

**Operation H.E.M.P. nets
700-plus pot plants in area**

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an activities assistant**

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for fall sports seasons**

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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 23

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2008

FIFTY CENTS

16 PAGES, ONE SUPPLEMENT

School hires 4, including 2 laid-off due to cuts

Two more Cass City School District employees who lost their jobs when school officials implemented deep staffing cuts 2 years ago are being recalled.

The Cass City Board of Education Monday approved recalling first grade teacher Tammy Scheffa and longtime middle school librarian Judy Brown.

Scheffa returns to fill a position that will enable the district to add another first grade class at Campbell Elementary School. Supt. Ron Wilson has projected the move will reduce class size in that grade from nearly 30 students to 22 or 23 students. Brown, meanwhile, will fill a special education position at the high school.

In addition, the board approved the hiring of Terry Walker-Maurer to fill the Michigan School Readiness (4-year-old) Program at the elementary school, and Marnie Hacker will serve in a lead daycare position, also at Campbell.

Wilson said all but 3 instructors laid-off during months of budget cuts previously have now been recalled. Two of the teachers not recalled have since landed jobs in other districts.

Turning to other matters during the regular monthly meeting, the board accepted a low bid of \$159,244 from Yaroch Paving & Asphalt, Bad Axe, for renovation of the track.

Funding for the project was generated by the nearly \$7 million bond issue approved by voters in the spring. School officials last month approved the first round of projects totaling about \$855,000.

Bill Pearson of R.C. Hendrick & Son, construction manager for all of the bond issue work, reported contractors have made excellent headway on the various projects, all of which have come in well under budget.

Pearson said repaving and striping of the parking lots, service drive and bus lot at the high school has been completed along with replacement of sidewalk and curb and gutter. The paving work cost \$272,700 less than estimated, he noted, largely because the school project came at the right time for the contractor.

Roofing repairs at the high school are also well underway and should be wrapped up next month, according to Pearson, who told the board that use of state-of-the-art nuclear moisture testing enabled contractors to detect and repair only damaged sections of the roof, saving the district more than \$371,000.

School officials have also saved nearly \$210,000 on repairs at the elementary school so far due to a decision to utilize a comparable but less expensive type of roofing, Pearson said.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the board: Approved an investment plan for monies generated by the bond issue until the cash is needed to pay contractors.

Wilson said he sought bids from financial institutions with an emphasis on security of the money, the ability of school officials to withdraw money when needed, and the interest return on the investment. Thumb National Bank was the winning bidder with a promised investment return of nearly \$113,000.

Accepted the second lowest bid of \$31,268 for a new tractor from Gsentski Equipment Inc., Bad Axe.

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TRACI SOUVA OF Cass City photographs her daughters, Sadie, 7, and Samantha, 5, with one of the cast ceramic garden turtles that were auctioned off Saturday in conjunction with the Cass City Arts Council's third annual Art of August Art Show.

Village focus on milk plant

Efforts to secure a milk processing facility continue to be the main focus for Cass City government officials.

During Monday's regular meeting of the village council, Village Manager Peter Cristiano informed a handful of citizens in attendance that Cass City officials, wastewater treatment plant engineers and Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) representatives met earlier this month with the Department of Agriculture in Lansing regard-

ing the regional milk facility being considered for the community.

"The informational meeting involved grants and loans available from several agencies, and the new farm bill," Cristiano said.

The original plans provided by DFA officers to build a milk processing plant - an investment estimated at \$27 to \$47 million that would initially generate 30 new jobs with an annual payroll of some \$1.4 million - focus on

the construction of a milk condensory operation in which water and unwanted components are removed from the milk to reduce weight and cut the cost of moving the product. However, Cristiano reported that long-range goals of the project could involve additional phases of operation including creating a bio fuel product.

Please turn to page 11.

Impasse?

School, union at odds over new contract negotiations

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Cass City School officials have plenty to smile about as a new school year approaches: the district's buildings have all earned adequate yearly progress (AYP), a sea of red ink has been transformed into a healthy fund balance, and voters approved a nearly \$7 million bond issue in tough economic times.

But there's a dark cloud overhead with the first day of classes just 6 days away - the district's 70 teachers don't have a contract and school officials say negotiations have bogged down.

Cass City School Supt. Ron Wilson blames the lack of progress in talks on what he describes as the union's unrealistic demands and an unwillingness to look at the economic realities faced by the school.

Union officials, meanwhile, say there haven't been enough negotiation sessions to make that judgment.

"We have overcome so many things here the past 2-plus years," Wilson said of the district's financial struggles and successes in securing the bond issue and top academic grades from the state. "But this (contract negotiations) has been probably the most frustrating, most difficult thing I've had to deal with since I started here."

School and union officials began meeting to discuss a new contract last spring and have since had 5 or 6 bargaining sessions, according to Wilson, who indicated the 2 sides are currently at a virtual impasse.

"I would disagree with that completely," commented John Folsom, Uniserv director for the Michigan Education Association (MEA) and Tri-County Bargaining Association union representative. "We just got the school's first proposal Aug. 13 - that was the fourth bargaining session."

"There are some hard issues, obviously, and we do have some proposals on the table," Folsom added, referring to wages and fringe benefits and class size. "We're going to have a counter proposal to their proposal, which we just got, (but) I don't assess it as being an impasse at all. To have an impasse you have to bargain."

The teachers' previous pact expired Aug. 15 and was hammered out during a marathon bargaining session a year ago. The union accepted a pay freeze, although staff members did receive step pay increases based on years of service, as well as "column" pay hikes for furthering their educations. Wilson estimated the contract cost the school district about \$234,000 more than the previous year.

As for on-going negotiations, Wilson said, "We can't give them what they're asking for. They're not even in the realm of reality in what they're asking for."

The union's proposal includes a return to a 6-period day, a move that Wilson said would force him to hire 6 additional teachers at a cost of roughly a half-million dollars.

Health insurance is another sticking point. Wilson noted state law now requires school districts to bid out insurance packages. Cass City officials did that and have asked the teachers to accept a new carrier. The existing

Please turn to page 6

Veteran scout leader Baker honored with Silver Beaver

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

If you think joining the Boy Scouts means spending all of your time tramping through the woods, building fires by rubbing 2 sticks together and sitting out under the stars, Jim Baker will be glad to set you straight.

"Yes, we do that," the Cass City resident and scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 594, Cass City, acknowledges. However, he pointed out, today's scouts pursue interests ranging from computers to politics to swimming.

"It (scouting) fits in very well in today's age, because in Boy Scouting, there's a large variety of activities; there's something that appeals to almost everyone," he said.

Baker should know. The 44-year-old Cass City resident has been involved in scouting since he joined the Cub Scouts at the tender age of 8. He climbed the ranks to the top, earning the Eagle - Boy Scouting's highest rank - and he's spent the past 22 years sharing his knowledge and experience as an adult leader in all areas of the activity.

That service hasn't gone unnoticed. Members of the Lake Huron Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, recently awarded Baker the coveted

Silver Beaver Award, a council-level distinguished service honor given to less than two-tenths of one percent of all scout leaders. The award recognizes individuals who implement the scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication and many years of service.

"It was a huge, huge surprise. It means a lot and I'm happy to accept it, but that's not the reason I do it," Baker commented. "I know it's (award) a big deal, but it's about the kids, it's not about me."

Baker has contributed to scouting in many ways, including putting time in as a Tiger leader, den leader, Webelos leader, cubmaster, committee member, committee chair, assistant scoutmaster and scoutmaster. A member of the Order of the Arrow since 1976, he has also served as a roundtable commissioner and as a district committee member for the Thumb District.

Baker hails from a family that boasts a rich tradition in scouting. In fact, his grandfather, Ed Baker, became involved in the early 1900s and was a lifelong member and scout leader. He was also awarded the Silver Beaver.

"My grandpa, when he was a scout, there was no Eagle Scout - First Class

was as far as you went. The Eagle Scout came in a couple years later," Baker said. "My dad and my Uncle Bob were both Eagle Scouts, and my oldest (son Austin) is not far off. He has completed his Life Scout rank, so he's going to be looking for his Eagle project soon." Baker's father, Jim, followed in his father's footsteps and was still active in scouting when he died in his 60s.

"He (dad) was a scout leader. It was always kind of surprising that he didn't receive the Silver Beaver," said Baker, who along with his grandfather eventually branched out to also serve at the council and district levels of Boy Scouts of America, while his father was more involved at the local level.

In spite of his family's involvement in scouting, Baker recalled he was encouraged - not pushed - to join the Cub Scouts.

"Actually, there was a flyer in the school, and I made the mistake of asking my dad about it," he joked. "He kind of steered me in that direction."

Today, Baker and his wife, Stephanie, have 4 sons of their own; Austin, 13, Lucas, 12, and twins Brad

Please turn to page 2.



CASS CITY'S JIM Baker congratulates his son, Austin, on his advancement in the Boy Scouts during a recent court of honor. Baker was recently honored by the Lake Huron Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, with the coveted Silver Beaver Award for his years of leadership and dedication to scouting.

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Calendar

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AREA CHILDREN participating in the Cass City Arts and Crafts Program recently created pinecone bird feeders to be distributed to the patients of Hospice Advantage. The feeders will be given to each patient to hang outside their windows. Above, Kennedy Miller displays a couple of the feeders.

Baker honored with award

Continued from page one.

and Brent, 9. Like their father, all of the boys are in scouting, although Baker pointed out the oldest, Austin, got involved much the same way he did - a flyer handed out in school sparked his interest.

And, like his father, Baker has encouraged - not pushed - his sons to consider scouting. It's the same approach he has taken as scoutmaster of Troop 594.

"I'm a firm believer in the boy-led troop," said Baker, who explained the concept places the adults in an advisory role, with the scouts motivating themselves to accomplish their goals. "I believe if a boy wants to advance, he's on his own - that's part of what they get from scouting: the leadership skills and the ability to go after something on their own."

That philosophy has proven to be a real winner in Troop 594, which boasts a membership of about 20 boys. Nationwide, just 5 percent of scouts achieve the Eagle rank, but in the local troop, Baker said, "I think there have probably been 10 in the last 5 or 6 years."

Among them is Thomas LeValley, who indicated Baker has been a mentor to him. "He is a great guy," he said. "He's always ready to help you with any questions or problems that you might have."

"I attribute a lot of it (success) to Brian Mallory. When he started as scoutmaster, he bought into the boy-led troop approach," Baker said. "He had a huge impact on me. He's good at energizing people."

"I admire the fact that that he's one of these people who, in spite of the fact that he had no experience when he took over the troop, he listened to what we had to say. He just did a great job of letting those boys run the troop," Baker added.

