

Elkland revenue going up following hearing

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"Having great time," says German exchange student

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Service of Remembrance slated Nov. 5 in Cass City

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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 100, NUMBER 32

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2006

FIFTY CENTS

14 PAGES PLUS 2 SUPPLEMENTS

School axes 6 more jobs to boost balance

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Cass City School officials have spent considerable time discussing and implementing painful cuts in staffing and programs over the past year to offset a mountain of red ink. The board of education returned to that topic again Monday night, announcing a fourth round of cuts targeting more staff positions in an effort to bulk up a precarious fund balance expected to total less than 2 percent of the district's \$12 million budget.

The board, meeting in regular session in front of a packed crowd of some 170 people in the high school cafeteria, unanimously voted in favor of its budget and finance committee's recommendation to eliminate a social worker position at the end of this month, and 5 teaching jobs at the semester break.

The teaching jobs are: a middle school special education instructor, 2 middle school teaching positions, an elementary teacher, and an element-

tary special education teacher.

The cuts add up to just over \$210,000, with a net savings of more than \$153,800 after unemployment costs, according to school Supt. Ron Wilson, who said the fund balance will now total about \$340,000, or about 3 percent of the district's budget.

School board members identified the 3 percent figure as a minimum acceptable fund balance in conjunction with their annual goals discussion last month. Experts say a healthy fund balance should equal at least 10 percent of a district's budget.

Before making the announcement, school officials described for the audience the factors that have led to the need for additional cost reductions.

But many of those offering public comment urged the board to reconsider.

Cass City Education Association President Jon Zdrojewski said the board and union have worked well together during recent tough financial times. However, he added union

officials don't feel their concerns have been taken into account in this latest round of cuts. The union doesn't support any more layoffs that would affect students, and these cuts will, Zdrojewski said.

Several parents also spoke. Some asked if additional programs might be eliminated, while others asked if the board had looked at alternatives to reducing teaching staff positions.

Resident Joe VanAuken asked if the board had seriously considered a "pay-to-play" policy for athletics, or asking parents to pay for student transportation.

Board President Michelle Biddinger indicated the board has considered several alternatives.

"It's all a balancing act," she said, adding school officials have to weigh possible cuts against the potential loss of students whose families may decide to send their children to another district.

Trustee finance committee member Theresa Rabideau agreed, saying the committee didn't take the proposed cuts lightly and focused on reductions that would have the least impact on students. "I understand that (parents' concerns). We're simply down to no good solutions," Rabideau added.

Ruth Fluegge asked the staff members in the audience if they would be

Please turn to back page



Happy Halloween!

JAYCI MEYERS, 5, of Edmore, dressed as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, decorates a mini-pumpkin during a Halloween party hosted by Tendercare, Cass City, Saturday night. She is the granddaughter of Tendercare Bookkeeper Sally Daws. At left; Tendercare activities assistant Bonnie Marker directs traffic during the event.



For the troops

Thumb communities, postal workers gear up for mailing

Area residents have the opportunity to send a special "thank-you" to servicemen and women defending their country overseas.

In honor of the upcoming Veteran's Day observance, and to jump start the holiday season, veterans organizations and post offices in the communities of Cass City, Caro, Deford, Kingston, Elkton, Bay Port, Owendale, Fairgrove, Gagetown, Unionville and Pigeon are sponsoring a "Mailing of Care Packages for the Troops Overseas" event Wednesday, Nov. 8, at Baker College in Cass City from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Organizers are accepting donations of care package items that will be put together and mailed on that date, as well as monetary contributions for postage.

They are also seeking the names and addresses of servicemen and women serving overseas. Area residents who know of someone, regardless of whether or not they are from the Thumb, are asked to e-mail addresses and names for care packages to: packages4thetroops.2006@yahoo.com, or mail the information to: Packages for the Troops, P.O. Box 84, Owendale,

MI 48754-6084.

Needed items include snack foods, gum, Ramen noodles, candy, Kool Aid, bottled juice, shampoo and conditioner, bars of soap, cards, socks, paper and pens, envelopes, sun screen, combs, hair brushes, Kleenex, non-alcoholic wipes, toothpaste, dental floss, lip balm, tooth brushes, female items, deodorant, batteries (AA or AAA), used books and magazines, and international calling cards. Aerosols and items containing alcohol cannot be sent.

Drop-off locations include Lowell's Ceramics in Cass City, Independent Bank in Gagetown, Unionville and Sebawaing, Caro Rental, Rex Binder Sales in Caro, the United Methodist Church in Owendale, Pigeon Telephone Co. in Pigeon, and Thumme Insurance in Elkton.

Monetary donations for postage should be sent to: Robert Schank, VFW District 10 commander, 1627 E. Caro Rd., Caro, MI 48723 (please mark check or envelope as "military day"). Locally, members of Cass City VFW Post 3644 have been busy collecting

Please turn to back page



TERESA AND BOB DeZomits, who along with Lowell Fritz own Lowell's Ceramics, 6455 W. Main St., Cass City, display a few of the items that have been dropped off and will be part of a mass mailing next month to servicemen and women.

Newspapers, cemetery records on-line

Society set to unveil years of work

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Cass City Historical and Genealogical Society has literally put years of hard work into its Elkland Township Cemetery and Cass City newspaper projects, and making a wealth of information about both available on-line to the public.

Now, they are ready to showcase both programs and teach area residents how to use them.

Officials at Rawson Memorial Library in Cass City will host an open house Saturday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. to noon to showcase both websites, which can be accessed on the library's website - www.rawson.lib.mi.us.

"The historical society will be providing cider and donuts, and members of the genealogical society will be providing hands-on computer help," said library Director Kate VanAuken.

The newspaper project took a full 5 years to complete, preserving issues of the Cass City Chronicle and Cass City Enterprise dating back to the early 1880s. The effort involved filming, digitizing and indexing the newspapers to make the information contained in 120 years of local history easily accessible, both on CD and, now, on the Internet.

Former Rawson Memorial Library Director Barb Hutchinson and Cass City Historical and Genealogical Society member Katie Jackson spearheaded the project, which cost some \$52,000.

"And even that came in under what we anticipated," said Hutchinson, who noted initial cost estimates came in at about \$80,000. The Pinney Foundation provided the bulk of funding with a \$37,000 grant.

"Physically, it (project) was a lot of work because you had to take all the leather bound books out" of the Chronicle building, noted historical and genealogical society member

Carol Connell.

"We really appreciate that John (long-time Chronicle owner/publisher John Haire) let us do this," added Hutchinson, who did much of the research into finding a company that could handle the project. In the end, she worked with 3 different firms to finally get the work completed.

"It's an amazing feat," commented Jackson.

Once accessed on the library's website, the newspapers can be searched by keyword, issue and year. The program also includes a "tips" page to assist those who access the site.

Hutchinson noted the program is

How to access the Cass City newspapers database:

1. Go to www.rawson.lib.mi.us.
2. Click on the blue "Cass City Newspaper" button.
3. Three choices appear on the screen: "Tips Page", "Keyword Search" and "Browse Manually by Issue". For best results, read the "Tips" section before beginning.
4. For a general search, select "Keyword Search". Enter the word or name in the search box. A list of documents appear. Click on the desired document.
5. Use the back button to move between issues.
6. Once in the issue, right click and select "Search". Enter your term or name and it will be highlighted in the issue.
7. If the approximate date is known, select the "Browse Manually by Issue" button.
8. The dates of all issues will be listed. In some cases a year of issues may be divided into more than one part.
9. Click on the desired year, then click "Issues". Use the back button to move between issues.

best used with broadband Internet service due to the size of the files. And, she pointed out, the keyword search tool is not perfect.

"When you do a keyword search, it's character recognition, (so) just because it (individual search) doesn't come up on keyword doesn't mean it isn't there," Hutchinson said.

"This doesn't have all the bells and whistles that some programs do, but we also don't have all the on-going costs," added Hutchinson, who said the tab to add additional years of the Chronicle will total about \$500 annually. "This is not 100 percent, but it's certainly a much better tool than we've had before."

CEMETERY DATABASE

Thanks to the historical and genealogical society, genealogy buffs also have a much better tool than they've ever had to search for information on graves at Elkland Township Cemetery.

The new cemetery database system allows anyone to quickly and easily find a wealth of information, including names, dates of birth and death, maiden names, spouse names, the funeral home, and the owner of each cemetery lot.

Visitors to the site will also find information on the specific section, lot and plot for someone, then match that information to a numbered map - which is now also available on the website.

The cemetery records are the result of nearly a decade of work put in by volunteers with the historical society who painstakingly compiled the information by going through records in the basement of the library and by literally walking the cemetery grounds to locate each grave.

How to access the cemetery records database:

1. Go to www.rawson.lib.mi.us
2. Click on the blue button "Elkland Township Cemetery Records"
3. Enter your search name
4. Check off any field you'd like to be displayed within the "List Field" box and click "update" if you have checked any boxes.
5. Scroll down to the person you are searching for and click on their name.
6. The information will be displayed and you may print this information as well.

Please note that you can do an "Advanced Search", see the entire "Master List", and view the map of the cemetery by clicking in the "Navigation Area" on the Home Page.

Remember--

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Time Sunday
at 2 a.m.

Set clocks
back
one hour



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Holbrook Area News

Mrs. Thelma Jackson
Phone 989-269-6994



Dan Franzel entered the Bay Regional Center Hospital in Bay City Oct. 5 and passed away Monday morning. Funeral mass was at 11 a.m., Oct. 19, at St. John's Catholic Church with Military honors in Ugly.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Filar of Washington, Mich., Joyce Pechette of California, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Maurer of Ruth, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jackson, and Mrs. Ray Depcinski visited Veronica Dolinski and Thelma Jackson this week.

Mrs. Art Morell passed away at

Courtney Manor in Bad Axe Monday.

Otis Robinson, a former resident of this vicinity, passed away Monday at Peoria, Ill.

Thirteen members of The Traveling Breakfast Club met at the Coffee Cup Plus Thursday morning. They will meet at the Peppermill next week.

Mrs. Ronnie Gracey, Mrs. Janis Peyer, Mrs. Harold Ballagh, and Mrs. Gerald Wills visited Thelma Jackson last week.



Sarah and Andrew Green

Rummel, Green exchange vows

Sarah Kathleen Rummel and Andrew Zachary Green were married Saturday, July 22, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. in an outdoor ceremony at Woodfield Country Club, Grand Blanc.

The bride is the daughter of Mark and Sally Rummel of Fenton, formerly of Pigeon. The groom is the son of Dr. Robert and Marilyn Green of Cass City.

The matron of honor was Ari Rummel, sister-in-law of the bride. The bridesmaids were Katie Nydham and Kristin Courville, friends of the bride; Courtney Green, sister of the groom; and Kelsey Travis, cousin of the bride.

