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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 52

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009

FIFTY CENTS

16 PAGES, ONE SUPPLEMENT



CLOSED? NOT FOR long. Mike Ybarra, branch manager, Excell Group (from left); Mike Brann, president, Excell HealthStaff; Rusty Reynolds, call center manager; Bill Brann, president and CEO, Excell Group; Tuscola County EDC Executive Director Jim McLoskey; and Cass City Village Manager Peter Cristiano stand outside the former Millennium building in Cass City, the newest home to the Excell Group, which will be hiring 40 people to staff its Cass City office.

JOBS!

Excell Group setting up shop in Cass City

Call center slated to open by April 20 in former Millennium building.

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Forty new jobs. It's the kind of news few communities are hearing these days, especially in light of Michigan's crippled economy, but Cass City has landed a new business — and the promise of employment opportunities — just the same.

Area residents have village officials and business owners alike, not to mention the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation, to thank.

Management officials with the Excell Group, based in Lathrup Village, Mich., announced Thursday that the company's new call center operation will be locating in Cass City.

The firm will be moving into the former Millennium building at 6172 Main St. next to McDonald's, and officials plan to be up and running by April 20. Those hired and trained to work there will serve as customer service representatives for Excell Group, which contracts with utility companies throughout the country to provide customer service/support via its call centers in Michigan.

Last week's announcement was made by L. William (Bill) Brann III, president and CEO of the company.

"The Excell Group management team did an extensive search throughout Michigan for a location, and decided on Cass City and Tuscola County because of the talented and trained workforce in the area," said Brann, who also credited what he called a "pro-business attitude" displayed by local agencies as well as area businesses and residents in the community.

Brann lauded village officials, in-

cluding village Manager Peter Cristiano, and the Tuscola County EDC and its executive director, Jim McLoskey, "for helping us identify the best suited office space for our needs, and for allowing this business location to hit the ground running."

Brann said he and his staff had been considering 20 communities throughout Michigan for possible locations. "We had many options to review in

wishes. "The EDC was very happy to partner with the village in bringing Excell Group and these new employment opportunities to Cass City and Tuscola County," he said. "These are exactly the type of jobs that are needed to help diversify our economy and will help us become less dependent on the automotive industry."

This isn't the first time Excell Group has focused on Tuscola County. In

The Excell Group will be scheduling interviews for customer service representatives and team leaders for its new office in Cass City. Job seekers are asked to e-mail their resumes and cover letters to "human resources" at: jobs@excell-groupinc.com, or by fax to (248) 416-1102 for a possible interview. Job interviews will be handled on an appointment-only basis.

this site selection process and are pleased that we chose Cass City," he added.

Brann's son, Mike Brann, president of Excell HealthStaff, agreed, saying the company could have settled on a different location with a smaller investment. "But it didn't really come down to cost. It really came down to the support of local government," he said.

"The village welcomes Excell Group in Cass City," commented Cristiano. "It is very good news to see Excell Group creating jobs for our town during these tough economic times."

"The arrival of new jobs to our community is great news," added Kevin Mackey, Cass City's director of community development. "I hope everyone joins the village in welcoming our newest citizen."

"I think the nice thing was, people stepped up to the plate to help out. I was very pleased with that," Cristiano said, referring to other local building owners who were willing to work with Excell Group officials.

McLoskey also added his well

fact, the company recently opened a call center in Caro that is identical to the operation Cass City will host.

Initially, the operation in Cass City will employ roughly 40 people, but according to Brann, the local office has the potential to grow based on the success of the operation.

The Excell Group is a diversified temporary and permanent employment agency with offices throughout Michigan, serving various employers. In addition to call centers, the Excell Group owns and manages home healthcare agencies and is considering Cass City as a possible location to expand in the future. The company has been recognized as one of the leading human resource providers in the region by many different business groups over the past several years.

Critical care: Hills and Dales coping with financial crisis

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A special report issued by the Michigan Health and Hospital Association confirms what hospital administrators across Michigan have known for months: that the state's hospitals are on the brink of a fiscal crisis.

That crisis was brought on by the state and national recession, the credit market collapse and a growing number of patients who are unable to pay for their health care, placing an even bigger burden on Michigan hospitals, already strained by years of underfunding from the state Medicaid, Medicare and other government pro-

grams.

"The past couple of years, we've struggled a bit," acknowledged Mike Falatko, president and CEO of Hills and Dales General Hospital in Cass City.

How challenging has it been? Falatko says the hospital has sustained losses of a half-million dollars in each of the past 2 years. "That's significant for a small hospital. It's a lot," he said. "With the recession, which we've been feeling in Michigan for 8 or 9 years, it's really affecting us."

Hills and Dales is Cass City's largest employer, with 238 people on its payroll, which totals about \$10 million a

year. The numbers tell the story, starting with the local hospital's charity and bad debt expenses, which grew from \$608,331 in 2007 to a whopping \$963,365 — a 58-percent increase. "And that comes off straight from your bottom line," Falatko pointed out.

Please turn to page 11.

Nearly 30 arrested in Sanilac drug sweep

Sanilac County Drug Task Force officers early last week served arrest warrants for nearly 30 suspects charged with drug sales in Sanilac County following a 16-month undercover investigation.

The suspects included residents of Cass City and Kingston in Tuscola County, and Snover and Lamotte and Moore townships in Sanilac County. Their names have not yet been released.

The arrest warrants charged the suspects with a combined 72 drug sales to undercover officers during the course of the investigation, according to drug task force Commander William Gray, who said the counts include 67 felony charges and 3 "high" misdemeanors.

"The investigation began in November 2007 when the owners and management of several federally subsidized, low-income housing units in Sanilac County contacted the drug task force with complaints of drug sales in the house unit they owned/managed," Gray said. "An undercover agent of the drug task force was placed in the areas of the suspected drug sales activities and, after a period of time, began making a series of drug buys."

"These 'street level' drug buys took place in 14 villages/townships throughout Sanilac County - from each of the extreme 4 corners and throughout the entire midsection of the county," he noted.

Gray said the suspects charged are primarily Sanilac County residents, with a small number from Bad Axe, Cass City, Lapeer and Kingston.

"During the course of this investigation, it was discovered that the illegal sale and use of prescription medications such as Vicodin, Lorazepam, Morphine, Methadone, etc., was much more prolific than previously recognized by law enforcement," Gray said. "Some suspects would take 'orders' for prescription medications based upon their scheduled doctor's appointments, or

Please turn to page 3.



A FLIGHTCARE Helicopter crew prepares to land at the scene of a 2-vehicle accident Thursday on Deckerville Road, just west of Cemetery Road. Investigators said a 15-year-old Deford resident was transported to Saginaw with non-life threatening injuries.

Teens injured in bicycle-auto collision

Two Cass City teens were injured Thursday when the bicycle they were riding collided with a vehicle near the intersection of Houghton and Maple streets.

Cass City police reported Jayson H. Kester, 18, was driving the bike with a passenger, Jonathon A. Bielski, 14. The pair was traveling south between houses on private property and pulled into the path of a vehicle driven by Milton A. Hoffman, 90, also of Cass City.

Reports state that Kester was knocked off the bike onto the ground, while the impact sent Bielski against the windshield of the vehicle before he fell to the road. Both were transported by ambulance to Hills and Dales General Hospital for treatment of what officers described as non-life threatening injuries.

Deford teen injured in accident

A 15-year-old Deford resident was injured in a 2-vehicle traffic accident Thursday afternoon on Deckerville Road, just west of Cemetery Road near Deford.

Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies reported the crash occurred just before 2 p.m.

The preliminary investigation indicated a vehicle driven by Dale Sakuta, Please turn to page 8.



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Calendar of Events

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

Wednesday, March 18
 United Sportsmen's Alliance meeting, 7 p.m., Cass City Gun Club, 2676 Englehart Rd. For more information, please call (989) 872-2398.
 Spring into Art Exhibit, during regular business hours, Rawson Memorial District Library. (March 16-28)

Thursday, March 19
 AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 872-4816.
 Cass City Genealogy Group meeting, 7 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.
 Multiple Sclerosis and Fibromyalgia Support Group meeting, 7 p.m., Northwood Meadows, 6086 Beechwood Dr., Cass City. For more information, call Deb at (989) 912-6185.

Friday, March 20
 Al-anon meeting for family and friends of alcoholics, 7 p.m., United Methodist Church, Elkton. For more information, call (989) 872-4042.
 HCl Fundraising Jewelry Sale, 7-3 p.m., Hills & Dales General Hospital West Wing Hallway. Sponsored by the Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary.
 Senior Citizen Movies, 1:30 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.

Sunday, March 22
 Gagetown AA meeting, 8-9 p.m., Gagetown fire hall. For more information, call (989) 665-2361.

Monday, March 23
 Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Ubyly. For more information, call Angela R. at (989) 658-2319.
 Young Adult Book Club, 6-7 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.
 Cass City School Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.
 Owen-Gage School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
 Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary meeting, 11:30 a.m., Gilligan's.

Wednesday, March 25
 Ravenous Readers Book Club, noon, Rawson Memorial District Library.
 Thumb Retired Officers of Police Service (TROOPS) meeting, 11:30 a.m., Franklin Inn, Bad Axe.



Locks of Love...

FIVE-YEAR-OLD Riley Copeland recently donated 10 inches of her hair to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada who suffer from long-term medical hair loss. Copeland, the daughter of Mark and Sue Copeland, Deford, is a kindergarten student at Campbell Elementary School in Cass City.

Engaged Campbell student in Kaleidoscope



Raymond Jacobs and Brandi Talaski

Rodney and Lynn Talaski announce the engagement of their daughter, Brandi Ann Talaski, to Raymond Lawrence Jacobs, son of Raymond and Jean Jacobs.

Brandi is a 2006 graduate of Cass City High School. She is presently attending Delta College studying for a medical secretary degree, and works part-time for Cracker Barrel in Bay City.

Raymond is a 2002 graduate of Garber High School in Essexville. He currently works for INS Insulation. A May 24, 2009 wedding is being planned at The Grand in Essexville.

Tiffany Matson, a student at Campbell Elementary School, was selected for publication in "Kaleidoscope 2009," a collection of student writings assembled by the Michigan Reading Association. Her piece is entitled "The Lake Monster."

Kaleidoscope is in its 18th year of publication. Its purpose is to celebrate the talents of Michigan's young authors. Each school may submit one piece of writing to be published.

This year's participants represent 105 schools from across the state. The authors, from kindergarten through twelfth grade, address a wide variety of topics, but they have one thing in common - they all love to write.

In addition to becoming published authors, the students are invited to attend a special luncheon at the 53rd Michigan Reading Association Annual Conference Sunday, March 15, at the Ambassador East and West, in the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. This year's luncheon will feature nationally known author Lester Laminack.

Smaller farms

Farms that began operation between 2003 and 2007 tended to be smaller and have lower sales than all farms nationwide. New farms, on average, had 201 acres of land and \$71,000 in sales.

Meg's Peg
Homework
 by Melva E. Guinther

You might think that living 2500 miles from them would exempt us from helping with grandchildren's homework. You'd be wrong.

Mind you, the grandkids don't ask for our help with math, science or anything technical. They know better. Nevertheless, we've received calls from two of them regarding assignments on which they consider us experts - ancient history.

Gretchen, our 7-year-old granddaughter, was involved with a project that to me seemed extremely ambitious for a second grader. She had to come up with a family history that was quite exacting.

Gretchen wanted to know when our ancestors came to America, what life was like when we were growing up, what's the oldest thing our family owns, does it still work, etc.

I must admit that I've become rather adept at passing the buck. For the family history, I referred her to niece Becky Zmierski, who has done a rather thorough study of that subject. Becky quickly provided the needed info.

The only object of antiquity I could come up with was a set of dishes our daughter Sandy inherited from my grandmother. So I had Gretchen call her. Once again, Gretchen received not only the description but also a picture of the dishes.

Don't you get credit if you've pointed them in the right direction? As mentioned previously, it seems quite demanding for a child her age. I don't recall doing anything that complicated in second grade. (Of course, I don't remember what I did yesterday either.)

Gretchen also sent us a visitor from California, "Flat Stanley." Apparently F.S. is a character in a book the class was reading. The pupils were to send him to someone, have them tell about his experiences while with them, dress him appropriately and send him back.

The first thing necessary was to bundle Stanley up. He was definitely not dressed for Michigan in winter. We returned him along with some pictures of what he saw here - mostly ice and snow.

Gretchen reported that Flat Stanley really got around, traveling as far as China. That sounds like an imaginative and informative project.

Grandson Drew had an assignment to put together a scrapbook about a war. He chose World War I, in which his Great-grandpa McConnell (my dad) fought.

My sister Peggy has a box full of letters Dad had received while in the army, so I borrowed and copied some of them for Drew. The letters I perused were mostly from his mother, sisters and a brother, nothing terribly exciting. I imagine that even the mundane activities of life back home on the farm were meaningful and welcome to a young man away from home and engaged in battle.

The 3-cent stamps on the faded envelopes alone were noteworthy. In the box with the letters were some old tax receipts, also intriguing.

In 1938, Dad paid a whopping \$5.78 in taxes for his 40 acres - \$3.19 for county tax, .47 for township, school, 1.51.

I'm guessing the ".41 - Co. Dr. at lg." was for county drains and the ".14 - Tp. D. at L." was for township drains.

Weren't those the good old days! It's kind of scary to think that 70 years from now our great-great-grandchildren might uncover our tax receipts and letters and think we got off cheap.

Holbrook Area News
 Mrs. Thelma Jackson
 Phone 989-269-6994

Allen Farrelly, Ron Wolschlag and Claude Mestack met at McDonald's in Bad Axe Saturday morning for breakfast.

10 members of the Traveling Breakfast Club met at Big Boy Thursday morning. They will meet at The Peppermill in Bad Axe next week.

Allen Farrelly spent from Monday to Friday with June Rutz and family at Sterling Heights.

A bridal shower for Julie Rutkowski was held Saturday afternoon at Free Methodist Church in Bad Axe. Julie

received many nice gifts. Julie will become the bride of Rob Eisinger of Fillion on May 2nd.

Mrs. Curtis Cleland and Mrs. Jim Doerr visited Mrs. Hiram Keyser on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Depcinski attended the Ruth Card Party at the Ruth K of C Hall on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Sweeney of Ubyly and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jackson visited Thelma Jackson on Tuesday.

Klyn Puterbaugh and a friend visited Mr. and Mrs. Jim Doerr on Tuesday.

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

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

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Rabbit Tracks

by John Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Jim Lapeer, of New Boston, enjoys the arrival of spring and the return of the robins from their winter havens each year. The 1984 Cass City High School graduate writes that the albino robin pictured first was observed on his farm in 2005 accompanied by other robins. It returned in the spring of 2006 and again in 2007. But, "sadly failed to show in 2008 and hasn't been seen yet this year."

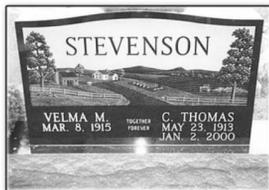


Diane Lowe's 2009 golf season is off to a terrific start. On March 5th, the 1978 Cass City High School grad scored a hole-in-one at Eagle's Landing Golf Club while vacationing in Sevierville, Tennessee. It was registered on the 17th hole, measuring 105 yards.

Joe Howard, an avid snowmobiler, had perhaps his best trip of the season over this past weekend.

Although the snow was just marginal, Howard, also a 1978 Red Hawk graduate, was able to show a group from Cass City a close up look of the elk herd that frequents his Northern Michigan property near Vanderbilt.

While just seeing the majestic animals from distances often less than 100 yards was impressive, Howard also found a recent 6-point Elk antler shed that now hangs from his cabin wall.



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Troopers seek suspect in Akron bank hold-up

Troopers from the Michigan State Police post in Caro are still searching for the suspect in an armed robbery Friday at a Northstar Bank branch in Akron.

According to reports, troopers were dispatched to the bank to investigate a hold-up alarm. Prior to their arrival, they were informed that someone had robbed the bank and stolen an undisclosed amount of cash.

The suspect is described as a white

male in his 20s, 5-feet 10-inches to 5-foot 11-inches in height, slim build, brown hair, and facial hair - stubble with defined edges. He was wearing a black jacket with a hood and fuzzy trim, dark jeans and dark shoes. His T-shirt was dark with an emblem on it, and he was wearing black, form-fitting gloves.

Anyone with information about the crime or suspect is asked to contact the state police at 1-800-824-7053.

Drug team sweeps Sanilac

Continued from page one.

based upon their employment at nursing care facilities."

In addition to prescription drugs, the undercover officer was able to purchase heroin, crack cocaine, marijuana, Ecstasy, LSD and others. Officers also seized a stolen .44 caliber revolver and a .25 caliber semi-automatic pistol during the probe.

The suspects arrested Monday, March 9, were transported to the Sanilac County Jail, where they were booked on individual charges and released for scheduled court arraignments over the next 2 weeks.