The feeling is mutual, according to Mallory, who says he and Baker have

been good friends since back in the late 1980s.

"I think the thing about Jim that makes him head and shoulders above most scoutmasters, is not only is he good with the kids in his own troop - he keeps tabs on who's doing what, and he encourages them - his involvement (includes) working at the district level, he's putting together camps for all the boys in the district," Mallory said. "He's a guy you want for a friend, and he'll be the best friend you'll ever have."

Baker is also a walking advertisement of sorts for scouting. He's quick to point out that it's one of the cheapest activities around, thanks in part to the Cass City Rotary Club and the Cass City Gavel Club, which pay the yearly registration fees for local scouts.

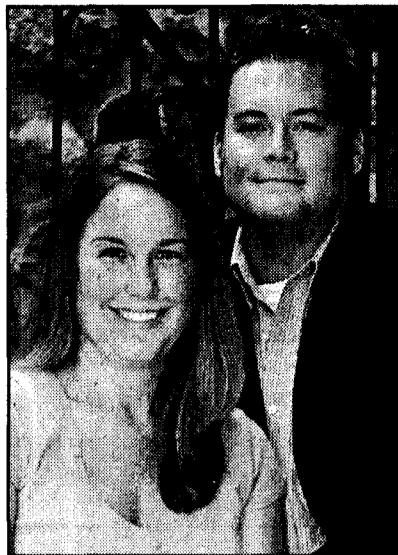
He'll also tell you there's no conflict if a young man wants to be a scout and also participate in athletics.

"That really bothers me that it's viewed as a competition. I did both and it didn't hurt me a bit," said Baker, who is also active in the community as a youth football and Little League coach. He added that being a scout made him a better athlete because scouting taught him time management skills, always being prepared, and self-discipline. Likewise, he noted, being an athlete made him a better scout. "I think it's important for boys to have the opportunity to do both."

In spite of all of the choices youth have today, Baker remains certain that scouting is not, nor will it ever be, an outdated activity because scouting teaches skills and instills character that lasts a lifetime.

"It's alive and well," he says. "I think the main thing is, it's about doing the right thing even when no one else is looking. Scouting gives the youth you work with the maximum opportunity to succeed in life."

Engaged



Marni Gallagher & Ron Hudson

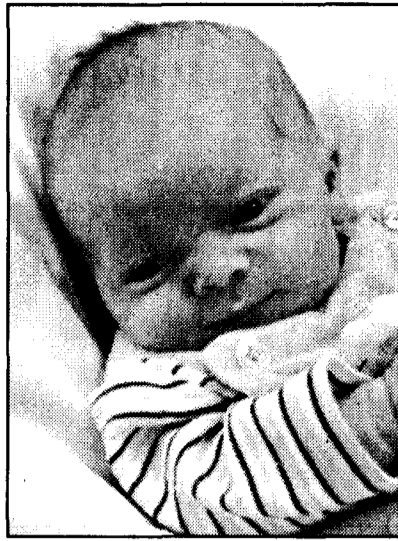
Marni Gallagher of Bloomfield Hills and Ron L. Hudson of Toledo, Ohio, announce their engagement.

Marni is the daughter of Susan and Hal Bay of Bloomfield Hills, and Wayne and Judy Gallagher of Ft. Wayne, Ind. She is a 1995 graduate of Seaholm High School and Michigan State University, and is currently employed as a Detroit regional human resources manager for Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

Ron is the son of Valerie Hudson of Cass City. He is a 1994 graduate of Cass City High School and Bowling Green State University, and is currently employed as a corporate environmental manager for Johns Manville.

An Oct. 18, 2008 wedding is being planned at the First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham.

It's a girl!



Kylie Stirrett

Scott and LuAnne Stirrett of Bad Axe announce the birth of their daughter, Kylie Elizabeth Stirrett.

Kylie was born April 18, 2008 at 11:38 a.m. at Huron Medical Center, Bad Axe. She weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long.

She was welcomed home by brothers, Tyler, Dustin and Alex, and sister, Netanya.

Kylie is the granddaughter of Dexter and Theresa Messing of Cass City, and Doris Stirrett of Bad Axe. Her great-grandmother is Geri Stirrett of Hawkinsville, Ga.

Kylie was baptized July 5, 2008 at St. Columbkille Catholic Church by Father Joe Griffin. Godparents are James and Brenda Baker of Stockbridge.

Historical society set for dinner

The Watrousville-Caro Area Historical Society will hold its 37th Founders' Celebration Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 9, at the Caro Knights of Columbus Hall.

The guest speaker will be James G. Haywood, a self-described "big kid from Mississippi". He inherited his love of history from a father who graduated with a degree in history, and a mother who is a long-time member of the DAR.

Dinner music will be provided by Bob Eastham of Vassar. For tickets, call Esther Gorashko at (989) 823-2360.

The museum hours are Thursday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. through September, or anytime by appointment. Contact Jo Ann Gray at (989) 823-3638, or Gorashko, or visit the website www.watrousville.com.

The historical society museum is located at 4607 W. Caro Rd. in Watrousville, and volunteers are currently restoring the Leonard-McGlone House at 4592 W. Caro Rd., also in Watrousville. Additional information or a copy of our newsletter is available from Gray or Gorashko.

J. Schwalm returns from deployment

Marine Corps Reserve Lance Cpl. Jonathon L. Schwalm, son of Mary J. Schwalm of Dansville, and Robert J. Schwalm of Uby, and fellow Marines from 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, recently returned from a deployment to Latin America where they participated in Partnership for Americas (POA) 2008.

More than 500 Marines from units throughout the United States deployed with Special Marine Air Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF) 24 for the month long deployment which included training operations in the Dominican Republic, subject matter expert exchanges in Uruguay, jungle training, and a community relations event in Brazil and Colombia.

The biggest humanitarian mission for the SPMAGTF was in San Clemente, Peru, which just last year suffered an earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter Scale.

Calendar of Events

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

Thursday, August 28
AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 872-4816.
Seniors' Lunch, noon, Shabbona United Methodist Church.

Friday, August 29
Closed Al-anon meeting for family and friends of alcoholics, 7 p.m., United Methodist Church, Elkton. For more information, call (989) 872-4042.
Music in the Park, 7 p.m., Rotary Park, Cass City.

Sunday, August 31
Gagetown AA meeting, 8-9 p.m., Gagetown fire hall. For more information, call (989) 665-2361.

Monday, September 1
Rawson Memorial District Library will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

Tuesday, September 2
Heartland Hospice Grief Group meeting, 6:30 p.m., Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City. For more information, contact Laura Johannes at 1-877-486-6671.

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9								
2	6							5

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5	8	6	4	9	7	3	1	2
2	9	4	3	1	5	7	6	8
7	1	3	8	2	6	4	9	5
9	2	8	6	3	1	5	7	4
4	3	7	2	5	9	6	8	1
6	5	1	7	8	4	9	2	3
1	4	9	5	6	8	2	3	7
8	7	2	9	4	3	1	5	6
3	6	5	1	7	2	8	4	9



Rabbit Tracks

by John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

The area media has published a story depicting the growth of Amish in the United States. There is no mention of the Amish settlement in the 3-county area even though the spread of the sect here is well known.

Amish growth, according to the Associated Press story, comes mainly from within. The average family has 5 children and 4 out of 5 decide as young adults to remain with the church.

Membership has increased nationwide from an estimated 123,000 to 227,000 in 16 years.

The story names 7 states that have established Amish communities - Arkansas, Colorado, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, Washington and West Virginia - in the last 16 years.

Amish have been settled here longer than that, but the guess here is that their growth is at least as great and possibly greater than the 130 percent recorded nationwide.

I violated one of the cardinal rules of basic journalism last week and I paid the price for it. In this column I listed Dale Damm and the late Bill Jolly as 81 years old. My faux pas was assuming that Damm was the same age as Jolly when he reported that he sat next to him as a member of the Cass City Lions Club and they did lots of things together.

To set the record straight, Dale is 76 years old. Just a kid, really.

It's not surprising that a vote that proposed massive changes in Michigan's government was knocked off the ballot for the Nov. 4 general election even though supporters had secured more than enough valid signatures (415,000) to place the issue before the electorate.

It called for reduction in pay for elected officials, including judges; reduced the size of the legislature and the appellate courts and revamped the manner in which legislative districts are drawn. Three Republican judges said that the broad scope of the proposal, not the pay cuts or political motive, was the reason for refusing to allow a vote in the coming election.

The end of summer is fast approaching and as usual is marked with the celebration of Labor Day. The Chronicle will be closed for the holiday. The paper will be published a day later than usual - on the newsstands Wednesday and through the mail Thursday. News and advertising deadlines remain the same.

Our usual thanks in advance for your cooperation.

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Police seize 700-plus marijuana plants

Thumb Narcotics Unit (TNU) officers seized more than 700 marijuana plants in Tuscola and Lapeer counties during a recent Operation H.E.M.P. (Help Eliminate Marijuana Production).

"This 4-day operation conducted by TNU, with assistance of Michigan State Police Aviation and officers from the Lapeer, North Branch, Almont, Caseville and Caro police departments and members of the

Michigan National Guard, dismantled numerous marijuana growing operations," said Detective Lt. Mark Opra, TNU commander.

"In all, over 700 marijuana plants were seized from indoor and outdoor (growing operations)," Opra reported. "Officers also seized 35 long guns, 6 handguns and a quantity of cash from more than 14 residences. Two subjects were also arrested on outstanding warrants."

TNU officials have identified 16 suspects ranging in age from early 30s to late 60s.

"This successful operation is the result of the dedication of officers involved and the commitment of the public to eradicate drug dealers from their communities," Opra said. "TNU received numerous tips this year from the public, leading directly to several

of the discovered (growing operations).

Opra noted that officers will be requesting charges against the suspects in both counties.

Area residents can report suspected drug-trafficking activity by calling TNU at (989) 286-6452 or 1-888-TNU-TIPS.

Baker College offering computer tech program

Baker College of Cass City, a satellite campus of Baker College of Flint, will offer a new computer technology associate degree program this fall.

The new program, which focuses on 2 options and several certifications, is being offered through a partnership with the Huron Intermediate School District (HISD). Classes will be held at the Huron Area Technical Center (HATC) in Bad Axe in conjunction with its Early College Program.

"This college-level program, available to high school juniors and seniors as well as Baker College students, provides an excellent educational opportunity for individuals interested in computer technology," said Julianne T. Princinsky, ED.D., Baker College of Flint president. Classes will begin Tuesday, Sept. 2,

and will run from Monday through Friday from 8 to 10:45 a.m. High school juniors and seniors who achieve test scores that place them at the college level are eligible to enroll in the new computer technology program.

