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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 41

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2008

FIFTY CENTS

12 PAGES

Thumb couple's son dies in Iraq

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Christmas holiday brought a profound sense of loss and heartache to a Thumb couple that learned on Christmas Eve that one of their sons serving in the armed forces was one of 3 soldiers killed in an accident in Iraq.

The U.S. Department of Defense confirmed the death of 28-year-old Staff Sgt. Christopher G. Smith, son of the Rev. Glen and Donna Smith of Bad Axe. Glen Smith is pastor of the Evangelife Assembly of God Church south of Bad Axe.

Also killed were Spc. Stephen M. Okray, 21, of St. Clair Shores, and 19-year-old Spc. Stephen G. Zapasnik of Broken Arrow, Okla. All 3 soldiers died of injuries suffered when the Humvee they were riding in rolled over into a deep, water-filled ditch, according to published reports. At the time, the men were assigned to the U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Smith was the third Huron County serviceman to lose his life while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The news of his death was first shared with the media Thursday by family friend Connie Kramer, who along with Donna Smith is a member of the Thumb chapter of the Blue Star Mothers - Kramer serves as president and Smith as secretary.

Kramer said the Smith family received word shortly after 8 p.m. "He (Christopher Smith) has a wife and child, and they were all at the Smith home for Christmas Eve," said Kramer, who added that Smith's brother, who is serving in the armed forces based in Fort Lewis, Washington, was also at the Smith home.

Kramer said that the family wanted to have time alone and requested that the media not contact them. "I ask you to please keep them in your prayers at this point," she added.

According to Kramer, Donna Smith has been very active in the Thumb chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America, which was formed nationally during World War II, with the first chapter being formed in Flint. "Locally, the Thumb chapter...was organized by local mothers of military on Veterans Day 2003. The Thumb chapter serves military families in Huron, Tuscola and Sanilac counties," she noted.

"Our functions include, first and foremost, patriotism and support of all of our troops. No matter what one's political affiliation may be, we support our men and women in service," Kramer explained.

Please turn to page 8.

Gifts await first newborn

The arrival of 2009 will have special meaning to couples that are also expecting their own little arrivals, but just when the first baby of the new year will be born is anyone's guess.

Will the first birth take place just minutes or hours after the bells start ringing after midnight, Jan. 1, or will several days or even weeks pass before the blessed event?

Regardless, the first baby of the new year born and reported to the Chronicle by a Cass City area family will be showered with gifts and well wishes from local merchants, a tradition that has continued for many years in the community.

The only question mark each year is timing. In 2003, Michelle Smith of Cass City gave birth to the first baby, Ian Matthew Vasquez, Jan. 23, and in 2005, the first baby, Landyn Frank Schott, was born Jan. 9 to Ben and Tonya Schott of Cass City.

Last year's first baby arrived a whopping 10 weeks earlier than expected to Patty and Joseph Yax, also

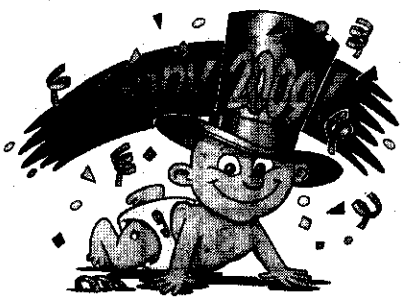
of Cass City. Patty gave birth to her second son, Jacob William Yax, Jan. 6 at 2:02 p.m. at Hurley Medical Center in Flint. The baby weighed just 3 pounds and 3 ounces.

As was true last year, the coming year's proud parents will receive a \$10 discount off of a baby prescription from Coach Light Pharmacy, as well as a \$20 floral bouquet from Special Scents Floral Shoppe.

Angel's Hair Studio is chipping in a \$15 gift certificate, and the new VIP Salon in Cass City will pamper mom with a free facial. Erla's Food Center will present the parents with a \$10 gift certificate, and Carnela's Pizzeria will have a \$20 gift certificate waiting.

In addition, 2 area banks will offer their best wishes. Chemical Bank and Thumb National Bank each have a \$10 savings account for the new arrival.

Finally, the family can read about their new arrival and other local news all year long with a free, one-year subscription to the Cass City Chronicle.



"NEITHER SNOW NOR rain nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds..." From blizzards and bone-chilling cold to pouring rain and temperatures in the low 50s, local postal service carriers, including Cass City city carrier Randy Ross (above), have faced just about every type of weather this winter in the Thumb. Above, Ross delivers mail along Main Street Saturday morning.

Year in Review

2008 had its ups, downs

The year 2008, like any other, had its ups and downs.

Unlike any other in recent memory, however, the year was fraught with severe economic challenges on virtually every front, especially for families already struggling to make a living, as Michigan's on-going financial crisis worsened in the wake of a crumbling national economy.

But locally there were signs of hope, as well, as members of the community worked to lure new business to the area, took a hit on their tax bills to ensure that Cass City's school system

will stand up to any other in the Thumb for years to come, and combined their resources to hand out groceries to their neighbors in need.

As an independent, community newspaper with a history dating back to the late 1800s, the Chronicle has spent the past 12 months working to cover a myriad of stories reflecting the news events in Cass City along with providing a personal look into the lives of area residents, such as a longtime government official closing the books on a lengthy career, or a neighbor who has a unique talent or interest.

The Chronicle's dedication to continuing that work will continue into 2009, but before the new year begins, it seems appropriate to take a quick look back into some of the stories that highlighted 2008.

ECONOMY

Michigan residents have suffered in what seems like a one-state recession for years, but the outlook became even bleaker in 2008 when the nation's economy was rocked with a series of collapses among major companies, and the stock market repeatedly plunged with few signs of stability on the horizon.

Those issues trickled down to Main Street, with hundreds more of Thumb residents losing their jobs, and local governments and schools facing significant funding shortfalls.

Area residents, meanwhile, continued to lose their homes in record numbers. Before the year was half over, Tuscola County officials reported that more than \$11 million was owed in mortgage foreclosures, which numbered more than 130 at the end of May.

On the national level, federal officials have approved billions of dollars in a bailout package, and President Bush recently approved aid for the Big 3 automakers, 2 of which were in imminent danger of bankruptcy.

But in Michigan, state officials are trying to deal with another massive budget deficit, and the outlook is grim, which means the coming year is certain to bring another wave of cuts to local schools, while township, vil-

Mandich files suit against 4 trustees on O-G Board

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A former Owen-Gage Board of Education trustee has filed suit against 4 of the district's current board members, claiming they intentionally violated Michigan's Open Meetings Act when they allegedly gathered prior to a regular meeting in October.

Mike Mandich, who is represented by Bay City attorney Kim Higgs, filed the suit in Huron County Circuit Court against Owen-Gage trustees Terry Muntz, Deb Quick, Jeff Leinweber and Kathy Champagne.

In the suit, Mandich alleges the 4 defendants violated provisions of the Open Meetings Act when they "conducted a 'meeting' of the board of trustees and/or 'finance committee' to meet with (their) auditor without holding this discussion in a meeting open to the public and without giving proper public notice of the same."

The suit alleges that Muntz, Quick, Leinweber and Champagne convened before an Oct. 27 regular meeting, and that meeting in such a way violated the act because it "was not properly noticed, was not conducted in a meeting open to the public, and no minutes were taken of the meeting."

"Plaintiff asserts that if members of (the) Owendale-Gagetown Area School Board of Trustees gathers, a quorum being present, for the purpose of deliberating, the meeting is subject to the provision of the Open Meetings Act, even if there is no intention that the deliberations will lead to the rendering of a decision on that occasion," the suit states.

Mandich also alleges that legal action is necessary "because there exists a real and imminent danger of irreparable injury to the public and their right of access to open meetings of the Owendale-Gagetown Area School Board of Trustees."

Aside from an order declaring the school board members in violation of the Open Meetings Act and requiring them to comply with the act, Mandich is seeking actual and exemplary damages of \$500 plus court costs and attorney fees.

Mandich, an Owendale resident and lifelong resident of the Owen-Gage School District, served on the school board for 8 years. He was unseated in

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Inside This Week:

• New troopers join posts in Caro, Bad Axe
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• Martin pays tribute to a special man in her life -- her grandfather
Everyday Stories
Page 4

• New Year's Eve Sing legacy lives on in Cass City
Page 5



ADAM KRANZ OF Cass City (third from left) is spending a year as an exchange student in Mexico under the sponsorship of the Cass City Rotary Club.