The counts range from possession and/or delivery of various controlled and illegal substances, to possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony and being a felon in possession

of a firearm, to maintaining a drug house.

The suspects also face an additional 19 felony drug sale charges yet to be issued, and restitution of \$4,800 will be sought from those individuals to recover the money paid to them during the drug buys.

Gray said investigators also plan to question another 15 suspects regarding drug sale activities that could result in more charges.

Gray lauded the efforts of several assisting agencies, including the Sanilac, Huron, Lapeer and St. Clair county sheriff's departments; Michigan State Police Post in Sandusky; Sandusky, Marlette, Crosswell, Peck and Deckerville police departments; and the Sanilac and St. Clair county probation offices.

The Haire Net

Rawson played a major role locally



Another community leader has left us and like many that have passed on at a relatively older age, his achievements in the community were not as notable as they would have been a quarter of a century earlier. That's because they faded from the public eye when those most affected died.



Delbert Rawson

Dr. Delbert Rawson is one of a group with members born and reared in Cass City, or were long-time members of the business community; a group that took a leadership role in the affairs of the community.

His dental practice was unique because his rates were substantially lower than fees charged by most dental offices. It wasn't because he needed lower rates to attract clients. He constantly turned away potential customers because he just couldn't handle anymore.

I asked him once why his rates were lower and he remarked that he felt dental service should be available to folks of limited incomes.

In case you missed it in last week's Chronicle, the roles he filled in Cass City included work on the Cass City School Board and the Cass City Village Council, president of the Rotary Club and secretary of the Rawson Foundation, which was responsible for a new library building that is still the base unit, enlarged and renovated many times since that beginning. The Rawson family also has a room at Hills and Dales with its name on a plaque. A dedicated room indicates that the person or persons named donated \$5,000 or more to the hospital.

Because I was aware that Del was seriously ill a week or so before he died, it wasn't a surprise.

But knowing of his serious condition reinforced a concern that I have mulled whenever long-time residents die. How can we replace them - peo-

ple that feel the Cass City community is the very best?

The late M. B. Auten constantly reminded anyone within hearing distance that Cass City was the greatest place in the world to live. Maybe other leaders may not be as articulate, but I can't think of any in this mostly bygone group that did not make Cass City home.

The movers and shakers for all the advances we enjoy was due to the work of these home town heroes. It's sure that most folks know about the Pinney Foundation; few probably know that it was established by Fred Pinney's endowment. You get that feeling when his foundation is mispronounced as PENey instead of PINney.

Think about these leaders when you swim at the park, get outstanding care at Hills and Dales General Hospital, enjoy our schools and visit our library.

And remember that Del Rawson played a major role in making it happen.

The back forty

by Roger Pond



A person can learn a lot about a community by reading the newspaper. A small town paper tells the reader who got married, what's happening at school and why the new minister bought a blue house and a pink Cadillac.

One can also learn from the larger newspapers, but you never get the details in the big papers. Without details, it's hard to know what really happened.

The big papers say, "John Doe of Marysville was involved in a single vehicle accident Tuesday morning, when his small station wagon failed to negotiate a curve on Route 29."

They don't tell you he was hauling four goats to the auction yard and became distracted when a hoof became lodged between his shirt collar and the back of his neck. You have to figure that out for yourself.

The small-town paper won't tell us about the animals, either, but everyone knows who raises goats and drives that road to the auction. The whole town has most of the story before the newspaper is printed.

A recent incident in southern Michigan illustrates the deficiencies in national news reporting. A wire service story reports a 30-year-old man attempted suicide in Detroit by jumping from a fourth-story hotel window. The man's fall was broken by an automobile parked below.

Bruised and bleeding from facial cuts, the man crawled off the car, took the elevator to the fourth floor, and

jumped from the same window, again. He landed on the same car!

This fellow escaped with only a broken wrist and a fractured pelvis. The car was demolished, however.

The news report doesn't tell us why the man jumped from the same window a second time, or even why he jumped the first time. I'd like to know whose car he was landing on, too.

This all seems preposterous on the surface, but it's the kind of thing that makes news. A similar thing happened in my hometown of St. Paris, Ohio during the late 1800s.

I wasn't around at the time, but the local history says a man from Zanesville, Ohio committed suicide in St. Paris by jumping from the top floor of the Kline Hotel. This fellow was new in town and apparently didn't realize the Kline was only 2 stories tall. Unfortunately there weren't any cars in those days, and landing on a horse isn't always a good thing.

The man from Zanesville walked back into the hotel lobby following his jump, but the doctors couldn't save him. Like many buildings of that era, nobody could save the old hotel, either. The city declared it unsafe and tore it down in the 1960s.

My hometown got national news coverage for the suicide incident at the old hotel, but the local news hardly even mentioned it. The local paper decided it was bad for the city's image to have folks jumping out of the only hotel in town.

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Everyday Stories

Cass City Public Schools
"Assignment America"
By Emily Martin

The mayhem is building. The madness of March is about to begin. As the frozen earth has begun to thaw, college basketball fans young and old are preparing for the greatest time of the year: the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship. Commonly known as March Madness, the competitiveness of this year-ending tournament even makes its way to small town America, to Cass City.

Selection Sunday, the day all 65 teams are set up in the single-elimination bracket, is a day of destiny. Number One seeds are decided and on-the-fence teams with a tiny shot of making the tournament hold on to a string of hope that their name will be penciled in.

Husbands, fathers, grandfathers and sons alike are overcome with an excitement in the month of March that is unlike anything else. The Big Dance, another common name for the NCAA Men's Basketball fiesta in March, has built a legacy of showcasing prestigious programs with dominating style and underdog stories with dramatic fashion.

Above all of this, above the Sweet 16, the Elite 8, and the Final 4, this tournament is about including the country in the determination, the drive and the heart needed to win it all. With the establishment of several bracket polls and competitions predicting the winners ahead of time, this mayhem is all over the nation. Offices are disputing over their favorites. Families are picking their early-tournament upsets.

In the spirit of mathematical statistics, probability, possibilities and just pure fun, the world of academics also contributes to this madness.

Each year, seventh grade teacher Mr. Ryan Walker distributes NCAA brackets and holds his own in-school competition. For the grand prize of a Mt. Dew and a candy bar, students and teachers alike take their shot at the exhilaration of picking potential winners.

Mr. Walker tells a story of Cass City 2007 graduate Katie Pine and her selection tactics. "She would go online and look at every team's jersey. Based on color or design, she would pick a winner. Amazing how successful she was..." he recalled.

High school Spanish teacher Mr. Chris Collins also holds a bracket competition each year. Last year, Paige Lester, now a junior, won the tournament in her class hour. The entire class was flabbergasted, myself included. "I just looked at the college names and guessed. It worked didn't it?" she commented recently. Nabbing a prize of something along the lines of a Free Homework Pass, Lester beat everyone who believed in their own bracket predictions.

Before you go filling out your tournament brackets for March Madness 2009, you might want to reevaluate your strategy.

My personal research and experience has led me to believe that just caring about March Madness does not produce a successful bracket. Every year that I carefully select my winners, those winners do not, in fact, become winners. This is a terrible predicament because I happen to really like following college basketball, and I especially love the month of March.

Maybe it's about studying the colors and patterns of the game's match-ups. Maybe predictions should be based on our likeness of their institutions' titles. I do not have a simple solution.

The officials sound their whistles at tip-off. The basketball is dribbled down the court, echoing powerful pounds. A shot is up and falls through the net with nothing heard but a swish. The buzzer-beater shot is good.

Let the madness of March begin.

Caro Transit, HDC among 2009 fiscal year grant recipients in area

The consolidated appropriations bill that will fund the federal government through the 2009 fiscal year has cleared Congress, assuring a pair of federally-funded projects in Tuscola County.

The U.S. Senate passed the measure without amendment last week, preserving some \$4.7 million worth of projects in Saginaw, Bay and Tuscola counties in the final bill, according to Congressman Dale E. Kildee (D-MI).

"I am very pleased that the Senate passed - without changing one comma - this legislation to fund these important projects that will benefit our local communities and support successful programs and necessary infrastructure needs," Kildee said.

The projects include:

• **Caro Generations Youth After-School and summer programs** — \$100,000 to fund the Human Development Commission's Generations program, which provides services before and after school and throughout the summer to disadvantaged children or to those who are at risk of failure in school.

The program brings together kids, seniors and teens for activities that focus on drug and crime prevention and awareness, educational instruction, community service, 21st century technology and school success.

• **Caro Transit Authority** — \$285,000 to replace 4 buses that have reached the end of their service life. The Caro Transit Authority serves all of Tuscola County.

Center accepts electronics

Now through April 1, Tuscola County Recycling in Caro will accept a wide variety of electronics waste free of charge.

However, after April 1, there will be a \$5 charge for each television, computer monitor and "all in one" type computer brought to the center for recycling. This fee is doubled for out-of-county electronics.

Acceptable items include TVs, monitors, CPUs, printers, scanners, keyboards, VCRs, DVD players, camcorders, electric typewriters and word processors, stereo equipment, radios, telephones, cellular phones, answering machines and speakers. The center can also accept old CDs, DVDs and every type of household

battery (please tape the positive ends of batteries for safe transport). Items that are unacceptable include power tools, vacuums and small kitchen appliances.

Tuscola County Recycling Center has offered residents a safe and secure opportunity to recycle their old electronics year round since 2004. Electronics and accessories can be dropped off any time that the recycling center is open. The hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on the third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (excluding holidays).

For additional information, contact the recycling center at (989) 672-1673 or email recycle@tuscolacounty.org.



TUSCOLA COUNTY EDC officials along with their counterparts from Lapeer, Sanilac and Huron counties hosted a workshop last week in Cass City targeting area manufacturing companies. The workshop, held at Rawson Memorial District Library, drew about 55 business owners interested in learning more about ways to tap into the needs of aerospace manufacturing firms. Above, Robert M. Schoofs, director of the SVSU Center for Manufacturing Improvement, addresses the group.

Several appear on charges last week

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

• James Lester Jr., 50, Fostoria, was sentenced to 60 months probation after having his delay of sentence revoked following his pleas of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, and driving while his license was suspended or revoked, subsequent offense, July 7, 2007, in Mayville. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

Lester was ordered to consume no alcohol and to pay his original court costs and fines totaling \$2,665.

• Travis R. Kindt, 24, Mount Morris, received a one-year delayed sentence following his pleas of guilty to 2 counts of assaulting a police officer and malicious destruction of a building totaling less than \$200 Aug. 3 in Caro.

He was ordered to pay \$2,375 in costs and fines.

• Nicholas N. Jenkins, 25, Caro, was sentenced to 180 days in the county jail and 36 months probation for his plea of guilty to violating the Sex Offenders Registration Act by failing to notify law enforcement of a change in address within 10 days last October through August in Indianfields Township.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$2,620.

• Jason G. Allen, 34, Alma, was sentenced to 365 days in jail and 60 months probation for his plea of guilty to malicious destruction of property totaling \$1,000 to \$20,000 Aug. 1-2 in Unionville.

He was also ordered to pay \$3,628 in costs and fines plus restitution of \$1,200.

• Robert C. Leiterman Jr., 37, Gagetown, was sentenced to 180 days in jail and 60 months probation for his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Sept. 1 in Unionville.

He was also ordered to complete 60 days of community service and pay costs and fines totaling \$2,370.

• Jackie K. Miller, 37, Vassar, received a one-year delayed sentence following her pleas of guilty to retaining/stealing a financial transaction de-

vice without consent of the device holder, and identity theft June 17-18 in Vassar.

She was ordered to pay \$1,080 in costs and fines plus restitution of \$658.32.

• Curtis E. Thornton, 22, Mayville, was sentenced to 90 days in jail and 24 months probation for his plea of guilty to larceny in a building Oct. 23 in Mayville.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,370 plus restitution of \$300.

• Dominique A. Washington, 19, Saginaw, was sentenced to 180 days in jail and 36 months probation for his pleas of guilty to delivery/manufacture of a narcotic/coaine (less than 50 grams) June 10 in Denmark Township, and to absconding or forfeiting bond June 20 in Caro.

He was also ordered to pay \$3,740 in costs and fines.

Restrictions on for commercial truck traffic in Michigan

Effective 8 a.m., Monday, March 16, weight restrictions for commercial truck traffic were imposed and will be enforced on state trunklines for the entire state. Most trunklines are free-ways with M, I, or US designations.

There are no restrictions for legal axle weight loads on roads designated as "all-season trunklines." On routes designated as "seasonal," there will be a posted reduction of 25 percent for rigid pavements and 35 percent for flexible pavements.

All extended permits will be valid for oversized loads in the weight-restricted area on the restricted routes. Single-trip permits will not be issued for any overweight loads or loads exceeding 14 feet in width on the restricted routes.

For weight restriction information and updates, call 800-787-8960, or you can access this information on MDOT's Web site at www.michigan.gov/mdot. Under "Favorite Links," click on "Truckers."

Roggenbuck meets with constituents

Tuscola County Commission District One, Amanda Roggenbuck, is hoping area residents take advantage of the chance to sit down and speak with her at a roundtable discussion.

"We address concerns, get to know each other and form that all important relationship between the public and the individuals who are elected to serve them," she explained.

The next "Roundtable with Roggenbuck" was scheduled to take place Tuesday, from 1 to 3 p.m., at her office, which is located at 6505 Main St., Cass City.

"The response has been tremendous. Constituents have come to the prior roundtables and they are excited to see their public servants out working with and informing them of the happenings in our community," said Roggenbuck, who serves as the commissioner for the townships of Akron, Columbia, Elkland, Elmwood, Fairgrove, Gilford and Wisner.

Visit www.voterooggenbuck.com for future roundtable dates, locations and times. The roundtables are a designated time for individuals or groups to personally meet with Roggenbuck, although she is happy to take calls and emails any time. She can be reached at www.voterooggenbuck.com or (989) 872-8881.

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ESTRADA IS PICTURED above during the award ceremony with (from left) AFSA President (retired) Chief Master Sgt. John McCauslin, Lt. Col. Brent McArthur, and former and retired chief master sergeants of the Air Force, Robert Gaylor, James McCoy, Sam Parish, Eric Benken and Jim Finch.

Cass City grad named the Airman of the Year

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Charity Estrada passed on the opportunity to join the U.S. Air Force when she was finishing up her last year at Cass City High School in 1996.

Now, she wishes she'd given the notion a bit more thought back then.

Estrada, now a staff sergeant assigned to 3rd Space Operations Squadron, Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colo., has found the U.S. Air Force to be a perfect fit since enlisting about 6 years ago.

Air Force officials agree. In fact, the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) recently named Estrada the association's "First-Term Airman of the Year".

The honor recognizes an airman who best characterizes leadership, self-improvement and community involvement, and who displays the talent, intellect and military bearing of today's Air Force.



U.S. AIR Force Staff Sgt. Charity Estrada, Cass City, was recently awarded the "Air Force Sergeants Association International First Term Airman of the Year Award".

"Selection begins at an AFSA chapter level, which is composed of the base of assignment only. In my case, it is Schriever AFB," Estrada explained. "After winning at that level I went on to the division convention in Las Vegas to compete against other chapter winners representing 11 bases in 5 states. My selection as the division winner took me to the international convention in San Antonio, Texas, where I was chosen above all other AFSA division winners worldwide as the 'International First-Term Airman of the Year'."

"To be recognized for such a high-level award was an amazing experience," Estrada said. "To be selected by a panel of former chiefs, who have held the highest enlisted position in the Air Force was truly an honor."

"There are so many individuals throughout the Air Force doing a vast variety of jobs. I competed against individuals that have served in Iraq and flown missions during Operation Enduring Freedom, and in all career fields, from biomedical to tactical air support," she added. "It brought to surface that no one job in the Air Force is more important than the

other. It is only through the support of each other, no matter what our job, that we are able to accomplish our mission."

Estrada, the daughter of Bonnie Marker and Mike Gaszczynski, both of Cass City, recalled her decision to enter the military.

"I was 24 years old and working as a restaurant manager in Dallas, Texas. I was making very good money, especially without a college degree, but still I was feeling unfulfilled," she said. "One day an Air Force recruiter just happened to be in my restaurant and we struck up a conversation. After several talks and meetings with other Air Force personnel, I decided to try it out. And it was only going to be a 4-year commitment. What did I have to lose?"

Estrada acknowledged her feelings about the military had changed since her days at Cass City High School, where she was active in debate and theatre, band and the National Honor Society.

"Sure, the military recruiters came to the school, gave tests, called our houses, etc. And the one-on-one meetings we set up with them were just an excuse to get out of class," she said. "I truly believe that the mindset at the time was one of joining the military as a last resort; if you did not want to go to college, get a 'real' job or stay home and raise the kids."

Looking back, Estrada said, growing up in a small town had its advantages and disadvantages when it came to understanding the military. For example, many people are familiar with the armed services only by what they have seen on television.