During the second year of study, students are required to take courses that will prepare them for 2 certification exams. The second year's curriculum will focus on courses leading to an associate's degree.

Baker College students who enroll in the new program will also take classes at the HATC, located at 1160 S. Van Dyke Rd.

More information is available by calling (989) 872-1129, or by contacting Karen Easterling, Baker College of Cass City director, via e-mail at karen.easterling@baker.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Students will benefit from grant for years

In this world, helping a neighbor is one of the most notable deeds one can do. In our case, gratefulness and appreciation is just not enough. No

words or actions would be fitting for the gift we've been given.

Cass City High School received a grant through the Tuscola County Community Foundation, the student based organization Future Youth Involvement, to start a 2-part project: Our 2 B's - Beautification and Bullying Prevention. The grant money was used to purchase a greenhouse, the base that supports it, and the plants to care for until they flourished. This greenhouse is located in one of our courtyards within the school.

Not only does this supply our school system with a beautiful structure housing fruits, vegetables, and other greens, but it provides a have safe haven for special needs students who find all the joy in the world in those simple plants. The teens of Cass City will be forever benefiting from this project.

Cass City High School Student Council
Emily Martin, Student Body Secretary

Letters to the Editor
The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor.
Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. The letter 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.

The Haire Net
Soccer continuing popularity climb

It's too bad that soccer as a team sport has only limited spectator appeal. Most times games attract only parents, family members, coaches, and an occasional fan with nothing better to do.

While the spectators are few, soccer is growing like a river with a broken dam. It's an all-seasons sport and has teams in leagues for all age groups.

Soccer is easy on the budget for schools and sponsoring organizations. Buy a ball and perhaps a tee shirt and you can be in business.

It's surprising to me that soccer hasn't progressed. Five years ago I predicted that it would approach the interest that football, basketball and baseball generates. After all it is the leading sport worldwide.

My faulty prediction was based on the problems that smaller schools have had filling football rosters. Akron-Fairgrove was forced to abandon its schedule in mid-season and Caseville agreed to send any players interested in playing football to join forces with Owen-Gage.

Now Owen-Gage teeters on the edge of not being able to field a team this year. There are just 15 players on the squad.

It's rare that a team plays 9 games or more in a season and does it with-

out suffering injuries.

With just 15 players on the squad it's obvious that there will be lots of 2-way players and exhausted players are usually more injury prone. As Coach Jason Pierce says, "We just can't afford any injuries."

One positive in this trying period for football at O-G is that there is a positive corps of volunteers for football and other extracurricular programs. Many of them go the extra mile to help out.

Last year the Bulldogs won just one game while losing 9. This year it appears that wins will probably be as hard to come by.

That won't dim the O-G supporters, but perhaps it might make them take a longer look at more emphasis on soccer.

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Cass City Chronicle Aug. 27, 2008

5-Day Local Forecast	In-Depth Local Forecast	Upcoming Moon Phases																																								
Wednesday Sunny High: 76 Low: 54 Thursday Mostly Sunny High: 79 Low: 61 Friday Isolated T-storms High: 82 Low: 56 Saturday Mostly Sunny High: 75 Low: 51 Sunday Mostly Sunny High: 76 Low: 54	<p>Today we will see sunny skies with a high temperature of 76°, humidity of 60% and an overnight low of 54°. The record high temperature for today is 100° set in 1948. The record low is 36° set in 1954.</p> <p>Thursday, skies will be mostly sunny with a high temperature of 79°, humidity of 83% and an overnight low of 61°.</p>	<p>New 8/30 First 9/7 Full 9/15 Last 9/22</p>																																								
	<p>Sunrise/Sunset Times</p> <p>Sunrise today 6:51 a.m. Sunset tonight 8:16 p.m.</p>	<p>Last Week's Local Almanac</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Day</th> <th>High</th> <th>Low</th> <th>Normals</th> <th>Precip</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>86</td> <td>64</td> <td>77/56</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>66</td> <td>48</td> <td>77/56</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday</td> <td>75</td> <td>43</td> <td>77/56</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>79</td> <td>48</td> <td>77/56</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>84</td> <td>70</td> <td>77/55</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>88</td> <td>66</td> <td>76/55</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>73</td> <td>61</td> <td>76/55</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> </table> <p>Precipitation 0.00" Normal precipitation 0.84" Departure from normal -0.84" Average temperature 67.9° Average normal temperature 66.1° Departure from normal +1.8°</p> <p>Data as reported from Bad Axe, Michigan © 2008 Accessweather.com, Inc.</p>	Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Monday	86	64	77/56	0.00"	Tuesday	66	48	77/56	0.00"	Wednesday	75	43	77/56	0.00"	Thursday	79	48	77/56	0.00"	Friday	84	70	77/55	0.00"	Saturday	88	66	76/55	0.00"	Sunday	73	61	76/55	0.00"
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Organizers: bike-a-thon in village moved to fall

After 27 years of holding spring bike-a-thons in Cass City to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, organizers of the local event have decided to host the event in the fall, and they've scheduled this year's bike-a-thon for Saturday, Sept. 20.

Last year, 16 riders combined efforts to raise \$1,169.

"The bike-a-thon will again be held in the parking lot at Walbro Corporation on Garfield Avenue," said Linda Derfny, who has coordinated the local event for the past several years. She noted the bike-a-thon is sponsored by 5 area churches - First Presbyterian, Good Shepherd Lutheran, St. Pancratius, Cass City United Methodist and St. Michael's Wilmot.

Any other churches, organizations or individuals who would like to help out are invited to contact Derfny at 872-2069.

Pledge sheets for riders will be available at the sponsoring churches as well as at Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City beginning Sunday, Sept. 7.

"All ages are encouraged to get pledges and enjoy the event while helping a good cause," Derfny said. "The increase in the overall survival rate of children with cancer from 30 percent to 70 percent has been made possible through research, (and) the funds from events like the Cass City Bike-A-Thon make that research possible."

The citizens of Cass City support the researchers, technicians and doctors at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital who provide treatments and cures for children (with) catastrophic diseases," Derfny added.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, located in Memphis, Tenn., is internationally recognized for its pioneering work in finding cures and saving children. Founded by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, St. Jude freely shares its discoveries with scientific and medical communities around the world. No family ever pays for treatments not covered by insurance, and families without insurance are never asked to pay.



LINDA WOODWARD STANDS in front of the activities calendar at Tendercare. It is Woodward's job as Activities Assistant to prepare different activities and events each day for Tendercare residents.

A day in the life of ...

Woodward enjoys challenges and rewards at Tendercare

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.

Patience is a virtue. That's one phrase that is very important for many people to remember while at work. For Linda Woodward, patience is a key aspect of her job.

Woodward works as an Activity Assistant at Tendercare. She has been working there for 6 years and hopes to continue as long as she is having fun. "This is my first time working in a nursing home," she said.

"I started because a friend of mine who worked here, before knew I was a crafty person and knew there was an opening."

Woodward's job is different than a lot of others at Tendercare. She provides activities for the residents and is not significantly involved in the medical side of things. "I can help them get into their chairs and small things like that," she said. But Woodward's job is not to provide medical assistance. "For my job, patience is a good thing. I also have some craft experience. You have to have a lot of patience and tolerance," she said.

Woodward essentially provides entertainment for the residents of Tendercare. "We always have 3 planned activities a day, that could be crafts, bingo, music. I try to get people to bring in animals. I also try to get special music in sometimes." She said she likes to have a variety of things for people to do so everyone can enjoy themselves. Woodward records who comes to each activity so there is a record of what each resident does each day.

Woodward is one of 2 Activity Assistants at Tendercare and the only one who is full-time. There are 2 Activities Directors as well who do more of the paperwork side of business, Woodward said. She said on regular days, she works from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. She also does 2 evenings a week where she comes in around noon and stays until 8 p.m.

Tendercare has a capacity for 100 residents and Woodward tries to make contact with each of them a few times a week. "Of those (100 residents), probably 10 or 15 percent don't do much. I try to make room visits for those that don't come out. Every person in here gets some con-

tact," she said. That is part of the reason why she records who comes to different activities and events, so she can see who is staying in their rooms all the time and who is not. "Definitely within the course of a week they'd all have some contact probably 3 or 4 times."

From thinking up activity ideas to making personal connections to residents, Woodward's job is clearly one for an outgoing person. "I'm a people person," she said. And it shows. For Woodward, the job is rewarding because of the people she works with. When asked why she enjoys her job, she responded: "Just because everyday I put a smile on someone's face." She had a smile on her own face when answering. "It's not everyone, everyday, but everyday there's someone who I can make smile. Some of them don't have much to smile about. It's very gratifying just to get a smile and help them forget their problems for a little while," she said. On the flip side, when asked what is the hardest part of her job, Woodward said there is really no negative side to what she does.

For Woodward, Tendercare is a great place to work. She said all of the employees help set a positive tone for the residents. She said there are no set visiting hours, so residents are not limited with that. Also, there are pets at Tendercare and residents can arrange to have their own pets come in to visit them. She said the staff is also very good and hardworking. "When you cannot live on your own, this is a good place to come. We make it like home. It's not where everyone wants to be, but when it's necessary, it's a good place to be."

Waste collection set

It is estimated that the average household has 10 gallons (or 100 pounds) of household hazardous waste (HHW) at any given time. A household product is considered hazardous if it exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:

- * Toxic-substances that cause adverse psychological reactions at a given concentration
- * Reactive-substances that are explosive
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- * Corrosive-substances that will dissolve or wear away other substances

Key words to watch for when purchasing these types of items are danger, poison, warning and caution.

HHW can be anything from oil-based paint and stains to finger nail polish remover. It also includes items like pesticides, paint stripper, household cleaners, drain openers, used motor oil, antifreeze and kerosene. Although HHW makes up only a small percentage of the municipal solid waste stream, it represents a large percentage of the toxicity in the waste stream.

Sanilac County MSU Extension is sponsoring a fall Household Hazardous Waste collection Saturday, Sept. 20. An appointment is required to attend. To schedule an appointment by Sept. 15 or to get more information on any recycling program, please call Sanilac County MSU Extension at (810) 648-2515.

2008 Tuscola County plat books available

The 2008 Tuscola County Plat Book has arrived. Farm and Home Publishers Ltd. has invested countless hours of research and development in an effort to produce the best and most accurate yet easy to read reference guide to property ownership. The data was compiled from official city, state and county records.

A plat book is more than a map, it is a land atlas of information on every township in the county. It contains detailed geographical maps showing rural land ownership of parcels greater than 5 acres, including the outline of the parcel, how many acres and who owns the land as well as roads, lakes, streams, rivers and all

the natural features as they lie.

The 2008 Tuscola County Plat Book is available for purchase at many area businesses, including banks, soil conservation, register of deeds and MSU Extension.