Please turn to back page.

At the holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our success possible. It is in this spirit we say...thank you and best wishes for the holidays and a peaceful & prosperous New Year!

~Hills & Dales Urgent Care
989-912-6114

~Hills & Dales Occupational Health Services
989-912-6115

~Cass City Internal Medicine/Family Practice Clinic
989-972-8303

~Kingston Medical Clinic
989-683-8065

~Ubyly Medical Clinic
989-658-9191

~Cass City Medical Clinic
989-872-8202

~Cass City General Surgery
989-872-5582

~Thumb Pediatrics
989-872-8503

~Hills & Dales Home Care
989-872-2300 or 1-800-358-4749

~Hills & Dales General Hospital Center
For Rehabilitation Health & Fitness
Cass City 989-872-2084

~Hills & Dales General Hospital Center
For Rehabilitation
Caro 989-673-4999

Hills & Dales
General Hospital

An Affiliate of Covenant HealthCare

Adam Kranz experiencing life in Mexico

My life has changed little since the last time I wrote. My day-to-day experience includes school, which I have essentially shrugged off entirely in favor of a real personal education; I received a package of wonderful books from my parents and my close friend, Alex Hiatt, and have been occupying myself in school reading and taking notes on them. At home, I spend too much time on this computer, some time reading in Spanish, and, when I have time and am responsible, I practice marimba. However, I have experienced 2 out-of-the-ordinary events, events full of beauty and wonder, the sort of things you spend long hours logging in diaries as soon as you get home, so as to forget as little as possible.

The first of these events was the peerless trip known as "La Ruta Maya." Now nearly 2 months past, this trip has been reduced to some vague memories and what I have

trapped in the amber of my blog. La Ruta Maya was a trip, with all the 70-some exchange students in my district, throughout the southeastern end of Mexico. The trip began in Veracruz, the port city and capital of my state, and wound down through Oaxaca, Chiapas (my favorite) and into Quintana Roo, Merida, and Campeche. One can see all this on any map of Mexico, if you'd like to follow along. We lived in 2 big red buses and various hotels for 2 weeks, the sort of crucible conditions made for intense bonding.

La Ruta Maya was exceptional in its constant flood of really, incredibly beautiful things. Things like El Arbol del Tule, the widest (and by all accounts, most magical) tree in the world, the waterfalls at Agua Azul, which stretch for miles into the rainforest and beg exploration, which I was able to give only a little (and for which I was richly rewarded), and

several incredible, surreal, almost heavenly ruins. I can't describe the sensation you get when, after walking through a dark forest, the closed-in path opens up into the sun and into an ancient Mayan city.

The entire trip was a sort of exhortation, a call to go see the world in all its glory, and do everything possible to show the proper sort of appreciation for what is.

The second was a considerably shorter, but much more populous, meeting of all the exchange students in Mexico; some 300 were there. We met in an old colonial city called Guanajuato.

Guanajuato lies several hours north of Mexico City. Aside from the natural marvels (primarily jungle) of Mexico, its biggest tourist attraction is probably colonial architecture and the atmosphere it creates. It is probably not a communicable feeling, certainly not through writing, but there are several essential bits I can describe.

trees, scattered bushes and ponds, and of course, hundreds of monarch butterflies dancing overhead.

After soaking in the sun for some 15 minutes, we moved on, back into the forest, where we saw giant spindly cedar trees, with branches darkened and thickened to the size of hams by butterflies. At this point, in the inner forest, they became very docile, and began to settle on various parts of people, even allowing themselves to be plucked and posed for silly pictures.

And so I have spent the past several months; though, of course, this is just a taste. As Christmas approaches, I am feeling greatly the lack of snow and cold here, as it is far too hot, and really it doesn't feel like Christmas at all. I am happy and not homesick or lonely, however.

If you are interested in reading more and seeing some rather beautiful pictures, my blog is <http://adam-jameskranz.blogspot.com/>. Again, I love to be in contact with people, so if you would like to correspond or comment, my email address is a2008174@hotmail.com.

Love,
Adam Kranz



"IN GUANAJUATO, I fell in love with these little window porches and took lots of pictures of people in them," Kranz said.



KRANZ SAID this is a photo of a cathedral in an old colonial city called Guanajuato, located several hours north of Mexico City.

The cathedrals, with their exquisite frontispiece, big square towers, domes, and inevitable bright red and yellow colors. The moon, which ought to be full or at least half, and is inevitably and inexplicably brighter than one is accustomed to. The town square, perhaps better described as a park, with a smattering of trees reminiscent of acacia, an octagonal gazebo in the center, and what seem like hundreds of white wrought-iron benches. And, if you're lucky, pigeons, to round out the romance. These things are best experienced late at night, with a newfound friend.

Aside from being a great example of cozy colonial architecture (Brianna, from Saginaw, remarked that the city reminded her more of Italy than Spain or Mexico), with hundreds of romantic little alleys everywhere you look, and little porches with wrought-iron railings opening out into all the streets, the city was a haven for all of us missing artistic things.

Connie (an Australian friend) and I found a little one-room bookstore, a tiny postcard shop run by a man who wins contests making little paper things, an art exhibition, a French art film showing, concert schedules, and several active (and gorgeous) theatres, as well as a tiny cafe with a bookshelf containing a wealth of old romantic books, filled with notes and contact information.

It was truly refreshing, though quite tantalizing, to see all these sort of things again, even if it was almost torturous not to be able to partake in any of them, as we had little time for exploration.

Perhaps the most sublime and noteworthy event on the Guanajuato trip was our stop at a butterfly sanctuary in Michoacan. We climbed some 600 steps up a hill, through a coniferous forest that looked exactly like Michigan. The path emerged out onto a sublime meadow, with mountainous clouds ringing the area just above the

It's a boy!



Corbin Forster

Heith G. and Angela L. (Boyce) Forster of Gagetown announce the birth of their firstborn son, Corbin Glen Forster.

Dr. Robert Mutch delivered Corbin at McLaren Hospital, Lapeer, at 5:03 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008. He weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.

His grandparents are Jim O. and Judy L. Boyce of Cass City, and Gary G. and Vickie L. Forster of Sebewaing. He is the great-grandson of Herbert Pallas of Decker, Roger and Almeda (Chris) Forster, and Oliver and Eunice Leitch, all of Elkton.

Down Memory Lane

By Tina Pallas

5 YEARS AGO

The success of another annual Born To Be Wild Weekend enabled members of the ABATE (American Bikers Aiming Towards Education) Region 7 group to present a \$5,000 check in support of the Human Development Commission's Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center.

Joe and Bonnie Humphrey of Thumb Big Boy Restaurants will donate \$3,000 over the next 3 years to the new capital campaign mounted to save and enhance the Sanilac County Historical Museum and Village.

The flu bug has been sending between 50-70 patients a day to Cass City's Hills & Dales Hospital, which included 5 admissions on Christmas Day. (From Rabbit Tracks)

Ask a dozen area residents to describe 2003 and chances are good you'll get a dozen different answers. The year was a tragic one for those who lost a loved one in an accident; controversial for the local VFW post and village council; challenging for local school and government officials struggling with falling revenues and ever-increasing expenses; and victorious for a group of young students whose way with words and hard work earned a state forensics title. This list goes on and on. The only constant was change.

10 YEARS AGO

There are poor substitute teachers, average substitute teachers, good substitute teachers, and there is Alan "Duke" Sward, 70. If Sward is not one of a kind when it comes to taking over a school class, any class, at any age level, he is one of a very select few. Caught in the staff down-sizing at Tendercare (then called Provincial House) Sward found himself at loose ends some 14 years ago. It marked another change in Sward's varied working career and after discussion with his wife, Nancy, he decided to retire instead of seeking other work at the age of 56. That all changed when he heeded a suggestion by friends, Russ and Marilyn Biefer, and went to the Tuscola County Intermediate School, transcripts in hand, to register as a substitute teacher. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from DePaul, a Methodist liberal arts college in Indiana. Three days after he became available, he received his first assignment, to fill in at a shop class. After that, his teaching career was off and running. Sward has been called to fill in at 13 different area schools and during most of the years he has been substituting, he has averaged 4 or 5 days in the classroom. It's paid off in a way that Sward never visualized when he decided to fill in some of his free days in the classroom. Believe it or not, he is now a retired substitute teacher and draws a meager pension of \$39 a month, plus a big fringe benefit, lifetime paid health insurance.