"I often get asked how many times I've been overseas, and my parents worry about me a lot," she noted. "This is what society has grown accustomed to; the world news paints a picture of the military constantly engaging in combat in the Middle East, soldiers being wounded or killed in battle - the extreme ends of it. This is

Kindergarten round-up set at Owen-Gage

The Owendale-Gagetown School will host its preschool and kindergarten round-up Wednesday, April 1, from 9 to 10 a.m. and from 6 to 7 p.m. in the school library.

Parents are asked to call the school's main office at (989) 678-4141 to let school officials know when they will be attending, or if they have any questions.

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not a very well painted picture about the Air Force as a whole."

Estrada has had stateside assignments throughout her Air Force career, including her current assignment at Schriever Air Force Base.

"This is also home to NORAD or, as most people know it, 'the Mountain' - the one that is always in the movies," she said.

"As a component of Air Force Space Command, Schriever AFB is responsible for the operations and support of more than 170 Department of Defense satellites. We operate and support satellite programs, including the Global Positioning System (GPS), the Defense Satellite Communications System, Wideband Global SATCOM, Milstar, and the worldwide Air Force Satellite Control Network. All these systems combine to provide secure communication and the world's premier space-based position, velocity and timing system to the president, war fighting combatant commanders worldwide and our allied forces."

Estrada is happy to be a part of the operation and indicated she would have liked to have gotten an earlier start on her career.

"Had I known then what I know now, I would have given serious consideration to joining right out of high school," she said. "If I had, I would be only 7 years away from retirement, and I'm only 30 right now."

Down Memory Lane

By Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO

Joshua McNaughton has returned home to Cass City ready to begin studies to become a missionary or a pastor for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. McNaughton graduated from Concordia College, Ann Arbor, and immediately volunteered for a year's service at Ysleta Lutheran Mission in Mexico.

The Cass City Varsity Quiz Bowl Team recently captured first place at the Bad Axe Invitational, improving the team's overall league record to 14-4. Team members are: Chancey Balk, Corey Brooks, Leah Sherman, Jesse Rader and Bryan Hill. The J.V. Team also clinched first place in the Bad Axe tourney, improving its overall record in league play to 15-3. Team members are: Philip Nahernak, Alex Hiatt, Donna Bushong and Ashley Puterbaugh.

Clyde and Pat Wells have the scores of every girl's or boy's freshmen or junior varsity basketball games that Cass City has played since 1998. They live in Cass City, root for Cass City and work for Cass City teams. Keeping score records is the least of the jobs that the Wells took over. When at home members of the Cass City teams have their own private water bottles neatly personalized with their names attached and furnished by the Wells. Cass City basketball team members have really clean towels. Pat gathers the used towels after each game, brings them home and washes them. Clyde chips in with gum and mints for the players. At the start of the current season Clyde regrettably announced that they would not be attending most away games because he wanted to avoid driving after dark. That problem was quickly solved. The Wells were invited to ride to the games on the team bus. It's an unusual perk earned by unusual service, appreciated by the teams and enjoyed by the Wells.

10 YEARS AGO

A Cass City teen has played a key role in helping his hockey team reach state competition. Derek Bellew, 15, is a member of the Saginaw Badgers Midget "A" Travel Team, which won a district title in February and will compete in a state-level tournament this month. Derek, who has played hockey for 6 years, led the Badgers in total points (41) this year, with 13 goals and 28 assists. Derek's father, Craig Bellew, is head coach of the team, which practices once a week and plays 50 to 60 games throughout the state between Sept. 1 and mid-March.

Cass City Athletic Director Russell Biefer has announced coaching changes for 3 Red Hawk varsity sports. The first change will start this spring when Cass City teacher Chad

Daniels will head the Red Hawk baseball program. In the fall, the Hawks' gridiron hopes will fall on the shoulders of teachers Don Markel and Jeff Hartel. Also this fall, John Maharg will take the reins of the girls' basketball program. "We like to hire teachers whenever possible," said Biefer of the new staff.

A Cass City High School senior is among just 300 teens nationwide who have been selected to receive full-ride scholarships for a year-long study program in Germany. Danielle Laming, 18, Ubly, recently learned she was chosen to receive the scholarship, valued at more than \$7,000 through the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program. "It's the chance of a lifetime. I couldn't pass it up," commented Laming, the daughter of Louis and Anna Laming. "I don't have to pay for anything except for things I might want to buy while I'm there."

25 YEARS AGO

Had Francis (Jock) Kanaby stayed on the farm in northwest Sanilac County where he grew up, the biggest thing he would drive might be a combine. But now he has much larger responsibilities - ships as much as 730 feet long and 76 feet wide and carrying cargo worth as much as \$2 million. Kanaby, 48, is a pilot for the Lakes Pilots Association, responsible for guiding ocean freighters anywhere between the Welland Canal, near Buffalo, N.Y., and Port Huron. Most of the time, he only pilots them between Port Huron and Detroit. He has the rank of captain. Although he makes his living on the water, Kanaby and his family live on Wheeler Road, north of Cumber in Austin Township, two miles from where he grew up.

Owendale-Gagetown Junior High School students recently participated in the local level of the Michigan Junior High Mathematics Competition. Each year, the Council of Mathematics Teachers sponsors the competition for interested students throughout the

state. Receiving top honors at Owen-Gage were David Erickson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Erickson, son of Owendale, and Marshall Sheldon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Sheldon of Gagetown. David and Marshall are now eligible to compete at the regional level at Delta College in April.

Alan and Mary Nichol of Deckerville were honored recently when named "Ralston Purina's Distinguished Dairyman Couple of America." The couple finished in the top 5 percent in milk production for their breed in Michigan DHIA standings. The 39 Holsteins produced a herd average of 20,107 pounds of milk in the last 12 months. The award goes to dairymen in the top 5 percent in milk production in the state that feeds Purina rations. The Nichols have been dairying for three years in the Deckerville area.

35 YEARS AGO

Before a near capacity crowd Saturday at Cass City High School gym the Cass City Red Hawks did what had to be done to successfully defend their District Class C basketball crown. The Hawks defeated a tough Harbor Beach team, 66-54, in a tense battle that wasn't decided till the final minutes of the fourth quarter. It was Sophomore Ken Lowe, who played another outstanding game for Cass City. Lowe, who has come into his own in the last three weeks of the season, was obviously an unknown quantity for Harbor Beach. In the two regular season games, Lowe wasn't a factor to be reckoned with and the defense concentrated on Scott Hartel and the middle. As a result, Lowe was open on the side and he made the most of it.

Seconds after the game ended Tuesday, Chuck Bliss was hoisted to the shoulders of his teammates for a free ride off the floor. The sophomore had the best game of his young career and his shot as the final whistle blew won the regional game for Cass City from Michigan Lutheran Seminary, 76-74, at Grand Blanc.

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<p>Cass City Church of Christ 6743 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726 Contacts 872-2367 or 872-3136 Worship Service Sunday 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Bible Study Sunday 10:00 a.m. & Wednesday 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>First Baptist Church (Independent, Fundamental) 6420 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726 989-872-3155 Sunday School All Ages 9:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AWANA Clubs 6:45 p.m. During School Year Pastor: David G. Hill Website: www.fbccc.us</p>	<p>Novesta Church of Christ 2896 N. Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 872-3658 or 872-1195 Bible School 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Youth Group & Sunday Evening Services 6:00 p.m. Youth Minister: Brad Speirs Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org</p>
<p>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. Esckilsen</p>	<p>First Presbyterian Church <i>Barrier Free</i> 6505 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726 872-5400 Sunday School - Sept.-May 10:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Dave Blackburn</p>	<p>Potter's House Christian Fellowship Church Corner of 6th and Leach, Cass City, MI 48726 872-5186 Thursday Evening 7:00 p.m. Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. Pastor: F. Robert Tucker</p>
<p>Cass City Missionary Church 4449 Koeppgen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 989-872-2729 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service & Youth Group 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m. Pastor - Bob Sweeney www.casscitymc.org</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>St. Pancratius Catholic Church 4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726 872-3336 Saturday Liturgy 5:30 p.m. Sunday Liturgy 9:00 a.m. Pastor: Father Steve Fillion</p>
<p>Cass City United Methodist Church 5100 N. Cemetery Rd., P.O. Box 125, Cass City, MI 48726 872-3422 Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Summer 9:30 a.m.) Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m. Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon) Pastor: Rev. Paul G. Donelson</p>	<p>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 6820 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726 872-2770 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Gerald Meyer</p>	

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Letters to the Editor

Negotiations a lesson for students

Dear Editor:

As a resident of Cass City since 1976, minister since 1950, teacher from 1957-72, educational administrator from 1972-88, educational consultant working with school administrators through 1988-98, adjunct profession from 2001-04, and presently as an elected and appointed public servant, I would like to speak to the letter to the editor by Mr. Kyle Olson of the Education Action Group, entitled "Board should be praised for trying to shed MESSA plan," which appeared in the Chronicle March 4.

Please understand this is a "boilerplate" letter being used in various communities by simply changing the name of the school districts and some basic data.

Mr. Olson undoubtedly has never entered into our village limits, most likely knows little to nothing about our community, the points of view of our citizens, and may care little if any about the results of his article benefit-

ing the education of our children or its divisive effects between our board, administrators, teachers and community.

Out of fairness to him I know nothing about him other than what I have read in this article, which expresses only one side of a disputed issue, tending to divide our community by exposing it to a process for which they have not been given the facts on both sides nor the authority to negotiate. His interference in this manner, whether personally inspired or by invitation, suggests to me a possible felt weakness in those he purports to represent, or an insult to those we have hired and elected to represent all of us, as being incapable of adequately doing so. If this is true, it is a sad commentary on the process to this date and I would suggest that the parties involved on both sides give serious consideration to words and actions which might be used to prevent further degradation of this process and heal the unnecessary wounds.

Regardless of what happens from this point in the process, this is an educational experience for our students to either learn how to intelligently or ignorantly handle difficult situations. To date it would seem that we have learned little from our mistakes since Sept. 11, 2001.

I have been privileged to serve as president of 2 different teacher unions and as employer and administrator on both sides of negotiation tables. As a minister, I have been privileged over the last 59 years to work in a variety of conflict resolution circumstances - some of which were resolved and some, which have failed due to selfishness, deceit and other negative re-

actions.

I have also known outstanding educators, board members, and administrators who sat across from me and beside me at these tables and cherish the many moments we had to disagree agreeably, knowing that we did our best to fulfill the trust of all of the citizens. I have also been disappointed at times by the lack of some to speak for fear of personal recrimination, thinking they had to represent one side or the other rather than the best interests of all there and their community. In my opinion, these persons should remove themselves from representing anyone.

Success for both sides is possible, in a minimum number of negotiation sessions, when there is mutual trust and respect; a willingness to listen, hear and to try to understand the other's viewpoint; with a willing reasonableness that is professionally based upon facts rather than emotion, and a mutual respect for the opposition's right for their position. Failure is the inevitable result when these are violated by either or both sides.

Yes, Mr. Olson, citizens should be involved and voice their opinions, but in ways that respect the intelligence, decency and trust placed in all of our educators and board members to work together so that when the process is completed we will be united rather than divided as the community and our children will be the beneficiaries of these efforts. Who would want to become a part of our community or educational system if it fails to do less than this?

Having been a coach of several teams in various sports I have witnessed wins and losses for these same reasons, and on occasions, after giv-

ing the option of their decision, have had to bench and remove talented players whose selfish interests were destroying our team spirit. Without exception, when this was done there was a fantastically successful response with a renewed spirit on the part of the rest of the team. This was also experienced in my administrative and teacher roles. Interestingly, psychology notes and experience reminds that the loudest accuser is most frequently the worst violator.

Please, let us carefully consider any future expressions or articles in light of the above, that all educators as well as board members, might be held in honor and respect by, and for their service to, our children and community. I am confident they are capable of resolving their disagreements if they are not led into disrespect, lack of trust and emotional discourse, feeling they need to debase the other to elevate their position.

I believe it was either General Douglas McArthur or General and President Dwight Eisenhower who stated there is no good war as war expresses only the failure of the parties involved and results in carnage or bodies, minds, and souls. There is no place for war in the processes of education except to serve as an example of what not to do.

In my humble opinion, failure can either be by not preventing the circumstances that make it happen, and/or by deliberately causing them to happen. Whichever it is, it is ignorantly based and contrary to educational enlightenment - isn't that what this should all be about?

Donald B. Richards
Cass City

It's pretty bad when you have to steal a girl's coat

Dear Editor,

It's pretty bad when you have to steal a Columbia coat and hat from a 2-year-old girl who received them for Christmas from Santa.

We took the kids to the Revive event at Cass City High School Feb. 28 so they could have fun and when we got ready to leave the coat and hat were not there, so we had to take her outside without a coat and hat — it was only 17 degrees outside that day. The hat was knitted by her great-grandma. She has never done anything to anyone, so why steal her coat and hat?

You should read that little orange Bible you received that day. If you should feel bad that you stole from a 2-year-old, would you please return the coat and hat to the Cass City Chronicle?

Michelle Rutkoski
Decker

No sense in attempting to cross road

A letter to the editor:

Ed Fleming, it doesn't make much sense for your attempt to cross when the corner of Kelly and Crawford is flooded.

I have lived about a mile or so from that corner for about 25 years. I turned back when I saw the high water as did one of my neighbors. Why didn't you go another way? A truck could possibly make it across; they are higher off the road and have clearance.

That is not the first time water from the Cass River has flooded that corner. It happens every few years. We can't lower the river but the county could raise the road. What is your suggestion to do something about it?

It is childish to blame global warming for the condition, which is still being debated by more intelligent people. And, what has Wall Street got to do with it? Those are poor excuses.

I do, however, commend Mr. Chips at Village Service Center for switching to other petroleum products. Have you switched?

B.W. Parsons
Cass City

Letters to the Editor
The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. The letter is in case it is necessary to call for verification, but won't be used in the newspaper. Names will be withheld from publication upon request, for an adequate reason. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. We will not publish thank you letters of a specific nature, for instance, from a club thanking merchants who donated prizes for a raffle.

Buying into "global warming" scam?

Letter to my friend John,

Considering some of your recent comments, John, it's obvious that you're still buying into this "global warming" scam.

Considering your age, your obvious lack of common sense on this issue is just hard for me to comprehend. I can certainly understand how school children, being bombarded with this disinformation, not only from the media but from our government schools as well, might be inclined to believe this global con. But anyone who has been around for 30 years or more, there's just no excuse.

It has recently been reported that many scientists are disputing global warming, saying that the planet has not seen a rise in temperature for more than 10 years. They also say that evidence suggests that the ice caps are thickening, not diminishing and that the planet is cooling, not warming.

Of course, Al Gore and much of the mainstream media repeatedly show us the same pictures of huge chunks of ice crashing into the ocean and a mother polar bear unsuccessfully searching for food. The reality is that this has been happening every year since forever, the same way the snow melts here in the spring and comes back every winter, and this winter was a bad one.

I heard on the news that Al Gore has raised some \$300 million, I would assume by running his con game worldwide. I believe it was Hitler who once said if you tell people something long enough and often enough they will believe that the truth is a lie and a lie is the truth. It would appear as if he was right.

The reason I'm writing this letter sometime after you made your last global warming confirmation is that the mother of all global warming conferences/demonstrations/marches was supposed to have taken place recently in Washington, D.C., led by none other than Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi. Yes, the same Nancy Pelosi who had the audacity to criticize corporate CEOs for flying to Washington in corporate jets while she flies all over the globe in her own personal jet paid for by the taxpayers.

Anyway, I really had to chuckle (still chuckling) when it was reported that she couldn't make her grand appearance because of the worst snowstorm in D.C. and much of the northeast coast in recent memory. All flights in and out of D.C. were cancelled, schools and businesses shut down, etc. Of course, there was still an insignificant number of BDIs (brain dead idiots) who braved this unseasonably frigid blizzard and took their march to the streets to demonstrate against "global warming."

This snowstorm was the ultimate slap in the face to all of the global warming BDIs who just refuse to participate in anything resembling common sense. And for all of you disbelievers out there, the timing of

this storm was proof positive: there is a God! And, He has a really great sense of humor.

I'm certainly glad that I read the Letters to the Editor, Cass City Chronicle, March 11. I foolishly thought that all this flooding in my yard and on many of our roads was caused by the melting of the enormous amount of snow we received this winter; one of the coldest, nastiest winters in many years. I didn't realize it was caused from the melting of the polar ice caps

Agriculture industry is worth protecting

Editor:

If, like most of us, you eat on a regular basis, I'd ask that you take a minute or two to consider where that food comes from. Unless you're growing it yourself, all that fuel for your body came from a farm - not to mention any wool, cotton, linen and leather you might be wearing.

For the most part, American farmers like myself are a pretty quiet minority - less than 2 percent of the entire population - but during National Agriculture Week (March 15-21 this year), we like to stand up and remind the other 98 percent of our society that what we do is important.

