

**4-Hers inviting buyers  
to livestock auction in Caro**

Page 3

**Tuscola Co. teens charged  
in recent chase, thefts**

Page 4

**State budget crunch hitting  
bottom line at the county jail**

Page 8

# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2009

FIFTY CENTS

12 PAGES



**SGT. BRIAN HARRIS** keeps a close watch he monitors the Tuscola County Jail. Michigan's Diverted Felons Program is expected to reimburse the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department for housing felons who would otherwise be sent to a state prison. However, the state will not reimburse the county for 3 months during the current fiscal year due its budget woes, costing the county up to \$18,000. (See story, page 8)

## Millage renewal vote for library scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 4

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Not surprisingly, state funding sources for libraries have become undependable in recent years, making an upcoming millage renewal election for Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City even more critical, library officials say.

Residents in Elkland, Elmwood and Novesta townships will be asked to approve renewal of .35 of a mill for the next 5 years in the Tuesday, Aug. 4 election.

The tax, which annually raises about \$62,000 for library operations, costs the owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000 roughly \$17.50 a year.

"The library is, in essence, simply asking for a renewal of the current operating millage in order to continue current operations," said library Director Kate VanAuken. "It's very important, especially in this time right now."

Rawson Memorial depends on 2 sep-

arate millage levies, including a .75 of a mill tax that is now in effect through the year 2012. Combined, they generate about \$180,000 in revenue.

Property taxes along with penal fines make up the bulk - 75 percent - of the local library's operating budget. However, VanAuken pointed out, penal fines (14 percent of the budget) have become an increasingly unstable source of funding and have decreased by 45 percent.

But that's not VanAuken's only concern these days.

For example, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm has ordered the state's 16 departments reduced to 8, forcing libraries to be taken out from under the soon-to-be defunct Department of History, Arts and Libraries and placed under the umbrella of the Department of Education.

"Our state aid money (roughly \$6,000 annually for Rawson Memorial) isn't a huge part of our budget," VanAuken acknowledged, "but we need our millages now more than ever."

## O-G delays action on cutting J.V. coaches

by Patricia Emenpour  
Staff Writer

Owen-Gage School officials are still considering a proposal to eliminate junior varsity coaches, but the district's board of education opted Monday to wait until next month to take action.

During the regular monthly board meeting, school Supt. Dana Compton said the district would save a net amount of \$8,660 if J.V. coaches were eliminated.

Compton explained how that savings could decrease to \$6,956 if the district were to give varsity coaches a stipend for instructing both J.V. and varsity teams.

"I've talked to the varsity coaches for the fall sports already and they say they would take on the responsibility. But I think we should give them more money for running the J.V. programs," he said.

Jason Pierce, Owen-Gage Schools athletic director and varsity football coach, said if the board chooses to cut funding for J.V. coaches, he would support that decision.

"I understand why the board wants to do this; it is wise to save the money. But it is not new to me because we've been spreading out our total salary to all our assistants in the football program as a way to give everyone some sort of salary for all their hard work," he said.

Board member Terry Muntz, who said all the coaches should be approached, agreed with the proposal to increase the pay for varsity coaches.

"If these coaches are willing to take on everything as a whole, we really should give them something back," he added.

According to Compton, the varsity coaches for volleyball, boys' basketball, girls' basketball and football Please turn to page 9.

"There are many services that libraries provide for the federal and state governments that we don't get reimbursed for. We do it because our patrons want or need it," she explained. "With the loss of state aid and millage failures, we may be looking at a real reduction in the services (we) provide."

One item that may be facing the budget chopping block is known as MeL.Cat, Michigan's eLibrary, which includes statewide lending and sharing of library resources for all Michigan residents," VanAuken said. "At our library alone, nearly 2,500 items were requested by our patrons," she said.

Please turn to back page.

## In Sanilac County

# Probe continuing into July 22 double murder

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

A 47-year-old Crosswell man suspected in the murder of 2 men and the attempted murder of their wives remains lodged in the Huron County jail on unrelated charges.