The plat book program is one of the major fund raising events sponsored by the Tuscola County 4-H Council. Proceeds from the plat book sales go to support activities for youth and volunteers as well as provide training for leaders in the Tuscola County 4-H Youth Program.

For more information on plat book sales or the Tuscola County 4-H Program, contact MSU Extension at (989) 672-3870.

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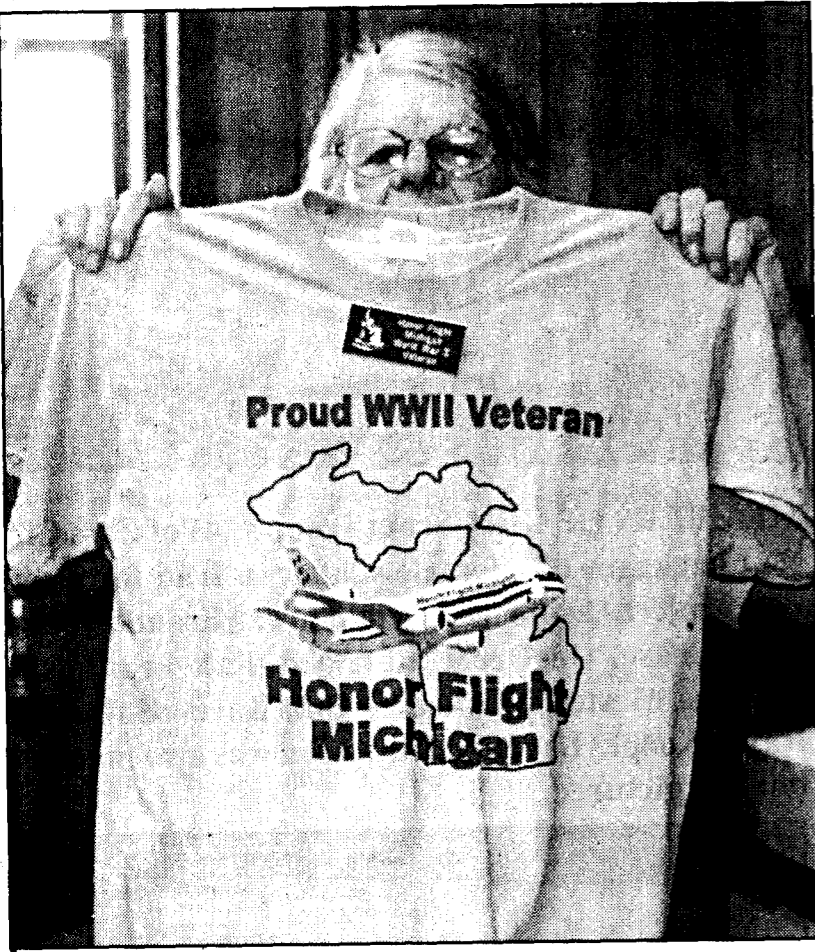


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WORLD WAR II Veteran Dagmar Brown holds up her Honor Flight Network shirt. Brown flew to Washington D.C. on August 2 to view the women's war memorial.

Brown joins Honor Flight Network to the nation's capital

When most people think of war veterans, they think of men. But Cass City is home to a proud female World War II veteran.

Dagmar Brown served for 40 years. "I was in the Navy and I came out a chief dental technician," Brown said. She was active for 10 years and in the Reserves for 30. She had been working for the Office of Price Administration rationing food when she decided to join the Navy. Brown enlisted when she was 20 years old and had to have her parents sign for her. She was in the Navy from 1943 to 1983.

In current times, seeing a woman in a war is not quite so uncommon, but in 1943 it was a definite rarity. "When was in the reserves and doing drills, was one woman of probably 500 men," Brown said. Despite being a clear minority in the war, Brown said she never felt unwelcome. "I was always one of them."

To remember the efforts of those who served, Brown flew with the Honor Flight Network to Washington, D.C. on August 2 to see the World War II Memorial. "I went to see the World War II Women's Memorial," she said. Brown said there were about 50

people in the group of Michigan Honor Guard members that went to Washington, D.C. She said there were a few from the area, but most of them were from areas surrounding Detroit. "I was the only female of the 50 people," Brown said.

The Honor Flight Network flew 12 World War II veterans to Washington, D.C. in May of 2005. The Honor Flight Network flies veterans to see the memorials for free. They have been attempting to fly most of the World War II survivors and any others who are terminally ill first.

Brown said the experience was very moving. "You wouldn't believe the reception we received in Washington," she said. Brown said the experience was a good one and a great way to remember those who were involved in the war.

The women's memorial is located at the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. According to its web site, www.womensmemorial.org, it is the only national memorial honoring all servicewomen, past, present and future. The site says that since the American Revolution, about 2.5 million women have served in the Armed Forces.

HDC hours now expanded in the Thumb

To better serve its customers, Human Development Commission (HDC) is expanding its daily hours of operation while reducing its employee work week.

The new hours, effective Monday, Aug. 4, at all HDC offices, are: Monday through Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Friday, closed.

The new hours will affect only administrative services and not programs such as Adult Day Services, Senior Dining Centers, Assault Crisis Center, Thumbbody, Magic Years Preschool, and the Generations Summer Enrichment Program.

"It is sometimes difficult for our customers to meet with us during a traditional business day," commented HDC Executive Director Mary Ann Vandemark. "These expanded hours will provide our customers with access to our staff earlier and later in the day."

Vandemark added that the altered hours of operation will help conserve energy consumption and reduce costs for the agency. Shutting down computer systems and lights over a 3-day weekend will reduce operational expenses.

With nearly 200 employees, Vandemark also estimates a significant savings in gasoline consumption. "I believe it is everyone's responsibility to conserve energy whenever possible," she said. "We are trying to do our part while providing better service to the people we serve. It's a win-win situation."

Human Development Commission is a Community Action Agency, which strives to help the working poor achieve self-sufficiency and a higher quality of life. HDC's main office is located in Caro, with field offices in Bad Axe, Lapeer, and Sandusky. For additional information, call (989) 673-4121 or 1-800-843-6394.

Arlene Bozeman finishes training

Army National Guard Pvt. Arlene C. Bozeman has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the 9 weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, underwent physical fitness training and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, the military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches and field training exercises.

Bozeman is the daughter of Alicia Hoppe of Cass City. She is a 1999 graduate of Cass City High School.

Down Memory Lane

By Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO

Dale McIntosh, Gary Jones, Jon Zdrojewski and Bill Ehrlich have very different careers. McIntosh is a banker, Jones a retired General Cable employee, Zdrojewski an eighth grade teacher and Ehrlich a telephone company worker. But all 4 Cass City men share a common bond - their appreciation for Harley-Davidson motorcycles. It's a love that prompted all of them to pack up, saddle up and ride hundreds of miles to attend the Harley-Davidson 100th anniversary celebration in Milwaukee, Aug. 28-31. They weren't alone. The area residents were among an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 Harley-Davidson buffs who attended the huge 4-day party.

Carrie Hillaker and Cameron Lautner turned in spectacular showings Saturday, leading the Cass City cross country teams at the Bad Axe Invitational. Among approximately 70 runners, in both the men's and women's races, Hillaker recorded her best time of the season with a time of 22:22. Lautner recorded runner-up honors among the boys with a season best time of 18:01.

The 8th annual Fall Family Days left members of the Friends of the Octagon Barn exhausted and amazed, not only at another attendance record smashed, but also at the level of interest and help they enjoyed throughout the weekend. Bob Hirn, co-chairman of the festival, described the celebration as another huge success. "If you dialed up and asked for a particular kind of weather, you wouldn't have had any better," Hirn said. "Our attendance was up. We had roughly 10,000 people through the gate. That's a lot of people," he added.

Last week's 41-6 loss to Ubyly was devastating to the Hawk gridders as it cost them the services of 2 of the team's best players, Cody Halasz and Jake Brinkman. Both suffered leg injuries and both were on crutches Monday. They won't play Friday and Coach Cuthrell said it's not known just how long they will be out of action.

10 YEARS AGO

A popular area banquet hall has been sold to Signature Bank of Bad Axe. Signature Bank officials recently confirmed the purchase of the Colony House, which was closed last year by long-time owners Marv and Janice Winter. The facility, located 4 miles north of M-81 on M-53, for years hosted scores of trade and craft shows as well as Thumb Electric Co-operative annual meetings and Thumb Ag Day - The area's largest agricultural show - not to mention dozens of banquets, wedding receptions, proms and other events.

Lindy K. VanVliet, Cass City, recently graduated with honors from Central Michigan University. VanVliet, a 1994 Cass City High School graduate, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration at CMU, graduating magna cum laude. The 22-year-old is currently employed by Plante & Moran, LLP, a CPA and management consultant firm in East Lansing.

Coach Jim Mastie enters his 3rd year as head of the Cass City girls' basketball program with 5 returning seniors, size and talent. That group includes Alyssa Glaspie, Andrea Walsh, Melissa Homakie, Brooke Ouvry, Lindsay Gaszczynski, Kim Morrish and Heather Pomeroy.

Rolling Hills Golf Course member champions for 1998 are: championship flight - Chad Tate, 1st flight - Rick Hollis, 2nd flight - Dick Wallace and 3rd flight - Louie Gomyore.

25 YEARS AGO

When WJBK-TV reporter Charlene Mitchell wanted to profile a country doctor as part of her series entitled "Super Docs," the cameraman assigned to the project, Russ Coleman, knew just the man. Who better than the doctor who had removed his tonsils and appendix when he was a youngster, Dr. H.T. Donahue, who has practiced in Cass City since July, 1933. Ms. Mitchell explained that Dr. Donahue is one of the seven "extraordinary" doctors being profiled in her series. Each segment will run for about three minutes on the 5:30 p.m. news in late September. Coleman said he shot about one hour of videotape, which will be edited down to the three-minute segment that will be shown. The 1966 Cass City High School graduate, after serving in the Army and graduating from Delta College, worked at television stations in Savannah, Ga., Fort Wayne, Ind., and Houston, Texas, before going to work for WJBK 4 1/2 years ago. He is the son of Myles and Geraldine Coleman of Crawford Road, Deford.

Youth in the Evangelical Free Church who were honored for memorizing more than the required number of scripture verses in the Bible memory program were Jeff Loomis, Terri Leino, Brian Wright, Matt Peasley, Julie Loomis, Tonna Wills, Amy Ross, Diana Loomis, Shauna Peasley, Nicholas Bliss, Charity Gaszczynski, Mike Furness, Beth Powell and Este Eisinger. Children attending Deford Elementary School will have a new roof over their heads. The roofing firm installed a 3-inch layer of plastic foam insulation, a layer of rubber and gravel on top.