Thanks to our increasing efficiency, you and I and all Americans spend a smaller percentage of our income on food here (about 10 percent on average) than in any other society on Earth. People in other parts of the world sometimes have to spend anywhere from a quarter to a half of their income just to keep the cupboards full and food on the table.

due to global warming. Silly me.

One thing that does puzzle me, though. How did all that water caused by the melting ice in the Arctic end up on our roads and in my yard?

And John, when I refer to "BDIs" I do not include you in that category. You just want to believe everything the liberal media and liberals in Washington tell us.

Bob Papovich
Snover

If the notion of going hungry isn't compelling enough, consider the increasingly diverse uses our humble farm commodities are being put toward. Researchers are continually looking for - and finding - new ways of squeezing valuable products like renewable fuels, medicine and building materials from our farm fields, orchards, forests and livestock.

Then there's the economy. Hard times have taken a toll on every segment of Michigan's economy, but it's worth pointing out that agriculture here is expanding and is now the state's second-largest industry, generating more than \$63 billion annually.

The bottom line is that agriculture - in Sanilac County and across the state and nation - is an industry worth protecting and worth respecting. Oh, and please pass the potatoes!

Sincerely,
Matt Frostic
Sanilac County Farm Bureau President

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Rotary gearing up to meet grant challenge for polio

Rotary International and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have announced they will contribute a combined \$355 million in new funds for polio eradication.

And local Rotarians plan to do their share to meet that goal.

The Gates Foundation is awarding Rotary a \$255 million challenge grant, which Rotary will match with \$100 million raised by its members and supporters over the next 3 years. As a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), Rotary's chief role is fundraising, advocacy and mobilizing volunteers.

"Rotarians, government leaders and health professionals have made a phenomenal commitment to get us to a point at which polio affects only a small number of the world's children," said Bill Gates, co-chair of the Gates Foundation. "However, complete elimination of the polio virus is difficult and will continue to be difficult for a number of years. Rotary in particular has inspired my own personal commitment to get deeply involved in achieving eradication."

Rotary members have waged the battle against polio for nearly 25 years, according to Cass City Rotary Club member Bert Althaver.

"It's a major project of Rotary International and, therefore, each individual club," he said, adding Rotary has made contributions towards the effort "and we (local club) have been a part of that."

Under the latest push, Althaver explained, the Cass City Rotary Club plans to contribute \$100 per member - roughly \$3,500 - over the next 3 years.

In accepting the Gates challenge, Rotary Foundation Chair Jonathan Majiyagbe said the funding partnership will inspire other polio eradication allies, both current and new, to ramp up their support.

"With the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, we are on the brink of eradicating one of the most feared diseases in the world, Majiyagbe said.

Rotary will spend the grant money in direct support of immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which is spearheaded by Rotary and its partners, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

This is the second challenge grant Rotary has received from the Gates Foundation for polio eradication. In November 2007, Rotary accepted a \$100 million challenge grant, which Rotary is matching dollar for dollar. The 2 challenge grants represent a combined total of \$555 million.

The 3-year effort to raise the matching funds for both grants is called Rotary's \$200 million challenge. More information is available by visiting rotary.org/endpolio.

Polio eradication has been Rotary's top priority since 1985, and since then Rotary clubs have raised nearly \$800 million for the effort.

Although the initiative has slashed the number of polio cases by 99 percent, the wild poliovirus still persists in 4 countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan, and imported cases from those nations threaten to reinfect countries where the virus has been stopped. The initiative currently faces a critical funding shortfall that must be closed if eradication is to be achieved.

"The key, to me, is the Bill Gates foundation as well as the CDC and a couple other world health organizations recognize that Rotary International can make this happen," Althaver said. "It was ambitious then, it's still ambitious to get it done."

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Evergreen Park funding approved for expansion

Sanilac County's Evergreen Park is in line for some additional improvements in the near future. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund officials last week formally awarded \$500,000 and \$79,600, respectively, for park projects in Huron

and Sanilac counties. The funding for Sanilac County is earmarked for land acquisition, while recreation development is the focus in Huron County, according to state Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City), who noted the projects were matched with more than \$1.29 million in local dollars.

The land acquisition project at Evergreen Park involves the purchase of a 26.5-acre parcel of land.

The Huron County recreation development project focuses on improvements to Veterans Waterfront River Park in Port Austin. The improvements include a new pavilion, landscaping, a beach volleyball area and a playground. The project also includes building pedestrian walks to connect the park, downtown and marina, visitor center and parking areas.

Barcia lauded both projects. In Sanilac County, he said, "The funding to improve and expand Evergreen Park will provide a great return on our investment and support the great local efforts to provide a high quality of life."

The land in question is contiguous to the existing south and west borders of the 48-acre park, which is located about 4 miles south of M-81 on M-53.

The project is designed to preserve the land in its natural state, establish-

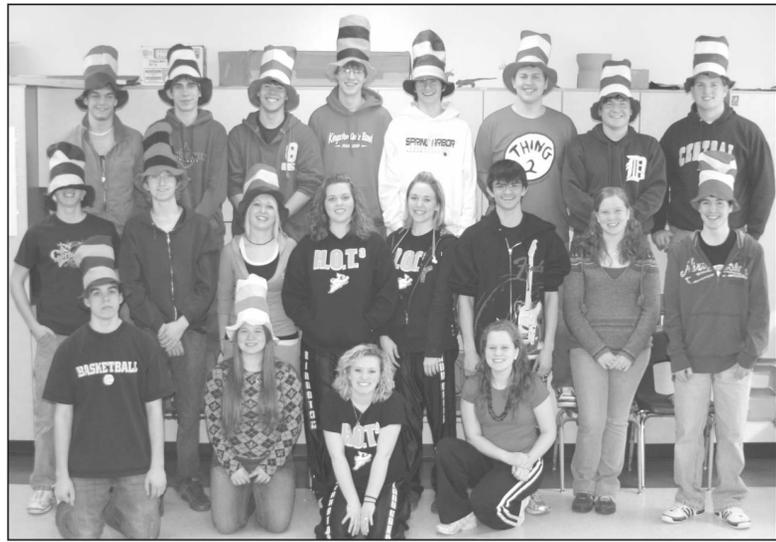
ing additional campsites, constructing nature trails to connect with existing trails within Evergreen Park, and establishing wildlife viewing areas, according to Sanilac County Parks official Jim Bowerman.

The expansion will enable officials to eventually expand the recreational opportunities at the park. Currently, Bowerman said, much of the land along the Cass River cannot be developed because it lies within a flood plain.

It has taken months for the grant process to be completed, but patience has paid off in a big way for the Sanilac County Parks Board, which applied for and received a \$532,000 grant in 2001 to upgrade what was then a park with only rustic campsites.

The upgrade resulted in a combined 147 campsites, most with either full hook-up (sewer, water and electricity) or water and electricity. In addition, park officials were able to construct an office and modern restroom/shower facility.

Evergreen Park is one of 4 county-owned and operated parks in Sanilac County. The facilities are funded through a parks millage, which raises roughly \$274,000 annually. A portion of the money generated by the tax is set aside to match grant funding.



MEMBERS OF THE Kingston High School National Honor Society recently continued a tradition of celebrating "Read Across America" and National Reading Month by reading to elementary students while also honoring Dr. Seuss' birthday. Those participating were (front row, from left) David Hilt, Stephanie Jackson, Kelsie Richmond, Katie Turner, (second row, left) Josh Cloyd, Jacob Smith, Alecia Filipek, Chelsea Ruggles, Megan James, Aaron Hilborn, Lorialyn Turner, Matt Schwarck, (third row, left) Joe Strauel, Mack George, Steve Miller, Ryan Loney, Brent VanHorn, Nolan Kolacz, Eric Sabin and Eon Bootz.

Obituaries

Nona Haag

Nona Jean Haag, 73, of Gagetown, died Thursday, March 12, 2009 at the home of her in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Haag in Kilmanagh, following a 6-month illness.

She was born Dec. 22, 1935 in Las Animas, Color., the daughter of the late Clyde E. and Leatha D. (Sharp) Hampton.

She married Maurice O. Haag Jan. 11, 1994 in Kinde.

Nona attended the University of Utah and Wayne State University in Detroit. She was employed as a supervisor of human resources for Michigan Consolidated Gas Company in Detroit, before retiring after many years of service. Nona was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints of Bad Axe. She was a member of the Bad Axe Historical Society, and past president, Octagon Barn Society, Pigeon River Quilters and Women's Relief Society. Nona was active in the Michigan Archeological Society, finding many rare and unusual prehistoric artifacts. She was in several choirs in the area, and loved to fish.

Nona is survived by her husband, Maurice; 5 sons: Charles Bradford Adams of Tennessee, Clyde Roderick "Rick" Adams of Colorado Springs, Color., Steven Eugene Adams of Minneapolis, Minn., George Edward Kinde of Morley and Geoffrey Roland Kinde of Detroit; a step-daughter, Andrea (Randy) McBrayer of Sebawaing; 4 grandchildren; 4 step-grandchildren; and her best friend, Carol Lee.

She was preceded in death by a sister.

Funeral services were held Monday, March 16, at Dinkel-Juengel Funeral Home, Sebawaing, with President Garth S. Popour officiating.

Cremation will follow. Inurnment will take place in the Grant Township Cemetery, Gagetown, at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or the charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements were made by Dinkel-Juengel Funeral Home, Sebawaing.

Local students participate in government conferences

Briefcases replaced backpacks when 12 students from Cass City High School arrived at the Michigan YMCA Youth in Government high school conferences March 4 in Lansing.

Students conducted mock legislative sessions in the House and Senate chambers to write, debate and vote on bills.

"The high school conferences are a great way to stimulate interest in the political system as well as train young people to work together and speak in a public forum," said Brent Veysey, MYIG director.

Corporate donations provide scholarships to students who cannot afford the program costs on their own.

Michigan Youth in Government is a branch of the State YMCA of Michigan. Its conferences provide hands-on learning of the state legislative and judicial process, as well as leadership development for students across the state in grades 6-12.

2.2 million farms

The 2007 Census of Agriculture counted 2.2 million farms in the United States, a 4 percent increase from 2002. The number of farms nationwide has been on a declining trend since World War II. The latest figure indicates a leveling of this trend, with a net increase of 75,810 farms.

Between 2002 and 2007, the number of farms with sales of less than \$1,000 increased by 118,000. The number of farms with sales of more than \$500,000 grew by 46,000 during the same period.

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Livestock market struggled in 2008, 2009 still a challenge

The dramatic volatility that dominated livestock margins last year will have a long tail in 2009, with "economic volatility" having the longest-lasting impact as more than a third of the world economy is in the midst of a recession.

Chris Hurt, a Purdue University professor and Extension economist, said livestock producers were hit with the "double whammy" of a recession and high feed costs in 2008. In 2009, lower feed costs will benefit livestock producers, but the recession will continue to hurt demand.

"We're going to see another year of struggle for the livestock industry,"

Hurt told farmers attending the American Farm Bureau Federation 90th Convention and Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

For the past 2 years, meat production has declined in the United States due to higher feed costs. And because of the recession, Hurt expects another year of production cutbacks in 2009, particularly for beef producers.

Since 2000, retail beef prices have risen 1.5 times higher than pork and poultry prices, prompting consumers to shy away from expensive high-end cuts of beef in exchange for cheaper poultry and pork and lower end cuts of beef. This is the case at both restau-

rants and grocery stores.

Hurt said overall per capita consumption of beef products is expected to drop another 5 to 7 percent in 2009 as consumers follow a "value shopping" strategy out of necessity.

Fluctuation in personal income levels could have a profound impact on beef prices, Hurt added. Even if personal income rose by 3 percent in 2009, cattlemen would still see a \$1 less per hundredweight, he said. A 3 percent decline in personal income would knock \$5 off the per-hundredweight price. And if personal income levels drop 6 percent, cattle producers could be looking at finished cattle prices slashed by \$9 to \$10 per hundredweight, Hurt said.

Hurt predicts finished steers will range from \$90 to \$97 per hundredweight, feeder cattle between \$100 to \$108 per hundredweight, and 500- to 550-pound calves from \$115 to a high of \$128 per hundredweight.

For pork producers, Hurt predicts at least a break-even year in 2009 if not "just a touch of profitability."

Continued inventory reductions in the breeding herd, combined with lower feed costs, will lead to live hog prices in 2009 in the range of \$51 to \$56 per hundredweight, Hurt anticipates. However, these prices would be applied against an average expected cost of production of \$49 to \$51 per hundredweight.



STUDENTS IN MATT Ferguson's art classes at Kingston High School have nearly finished the design and painting of a mural in the hallway outside the Kingston library in honor of the legendary works of Mark Twain, Walt Disney, JK Rowling, Dr. Seuss, Stephanie Myers and AA Milne. Spearheading the effort were students Brandon Hergenreder, Mike Mitchell, Sabrina Griffus, Viola Poppeck and Shayla Quick.

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Ubyly FFA branching out

by Darcy Lipskey
 Ubyly H.S. freshman

The FFA is no longer just sows, plows and cows. FFA has been branching out for a while now. The FFA offers something for everyone including horticulture, crops, forestry and livestock. If you are not interested in those categories you can also take part in leadership activities.

The Ubyly FFA Chapter currently has over 100 members from grades 7-12. Our chapter keeps busy by having candy cane, carnation and fruit sales, which come in handy for helping us take various trips from Career Development Events (CDEs) in April on the Michigan State University Campus, Broiler Contest in Fowlerville, the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, and our State Convention which is rapidly coming upon us in March.

The Ubyly FFA Chapter has an exceptional officer team that helps us keep building up. The officer team consists of Katie Jo Gentner as president, Jordan Hieber as vice president, Camay Messing as secretary, Chelsey Morell as treasurer, Andrea Kumaus as reporter, Chelsey Pionk as historian, Jeremy Ruthko as sentinel, Keith Kramer as parliamentarian and Melissa Cantrell as advisor.

With a large FFA chapter, we are allowed a junior officer team that will help the high school officer team and/or be in places that the high school officers cannot be. The junior officer team includes Jeremy Porzondek as president, Darcy Lipskey as vice president, Laken Rich as secretary, Melissa Vogel as treasurer, Jenna Grifka as reporter and Jennifer Booms as sentinel.

The year started out right with Soil Judging Contest. The students take a half day off of school and head out to the field where the students judge soil to determine what is best suitable to be planted in that area, what kind of drainage is needed, and what conservation practices should be used. In the Ubyly FFA Chapter Darcy Lipskey and Andrea Kumaus tied for first place overall in the chapter.

Fall Leadership Conference was next, with students participating in leadership workshops at Michigan State University. The students that attended this year's conference were Sara Doyle, Brayden Rich and Ryan Gwisdalla.

The FFA Chapter then had the opportunity to attend the National FFA

Convention. The convention lasts 5 days and is full of leadership building workshops and convention session presentations. The FFA took 10 members this year, our advisor and one chaperone. This year the FFA was ecstatic to have one of their members receive their American FFA Degree. Kayla Stomack represented the FFA chapter as she walked across stage this year and received the highest degree any FFA member can get.

After nationals, the FFA right away starts preparing for the District Leadership Contest. The FFA had 18 different teams/single competitors that attended district contest. Of those who attended 11 teams/competitors moved on.

In district competition the Ubyly FFA had 2 Demonstration Teams. The Tack Demonstration Team took home third place honors. The team consisted of Jessie David, Savannah Freeman, Sherie Messing, and Gabi Maikrzejik. The Cheese Demonstration Team took home fourth place honors. The team consisted of Josh White, Evan Grifka, Bret Cleary, and Josh Kubacki. In Greenhand Conduct of Meetings, Ubyly Team no. one took home first-place honors. The team consisted of Nicole Kubacki, Brittany Forman, Jennifer Booms, Brooke Vogel, Tommy Selleke, Cody Romzek, and Laken Rich. Ubyly Team no. two took second place. The team consisted of Nathan Schumacher, Melissa Vogel, Rachael Messing, Jesse Franzel, Ashley Deachin, Bart Dekker, and Merisa Weber. In Greenhand Public Speaking Darcy Lipskey took home top honors with a first place, Kayla Morell took third, and Annie Punnanan took fourth place.

The first- and second-place competitors moved on from the district contest to a regional contest, which took place Feb. 18 in Breckinridge. After the contest, the Ubyly FFA had some more excitement added to what was already going to happen during state convention March 11-13 on the Michigan State University Campus.

The FFA took along 2 regional winning teams and 5 individual competitors.

The Creed Contest, Alyssa Briolat scored 2nd place and Jamie Grifka took home fourth place. The Parliamentary Procedure Team took home third place. The team consisted of Jasmine Loss, Keith Kramer, Jeremy Ruthko, Kayla Franzel, Jordan Hieber and Chelsey Morell.

At state convention 5 students were to receive State Proficiency Awards based upon their Supervised Agricultural Experience Program and involvement with it.

