

**Here are some unique
Christmas gift ideas...**

Meg's Peg, page 2

**Health department reports
"stomach flu" cases on the rise**

Page 3

**Volz's classroom is
the rave of technology**

Page 5

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 37

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008

FIFTY CENTS

14 PAGES, ONE SUPPLEMENT

Vehicle rollover accident claims Cass City men

Three people, including 2 Cass City men, lost their lives on Tuscola County roadways last week.

Troopers from the Michigan State Police post in Caro reported the death of 2 local residents in a one-vehicle rollover crash last Wednesday night in Akron Township. They identified the victims as Cory Ray Hill, 27, and his passenger, Paul Grant McIntosh, 43.

Troopers were dispatched to the scene of the crash - Elmwood Road west of Ringle Road - at about 9:10 p.m. Investigators said the vehicle involved was a 2002 GMC pickup truck driven by Hill, and that both victims were dead at the scene.

Troopers said speed as well as alcohol and narcotics are believed to have been a factor in the crash. They are continuing their investigation.

Assisting at the scene were the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department, Bay Medical paramedics and both the Akron and Fairgrove fire departments.

*For obituary information,
see page 14.*

PEDESTRIAN KILLED

Earlier last week, Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies investigated a fatal car-pedestrian accident that occurred shortly after 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24, on Bray Road, south of Arbela Road in Arbela Township.

"A 1998 GMC Jimmy being driven by a 74-year-old Vassar woman struck the pedestrian, a 34-year-old female, who lived a short distance from the scene of the accident. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene," reported Lt. Jim Giroux, who later identified the driver as Dorothy Perry, Vassar, and the victim as Amy Wates of Clio.

Troopers from the Flint Michigan State Police post, deputies from the Genesee County Sheriff's Department and officers from the Thetford Township Police Department all assisted Tuscola County deputies at the scene, Giroux said. The accident remains under investigation.

Veteran teacher ends fight for job

A veteran Cass City educator gave up her battle to keep her job early last week when she signed an agreement of separation from the Cass City Public Schools. In return for the teacher's voluntary resignation school officials agreed to pay her a \$40,000 cash settlement.

Christine LaBerge had taught in the district for more than 30 years - since 1974. Most of that time was spent teaching elementary art.

School Supt. Ron Wilson placed LaBerge on administrative leave last May after several months of what he described as issues largely related to LaBerge's performance in the classroom, although he would not be specific.

Wilson subsequently asked the Cass City Board of Education to pursue tenure charges against LaBerge in an effort to seek her dismissal. The board endorsed that request and notified both LaBerge and the Michigan Education Association of its intent to seek charges with the Michigan Tenure Commission.

Wilson said one day of hearings was later conducted in front of an administrative law judge in early November. Two additional days of hearings were scheduled for later in the month, but LaBerge opted to sign the agreement of separation, in which she voluntarily resigned, before those hearings were held.

Wilson said the board's decision to agree to a cash settlement at this time was based on a desire to avoid additional future expenses, including the cost of paying a replacement teacher since LaBerge was placed on leave. Man hours and legal costs have also

mounted, according to the superintendent, Please turn to page 2.



A GROUP OF ABOUT 15 Cass City teachers rolled up their sleeves last week and went to work preparing stuffing for Cass City's annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, which was held Thursday at the Cass City United Methodist Church. "Only a few tears were shed (from chopping onions), but there was plenty of laughter. It was a great way to enjoy the fellowship of co-workers and help such a worthy cause," commented teacher Linda Volz. Pictured above are (from left) Bill Hartzell, Judy Hoelzle, Craig Weaver, Garrett Gordon and Nicole Maurer. (Related story, page 3)



A SANILAC COUNTY woman died Monday morning when the driver of the vehicle she was riding in lost control on M-53, south of Deckerville Road in Sanilac County's Evergreen Township. Investigators indicated Sunday night's snowstorm, which left the roadway icy and snow-covered, was a contributing factor in the crash.

Sanilac woman dies in accident

Heavy snowfall Sunday night and Monday morning turned deadly for a Sanilac County woman who died when the driver of the vehicle she was riding in lost control and crossed the path of another vehicle Monday morning in Evergreen Township.

The victim was identified as Margaret A. Miller, 82, of Sandusky. She was pronounced dead at the scene, Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies reported.

Deputies were dispatched to the scene, M-53 south of Deckerville Road, at about 6:10 a.m., according to Sanilac County Undersheriff Garry Bininecki.

"The preliminary investigation indicated that a northbound vehicle being driven by Claude J. Miller, age 85, of Sandusky, lost control of his vehicle on the icy, snow-covered roadway and slid sideways into the path of a southbound vehicle driven by Kirk T. Steinbacher Jr., of Cass City," Bininecki said.

Please turn to back page.

Cutting costs

Owen-Gage working to eliminate deficit

Owen-Gage School officials last week began the official process of shedding about \$18,000 in red ink the district was left with after wrapping up the 2007-08 fiscal year.

The board of education, meeting in regular session, approved a resolution outlining Owen-Gage's plan to eliminate its deficit budget.