35 YEARS AGO

Tuscola County's long-awaited State Police Post will finally become

a reality on or about Nov. 1. According to State Representative Loren Armbruster, R-Caro, Governor William Milliken signed the State Police Appropriations Bill into law Monday, which included funds for the post.

A Gagetown man was reportedly held up and robbed in front of his home on Lincoln Street Saturday by three unidentified persons. According to a report originally filed with the Huron County Sheriff's department and later transferred to Tuscola County, Virgil Bures was robbed of some \$250 in small bills shortly before 6 p.m. He told Tuscola deputies that a woman came to his front door, and asked him if he would come out to her auto to look at something. As they approached the vehicle, one of two men sitting in the car allegedly pulled a pistol and demanded money. Bures alleged that the woman pulled his wallet from his pocket and removed the money. He told deputies that the woman then re-entered the auto and the trio left.

There are big shoes to fill in the Cass City offense for 1973. Just 4 starters are back. They are Scott Hartel, end, Dave Brooks and Chester Sieradski, tackle, and Scott "Ralph" Guinther in the backfield. Coach Roland Pakonen says that there aren't a pair of tackles in the Thumb to compare with the two that will anchor the Hawk line.

If a girl comes out to your car and asks, "fill 'er up?," don't be alarmed. That's her job. She works at the S.T. & H. Boron Oil service station at the corner of Main and Seeger Streets in Cass City. Sherry Parsell, of Pigeon, whose father, Carl, has leased the station, says she likes the work because it's different. "It's a real challenge to do this kind of work for a living," she said. "Besides, it adds beauty to gas stations." Her assistant, Rosanna Petio of Decker, also eagerly pursues the career as a pump jockey. She specializes in windows and handling the nozzle on the pumps, while Sherry checks oil, water and battery levels.

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University presidents call for lower drinking age

Do you think lowering the drinking age will help with binge drinking in college?

An article showed up on the Wall Street Journal's web site on Thursday saying over 100 college presidents are unsatisfied with the current drinking age.

Underage drinking has become more and more common at colleges and universities and the drinking that takes place is commonly binge drinking. The Wall Street Journal article cites a professor and former college president saying that the current drinking age is not stopping underage students from drinking. It only makes them hide their drinking, he said.

The article quotes a variety of people in the article with different views. The president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving said in the article that college presidents wanting to lower the drinking age is sending the message that it's okay to drink underage.

Cass City residents Erin Kappen and Holly Plumb both disagree with the college presidents. "I don't think it (lowering the drinking age) will help at all," Plumb said. "It's basically condoning that underage drinking is okay," Kappen added.

Some cited in the Wall Street Journal article say they believe college presidents are starting this campaign to lower the drinking age because enforcing the rules and disciplining students for underage drinking is too difficult. Members of the campaign want to lower the drinking age and raise knowledge of drinking responsibly. No new age was suggested.

"I don't think you're old enough at 18 to know the responsibility of drinking," Kappen said. "You're considered an adult, but really you're not adult-like."

To see the original article, go to <http://online.wsj.com> and type in "drinking age" in the search bar.

Erin Kappen & Holly Plumb

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Cass City Area Church Directory

<p>Calvary Bible Fellowship 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>Cass City United Methodist Church 5100 N. Cemetery Rd., P.O. Box 125, Cass City, MI 48726 872-3422 Worship: 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>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>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>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. Sunday Night Impact 7:00 p.m. Midweek Bible Studies Biblical Counseling Pastor: Rev. Todd R. Gould</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>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. Eskilsen</p>	<p>First Baptist Church (Independent, Fundamental) 6420 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726 989-872-3155 Sunday School All Ages 9:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AWANA Clubs 6:45 p.m. During School Year Pastor: David G. Hill Website: www.fbccc.us</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 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>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.</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 style="font-weight: bold; font-size: large;">Visitors always welcomed Please join us today</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>

Obituaries

Grace Maurer

Grace A. Maurer, 92, a lifelong resident of Ubly, passed away Monday, Aug. 18, 2008 at Northwood Meadows, Cass City, under hospice care.

She was born June 24, 1916 in Parisville, the daughter of the late William and Eva (Danielski) Leppek. She married Frederick K. Maurer Oct. 24, 1938 at St. Mary Catholic Church, Parisville. He preceded her in death Sept. 28, 2005.

Grace was a graduate of the MacMillan Elementary School. She was a former member of St. Joseph

Catholic Church, Sandusky, from 1942 to 1948. Grace became a parishioner of St. John Catholic Church, Ubly, in November of 1948, where she was a member of the Young Ladies Sodality. She was a former officer and member of the St. John Christian Mothers Circle #1, St. Ann's, since 1948. Grace worked for the Ubly Seat Belt Factory from 1972 to 1979. She enjoyed gardening, baking, dancing, quilting and her card club. She truly enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Grace is survived by 2 daughters: Doris (Carl) Kolar of Sterling Heights

and Marilyn (Jim) Mastie of Cass City; 2 sons: Fred (Raddie) Maurer of Perry and Gene (Barbara) Maurer of Grand Blanc; 7 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; 26 great-great-grandchildren; a brother-in-law, John (Joan) Maurer of Smith Corners; 2 sisters-in-law: Betty Maurer of Smith Corners and Magdelene Leppek of Rapson, and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Zig Leppek, and an infant brother and sister.

Funeral mass was held Thursday, Aug. 21, at St. John Catholic Church, Ubly, with the Rev. Joseph Griffin, pastor, officiating.

Burial was in the church cemetery. Memorials may be made to St. John Catholic Church, Sleeper Public Library or the donor's choice. Arrangements were made by Zinger-Smigielski Funeral Home, Ubly.

James Moore

James A. Moore, 79, of Au Gres, formerly of Cass City, passed away Aug. 19, 2008 at Standish Community Hospital.

He was born June 5, 1929 in Cass City, the son of the late Hazel and Glen Moore.

He married Catherine Hulburt Nov. 29, 1968 in Caro.

Jim worked as a pressman for 37 years in Cass City and Standish before retiring. He served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953. Jim was a member of the Tawas Moose Lodge #2400, and a former member of the Pine River Golf Club. He loved golf, bowling and the outdoors.

Jim is survived by 2 step-daughters: Dorothy (James) Morell and Helen Magel of Macomb; a sister, Glenna (Clifford) Sowden of Yale; a brother-in-law, Roy Jeffery of Au Gres; 5 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother and 2 sisters.

Cremation has taken place. There will be a private graveside service at a later date.

Arrangements were made by R.O. Savage Funeral Chapel, Standish.

Enrollment up 11.8% at Baker, officials say

Baker College Online officials recently announced an 11.8 percent increase in spring quarter online enrollment compared to the same period in 2007. A total of 4,474 undergraduate students attended online classes exclusively during spring quarter 2008, with new student enrollment up 7.94 percent over last year.

"Averaging 11.25 students per class, Baker College Online provides an intensively personal learning experience," said Dr. Julia Teahen, president, Baker College Online. "Add in flexibility, affordability, enhanced technology and quality programs, and you have the perfect formula that continues to attract students to Baker College."

A total of 26,605 students throughout the Baker College system took Baker Online classes this spring quarter. This total includes:

5,405 students who took 100 percent of their classes online, including 4,474 undergraduate students and 931 MBA students.

6,750 students who took a combination of online classes and campus-based classes.

14,450 students who took campus-based classes including some online coursework, a 13.68 percent increase over spring 2007.

Also announced was a 1.4 percent spring quarter student enrollment increase for Baker College Center for Graduate Studies over last year. A total of 931 students were enrolled at Baker College Center for Graduate Studies this spring.

Baker College Online and the Baker College Center for Graduate Studies are part of Baker College, the largest private college in Michigan. Both are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.



MEMBERS OF GIRL Scout Troop #241 of Cass City sent packages to a female soldier in Iraq for a service project. From left to right are: Miranda Weiss, Lexi Crase, DeeDee Haley, Nataliah Frankoski, Brianna Mester, Mackenzie Uhl, Kacey Haire and Kayla Koepf. Layna Matthewson was also involved but not pictured.



KAYLA KOEPF HELPS assemble the first of 3 care packages the Girl Scout Troop put together. Each member of the troop received a Community Service Patch for her efforts.

School, union at odds

Continued from page one.

policy costs the district \$1.398 million, compared to the school's recommended policy that costs \$1.125 million for a savings of about \$273,000.

Wilson said the new policy would reduce allowed chiropractic visits from 36 to 24 annually, and does not cover massage as the current policy does. However, he pointed out there is no prescription co-pay with the new policy. School administrators and support staff have already accepted the new policy and saved the district \$80,000, according to the superintendent, who said the savings are being returned to the staff in the form of pay increases. Wilson added he would like to do the same for the teaching staff if they would accept the new insurance program, but they have indicated they are committed to their current carrier.

On top of that, he continued, the union returned to the table with a costlier insurance proposal. "It's insulting when we're trying to settle a contract and they come back with something even more expensive," he said.

Both sides are also at odds over several other issues, including a union proposal that would require school officials to hire additional instructors anytime class size exceeds the levels agreed upon in the contract.

But the real "boat sinker", Wilson said, is the union's request for a 3-year contract with base pay increases of 1.5 percent plus inflation increases annually, plus pay hikes for teachers already at the top of the salary scale, ranging from 1.1 percent for 12 to 14 years of service to 4.1 percent for 25 years or more of service to the district.

"Where else in the world - where else in America, is that happening right now," Wilson asked.

He noted there are other financial considerations, including the projected loss of another 64 students in the coming school year, which would translate to about \$460,000 in lost state revenues, and the recent hiring of a full-time elementary social worker and first grade teacher.

At the same time, members of the Cass City Board of Education have charged Wilson with increasing the district's fund balance by 3 percent a year until the fund reaches the recommended 10 percent of the school's budget, or roughly \$1 million.

Wilson, who has nearly achieved that goal with a projection of a fund balance totaling nearly \$900,000 at the end of this fiscal year, emphasized the board's decision not to use that fund to cover pay increases. As it is, he said, the union's contract proposal would wipe out that fund equity and then some.

"I can basically offer them (teachers) around \$250,000" from savings that would be realized if the union accepts the district's proposed insurance package, Wilson said.

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CROSS COUNTRY - FOOTBALL - SOCCER - TENNIS - VOLLEYBALL

2008 Varsity Football		
Aug. 28	Sandusky	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 5	Harbor Beach	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 12	Bad Axe	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 19	USA	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 26	Reese (HC)	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 3	BCAS	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 10	Vassar	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 17	Lakers	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 24	Almont	7:00 p.m.