25 YEARS AGO

Donald Stamats, teacher and athletic director at Caro High School, was named this week to receive the

Charles E. Forsythe Award for outstanding contributions in terms of service to the interscholastic athletic program in Michigan. The award was conceived in 1978 and presented yearly to two deserving coaches each year, except 1980 when one award was made. One of the first two winners was Paul Smarks, who was a coach in Cass City during part of his long career. The other winner this year is William R. Hart of Marquette.

The following youngsters from Cass City unless otherwise indicated, won ribbons at the Hartland Gymnastics Invitational Dec. 10: Susan Papp, Nicole Savage, Marlette; Pam Broyles, Shelly Woodruff, Jennifer Rutkowski, Kristy Wood, Star Wilson, Marlette; Kathy Woodruff (one first), Jodi Dicks, Caro; and Greg Woodruff, who won two firsts.

Bonnie Spencer, a 1964 Cass City High School graduate, played a key role in the development of a new type of hearing aid billed as the "most significant advancement to-date in the history of amplification devices for the hearing impaired." She is the daughter of Lynn and Marian Spencer of Ubly. Ms. Spencer has worked for Audiotone, a hearing aid manufacturer in Phoenix, Ariz., for five years and was its project coordinator in developing the hearing aid.

Walbro Corp. employees who have been with the firm for 25 years last week received, at their choice, a watch, bond or other gift. They are: Bill Ewald, Mary Christie, Dick Wallace and Eva Knoblet. Mrs. Christie is a Kingston resident; the rest live in Cass City.

35 YEARS AGO

The top stories of 1973 in Cass City tended to surround one continuing subject for most of the year - the energy crisis and subsequent fuel shortages. This took much space in the pages of the Chronicle and will probably continue in importance for years to come. Other ongoing stories included Cass City's drive for a municipal swimming pool, the push for a new clinic and additional doctors in the village, the opening of Provincial House, the controversy over the book "Acapulco Gold", Tuscola County's long awaited State Police was finally approved and the fortunes of high school athletic teams. Some of these stories were accentuated with great satisfaction and happiness - others with tragedy that only sudden and violent death can bring.

Michigan is a national leader in production of plantation-grown Christmas trees. Last year, the state's tree production totaled more than 4.75 million, a crop valued at some \$26 million. Scotch Pines accounted for about 88 percent of the sales.

Last year's state champion two-year-old pacer is this year's champion three-year-old pacer and the end is far from being in sight for Count Kef, pride of the Lyle Koepfgen family of Koepfgen Road. This brilliant horse has won just about everything in sight in his first two years of racing and has picked up nearly \$56,000 in purses during his illustrious career.

Cass City Area Church Directory

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

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.

Cass City Church of the Nazarene
6538 Third St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-2604 or (989) 912-2077
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study
& Children's Activities 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Judy A. Escklisen

Cass City Missionary Church
4449 Koepfgen Rd., P.O. Box 57, 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

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

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



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

First Presbyterian Church
Barrier Free
6505 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-5400
Sunday School - Sept.-May 10:45 a.m.
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
Pastor: Dave Blackburn

Fraser Presbyterian Church
3006 Huron Line Rd., Cass City, MI 48726
872-5400
Sunday School - Sept.-May 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: Dave Blackburn

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

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

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.
Youth Minister: Brad Speirs
Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org

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

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

Visitors
always welcomed
Please join us today

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

TWIS PUZZLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

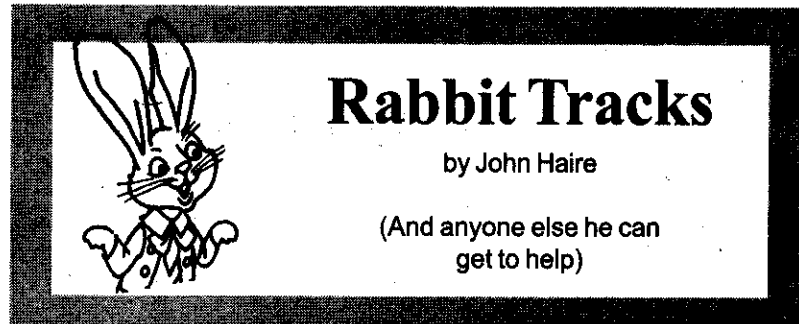
CASS CITY CHRONICLE
P.O. Box 115, Cass City, MI 48726

(989) 872-2010

Email: chronicle@cass-city.net

ANSWERS TO DEC. 23, 2008

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



Rabbit Tracks

by John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

A surging trend in newspapers and television is publication of photos submitted for consideration by readers or viewers. We think it is a great trend and would love to publish a few that meet these qualifications: They should be pictures that were taken by someone with a Cass City-Thumb connection now or previously. Include an explanation about any special features not apparent in the picture and the name and address of the sender and a daytime phone number. Send your entry by mail to Cass City Chronicle, 6550 Main St., Cass City 48726 or via the internet to chronicle@cass-city.net.

Thursday is New Year's Day, which, of course, makes Wednesday New Year's Eve. The Chronicle will close at 2 p.m. Wednesday for the merry-making celebration.

Stealing a comment by Jim Fitzgerald, retired Detroit Free Press columnist, who maintained that New Year's Eve partying was for amateurs, while party drinkers stayed home. That may not be true, but what is accurate is that there will be more drinkers on the road Wednesday. Be careful, we need every reader that we have.

Each year in the issue that arrives just before Christmas I am always amazed by the talent displayed by students in high school. It's a credit to the students, fun for readers (like me) who can't draw at all, and an appreciation of the instructor, Judy Hoelzle.

Reporter's notebook

Yes, Virginia, he's a computer whiz

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

My 16-year-old son, Brandon, finally figured out a way to get his hands on my computer, and his plan unfolded brilliantly on Christmas Eve.

For months he has nagged me — at length and in computer tech language no real person can understand — about upgrading this or that. In short, he wanted to save his old man from a computer that, in his opinion, is a dinosaur, slow and lethargic. Out-of-date. Blah, blah, blah.

I'm slow and lethargic, I'd tell him. My computer is perfect, just like me, just the way I like it. In other words, I've resisted his generous offers to help his technology-challenged dad.

A bit of background now. Brandon is largely a self-taught computer whiz. I've watched him do some miraculous things with old, used computers passed on to him over the years. More recently, he saved enough money to buy a new computer, and when it arrived working improperly, he called tech support and then tore the thing apart. I passed his room nervously, wondering if he realized what on earth he was doing, and how much of his own money he stood to lose if he couldn't return the machine.

But he quickly reassembled the computer and it works perfectly, although he continues to talk about upgrading this or that, again in language no normal human can understand. Still, let's face it, it isn't unusual for a teenager to think he knows a tad more than he really does, you know?

Now, fast forward to Christmas Eve and the opening of gifts among our family members.

Brandon handed me several packages all connected to one another. As

I unwrapped them, my heart sank a little. First a new keyboard, then a set of monstrous speakers, complete with a subwoofer, followed by a fancy-shmancy hard drive and a new CD writer, which I actually needed.

He smiled, and there was an unmistakable, "I know more than you, dad" look in his eyes that sent shivers down my spine. "I could install those tonight, dad," he beamed.

"Uh, yeah, okay, yeah, that would be great, Brandon," I stammered, a weak smile crossing my face.

Before long, I was pacing back and forth, the computer — my computer — disemboweled on the kitchen table, and Brandon working with what appeared to be the speed and skill of a surgeon.

My wife urged me to "take a couple deep breaths" and go relax in living-room. Yeah, as if, I thought.

Soon he was rebooting my computer, and amazingly, everything worked as it should. Okay, even better. I was pretty impressed with the speaker system (the subwoofer reminds me of those pesky drivers that cruise aimlessly through town, back and forth, with their stereos blaring, and all you can hear is a deep "thump, thump thump, thump, thump thump").

It was a lesson, I suppose, in having faith in my son's abilities, and I do have faith in him. I also envy him the skills that will probably help him to land a great job one day. Hopefully, in the future, he'll be as excited about helping me with my computer issues as he was Wednesday night.

In the meantime, I'm pretty darn proud of my kid, and amazed at the things he evidently knows that I never will.

Thank you, Brandon.

New troopers join Thumb area posts

The Michigan State Police recently announced the assignment of 2 troopers to posts in the Thumb.