"We have an obligation to file with

the state by the 15th of December," school Supt. Dana Compton explained, noting the paperwork is designed to present state officials with the district's plan to eliminate the deficit. "We have 2 years to do that, but we want to do it in one year.

"We plan to do it in the first year," Compton added. "Our plan shows we would remove the deficit and have

a fund balance by June 30 of 2009."

The superintendent acknowledged that goal would be made more difficult should state officials reduce per-pupil funding amounts - something a number of experts predict will happen given Michigan's faltering economy and continued deficit woes. Currently, Owen-Gage receives about \$7,200 per student.

At this point, Compton said, "We've tightened our belt in every way possible without affecting (academic) programs. We think we can do it (eliminate the budget deficit) without any major cuts. In fact, we started an elementary music program this year, which is something we haven't had in some time - that stays intact. Our K-5 Spanish program stays intact."

Compton, who estimated Owen-Gage will have a fund balance of roughly \$20,000 at the end of this fiscal year, has attributed the district's

financial troubles to a number of factors, including transportation costs that skyrocketed over the past year. In addition, one employee who handled both transportation and maintenance duties was ill during the year, forcing school officials to cover both sick and vacation pay along with the cost of hiring a replacement worker.

On the other hand, the district is reaping the rewards of its revamped cafeteria department.

"We've made some pretty significant changes to food service and they've paid off," said Compton, who cited a restructuring of personnel and hours worked, reducing manpower by one employee and cutting hours overall. The result was a fund balance of about \$17,500 at the end of 2007-08.

Compton said the district hasn't

Please turn to back page.

Christmas in the Village coming up

Cass City's annual Christmas in the Village extravaganza will kick off Saturday with activities throughout town for the entire family, and this year's celebration will offer some new attractions.

"The craft show is bigger this year, so we had to move it into 2 locations. This year it will be at Baker College and the municipal building," said Dee Mulligan, Cass City Chamber of Commerce administrator. "It will still run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m."

New this year is "Breakfast with Santa", Saturday, Dec. 13, starting at 10 a.m. at the VFW hall, Mulligan noted. The event is free for children and will cost \$2 for adults.

"There will be pancakes and sausage. Then, Santa will read to the children (and) we will have a live drawing for over \$500 worth of toys for children. Children can register for the drawing on Dec. 6 when they see Santa, or on the morning of the breakfast when they see Santa. They can register both times, if they want," she said. "The event is scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., but breakfast will probably only be available from 10 to 11 a.m. Then Santa will see kids if he has not already, then he will read a story, then he will do the live drawing. Everyone can be out in time to go to the free mat-

Please turn to page 3.



Hills & Dale's Urgent Care

after hours
walk-in clinic

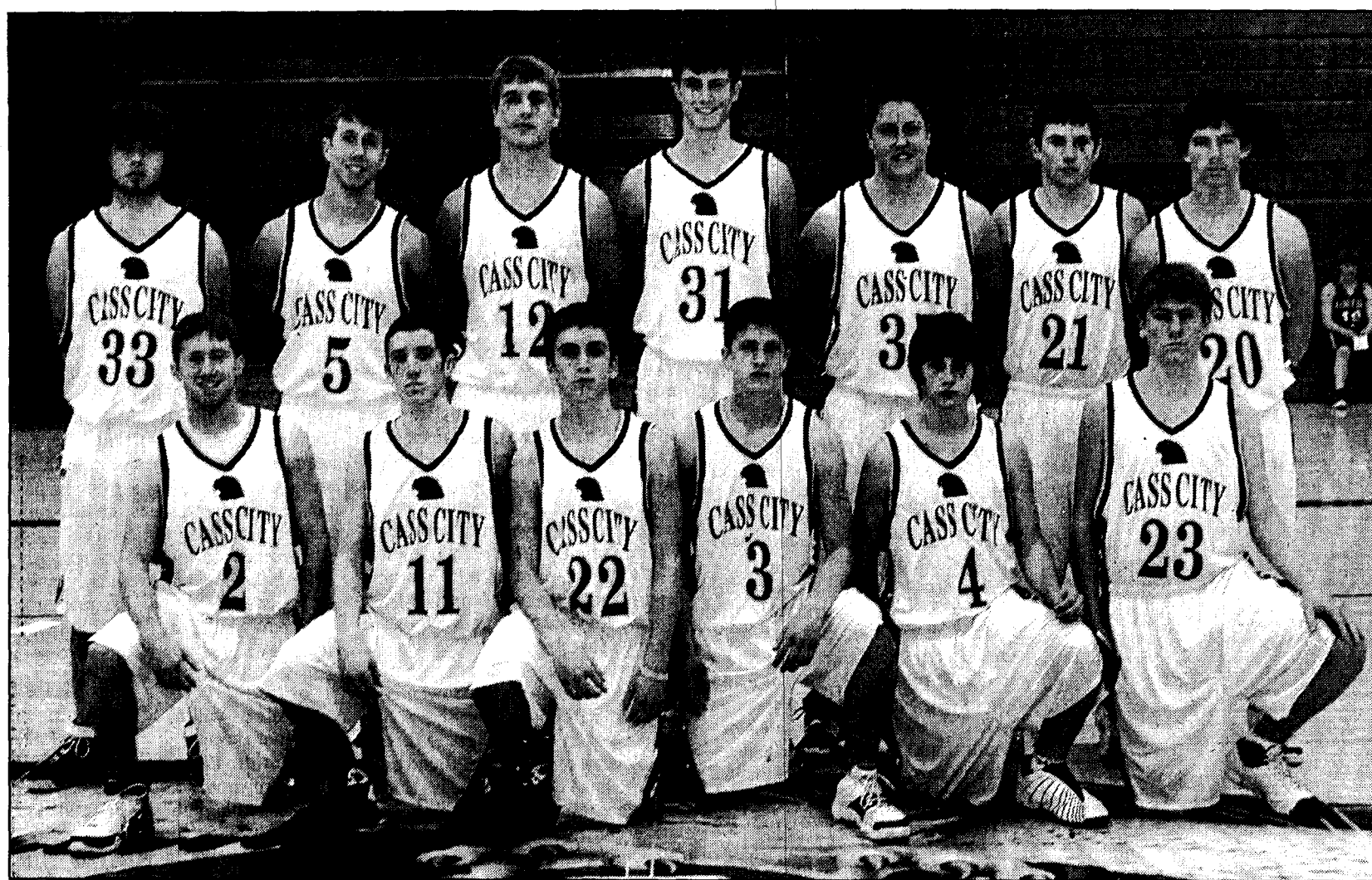
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General Hospital