Gary Leslie Gould is being held on a \$250,000 cash bond and is awaiting arraignment in Sanilac County, where the bizarre homicide investigation began last Wednesday morning with one of the injured victim's call for help to Sanilac County Central Dispatch, and ended with Gould's arrest less than 3 hours later, several miles to the north in Huron County's Meade Township.

Investigators said the murders took place at the Crosswell residence where Gould has lived since being released after serving a 12-year term on a conviction out of St. Clair County for assault with intent to commit great bodily harm less than murder.

Deputies first arrived at the scene, 3107 Mortimer Line Rd., located in Sanilac County's Fremont Township, shortly after being dispatched at 5:15 a.m. They found the caller — one of 2 women Gould allegedly stabbed during an altercation, along with the women's husbands, who had both died of injuries.

The victims were identified as 68-year-old Harry Reynolds of Lexington and Jacob Wurmlinger, 70, who resided at the Mortimer Line Road residence. Their wives were identified as Cynthia Reynolds, 67, and Doreen Wurmlinger, 64. Both women were transported to a Port Huron area hospital for treatment of serious injuries.

Investigators say the suspect and the victims are all related — Doreen Wurmlinger is Gould's mother and Jacob Wurmlinger was his step-father. Deputies broadcast a description of the suspect and a 2008 Jeep Compass that was missing from the residence.

At 7:43 a.m., Huron County deputies were dispatched to investigate a reported suspicious, highly intoxicated subject who had approached a homeowner for assistance, saying he had been involved in a car accident.

The homeowner was very suspicious of the suspect and became concerned when a knife dropped out of his pocket, according to Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson.

He reported the responding deputy

spotted the man across the street and ordered him to stop, but the suspect ran into a home. The deputy called for assistance and several other officers quickly arrived, and they located Gould hiding under a large bush.

A short time later, Hanson said, the officers learned Gould, who had no driver's license and was wanted in Florida on a probation violation charge, was also wanted in connection with the homicides earlier that morning in Sanilac County.

After his arrest, Gould complained and acted as if he was going to go into convulsion, Hanson said, adding the man was transported, under guard, to Huron Medical Center in Bad Axe for observation and possible treatment. He was later transported to the county jail.

Gould was arraigned Thursday in

Huron County District Court on charges of second degree home invasion, assaulting/resisting a police officer and operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

Hanson pointed out that the charges are separate from the charges Sanilac County authorities are seeking.

Sanilac County Sheriff Garry Biniecki said Monday that Sanilac County prosecutor's planned to formally arraign Gould Tuesday.



Gary Gould

## Rookie trustees' votes not enough to reverse decision

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

There were 2 new faces on the Cass City Board of Education Monday night as school officials hosted their first regular meeting of the new fiscal year.

But tension among the 100 or so residents who turned out for the session was a repeat of the board's June regular meeting, when the board narrowly voted to privatize the school district's custodial services, putting 6 employees out of work and prompting shouts of displeasure from the audience of some 60 residents.

The issue resurfaced Monday night with a request to add privatization of custodial services to the agenda, although it wasn't clear who made that request. At the end of the hour-long meeting, held in the middle school cafeteria, rookie Trustee Sloane Stimpfel made a motion to rescind the board's decision last month and look at other ways to reduce expenses.

"I'm not convinced we've explored all the ways to make cuts," said

Stimpfel, who indicated she also isn't convinced the district will save the amount of money by privatizing projected by school Supt. Ron Wilson.

Fellow Trustee David Osentoski, also attending his first meeting as a board member, seconded Stimpfel's motion. However, board President Doug Lautner, Vice President Craig Bellew and Trustee Jim Turner collectively rejected the motion with their "no" votes.

In the June vote to privatize custodial services, Bellew voted against the motion along with Trustee Randy Severance and former Trustee Danny Haag, while former Trustee Michelle Biddinger, Lautner, Turner and Trustee Jim Veneziano approved the decision.

Severance and Veneziano were not in attendance Monday night.