Trooper Paul E. Arrowood has been assigned to the Michigan State Police post in Caro, while Trooper Jeffrey Rucinski will serve at the Bad Axe post. Both are graduates of the 121st Trooper Recruit School.

"I am pleased to welcome (members) of the 121st Trooper Recruit School," said First Lt. Doug Lautner who serves as commander of both the Caro and Bad Axe posts. "Having additional (troopers) at the posts will provide much needed relief to post personnel and help us better serve the community."

The 121st Trooper Recruit School began Aug. 10, when 101 recruits reported to the MSP Training Academy in Lansing. After the 19-week residential academy, 83 recruits were sworn in as MSP troopers and assigned to work sites across the state.

All new troopers participate in a 17-week field training program. During the program, new troopers are paired with experienced troopers for their shifts. The training helps new officers

apply their studies to real-life police work and conduct investigations under the supervision of seasoned troopers. Upon completion of the program, new troopers begin working independently and their performance is evaluated monthly for 6 months.

Trooper Arrowood is a native of Lake Orion and a graduate of Oakland Community College with an associate's degree in criminal justice. He has served nearly 5 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, with overseas tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. He attained the rank of sergeant prior to his discharge from military service.

Trooper Rucinski is a native of Livonia and a graduate of Schoolcraft Community College with an Associate of Arts Degree. He is also a graduate of Madonna University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. For the past 2 1/2 years he has worked as a corrections officer with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

With the addition of the 121st Trooper Recruit School graduates, the Michigan State Police now has 1,084 at-post troopers statewide.

The Haire Net

History repeating itself in nation?



It appears as if history is repeating itself as Michigan and the nation struggle to buy themselves out of the current recession.

With a total bill of at least \$830 billion for repair of the nation's transportation infrastructure, it's a gigantic bailout, but the size may be the only significant difference from the program inaugurated by president Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) in the 1930s to lift the country out of the great depression.

It was not universally applauded when the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was funded into action.

I'm reminded of the CCC each time I travel west on M-32 between Gaylord and Alcona. Part of the highway is tucked between 3 lakes no longer visible from the highway. For many years roadside signs announced the lakes. They have been removed and I speculate that in the depression era they were erected to get tourists to visit and after the depression were removed in hopes of keeping the lakes semi-private.

The CCC planted trees in many parts of northern Michigan and it was fun watching the tiny trees adjacent to M-32 take hold to become a needed snow break and an attractive addition to the area.

The passage of time has validated the program, but was not viewed with admiration by many when it swung into action. It was scorned by many of the few that had good jobs and a steady paycheck. This attitude was reflected by this instantly popular divisive jingle (slightly sanitized). "How many WPA workers are needed to mow the lawn? Answer: 8 - 2 setting, 2 coming, 2 going and 2 mowing."

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The back forty

by Roger Pond

I'm not sure what happened to retirement. We used to stop working and then draw our pensions. Things were pretty well taken care of.

Now, we retire and try to figure out how we got into this fix. Many of us have IRAs and investment accounts, rather than a full pension.

Some believe social security will take care of the rest. That might work if we don't live too long, but otherwise, we could come up a bit short.

Today's market reminds me of previous downturns. They happen every once in awhile, but we forget about them.

A newspaper story explains some of the misconceptions baby boomers have about retirement. Financial planners have said that many new retirees have a tendency to under-estimate the cost of health insurance, travel and other living expenses.

The story describes a man who retired in 1968 with a nest egg of \$250,000. This fellow expected to withdraw about 8 percent of his funds each year for living expenses. He estimated a return on his investments of 11.2 percent per year.

The stock market didn't see it that way. The market went south in 1973-74, and this man's returns went with it. He ran out of money in 1982.

Can anyone remember 1982? Does anyone recall the saying "the stock market always goes up in the long run."

When I see stories like these I conclude the best tool for a financial advisor is a plastic baseball bat. If the client says, "I expect my investments to earn 11.2 percent per year," the financial advisor might say, "Sounds to me like you need to have a talk with Mr. Bat."

"Boink!"

When a woman says, "I won't need to buy new clothes after I retire. I can use that money to do more traveling." The financial advisor might ask, "What do you expect to go without, the underwear or the outer garments?"

Mr. Bat responds, "Boink! Boink!"

How about, "We're fixing up the house now so we won't have those expenses after we retire."

"Boink! Boink! Boink!"

It seems to me most of us have two choices for retirement planning: Work longer, or spend less. It's tough, but that's the way it is.

I have my plans pretty much solidified. First, I plan to stop buying night crawlers after I retire. This will save me lots of money, and plastic words are much more durable, anyway. Then, I hope to buy all the fishing gear I need before I retire. That way I won't have to purchase those things when I can't afford them.

Finally, I plan to stay away from financial advisors. I'm sure they are nice people, but I'm deathly afraid of bats. (Even plastic ones.)

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Everyday Stories

Cass City Public Schools
"Assignment America"
By Emily Martin

Upon arriving into the new year, I am taking a small step back to honor a man that Cass City lost this year, a man that is looking down on all of us now. If you want to use expressions, Kenneth Martin bled maroon and white. A graduate of Cass City High School in 1950, my grandfather never failed to support his children and grandchildren.

Whether it be at the top of those old wooden gymnasium bleachers or perched on in right field, Grandpa was an avid Cass City sports fan. He was always there to witness a big win on the hardwood over USA, or a big loss to Lakers just the same. He never missed watching my brother pitch or take a step into the batter's box. He loved heading to my sister's tee ball games when she was a few years younger. He always longed to replay the games and talk about those who were doing well in Cass City athletics.

Above it all, I feel that my grandfather was a bigger fan of his grandkids. He sported pins with our athletic pictures plastered on them, maroon jackets with a Cass City Red Hawks emblem embroidered on them, and a smile of encouragement that never went unnoticed.

He did all of this with so much satisfaction. Grandpa was always proud of us, and that makes me melt inside.

After he passed away this November, we found numerous photographs of his own sports teams of Cass City High School. Short shorts, kneepads, and all, Grandpa was smiling away with the number 41 on his chest in a team basketball photo, graciously given to my family by another Cass City alum, Mr. Gil Schwaderer. With broad shoulders and a thick, dark head of hair, I think I can say he was a handsome fellow.

In another photograph, he sits with the rest of his baseball team on the front steps of the original Cass City High School (turning into the middle school in later years before being demolished) in uniforms bearing the same Cass City insignia we wear today. He had his baseball cap on sideways, showing his true colors.

In the days to come this year and years beyond, I will see my grandfather everywhere I see the fortitude of Cass City. He not only loved his school, but he adored this town. I will see him seated at the top of the bleachers during basketball games and in his car just past the right field fence at baseball games.

Wherever I see the courage of those who fight cancer, I too will see him. Wherever I see someone committed to their loved ones and their community, I too will see him. Wherever I hear a joke and see a reaction full of laughs and smiles, I too will see him. Wherever I see maroon and white together as one, I too will see him.

In loving memory of Kenneth J. Martin, my grandfather.

Biniecki sheriffs' school graduate

Sanilac County Sheriff-Elect Garry M. Biniecki recently completed a 2-week training program designed for newly elected sheriffs sponsored by the Michigan Sheriffs' Association (MSA).

Sheriff-Elect Biniecki, who will officially take office Jan. 1, satisfied all course requirements and earned a certificate of completion.

"The New Sheriffs' School consists of 2 weeks of highly intense training," said MSA Executive Director, Terence L. Jungel. "Graduation from the school proved Sheriff-Elect Biniecki is dedicated to protecting the citizens of Sanilac County and the Office of Sheriff."

