

No lack of candidates
in Huron and Sanilac

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Celebrate in village
with Summer Mania!

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A day in the life of...
Kappens key on safety

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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 19

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2008

FIFTY CENTS

14 PAGES

Work underway this week

Chemical winner in district's bond sale

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Taxpayers in the Cass City School District, who approved a \$6.9 million bond issue last spring to fund a variety of major capital improvements, will be able to see their tax dollars at work starting this week.

The Cass City Board of Education approved the sale of bonds that will generate the cash during a special meeting last week. And board members didn't waste time getting the ball rolling on the work, awarding some \$855,000 in contracts for paving, roof replacement and other improvements.

In all, 3 financial institutions bid on Cass City's construction bonds, and the winning, low bidder was Chemical Bank, which offered an interest rate of 4.2708 percent. The rate translates into roughly \$2.24 million in interest over the 12-year life of the bonds.

The other bidders were Comerica Securities (4.4477 percent interest) and Morgan Keegan & Company Inc.

(5.1505 percent interest).

School officials indicated they were pleased with the interest rate, which was made possible, in part, to a recent bond rating of A3 assigned to the district by Moody's Investors Service, a leading provider of independent credit ratings, research and financial information to the capital markets.

Following approval of the bond sale, board members heard a brief presentation from Chip Hendrick of R.C. Hendrick & Son Inc., Saginaw, the general contractor for the combined \$6.9 million in capital improvement work.

Hendrick submitted contracts for several projects, noting all of them were the low bids and all came in under budget. He also indicated his firm is confident in the quality of work each firm will provide the district.

The board approved the following contracts:

•Saginaw Asphalt Paving, asphalt and concrete replacement at the high

school, \$438,500.

•Kenco Energy Service, air barrier and insulation at the middle school (in preparation for roof replacement), \$70,000.

•Marlette Roofing, membrane roof at Campbell Elementary School, \$65,851.

•Valley Roofing, single ply membrane roofing at the high school, \$258,668.

•Malachino Floor Co., high school gym floor repairs and refinishing, \$18,550.

•Jeff Hosky, artist, painting of the center court Red Hawk logo, not to exceed \$3,500.

Hendrick, who said some of the work would be underway this week, also provided the board with a tentative construction timeline for the first 3 phases of improvements funded by the bonds.

The first phase, scheduled for July through September, includes replacement of concrete to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act at the early childhood education center. Projects at the high school are asphalt, sidewalk and curb and gutter replacement, gym floor work and roof replacement. Sections of the Campbell Elementary roof are also to be replaced, as is the bus garage parking lot.

Phase II is slated to begin Aug. 15 and be completed by Dec. 31, and includes replacement of exterior doors at the early childhood education center, and window replacement, sealing off pipe tunnels, replacing doors and frames, adding security locks, and new cafeteria and courtyard doors at Campbell Elementary. At the middle school, the list includes security locks and new exterior doors; and at the high school, new exterior doors, new chairs for the cafeteria, re-keying the entire building, and new classroom furniture. Finally, the track is scheduled to be resurfaced, and the bus garage floor will be replaced and improvements made to the wash bay.

Phase III projects, slated for May 1, 2009, through Aug. 31, 2009, include new lockers at Campbell Elementary along with installation of a new heating system, and replacement of sinks and clocks. In addition, the new roof

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CASS CITY'S ADAM Osentoski poses with his 1,575-pound Champion Dairy cow at the Tuscola County livestock auction. Osentoski's parents are David and Teresa Osentoski and he is a member of the 5 Star Livestock 4-H Club. He sold his cow for \$2,200 to Cooperative Elevator Co. of Pigeon.

(See more 4-H livestock photos in next week's Chronicle)

School ups ticket and lunch prices

Cass City students will be paying more for lunch and to attend sporting events in the coming school year.

The board of education approved price increases for both during a special meeting last week.