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CC cage team ready for action



THE CASS CITY boys' varsity basketball team members are: (front, l-r) Lukas Varney, JJ Mulrath, Justin Ketterer, Alex Varney, Trevor Phillips, Aaron Bader (back) Zach Abell, Austin Babich, Brent Doerr, Chris Summersett, Blake Messing, Alex Hoyt and Cole Miller.

When the Cass City boys' basketball team kicks off its 2008-09 campaign Tuesday in non-conference action in Sandusky, there will be plenty of new faces on the Red Hawk bench.

Gone via graduation will be sharp shooter Chris Childs, a second team all-conference performer in his final season, and inside presence Shane McFarland, who earned honorable mention all-conference honors in 2008.

Also sure to be missed this season is ball handler Chris Binder, and forwards Chris Zawilinski and Shane Bloomfield. The trio played huge roles in helping the Red Hawks to a third place finish in the Greater Thumb West standings a year ago.

Despite the heavy graduation toll, veteran Coach Aaron Fernald will have 6 returning letter winners that should have the Red Hawks in the hunt for the GTW championship.

The Red Hawks' top returnee is Austin Babich. The senior guard and small forward earned first team all-conference praises in his junior year.

A 3-year starter, Babich is at his best when he uses his own dribble to penetrate down the lane.

Chris Summersett and Brent Doerr

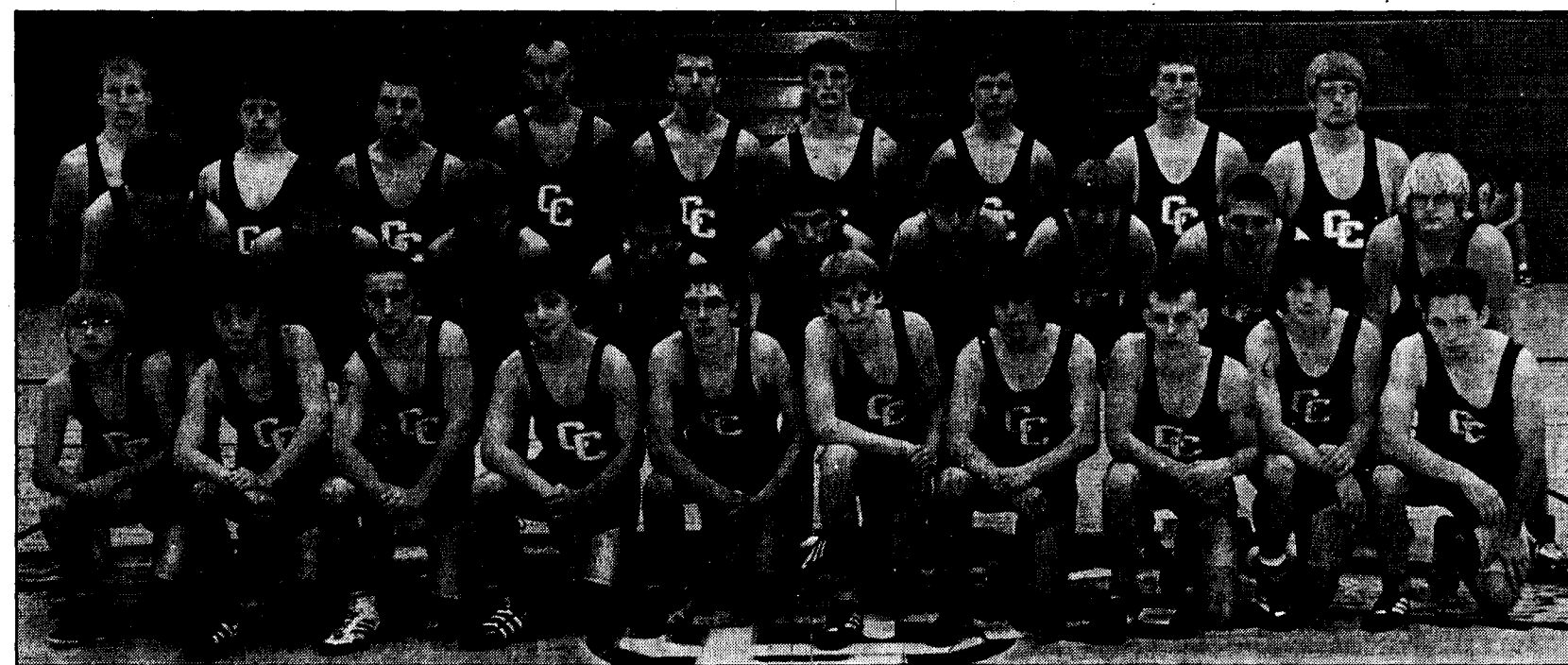
also return for their final Red Hawk seasons and will be relied on to help with the team's rebounding chores.