The best man was Ryan Brinkman, friend of the groom. The groomsmen were Josh Brinkman, Matthew Meyer and D.J. Malone, friends of the groom; and Andrew Rummel, brother

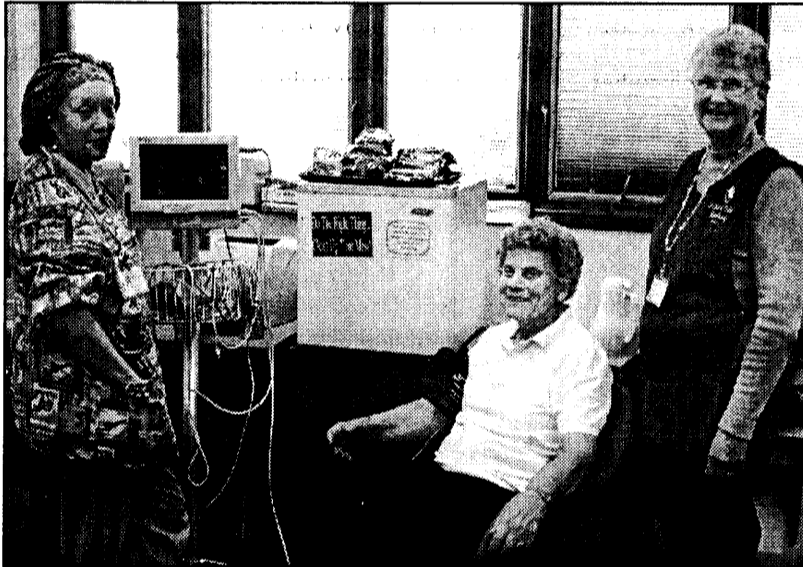
of the bride. Hostesses were Dana Albrecht and Kristine Gettel, friends of the bride.

Officiating the ceremony was the Rev. Randall P. Schultz, pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Flint. Providing wedding music was the Great Lakes Chamber Players String Duo. A reception immediately followed at Woodfield Country Club for 200 guests.

Andrew is currently completing his final year at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. He will join his father's dental practice in May 2007 in Cass City.

Sarah is a 2003 graduate of Oakland University and will complete her studies in the Mott Community College Dental Hygiene Program in May 2007.

The couple is currently residing in Ann Arbor.



THE ANNUAL HILLS and Dales General Hospital Health Fair drew a nice crowd Thursday. Above (from left), Kristin Frank, R.N., administers a blood pressure check on Jessie Goodall as hospital auxiliary member Mary Ann Hirn looks on.



Meg's Peg

Kids make you smile

by Melva E. Guinther

I dearly love little kids. It's my privilege to play with the one-year-olds while their mothers are at MOPS (Mothers Of Pre-Schoolers) meetings twice a month.

It's also true that I'm somewhat relieved when their moms collect them after a couple hours. The Lord wisely decided when we'd have the stamina to deal with small children on a full-time basis and when we'd be better at grand-parenting - part time.

People get annoyed when kids misbehave in public, especially when the parents seem oblivious. But sometimes, when I see impatient mothers shopping with small children in a crowded store, I try to put myself in the kids' place.

They're down there below the level of most of the counters, can't see much of what occupies Mom's attention. In fact, what they see mostly is knees, ankles and the bottom of lots of garments. No wonder they get fussy.

On a Focus on the Family broadcast, Dr. James Dobson related a believable account of one little kid who was in the checkout line with his dad. The very large woman in front of them was wearing a construction worker's hat. (Now put yourself in the boy's place.)

The huge woman's phone began to ring, and the child cried, "Look out, Dad, she's backing up!" Another story I heard recently was about a woman who was giving birth during a citywide blackout. There was but one EMT on hand to help with the delivery, along with the woman's 3-year-old daughter.

He had no choice but to ask the little girl to hold the flashlight for him.

When the newborn finally emerged, the EMT smacked the baby's bottom to start him breathing - and bawling.

The little girl had dutifully held the flashlight silently throughout the whole procedure.

When the attendant asked her what she thought about it, she indignantly replied, "He shouldn't have crawled in there in the first place. Smack him again!"

Some slightly older youngsters, 5th and 6th graders, came up with these interesting answers on tests:

*Vacuums are nothings. We only mention them to let them know we know they are there.

*The cause of perfume disappearing is evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of things people forget to put the top on.

*Momentum is something you give a person when they go away.

*One of the main causes of dust is janitors.

*When planets run around and around in circles, we say they are orbiting. When people do it, we say they are crazy.

*Genetics explains why you look like your father, and if you don't, why you should.

*The word "trousers" is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom.

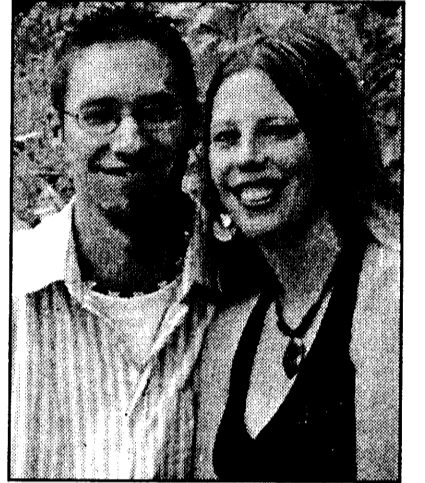
*Water vapor gets together in a cloud. When it is big enough to be called a drop, it does.

*For asphyxiation, apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead.

*To keep milk from turning sour, keep it in the cow.

How can you not love kids?

Engaged



Jessica Moore and Chad Thorley

Brian and Julie Moore of Snover along with Mark and Nancy Thorley of Snover announce the engagement of their children, Jessica Alice and Chad Anthony.

Jessica is a 2003 graduate of Sandusky High School and is currently attending Saginaw Valley State University where she will graduate in December 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in elementary education with minors in early childhood, math and science.

Chad is a 2004 graduate of Sandusky High School and is currently attending Delta College where he will graduate in May 2007 with an Associate's Degree in automotive service technology.

The couple is planning a June 23, 2007 wedding.

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Frank Schinco, MD, FACS

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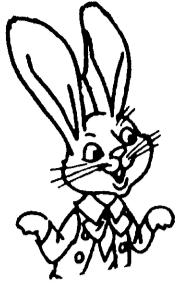
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Rabbit Tracks

by John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Bob Gengler is in the midst of creating a Detroit Tiger display for the Cass City Historical Society.

Any paraphernalia connected with the team or historical highlights will be appreciated. Mementos of the days when the team played in the same park (with updates) before it entered Comerica Park. That includes Navin Field, Briggs Stadium and Tiger Stadium.

If you can help, call Gengler (872-4530) or Historical Society honcho Katie Jackson (872-3109).

I discovered that the talk of the ingrained support of Tiger baseball in Detroit and Michigan is not just media lip service. It probably is as strong now as it was in 1935 when a group of us from Pinconning (including a 13-year-old kid, me) stood in line all night to get tickets in the bleachers.

The fellow I talked to at Sunday's game said that he stood in line Saturday and bought a standing room only ticket, entering about 2.5 hours before game time. To hold the seat in the front row, he said, you need never leave it before the game starts because possession is more than 9 tenths of the law. You leave, you lose. After the game starts your spot is secure, he said, while you use the facilities or grab a cup of hot chocolate for \$5.50.

One more item concerning the Tigers. Our seats were in the top deck, section 40, row 11 and they provided an excellent view of the field. Besides all the winter underwear, winter coats and hats needed in 35-degree weather, you should also bring one more item for protection-ear plugs.

It sounded like the loudspeakers originated right behind us and they were loud, loud, loud.

Annual report from Shabbona Methodist Church. The apple pie sale this year was in the neighborhood of 2,200. The price was up to \$8 each and the net proceeds to the church remained about the same as the previous year.

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Cass City Chronicle Oct. 25, 2006

5-Day Local Forecast	In-Depth Local Forecast	Upcoming Moon Phases																																								
Wednesday Partly Cloudy High: 46 Low: 34 Thursday Scat'd Rain High: 48 Low: 38 Friday Mostly Cloudy High: 42 Low: 35 Saturday Mostly Cloudy High: 39 Low: 32 Sunday Mostly Cloudy High: 41 Low: 35	Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 46°, humidity of 81% and an overnight low of 34°. The record high temperature for today is 79° set in 1963. The record low is 23° set in 1982. Thursday, skies will remain partly cloudy with a 50% chance of rain, high temperature of 48°, humidity of 87% and an overnight low of 38°.	First 10/29 Full 11/5 Last 11/12 New 11/20 Sunrise/Sunset Times Sunrise today 7:59 a.m. Sunset tonight 6:34 p.m.																																								
Last Week's Local Almanac																																										
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Day</th> <th>High</th> <th>Low</th> <th>Normals</th> <th>Precip</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>54</td> <td>27</td> <td>58/40</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>55</td> <td>48</td> <td>57/39</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday</td> <td>61</td> <td>50</td> <td>57/39</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>55</td> <td>39</td> <td>57/39</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>46</td> <td>36</td> <td>56/38</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>48</td> <td>36</td> <td>56/38</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>48</td> <td>35</td> <td>55/38</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Monday	54	27	58/40	0.00"	Tuesday	55	48	57/39	0.00"	Wednesday	61	50	57/39	0.00"	Thursday	55	39	57/39	0.00"	Friday	46	36	56/38	0.00"	Saturday	48	36	56/38	0.00"	Sunday	48	35	55/38	0.00"	Precipitation 0.00" Normal precipitation 0.53" Departure from normal -0.53" Average temperature 45.6° Average normal temperature 47.6° Departure from normal -2.0° <small>Data as reported from Bad Axe, Michigan</small> © 2006 Accessweather.com, Inc.	
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Elkland revenue going up following hearing

Elkland Township officials recently approved a modest tax revenue increase following a Truth in Taxation Hearing.

A Truth in Taxation Hearing is required by the Headlee Amendment, which limits to the rate of inflation the annual increase in property tax revenue that schools, townships and governments receive.

Doug Powers, who serves as township assessor, explained that the increase in revenue is not the result of an increase in the township tax rate compared to a year ago. Rather, the board's action will enable the township to collect an additional .0443 mills, bringing the tax levy up to 1.6468 mills - the same rate as last year.

The increase adds up to about 2.76 percent, according to Powers, who estimated the township will receive additional revenue totaling, perhaps, \$3,000.

In other business during the regular monthly meeting, the board:

*Learned the Tuscola County Road Commission will be placing double stop signs for east/west traffic on Milligan Road at Dodge Road because the intersection qualified for the High Risk Rural Road Program

after being reviewed by staff from the Michigan Department of Transportation and the county road commission.

*Adopted a resolution opposing the proposed K-16 spending mandate to be decided by voters in the upcoming general election.

The proposal would increase current funding by some \$565 million and require the state to provide annual funding increases equal to the rate of inflation for public schools, intermediate school districts, community colleges and higher education. Township officials fear the proposal, if approved, would cut funding for critical local government services or raise taxes on individuals and job providers.

*Approved a motion to allow the use of fieldstones as markers at Elkland Township Cemetery with prior individual board approval. Size restrictions will be in place.

*Approved the following election inspectors for the Tuesday, Nov. 7, general election: Precinct One - Doris Jones (chairperson), Pat Wells, Naomi Barnes, Christine Mathie and Connie McNaughton; Precinct 2 - Margie Morley (chairperson), Marge Feebish, Sandy Nizzola, Celia House and Tiffany Spencer.