New Athletic Director Don Markel recommended increasing season athletic passes by \$10, from \$100 to \$110 for families and from \$70 to \$80 for individuals. He also asked the board to set all high school gate admission tickets at \$4 (students currently pay \$3); to increase middle school tickets from \$2 to \$3; and to up the minimum age for senior sports passes from 62 to 65.

Markel said the increases stem from increased costs for transportation and officials, and he noted the new prices reflect what most other area districts now charge.

Rising costs also prompted Shari Bock, food service director for the district, to recommend increasing hot lunch prices by a quarter, from \$1.50 to \$1.75 at the elementary school, and from \$1.75 to \$2 at the middle and high schools.

The latest projections have food costs going up by about 5 percent, according to Bock, who noted school officials may also be facing a fuel surcharge in the near future.

Turning to personnel matters, the board welcomed some new members to the district's staff, including Stacey Bliss, who will serve as the new middle school social worker. The addition will allow Beth Howard to continue her job as social worker at the elementary school full-time instead of splitting her time between the 2 buildings.

Funding hike for schools gets state House nod

The Michigan House of Representatives last week voted to increase state funding for the state's schools, including those in the Thumb.

State Rep. Terry Brown (D-Pigeon) said the additional money — \$56 to \$112 per student — will help to ensure that students receive the education they need to compete for good paying jobs in today's global workforce.

The plan, passed by the House on a 68-39 vote and now headed to the governor to be signed into law, also includes \$75,000 each for Tuscola and Huron school districts to help students prepare for jobs in the rapidly expanding renewable energy in-

Please turn to page 3.



MICHIGAN NATIVE and Author Mike Deeb was in Cass City last week, signing copies of his book, "Duty and Honor", at Rawson Memorial District Library. The fictional book, available via Rawson's online book store at rawson.librarybookshop.net, is about the Civil War and a young Michigan boy who longs to join the cause. Above, Deeb signs a copy for Cass City Police Chief Craig Haynes.

Candidates share views, backgrounds pages 6, 7

Ubly voters to decide bond issue

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The first day of school is still weeks away, but officials in the Ubly Community Schools have spent the past several weeks focusing on the new school year, and encouraging district residents to approve a financial boost at the polls next month.

Voters will be asked to approve a bond issue in the Tuesday, Aug. 5, primary election that, officials say, would make the 2008-09 school year — and many more to come — more effi-

cient and productive for students and staff alike.

The Ubly Board of Education last spring approved taking the bond issue to voters in an effort to raise \$2,020,000 to maintain and update the district's buildings. If approved, all of the money generated by the proposal would be used for that purpose — by law, the funds cannot be used for salaries or other operating expenses.

The price tag is 1.17 mills for the next 15 years. For the owner of a home

with a market value of \$100,000, the cost would be roughly \$60 annually.

The proposal stems from months of discussions among members of a subcommittee of the Ubly Community Schools' Strategic Planning Committee, which was formed in August 2006 and is composed of 20 to 30 school officials, parents and other members of the community.

A year ago, officials were looking at possibly building some new class-

Please turn to back page.

VOTE

2, which is comprised of Almer, Ellington, Indianfields and Juniata townships.

A race is also set in District 4 - Millington, Watertown and Vassar townships - where incumbent Republican Roy Petzold will square off against Marcus Jensen, also a Republican, next week.

In District 5, which represents Arbel, Denmark and Tuscola townships and the city of Vassar, incumbent Republican and board Chairman Gerald C. Peterson is running unopposed.

OTHER RACES

Kern's retirement from the sheriff's department has set the stage for a battle for his seat between sheriff's department veteran Leland Teschendorf, Republican, and Tim Adams, Democrat. Teschendorf has served as jail administrator for many years, while Adams is currently the Tuscola County District Court bailiff.

Incumbent Drain Commissioner Sa-

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10th Annual Golf Scramble

August 15, 2008

Clarion Hotel Bay Valley Resort & Conference

For more information, contact Ashley Patrick, Tournament Director, at (989) 912-6371 or visit the website at www.golfdigestplanner.com/4901-hillsdalthcarecorp.