Jordan Hieber represented the Ubyly FFA Chapter, receiving her Sheep Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award, Swine Production Entrepreneurship Award, Beef Production Entrepreneurship Award and Diversified Livestock Proficiency Award. Camay Messing represented the chapter receiving her Dairy Production Proficiency, Nicole Pionk also received the Dairy Production Proficiency Award. Katie Jo Gentner received state proficiency awards in Diversified Agricultural Production, Beef Production Placement and Diversified Crop Production. Ricky Bredow represented the chapter receiving his Agricultural Placement Award.

Receiving their Outstanding Junior Awards are: Camay Messing, Jordan Hieber, Katie Jo Gentner, Chelsey Vogel, Tommy Selleke, Cody Romzek, and Laken Rich. Ubyly Team no. two took second place. The team consisted of Nathan Schumacher, Melissa Vogel, Rachael Messing, Jesse Franzel, Ashley Deachin, Bart Dekker, Merisa Weber, in Greenhand Public Speaking Darcy Lipskey took home top honors with a first place, Kayla Morell took third, and Annie Punnanan took fourth place.

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The FFA took along 2 regional winning teams and 5 individual competitors.

The winning teams include the Greenhand Conduct of Meetings Team, Ubyly Team no. one placing first. The team includes, Nicole Kubacki, Brittany Forman, Jennifer Booms, Tommy Selleke, Brooke Vogel, Cody Romzek, Laken Rich and Jessie David. The Ubyly Team no. two placed second and consists of Nathan Schumacher, Melissa Vogel, Rachael Messing, Jesse Franzel, Ashley Deachin, Bart Dekker, Merisa Weber, Evan Grifka and Sherie Messing.

Among individual competitors, Darcy Lipskey scored a first place in Greenhand Public Speaking. Andrea Kumaus took first place in Prepared Public Speaking. In Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Camay Messing took home a second place. Brandon Dorsch scored a second place in Jr. High Public Speaking. In Job Interview Katie Jo Gentner placed third. In

Deford teen

Continued from page one.

57, of Caro, was backing out of a private driveway when his vehicle was struck by a Jeep traveling west on Deckerville road. After impact, the Jeep left the roadway and entered a ditch.

Deputies said the driver of that vehicle, April Miracle, 17, of Deford, was not hurt, but a passenger, Ryan Bragg, 15, was transported by Flight-Care Helicopter to St. Mary's Medical Center for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

Another passenger in the Jeep was not hurt, according to reports. Deputies are continuing their investigation.

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Cass City Chronicle
 872-2010



BRENT DOERR gets off a shot over Unionville-Sebewaing's **Brandon Bitzer** in Friday's district championship game in Cass City.

PATRIOTS EARN ANOTHER TITLE

Unionville-Sebewaing collects 5th straight district crown at expense of Cass City

Cass City gave Unionville-Sebewaing all it could handle Friday for over 3 quarters, but in the end couldn't deny the Greater Thumb West champions from adding their fifth straight district crown.

It was the ending of the Class C district final in Cass City that spoiled the host Red Hawks' upset bid, as the Patriots used a 20-2 run during the final 6 1/2 minutes to earn their eighth district title in 9 years.

It was a game of spurts for both teams, and until the final run of the contest by the Patriots, the tight battle kept the jam packed crowd on the edge of its seat. However, as was the case in the Patriots' semifinal victory over Ubyly, Unionville-Sebewaing's standout Brandon Bitzer took control in the final 8 minutes and the Patriots emerged on top in a game closer than the final 63-47 score indicated.

The Patriots staged their first rally behind senior guard Heath Schmidt who scored from all angles in the early going, pouring in 12 of his team high 21 points on a pair of treys, 2 other hoops and a free throw in the opening frame. His offensive spurge got the Patriots off to a flying start, and midway through the first quarter, Unionville-Sebewaing was in front,

15-5. Cass City bounced back with a 20-1 streak paced by big men Brent Doerr and Chris Summerset, and when Patriot coach Mark Gainforth called time out with 6:51 remaining to the intermission, the Hawks were in front 25-18. Doerr posted a dozen markers in the initial half and Summersett chipped in 13.

It's rare that a player scores 16 points with most of them instrumental in helping his team win. But as he has done in crucial games all year, Bitzer ripped in 3 quick baskets after the break in the action when his team needed them most, and at the 4:59 mark the Patriots trailed by just a point.

From there the teams traded baskets until the final quarter. In the third quarter Cass City netted 3 unanswered hoops to go in front, 39-37. Schmidt, however, countered the effort with 3 buckets, including his third triple, and heading into the final 8 minutes Unionville-Sebewaing was in front 41-39.

Doerr, who recorded a game high 22 points, opened the fourth quarter with 6 quick points. Entering the stretch drive, the teams were tied at 45-all.

But over the final 6 minutes of the game the Hawks were limited to an Austin Babich field goal - his only points on the night - and Unionville-Sebewaing, paced by 3 hoops from Bitzer, turned a 45-43 deficit into an 55-45 advantage that Cass City couldn't overcome.

CASS CITY - L. Varney 1-0 (0-0) 2; A. Varney 3-1 (0-0) 9; Babich 3-0 (4-5) 10; Doerr 9-0 (0-2) 18; Ketterer 1-1 (1-2) 6; Summersett 10-1 (5-5) 28; Messing 1-0 (0-2) 2
TOTALS - 28-3 (10-16) 75

SEMIFINALS

BAD AXE - Wehner 2-2 (0-0) 10; Carr 0-1 (0-0) 3; Salens 1-0 (0-0) 2; Quinn 4-0 (0-2) 8; M. Roth 0-0 (1-2) 1; Sisco 0-2 (0-0) 6; Z. Roth 0-1 (0-0) 3
TOTALS - 7-6 (1-4) 33

CASS CITY - A. Varney 1-1 (3-4) 8; Babich 1-0 (0-0) 2; Doerr 8-1 (3-5) 22; Summersett 6-0 (3-3) 15
TOTALS - 16-2 (9-12) 47

USA - Schmidt 5-3 (2-6) 21; Bitzer 6-0 (4-5) 16; Zimmer 3-0 (0-1) 6; Fletcher 3-0 (3-3) 9; Kruger 1-0 (0-1) 2; Holland 4-0 (1-2) 9
TOTALS - 22-3 (10-18) 63

The Bulldogs finish the year at 11-9 overall.



RED HAWK Brent Doerr scores 2 of 18 points despite the defense of **Jesse Quinn** in Wednesday's semifinal victory over Bad Axe.

CASS CITY BOWLING LEAGUES

Merchants as of March 11	Merchanettes as of March 12
Kelly & Co. 22	All or Nothing 41
Two & 1/2 Men 20	Thumb Octagon Barn 31
R&H Body Shop 15	Just One More 22
Thumb Graphics 14	Northstar Allstars 18
Charmont 14	
Gutt-Er Done 7	Individual High Games & Series: Paulette Maurer 188 (461); Krista Maurer 180 (487).
Individual High Games & Series: Jim Smithson 212-212 (596); Joseph Barrons 201-244 (588); Bob Joseph 213; Denny Doherty 242-202 (614); Jeff Steadman 210; Teri Barrons 253 (539); Jamie Clapsaddle 203; Marty Zawilinski 204-212-218 (634).	Team High Game & Series: All or Nothing 600 (1721).
Team High Game & Series: Charmont 612; R&H Body Shop (1694).	Splits: Mary Cunningham 3-10; Peggy Hellwig 3-10; Joan Koch 4-5-7; Deidra Zdrojewski 5-6; Dee Sines 5-10; Krista Maurer 4-7-9, 4-7-10.

Owen-Gage ends season with loss to Bay City All Saints Cougars

Owen-Gage proved to be little trouble for eventual Class D district champion Bay City All Saints last Monday, as the Greater Thumb West Cougars cruised to an easy 79-39 victory to open play at Akron-Fairgrove

High School. The Cougars leaped out to a 14-1 advantage en route to a 23-9 margin after 8 minutes and then outscored their North Central Thumb League foe 25-13 to the break.

Leading 48-22, the Cougars opened the final half on an 8-1 run before going deep into their bench.

While 14 players entered the scorebook for the winners, it was the outside shooting of Adam Pijaszek that prevented Owen-Gage from mounting much of a challenge.

Pijaszek scored a game-high 23 points that included 5 triples - 4 in the second quarter.

Pijaszek's long-range artistry opened up the inside for DeMario Walker and he responded by adding 18 points despite sitting out the final 8 minutes.

Senior Brent Reil ended his Bulldog career with a team-high 14 points, while Devin Prich chipped in 13.

OWEN-GAGE - Reil 3-0 (8-14) 14; Prich 3-2 (1-1) 13; Zaleski 0-0 (2-2) 2; Harris 1-0 (0-0) 2; Francis 3-0 (2-2) 8
TOTALS - 10-2 (13-19) 39

BCAS - Campbell 1-0 (0-2) 2; A. Janer 1-0 (0-0) 2; D. Janer 1-1 (0-0) 5; Hunter 1-0 (0-0) 2; Coburn 2-0 (0-0) 4; Pijaszek 3-5 (2-3) 23; Baur 0-1 (0-0) 3; Sobazak 0-0 (1-2) 1; Sinicki 1-0 (1-1) 3; Weaver 0-0 (2-2) 2; Walker 6-0 (6-7) 18; J.Villano 4-0 (0-0) 8; T. Villano 2-0 (0-0) 4; Swiercz 1-0 (0-0) 2
TOTALS - 23-7 (12-17) 79

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CASS CITY POOL LEAGUES

Men's Midwest Pool League as of March 4

Mulligan's	54
Hitching Post	51
Pigeon Inn	45
Blue Moon	34
Kick-n-Back	32

Be sure to pick up next week's Cass City Chronicle for a peek at the Red Hawks' 2009 spring sports teams.

Ubyly comes up short in district semifinal

Greater Thumb West champions Unionville-Sebewaing rallied from an 8-point second half deficit against Greater Thumb East rival Ubyly to earn a hard fought 41-37 decision last Wednesday during the marquee match-up of the Class C district in Cass City.

For most of the night the Bearcats maintained a slight advantage in the semifinal contest, including a 10-6 margin after the initial quarter and a 17-14 margin at the break.

The Bearcats looked like they might put the Patriots away shortly after the intermission when they extended the gap to 8 points, but 10 consecutive points from guard Brandon Bitzer gave the Patriots a 2-point bulge with just 3:30 remaining on the clock.

Bitzer converted 6 of 7 free throws down the wire, while the Bearcats hit on just 2 of 5 attempts from the stripe

in the final 8 minutes, including misses on the front ends of 3 one-and-one situations that proved costly.

Bitzer was the lone Patriot to reach double figures and finished with 20 points, including 10 in the final period.

Ubyly, which finished the season 18-4 overall, had Steven Weber with 14 markers.

UBLY - M. Cleary 1-1 (2-3) 7; Sorenson 0-1 (0-0) 3; Kaufman 1-1 (0-1) 5; Kubacki 3-0 (2-4) 8; Weber 6-0 (2-6) 14
TOTALS - 11-3 (6-14) 37

USA - Schmidt 0-0 (2-4) 2; Bitzer 7-0 (6-7) 20; Zimmer 1-0 (1-1) 3; Fletcher 2-0 (0-1) 4; Krueger 2-0 (0-2) 4; Holland 2-0 (4-4) 8
TOTALS - 14-0 (13-19) 41



UBLY'S Justin Cleary faces pressure in the Class C district semifinal game with Unionville-Sebewaing. The Bearcats bowed 41-37 to the eventual champion Patriots.



CASS CITY Red Hawk grapplers Clark Walsh and Kevven Dorland were among the nearly 900 wrestlers from across the state to take part in the opening ceremonies at the Michigan High School Athletic Association individual state finals held at the Palace of Auburn Hills.



At state finals

Grapplers Dorland, Walsh close out campaign at Auburn Hills

The 2009 high school wrestling season didn't end the way Cass City standouts Kevven Dorland and Clark Walsh envisioned.

Nonetheless, their weekend experience at the Michigan High School Athletic Association individual state finals certainly provided the 2 Red Hawk team leaders with memories of a lifetime.

Competing along side the top 200+ Division 4 wrestlers - 16 qualifiers in each of the 14 weight divisions - at the Palace of Auburn Hills, Dorland and Walsh came up short in their efforts to advance in the double elimi-

nation tournament.

On Thursday, Walsh was defeated by Manchester's Coyle Render 9-1 in his opening 140-weight class bout, while Dorland, wrestling in the 145-weight class, fell to Jordan Peterson, Blanchard-Montabella, in 1:07.

"It's quite an accomplishment just to make the state finals," said Cass City Coach Don Markel.

While Markel was disappointed neither of his Red Hawk state qualifiers were able to taste victory at the prestigious event, he wasn't disappointed with their efforts.

"I'm very proud of Clark and

Kevven. They worked hard all year to make their first appearance at the state finals."

On Friday, senior Walsh's Red Hawk wrestling career came to an end as he was defeated 11-0 by Bronson's Zac Chantrenne, while Dorland, a junior, bowed 12-5 to Pittsford's Kurtis Brackman.

"Clark's record for the year was 44-10," said Markel. Adding, "His career record is 120-61 and that will place him in the top 25 for career wins at Cass City. We'll miss his leadership next season."

Tiger Sharks swim team completes successful year

The Caro Tiger Sharks swim team ended their season recently at the State Championship Meet with the same intensity they started with in fall, according to Coach Larry Harmon.

"It's tough to wrap up such a successful season," said Coach Harmon. "Where do you begin? Our dual meet record was undefeated at home, during our "away" meets we only experienced 2 losses during the entire 5-month season and we finished highest ever at the large invitational meets bringing home team trophies.

"After obtaining all these accomplishments, we added State Championship titles in 3 events and an overall age group title in one & placed 4th in the state as a team defeating many larger clubs."

Harmon said that the biggest goal this season during the dual meet schedule was to win against BAYs, Saginaw and Midland and they accomplished that task. They put together an aggressive schedule for their program and the swimmers did an exceptional job.

"Last year at this time we would have been content to have had the same success as our previous year but we far exceeded that record. My primary focus was on the short-term goals, doing the best we could every day during practice and at the meets. It would have been hard to imagine that we could have obtained such high accomplishments throughout the year including our performance at the State Meet," said Harmon.

Individual titles were captured by Hayden Gibor (50 breast), Seth Kratz

(100 back) and Kyle Kausch (100 free). Hayden Gibor has had an outstanding year and was on-track for a title practically from the beginning. He is well rounded in all strokes and can simply swim any event exceptionally fast. Kyle Kausch has been a true leader between the varsity program and swim club. He has been very involved in the competitive programs at school. He has an exceptionally long and powerful stroke and is very exciting to watch race. He is going to be missed as he continues his education in college. The swim club wishes him good luck and would like to thank him for assisting in coordinating the entries of the boys' varsity swimmers during the MTSL meets. Seth Kratz is an incredibly strong swimmer and all around athlete. He has displayed exceptional performances in virtually every phase of racing. He is a very fast and explosive swimmer. Seth takes his racing very seriously, his results are an indicator of his athletic drive and persistence.

Additional 2nd in State accomplishments were captured by Kirk Barber (boys 8 and under) breaststroke and Krissy Harmon (girls 11-12) 100 freestyle.

Other top 6 place performances were delivered by:

Morning Session

Hayden Gibor - (boys 9-10) 2nd in State 200 free, 2nd in State 100 free, State Champion 50 breast; Hal Hudson - (boys 9-10) 5th in State 200 free; Kirk Barber - (boys 8 & under) 2nd in State 25 breast; Krissy Harmon

- (girls 11-12) 5th in State 200 free, 2nd in State 100 free; Ann Starling - (girls 11-12) 6th in State 50 free, 6th in State 50 fly; Boys (9-10) 200 Free Relay - 2nd in State Trevor Miller, Garret Gibor, Hal Hudson and Hayden Gibor; Girls (11-12) 200 Free Relay - 4th in State Sam Stoick, Ann Starling, Ocean Schrader and Krissy Harmon

Afternoon Session

Gabe Raymer - (boys 15-18) 4th in State 200 free, 2nd in State 500 free, 5th in State 100 free; Travis Mozden - (boys 15-18) 5th in State 200 IM; Logan Kausch - (boys 15-18) 6th in State 100 breast; Seth Kratz - (boys 15-18) 3rd in State 100 fly, State Champion 100 back; Troy Kausch - (boys 15-18) 6th in State 100 free, 5th in State 100 breast; Chris Timmons - (boys 15-18) 5th in State 100 back, 4th in State 100 fly; Kyle Kausch - (boys 15-18) 3rd in State 50 free, State Champion 100 free; Ryan Avery - (boys 15-18) 5th in State 50 free; Nick Bauerschmidt - (boys 15-18) 4th in State 100 back; Derek Mozden - (boys 15-18) 3rd in State 500 free; Devin Putnam - (girls 15-18) 4th in State 100 breast; Girls (13-14) 200 Free Relay - 5th in State Audrey VanAuken, Katie Becker, Ali Smith, Chelsea Harmon; Boys (15-18) 200 Medley Relay - 3rd in State Travis Mozden, Logan Kausch, Chris Timmons, Gabe Raymer; Boys (15-18) 200 Free Relay - 2nd in State; Kyle Kausch, Troy Kausch, Seth Kratz and Ryan Avery; Boys (15-18) Age Group Award - State Champions



THE CARO Tiger Sharks swim club recently completed a successful season at the State Championship Meet.