Summersett, a second team all-conference pick in 2008, is the team's tallest player at 6'6". While Summersett should dominate under the glass, he also displayed a deadly jump shot from the top of the key area last season. Doerr, 6'4", also is capable of hitting the outside jumper. He improved throughout the season as a junior and handed in one of his best outings during a heartbreaking district final loss against Unionville-Sebewaing. He, like Summersett, can hit the outside jumper, mainly from deep in the corners.

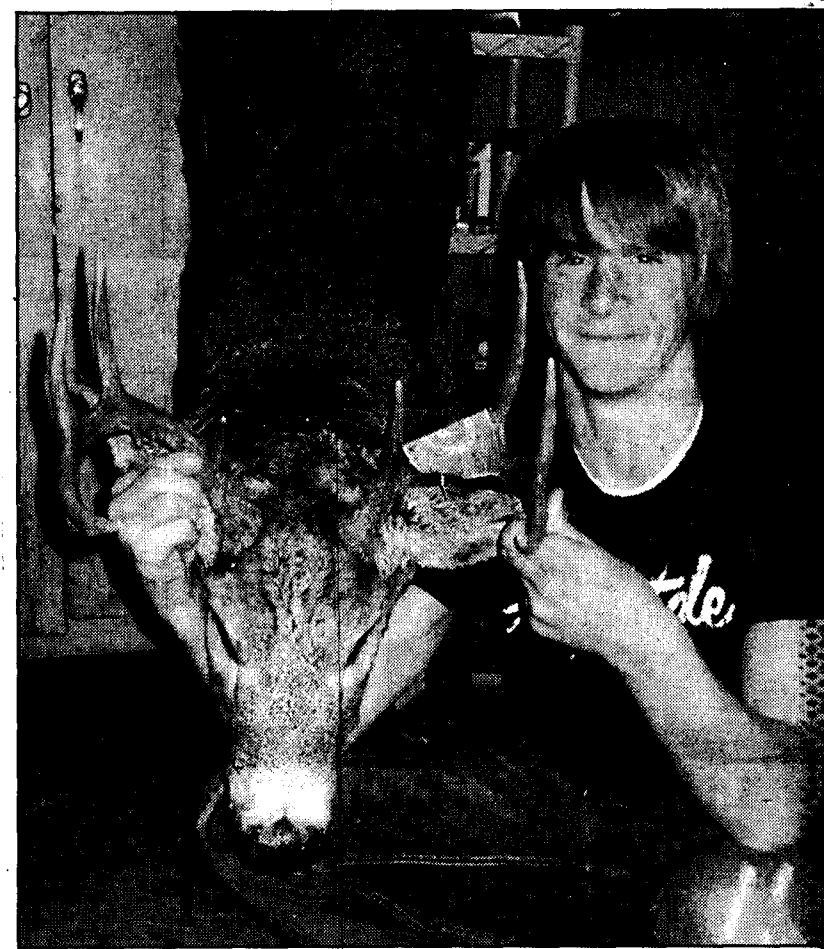
The remaining returnees for Cass City include seniors Blake Messing, a wide-body rebounder, and guards Lukas Varney and Cole Miller. All will figure into the Red Hawks' success or failure on the year.

New to the varsity level are juniors Aaron Bader, Trevor Phillips and Zach Abell. They will battle for playing time against sophomores Alex Varney and Justin Ketterer.

Rounding out the Red Hawk roster are Alex Hoyt and JJ Mulrath who should see ample playing time in the early season.



THE CASS CITY wrestling team members are: (front, l-r) Ronnie Wolschleger, Jonathan Crouch, T.J. Marker, Cody Crouch, Cody Pringle, Jim Merchant, Adam McFadzean, Paul Slater, Gerremy Fearson, Jacques Weilbach (middle) Travis Wright, Travis Mabe, Bryan Burk, Marius Weilbach, Kevven Dorland, Remington Rushlow, Kurt Reif, Kyle Pomeroy, Josh Jenson (back) Clark Walsh, Steven Schotter, Michael Spencer, Seth Brown, Michael Milligan, Dean Rabideau, Eric Reif, Steven Hicks and Nick Adkins.