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5K Race & 1/2 Mile Kids Run- \$10 for all ages. Start & finish at Mulligan's Irish Links. Sat., Aug. 2nd. Call 872-4618 to pre-register.

"Swim Meet" at Helen Stevens Memorial Pool- Sat., Aug. 2nd. \$2 to enter. 5 PM. Prizes awarded. Call 872-2673 to pre-register.

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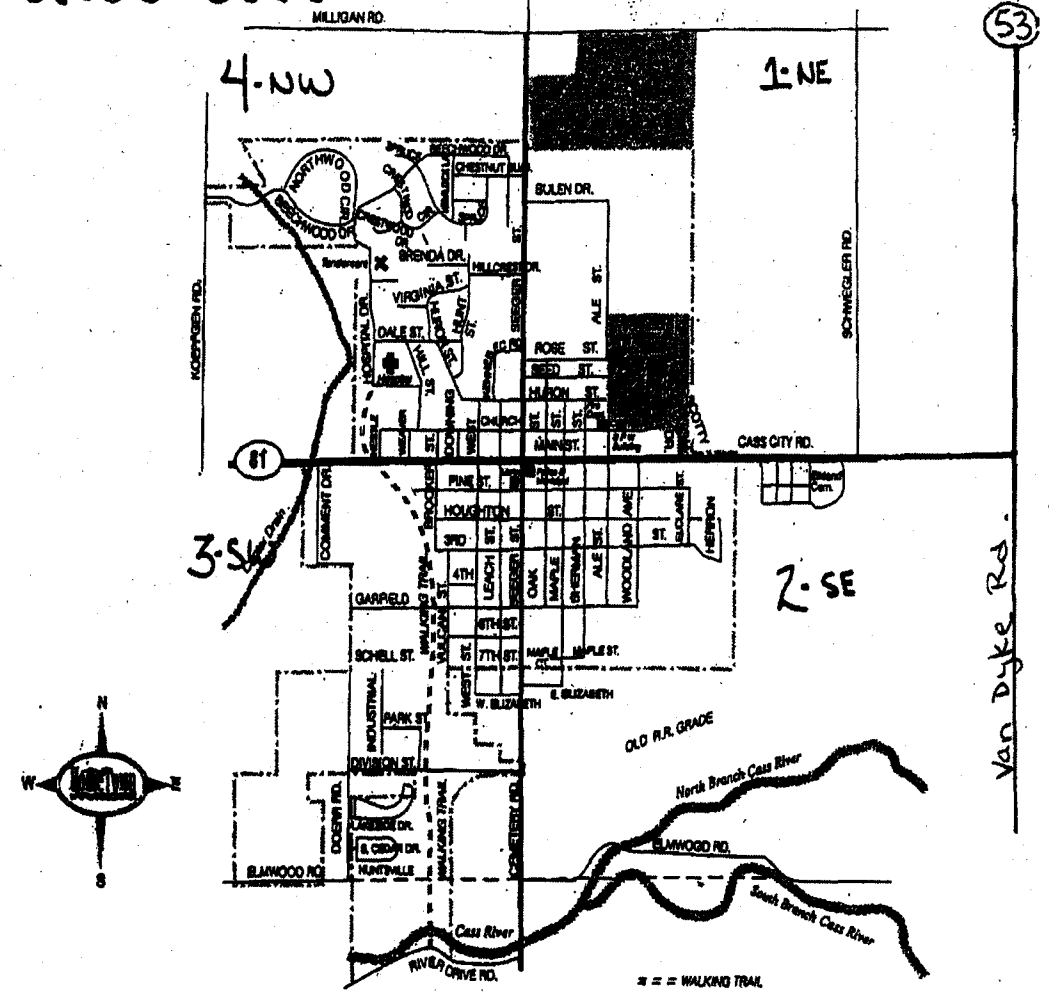
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JULY 31, AUG 1, AUG 2