Bellew acknowledged what appeared to be a change of heart on his part after the meeting, but he said he based his latest vote on maintaining the integrity of the board and following through with its decision to privatize last month.

Please turn to page 9.

## Council okays TAAA payment Monday night

by Clarke Haire

Cass City did its share Monday to help keep the Thumb area skies friendly during the regular meeting of the village council.

On the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee, the council approved payment of \$9,618 to the Tuscola Area Airport Authority (TAAA) for its 2009-2010 year allocation. Committee spokesman, Jim Heiser, reported that they believe it is in Cass City's best interest to have a successful and financially healthy Airport Authority.

But before rubber stamping the TAAA allocation request, concerns regarding issues with the TAAA and the operation of the Caro facility by Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Don Richards were revealed.

After months of reviewing policies of the TAAA, Richards was the driving force behind recommendations that will be construed to the TAAA Board Members by local affiliates Carl Palmateer, village president, and Peter Cristiano, village manager.

Among the Budget and Finance Committee concerns are issues con-

Please turn to page 7.



## Murder in the Thumb...

**CASS CITY DENTIST Dr. Paul Chappel (right) visits with former Thumb area journalist Richard W. Carson, who was on hand at Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City last week to discuss his book, "Murder in the Thumb", which focuses on the investigation of the 1976 murder of a 17-year-old Caro girl, Robin Adams. Chappel, Adams' dentist, testified during legal proceedings related to the case, identifying the teen's dental X-rays in terms of when they were taken, what they showed and how, in his judgment, they compared with post-mortem X-rays. Library Director Kate VanAuken reported some 60 people attended Carson's book signing.**



# Calendar of Events

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

## Thursday, July 30

AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 872-4816.  
Music in the Park, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Rotary Park, Cass City.  
Summer Reading Program Picnic, noon, Lions Pavilion, Cass City Park. Enjoy food, games and prizes!

## Friday, July 31

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

Mobile Food Pantry, 5-6 p.m., First Baptist Church, 1535 Gilford Rd., Caro. Anyone in need is welcome. Please bring boxes/bags. For more information, call the church at (989) 673-3545 or Rick at (989) 912-0271.

## Sunday, August 2

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

Gagetown United Methodist Brunch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All you can eat. \$6 donation.

## Monday, August 3

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.

Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m.-noon, Faith Free Methodist Church, Snover (corner of M-19 & Deckerville Rd.). Ages: 3 years to 8th grade. For more information, call (810) 672-9242 or (810) 648-9615.  
Novesta Township Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.



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

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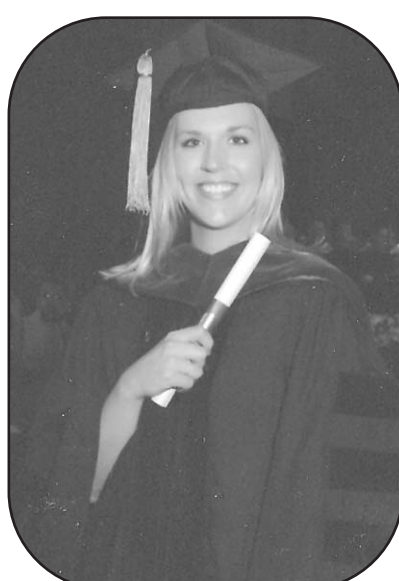
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9	8	2	3	1	7	4	6	5
6	5	4	9	8	2	3	7	1
8	9	1	2	4	5	7	3	6
7	6	5	1	9	3	8	4	2
4	2	3	8	7	6	5	1	9
5	4	6	7	2	9	1	8	3
2	7	8	5	3	1	6	9	4
3	1	9	4	6	8	2	5	7



Jennifer Marston

## J. Marston earns degree from CMU

Jennifer Marston recently graduated with a Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree from Central Michigan University.

She is the daughter of Gary and Betty Marston, and the granddaughter of Jim and Marie Brown, all of Snover, and the great-granddaughter of the late Glen and Jenny Churchill of Cass City.