2008 JV Football		
Aug. 27	Sandusky	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 4	Harbor Beach	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 11	Bad Axe	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 18	USA	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 25	Reese (HC)	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 2	BCAS	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 9	Vassar	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 16	Lakers	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 23	Almont	7:00 p.m.

2008 Boys' Soccer		
Aug. 18	Almont	4:00 p.m.
Aug. 19	Sandusky	5:00 p.m.
Aug. 21	Brown City	5:00 p.m.
Aug. 25	Marlette	5:00 p.m.
Aug. 27	Caseville	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 2	Caro	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 4	Harbor Beach	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 6	Bad Axe Invite	9:00 a.m.
Sept. 9	Bad Axe	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	USA	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 18	Lakers	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	Bad Axe	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	USA	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 7	Lakers	
Oct. 13-18	Districts	
Oct. 21-25	Regionals	

Home games in bold.
 Admissions: High School: \$4.00
 Season Sport Passes:
 Family: \$110 + \$5.00 per student; Individual: \$80.00
 Seniors over 65: Free with pass

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FOOTBALL
August 28 -
Cass City vs. Sandusky
VOLLEYBALL
September 9 -
Cass City vs. Bad Axe
SOCCER
September 9 -
Cass City vs. Bad Axe
September 16
Cass City vs. USA
TENNIS
September 22 -
Cass City vs. Harbor Beach
CROSS COUNTRY
October 4 -
Cass City Invitational

2008 Volleyball		
Aug. 22	Bad Axe Invite (JV)	9:00 a.m.
Aug. 23	Bad Axe Invite (V)	9:00 a.m.
Aug. 28	New Lothrop Invite	9:00 a.m.
Sept. 9	Bad Axe	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 11	Reese	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 13	Birch Run Invite (V)	8:30 a.m.
Sept. 16	USA	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 20	Caro Invite (V)	8:30 a.m.
Sept. 23	BCAS	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 25	Lakers	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 27	Birch Run (JV)	8:30 a.m.
Sept. 30	Vassar	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 2	Bad Axe	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 4	Northwood Invite (V)	
Oct. 4	Lakers Invite (F)	
Oct. 7	Reese	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 9	USA	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 11	Freeland Invite (V)	9:00 a.m.
Oct. 16	BCAS	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 23	Lakers	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 30	Vassar	6:00 p.m.
Nov. 4-8	Districts	

2008 Cross Country		
Aug. 27	Akron-Fairgrove	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 3	USA Invite	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 10	Ubyly	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 13	Holly Invite	7:30 a.m.
Sept. 18	Frankenmuth	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 25	Mayville Invite	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 27	Harbor Beach	9:00 a.m.
Oct. 4	CC Invite	9:00 a.m.
Oct. 11	Reese Invite	
Oct. 18	Caro Invite	10:00 a.m.
Oct. 21	League Meet (Bad Axe)	
Oct. 26	Regionals	

2008 Tennis		
Aug. 25	Sandusky	4:00 p.m.
Aug. 28	Caro	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 3	Harbor Beach	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 8	BCAS	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 15	Sandusky	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 22	Harbor Beach	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 24	BCAS	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 29	Caro	4:00 p.m.
Oct. 4	League Tourney	4:00 p.m.

Brown seeks aid for Thumb wheat farmers

State Reps. Terry Brown (D-Pigeon) and John Espinoza (D-Croswell) are pushing for the federal government to reassess the losses that Thumb-area wheat farmers suffered due to heavy rains this season, a move that would lead to higher crop insurance payments and protect the thousands of jobs that rely on white wheat grown in Michigan.

"Many Thumb-area farmers have lost thousands of dollars this year because the rains damaged their wheat and their ability to sell it at good prices," said Brown, a member of the House Agriculture Committee. "But because of the outdated way the federal crop insurance system determines wheat quality, farmers aren't being adequately compensated. Farmers pay good money for this insurance, and they deserve to have the most scientific methods used to measure their losses and help them through tough times like these."

Heavy rains this year caused many wheat kernels to prematurely germinate, or sprout, before harvest, degrading the wheat and damaging its quality. Currently, the Federal Crop Insurance Corp. accepts only a subjective "sprout count" to determine the quality of wheat. Grain elevators and millers, though, use a scientific "falling numbers" test that often results in a lower determination of quality - and market price. This discrepancy forces wheat producers to take the full financial loss, despite having purchased crop insurance.

Brown and Espinoza want the government to use both methods of measuring wheat quality in order to more fairly compensate farmers. They have asked U.S. Representatives and Senators to intervene immediately and have introduced a resolution in the Michigan House of Representatives calling for this change in the crop insurance system. Major Michigan employers such as Kellogg cereal company rely on Thumb-area farmers for their white wheat, which in the U.S. is grown primarily in Michigan and the Northwest.

"If white wheat is seen as too risky to grow and farmers don't have confidence that the federal insurance system will back them up, Michigan could lose this specialty crop and all the jobs that it produces," Espinoza said. "It is imperative that the federal government immediately re-evaluate its payout policy for wheat crops so we can create and maintain jobs and keep our economy moving in the right direction."

Temporary license plates available

U.S. military personnel and other Michigan motorists have the option of buying temporary license plates for vehicles they drive infrequently, according to Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land.

"Temporary plates are a great option for service members home on leave for a few weeks," Land said. "Instead of buying a full-year license plate, military personnel and other drivers should consider these less-costly plates."

A 30-day plate costs one-tenth of the vehicle's annual registration fee or \$20, whichever is more, plus a \$10 service fee. A 60-day plate costs one-fifth of the registration fee or \$40, whichever is more, plus a \$10 service fee. The plate is a paper permit that must be displayed in the vehicle's rear window.

People can apply for the temporary plates at any Secretary of State office. They will need to bring proof of Michigan no-fault insurance and proof of ownership, such as the vehicle's Michigan title or expired plate registration.

Visit www.michigan.gov/sos for more information about Secretary of State services.



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THE 2008 Owen-Gage football team members are: (front l-r) Cole Denhoff, Brandy Plowman, Clyde Rhodes, Bryan Buschlen, Allen Miller, Hunter Champagne (back) Coach Jason Pierce, Mike Boli, Derek Bucholtz, Ryan Francis, Cole Mroz, James Harris, Brent Reil, Nick Zaleski and Asst. Coach Joe Tkacz. Missing: Dustin Harp and Chris Harp.

Owen-Gage opens football campaign with 15 players

The Owen-Gage Bulldogs open the football season Thursday at Arenac-Eastern and Coach Jason Pierce would like nothing better than a victory over the Eagles.

In the first game last year the Bulldogs lost to the Eagles 18-6, but the

score was tied with 10 minutes left to play. The story of the game was that the Bulldogs failed to take advantage of a scoring opportunity and the Eagles did.

Getting off to a good start is important as Owen-Gage lost several close

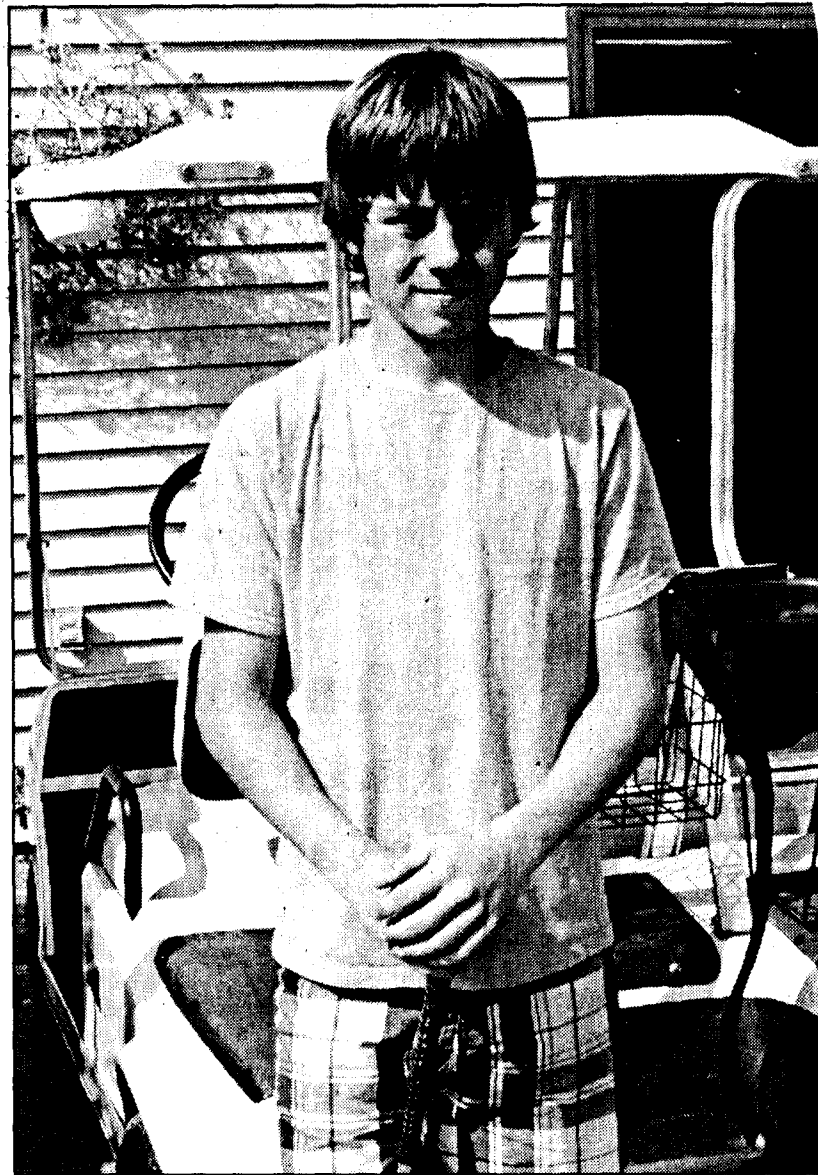
games last season and then lost confidence and finished the season at 1-9.

This season Pierce will need to contend with several problems. The first is a thin squad with only 15 players available.

The second is the loss of 5 key players. Kenny Brown, 4-year letter winner, was an anchor at halfback and defensive back. David Grates played linebacker. JC Witherspoon was looked to at cornerback and flanker. Quinn Kelly, 3-year letter winner, will be missed at linebacker and at the fullback spot on offense. Completing the list is Tim Neil, 4-year letter winner on the offensive line and linebacker.