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
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4805 Ale (Middle School T,F)
4960 N. Cemetery(T,F,S)
4716 N. Seeger(T,F,S)
4728 N. Seeger(T,F)
4645 Oak(T,F)</p> | <p>SECTION "2" SOUTHEAST
6566 Elizabeth(T,F,S)
4285 Woodland(T,F)
4299 Woodland(T,F,S)
4394 Woodland(T,F)
6886 Herron(T,F)
6536 Houghton(T,F)
6606 Third(T,F,S)
6627 Pine(F,S)
6645 Pine(T,F,S)
4405 Ale(T,F)</p> | <p>SECTION "3" SOUTHWEST
4137 West(T,F)
4292 West(F,S)
4308 West(F,S)
6350 Pine(T,F)
4372 Brooker(T,F)
4442 Doerr(T,F,S)
6470 Garfield(T,F)
4343 S. Seeger(T,F)
3853 Cemetery(T,F,S)</p> | <p>SECTION "4" NORTHWEST
6265 Main (Elcher's Cleaners T,F,S)
4581 West(T,F,S)
4754 Hunt(T)
6300 Brenda(T,F,S)
6325 Beechwood(W5-8,T)
4534 Downing(T,F)
4545 Downing(T,F)</p> |
|--|--|---|---|
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6158 Elmwood(T,F,S)
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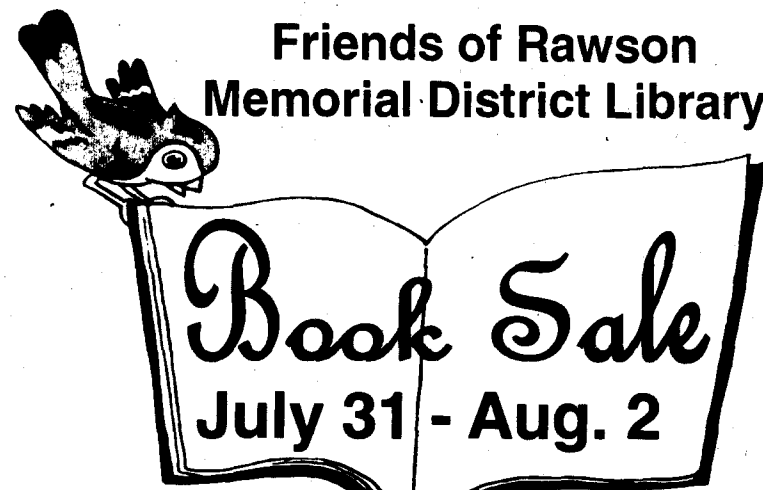
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CRAIG SWIDERSKI OF Kappen Tree Service says climbing is one of his favorite parts of his job. Safety is very important to the owners of the Cass City business and the company has a great safety record.

A day in the life of...

Safety priority one for Kappen Tree Service

by Emily Davis
Staff Writer

Editor's note: The following is another installment in a series of stories entitled "A day in the life of..." The stories, written by Chronicle summer intern Emily Davis, will appear regularly this summer and focus on a variety of professionals in the community, from a local contractor to a daycare provider to a veterinarian. The goal of the series is to share with our readers some insight into what it takes to tackle various jobs and why those interviewed decided on their chosen fields.

Safety is a clear priority for Kappen Tree Service of Cass City. Kappen employee of 5 years Craig Swiderski said the owners are always doing their best to insure safety. Swiderski said that Kappen employees get many first aid handouts to read and sign to help keep their great safety record. "They're big on safety," he said. In January, Kappen Tree Service received the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division Gold Award for its impeccable record of safety and health. Kappen Tree Service has also earned accreditation from the Tree Care Industry Association. Swiderski said Kappen Tree Service employs about 121 workers. Swiderski said on-the-job dangers can come in many forms. "There's electrical hazards, we use chainsaws, have to be careful when climbing, have to pay attention when other people are cutting," he said there are many dangers to the job. However, using caution and the safety regula-