BRANDON STINE, Ugly 15-year-old, shot his first buck on the family farm near Cumber. His 8-point buck had a 15" spread.

Cass City wrestling team returns several starters to lead 2008 - 2009 campaign

Cass City Athletic Director Don Markel was able to forgo his classroom duties for his new role with the district, but the former long-time teacher turned administrator couldn't leave the gym.

Markel will begin his 24th year as the leader of the Cass City wrestling program tonight (Wednesday) when

his Red Hawks travel to square off against hosts Imlay City and Capac.

The veteran coach will have 12 returning letter winners, including 9 starters from a year ago, to mold into a Greater Thumb Conference contender. The Red Hawks will also benefit from several talented freshmen as they look to better last year's num-

bers that included a 23-16 overall record and third place finish in the GTC (4-2).

"We will field a competitive team this season, the work ethic of the returnees should pay dividends as the season progresses," Markel said, noting Marlette and Mayville will be the 2 teams to beat in the GTC.

"Both teams have good programs and coaches with experience and a proven track record of success. Brown City should also be very competitive," he said.

Big expectations rest with 3 returning regional qualifiers for Cass City. Senior Travis Mabe, 130 weight class, posted a 38-19 record on the mats a year ago; junior Dean Rabideau, 152 weight class, went 30-25; and sophomore Cody Crouch, 125 weight class, was 31-25 during his varsity season debut.

Cass City will also have proven performers in senior Clark Walsh (39-14) at the 145 weight class; junior Kevven Dorland (33-16) in the 135 weight class; senior Bryan Burk (34-15) in

the 140 weight class; sophomore Jon Crouch (26-9) in the 112 weight class; and junior T.J. Marker (25-24) in the 119 weight class.

Markel says that despite their first year status, Josh Jensen, 160 weight class, Jim Merchant, 125 weight class, and Nick Adkins, 189 weight class, are pegged to break into the Red Hawk's starting line-up.

"Josh, Jim and Nick are all freshmen with mat experience prior to this season. We will feature several young wrestlers who look to make vast improvements this season," Markel said.

Another freshman, Ron Wolschlager, is expected to wrestle in the lightweight division (103 weight class), while senior Ian Wynn will make his first varsity start wrestling at heavyweight (285 weight class).

"We only lost 2 seniors to graduation from last season's team, Chris Wingett and Tim Sangster. Their leadership will be missed," Markel said.

Also slated to see plenty of time on the mats for the Red Hawks are returnees Zach McCreedy, Eric Reif, Michael Milligan and Mike Spencer.



ADRIEN HARTSELL, Cass City, didn't travel far to down this spike buck that dressed out at 120 pounds. The 12-year-old took the buck on Thanksgiving morning in his Tuscola County backyard.

Cass City Teachers Want You To Know:

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 - A high level of parent and community involvement and support

As consumers of education, parents and other taxpayers have a right to know if our school is doing a good job.

Get involved. Ask questions.

We urge parents and teachers to attend the school board meetings. The next school board meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 22, at 7:30 pm in the high school cafeteria.

Cass City Teachers: Aiming for Educational Excellence
Paid for by the Cass City Education Association
Kris Milligan, President