The Haire Net

School "bandage" didn't stop bleeding



When the principal method of raising money for the operation of schools and colleges in Michigan changed, it was hailed as a panacea for hard-pressed taxpayers - a bandage that would stop the bleeding. A 2-cent increase in the sales tax was added to replace the funds lost when extra property taxes for operations were eliminated.

It was great for Cass City that received so much more money that the school used the surplus to make repairs to buildings and grounds. Before the financial bonanza under the restraints to spending that the voters insisted upon, Cass City was among the top 5 schools in the state with the lowest cost per pupil for education.

I can remember when the plan started to unfold, thinking that when the money came from the state inevitably schools would increasingly be controlled not by local taxpayers, but by edicts from Lansing.

It surely was a stress-free ride for a decade. Contracts with the Tri-County Bargaining Association representing Cass City teachers were signed with raises that prevailed in the Thumb. The union representatives and the school board representatives weren't forced to stay in Caro

by a circuit court decision to iron out a contract as they did before the state took over.

Classes dropped in the tough financial times were reinstated and money for extra curricular activities became available. It's hard to see those times returning, even though under the guiding hand of the Michigan Education Association an attempt is underway to do so.

Proposal 5 would amend the constitution to make mandatory an increase of \$565 million and then guarantee increases based on the rate of inflation regardless of the economy.

There's no doubt that schools are suffering financially and are desperately looking for more money, but amending the constitution is not the way to do it.

Why not make it possible for school districts to go to their taxpayers and raise money for operation?

If past performance is an indicator, that way of raising money is difficult, but not impossible, and reverts some of the control of the school's finances back to the people immediately affected.

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The back forty

© 2000 Roger Pond

by Roger Pond

I guess I'll never understand credit card companies. How can they continue issuing credit and encouraging folks to buy things they can't afford, without running into serious collection problems?

Yesterday I had two credit card offers over the phone and one in the mail — and that was a slow day. In recent weeks I've been offered gold, platinum, silver-plated, cadmium-coated and lead-alloy cards with affiliation to everybody under the sun.

Most of them want to lower my interest rate — even though I don't pay any interest. They seem to forget: If we pay our bills on time, we don't have any interest.

I give them all the same answer, "We've got plenty of cards. Clank!" It's easy to see why card companies want to extend credit to people like me. We're valued customers, members of a select group, persons of impeccable taste. (Besides that we're alive and breathing.)

I'm not sure when the concept of living within one's means became outmoded, but I think television advertising has something to do with it. I get a kick out of those commercials that suggest, "You need to buy this — not because you need it, not because you can afford it. You need to buy this because you deserve it."

Maybe I have a low opinion of myself, but I don't think I've ever bought anything because I deserve it.

Last weekend I watched a commercial for a company that offers money to folks who didn't pay it back last

time. This commercial features a former football player who has so much money I can't understand why he does these things.

The football player comes on the screen and asks folks with credit problems to call this company and find out how to buy things they can't afford. He suggests a new car is something they might need, but can't pay for.

"Just call us and find out how you can buy the car you need and deserve," he says.

I was reminded of a story my brother told me a few years ago. My brother Kenny was sitting in the coffee shop chatting with an old-timer who lives nearby — when a younger man stopped by their table.

The young man told them about his job and his boss and quite a few things that weren't going well at work. "First they changed my hours, then I got a new boss, and now I've got more responsibility, but I don't get paid any more than I did before," he said.

The young fellow described changes in the benefits package his company was offering the newer employees and all of the problems he was having with that. This man gave everyone within hearing the distinct impression he wasn't getting what he deserved.

When the young fellow walked away, the old-timer turned to my brother and said, "You know, I think I've spent most of my life trying to avoid getting what I deserve."

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Red Hawk Talk

by Kyle Swanson

A photo ID, a birth certificate, and a permission slip and we're off! Last week on Tuesday, students from the Cass City High School had the opportunity to take a trip to Stratford, Canada, to see the play "Oliver!" Approximately 90 students and chaperones took advantage of the opportunity and had a great time.

Not surprisingly though, is that it took a lot of work to plan the trip. Thanks to the dedication of high school teacher Jane Reif, the trip comes together every year. Planning actually begins the year before, as students begin to register and Mrs. Reif reserves the tickets and the motor coaches. But, when all the backstage work was done, it was time for the show!

Students started boarding the busses at about 8:20 a.m. and the busses took off at 8:40 a.m. Tuesday morning. On the way over, the busses were filled with students listening to music, watching DVDs or just talking to each other. On my bus, some students even took to playing the game "Catchphrase" to pass the time. All in all, it only took about 4 hours to get from Cass City to Stratford, including the time it took to cross the boarder.

When the busses pulled into Stratford, students were eager to get off the busses and begin to explore the town. The busses got to Stratford about an hour before the show began and so students were allowed to go explore the local shops. A lot of the people I talked to went to one of the local chocolate shops or ice cream parlors, but others decided to just walk down by the river or visit the theatre gift shop.

However, the most popular destination in Stratford, beside the theatre, is by far the local toy store. Each year several students venture across town to the store and explore all of the new toys. And to make the journey more fun, visitors to the shop

are encouraged to dress up in some of the costumes at the store, and have their picture taken for the store's website.

But during the time before the show, I took a couple of minutes to talk to some of the chaperones on the trip. One of the chaperones, Betsy Dillon, told me, "I am really enjoying this trip because it will be the last school field trip that I will be able to take with my daughter." I would like to personally thank all of the chaperones for giving up their time to help out on the trip.

Finally, it was time for the show! Everyone got their tickets and headed into the theatre. I know that I really enjoyed the play, but I wanted to see what everyone else thought. Cass City student Derek Suro told me, "The play was excellent, it makes me really want to see another play, like 'The Phantom of the Opera.'" And once I talked with a few other students, it was clear that everyone enjoyed the play.

When the play was over, everyone boarded the busses again and headed back for Cass City. Terra Czekai commented, "The ride there (to Stratford) seemed a lot shorter than the ride back." But not to fear, because the bus returned to the high school at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday night and students headed home to get a little rest after a long day.

Although students always seem to have a good time, the weather usually doesn't fully cooperate. Cass City High School Senior Allie Hillaker told me, "Even though it was cold and rainy, I still had a lot of fun on the trip." And all of the people that I talked to seemed to agree that the unpleasant weather or long bus ride didn't outweigh the fun they had.

To all of those who didn't get to go this year, I would encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity next year.

Several appear on felony charges

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

•Christopher M. Popp, 34, Caro, pleaded guilty to assaulting a police officer Sept. 5 in Caro, and to being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued at \$4,000 the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•George B. White, 66, Millington, pleaded no contest to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, May 27 in Denmark Township.

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

•James D. Hill, 26, Caro, pleaded guilty to third degree child abuse and domestic violence Aug. 15 in Caro.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$2,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Jeremy A. Langenburg, 31, Vassar, was sentenced to 18 months to 7 1/2 years in prison for his pleas of guilty to 3 counts of possession of a firearm by a felon, and possession of marijuana Feb. 13 in Tuscola Township.

He was also ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$345.

•Russell A. Rondo, 24, Caro, was sentenced to 120 days in the county jail and 24 months probation for his pleas of no contest to assaulting a police officer and domestic violence Aug. 13 in Caro.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,920.

•Robert L. Stanley, 21, Fostoria, stood mute to charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and aggravated assault July 15 in Watertown Township.

A pre-trial hearing was ordered

scheduled in the case and bond was continued at \$10,000.

•Christopher A. Englert, 29, Caro, was sentenced to 12 months probation and 90 days in jail (45 days deferred), with work release, for his pleas of no contest to 2 counts of assaulting a police officer and assault or assault and battery July 26 in Caro.

He was also ordered to pay \$720 in costs and fines.

•Samantha J. Barrett, 26, Unionville, was sentenced to 12 months probation and 90 days in jail (45 days deferred) for her plea of no contest to false report of a felony (second degree home invasion or larceny in a building) Feb. 10 in Columbia Township, and to assaulting a police officer March 16 in Columbia Township.

She was also ordered to pay costs totaling \$530 plus restitution of \$118.75.

•Jim Davis, 43, Silverwood, pleaded guilty to fleeing a police officer, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, and assaulting a police officer April 19 in Fremont Township, and to being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

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

•James F. White Jr., 45, Vassar, was sentenced to 11 to 33 years in prison for his jury trial convictions on charges of stalking a minor and aggravated stalking in June-July 2005 in Vassar, and to being an habitual offender (3 prior felony convictions).

He was also ordered to pay fines and costs totaling \$180.

•Thomas J. Essian Jr., 37, Millington, pleaded no contest to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor and guilty to assaulting a police officer Aug. 28 in Millington Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$4,000. Sentencing is to be set.

•Glynn P. Wilson, 23, Millington, stood mute to charges of assaulting a police officer and being a disorderly person - drunk Sept. 9 in Millington, and to being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled, bond was continued at \$10,000 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department.

•Samantha M. Bellman, 20, Vassar, was sentenced to 180 days in jail and 60 months probation for her plea of guilty to second degree criminal sexual conduct involving personal injury to the victim last April in Vassar.

She was also ordered to pay \$3,620 in costs and fines.

•Michael F. Taylor, 23, Silverwood, was sentenced to 175 days in jail and 24 months probation for his plea of

no contest to attempted larceny in a building Jan. 24, 2005, in Caro.

He was also ordered to pay fines and costs totaling \$1,620.

•Sally L. Pelton, 55, Bay City, received a one-year delayed sentence for her plea of no contest to 3 counts of receiving and concealing a stolen firearm in July 2003 in Akron.

She was ordered to pay \$940 in costs and fines.

•Todd L. Partlo, 28, Caro, stood mute to charges of identity theft, 12 counts of retaining/stealing a financial transaction device without permission of the device holder, delivery/manufacture of a narcotic/cocaine (less than 50 grams and maintaining a drug house between December 2005 and August 2006 in Caro.

A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled and bond was continued at \$8,000.

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Sanilac man injured

A Sanilac County man was seriously injured when the 4-wheel all-terrain vehicle he was riding collided with a deer Thursday night.

Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies reported that Herbert R. Rich, 28, of Snover, was driving his 4-wheeler westbound on Richmondville Road just east of North Ruth Road when he struck a deer and was thrown from

the vehicle. Deputies said Rich was treated at the scene by Sanilac EMS personnel and later flown to St. Mary's Medical Center, Saginaw, by LifeNet Helicopter.

Deckerville police and the Deckerville Fire Department assisted officers at the scene.

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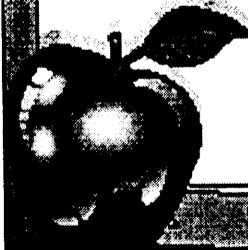
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Cass City Rotary program

"Having a great time," says German exchange student

Karen Aldrup, 17, the sparkling blond from Germany, is in the first days of her year-long stay in Cass City and found things just about as she expected. She is another in a long list of students that took advantage of Cass City Rotary's participation in

the program that hosts a foreign student while a student from the community visits another country for a year.

