Ranch home has 9 rooms with newer family room added in 1998. New 42'x64'x14 pole barn w/10' lean-to, 24'x40'x8' horse barn. Many extras. You have to see to appreciate. CC-566

**Priced To Sell!** 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom home with a partial basement, in Gagetown. Call for more details. OW-155

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**Storefront** - Cass City - 2-story storefront in downtown. 1,160 sq. ft. display area plus an 11'x12' office on main level plus a 20'x28' attached garage. New wiring, carpeting, drywall, handicap accessible rest room, central air, furnace on 1st floor within the past 7 yrs. Exterior has steel siding on the sides and back. Vinyl on the front within the last 7 yrs. COM1107. Reduced \$58,500

**Cass City** - 6370 Third St. 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, partial basement, semi-finished, natural fireplace. Ready to move in. Many updates within the last few years. Quiet neighborhood. Seller is motivated. TCC1385. \$84,900

**Cass City** - 1,200 sq. ft. 2 bedroom condo, 3 baths, full finished walk-out basement, 1st floor laundry, new carpeting in 2005. Sellers are motivated. TCC1476

**Riverfront - Caro**  
1.4 acre riverfront lot in Knollwood Subdivision. 99.83 ft. frontage on the Cass River. Drive already in. Electricity available. Excellent building site. Nicely wooded area, one of the few available in this area. WAF245. Reduced!

**Cass City Country** - 2,500 sq. ft. ranch, 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, custom built home. Full finished lower level, walk-out to cement patio. Wood burning fireplace in basement, gas log fireplace in the great room. Central air, 3 separate heat-air zones. Bonus room above the garage, pond in backyard, plus a 20'x16' storage shed. Built in 2000. All this and more on 2 acres with more acreage available. Cy2941

**Cass City** - 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 1,200 sq. ft. condo, hardwood floors. Full finished walk-out basement with 3/4 bath, family room and 2 other rooms with plenty of closets. \$98,000. TCC1468

**Harbor Beach** - 415 N. Lytle Ave. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1,200 sq. ft. home with recent updates. Has a heated attached garage and 12'x12' storage shed in backyard. TO701. \$71,900

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## Drum corps summer

Continued from page one.

a number of ways. The corps perform with percussion and brass only. The balance of sound from the horns, which come in several different sizes, along with a variety of percussion instruments give the corps a unique sound, and their music arrangements must be specially written.

The same is true for their drill design. Each corps performs its own 13-minute program that incorporates a myriad of visual effects utilizing both musicians and color guard members, whose "instruments" include flags, rifles and sabers.

The Division I, or top-level corps, have up to 135 members and travel an average of 10,000 to 12,000 miles each summer.

That may sound like quite an adventure, but members pay for the privilege through corps dues (\$1,200 to \$1,400 in Hudson's case) and hours of rehearsal each day. At night, they're either traveling to the next show or rehearsal site, or sleeping on gymnasium floors.

"I do know what to expect," Hudson said of life on the road with a corps. "I know they expect a lot of hard work and a lot of physical demands, but I'm also expecting a lot of fun, too. You'll be in Texas, California or Alabama, hanging out with people you march with, so that will be cool."

In years past, Pioneer's summer tour has taken the corps to high school football fields and college and NFL stadiums in cities throughout the United States, including New York, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Buffalo, Denver, Dallas, Chicago and Indianapolis.

However, it all starts with auditions in the fall, followed by weekend camps throughout the winter. In May, members move in to their corps housing site to prepare for the tour kick-off in June.

"From the first camp I can tell you, it's really intense," said Hudson, whose first exposure to Pioneer was a combination audition/camp weekend. "They'll keep working on (an aspect of music or marching) over and over again until you get it. And marching, too. I have to rethink myself on how to march all over again."

"I kind of expected when I got there, to (have) an introduction to Pioneer and background on the corps, and the next day to start working on the show music," she added. "We went to work right away."

There were some surprises for Hudson, including the much heavier weight of a drum corps baritone, and

the fact that the corps plays in a different key than she used to.

However, she took everything in stride.

"All the doubts and worrying went away after the first day," she recalled. "It was amazing. It just seemed, I guess you could say, very magical. It's going to be hard work, but it was a very comfortable thing, and this wonderful feeling of belonging and being a part of the group."

Hudson's audition included performing warm-up exercises and scales for the Pioneer music staff, which also conducted a one-on-one interview with her. The final question was whether or not Hudson wanted to be a part of the corps, a possibility Hudson confided she "just couldn't believe."

"I told them I would absolutely love that," Hudson added. "And they said, well, you better believe it because you're a Pioneer now."

Although there is much work ahead for the Cass City teen, she's looking forward to the return of summer and a Drum Corps International tour that will end at world championships in the Rose Bowl.

"I'll be in Pasadena. I'm awfully excited about that - I've never been to California," Hudson said.

Cass City High School Director of Bands Suzy Harris shares Hudson's enthusiasm for her upcoming adventure.

"I am very excited that Lauren was chosen as a member of Pioneer for the 2007 season," Harris said. "Lauren has all the attributes that Drum Corps International exemplifies: good work ethic, dedication and passion. She is a wonderful asset to the Cass City band program and will represent our school and town well."

When she returns home, Hudson will have to get ready for another band camp - this time as a senior at Cass City High School. But she doesn't expect to be the same person.

"I guess I expect to be coming out next summer a better person," she said. "And, I expect myself to be a better musician."