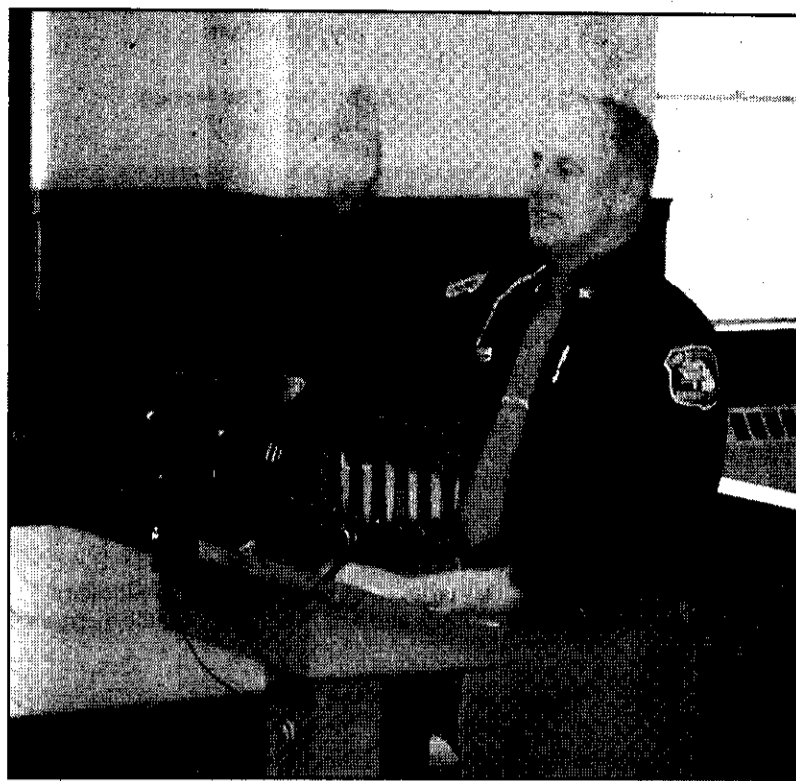
The New Sheriffs' School, which was held in Lansing Dec. 8-19, was co-sponsored by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) and the Clinton County Sheriff's Office. Twenty-seven of the 30 county sheriffs who were elected for the first time in No-

vember 2008 attended the school. Those eligible to attend included 4 current sheriffs who were appointed to finish out a partial term.

A few of the topics addressed were the role of the sheriff, secondary road patrol, corrections, crime victims' rights, mental health, community relations, preparing a budget, freedom of information act, the role of the undersheriff, media relations, emergency management, internal investigations and line of duty death.

Training was provided by current and retired Sheriffs who are experts on the subjects they presented. In addition, these sheriffs served as mentors to the sheriffs-elect, offering advice and sharing their experiences.

"The most effective weapon we have in our arsenal is knowledge," said Jungel. "Our goal was to prepare these elected sheriffs for the issues they will face in their new position. Successful sheriffs make our communities safer."



SANILAC COUNTY Sheriff-Elect Garry Biniecki, pictured above during a recent swearing-in ceremony before Sanilac County Circuit Court Judge Donald Teeple, graduated from the New Sheriffs' School in Lansing earlier this month.

Several appear on charges last week

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

•Gary R. Piccalo Jr., 39, Mayville, pleaded guilty to attempted interference with electronic communications and domestic violence Oct. 25 in Mayville.

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

•Clyde L. Wilson, 51, Mayville, received a one-year delayed sentence for his pleas of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor - with an occupant under the age of 16 years, and possession of an open intoxicant in a motor vehicle May 17 in Fremont Township.

He was ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$1,555.

•Jared B. Kinney, received a one-year delayed sentence for his plea of guilty to receiving and concealing a stolen motor vehicle Aug. 4 in Vassar.

He was ordered to complete 100 hours of community service and pay \$710 in costs and fines plus restitution of \$745.

•Daniel L. Baxter, 54, Vassar, was sentenced to 270 days in the county jail (90 days deferred) and 60 months probation for his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, May 25 in Vassar.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$2,340.

•Michael O. Morrison, 30, Millington, was sentenced to 2 to 20 years in prison for his plea of guilty to delivery/manufacture of a narcotic/cocaine

(less than 50 grams) July 8 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to prison time, he was ordered to pay \$120 in costs and fines.

•Kevin E. Bigelow, 28, Southfield, pleaded no contest to carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent July 18 in Fremont Township.

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

•Franklin J. Doyle, 27, Millington, was sentenced to 2 to 20 years in prison for his convictions on charges of possession of a controlled substance, subsequent offense, and possession of a narcotic/cocaine (50 to 449 grams) July 28 in Millington Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to prison time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$180.

•Lester C. Bell Jr., 25, Caro, was sentenced to one to 15 years in prison for his pleas of no contest to conspiracy to furnish contraband to a prison and conspiracy to furnish a cell phone to a prisoner Feb. 23 in Indianfields Township.

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

•Laurence Robinson, 42, Detroit, received a one-year delayed sentence for his plea of no contest to delivery/manufacture of marijuana June 10 in Fremont Township.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$800.

Obituaries

Ernest Bullock

Ernest Mark "Pete" Bullock, 89, of Decker, died Friday, Dec. 26, 2008 in Sanilac County Medical Care Facility, Sandusky following a brief illness.

He was born March 12, 1919 at home in Evergreen Township, the son of William and Mary (McComb) Bullock.

He married Emma Edith Kitchin June 30, 1942 in Emma's parent's home in Evergreen Township.

Ernest was a crop and dairy farmer. He worked for a few years for Active Industries in Elkton and for Gerden Industries in Marlette. Ernest retired as a carpenter working commercial construction after about 10 years. He was a member of Mizpah Missionary Church for many years. He enjoyed rabbit hunting in his younger years and he enjoyed woodworking.

Ernest is survived by his wife, Emma; children: Donald (Virginia) Bullock of Decker, David (Penny) Bullock of Saginaw, Dale (Fay) Bullock of Sandusky, and Diane K. Bullock of Sandusky; grandchildren: Laurie Ganzberg, Kristin (Jeff) Fuller, Lynette (Matt) Waligora, Nanette Horst, Bradley (Lori) Bullock, Nicholas (Deb) Bullock, and Cori (Christopher) Schuster; a brother, Stanley (Margaret) Bullock of Caro; a sister-in-law, Merle Kitchin; and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by brothers and sisters-in-law: Omar (Lila) Bullock, Clarence (Helen) Bullock, Frank (Miriam) Bullock, John (Alberta) Bullock; and a sister, Thelma Sterling.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 29, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with Pastor JT Mabe of Mizpah Missionary Church officiating.

Interment was in the Evergreen Township Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Family Discretionary Fund.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

Earl Hendrick

Earl Owen Hendrick, Jr., 77, of Decker, died peacefully Wednesday, Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2008 with his family at his side in United Hospice of Marlette Residence Center,

Marlette following a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born July 14, 1931 in Cass City, the son of Earl and Mary (Campbell) Hendrick.

He married Doris Yvonne Lewis Oct. 26, 1952 in Colling Church of the Nazarene.

Earl farmed all of his life until he became ill in June. He was employed at Hills and Dales General Hospital for 20 years and at Walbro Manufacturing for 12 years until 1999. Earl was a member of Novesta Church of Christ since 1999 and a member of Tuscola County Farm Bureau for many years. He enjoyed farming, hunting, fishing and his greatest passion was watching his children and grandchildren play sports.

Earl is survived by his loving wife, Doris; sons: Raymond (Barbara) Hendrick of Cass City, and Charles (Kelli) Hendrick of Decker; grandchildren: Heather Hendrick (fiancé Tom Cannon), Nathan (Sara) Hendrick, Elissa Hendrick, Shelley Hendrick, Lindsey (Joel) Brinkman, Ashley Hendrick and Carley Hendrick; great-grandchildren: Kellan Levine and James Hendrick; sisters: Lanettia Tuckey of Waterford, and Dorothy DuFord of Cass City; a very special nephew, Harland (Phyllis) Tuckey of Gobles; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and 2 sisters: Emma Jean Hendrick and Maxine Evans.

Funeral service were held Monday, Dec. 29, at the Novesta Church of Christ, Cass City, with Chuck Emmer and Brad Speirs officiating.

Interment was in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Pallbearers for Mr. Hendrick were Harold Little, Lawrence Englehart, Dave Ware, Keith Little, Gordon Ware and Dave Little.

Memorials may be made to United Hospice of Marlette Residence Center, Novesta Church of Christ or the Family Discretionary Fund.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

Marian Umpfenbach

Marian Helen Umpfenbach, 91, passed away Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008.

Loving mother of Lorraine (Bill), Robert, Virginia (George), Helen, Nancy (Jack), Charles (Mary), Joan (Tim), Janet (Gary), and Linda (Jeff) and the late Glenda; proud grandmother of 24; great-grandmother of 12; dear sister of the Rev. Andrew Ellis.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman; and 3 siblings: William, Barbara and Marjorie.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 29, at Knox Presbyterian Church.

Interment was in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

In lieu of flowers, donations are preferred to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation or to the American Heart Association.