It would be difficult, if not impossible, to tell that Karen is from Germany and not someone who has spent

a lifetime in the area. After all, she speaks English without a noticeable trace of an accent and she was clued in by her father, Robert, who is a member of Rotary in her hometown of Schenefeld. Schenefeld, Aldrup reports, is a small town of about 20,000 near Hamburg in north Germany.

Aldrup arrived in Cass City Aug. 14 and her days have been crammed with activities. She's been to Comerica Park to see the Tigers play, gawked at the Mackinac Bridge, visited Sault Ste. Marie and Tahquamenon Falls.

When I arrived in the United States I expected to find a lot of fat people eating all the time and, of course, that's not the case, she said. I also find the variety of merchandise great. At home we go to a shop, she explained, and there might be 10 dresses to choose from and here there will be 100, 10 times the selection.

Like most foreign students, she finds school easier than at home. Everyone has been so friendly, she adds, and goes out of their way to make me welcome. It's great! One facet of her days in school that brought a wide smile was spirit week during homecoming week. I played in the Powderpuff Game, she laughed.

At home, she said that she isn't into sports, but has a horse that she cares for and rides frequently.

Today Aldrup stays at the home of Daniel and Sharon Delamarter with her "sister" Danielle Delamarter. After Christmas she moves to the home of Debra and James Kranz and then concludes her stay at the home of Mary Cunningham. (The Rotary program always seeks to have students stay at 3 different homes to provide different glimpses of home life.)

At school, Aldrup takes courses that should be useful to further her ambition to become a doctor and then return to the United States.

I'm having a great time, Aldrup said frequently during the interview, but as prepared as she was to live in the United States, there was one surprise she unexpectedly endured.

Snow in October? Unbelievable!



KAREN ALDRUP displays one of 3 calendars she is creating to give to the 3 host families she will be living with during her year in Cass City. They depict her home in northern Germany and the names of the months are printed in several languages at the bottom of the pages.

Recycle hours set to change

Officials at the Tuscola County Recycling Center in Caro recently announced a change in business hours.

Beginning Jan. 1, the hours will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month.

The recycling center is located at 1123 Mertz Rd. More information is available by calling (989) 672-1673, or by e-mail recycle@tuscolacounty.org.

Down Memory Lane

By Harmony Doerr



5 YEARS AGO

Judy Doerr of Ubyly was honored as this year's Friend of 4-H during the annual Sanilac County 4-H Leaders Banquet, held Oct. 13 at the MSU Extensions Office in Sandusky. She was presented the award by Aletha Mahaffy, 4-H program assistant.

Brothers Dirk and Dennis Delong returned home with a pair of bears from a late September hunting trip to Michigan's upper peninsula. Dennis' trophy tips the scales at 396 pounds, while Dirk's bear weighed 455 pounds.

Dairy herds in Michigan produced 458 million pounds of milk during September, up .7 percent from a year ago, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. The daily rate per cow was 50.7 pounds, up .2 pounds from 2000. The dairy herd was estimated at 301,000 head for September, up 1,000 head from a year earlier.

10 YEARS AGO

Even Wayne Dillon, counselor at Cass City High School, or Bob Stickle, retired middle school principal, who have been connected with the school for eons and eons, weren't around when Art Paddy coached his championship teams at the school in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The dwindling few who remember Paddy were able to keep in touch through the numerous articles run about him in the metro press. Another appeared in the Oct. 17 Detroit News. Paddy, 79, coaches at Ortonville Brandon, a class BB school, and his team last week was 6-0. He runs the same Wing-T offense he used in Cass City in 1946. (From Rabbit Tracks)

Cass City High School's Chad Tate just missed becoming the Class C individual state golf champion Saturday when a double bogey on the par 5 17th hole at Emerald at Maple Creek, St. Johns, enabled Jeff Irish of Lansing Catholic Central to take the title by a stroke, 145-146. Tate hit his second shot on the hole to the left and his chip went over the green. On in 4 strokes, he 3-putted for a 7. Prior to the final match, Tate led Irish by a stroke. He parred 12 straight holes before taking a 20-minute break. When he returned he went bogey, par, double bogey and par on the last 4 holes.

Patrick "Pat" Tuckey was declared the winner of the 1996 1-26 Soaring Championships held in Ionia June 26-July 3. His victory was over former 2-time winners, Bob Gravance of Palmdale, Calif., and Ron Schwartz of Blattstown, N.J., who placed second and third respectively. A 1977 graduate of Frankenthum, he is currently living in Dallas, Texas, where he is a pilot for American Eagle Commercial Airlines. Tuckey was among 25 pi-

lots from throughout the country who took part in the competition, in which pilots are required to fly a specific glider (Schweizer Model 1-26) over specified courses ranging from 60 to 130 miles in length.

25 YEARS AGO

With money vanishing from the coffers of the Michigan Department of Transportation, every time I go by the Zilwaukee bridge, I can't help but wonder how many roads could be repaired with the money wasted. The entire project wouldn't have been necessary if it was done right when Interstate-75 was built. The cost was to be \$76.8 million for the new replacement bridge. Already \$1.5 million more has been paid to re-enforce pilings because of faulty soil boring data. Now the State and the construction company are squabbling over another \$5 million in added costs. Yes, it is fun to watch the mammoth bridge under construction if you forget who is paying the bill. (From Rabbit Tracks)

Use the warmth of the sun to heat your home by opening your curtains during the day. Draw them at night to keep the cold out.

Cass City edged to a 3-0 Thumb B Association victory last Friday at Sandusky, despite the use of a pair of new faces in the Red Hawk backfield. The win will probably enable the Hawks to finish behind Caro and the Lakers in the league race this season. The faces were new in the backfield, but certainly not new to Hawk fans. They were Dave Osentoski and Jim Adkins, mainstays of the team in the line all season.

35 YEARS AGO

Dr. W. A. De Young, pathologist at Hills and Dales Hospital, says that there is a new test out that can determine if patients are susceptible to hardening of the arteries. He sug-

gests that in the future it could be standard practice for youngsters in their early teens to take the test. That way potential victims could be discovered and placed on a diet to stem the disease before it advances so far that it is irreversible. A test like this may have been able to help patients such as Chuck Hughes, the Detroit Lions end who was stricken by the disease, Dr. DeYoung explained, while adding that arteriosclerosis in the young is a comparatively common disease. (From Rabbit Tracks)

Cass City chalked up its third victory in a row, 38-0, Thursday night as the Junior Varsity whipped the Marlette JV. Ed Stoutenburg ran 20 yards on a sweep for the first score and Dave Erla added the 2-point conversion. Mike Frederick, Cass City quarterback, threw 3 touchdown passes. A toss to Dan Mellendorf covered 35 yards and Kevin Coryell was on the receiving end of 10 and five yard pay-off heaves.

Computer Help Labs available

Thumb Area Michigan Works! officials are committed to helping everyone improve their computer literacy.

Mary Pichla, Thumb Area Michigan Works! director, recently announced that beginning this week, a special "designed by you" (DBY) Computer Help Lab will be open one afternoon each week at various locations in the Thumb.

The computer labs will be available on the following days and locations: Mondays from noon to 6 p.m. at the Huron Area Technical Center, Bad Axe, and Thumb Area Michigan Works! Marlette Office; Wednesdays from noon to 6 p.m. at the Tuscola Technology Center, Caro; and Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 6 p.m. at Mott Community College in Lapeer.

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an Independent Baptist Church
4446 Ale St., Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-4088
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Pray/Bible Study & Youth Group 7:00 p.m.
Pastor - Chuck Carr
Transportation available</p> | <p>Evangelical Free Church of Cass City
6430 Chestnut Blvd., Cass City, MI 48726
Phone: 872-5060
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Midweek Bible Studies
Biblical Counseling
Pastor: Rev. Todd R. Gould</p> | <p>Novesta Church of Christ
2896 N. Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726
872-3658 or 872-1195
Bible School 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Worship Service 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Youth Group & Sunday Evening Services 6:00 p.m.
Minister: Chuck Emmert
Youth Minister: Brad Speirs
Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org</p> |
| <p>Cass City Church of Christ
6743 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726
Contacts 872-2367 or 872-3136
Worship Service Sunday 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study Sunday 10:00 a.m. & Wednesday 7:00 p.m.</p> | <p>First Baptist Church
6420 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-3155
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
AWANA 6:45 p.m. Wednesdays
Pastor: Eric Holmgren
Website: www.fbccc.us</p> | <p>Potter's House Christian Fellowship Church
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>Cass City Church of the Nazarene
6538 Third St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-2604 or 872-5201
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study & Children's Activities 6:00 p.m.
Pastor - Judy A. Esckilsen</p> | <p>First Presbyterian Church
Barrier Free
6505 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-5400
Sunday School - Sept.-May 10:45 a.m.
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
Pastor: Dave Blackburn</p> | <p>St. Agatha Catholic Church
4618 South St., Gagetown, MI 48735
665-9966
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.</p> |
| <p>Cass City Missionary Church
4449 Koepfgen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-2729
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service & Youth Group 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m.
Pastor - Bob Sweeney
www.casscitymc.org</p> | <p>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
6820 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-2770
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Pastor: Gerald Meyer</p> | <p>St. Pancratius Catholic Church
4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-3336
Saturday Liturgy 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
Pastor: Father Steve Fillion</p> |
| <p>Cass City United Methodist Church
5100 N. Cemetery Rd., P.O. Box 125, Cass City, MI 48726
872-3422
Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. (Summer 9:30 a.m.)
Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m.
Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon)
Pastor: Rev. Paul G. Donelson</p> | <p>Living Word Worship Center
(Where the Word is Life)
6536 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-4637
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.
Wed. (Family Training Hour) 7:00 p.m.
Pastor: Keith Misany</p> | <p>Shabbona United Methodist Church
4455 North Decker Rd., Decker, MI 48426
810-672-9929 (parsonage)
989-872-8094 (church)
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
UMW Monthly 1st Wed., 7:00 p.m.
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Bulldogs end year with loss to Ewart

The football season didn't end the way the players or Owen-Gage fans wanted, as the team was overpowered Friday by visiting Ewart, 63-6.

The Bulldogs' total offensive surge came in the first quarter when Josh McLaren bounced over from a yard out. A pass for the extra points failed.