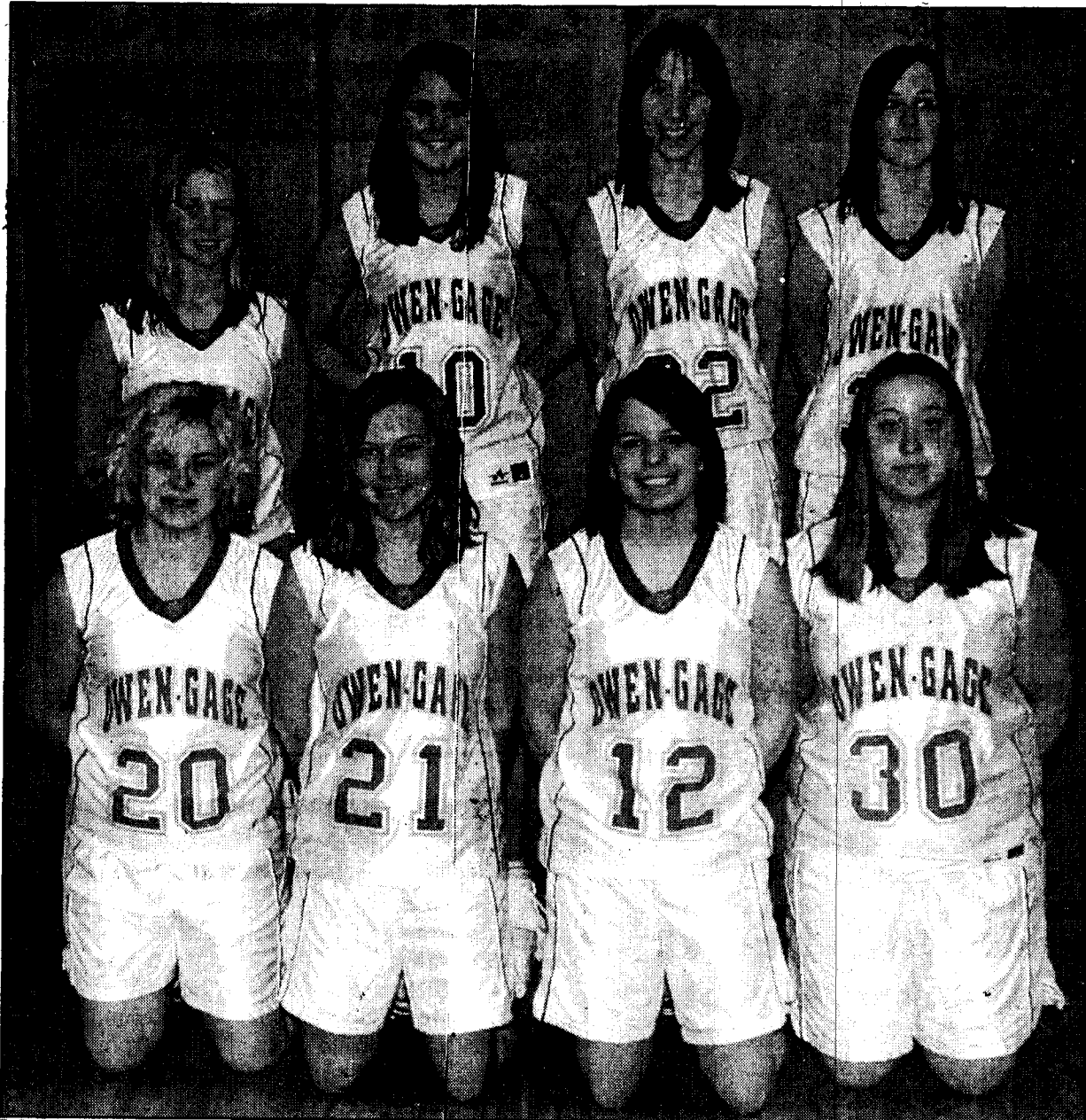
Fabulous Five's Fearless Forecast

This Week's Forecast

John Haire	Clarke Haire	Tom Montgomery	Tina Pallas	Doug Hyatt

GIRLS' BASKETBALL	Kingston	Kingston	Kingston	Kingston	Kingston
Friday, December 5	Caseville at Kingston	Frankenmuth at Frankenmuth	Frankenmuth at Frankenmuth	Frankenmuth at Frankenmuth	Frankenmuth at Frankenmuth
North Branch at Frankenmuth	USA	USA	USA	USA	USA
Mayville at USA	Bridgeport	Bridgeport	Bridgeport	Bridgeport	Bridgeport
Bridgeport at Caro	Ubyly	Ubyly	Ubyly	Vassar	Vassar
Ubyly at Vassar	Harbor Beach	Reese	Reese	Reese	Reese
Harbor Beach at Reese	Akron-Fairgrove at Dryden	Dryden	Dryden	Dryden	Dryden
Akron-Fairgrove at Dryden	Brown City	Brown City	Cass City	Cass City	Brown City
Brown City at Cass City	Owen-Gage at Memphis	Memphis	Memphis	Owen-Gage	Memphis

Attention Coaches!
Call in your scores to (989) 872-2010



(Photo courtesy of the Huron Daily Tribune)
 THE 2008-2009 OWEN-GAGE varsity girls' basketball team members include: (front row, l-r) Lauren Mandich, Samantha Radabaugh, Alisha Kovach, Ashley Rockefeller; (back row) Katie Rhodes, Amanda Faist, Christy Schmidt and Angela Shepherd.