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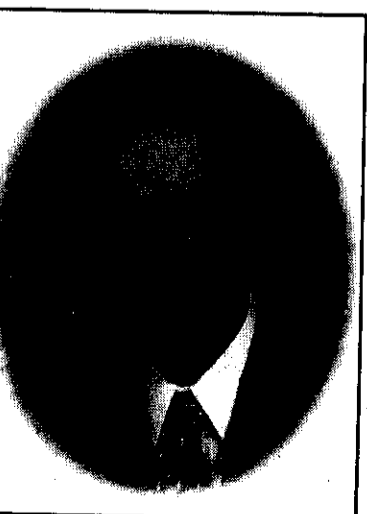
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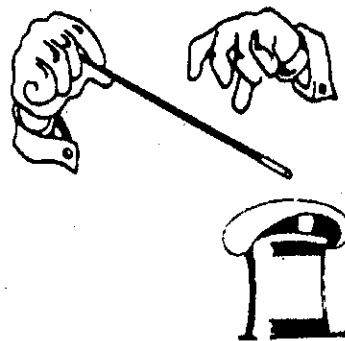
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New Year's Eve Sing on tap

The Cass City Laymen's Club hasn't been a "club" in the real sense of the word for years, but the legacy started by a handful of faithful men back in the 1960s lives on in the community. That legacy can be seen in action

tonight (Wednesday) at Cass City High School, when hundreds of area residents will gather once again to welcome a new year with a shared love of gospel music.

Everyone is invited to attend the 42nd annual New Year's Eve Gospel Sing, slated to get underway at 7 p.m.

"This year we will be featuring some of the best groups in the state of Michigan," said Arthur Severance, whose father, Lloyd, was among the founding members of the Cass City Laymen's Club, and who has since helped to continue that tradition along with a handful of others, including his son, Randy. "The all-star lineup features the Thurstons from Holt, the Gospelmans from Mt. Morris and the Calvarymen from Burton.

A freewill offering will be taken, and there will be an intermission with donuts, coffee and milk available.

"This is an opportunity to welcome in the new year with Christian friends, enjoying great gospel music by some of Michigan's finest artists," Severance said.

It's also an opportunity to see another tradition continue; although the faces and voices have changed over the years, the Calvarymen's faithfulness to the local gospel sing has never waned — the Calvarymen appeared at the first event and have returned to Cass City every year since.

The community sing was organized by the Cass City Laymen's Club, a small group of area men dedicated to serving God as laymen. Although no

longer active, a handful of members — many of them the family members of the founding members — continue to put the event together in an effort to offer the community an alternative to traditional New Year's celebrations.

Severance said the laymen's club was officially organized Oct. 23, 1967, with his father, Lloyd, serving as president, William O'Dell as secretary and Warren Kelly as treasurer.

"It was kind of set up for the laymen to get together, but also to sponsor some programs at the school. They (hosted) Rex Humbard and the Cathedral," Severance explained. "We did have regular meetings and we had devotions. We (wanted) to bring some spiritual emphasis outside the church."

Those involved in the early years included Keith McConkey and Burton Allen, according to Severance. "There were a few others; Don Buehrly and Dale Buehrly were both part of it," he said, adding the club remained active for 2 decades.

Today, Severance and his brother, Les, and son, Randy, are keeping the tradition alive along with a handful of others, including Bill Bader, son of longtime member Bob Bader.

"Basically, all we do now is sponsor the New Year's Eve concert," Severance noted.

In recent years, they've also organized concerts by the Talley Trio from Tennessee during Cass City's annual Freedom Festival in July. Funding for those events has come from donations, including a \$900 contribution this past summer from the Tuscola County Community Foundation.

But the New Year's Eve concert remains the focus each year for the laymen. The first concert was held at the old high school (formerly the intermediate school, which is now the playscape site). Tickets were sold that first year and the sing featured the Calvarymen and Crystalaires.

Every year since, the concert has been largely self-sustaining financially.

"Generally, we get enough to pay for the expenses. After all these years, the offering still covers it," Severance said. "We do pretty well."

The program typically costs about \$2,000 annually, although Severance estimated this year's expenses will be closer to \$2,500.

Regardless of the turnout, which has ranged from 400 to 800 or more people, the legacy of bringing a community together for a full evening of gospel music has continued.

"The goal, basically, is to provide something for everybody at no charge," Severance said. "We go with no charge so it's available for everybody, especially in these economic times."

Calendar of Events

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

Thursday, January 1
AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 872-4816.

Friday, January 2
Al-anon meeting for family and friends of alcoholics, 7 p.m., United Methodist Church, Elkton. For more information, call (989) 872-4042.

Sunday, January 4
Gagetown AA meeting, 8-9 p.m., Gagetown fire hall. For more information, call (989) 665-2361.
Gagetown United Methodist Brunch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All you can eat. \$6 donation.

Monday, January 5
Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Ubly. For more information, call Angela R. at (989) 658-2319.
Novesta Township Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 6
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.



What Lucky Little Guy or Gal will be the first to arrive in the NEW YEAR 2009?

Look at all the gifts this newcomer will receive if he or she is the first one to arrive in our community in the new year.

<p>All The Best \$10.00 Savings Account from Thumb National Bank and Trust Company Cass City Office 872-4311</p>	<p>Congratulations! \$15.00 Gift Certificate from Angel's Hair Studio Cass City 872-5260</p>	<p>Welcome Baby! \$10.00 off a Baby Prescription from Coach Light Pharmacy Cass City 872-3613</p>
<p>Good News! One-Year Subscription from Cass City Chronicle 872-2010</p>	<p>Wishing You Well! \$10.00 Gift Certificate from Erla's Food Center Cass City 872-2191</p>	<p>Best Wishes! \$20.00 Floral Bouquet from Special Scents Floral Shoppe 872-3434</p>
<p>Savings To Grow On! \$10.00 Savings Account from CHEMICAL BANK. We think you'll like the chemistry. MEMBER FDIC / EQUAL HOUSING LENDING OPPORTUNITY LENDER www.chemicalbank.com 872-4355</p>	<p>Best Wishes! \$20.00 Gift Certificate from Carmela's Pizzeria 6414 Main St., Cass City 872-2222</p>	<p>Wishing You The Best! A Facial for the NEW Mom from VIP Salon, Tanning & Nails, LLC 872-1191</p>

Lawsuit

Continued from page one.

the last regular school election in May.

Contacted by phone Monday, Leinweber, who serves as president of the Owen-Gage Board of Education, declined comment, saying he has not seen a copy of the formal allegations. The Chronicle was unable to reach Muntz, Quick and Champagne.

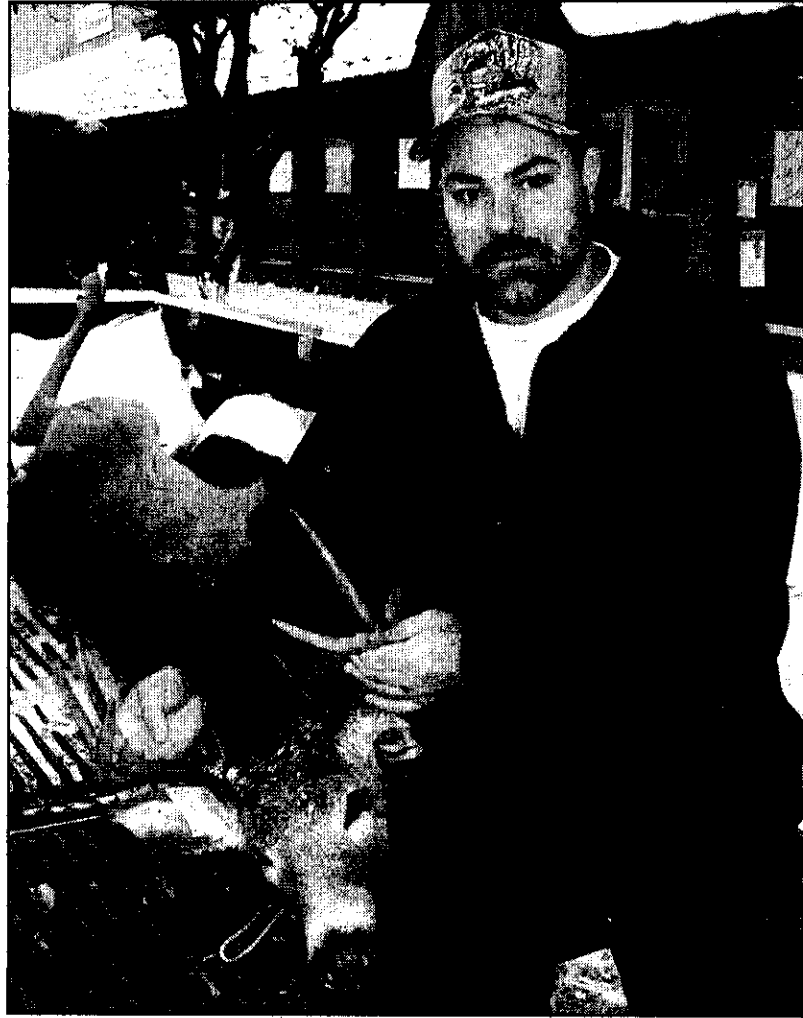
Rep. Brown supporting fuel plan

State Rep. Terry Brown (D-Pigeon) recently voted for a plan that would encourage the use and production of renewable fuels in Michigan by providing a tax credit to gas station owners who upgrade or purchase new pumps and tanks that sell ethanol or biodiesel fuel.