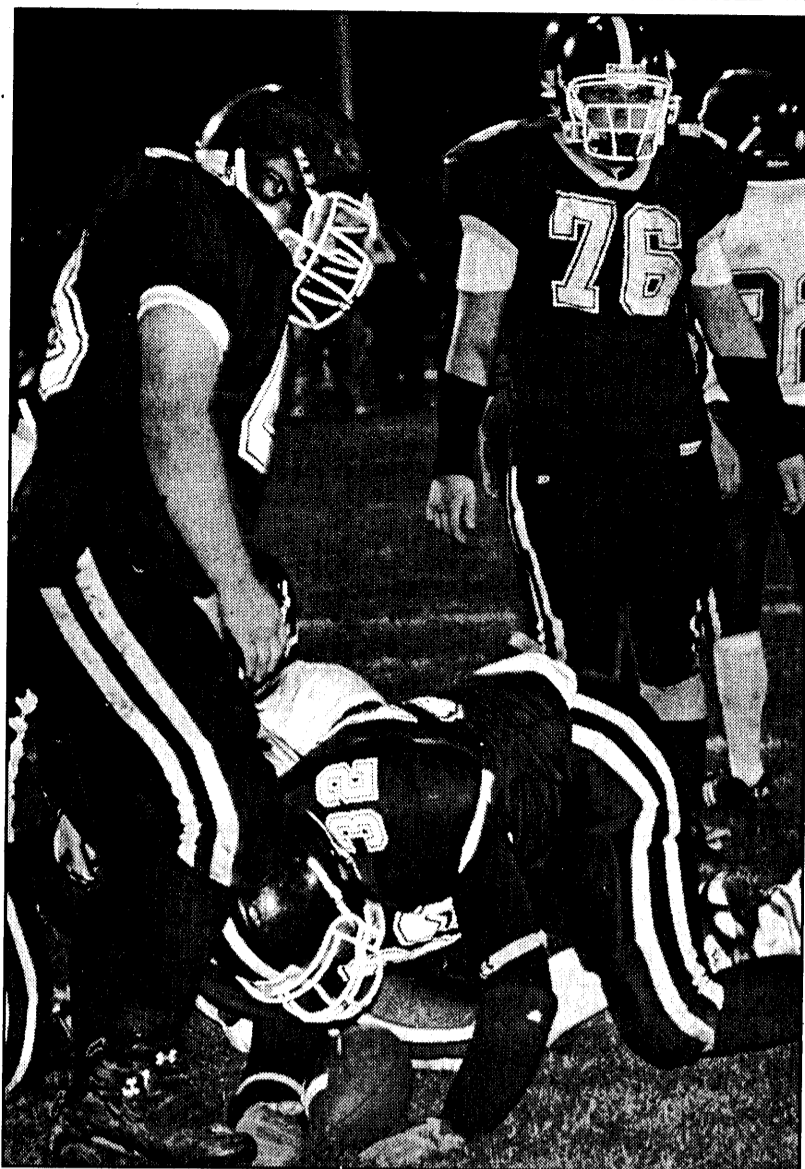
Owen-Gage could do little on the ground against Ewart. The team was held to a total of 74 yards rushing, had 3 passes intercepted and lost the ball twice on fumbles.

The majority of the yards gained were through the air. Grant Champagne completed 9 of 22 passes for 162 yards. One of his favorite targets was Cody Quinn who used his 6'-6" height to advantage, hauling in 4 passes for 69 yards.

It was the last game for 6 seniors on the team that helped Owen-Gage end the season with a respectable 3-4 in North Central Thumb North and 4-5 overall.

Besides Champagne and Quinn, Josh McLaren, a two-way stalwart and co-captain will graduate.

Andy Dronsella was one of Champagne's favorite receivers and a strong defensive player. Aaron Gaeth played 3 years on the varsity at defensive back and fullback. Also gone will be Josh Howard, who produced on both the offense and defense for the Bulldogs.



CASS CITY junior varsity running back Blake Messing scores during Thursday's season finale against visiting Freeland. Despite suffering a heart-felt 28-26 defeat, Cass City recorded an impressive 8-1 record on the year.

Cass City survives scare against hosts Freeland in regular season grid finale

Cass City ended its regular season Friday with a 59-26 non-conference victory over host Freeland, securing a Division 5 playoff spot in the process. The win improves Cass City to 6-3 on the year. They will now meet undefeated Lake Fenton this Friday in district action.

If the Hawks hope to advance into the district finals for a 3rd straight year, they will need to play focused for 48 minutes, something they didn't do against the 1-7 Falcons.

Micah Randall put Cass City on the scoreboard first when he scored the first of his 2 opening half touchdowns from one yard out with 6:18 left in the initial quarter. Derek Ricker accounted for the 2-point conversion, which proved to be the difference in the frame that ended 8-6.

Randall, who rushed for 89 yards on 10 totes, eclipsing the 1,000 yard mark on the season, helped to extend the visitors' margin to 16-6 when he found pay dirt from 6 yards out to

open the scoring in the period before the break.

However, the Falcons answered that score with an 85-yard kickoff return to claw to within 16-14.

Cass City's Kyle Sieradzki, who gained 117 yards on 15 carries, ended the initial half scoring with 2:01 remaining on the clock when he crossed the goal line on a one-yard dive. Sieradzki also added the 2-point conversion run and at the intermission Cass City was in front, 24-14. The Hawk's cushion couldn't have been much larger at the halfway point, but fumbles killed several scoring opportunities for the visitors in the early going.

Freeland, hoping to revenge last year's double overtime loss to the Hawks, opened the final half with back-to-back scores and with 3:40 remaining in the stanza, the Hawks trailed for the first time, 26-24. But senior Brad Hartel regained the

lead and momentum for the Hawks on the ensuing kickoff when he raced 80 yards to give Cass City a lead it wouldn't relinquish.

Hartel's score seemed to ignite the visitors. Cass City controlled the final 12 minutes, where they put 4 unanswered markers on the board.

Sieradzki broke loose from 46 yards out to open the touchdown parade down the stretch. He then found the end zone on a 3-yard run with 8:43 remaining on the clock where Cass City led, 48-24.

Cass City would add 2 more scores in the period. Tommy Parrish scored from 9 yards out at the 4 minute mark and Ricker ended the scoring on the night with a 56-yard gallop with 1:19 remaining.

Ricker finished the night as the Hawks' leading rusher, gaining 146 yards on 13 carries. Hartel completed 3 of 6 passes for 28 yards. Derek Halasz was credited with 2 receptions.

FOOTBALL STANDINGS

GREATER THUMB WEST				
Team	W	L	W	L
Reese	6	0	8	1
USA	5	1	5	4
BCAS	4	2	7	2
Cass City	3	3	6	-3
Lakers	2	4	2	7
Bad Axe	1	5	1	8
Saginaw BV	0	6	0	9

GREATER THUMB EAST				
Team	W	L	W	L
Deckerville	6	0	8	1
Harbor Beach	5	1	8	1
Ubyly	4	2	7	2
Marlette	3	3	3	6
Sandusky	2	4	4	5
Mayville	1	5	3	6
Brown City	0	6	0	9

NCLT NORTH				
Team	W	L	W	L
Kingston	6	1	8	1
North Huron	6	1	7	2
Memphis	6	1	6	3
Peck	4	3	6	3
Owen-Gage	3	4	4	5
CPS	2	5	3	5
Dryden	1	6	2	7
Akron-Fairgrove	0	7	1	8

Undefeated Lake Fenton, Hawks to square off Friday

Coach Scott Cuthrell's Cass City Red Hawks will make their third appearance in the state gridiron playoffs with a trip to Lake Fenton.

The Hawks' Division 5 district match up with the Genesee Area Conference Blue Devils is slated for a 7 p.m. kickoff Friday.

The hosts recorded their first perfect season since 1968, shutting out 5 opponents on the way. The Blue Devils defeated six Class B schools and three Class C teams in 2006. Five of those schools finished the year with winning records, although 3 teams compiled marks of 5-4.

"There're a good team," Cuthrell said. "You don't go 9-0 for nothing."

Cuthrell, who watched game films Monday of Lake Fenton, added, "their offense is built around a talented fullback."

Cass City (6-3 overall, 3-3 Greater Thumb West) has added 9 players from the Hawks' junior varsity squad onto its playoff roster. The Blue Devils' 9 wins have come against Wyoming Kelloggville (30-6), Montrose (14-0), Clawson (36-0), Otisville Lakeville Memorial (37-0), Goodrich (25-0), Durand (26-6), Mt. Morris (32-12), Leslie (42-22) and Imlay City (38-0). Also competing for the Region 4 District 1 crown are Tri-Valley foes Millington (6-3) and Birch Run (8-1).

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Schneeberger's ATHLETES of the WEEK

Several Cass City students are recognized as Schneeberger's Athletes of the Week for their contributions in recent Red Hawk victories. On the gridiron field, the entire offensive unit - Hartel, Randall, Ricker, Sieradzki, Halasz, Homrocky, Martin, Severance, Stec, Suro and Walsh - are honored for their comeback win Friday against Freeland. The Hawks' 59-26 victory included 35 unanswered points in the final half.

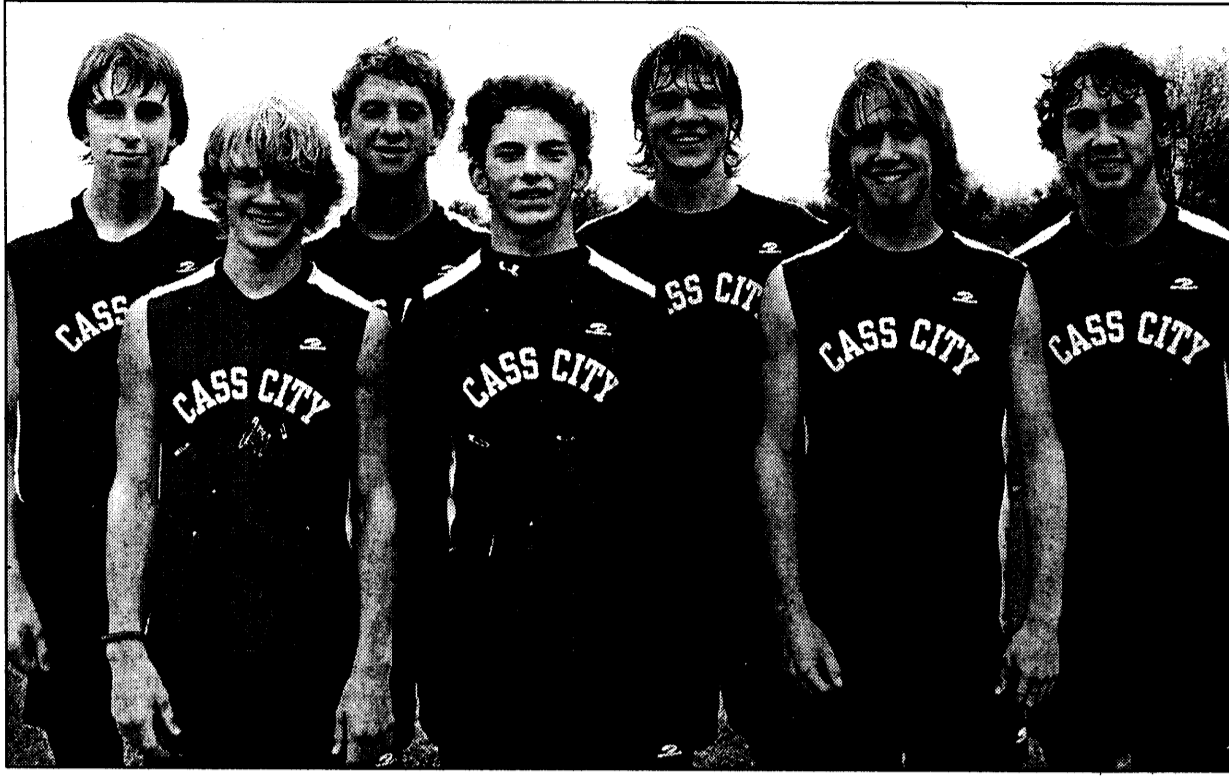
On the hardwood court, Meeker paced the Hawks to a 47-25 win Tuesday over visiting John Glenn. Meeker was the only Hawk to reach double figures as she netted 10 points to compliment 4 rebounds.