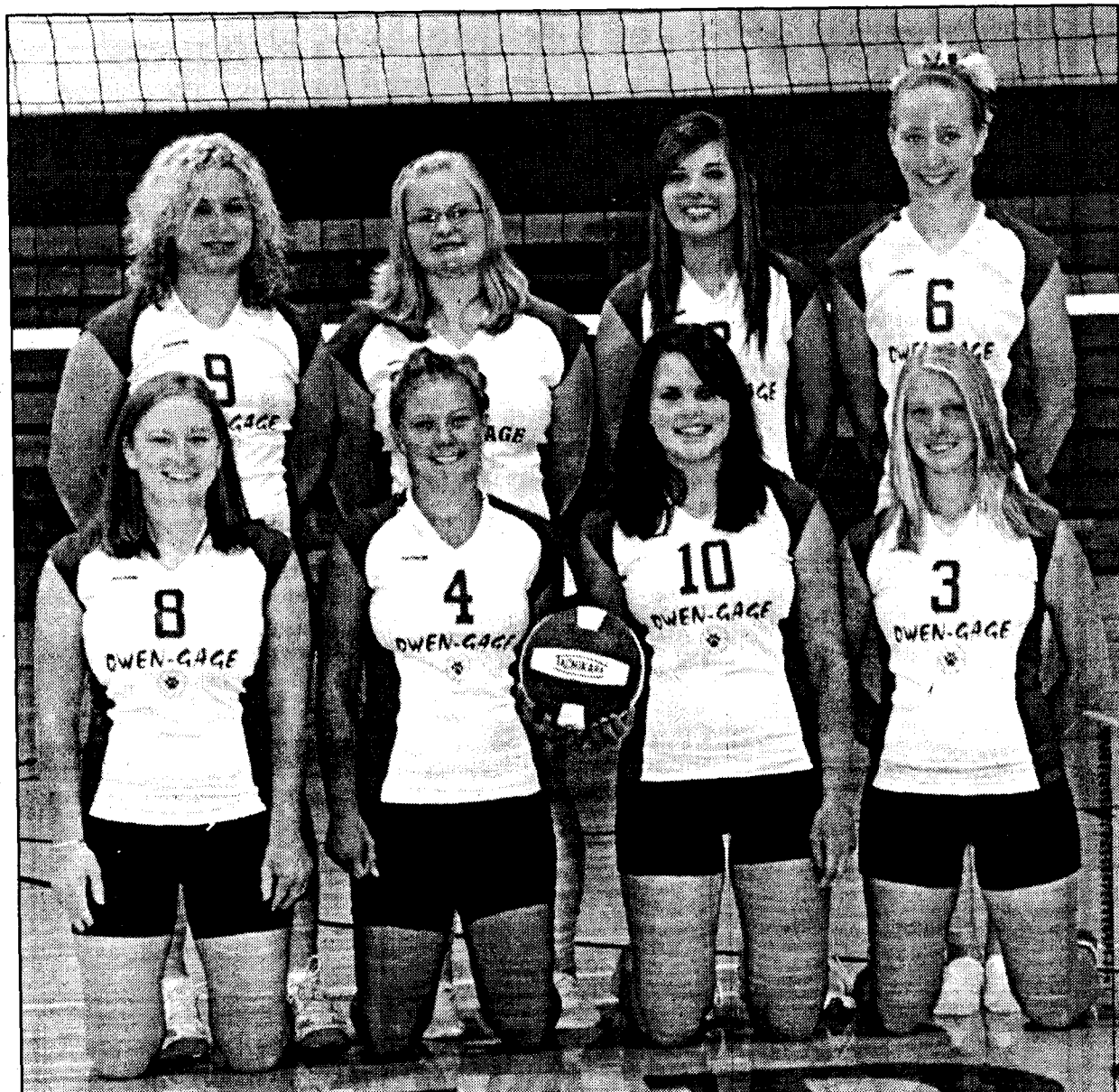
Pierce will have 7 players to build around this season. Start with Nick Zaleski, second team all conference player last season as a sophomore, who racked up over 1,000 yards rushing. Brent Reil will be at quarterback. He runs the offense well and is an excellent passer. On defense he was named second team all-league linebacker. Cole Mroz will be a force on the offensive and defensive lines. He's a smart player, his coach says, with good size (255 pounds) and is a 3-year letter winner. Ryan Francis, a junior, will be seeking his third letter on the offensive-defensive lines. Pierce points out that he has great agility and size (235 pounds). Derek Bucholtz, 290-pound senior, will lead the offensive line and takes up space on the defensive line.

Mike Boli is counted on at fullback and linebacker. He has good size and is fast. Cole Denhoff, a freshman, is smart and quick, but lacks size (125 pounds).



CASS CITY 13-year-old Chandler London recorded a hole-in-one Thursday at Mulligan's Irish Links Golf Course. He used a 9-iron to ace the first hole measuring 85 yards playing with witnesses Michael Mulligan and Brock Thane.

Owen-Gage 2008 Football		
8-28	Arenac Eastern	7 p.m.
9-5	Peck	7 p.m.
9-12	Dryden	7 p.m.
9-19	North Huron (Parents Night)	7 p.m.
9-26	Memphis	7 p.m.
10-3	Akron-Fairgrove	7 p.m.
10-10	CPS (Homecoming)	7 p.m.
10-17	Kingston	7 p.m.
10-24	Ashley (Senior Night)	7 p.m.



THE 2008 Owen-Gage volleyball team members are: (front l-r) Mariah Francis, Samantha Radabaugh, Amanda Faist, Katie Rhodes; (back) Lauren Mandich, Amanda Woodruff, Kelsey Quick and Christy Schmidt. Missing are Alisha Kovach and Shonna Elliott.

CHIP SHOTS

Wednesday Night 2-Man Golf League As of Aug. 20

Division 1 - Early	
Davis/Tate	139
Zdrojewski/Peters	114
Iwankovitsch/Stickle	109
Burns/Caister	107
Burns/Kritzman	103
Jones/Marshall	103
Cotton/Israelson	103
Pobanz/Smithson	102

Craig/Knight	101	Hool/Toner	116
Hobbs/Meck	98	Martin/Robinson	115
Bliss/Irner	98	deBeaubien/Lowe	111
Alexander/Spencer	97	Hartel/Brown	107
Young/Veggian	94	Hillaker/Murphy	106
Hendrick/Wilson	91	Corey/Paul Ulfig	93
Berwick/Greenlee	89	Biddinger/Smith	92
Dillon/Tonti	86	Osentoski/Schott	84
Collins/Herron	77	Doerr/Haire	83
Warner/Wallace	71	Laurie/Lautner	82
		LeValley/Morgan	81
		Prieskorn/Repshinska	77

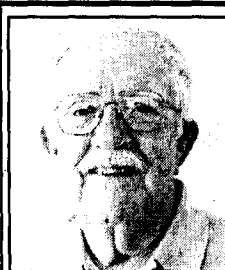
Individual Medallist: Kritzman 37.		Individual Medallists: Ulfig, Tamlyn 36.
Team Medallists: Davis/Tate 85, Wallace/Warner 85.		Team Medallists: Langley/Tamlyn 74.
Division 2 - Late		
Langley/Tamlyn	122	
Bliss/Krol	117	

Fabulous Five's Fearless Forecast

This Week's Forecast

Varsity Football Thursday, August 28

Akron-Fairgrove at AuGres
Caro at Vassar
Sandusky at Cass City
Frankenmuth at Swan Valley
Kingston at Marlette
Mayville at Dryden
Millington at Alma
North Branch at Imlay City
Owen-Gage at Arenac Eastern
Reese at Houghton Lake
USA at Ubyly
Lakers at Carrollton



John Haire



Clarke Haire



Tom Montgomery



Tina Pallas



Doug Hyatt

AuGres Vassar Cass City Frankenmuth Marlette Dryden Millington Imlay City Arenac Eastern Reese USA Carrollton

AuGres Vassar Cass City Swan Valley Marlette Dryden Millington North Branch Arenac Eastern Reese Ubyly Lakers

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AuGres Caro Cass City Frankenmuth Marlette Mayville Millington North Branch Arenac Eastern Reese USA Lakers

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THE 2008 Cass City varsity football team members include: (front l-r) Coach Scott Cuthrell, Steven Schotter, JC Knight, Dean Rabideau, Gage Hardesty, Lyle Hutchinson, Kevin Merchant, Josh Inbody, Adam Osentoski, Seven Hicks, Jordon Papp, Guy Sommerville, Coach Josh Stern; (back) Coach Andy Gray, Cody Nye, Lukas Varney, Tyler Tomlinson, Austin Babich, Blake Mesing, Tony Middaugh, Luke Newton, Nick Shantz, Clark Walsh, Mitch Adkins, Joseph Schotter, Eric Reif and Coach Nick Moyer.

Cass City set to lift gridiron curtain

The Cass City Red Hawk football team will look to return to the state playoff picture in 2008, after missing the Division 5 gridiron title chase last year for the first time in 4 years.

Coach Scott Cuthrell, entering his 9th season at the helm, will have a dozen returning letter winners to help achieve that goal, but the Hawks also face a tougher schedule that begins Thursday with visiting Sandusky in non-conference play.

We have 11 or 12 guys that are pretty good players, but after that our depth is weak. If we can avoid the injury bug, we should be competitive, Cuthrell said.

An opening night win against the Greater Thumb East Redskins would go a long way in improving on last year's mark of 3-3 in the Greater Thumb West (GTW) and 4-5 overall. Still, removed from the 2007 schedule are contests with Marlette and GTW perennial cellar-dweller Saginaw Buena Vista. Replacing the Red Raiders in the Hawks' schedule this year is always tough Harbor Beach while Vassar returns to the

GTW conference wars for the first time since 1990.

If the Hawks hope to collect 6 wins on the year, the magic number needed to guarantee a playoff berth, it will start with their senior leadership.

In the backfield, Austin Babich and Blake Mesing return for their final year to give the Hawks experience in the skill positions. Babich, who is the current school record holder in both the 100 meter and 200 meter dashes, will handle the signal calling. When the Hawks go to the air, look for returning senior Tyler Tomlinson and Luke Newton to be Babich's main targets.

Messing, who rushed for over 800 yards as a junior, has good size and strength, and combined with returning senior Lukas Varney should give the Hawks a solid ground attack, despite the loss of Mark Koepf, a GTW honorable mention all star in his final season.

In the trenches the Red Hawks will be without the services of tackles Jesse Walitalo, a GTW first team selection on both offense and defense

in 2007, an Isaiah Battel. However, seniors Jos Inbody and Kevin Merchant should fill in nicely for the pair.