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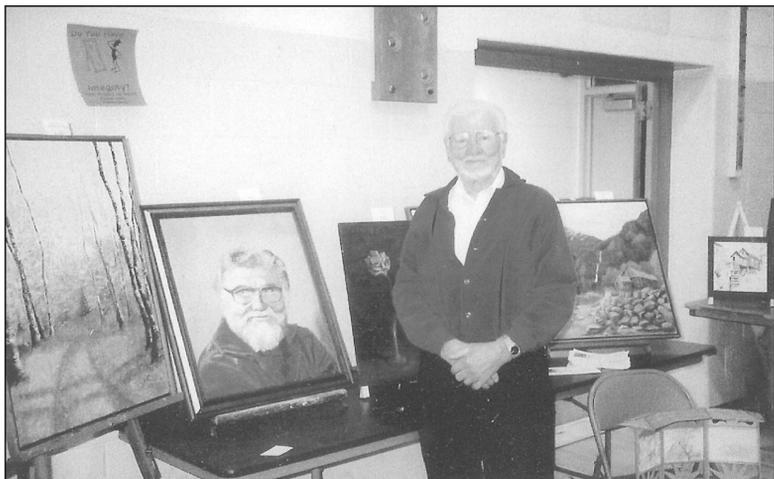
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UBLY ARTIST and sculptor John J. Misico will be displaying some of his artwork at the Ubyly Sleeper Public Library's Senior Center Monday, March 23, through Saturday, March 28.

March 23-28 at Sleeper Public Library

Misico's work on display

Ubyly artist and sculptor John J. Misico will be displaying some of his artwork at the Ubyly Sleeper Public Library's Senior Center Monday, March 23, through Saturday, March 28.

Misico's art will be on display during the hours the library is open: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The ice fishing lure demonstrations will be Tuesday, 5 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome.

Misico previously displayed his artwork and presented a demonstration at the Burns Art Gallery in Sebewaing, and his artwork was featured at Ubyly High School's art show.

Misico's art will be on display during the hours the library is open: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The ice fishing lure demonstrations will be Tuesday, 5 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome.

ANNUAL MEETING

for ELKLAND TOWNSHIP

will be held Monday, March 30th at 7 p.m.

at the Elkland Township Fire Hall
6691 Church St., Cass City

Ed LaBelle
Elkland Township Clerk

NOTICE

ELLINGTON TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

The Annual Township Board Meeting will be held at the Township Hall located at the corner of M-81 and Dutcher Road starting **Saturday, March 28, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.**

The Township Board will be reviewing the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2009-2010. The Township Board will also review Road Improvements for 2009.

Duane Lockwood
Ellington Township Supervisor

Greenleaf Township Annual Budget Meeting

Will Be Held **SAT., MARCH 28, 2009**
at 1:00 p.m.

Greenleaf Township Hall
2 miles north of Cass City Rd. on Gilbert Rd.
Judy Doerr, Clerk

Cass City Teachers Want You To Know:

The strength of our community comes from the strength of its school. Attacks against any portion of the school community chip away at its strength. Our students and our community are potential casualties too.

- We know parents and teachers must keep our focus on the education of our children.
- We know our children need a quality education to prepare them for a successful future.
- We know the education of our children is a long term investment in our children and our community.

Get involved. Ask questions.

School Board meeting: 7:30 p.m., high school cafeteria
March 23, 2009

Cass City Teachers: Aiming for Educational Excellence

Kris Milligan, CCEA President
kmilligan@mymca.org

Health focus of series at the library

Barbara Ann Burns (CNAP) will teach 4 sessions about the following topics on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. at Rawson Memorial District Library.

March 25 - New Generation of Healthy Young Children, Teens, and New Parents; April 1 - Your Kitchen Turned into a Mini Greenhouse; April 8 - Healthy Body with Less Vitamins and Drugs, Not More; and April 15 - Roundtable Discussion.

The classes are free; registration is required. Call the library at (989) 872-2856 to register.

Brown: jobs plan expected to pass soon

State Rep. Terry Brown (D-Pigeon) says the state House is expected to quickly pass an aggressive job-creation plan that rewards companies that employ 100 percent Michigan workers with state economic development incentives.

The "Hire Michigan First" initiative also cracks down on companies that hire undocumented workers by creating penalties that include requiring them to pay back their state incentives and barring them from future state contracts.

"Our workers are among the best in the country, and they should be first in line for every job opportunity our state creates," Brown said. "While we cannot control every economic problem affecting our state, we can - and must - make sure that when taxpayer dollars create jobs, Michigan's working families are the ones who benefit. This plan will help fight outsourcing and our rising unemployment rate by ensuring that state-funded jobs go to our workers, not people from other states or even other countries."

The "Hire Michigan First" plan: * Awards state tax breaks and other economic development incentives to companies that hire the most Michigan residents. This rule would apply to projects handled by the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and certain state-funded programs, including the Michigan Economic Growth Authority and the Renaissance Zone Act.

* Encourages transparency and accountability by requiring companies that accept incentives to report on who they hire to ensure that Michigan residents are put first.

* Cracks down on companies that hire undocumented workers by creating penalties that include requiring them to pay back their tax incentives and barring them from future state contracts.

Hospital coping with challenges

Continued from page one.

Compounding the battle against red ink is an age-old problem — Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates that have never matched hospitals' actual costs. The Medicaid reimbursement rate, for example, hasn't changed in 10 years, according to Falatko.

In 2008, Hills and Dales racked up \$8,472,947 in expenses tied to treating Medicare patients, while receiving payments totaling \$7,369,140 for those services. Medicaid treatment costs, meanwhile, added up to \$2,646,911, compared to payments received of \$881,502. Combined, Medicare and Medicaid represent some 64 percent of Hills and Dales' revenue.

In addition, Falatko said, Medicaid owes Hills and Dales roughly \$140,000 for its Pediatric Rural Health Center for 2007 and 2008 which it has not paid.

And, he added, "Our business is down 5 or 6 percent this year. That's because when people don't have jobs and don't have healthcare (insurance), they won't access the system now, (and) those who are insured are putting off elective work."

"It's tough and small hospitals, unfortunately, have a small margin of error," he added.

The bottom line, according to Falatko, is the hospital faces a \$3.7 million hole as it approaches a new fiscal year.

"Really, the way we're coping, is along the lines of what we did in 2006 and 2007, which is to reduce expenses where we can, but we've taken a position that we want to do everything we can to preserve jobs at this point," said Falatko, who emphasized that the hospital's employees have taken a key role in tackling financial challenges by agreeing to accept a 3-percent pay cut across the board, rather than see the 20 to 30 jobs eliminated. "That's \$300,000, \$400,000 a year for us," he

noted.

Hospital officials also closed one physician practice in town and scaled back its occupational medicine program that serves area businesses and their employees.

"The combination (of those measures)...would be an adjustment of a little over a million dollars a year for us, and we're hoping that's going to be enough for now," Falatko said.

"The biggest issue for us is, this (financial crisis) hit just as we finished a huge building project," he continued, referring to an expansion/renovation program in 2007 that came with a price tag of just over \$9 million. The hospital consolidated another \$5 million in debt at the same time, for a total of \$14.2 million.

The building project wasn't a luxury, Falatko said state and federal regulations forced the hospital to upgrade its electrical and heating/cooling systems, as well as other facilities, to meet today's codes. Which required contractors to virtually gut the hospital and rebuild.

"It was a forced deal. It was like, you will do this or we'll close you," Falatko said.

Falatko has reached out to Michigan's congressmen in hopes of bagging a portion of the \$18 billion Michigan stands to receive from the federal stimulus bill.

In a recent letter to congressmen Carl Levin, Debbie Stabenow and Dale E. Kildee, Falatko proposed that officials pay off Hills and Dales' debt for several reasons.

"First, the (renovation/expansion) project is not only shovel-ready, it is already complete and the results are conservative, yet magnificent. The hospital is now not only efficient but also very attractive without being ostentatious," Falatko wrote in his letter. "The project was required by the federal government...to bring the hospital up to code. Therefore, we were not allowed to do it in small pieces over time."

"Second, since the \$14.2 million of debt and its associated annual interest is the hospital's largest fixed expense, it places a significant burden on the hospital's financial viability. Paying off the debt will put the hospital in a healthy financial position for years to come."

In addition, Falatko wrote, "since Hills and Dales is a Critical Access Hospital, the government will actually reap a savings in the Medicare program, as a result of paying off our debt, because Critical Access Hospitals are paid on a 'cost plus' basis from Medicare. As such, paying off our debt will reduce our interest expense by about \$841,000 per year. Since Medicare represents about 50 percent of our business, the reduction in interest cost will result in a \$421,000 decrease in annual Medicare payments to Hills and Dales. Over the remaining 30 years of our debt payments, this would amount to \$12.6 million less in Medicare payments than would have been paid over the term of the debt."

Whether or not Falatko's letter will convince Michigan's Congressmen to lobby on behalf of the hospital remains to be seen.

In the meantime, Falatko, the hospital board and their employees are doing all they can to continue serving the community.

"It is a challenge right now," he said. "We're doing everything we can to keep our employees working and to keep the hospital viable."



BIDDINGER & BITZER, PLLC

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

MEDICAID AND ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

WHEN: Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. (Complimentary Dinner)

WHERE: The Charmont, 6138 E. Cass City Road, Cass City, Michigan

TOPIC: Medicaid Eligibility and Estate Planning

Attorneys Michelle P. Biddinger and Jason E. Bitzer will discuss Medicaid eligibility and qualification. There will also be a discussion about Wills, Trusts and Powers of Attorney.

RSVP: Call (989) 872-5601, Ext. 5 to reserve your seat (limited seating available)

Spring Home & Garden Guide

Don't miss this opportunity to target your customers in the Chronicle's 54th annual Home & Garden supplement with tips for home improvement, do-it-yourselfers, lawn care and gardening.

Coming... March 25, 2009

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- Full tab page for a cost of \$150.00

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT HARMONY DOERR
AT (989) 872-2010, FAX (989) 872-3810, EMAIL: chronicle@cass-city.net

• Renovation & Design Tips

• Remodeling Tips

• Landscaping & Gardening Tips

• Home Repair & Improvements

Legal Notices

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Theresa Marie Carson, a single woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated February 21, 2007 and recorded March 5, 2007 in Liber 1112, Page 638, Tuscola County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Five and 28/100 Dollars (\$83,705.28), including interest at 7.55% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the front entrance of the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, MI in Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on MARCH 26, 2009.

Said premises are located in the Township of Millington, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Commencing at a point 297 feet West of the Northeast corner of Section 30, Town 10 North, Range 8 East, Millington Township, Tuscola County, Michigan, thence South 146 2/3 feet; thence West 297 feet; thence North 146 2/3 feet; thence East 297 feet to the place of beginning, being part of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 30, Town 10 North, Range 8 East.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Dated: February 25, 2009

Orlans Associates, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
P.O. Box 5041
Troy, MI 48067-5041
248-502-1400
File No. 199.5129
ASAP #3002309

2-25-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Timothy D. Rayl and Elizabeth A. Rayl, Husband and Wife, original mortgagors, to First Chicago NBD Mortgage Company, Mortgagee, dated October 3, 1997 and recorded on October 22, 1997 in Liber 722 on Page 1001, and assigned by mesne assignments to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as assignee as documented by an assignment, in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Five and 51/100 Dollars (\$80,725.51), including interest at 7.75% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on March 26, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Village of Cass City, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

The North 8 rods of Lots 1 and 2, Block 1 of Campbell's Addition to the Village of Cass City, according to the Plat Records, 1 of 17 Plats, Pages 59 now being Page 5B of Tuscola County Records.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: February 25, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC S (248) 593-1304
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #24741401

2-25-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Wendy Barton, an unmarried woman, original mortgagor, to Mac-Clair Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee, dated February 9, 2007 and recorded on February 14, 2007 in Liber 1111 on Page 31, and modified by Affidavit or Order recorded on March 5, 2007 in Liber 1112 on Page 604 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and assigned by said Mortgagee to CitMortgage, Inc. as assignee, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventeen and 86/100 Dollars (\$126,817.86), including interest at 7.125% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on March 26, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Village of Millington, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Commencing at a point 669.11 feet South of the Northwest corner of Block 8; thence East 132 feet; thence South 58 feet; thence West 132 feet; thence North 58 feet to the point of beginning, Section 16, Town 10 North, Range 8 East, Plat of the Village of Millington, recorded in Liber 10 of Plats, Page 1, Tus-

cola County Records.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: February 25, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC C (248) 593-1301
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #247705F01

2-25-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by William Johnson, a married man, original mortgagor, to Icon Financial Group, Inc., Mortgagee, dated May 25, 1999 and recorded on June 2, 1999 in Liber 775 on Page 196, and assigned by mesne assignments to Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation, a New Jersey Corporation as assignee as documented by an assignment, in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventeen and 99/100 Dollars (\$127,617.99), including interest at 7.375% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on March 26, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Township of Fremont, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

The Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 7, Town 11 North, Range 9 East.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: February 25, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC S (248) 593-1304
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #059245F02

2-25-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Terry Stark and Jennifer L. Stark, husband and wife, original mortgagors, to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, as purchaser of the loans and other assets of Washington Mutual Bank, formerly known as Washington Mutual Bank, FA (the "Savings Bank") from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, acting as receiver for the Savings Bank and pursuant to its authority under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 12 U.S.C. § 1821(d) via affidavit, Mortgagee, dated March 10, 2004 and recorded on April 16, 2004 in Liber 988 on Page 145 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Four and 26/100 Dollars (\$154,844.26), including interest at 6.5% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on March 26, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Township of Indianfields, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Lot 31, Knollwood Acres No. 2, according to the plat recorded in Liber 4, Pages 30-32 of plats, Tuscola County Records.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: February 25, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC R (248) 593-1305
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #247883F01

2-25-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Mark E. Sutton and Josephine Sutton, husband and wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated December 10, 2002 and recorded on December 12, 2002 in Liber 906 on Page 1303 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and assigned by said Mortgagee to Chase Home Finance

LLC as assignee, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Three Hundred Fifty and 10/100 Dollars (\$150,350.10), including interest at 7% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on March 26, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Township of Millington, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Parcel B: Part of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 13, Township 10 North, Range 8 East, Millington Township, Tuscola County, Michigan, being further described as commencing at the North 1/4 corner of said Section, thence South 88 degrees 47 minutes 29 seconds East 398.94 feet along the North Section line, to the point of beginning; thence continue South 88 degrees 47 minutes 29 seconds East 238.89 feet along the said Section line; thence South 03 degrees 03 minutes 28 seconds East, 955.56 feet; thence North 88 degrees 47 minutes 29 seconds West, 238.89 feet; thence North 01 degrees 03 minutes 28 seconds West, 955.56 feet to the North Section line and to the point of beginning. Subject to any and all easements and/or rights of way, whether used, implied or of record.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: February 25, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC S (248) 593-1304
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #248049F01

2-25-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Belinda Bearinger, a single woman, original mortgagor, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated July 14, 2003 and recorded on July 17, 2003 in Liber 943 on Page 1443 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Three Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Six and 51/100 Dollars (\$63,136.51), including interest at 5.875% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on March 26, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Village of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Part of Section 3, Township 12 North, Range 9 East described as: Commencing at a point 1102.98 feet East and 193.63 feet South of the Northwest corner of Section 3, Town 12 North, Range 9 East, thence South 160 feet to Allen Street; thence East along Allen Street 62.43 feet; thence North 160 feet; thence West 62.43 feet to the point of beginning.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: February 25, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC R (248) 593-1305
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #248300F01

2-25-4

SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, P.C., IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by KIMBERLY BURNETT, AKA KIMBERLY S. BURNETT, A SINGLE WOMAN, and RONALD MCDONALD III, A SINGLE MAN, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated September 13, 2005, and recorded on September 26, 2005, in Liber 1055, on Page 327, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty-Nine Thousand Fifty-Nine Dollars and Thirty-Four Cents (\$89,059.34), including interest at 6.250% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, front entrance of the Courthouse Building in the Village of Caro, Michigan, Tuscola County at 10:00 AM o'clock, on March 26, 2009.