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			75-22 (77%)



Hawk runners enter regional action as Greater Thumb West champions

Cass City will enter Saturday's Division 3 Regional action in Bad Axe as the Greater Thumb West cross county champions as the Red Hawks successfully defended its league title last Tuesday in Brown City.

Red Hawks Lukas Varney and Cameron Lautner finished in the top 2 spots individually to pace the winners. The final team standings and their point totals were: Cass City 25, Reese 51, Bad Axe 67, USA 86 and Lakers 123.

Varney earned medallist honors on the day with a time of 18:31, while Lautner finished as the runner up with a time of 18:59.

The Red Hawk pair received plenty of help as teammates Tyler Burke and Kyle Reif posted times of 19:12 and 19:25, respectively, finishing with the

4th and 5th fastest times among the GTW runners. Adam Wentworth completed the Hawk scoring on the day with a time of 20:19, 13th best at the meet.

Varney, Lautner, Burke and Reif all earned GTW first team all conference honors for their efforts, while Wentworth's time placed him on the GTW all conference second team.

GIRLS' FIELD

USA ran away with the girls' competition, securing the GTW title with 24 points. Cass City placed second with 44 points, while Bad Axe finished third with 55. No other GTW schools fielded enough runners to qualify in the team standings.

Brittany Loomis recorded the Red

Hawks' best time at 23:27, good for 4th place individually, while Jennie Richards placed 7th with a time of 24:10. Both Hawks were rewarded with first team GTW all conference accolades for their efforts.

Cass City also placed 3 girls on the GTW all conference second team, as Leah Whittaker placed 9th (24:17), Ashleigh Rabideau 11th (25:05) and Lindsay Bliss 14th (25:31).

USA's Sara Turschak was the girls' medallist with a time of 21:36.

At Saturday's regional, the boys' race is slated for an 11:45 start with the girls' start to follow at 1:15 p.m.

"We have a tough regional," coach Amy Cuthrell said. "There are 3 state-ranked teams in Freeland, Swan Valley and Cass City."

REPEAT CHAMPS!

THE GREATER Thumb West cross county champion Red Hawks are, from left, Logan Kausch, Tyler Burke, Adam Wentworth, Jeremy Farr, Kyle Reif, Lukas Varney and Cameron Lautner.

Hawk cagers earn easy wins over John Glenn and Bad Axe

Cass City rolled to a pair of easy victories last week, defeating Bangor John Glenn Tuesday, 47-25, and Bad Axe, 43-28, Thursday.

Coach Lloyd Schinnerer's charges can't take much time thinking about

the 2 victories, as the determining part of the season's schedule is on deck.

The next 4 games, starting with a clash slated Tuesday at the Lakers, will decide the team's race for the

GTW crown. Cass City won't be able to lose any of the 4 games to have a crack at the crown and will also need a little help from other teams in the league.

Presently, Elkton Pigeon Bay Port has a 2-game bulge on the field. The Hawks faced the Lakers Tuesday and will play USA Thursday. Both games will be on the road. The Hawks then return home for an Oct. 31 game with Reese and a November 2 encounter with All Saints. The Laker game is a must win for the Hawks. A second loss to the Lakers would eliminate any chance for Cass City to make a title run.

The Hatchets got off to a quick start in the first quarter, paced by Chelsea Griefka who hit a pair of treys to counter Cass City's balanced attack. At the end of the period the score was tied at 10-all.

After that, Cass City took control and the Hatchets were charged with numerous turnovers and shot poorly. At the intermission Cass City was in front, 25-15.

Bad Axe's offensive woes continued in the third quarter and with 2:34 left in the period the Hawk lead had stretched to 20 points and from there the teams played on even terms.

It was another good team effort, said coach Schinnerer, and the Hawk bench contributed to the win. Sarah Howard came off the bench and was the leading rebounder with 7 boards.

Emily Schinnerer was the scoring leader with 15 and Courtney Rabideau was also in double figures with 11. Amanda Langenburg was the assist leader with 4 and Allie Richards and Courtney Rabideau each posted 5 steals.

JOHN GLENN

Cass City charged to an 11-2 lead in the first quarter and was never seriously threatened by John Glenn. Coach Schinnerer said it was a fine team effort. Most of the baskets were a result of nice assists (passes) from a teammate.

Leading at the half, 18-10, Cass City removed all doubt about the outcome with a 16-point third quarter, while the visitors were held to 4 hoops and a pair of free throws.

Nine Hawks shared in the scoring, led by Sara Meeker with 10 points. Howard came off the bench again to pace the rebounders with 5 boards and also collected 7 points.

BAD AXE - Rachele Dubey 1-0 (2-3) 4; Breault 1-0 (0-1) 2; Kaitlyn Dubey 1-0 (1-5) 3; Griefka 1-3 (0-0) 11; Craig 2-0 (0-0) 4; Lesceski 1-0 (2-2) 4. **TOTALS** - 7-3 (5-11) 28.

CASS CITY - Courtney Rabideau 5-0 (1-2) 11; Ashleigh Rabideau 2-0 (0-0) 4; Meeker 2-0 (0-0) 4; Dooley 2-0 (2-3) 6; Howard 1-0 (1-2) 3; Schinnerer 6-0 (3-4) 15. **TOTALS** - 18-0 (7-11) 43. Junior varsity: Cass City 31, Bad Axe 16.

JOHN GLENN - Hurley 0-0 (0-1) 0; Lanczak 1-0 (1-3) 3; Reinhardt 1-0 (0-0) 2; Bluhm 0-1 (5-5) 8; Frank 2-0 (0-2) 4; Kruger 0-0 (2-2) 2; Vittitton 2-0 (2-4) 6. **TOTALS** - 6-1 (10-17) 25.

CASS CITY - Richards 1-0 (0-0) 2; Courtney Rabideau 1-0 (4-4) 6; Carly Rabideau 0-0 (2-4) 2; Ashleigh Rabideau 0-1 (1-2) 4; Meeker 3-0 (4-4) 10; Dooley 2-0 (1-2) 5; Howard 3-0 (1-4) 7; Langenburg 0-0 (0-2) 0; Schinnerer 3-0 (2-4) 8; VanVliet 1-0 (1-3) 3. **TOTALS** - 14-1 (16-29) 47. Junior varsity: Cass City 53, John Glenn 21.



RED HAWK Courtney Rabideau beats Bad Axe's Ashley Craig for an easy basket in Thursday's Greater Thumb West action. Rabideau scored 11 points in Cass City's 43-28 victory.



MONSTER BUCK. Cass City resident Dave Doerr arrowed this trophy 10-point buck while hunting behind his home in Tuscola County. The brute field dressed at 180 pounds and had an inside spread of 16".

Cardinals down hosts O-G

Owen-Gage finished its regular season home schedule Thursday on a sour note, as rival Kingston posted a 65-37 North Central Thumb League crossover victory in Owendale.

The Cardinals took an 18-12 advantage into the second period where they outscored their hosts, 22-10. Then leading 40-22, the Cardinals removed any comeback hopes by the Bulldogs with a 17-10 spurt after the break.

Cardinal point guard Leigha Wilmot burned the nets for a season-high 29 points to lead the winners. Wilmot nailed 5 shots from beyond the 3-point arc in the initial half where she recorded 22 tallies.

Owen-Gage also received a solid effort from its point guard position as April Nowaczyk canned 11 points in the opening half en route to a team-high 17 markers.

Also recording double digits on the night was Cardinal Allyson Crousore and Bulldog Becky Schmidt. Each player contributed 11 points.

CASEVILLE

After being held to just 14 points one week earlier against Port Hope, the Bulldogs exploded for a season-high 73 points in Tuesday's victory over visiting Caseville.

Owen-Gage led only 14-11 after one period, but outscored the Eagles 38-10 over the middle frames to emerge with the lopsided 73-33 decision.

Nowaczyk, Schmidt and Amanda Faist handle the scoring duties for

the Bulldogs on the night, combining for 66 points. Nowaczyk paced the Bulldogs in the first half where she hit 3 treys to help build a 34-16 edge for the hosts.

After the break Schmidt chipped in 14 points, while Faist added 11. Faist finished the night with 19 points.

Schmidt earned game scoring honors with 25 points, while Bethany Grates scored a team-high 16 points for Caseville.

Owen-Gage travels to face Carsonville-Port Sanilac on Thursday.

OWEN-GAGE - Faist 9-0 (1-2) 19; Schmidt 12-0 (1-4) 25; Nowaczyk 5-3 (3-4) 22; Erer 1-0 (1-2) 3; Kovach 1-0 (2-6) 4; Collon 0-0 (0-1) 0. **TOTALS** - 28-3 (8-19) 73.

CPS - Arntz 1-1 (0-0) 5; Forman 1-0 (0-0) 2; Quinn 0-1 (0-0) 3; Lapka 1-0 (0-0) 2; Kretzschmer 1-0 (0-0) 2; Grates 5-0 (6-7) 16; Fortsch 0-1 (0-0) 3. **TOTALS** - 9-3 (6-7) 33.

OWEN-GAGE - Faist 1-0 (2-6) 4; Schmidt 5-0 (1-2) 11; Nowaczyk 7-0 (3-5) 17; Erer 1-0 (0-2) 2; Kovach 1-0 (1-3) 3. **TOTALS** - 15-0 (7-18) 37.

KINGSTON - Troop 0-0 (2-2) 2; Wilmot 1-6 (9-11) 29; Vroman 2-0 (1-2) 5; Kolacz 3-0 (1-3) 7; Campbell 3-0 (0-0) 6; Walkiewicz 1-0 (0-0) 2; Phillips 1-0 (1-2) 3; Crousore 5-0 (1-3) 11. **TOTALS** - 16-6 (15-23) 65.

BASKETBALL STANDINGS

GREATER THUMB WEST

Team	W	L	W
Lakers	5	0	9
USA	4	2	11
Cass City	4	2	9
BCAS	3	3	7
Reese	1	4	4
Bad Axe	0	6	2

GREATER THUMB EAST

Team	W	L	W
Sandusky	7	0	14
Marlette	6	1	10
Harbor Beach	3	3	9
Brown City	3	4	9
Ubyly	3	4	6
Deckerville	2	5	5
Mayville	0	7	2

NCIL NORTH

Team	W	L	W
Port Hope	9	5	11
Owen-Gage	5	9	5
North Huron	3	10	3
Caseville	2	11	2
Akron-Fairgrove	0	13	0

NCIL SOUTH

Team	W	L	W
Memphis	14	0	15
Kingston	12	1	12
CPS	10	4	10
Peck	7	6	7
Dryden	6	8	6

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- Team 1 10
- Parrons Team Bears 10

Individual High Games & Series: T. Lis 255-226-211 (692); J. Krol 224-219 (900); R. Wright 223 (593).
Team High Game & Series: Curtis Chrysler 626 (1739).
Awards: Dan Curtis - 200 Game (160 Average or less) (204); Gary Understelt - 200 Game (160 Average or less) (200); Mike Stevens - 180 Game (140 Average or less) (183).