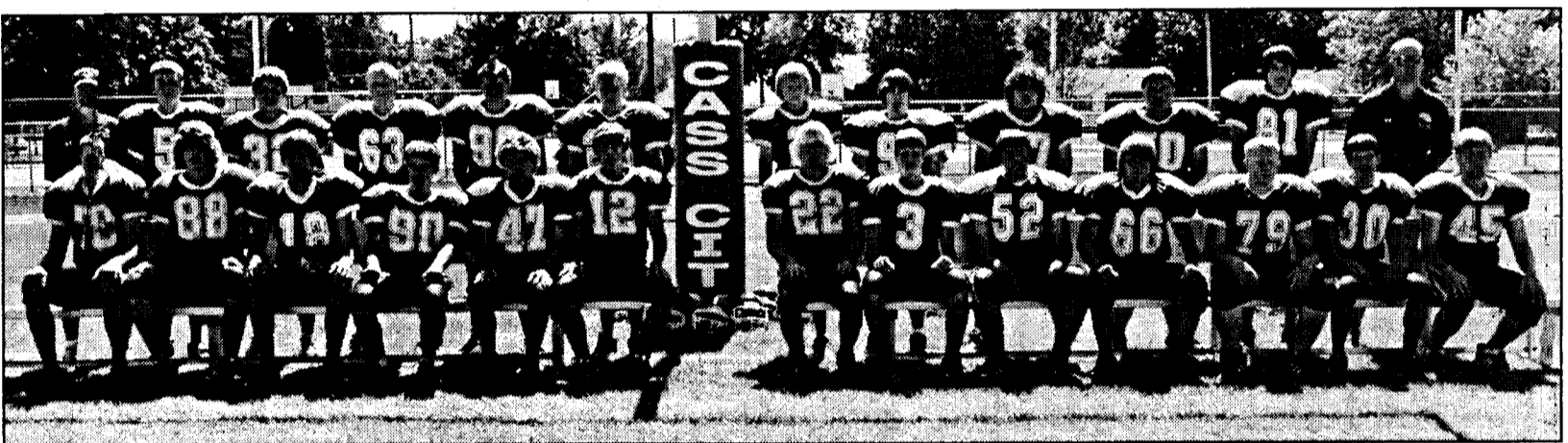
Josh has put his time in at the weight room and is one of the strongest players (that we have had in our program),

says assistant coach Josh Stern. Adding to the Hawks' muscle on the front line will be returning senior center Adam Osentoski.

Defensively, Cass City will surely miss hard-hitting Tommy Parrish, a

second team all-conference line-backer in 2007. But several untested players including last year junior varsity standouts Dean Rabideau, Steven Hicks, Eric Reif and Nicholas Shantz should help ease the transi-

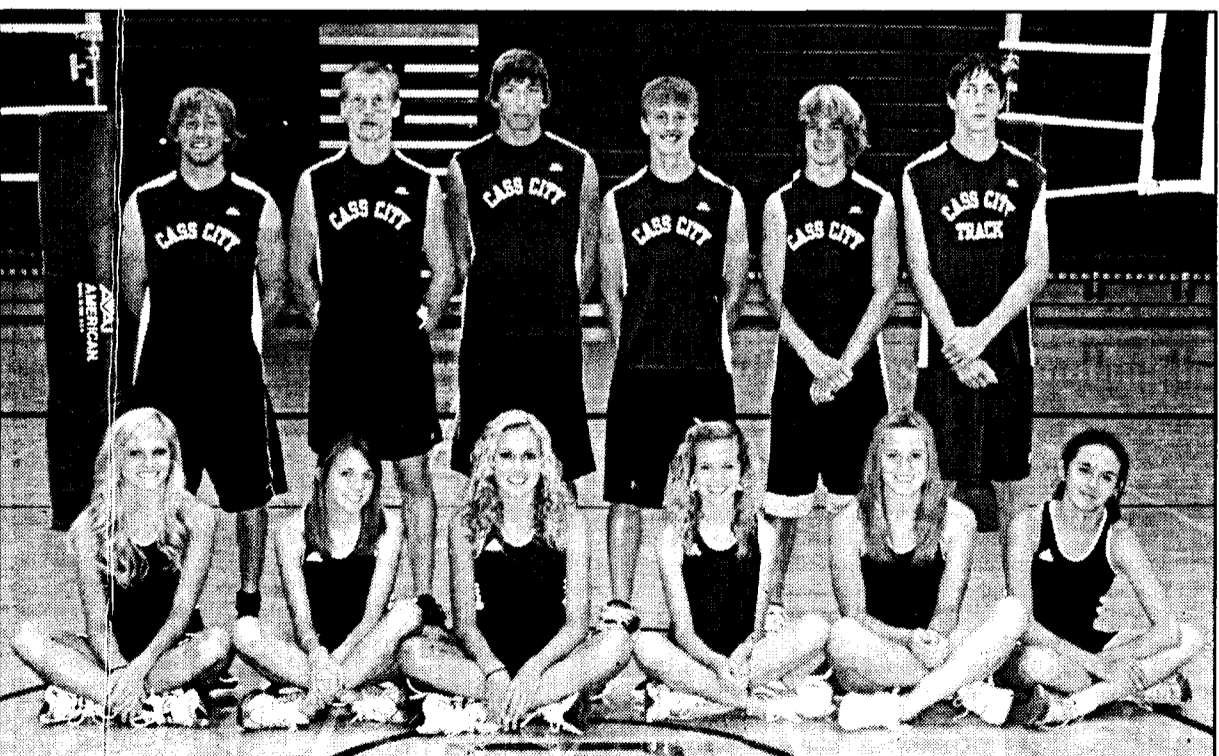
tion for Cass City. While the GTW championship should run through Reese, look for Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port and the Red Hawks as outside threats for league honors.



THE 2008 Cass City junior varsity football team members include: (front l-r) Morgan Erla, Cameron Dumuck, Alex Zaleski, Michael Potrykus, Trenton Loomis, Ethan Nicol, Josh Jensen, Alex Varney, Mitch O'Dell, Brandon Stine, Daniel Deering, Zac Potrykus, Nick Adkins; (back) Coach Ed Stoutenburg, Justin Ketterer, Austin Osentoski, Derek Guigar, Zack Weiss, Nick Kappen, Jimmy Merchant, Adam McFadzean, Geoffroy Fearson, Tyler Samons, Jeff Leslie and Coach Travis Osentoski. Missing is Kurt Reif.






THE 2008 Cass City Dance Team members are: (front l-r) Amanda Langenburg, Brooke Mika; (middle) Chelsea Green, McKensie Parrish, Sam Swiderski, Megan VanVliet; (back) Jennica Richards, Amanda Kaake, Megan Zawilinski and Kelli Lautner.






THE 2008 Cass City cross country team consists of: (front l-r) Jennica Richards, Ashley Potts, Brittany Loomis, Jessica Priestorn, Haley Wynn and Jordyn Heredia; (back) Lukas Varney, Clark Walsh, Travis Mozden, Alex Varney, Bryan Burk and Thomas LeValley.

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WE WOULD SINCERELY like to thank everyone that participated in the tribute benefit ride for Faron Alexander and Lori Welch. It would have not been possible without your help. We would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who donated: the Cass City Chronicle, Charmont, Cass City Oil & Gas, Erla's, Carmela's, Coach Light, Quaker Maid, Rolling Hills Golf Course, Special Scents, Tuckey Concrete, Wild John's, the Cass Tavern, Gilligan's, Colwood Bar, Iron Horse Bar, Argyle Bar, Triger Happy Band and Day 8 Band. In addition, I want to thank Mike & Dawn Karr for the (Love-Life-Legend) patches, Ozzie & Barb, Carl & Missy, Butch (ABATE Region 7), and mom for making the benefit a huge success. The Faron Alexander family. 13-8-27-1

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<p>NEW! Privacy and convenience all in one. This beautiful cobblestone home sets on 1.24 acres with mature trees and no close neighbors. Located only 10 minutes from Bad Axe. There are 5 bedrooms, 1 bath, main floor laundry, some hardwood floors, an open 11' x 14' room at the top of the stairway, a 16' x 20' detached garage and much more. This home is move in ready and priced to sell. A MUST SEE. BA-180</p>	<p>Good structured home. Renovate started, but never finished. So if you're interested in finding a home of your own or a rental this one can be finished to your liking. This 2 story house has approximately 1400 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, plumbing to 2 bathrooms, family room, some hardwood floors and a 2 car detached garage. Bring your tool belt and take possession the day of closing. USA-181</p>
<p>NEW! If you want to feel like you live in a park with mature trees surrounding you, this is it. This property is just gorgeous. There's no other way to describe it. The home has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with finished walkout basement leading to the deck, hot tub, and approximately 3 acre pond with diving board and slide. 2 car attached garage. 30' x 40' pole building with water and electric and camper hook-ups all sitting on 18 acres. Call, you won't be sorry. BA-181</p>	<p>NEW! Cute and comfortable. Move in ready. Great space for your family, over 1400 sq. ft - all you need. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bath, full basement, 2 car garage and kitchen has some updated cabinets in medium oak. Keys at closing. Call your lender today and get qualified. It's as easy as that to own your own home. Take note taxes not homestead. USA-180</p>

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CASS CITY HIGH School sophomore Brenda Haley (foreground) stands at attention during the annual marching band camp last week at Cass City High School. The band will make its first appearance of the season during the Red Hawks' varsity football opener Thursday night at home.

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To learn more about saving energy, the kit, and electric credit, contact your local HDC office at (989) 269-9502 in Huron County, (810) 664-7133 in Lapeer County, (810) 648-4497 in Sanilac County, or (989) 673-4121 in Tuscola County.

Holiday to close state offices

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land reminds customers that all branch offices and the Office of the Great Seal will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day. Secretary of State SUPER!Centers normally offer Saturday hours but will be closed Saturday, Aug. 30.

The Department of State mails notices to motorists 45 days before their driver's license or license plates expire to give them ample time to renew. Licenses and plates that expire on a day when state offices are closed, such as a holiday or weekend, can be renewed the following day without penalty.

Motorists renewing license plates can "skip the trip" to the branch office and do business by mail, or if eligible, by Internet or touch-tone telephone. Easy to follow instructions can be found with the renewal no-

vice. License plate tabs will arrive by mail within 7 business days.

With the exception of holidays, branch offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Smaller branch offices may close for the lunch hour. On Wednesday most offices are open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., with those in city centers open

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PLUS offices and SUPER!Centers are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday. SUPER!Centers also provide Saturday hours from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information visit the department Web site at www.Michigan.gov/sos.

49 attend family reunion

The 29th annual Milligan family reunion was held Sunday, Aug. 17, at the home of Jim and Judy Brown. There were 49 family members in attendance.

A potluck meal was followed by a short business meeting led by Arnold Karr. Each family reported on events from the past year. Elected for 2009

will be Dave Milligan, president, and Lori Kemp, secretary.

Traveling the greatest distance were Hugh, Geri, and Kevin Milligan from Spruce.

Following the traditional softball game, ice cream was served. The next reunion will be Aug. 16, 2009 at the Jim and Judy Brown farm.

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