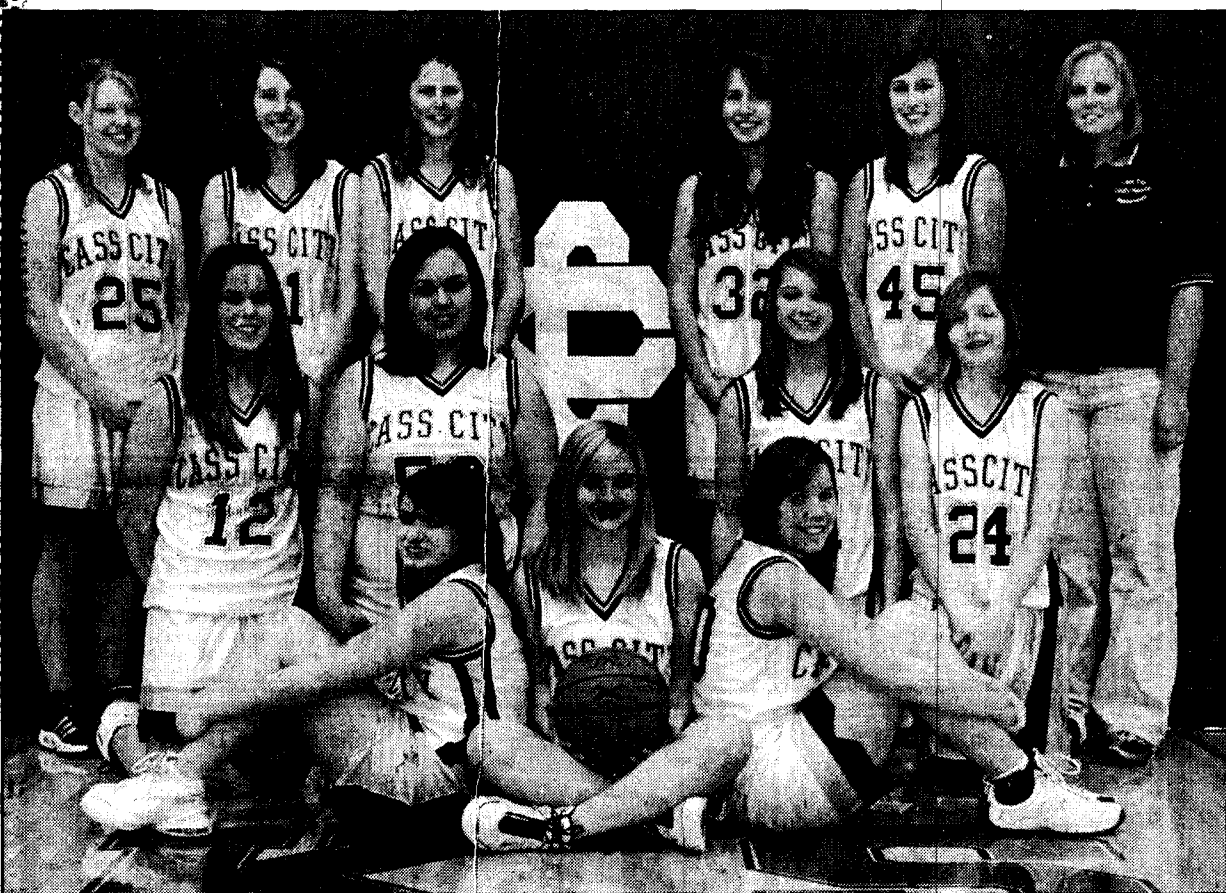
Lady Bulldogs look to improve in 2008 - 2009

The Friday night lights will be shining on the Owen-Gage girls' basketball team.
 In a departure from years past, the girls' basketball contests will be played mostly on Tuesdays and Fridays.
 When the Lady Bulldogs take the floor against powerful North Central Thumb League foe at Memphis in their season opener Friday, veteran Coach Dave Fritz will have 6 returnees to rely on.
 Leading the way is 4-year starter Amanda Faist. The senior all-conference performer will give the Bulldogs a consistent scorer as they hope to

improve on last year's record of 6-15.
 If the Bulldogs hope to climb from the bottom half finish in the NCTL-N standings in 2008, they will need to find a replacement for April Nowaczyk. She was the leader on the floor, a top scorer and excellent ball handler. Also missing are key players Bethany Kovach and Sara Lesoski.
 Despite these losses, Fritz can field a veteran squad that should be much improved with another year of experience. These veterans are Katie Rhodes, Samantha Radabaugh, Alisha Kovach, Angela Shepherd and Christy Schmidt.

Again this year, the Bulldogs' major hurdle will be overcoming a lack of height. To counter this loss the team will need to rely on its quickness and ball handling.
 After the opener, the Bulldogs will meet North Huron in the first home game of the season Tuesday followed by visiting Dryden Friday, Dec. 12.

12/6	Memphis	6:00 p.m.
12/9	North Huron	6:00 p.m.
12/12	Dryden	6:00 p.m.
12/19	Peck	6:00 p.m.
HOME GAMES IN BOLD		



THE CASS CITY girls' junior varsity basketball team members are: (front, l-r) Amanda Clifton, Megan Parrish, Hayley Peters (middle) Macey Messing, Amber Warju, Stephanie Lesson, Jenny Kelly (back) Rebecca Hacker, Britany Brown, Becca Leslie, Lauren Walther, Morgan Potter and Coach Becky Moyer.



THE CASS CITY gymnastic team members are: (front, l-r) Katie Nizzola, Catherine Lugo, Kelsey Smith, Kelsey Russell (middle) Sarah Burk, Angela Janssen, Lindsey Bliss, Jordyn Heredia, Abby Ellis, Vanessa Scasny (back) Chelsea Green, Lizzy Deluyck, Mandi Stoll, Andrea Boyd, Coach Kathy Bouverette, Kelli Pettit, Sam Swiderski, Erica Boyd and Victoria Scasny.

CASS CITY BOWLING LEAGUE

Merchanettes as of Nov. 20

- All or Nothing 36
- Thumb Octagon Barn 26
- Just One More 26
- Northstar Allstars 22

Romain 160 (448); Barb Minnick 169.
 Team High Game & Series: All or Nothing 598-560 (1713).
 Splits: Marlene Sieradzki, Deidra Zdrojewski, Joan Montgomery, Krista Maurer 3-10.
 Three Strikes in a Row: Laurel Brickel, Barb Minnick, Chris Allen, Joan Koch.
 Four Strikes: Krista Maurer.