"Making renewable fuels available to more consumers statewide will increase Thumb-area farmers' profits and help protect and create jobs right here in our communities," said Brown, a member of both the House Agriculture Committee and the Energy and Technology Committee.

"By enabling more gas station owners to provide homegrown ethanol and biodiesel at their pumps, we can also break our dependence on foreign oil more quickly. Expanding our use of renewable fuels is critical to ensuring that our farmers prosper, our economy becomes more diverse and our country increases its security and independence."

The plan passed by the House will create a business tax credit beginning in 2009 for service station owners who install new renewable fuel delivery systems. The credit would be available over the next 3 years, and would be limited to \$1 million overall and \$20,000 per taxpayer.



BRAD ROBERTS of Deford bagged his buck with a muzzloader while hunting in Tuscola County. The 8-point deer dressed out at about 161 pounds.

Red Hawk cagers roll to victory

Cass City improved to 3-1 on the season with a 55-43 victory over host Sandusky in their final non-conference tune-up before Christmas. With a 22-19 advantage at the intermission, the Red Hawks opened Monday's final half with a 16-7 run to help put away the Redskins.

Cass City gymnasts open play in Vassar

The Cass City gymnastic team traveled to Vassar Dec. 18th to open its 2008-09 season. Despite suffering a 115.05-103.05 defeat, veteran coach Kathy Bouverette was pleased with the efforts from her Red Hawk squad. The visitors' best showing on the night was recorded in the vault, where Vanessa Scasny and Lindsey Bliss finished in a 3-way tie for the top honor with a score of 8.2. The Red Hawks also recorded a 5th and 6th place finish in the event, as Haley Wynn turned in a score of 7.6 and Sarah Burk, 7.0.

Coach Aaron Fernald's cagers, who were to have faced Deckerville Tuesday, have one outing remaining - next Tuesday with Ubyly - before the start of Greater Thumb West action. Against the Redskins, seniors Brent Doerr, Austin Babich and Chris Summersett combined for 42 points to lead the winners. Doerr recorded a double-double with 18 points and 11 rebounds, both team highs, while Babich added 12 points and 6 assists and Summersett recorded 12 points and 5 rebounds. Despite the Red Hawks' early season success, there are plenty of areas that need improvement if they hope to contend for the GTW championship. Through the opening 4 games, Cass City has turned the ball over 62 times, while passing for only 58 assists. The

Red Hawks have also struggled, at times, at the foul stripe where they have converted on only 29 of 49 attempts and on shots from behind the 3-point arc where they are shooting at just over 20%.

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Schneeberger's ATHLETE of the WEEK

Brent Doerr is the week's recipient of Schneeberger's Athlete of the Week honor. The 6'4" Red Hawk senior forward recorded his first career double in early season play during the 55-43 victory over Sandusky. Doerr posted a team-high 18 points and added 11 rebounds to lead the visitors in non-conference action. Through 4 games, Doerr is averaging 10.3 points, while shooting over 42% from behind the 3-point arc. He is also averaging 9.8 rebounds per game. Brent is the son of Barb and Don Doerr.

BRENT DOERR

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On the uneven bars, point winners for the Red Hawks included Sam Swiderski, 4th place with a score of 5.6; Victoria Scasny, 5th place with a score of 5.2; and Vanessa Scasny, 6th place with a score of 4.25. Cass City also had 3 ladies finish in the top 6 positions on the balance beam. Kelli Pettit led the way with a score of 6.4, while Bliss recorded a 6.3 and Lizzy Deluyck, a 5.9, to place 4th, 5th and 6th, respectively. In the floor exercise, Vanessa Scasny placed 5th with a score of 7.35 and Pettit placed 6th with a score of 7.15 to complete the list of Cass City point winners. The Hawks are off until Jan. 8th when they host Freeland.

Mr. Farmer

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Fabulous Five's Fearless Forecast

This Week's Forecast

John Haire	Clarke Haire	Tom Montgomery	Tina Pallas	Doug Hyatt

GIRLS' BASKETBALL
 Tuesday, January 6

Peek at Kingston	Peek	Kingston	Kingston	Peek	Kingston
Frankenmuth at Millington	Millington	Frankenmuth	Millington	Frankenmuth	Frankenmuth
A-Fairgrove at North Huron	North Huron	North Huron	North Huron	North Huron	North Huron

BOYS' BASKETBALL
 Monday, January 5

Memphis at Kingston	Memphis	Kingston	Memphis	Memphis	Kingston
A-Fairgrove at Port Hope	Port Hope	Akron-Fairgrove	Akron-Fairgrove	Port Hope	Port Hope

Tuesday, January 6

Mayville at BCAS	BCAS	BCAS	BCAS	Mayville	BCAS
Marlette at USA	USA	USA	Marlette	USA	USA
Vassar at Caro	Vassar	Vassar	Vassar	Vassar	Vassar
Ubyly at Cass City	Cass City	Ubyly	Cass City	Ubyly	Ubyly
Frankenmuth at Millington	Millington	Frankenmuth	Frankenmuth	Frankenmuth	Frankenmuth
Pinconning at Reese	Pinconning	Reese	Reese	Reese	Reese
Brown City at Lakota	Lakota	Brown City	Brown City	Lakota	Brown City

Last Week's Results

8-2	10-0	8-2	7-3	9-1
15-4 (79%)	18-1 (95%)	15-4 (79%)	12-7 (63%)	16-3 (84%)

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2009 Chevrolet Impala LS	MSRP \$23,795 ⁰⁰ GMS \$21,986 ⁸¹ Chev Rebate -\$1,750 ⁰⁰ Red Tag Rebate -\$3,000 ⁰⁰ If you have a lease that ends before 6-30-09 \$17,236 ⁸¹ \$14,236⁸¹ Plus tax, title & lic.	2009 Chevrolet Malibu LS	MSRP \$22,600 ⁰⁰ GMS \$20,848 ⁵⁸ Chev Rebate -\$1,000 ⁰⁰ Red Tag Rebate -\$2,000 ⁰⁰ If you have a lease that matures before 6-30-09 \$17,848 ⁵⁸ \$15,848⁵⁸ Plus tax, title & lic.
2009 Chevrolet Aveo LS 4-Door & 5-Door	MSRP \$12,170 ⁰⁰ GMS \$11,338 ⁴⁰ If you have a lease that matures before 6-30-09 -\$1,000 ⁰⁰ \$10,338⁴⁰ Plus tax, title & lic.	10 to choose from!	

All payments and prices are figured at GMS employee pricing and are plus tax, title, license and doc fee. Buy payments are figured for 72 months at 6.24% interest. Lease payments are figured for 36 months, 12,000 miles per year. Lease and Buy payments are subject to credit approval.

BOYS' BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, W, L. Includes Greater Thumb West and Greater Thumb East divisions.

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, W, L. Includes NCTL North division.

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, W, L. Includes NCTL South division.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, W, L. Includes Greater Thumb West division.

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, W, L. Includes Greater Thumb East division.

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, W, L. Includes NCTL North division.

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, W, L. Includes NCTL South division.

CASS CITY BOWLING LEAGUE

Table with 2 columns: Merchantes as of Dec. 18, Score. Lists various bowling centers and their scores.

Individual High Games & Series: Leah Pabst 196 (471); Phyllis Baxler 192-166 (487); Chris Little 164-161 (452).