Said premises are located in Tuscola County, Michigan and are described as:

COMMENCING AT THE EAST QUARTER CORNER OF SECTION 33, TOWN 11 NORTH, RANGE 11 EAST, KOYLTOWN TOWNSHIP, TUSCOLA COUNTY, MICHIGAN; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES, 30 MINUTES EAST, 643.50 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 33; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES, 55 MINUTES WEST, 200.40 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. RUNNING THENCE SOUTH 61 DEGREES, 34 MINUTES, 52 SECONDS WEST, 136.21 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 55 MINUTES EAST, 73.12 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES, 30 MINUTES WEST, 62.55 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES, 55 MINUTES WEST, 53.52 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES, 30 MINUTES WEST, 246.00 FEET THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES, 55 MINUTES EAST, 200 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES, 30 MINUTES EAST, 246.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES, 55 MINUTES WEST, 200.40 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INGRESS AND EGRESS TO AND FROM THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND, SAID EASEMENT DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE EAST QUARTER CORNER OF SECTION 33; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES, 30 MINUTES EAST, 643.50 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 33 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; RUNNING THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES, 55 MINUTES WEST, 200.50 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 61 DEGREES, 34 MINUTES, 52 SECONDS WEST, 136.21 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES, 55 MINUTES WEST, 73.12 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES, 30 MINUTES EAST, 30.0 FEET; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES, 55 MINUTES EAST, 73.12 FEET; THENCE NORTH 61 DEGREES, 33 MINUTES, 55 SECONDS EAST, 136.22 FEET; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES, 55 MINUTES EAST, 200.50 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES, 30 MINUTES WEST, 30.0 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 33 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: February 20, 2009

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns
Mortgagee/Assignee
Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C.
23100 Providence Drive, Suite 450
Southfield, MI 48075

2-25-4

SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, P.C., IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by MICHAEL P. DUNLAP, A MARRIED MAN, and KENDRA DUNLAP, A MARRIED WOMAN, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated August 18, 2004, and recorded on August 24, 2004, in Liber 1005, on Page 1013, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Three Dollars and Seven Cents (\$134,543.07), including interest at 7.000% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, front entrance of the Courthouse Building in the Village of Caro, Michigan, Tuscola County at 10:00 AM o'clock, on March 26, 2009.

Said premises are located in Tuscola County, Michigan and are described as:

PART OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 7, TOWN 11 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 7, TOWN 11 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 40 SECONDS WEST, 992.89 FEET ALONG THE NORTH SECTION LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 260.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 43 SECONDS WEST, 331.04 FEET TO THE EAST 1/8 LINE; THENCE NORTH 0 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST 260.00 FEET ALONG THE EAST 1/8 LINE TO THE NORTH SECTION LINE; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 40 SECONDS EAST, 330.97 FEET ALONG THE NORTH SECTION LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: February 20, 2009

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns
Mortgagee/Assignee
Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C.
31400 Providence Drive, Suite 450
Southfield, MI 48075

2-25-4

SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, P.C., IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by CHRISTIE M. RAMOIE, A MARRIED WOMAN and RANDY RAMOIE, HER HUSBAND, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated October 26, 2007, and recorded on November 1, 2007, in Liber 1133, on Page 1321, and assigned by said mortgage to US BANK, N.A. as assigned, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Five Dollars and Thirty Cents (\$70,205.30), including interest at 7.500% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, front entrance of the Courthouse Building in the Village of Caro, Michigan, Tuscola County at 10:00 AM o'clock, on March 26, 2009.

Said premises are located in Tuscola County, Michigan and are described as:

LOTS 4 AND 5, BLOCKS 3 OF THE PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF POSTORIA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT LIBER 1, PAGES 44 AND 45, NOW BEING PAGES 45A TO 46A, TUSCOLA COUNTY RECORDS.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: February 23, 2009

US BANK, NA
Mortgagee/Assignee
Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C.
31000 Providence Drive, Suite 450
Southfield, MI 48075

2-25-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Kathleen M. Bouverette and Rocky P. Bouverette, Husband and Wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated July 21, 2003 and recorded on July 29, 2003 in Liber 946 on Page 446 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Four and 39/100 Dollars (\$120,854.39), including interest at 7.375% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on April 2, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Township of Novesta, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

The South half of the South half of the North half of the East half of the Southeast quarter of Section 26, Township 26, Town 13 North, Range 11 East.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 4, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC H (248) 593-1300
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #248643F01

3-4-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Roland Johnson, a married man, and Susan M. Johnson, his wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated September 6, 2007 and recorded on September 26, 2007 in Liber 1130 on Page 1359 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and assigned by said Mortgagee to IndyMac Federal Bank FSB as assignee, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Seven and 24/100 Dollars (\$142,847.24), including interest at 7.25% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on April 2, 2009.

Legal Notices

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Mickey T. McKinney, a married man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgage, dated December 17, 2004 and recorded December 27, 2004 in Liber 1021, Page 1401, Tuscola County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association, f/k/a The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A., as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A./s/b/m Bank One National Association as Trustee for RAMP 2005RS2 by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Five Hundred Fourteen and 05/100 Dollars (\$151,514.05), including interest at 6.25% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the front entrance of the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, MI in Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on APRIL 2, 2009.

Said premises are located in the Township of Millington, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Lot 5, Iva's Acres, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 37, Tuscola County Records.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Dated: March 4, 2009

Orlans Associates, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
P.O. Box 5041
Troy, MI 48007-5041
248-502-1400
File No. 280.7643
ASAP #3012047

3-4-4

This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for this purpose. If you are in the Military, please contact our office at the number listed below.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Buzzy Figard and Lois Figard, Husband and Wife, to Option One Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee, dated January 12, 2005 and recorded January 19, 2005 in Liber 1024, Page 637, Tuscola County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage was assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for the Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust, 2005-3, by assignment dated February 18, 2008 and recorded February 22, 2008 in Liber 1141, Page 1431, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Ten Thousand Two Hundred Eleven Dollars and Fifty-Eight Cents (\$110,211.58), including interest 5% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, Circuit Court of Tuscola County on April 2, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Township of Fremont, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Make: Holly Park
Serial No: ZHP005727AB
Width: 28
Length: 48
Year: 2000

The Security instrument secures an obligation for a manufactured home/mobile home that is permanently affixed to the land and is an appurtenance thereto. The above described manufactured home/mobile home is considered by the grantors herein to be a component of the land and intended to be conveyed jointly with the land as real property.

Part of the Northwest quarter of Section 16, Town 11 North, Range 9 East, beginning in the North line of said Section 16 at a point 330.0 feet East of the Northwest corner of the Northeast quarter of said Northwest quarter; thence South parallel with the West line of said Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter, 569.50 feet; thence East, parallel with said North Section line; thence North, parallel with aforesaid West line, 569.50 feet to said North Section line; thence West along said Section line 153.00 feet to the place of the beginning. Commonly known as 1835 O'Brien Rd., Mayville, MI 48744.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 or MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later.

Dated: MARCH 2, 2009

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for the Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust, 2005-3
Assignee of Mortgagee

Attorneys: Potestivo & Associates, P.C.
811 South Blvd., Suite 100
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
(248) 844-5125
Our File No.: 09-06573

3-4-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Ronald Given Sr. and Alice Given, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgage, dated June 14, 2004 and recorded August 12, 2004 in Liber 1004, Page 395, Tuscola County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by JP-Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighteen and 45/100 Dollars (\$64,418.45), including interest at 6.625% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed

by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the front entrance of the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, MI in Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on APRIL 9, 2009.

Said premises are located in the Village of Akron, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Commencing at the Northeast corner of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 34, Town 14 North, Range 8 East, and running thence West 17 rods; thence South 8 rods; thence East 17 rods; thence North 8 rods to the place of beginning. Also, known as the North 8 rods of Lot 1, Block 4 of the Assessors Plat of Akron.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Dated: March 11, 2009

Orlans Associates, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
P.O. Box 5041
Troy, MI 48007-5041
248-502-1400
File No. 310.3494
ASAP #3019837

3-11-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Paul David Richey and Dawn M. Richey, Husband and Wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgage, dated December 8, 2005 and recorded on December 20, 2005 in Liber 1065 on Page 872 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and assigned by said Mortgagee to Nationstar Mortgage LLC as assignee, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Nine Thousand One Hundred Ninety and 21/100 Dollars (\$109,190.21), including interest at 7.95% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on April 9, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Township of Vassar, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Part of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 34, Township 11 North, Range 8 East, described as: Beginning at the South 1/4 corner of said Section 34; thence along the South line of said Section, South 89 Degrees 10 Minutes 25 Seconds West, 263.00 feet; thence North 01 Degrees 02 Minutes 00 Seconds West, 1339.76 feet; thence along the North line of said Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 North 89 Degrees 21 Minutes 55 Seconds East, 242.55 feet; thence along the North-South 1/4 line, South 02 Degrees 54 Minutes 30 Seconds East 1339.18 feet to the South 1/4 corner of Section 34 and the Point of Beginning. Except an undivided 1/2 interest in and to all the oil, gas and other minerals deed; as recorded in Liber 211 of Deeds, at Pages 83 and 84 (according to the survey recorded in Liber 608, Pages 1145 and 1146, Tuscola County Records.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 11, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC F (248) 593-1313
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #249395F01

3-11-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Ted A. Sweeney, a single man, to "MERS" is Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MERS is a separate corporation that is acting solely as a nominee for Lender and Lender's successors and assigns. MERS is the mortgagee under this Security Instrument. Lender is People's Choice Home Loan, Inc., Mortgagee, dated July 6, 2006, and recorded on January 17, 2007, in Liber 1108, on page 643, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and assigned by said Mortgagee to HSBC Bank USA National Association, as Trustee For The Benefit Of People's Financial Realty Mortgage Securities Trust, Series 2006-1, by an assignment recorded in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of two hundred twenty six thousand three hundred thirty two and 67/100 dollars (\$26,332.67), including interest at 8.200% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, Michigan, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., on Thursday, April 16, 2009.

Said premises are situated in the Township of Watertown, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13 and 14 in Block 88, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13 and 14 in Block 87, and Lot 1, 2, 3, 4, in Block 86, PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF FOSTORIA, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1 on Page 45A of Plats, Tuscola County Records, Except the South half of Lot 4 and 11 in Block 88, Also except the South half of Lot 4 and 11 in Block 87, also except the South half of Lot 4 in Block 86.

Tax ID Number: 021-500-186-0100-00

The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241 or MCLA 600.3241a, in

which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCLA 600.3241a(c), whichever is later.

Dated: February 13, 2009

HSBC Bank USA National Association, As Trustee For The Benefit Of People's Financial Realty Mortgage Securities Trust, Series 2006-1
Assignee of Mortgagee

Richard A. Green, Attorneys
30150 N. Telegraph Rd., Ste 444
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
(248) 540-7665

3-11-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Timothy R. Bergman, a married man and Sarah L. Bergman, his wife, original mortgagors, to Independent Mortgage Company, Mortgagee, dated October 3, 2007 and recorded on October 9, 2007 in Liber 1131 on Page 1293, and assigned by said Mortgagee to Michigan State Housing Development Authority, a public body corporate and politic of the State of Michigan as assignee as documented by an assignment, in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Five Thousand Two Hundred Sixteen and 64/100 Dollars (\$105,216.64), including interest at 6% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on April 16, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Township of Fremont, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Parcel A: Part of the Northwest quarter of Section 16, Town 11 North, Range 9 East, described as: Commencing at the West quarter corner of said Section 16; thence along the East-West quarter line of said Section 16, North 88 degrees 54 minutes 55 seconds East 986.15 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence North 00 degrees 24 minutes 13 seconds West 358.52 feet; thence parallel with said East-West quarter line of Section 16, North 88 degrees 54 minutes East 243.00 feet; thence South 00 degrees 24 minutes 13 seconds East, 358.52 feet to said East-West quarter line of Section 16, South 88 degrees 54 minutes 55 West, 243.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 18, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC F (248) 593-1313
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #252203F01

3-18-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by William J. Dempsey, III and Marge A. Dempsey, husband and wife, original mortgagors, to Washington Mutual Bank, FA, a federal association, Mortgagee, dated May 12, 2004 and recorded on August 23, 2004 in Liber 1005 on Page 818 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, and assigned by said Mortgagee to Wells Fargo Bank, NA as assignee, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Two and 67/100 Dollars (\$66,532.67), including interest at 4.875% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on April 16, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Township of Koylton, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Beginning at a point on the North Section line that is North 89 degrees 23 minutes 9 seconds East 396.00 feet from the Northwest corner of Section 23, Town 11 North, Range 11 East; thence continuing North 89 degrees 23 minutes 9 seconds East 925.87 feet; thence along the East line of said Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter, South 0 degrees 6 minutes 24 seconds East 661.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 23 minutes 9 seconds West 1321.53 feet; thence along the West Section line, North 0 degrees 8 minutes 11 seconds West 331.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 23 minutes 9 seconds East 396.0 feet; thence North 0 degrees 8 minutes 11 seconds West 330.00 feet to the point of beginning.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 18, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC F (248) 593-1309
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #252459F01

3-18-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE

NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Gary Banetecel, a married man, to Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corp, Mortgagee, dated October 31, 2002 and recorded February 27, 2003 in Liber 917, Page 1231, Tuscola County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Citibank, N.A. as Trustee for Chase 2003-1 by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Three and 51/100 Dollars (\$53,183.51), including interest at 8.75% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the front entrance of the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, MI in Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on APRIL 16, 2009.

Said premises are located in the Township of Novesta, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Part of the Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 10, Town 13 North, Range 11 East, described as begun solely to a point on the West line of Section 10 which is North 00 degrees 38 minutes 00 seconds West 498.00 feet from the West quarter corner of said Section 10; thence continuing along said West Section line, North 00 degrees 38 minutes 00 seconds West 390.53 feet; thence parallel to the North line of said Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter, South 89 degrees 48 minutes 14 seconds East 1311.45 feet; thence along the East line of said Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter, South 00 degrees 35 minutes 52 seconds East 387.89 feet; thence parallel to the East-West quarter line of said Section 10, North 89 degrees 45 minutes 07 seconds West 1311.17 feet to the West line of Section 10 and the point of beginning.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Dated: March 18, 2009

Orlans Associates, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
P.O. Box 5041
Troy, MI 48007-5041
248-502-1400
File No. 209.6188
ASAP #3027761

3-18-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Kevin W. Rabideau and Lisa R. Rabideau, husband and wife, original mortgagors, to Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corp., Mortgagee, dated November 12, 2004, and recorded on November 29, 2004 in Liber 1018 on Page 1363 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Six and 24/100 Dollars (\$174,936.18), including interest at 8.375% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the front entrance of the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, MI in Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on APRIL 16, 2009.

Said premises are located in the Township of Gilford, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 23, TOWN 13 NORTH RANGE 7 EAST, DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION WHICH IS SOUTH 02 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 46 FEET FROM THE WEST 1/4 CORNER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID WEST LINE, SOUTH 02 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 211 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST 221 FEET; NORTH 02 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST 211 FEET, THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 221 FEET TO SAID WEST LINE OF SECTION 23 AND THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Dated: March 18, 2009

Orlans Associates, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
P.O. Box 5041
Troy, MI 48007-5041
248-502-1400
File No. 209.6165
ASAP #3026997

3-18-4

COUNTY OF TUSCOLA

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate/Trust

Estate/Trust of Thelma C. Campbell, Deceased
Date of Birth: July 28, 1921

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS:

The decedent, Thelma C. Campbell, Settlor of the Thelma C. Campbell Trust dated October 23, 1995, who lived at 6086 Beechwood Drive, Cass City, MI 48726, died on February 5, 2009.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate must be filed for or barred unless presented to the Trustee of the Thelma C. Campbell Trust dated 10/23/95: Larry L. Campbell, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: March 12, 2009

Larry L. Campbell, Trustee
11980 Coon Hollow Road
Three Rivers, MI 49093
(269) 244-5770

Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.
Douglas A. Mielock (P-42924)
313 S. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 371-8203

3-18-1

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Sharon B. Swindell, unmarried woman, original mortgagor, to Independent Mortgage Co. East MI, Mortgagee, dated January 28, 2005 and recorded on February 3, 2005 in Liber 1026 on Page 120 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty and 21/100 Dollars (\$63,780.21), including interest at 5.875% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on April 16, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Village of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Lot 3 and 4, Block 5 of A.P. Cooper's Addition to the Village of Centerville (now Caro), according to the plat recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 13A.

The structure residing on the above described premises, consisting of a 2004 Sterling S6338, is considered real estate and is also collateral for this loan.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 18, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC F (248) 593-1313
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #251983F01

3-18-4

Said premises are situated in Village of Millington, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Legal Notices

The Mortgage described below is in default. Mortgage made by Marquette Corl, a single woman, as Mortgagee, to First National Bank of America, a national banking association, as Mortgagee, dated June 23, 2004 and recorded June 30, 2004 in Liber 998, Page 828, Tuscola County Records, Michigan. The balance owing on the Mortgage is \$46,675.76 at the time of this Notice. The Mortgage contains a power of sale and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage.