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Individual High Games & Series: Krista Maurer 230-165 (554); Elaine

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GMS	\$21,986 ⁸¹	GMS	\$20,848 ⁵⁸
Chev Rebate	-\$1,750 ⁰⁰	Chev Rebate	-\$1,000 ⁰⁰
Red Tag Rebate	-\$3,000 ⁰⁰	Red Tag Rebate	-\$2,000 ⁰⁰
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SATCHELL'S CHRISTIAN Retirement Home looking for part-time help & also must be able to fill in for other shifts. Come in & fill out an application, 2662 E. Caro Rd., Caro (7 miles east of Wal-Mart). 989-673-3329. 11-11-5-17

Help Wanted

PART-TIME SALES POSITION
The Cass City Chronicle in Tuscola County is looking for a person to sell print advertising for our locally-owned publication.
Must be self-motivated and customer oriented. Media sales experience a plus, but will train the right person.
If interested, send a resume & cover to: Cass City Chronicle Attn: Publisher PO Box 115 Cass City, MI 48726

In Memory

JOAN PARSONS, My Wife
Your presence, not so distinct now, wakes my sleep. The shadows where you have been but not speak Flourish in the moments of a quiet day. I know I'm selfish, though in pain, I wish To be with you just one more day. Could that I have the moments Of a day or year, of the 52 I've known you That becomes so precious now you are gone. There is no perfect marriage We must believe, but if I could Retrieve just any day, no matter Which one, my life would ease.

I hear your voice ring in my brain, 'I don't want to die,' God, this is my pain. To never forget; if I could trade that moment From countless others, I'd pick most any one. But as I live on, I bring you life For as long as I live you will be Tucked in my hear, hid behind tears. Joan, we lived through the best and the worst Had I been the first I know you would grieve For the years we will miss as man and wife, and I would live on in your memories just as I Will never forget the time we spent as one.

15-12-3-1

ELECTRIC MOTOR and power tool repair, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. John Blair, 1/8 mile west of M-53 on Sebewaing Road. Phone 269-7909. 8-12-13-17

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Open House: Friday, November 21 (11am-12pm)

431 Madison St Caro
Directions: From the corner of M-24 and M-81 go West on M-81 to Washington St. South on Washington St to Madison St West on Madison St to property.

Auction at 1pm - 3-bedroom, 1-bath Home

Open House: Friday, November 21 (1-2pm)

4255 W Hoppe Rd Unionville
Directions: From the corner of M-24 & M-81 go North on M-24 7.4 miles to Hoppe Rd, turn north on Hoppe Rd, go 2.5 miles to property.

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NEW Bring your tools. With some time and devotion, bring this home back to being happy. Missing its cabinets in kitchen and bath. Stick built home. Wooded area. Off the beaten track. Good size in sq. ft. and lot size. Call today to take a peek and see the potential. K-384

Country living just outside of Cass City. You could walk to town, but you're still in the country. This neat as a pin home offers 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, gas fireplace, breezeway and partially finished basement. It has a nicely maintained barn and yard. Come take a look. You won't be sorry. CC621

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, and open 11'x14' room at the top of the stairway, a 16'x20' detached garage and much more. This home is move in ready and priced to sell. A MUST SEE BA-180

PRICE REDUCED!
Charmingly convenient. Two miles from town on 1.28 acre corner lot. Brick ranch with 1,700 sq. ft. on full basement. Offers 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, family room done in barn wood decor with wood stove. Natural fireplace in the large living room. Nook off the kitchen with many uses. Well maintained home. Just bring your furniture. CC-608

NEW Well maintained home setting back off the road on a hill. Nice tall walkout basement with landscaped brick patio off the back. Also a large deck off the main level overlooking an above ground pool. The open kitchen and dining room offers beautiful cupboards, a snack bar and a built-in desk. This home also has a stone fireplace in the living room with cathedral ceiling. You couldn't build this house for the sale price and it comes on 5.1 acres. P-109

Tucked away in the country. Close to town, great getaway. 2 bedroom mobile home with built over roof, updated windows and siding. Pole building with cement and electric. Keys at closing. Give us a call. Within minutes of State Land. C-1141

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kellyco@avci.net
kellyco@avci.net
tdibble@echoicemi.com

PRICE REDUCED!

2 bedroom, 1 bath home in the country on 2 acres. Updates include: roof, vinyl siding, vinyl windows, carpeting, furnace, wiring including circuit breakers - all new in '05. More acreage available. Move in day of closing. CY2564

Three bedroom, two bath ranch home with over 6 acres. Full walkout basement. It is back off the road on a hill for a great setting. Excellent location between Cass City and Bad Axe. CY2562

3 bedrooms, 2 baths, golf course out the back door, large terrace deck overlooking yard and golf course, master bedroom walk out, 2 car garage and storage shed. TCC1536

UPDATED!
TAKE A LOOK! SEE THE CHANGES! 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with all new carpeting. Over 1,900 sq. ft. of living space. Finished basement for your rec. room. You get an indoor pool room with a new liner in the pool. Cass City schools. TCC1533

Just outside of Cass City on paved road. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with newer shingles, water heater and water softener. Nice sized country lot. CY2514

Owner eager to sell!
1973 12'x60' Skyline mobile home set up in Huntsville Park, Cass City. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, double hung windows, updated kitchen and much more. Includes: stove, refrigerator, air conditioner, ceiling fans and has an 8'x15' sunroom. MH965

The Want Ads Are Newsy Too!

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