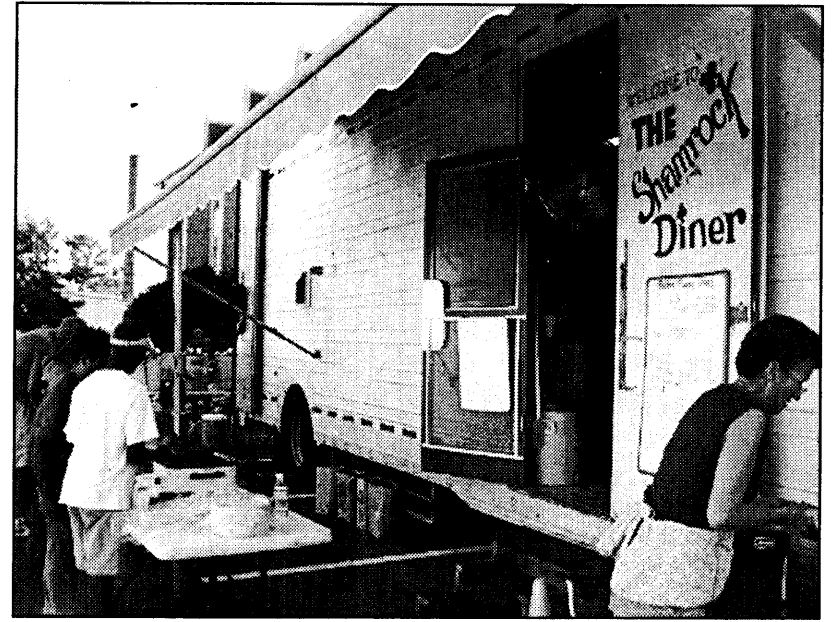
## Holiday pics for your pets

Cass River Pet FriendZ has brought in special guest, "Santa Paws" for picture opportunities in December.

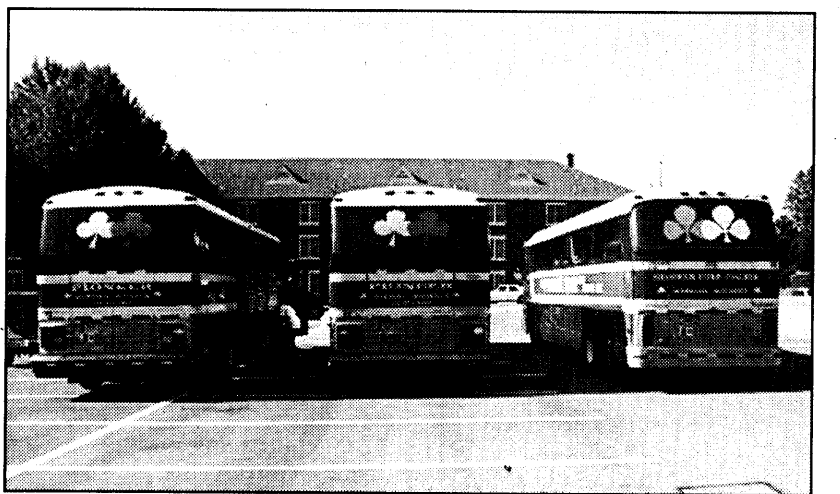
The picture sessions for families and/or pets will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Big Acre store, located at 610 N. State St. in Caro.

Glossy 4x6 photos will be produced on-site for a cost of \$6 for one pose and \$4 for each additional picture of the same pose.

Proceeds from the event will go to support the rescue efforts of the organization, with a heavy emphasis put on spaying and neutering. For more information, call (989) 673-6375.



MEMBERS OF Pioneer enjoy most of their meals prepared aboard a "kitchen on wheels" (above) that travels with the corps' convoy of buses and other trucks.



PIONEER'S TOURING coaches transport corps members 10,000 to 12,000 miles during the summer as they rehearse and compete across the country.

## Christmas celebration coming

Continued from page seven.

tors are invited to vote for the best chili in Cass City by purchasing a \$2 ballot at the municipal building, located at the corner of Main and Seeger streets.

"Your \$2 will get you a ballot, a map to the almost 30 businesses serving chili, and the opportunity to sample them all," Mulligan explained. "The chili cook-off will be running from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m."

At 1:30 p.m., the doors to the Cass Theater will open for the free 2 p.m. showing of the children's movie, "Hoot". At the same time, a warming tent will be set up and available at Rotary Park, from 2 p.m. through 9 p.m.

"The evening festivities begin with a community gathering at 5 p.m. in Rotary Park," Mulligan continued. "The gathering will feature free bean soup, hot chocolate and cookies. Also at 5 p.m., free carriage rides will begin next to the municipal building. The free carriage rides will be available from 5 to 6 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. The rides will be on temporary hold from 6 to 7 p.m. to make room for the Lighted Christmas Parade at 6:30 p.m."

The parade will feature a variety of entries, culminating in the grand arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus on the familiar decorated DTE truck.

"After the parade, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Rotary Park. See Santa and get a ticket for the kids' prize drawing for a chance to win one of the great toys currently displayed in the window of the old Book Mart building," Mulligan said.

The celebration will continue Saturday, Dec. 9, with another craft event hosted by Rawson Memorial Library, this time for children ages 10 and older. "The kids will be making candy wreaths and should pre-register if they wish to participate," Mulligan noted. "At 12:30 p.m., the winners of the kids' drawing will get together to receive their prizes. At 1:30 p.m., the doors of the Cass Theater will open for another free children's movie. This time it will be 'Everyone's Here' starting at 2 p.m."

Mulligan said the chamber of commerce along with local merchants are sponsoring all of the events. Everyone is encouraged to participate and support Cass City while sharing the holidays together, she added.

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