tions the company sets helps keep employees safe. With so much focus on safety, it makes Kappen Tree Service a good place to work. "It's a great place to work," Swiderski said. "They always look out for us in terms of safety." Swiderski started working for Kappen Tree Service about 5 years ago. He was in between jobs and his father-in-law suggested he call Kappen and when he did he was hired on the spot. Training for the job depends on if workers are a part of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Union. "If you're in the union, you have to go through an apprenticeship," he said. "Otherwise you just learn by watching." Swiderski said that it probably takes about a year to become fully trained for the job, but it depends on the person. Swiderski said he greatly enjoys working for the company. He said his favorite part of the job is when he gets to climb up into trees. His least favorite part is working on lakeshores. Swiderski said having to drag parts of trees up and down cliffs by lakeshores is not a fun part of the job. "You have to haul the wood by hand because the equipment can't get down there," he said. He added that this is probably the most difficult part of his job as well. Despite being in a business that works outdoors, Swiderski said the winter months do not slow down business. "We stay busy all year round," he said. "We work mostly for Edison and Thumb Electric in the winter and residential in the summer." Swiderski said many Kappen employees that work for Detroit Edison are members of the local 17 IBEW Union out of Detroit. The job may not vary too much

based on the time of year, but it does pick up when storms hit. Swiderski said that after storms hit, he can put in around 88 hours of work in one week. Kappen employees can get called in to work at any time of the day or night. "I've had to go to work in Kingston for 3 hours at 7 at night," he said. Swiderski said how often he gets called to work in the middle of the night varies. "How often storms are is how often we get that busy," Swiderski said most of the work is done by crews of 2 to 4 people, depending on the job. While most work is done outdoors, working with bucket trucks and chippers, there is some behind-the-scenes work necessary. "I'm mostly outside working," Swiderski said. "I don't do much paperwork, but there is some. Sometimes I'll go bid for a job if I'm in Cass City to help out, too. We also have to keep tree counts, how many trees we trim or cut down."

Chemical the low bidder for school bonds

will be installed at the middle school, and the high school locker rooms will be renovated. Restroom upgrades are also planned at the high school, as are replacement of windows and expansion of the main offices. The agenda also calls for the purchase of 4 new busses and a van for the kitchen. Hendrick noted the fourth phase focuses on various technology upgrades that will be determined by school officials over the next several months.

Ubly voters to decide bond issue

Continued from page one. rooms in an effort to eliminate the need to continue renting the former St. John School for kindergarten classroom space. Other items on the "wish list" were a new media center, gymnasium and library improvements. However, school Supt. Ken Sweeney said the scope of the project was later revised with a strong emphasis on maintaining a building that was constructed in 1936. "There (are) no building projects involved with it at all, just renovation and repair and upgrades," Sweeney said. The list of planned improvements includes roof repair/replacement, electrical upgrades, technology upgrades, a barrier-free entrance at the northeast entry of the school, replacement of several boilers in the heating and cooling plant, window and lighting upgrades, parking lot

repaving and transportation-related purchases. Although no time is a good time for another tax, Sweeney pointed out that Ubly has some very positive things going for it in terms of finances, starting with the fact that the district is currently debt-free. School officials a year ago retired a 1991 debt that started out at 3.4 mills and was less than 3 mills last year. Money from that levy was used for several improvements, including classrooms that replaced portable buildings, a pair of computer labs and a multipurpose room. "We understand that times are tough now," Sweeney said. "But we think that this project...is pretty minimal (in cost). I don't see any frills in it. "We've always tried to maintain our building the best we could, and that's

pretty much what we're trying to do with this - maintain our facilities and make it another 50 years," he added. Marc Tenbusch, who retired 5 years ago as the district's business manager after more than 40 years on the job, agreed, saying the goal of the proposal is to maintain and upgrade facilities that have been very well taken care of for many years. These days, Tenbusch serves as treasurer of the Ubly Board of Education. He also has headed up the committee charged with promoting the bond issue, and he says comments made by residents have been largely positive. "The sentiments that I hear are favorable. Then, of course, you hear the negative, too, especially the economy," he noted, adding that one of the biggest selling points is the district's debt position today.

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