Thursday Nite Trio as of Oct. 19

- Mycogen Seeds 19
- Doerr Landscaping 18
- Martin Electric 15
- United Building Centers 14
- Jebco Consulting 11

Individual High Games & Series: T. Lis 277 (671); G. Robinson 226-220 (642); D. Miller 215-214 (612); W. Laming 236 (591); L. Summers 221.
Team High Game & Series: Mycogen Seeds 625 (1672).
Awards: Tom Lis - 140 Pins Over Avg. Series (671-528=143); Tom Lis - 100 Pins Over Avg. Game (277-176=101).

Sunday No Rollers as of Oct. 8

- Pinheaders 7
- Pinheads 7
- JebCo 7
- Team - T-Ranch 5
- Gutter Gods 4
- Team Near Last 2

Individual High Games & Series: J. Baker 215 (551); G. Silance 201 (560); C. Wright 181 (498).
Team High Game & Series: Pinheads 629; JebCo (1795).

FALL GOLF LEAGUE

Division A

- Tate/Davis 77
- Hool/Leeson 58
- Tamlyn/Langley 54
- J. Apley/Hempton 50
- Warner/Ouvry 47
- Zdrojewski/D. Curtis 44

Medalist: J. Apley 37.

Division B

- Bellew/P. Curtis 74
- Daniels/Swanson 61
- Hobbs/Wilson 55
- Wallace/Peters 55
- Caister/Hendrick 52
- Henn/Iwankovitsch 33

Medalist: M. Swanson 37.

Division C

- Irrer/Kraft 69
- J. Nicholl/Oehring 60
- LeValley/A. Apley 63
- Bliss/Baker 54
- Lautner/Laurie 48
- Berwick/Greenlee 36

Medalist: M. Irrer 46.

Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas

FOOTBALL - BASKETBALL - SOCCER - CROSS COUNTRY - GOLF

2006 Varsity Football	
Aug. 25	Sandusky 22, Cass City 56
Aug. 31	Marlette 12, Cass City 45
Sept. 8	Bad Axe 0, Cass City 46
Sept. 15	USA 41, Cass City 38
Sept. 22	Reese 45, Cass City 32
Sept. 29	BCAS 26, Cass City 22
Oct. 6	Buena Vista 6, Cass City 61
Oct. 13	Lakers 6, Cass City 52
Oct. 20	Freeland 26, Cass City 59
*Home games are in bold	

2006 JV Football	
Aug. 24	Sandusky 18, Cass City 40
Aug. 30	Marlette 20, Cass City 45
Sept. 7	Bad Axe 16, Cass City 47
Sept. 14	USA 0, Cass City 48
Sept. 21	Reese 13, Cass City 37
Sept. 28	BCAS 12, Cass City 42
Oct. 5	Memphis 6, Cass City 50
Oct. 12	Lakers 12, Cass City 39
Oct. 19	Freeland 28, Cass City 26
*Home games are in bold	

2006 Cross Country			
Aug. 25	Bad Axe Invite	9:30 a.m.	A
Aug. 30	Akron-Fairgrove Invite	4:00 p.m.	A
Sept. 6	USA Invite	3:45 p.m.	A
Sept. 9	Bad Axe Invite	10:00 a.m.	A
Sept. 16	Holly Invite	9:00 a.m.	A
Sept. 21	Frankenmuth Invite	4:30 p.m.	A
Sept. 23	Delta College Invite	10:00 a.m.	A
Sept. 28	Mayville Invite	4:00 p.m.	A
Sept. 30	Harbor Beach	9:00 a.m.	A
Oct. 7	Cass City Invite	9:00 a.m.	H
Oct. 14	Reese Invite	8:00 a.m.	A
Oct. 17	League Invite	4:30 p.m.	A
Oct. 21	Caro Invite	11:00 a.m.	A
Oct. 29	Regionals		
*Home matches are in bold			

Follow the Hawks BASKETBALL

October 26 - Cass City at USA FOOTBALL

October 27 - 7 p.m. Cass City at Lake Fenton

2006 Girls' Basketball			
Aug. 28	Ublly 50, Cass City 48		
Aug. 30	Brown City 32, Cass City 41		
Sept. 5	Frankenmuth 36, Cass City 47		
Sept. 7	Sandusky 45, Cass City 27		
Sept. 12	Mayville 26, Cass City 46		
Sept. 14	Bad Axe 31, Cass City 45		
Sept. 19	Lakers 47, Cass City 46		
Sept. 21	Marlette 49, Cass City 46		
Sept. 26	USA 41, Cass City 50		
Sept. 28	Harbor Beach 57, Cass City 45		
Oct. 3	Reese 41, Cass City 55		
Oct. 5	BCAS 41, Cass City 40		
Oct. 10	DeKerville 35, Cass City 54		
Oct. 17	BC John Glenn 25, Cass City 47		
Oct. 19	Bad Axe 28, Cass City 43		
Oct. 24	Lakers	6:00 p.m.	A
Oct. 26	USA	6:00 p.m.	A
Oct. 31	Reese	6:00 p.m.	H
Nov. 2	BCAS	6:00 p.m.	H
Nov. 7	Caro	6:00 p.m.	A
* Home games are in bold			

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BORN TO BE WILD Committee members (from left) Butch Brown and Paul Picklo, and Donna Schuette, general manager of Thumb Cellular, present a \$1,000 check to Nathan Haag, representing the Cass City Parks and Recreation Department.

Fall fest benefits parks in the Thumb

Each year for the past 6 years during the third weekend of September, Elkton has played host to the annual Born To Be Wild (BTBW) weekend. Again in 2006, the event was a huge success.

One of the objectives of the event is to make a major contribution to a local charity.

The BTBW Committee has established an impressive history of helping local community groups and charities, and this year is no exception.

"Ever since this event has been in Elkton, we have been committed to make a donation to a local charity," said Donna Schuette, president of the BTBW Committee and member of the Elkton Chamber of Commerce. "This year's contribution from the BTBW event is being donated to the Parks and Recreation Associations in Bad Axe, Sandusky and Cass City. Each town's Parks and Recreation departments will receive \$1,000.

"There are many young children who would like to participate in the parks and recreation summer programs, but do not have the money to do so," said Paul Picklo, member of the BTBW Committee and general manager of Thumb Cellular. "We intend for these donations to allow these children to participate in future programs."

The BTBW Committee looks at organizations each year that work with the less fortunate, and it was decided that this group was deserving of the money. "We will be looking at other charities in the area for next year's donation," said Butch Brown, BTBW committee member and president of ABATE Region 7.

The Elkton Chamber of Commerce, ABATE Region 7 and Thumb Cellular are the major sponsors of the BTBW event.

The major source of funds for the event come from selling tickets for a chance to win a new Harley Davidson motorcycle given away each year. This year's winner was Mike Bowen of Flushing. Mike Gast of Elkton won the \$200 second place prize, and Lesa Gusa of Filton won the third place prize of \$100.

Calendar of Events

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

Wednesday, October 25

Owen-Gage School Board meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 26

Toddler Story Time, 10 a.m., Rawson Memorial Library. Please call to register, 872-2856.
AAUW Halloween Carnival, 5-7 p.m., Cass City Middle School.
Seniors' Lunch, noon, Shabbona United Methodist Church.

Friday, October 27

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.

Saturday, October 28

Young Adult (YA) Book Club meeting, 11 a.m., Rawson Memorial Library.

Monday, October 30

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.

Cass City Village Council meeting, 7 p.m., municipal building.

Tuesday, October 31

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

Letters to the Editor

Time to stop believing lies

Letter to my friend John,

I found it astounding that you were "astounded" by the article in the Sunday Free Press endorsing Dick DeVos for governor. As a matter of fact, considering her misleading campaign ads and her remarkable ability to twist the truth, surpassed in this generation only by the Clintons and perhaps Ted Kennedy and Al Gore "An Inconvenient Truth (?)," I find it hard to imagine that anyone with a thinking mind would endorse the current governor. Granholm claims that she, as governor, has passed "no new general taxes," which is true to some extent. The "extent" that she fails to mention is that she has tried to pass many new general taxes, which the Michigan Legislature, hell-bent on re-election, realized that they had to vote against if they wanted to keep their positions of authority. The fact is, she has increased many taxes, considerably. The question is: do we want a successful businessman to run our state or do we want another career politician whose obvious agenda is the expansion of government powers at our expense?

You know John, if the people are told a lie long enough and often enough, eventually that lie will be accepted as the truth. "The separation of church and state" clause, which doesn't exist in our Constitution, is one such lie. I've written about the facts concerning this lie before but apparently the truth has eluded you. It seems as if liberal judges and politicians endorse the original intent of the Framers of our Constitution when original intent, in their mind, benefits their agenda, whatever their agenda may be. When original intent doesn't fit their agenda, they just lie to us about the original intent concerning that particular part of our Constitution. To add insult to injury, they expect us to believe their lies. Unfortunately, some do.

In reality, religion, particularly Christianity, played a major role in the wording of our Constitution. The first amendment simply states that "Congress shall pass no law respecting an establishment of religion nor prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." As a

matter of fact, the same person responsible for the wording of the first amendment was also one of those responsible for endorsing The Northwest Ordinance, 1787. Article 3 of the NW Ordinance states that "Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind - schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." Does that sound like the Framers "intended" on keeping religion out of our government schools?

We have a choice. We can believe the lies told to us for decades, or we

can think for ourselves and draw our own conclusions from the facts. Anyone who is literate can read and interpret the Constitution. It doesn't take a rocket scientist or a law degree as those in government with an agenda would mislead us to believe. If any judge, attorney, politician or student of the Constitution can disprove any of this, I'm all ears. Legal precedents being the problem rather than the solution are not a valid argument.

Bob Papovich
Cass City

Many made the day special

I appreciate all who attended or participated in the dedication ceremony of the Gageton Veterans Memorial Post Office: veterans who attended, colorguards from Cass City VFW, Caro VFW, American Legion, and Kingstom AM Vets.

Pablo Lopez Sr. for initiating the re-naming and for being guest speaker.

Other guest speakers: Congressman Dale Kildee, Sen. James Barcia, Congressman Tom Meyer, Congressman John Espinoza, Jerome Marks - special assistant to Gov. Granholm, Connie Feuerstein of Sen. Stabenow's office, Dusty Houser of Sen. Levin's office, Charles Wright - Gageton Village President, Linda Woods - postal operations manager, Robert Hart - USPS Greater Michigan district manager, USPS Consumer Affairs Manager Sabrina Todd and other postmasters who attended.

Nancy Volante for offering Sherwood on the Hill for the luncheon along with her staff and the food she provided. Gageton ladies along with St. Agatha Church, Nazarene Church and United Methodist Church for all the food donated. Gageton Village Council for donating food trays and Gageton DPW for the help. Lilly's Flowers of Unionville for donating my lovely corsage and flowers for the tables.