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Take notice that on March 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., local time, or any adjourned date thereafter, the Mortgage will be foreclosed by sale at public auction to the highest bidder at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County. The Mortgagee will apply the sale proceeds to the debt secured by the Mortgage as stated above (which includes all costs and expenses paid by the Mortgagee to collect the debt and to protect its interest in the property, all as provided in the Mortgage), plus interest on the amount due at the rate of 9.750% per annum and any amount subsequently paid by the Mortgagee to protect its interest in the property.

The property to be sold at foreclosure is all of the real estate located in the Township of Kingston, Tuscola County, Michigan, described more particularly as follows:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 34, Town 12 North, Range 11 East, which is East 1,316 feet from the Northwest corner of said section; thence East 284 feet; thence South 00 degrees, 03 minutes, 59 seconds West, 767 feet; thence West 284 feet; thence North 00 degrees, 03 minutes, 59 seconds East 767 feet to the Point of Beginning. Commonly known as: 6636 Rossman Road.

Tax Identification No.: 015-034-000-0600-00

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of sale pursuant to MCLA 600.3240(12), unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of sale.

Dated: December 22, 2008

First National Bank of America, a national banking association
Mortgagee

Plunkett Cooney
By: Michelle R. E. Donovan
Attorneys for Mortgagee
38505 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2000
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304
(248) 901-4000

2-18-5

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by George S Buniack, a single man, original mortgagor, to MBS Mortgage Company, LLC, Mortgagee, dated June 18, 2004 and recorded on June 25, 2004 in Liber 998 on Page 5, and assigned by said Mortgagee to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns as assignee as documented by an assignment, in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Eighteen Thousand and 16/100 Dollars (\$218,000.16), including interest at 6.5% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on April 9, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Township of Wells, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

The Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 5, Town 12 North, Range 10 East.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 11, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:

FC X (248) 593-1302
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #250629F01

3-11-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by William J. Healy and Brenda Healy, Husband and Wife, Tenants by the Entireties, of Unionville, Michigan (Mortgagors) to Household Finance Corporation III, a Delaware Corporation, dated June 6, 2006 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Tuscola, State of Michigan, on June 12, 2006 in Instrument 20060882508 or Liber 1084 and Page 941, Tuscola County Records on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date of this notice the sum of \$106,288.68, including interest at the rate of 11.290% per annum together with any additional sum or sums which may be paid by the undersigned as provided for in said mortgage, and no suit or proceedings at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, and the statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that on the 9th day of April, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock a.m., the undersigned will at the front entrance of the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan foreclose said mortgage by selling at public auction to the highest bidder, the premises described in said mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amounts due on said mortgage, and all legal costs, charges and expenses, including the attorneys fees allowed by law, and also any sum or sums which may be paid by the undersigned, necessary to protect its interest in the premises. Which said premises are described as follows:

Land situated in the Township of Columbia, County of Tuscola, State of Michigan, is described as follows:

Part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 27, Town 14 North, Range 9 East, Described as beginning at a point on the East Section Line South 961.71 Feet from the East Quarter Corner of said Section 27, Town 14 North, Range 9 East; thence North 89 Degrees 10 Minutes West 191.63 feet; thence South 227.34 feet; thence South 89 Degrees 10 Minutes East 191.63 feet to the East Section Line of Section 27; thence Along said Line North 227.34 Feet to the point of beginning. Contains 1 Acre including the Easterly 33.00 feet thereof as Right of Way, as recorded in the Tuscola County Records, Tax Map or Parcel ID No. 004-027-000-1500-00; thence South 89 Degrees 10 Minutes East feet to the East Section Line of Section 27; thence along said Line North 227.34 feet. Commonly known as: 4663 Ashmore Road.

Tax ID #004-027-000-1500-00
The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty days from the date of such sale.

DATED: March 11, 2009

Household Finance Corporation III
Mortgagee

Richard L. McDonnell (P38788)
Attorney for Mortgagee
33 Bloomfield Hills Pkwy., Suite 240
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-2946
(248) 594-7770

3-11-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by John P. Pugh, a single man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated June 22, 2006 and recorded September 21, 2006 in Liber 1096, Page 454, Tuscola County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by HSBC Bank USA, National Association, As Trustee For The Benefit Of People's Financial Realty Mortgage Securities Trust, Series 2006-1 by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-One and 37/100 Dollars (\$69,231.37), including interest at 10.625% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the front entrance of the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, MI in Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on APRIL 9, 2009.

Said premises are located in the Township of Kingston, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Lots 15 and 16, Block 11, Plat of Village of Wilmet, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 43A.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Dated: March 11, 2009

Orlans Associates, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
P.O. Box 5041
Troy, MI 48007-5041
248-502-1400
File No. 213.3621
ASAP #3022330

3-11-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Wylon J. Tait, a married man, and Jane Tait, his wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated November 14, 2002 and recorded on November 21, 2002 in Liber 903 on Page 899 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Four and 28/100 Dollars (\$158,184.28), including interest at 6% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on April 9, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Township of Indianfields, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Part of the East one half of Section 2, Town 12 North, Range 9 East, described as: Beginning at a point in the centerline of East Dayton Road which is South 00 degrees 03 minutes 05 seconds West, 755.51 feet along the East line of Section 2 and North 65 degrees 45 minutes 00 seconds West 2138.00 feet along the centerline of East Dayton Road from the East quarter corner of said Section 2, thence continuing along the centerline of East Dayton Road, North 65 degrees 45 minutes 00 seconds West, 138.53 feet to the centerline of Weeden Road; thence along the centerline of Weeden Road South 21 degrees 00 minutes 15 seconds West 219.31 feet to the Northerly line of the Detroit Edison Property; thence along said line, South 46 degrees 18 minutes 00 seconds East 123.83 feet; thence North 26 degrees 18 minutes 30 seconds East 260.36 feet to the point of beginning.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: March 11, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC X (248) 593-1302
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #041874F05

3-11-4

CLASSIFIEDS

Transit (nonbusiness) rates, 10 words or less, \$3.95 each insertion; additional words 10 cents each. Three weeks for the price of 2-cash rate. Save money by enclosing cash with mail orders. Rates for display want ads on application.

Real Estate For Rent

2-BEDROOM DUPLEX - Garage, laundry, deck, water, sewer & yard care. No pets! \$500/month. 3 miles east of Cass City. 989-872-5628. 4-1-7-tf

VFW HALL available for rental occasions. Call 872-4933. 4-4-1-tf

Automotive

1996 CHEVY SILVERADO Z-71 1500 - 4x4 extended cab, black. \$2,200. 989-551-8576 or 989-872-2656. 1-3-18-3

General Merchandise

A KING SIZE pillow top mattress set - never used, with deluxe frame still in box. Cost \$1,050, sacrifice \$335. 989-923-1278. 2-4-23-52

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AMISH LOG HEAD-BOARD & queen pillow top mattress set - new in plastic, \$275. 989-839-4846. 2-4-23-52

HOT TUB - 6-person with lounge, backlit waterfall and Michigan cover, never used, with warranty. Retails \$5,900; will sell \$2,975. 989-797-7727. 2-4-23-52

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Household Sales

HUGE COMMUNITY Garage Sale - Deford Community Church, 1392 N. Kingston Rd. (1/4 mile south of Deckerville Rd.). Saturday, March 21, 9-3 p.m. 14-3-11-2

Real Estate For Sale

FOR SALE BY OWNER or willing to trade house in town for house in country. Nice 2-bedroom, ranch-style starter or retiree home. Spacious layout with central air and 2-car unattached garage. \$57,900. 4318 West St., Cass City. 989-872-9816, after 5 p.m. 3-3-11-3

FOR RENT - 2-bedroom house in Cass City with garage. Newer windows and doors, furnace, water heater, vinyl siding. Convenient to schools, downtown and hospital. \$550/month. Deposit and lease required. Call Kevin or Peter, 989-872-2911. 4-2-25-4

1-BEDROOM APARTMENT - \$450/month. Heat and electric included. No pets, no smoking. \$300 deposit with references. 872-1837. 4-3-11-4

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

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

CASEVILLE BEACH HOUSE - Family rental only for summer of 2009. Located between Sleeper State Park and Caseville village limits on lake side of M-25. 100 feet of private sugar sand beach to water's edge. 3-bedrooms, 3 baths, hot tub, air conditioning, \$1,500 per week. For details, call 989-325-1270. 4-1-14-tf

FOR RENT - Spacious 1-bedroom apartment with appliances. Close to downtown. No pets! 872-2012. 4-3-4-3

2-BEDROOM APARTMENT in Cass City for rent. 989-529-7406. 4-3-18-2

OWENDALE - 2-bedroom Ranch, hardwood floors, paved road. 1 mile south of town. Appliances included. No pets, non-smoking, references required. \$425/month plus security. 872-2858 after 5 p.m. 4-3-18-3

FOR RENT - 2-bedroom apartment in Cass City. \$350/month plus utilities. 989-872-4785. 4-3-18-3

Notices

WANTED - FARMLAND to rent. Cash up front. 989-670-9088. 5-1-28-tf

FARVER BAPTIST Church will pick up for Sunday morning services. Call 989-315-8043. 5-3-18-4

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ORGANIC or CRP farmland wanted to raise feed for dairy. South of Cass City. Top rates paid. Call Dana Shirk, 989-550-4045. 5-3-11-6

THE COMMITTEE to organize the 25-year reunion for the 1984 Cass City High School graduates is asking for your help! If you know where any of these people are, please contact Paula (Herron) LeValley at 989-872-2964 or email: levalley@tband.net. Thank you! Beth Adkins, Anthony Androzick, Ann Bauer, Julie Blades, Aimee Brown, John Bush, Denise Eccleson, Bill Hastings, Carla Hunter, Ted Jantz, Sally Klimesmith, John Kulinski, Leslie Lowry, Chuck Malone, Paul McClorey, Rhonda Matthews, Sharon Morrish, Todd Nurnberger, Kim Pettinger, Nancy Rands, Dwayne Richmond, Loyal Roach, Pam Sawdon, Cindy Smith, Steve Smith, Kim Spencer, Theresa Thurnball, Marty Willsey, Colleen Wilson and Matt Woody. 5-3-18-1

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VFW Hall
Donation 5-3-18-1

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In Memory
MOM, BECAUSE of the love you've never stopped showing, our love for you has never stopped growing. Sadly missed by Phyllis Linderman family and friends. 15-3-18-1

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SOLD!
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3 bedroom home in Bad Axe. It has good sq. ft. size. It needs some work, but has potential to be a great home. Good for rental property. Won't last long for the price. Call for a showing!
BA-174

Cute & cozy, good location, walking distance to downtown. Great starter home for a small family. It has a lot to offer with semi finished basement and attached garage. Keys at closing. Call today for your personal showing. EPB-172

Tavis Osentoski Associate Broker 989-551-2010
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Roger Pohod Sales Associate 872-2747

REDUCED!

3 bedroom, 3 full baths (2 each on main level and 1 each in lower level) condo. Includes all appliances. Lower level features family room, and other rooms plus sliding glass door that overlooks a view of the pond and golf course. TCC1507

Three bedroom, 2 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 bedroom, 1 bath well maintained Ranch home in the village of Cass City. Family room in the basement, fenced in backyard, attached garage, laundry on the 1st level, plenty of closets, new carpeting in '06 & '07. TCC1555

GOLF COURSE VIEW!

MOVE IN DAY OF CLOSING!
3 to 4 bedroom, 2 bath home close to all schools in Cass City. There are 2 bedrooms down and 2 bedrooms up. It includes a fireplace in the living room, view of park, woods and a lot of wild life. Call today! TCC1509

Five bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2,000 sq. ft. all brick home on an extra large corner lot in Cass City featuring a den, formal dining room, original woodwork throughout and a 2.5 car heated and insulated detached garage with attic storage. TCC1548

3 bedrooms • 2 baths • Large backyard • Adjacent to golf course • Cass City Schools • Large terrace deck • 2 car garage • storage shed
TCC1536

Sweet tradition

Battel family welcoming the public to weekend open house

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Spring is in the air, signaling one of the sweetest seasons of the year for the Battel family, which boasts a generations-long tradition of making its own maple syrup.

It's a Thumb tradition, one members of the Battel family are inviting area residents to experience first hand this weekend when they host their first-ever "Maple Syrup Saturday" open house.

The event is planned for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Battel's Sugar Bush, 7964 Daus Road (also called Ritter Road) near Cass City. The sugar bush is located one mile west of M-53 and one mile south of Bay City-Forestville Road.

"One year after the Great Fire of 1881 swept across the Thumb, Battel family ancestors settled on a farm on Daus Road northeast of Cass City. They began tapping a stand of sugar maple trees that was spared by the fire, and from these trees they made maple syrup," said Sue Stuever Battel, who along with husband, Bob, is helping to carry on that legacy.

"Six generations and 127 years later, Mark and Diane Battel and family are still making sweet syrup from the same sugar bush," she added.

Visitors are invited to experience the process of making fresh maple syrup as the family shares its tradition.

"Participants can try their hand at tapping a maple tree, see how sap is gathered and boiled, and get a taste of the finished product," Battel said, noting pancakes and fresh maple syrup will be provided. "Guided tours will be given by request, and a special scavenger hunt is planned for chil-

dren.

"While some things have changed since the Battels of the 19th century boiled sap in an open kettle, the basic process is still the same — and nearly as quaint," she said.

Battel, who pointed out that it takes roughly 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup, added, "When it's almost spring and the sun begins to warm the trees, yet winter weather still freezes them at night, that's when the Battels begin to tap trees. Sap is coaxed from the sugar maples and boiled for hours over a rolling fire until nothing remains but pure syrup."

Saturday's open house will follow a special event scheduled Friday for home-schooled children.

"There is a growing number of home schoolers in the area. My husband, Bob, and I homeschool our 2 children, so we thought we'd invite other home schoolers for a tour of our maple syrup farm," Battel said, adding family members were overwhelmed when more than 270 people had signed up a week before the event.

"Home schooling families will be coming from as close as the house across the road to as far away as Port Huron, Flint and Macomb County."

"My husband and I and our 2 children will be in pioneer costumes, paying homage to our ancestors who first started making maple syrup here," she continued. "We will have the children try all the steps in making maple syrup themselves, then at the end they will earn 'junior sugarmaker badges'."

The Battel family history in the Thumb dates back to 1882, when George and Annie Battle settled on their farm from Ontario. They had 3

sons; John, Daniel and George.

John was the only one to marry, and he and his wife Bessie's son was the late Arthur Battel, whose wife was Marjory.

"She was a Schwegler, the family for whom Schwegler Road is named," Battel explained, adding their son is Mark, who is married to Diane. "These are my in-laws and are the current owners and operators of the sugar bush. Mark has a brother and sister who grew up on the farm, then moved away. They are all very close and they visit from Grand Rapids and Tennessee whenever they can. Mark is a dairy herd technician for North-Star Cooperative DHI Services, so he visits area dairy farms and collect milk samples. Diane works at Walbro."

Bob and Sue Stuever Battel represent the family's fifth generation. The couple moved back to the area a year ago and are helping with the sugar bush. "Bob also has a sister, Brenda, who lives in Cass City," Battel noted. "Bob is the Michigan State University Extension field crops educator for Huron County, based in Bad Axe. I am a stay-at-home mother and home school the children."

Bob and Sue's children — Addy, 6, and Dori, 3 — are the sixth generation.

"They love to be in the sugar bush, especially Addy," Battel said. "Addy won an essay contest (sponsored by) the Michigan Farm Bureau recently, and one of the things she mentioned was helping grandma and grandpa in the woods."

More information about the upcoming events is available by contacting the Battels via e-mail at: Battel-Syrup@gmail.com, or by calling (810) 310-0480.



MEMBERS OF THE Battel family are pictured in their sugar bush over the weekend. They are: (front row, left) Margaret (Battel) Bethel of Belmont, Addy Battle of Elkton, John Battel of Bristol, Tenn., Dori Battel of Elkton, Diane Battel of Cass City, (back row, left) Sue and Bob Battel of Elkton, Chris Battel of Johnson City, Tenn., Brenda Battel of Cass City, and Mark Battel of Cass City. (Photos courtesy of Sue Stuever Battel)

Senior movies slated Friday

Rawson Memorial Library, Cass City, will show the following Senior Citizen Movies Friday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m.

The Adirondacks: The Adirondack Park sprawls across six million acres in upstate New York. Bigger than Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier and Grand Canyon National Park com-

bined, it is by far the largest park in the lower 48 states. Yet it is the only one on the continent in which large human populations live and whose land is divided almost evenly between protected wilderness and privately owned tracts. This patchwork pattern of land ownership has created an utterly unique place. The story of the Adirondacks is told through a series

of passionate characters, each with a district perspective. Through their stories "The Adirondacks" explores this remarkable region and reveals a delicate and dynamic relationship between progress and preservation. (120 minutes)

Refreshments will be served. This Older Adult Program is offered free of charge.



MARK BATTEL, who along with his wife, Diane, owns the family sugar bush, collects sap.



DRRRRIIIIPPP - Sap dripping from a spile in a sugar maple tree.



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