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

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Cass City Red Hawks 2008-09 Girls' Varsity Basketball. Schedule listing dates, opponents, and times.

Cass City Red Hawks 2008-09 Gymnastics. Schedule listing dates, opponents, and times.

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Cass City Oil & Gas. Cass City Propane (989) 872-2065.

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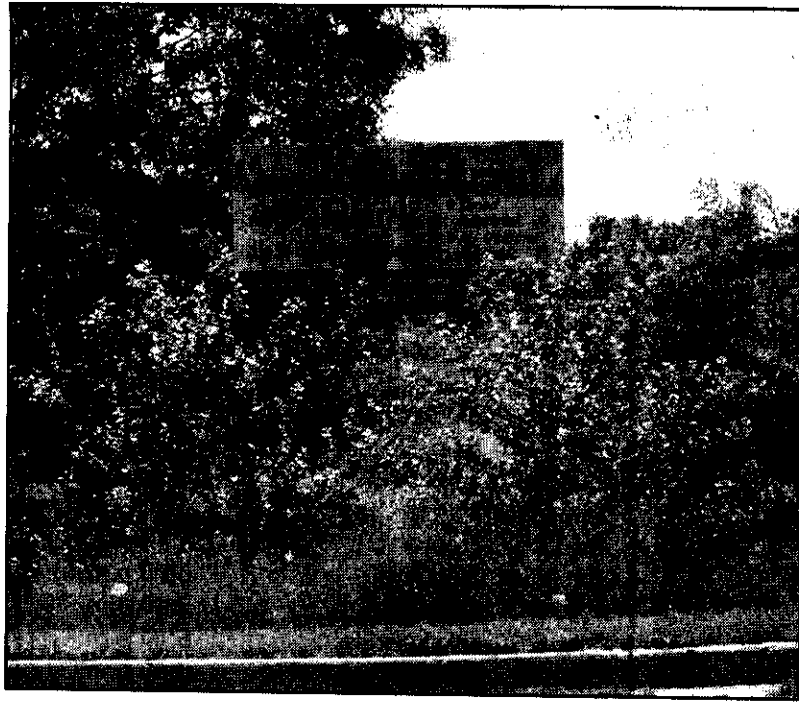
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LDW



CASS CITY officials continued to work with the Dairy Farmers of America in 2008 on the proposed construction of a milk processing plant in the village's industrial park.

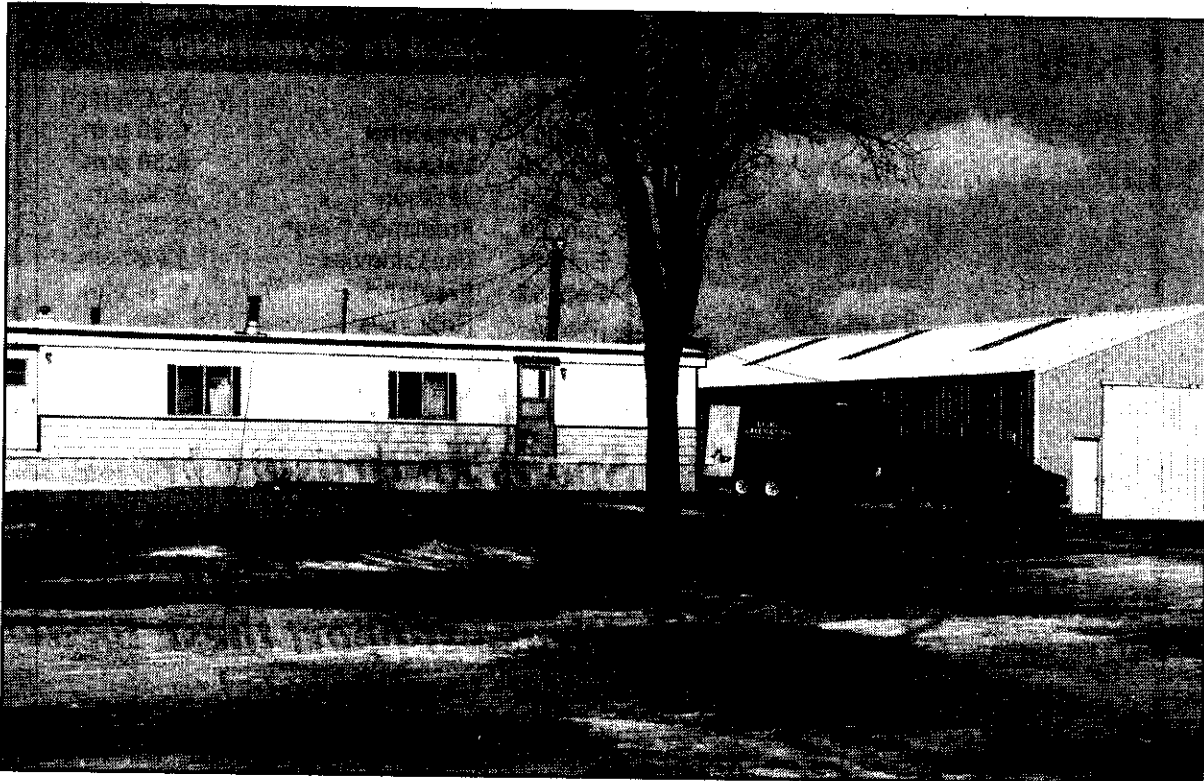


TUSCOLA COUNTY Sheriff Tom Kern (above right, with Undersheriff Jim Jashinske) is among several county officials in the Thumb who retired in 2008.

2008 in photographs



THUMB AREA farmers enjoyed good weather and great yields this year, but those factors were tempered with soaring fuel costs that cut into their bottom lines.



THE EARLY PART of 2008 brought grim news in the Thumb when an Ubyly area resident allegedly murdered his live-in girlfriend and her adult daughter at his residence in Sanilac County's Austin Township.

Couple's son dies in Iraq

Continued from page one.

"We send soldier support boxes and letters, and one of our main projects has been working with the 'Sew Much Comfort' program, a volunteer service where we sew and/or alter clothing for injured and recovering soldiers," she continued. "We assist the VA hospitals with donations of need items, and we work cooperatively with other veterans organizations such as the VFW, American Legion, AmVets, Patriot Riders, Vietnam Vets, etc. Our main function is to support one another as mothers of servicemen and women.

The local chapter meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Cousin's Restaurant in Bad Axe.

"Our meetings consist of various speakers, updates on where our servicemen and women are, and seeking ways to be of service to others. Through our speakers we provide education about veterans services, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (and) family support services," Kramer said.

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HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY 2009

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Wishing a Happy and Blessed New Year

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Real Estate For Rent

FOR RENT - K of C Hall, 6106 Beechwood Drive. Parties, dinners, meetings. Call Rick Kerka, 872-4877. 4-1-2-tf

APARTMENT FOR RENT - \$525/month. 2-bedroom, non-smoking, downstairs apartment. Wood floors, no pets. References required. Call 872-4215. 4-12-17-4

FOR RENT - 3-4 bedroom home, \$450/month. 872-3315, ask for Rusty. 4-12-3-tf

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FOR RENT - Cass City Mini Storage. Call 872-3917. 4-12-10-tf

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FOR RENT - 2-bedroom apartment in Cass City. 810-964-2666. 4-11-26-tf

FOR RENT - Cute 2-bedroom with garage. Cass City. 872-8825. 4-12-17-tf

FOR RENT - 3-bedroom Ranch style home in country on asphalt road. Cass City Schools. \$585/month plus utilities, security deposit. No pets, non-smoking preferably. For more information, call 989-551-1188. 4-12-17-3

It's easy to place your classified ad in the Cass City Chronicle. Call 989-872-2010 and we'll do the rest. 8-9-25-tf

Notices

Knights of Columbus CHICKEN & FISH DINNERS ALL YOU CAN EAT Friday, Jan. 16 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. K of C Hall 6106 Beechwood Dr. Cass City Adults \$8.00 Students \$4.00 10 & under Free 5-12-24-4

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CASINO TRIP January 13, 2009 We will be leaving from the former Caro Big Lots at 8:00 a.m. and we will return at 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$22.00. Send check to Nina Davis by Jan. 5 at P.O. Box 12 Cass City, MI 48726 872-2925 Return funds \$20.00 and \$5.00 5-12-24-4

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- Martin Osentoski Sales Associate 872-3252 or 550-3400
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