The Owendale-Gageton band. Joseph Merchant for singing "Where Do We Find Such Men" accompanied by Robert Douglas and Clyde Leitermann. Peggy Hoppe, postmaster of Owendale, for handling the guest book (if you missed signing it please stop in the post office and do so). Trace Lopez for doing the computer printout of the deceased area veterans, Jane Stapleton and Clyde

Leitermann for all the clean-up help, Paul Lopez for hauling the chairs and setting up and tearing down the tents along with Bob Chisholm, Bob Guza, Pablo Lopez Sr., Brian Heiter, Arlene Smith and Neal Zabicki.

You made the day a truly special and memorable one for the veterans, the village of Gageton and the United States Postal Service.

With gratitude,
Ruth Kain, postmaster of Gageton Veterans Memorial Post Office.

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The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor.

Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. The latter is in case it is necessary to call for verification, but won't be used in the newspaper.

Names will be withheld from publication upon request, for an adequate reason.

The Chronicle reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

We will not publish thank you letters of a specific nature, for instance, from a club thanking merchants who donated prizes for a raffle.

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3865 Gageton Rd., Owendale - Country Charm, Country Setting. This 3 bedroom, 1 bath, brick home has lots of charm and needs TLC. Shed, garage, basement. \$58,000. CY2521

Lease, Lease Option, Rent to Own - This 4 bedroom, 1 bath home with wood floors, basement. \$59,900. Owner says make something happen. TCC1444

School axes 6 more positions

Continued from page one.

willing to sacrifice a portion of their pay to spare some teaching jobs. At least 2 suggested they would if the agreement "started at the top" with administrative pay reductions.

Zdrojewski said the current union contract could be reopened and negotiations would be possible to spare jobs, but he noted that would take time.

Several parents voiced their displeasure with the board's initial proposal to eliminate third grade teacher Lori Kemp's classroom based on 4 sections of third grade, each with about 21 students. "I'm very disappointed," commented parent Karen Haire, adding she sought Kemp out as a teacher, and she believes eliminating the classroom in the middle of the school year should not be done. "At the age these kids are, maybe we need to rethink that," responded board member Randy Severance.

The board later agreed to target an elementary school teaching position, not necessarily a third grade position.

BACKGROUND

Wilson said the district's financial woes are the result of several factors, including a revised 2005-06 budget that was off by a little more than \$600,000, or about 5 percent of the district's budget.

Wilson, who joined the district last spring after those budget numbers were recommended by then-Supt. Ken Micklash, said there were several unanticipated cost increases such as \$100,000 for fuel, electricity

and natural gas, and another \$100,000 in expenses related to the suspension of former band director Doug Burch and subsequent hiring of a substitute for a year. The district also ended up with nearly 40 fewer students than anticipated.

School officials subsequently reduced spending by more than \$1.1 million, which included savings from the retirements of 8 teachers and elimination of a handful of other positions.

Unfortunately, audit figures in July revealed the district was in a deficit spending position of some \$600,000. In a nutshell, Wilson explained, school officials spent \$1.3 million during the last school year and had only \$1.1 million in the bank.

Which led to a second round of cuts totaling more than \$203,000. Those affected included an industrial arts teacher who lost his job.

A third round of reductions took place last month when the board agreed to privatize the district's maintenance department, saving nearly \$20,500.

Wilson said the cuts made to-date were unavoidable, given increases in instructional costs (wages, retirement, health insurance, etc.), which are going up by some \$600,000 a year, while state aid is expected to increase by \$384,000 this year.

Gary Anderson of Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt & Doran Co., the district's auditing firm, confirmed the school's financial situation during his annual audit report Monday night. Cass City's general fund revenue in 2005-06 totaled about \$11.2 million, \$38,000 less than expected, while expenditures totaled nearly \$12.37 million, more than \$740,000 more than anticipated.

Anderson, who pointed out that several other districts are facing similar challenges, said the current financial outlook may worsen, he told the board, noting the latest word on the

state's promise to increase funding by \$210 per student this year may now be a hike of just \$100. For Cass City Schools, that decrease would translate into \$140,000.

Another factor, Wilson said, is state officials' scrutiny of Cass City's financial situation over the past 2 years, and a requirement that school officials must now stay within one percent of their projected budget.

"We don't have the option of not ending this year in black," Wilson said. "It's (cuts) not something, I don't think, anybody is happy in doing, but we can't keep spending more than we're taking in. It doesn't work at home and it won't work here."

Biddinger agreed, saying the district can't have a repeat of last year, when the budget numbers were off by some \$50,000 a month. "If we are in the red again, then the state's going to come in and run the school."

CLOSED CAMPUS

In other business Monday, the board formally approved its annual goals, which were reviewed in detail last month. Board members also revisited concerns regarding a new closed campus policy in which only seniors — not juniors and seniors — are allowed to leave the school during their lunch hours.

Board members said the primary concern involves a lack of adequate supervision, which has led some students to skip school and risk the penalty of one point for the violation.

Parents aren't even notified until a student earns 3 points, Severance said, adding a committee charged with discussing the matter has recommended an increase in the penalty to 2 points. The board approved the increase.

School officials said they are also hoping to encourage volunteers from the community to assist in supervision.

Obituaries

Curtis Harlan Dickinson

Curtis Harlan Dickinson, 77, of Cass City, died Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2006 at home following a lengthy illness.

He was born Oct. 10, 1929 in Cass City, the son of Harold and Mable (Albrandt) Dickinson.

He married Marjorie East July 7, 1957 in Richmond.

Dickinson was a 1949 graduate of Cass City High School. He served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953. In 1955, Dickinson went to work for General Telephone Company as a cable splicer. He worked for GTE until his retirement in 1991. He was an active member of the Cass City United Methodist Church.

Dickinson is survived by his wife, Marjorie; children: Daniel (Janelle) Dickinson of Cass City, Elizabeth Dickinson of Holland, and Jane (Del) Kostanko of Woodland; 5 grandchildren; sisters: Gladys Anthes of Cass City, Dorothy Dickinson of Norway, and Judy Eskilsen of Cass City; and a brother, the Rev. Richard Turner of Saginaw.

He was preceded in death by twin infant brothers, Ronald and Donald Dickinson; and a sister, Marion Ozorowicz.

Funeral services were held Friday, Oct. 20, at the Cass City United Methodist Church, Cass City, with the Rev. Paul Donelson officiating.

Military honors were under the direction of the Cass City VFW Post #3644 and the U.S. Army.

Interment was in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Memorials may be made to Cass City United Methodist Church or Bay Shore Camp.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

Daniel Franzel

Daniel "Dan" A. Franzel, 92, of Ubyly, died Monday, Oct. 16, 2006 at Bay Regional Center in Bay City.

He was born July 31, 1914 in Austin Township on his parents' farm, the son of the late George and Irene (McMillin) Franzel.

He married Mary Eileen Sommerville April 2, 1948 in Bad Axe.

Franzel was a graduate of a country school and Ubyly High School. He was a member of the Ubyly championship football team in 1931. Franzel attended Michigan State University (MSU). He farmed 3,000 acres. Franzel worked at Bud Wheel in Detroit. He sold eggs and did livestock trucking in Detroit as Franzel Farms Trucking. He was a fertilizer salesman for Agrico Fertilizer for 20 years and a dealer for Funks Seed Corn for 20 years. He was a member of the Michigan Milk Producers and sponsored livestock tours to Austria, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Hawaii, England and within the U.S. Franzel was a WWII veteran of the South Pacific Theatre and was hospitalized for 4 months from related injuries. He was a heavy

engineer training instructor at Fort Belvoir, Va., serving 4 1/2 years in the U.S. Army. Franzel was a former member of the Thumb Veterans Organization, a member of the Ubyly Community Club, Bad Axe Lions Club for 25 years, a lifetime member of the Bad Axe Knights of Columbus Council #1546. He was a committee member for 10 years for the Farmers Home Administration, and a committeeman with the Huron County ASC Community for 10 years, as well as the committee's chairman for 25 years. He was a committeeman for the Michigan Association of Farmers Elected ASC and was chairman of the state for 15 years. He was on the Holstein-Freisian Committee of Registered Holsteins for 25 years. Franzel was a member of the Huron County Farm Bureau, the Michigan Livestock Association, and the Michigan Milk Producers. He belonged to the Michigan Cattleman's Association, the Big Brothers-Sisters Organization, and the Huron County Board of Directors for 6 years. He was chairman of the committee to organize the Huron Soil Conservation District and was on the board of directors for Bay Port State Bank from 1989-1992. He was a former parishioner of St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Freiburg and was a current parishioner of St. John Catholic Church in Ubyly.

Franzel is survived by his wife, Mary; a son, Harold (Carrie) Franzel of San Antonio, Texas; 2 daughters: Mary Catherine (John) Nichol of Mt. Pleasant, and Sharon Franzel of Atlanta, Ga.; 4 grandsons; and a special friend, Doris Western of Bad Axe.

He was preceded in death by 2 sisters: Josephine and infant Irene Franzel; and a brother, Harold Franzel.

Funeral mass was held Thursday, Oct. 19, at St. John Catholic Church, Ubyly, with military honors. The Rev. Joseph Griffin, pastor, officiated.

Burial was in the St. Ignatius Cemetery, Freiburg.

Memorials may be made to the Family Discretionary Fund.

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

Deanna Miller

Deanna June Miller, 63, of Caseville, died Saturday Oct. 21, 2006 at St. Mary Hospital in Saginaw after a brief battle with cancer.

She was born Aug. 23, 1943 in Sanilac County, the daughter of the late Glenn and Mildred (Morrish) Darr. She married Lee Miller of Caseville in 1996 and then moved to Caseville.

Miller grew up in Livonia then moved to Cass City after school. She worked at Lyntex in Ubyly for 22 years.

Miller is survived by her husband, Lee; a son, Greg (Emily) Darr of Cass City; 3 grandchildren; and a brother, Chuck Darr of Saginaw.

She was preceded in death by 2 brothers: William and Jack Darr; and a sister, Joyce Darr.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 25, at the Champagne Funeral Chapel of Caseville.

Service of Remembrance set Nov. 5

A Service of Remembrance will be held Sunday, Nov. 5, at 3 p.m. The annual service, sponsored by Kranz Funeral Homes of Cass City and Kingston, will be held at Kranz Funeral Home in Cass City.

"The Service of Remembrance is a time of remembering and celebration," explained Debra Kranz, owner of Kranz Funeral Homes. "Anyone who has had someone close to them die will appreciate this service. It is not a funeral but a time for us to come together as a community in remembering those we have loved."

The service consists of music and inspirational readings. There is also a time for family members to make a floral tribute. Family members are invited to bring a flower to place in tribute of their loved one.

The event is a non-denominational service. All clergy are invited to participate or just attend in support of their church members who have experienced the death of a family member or friend.

"Death is one thing that touches all of us," Kranz said. "It is one thing we all have in common. We need to encourage our families in their grief process, allow them to still grieve, to still remember, and show them we remember, too. The Service of Remembrance facilitates this."

While the service is sponsored by Kranz Funeral Homes, anyone is invited to attend.

The funeral home is located one-half mile east of the light in Cass City at 6850 Main St. Cookies, coffee and punch will be offered during a gathering time in the funeral home after the service.

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