## It's a girl!



Hugh and Claire Walker

Hugh Walker announces the birth of his sister, Claire Elizabeth Walker. Claire was born Dec. 10, 2008, at Covenant Hospital, Saginaw, to Ryan and Rebecca Walker of Cass City. She weighed 5 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Her grandparents are Bernard and Elizabeth Bishop of Mayville and Robert and Darlene Walker of Kingston.

## Summer Youth Theater scheduled Aug. 14-16 in Caro

Tickets are now on sale for the Thumb Area Center for the Arts (TACA) Summer Youth Theater production of "Holka Polka."

In this family-oriented show, Fairy-Tale land is in chaos. The prince has been put under a spell and no one will fess up, so magic may be taken away forever. It's up to a good witch named Brenda to save the day.

The show runs Friday through Sunday, Aug. 14-16, at the Thumb Area Center for the Arts, 102 Joy St., Caro. Tickets are \$4 for children 12 and under and \$6 for adults, and are available exclusively at Thumb Area Big Brothers Big Sisters, 129 E. Burnside St., Caro. The Friday and Saturday performances begin at 7 p.m., while the Sunday matinee begins at 2 p.m.

TACA is producing this play as a joint fundraiser with the Great Start Collaborative of Tuscola County Imagination Library.

For more information, call Jan at Thumb Area Big Brothers Big Sisters at (989) 673-6996, or visit TACA on the web at [www.tacfta.org](http://www.tacfta.org).

## It's a boy!



Johnathan and Enick

Big brother, Enick Osantowski, along with parents, Amy and Tadd Morris, announce the birth of their son, Johnathan Robert.

Johnathan was born June 3, 2009 at Littleton Hospital, Littleton, Colo. He weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.

His grandparents are Thomas and JoAnn Osantowski of Cass City, Robert and Mary Morris of Beulah, Colo., and Rich and Kathy Mann of Arvada, Colo. Great-grandparents are Johanna Piot of Hazel Park, John and Jean McKinley of Pueblo, Colo., and Margaret Bisbee of Beulah, Colo. His uncle is Tim Mann of Arvada, Colo.

Amy and her sons flew to Michigan so Johnathan could meet his aunt Laura Osantowski and cousin Christopher of Saginaw, uncle Lancer and aunt Melissa Gilliam of Valdosta, Ga., cousins Alex and Melanie, along with grandma and grandpa Osantowski. Uncle David Osantowski is currently in Iraq and cousin David is in Alaska. He will meet them later.

## It's a girl!



Breslyn DeLong

Joseph and Kayla DeLong of Ubyly announce the birth of their daughter, Breslyn Laurie.

Breslyn was born at 11:24 a.m., July 5, 2009 at Huron Medical Center, Bad Axe. She weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long.

Her grandparents are Robert and Kathy DeLong, the late Laurie McRae, Max and Irene Morrish, and Sandy and Bernie Wolny, all of Cass City. Great-grandparents are Laura and the late Ken McRae of Ubyly, Tom and Norajan Little, Roberta Darr and the late Brownie Morrish, all of Cass City, and Jean Moss of Mt. Pleasant. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Jean Boyl of Kingston.

## Hutchinson named to dean's list

Lee Hutchinson recently made the dean's list at Kettering University. Hutchinson is the leader of a trap and skeet club and is a fourth year student tutor.

He is the son of Brian Hutchinson of Cass City, and is scheduled to graduate this fall.

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## Holbrook Area News

Mrs. Thelma Jackson  
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Mrs. Harold Ballagh of Cass City, Mrs. Gerald Wills and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jackson visited Thelma Jackson Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Depcinski came home Sunday afternoon after spending four days with Mr. and Mrs. Rand Smith at Lucas, Ohio. While they were there, they had a family get-together Saturday.

Eleven members of the Traveling Breakfast Club met at the Peppermill in Bad Axe. They will meet at the Crossroads next week.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Myers of Indian River visited Thelma Jackson Sunday.

Mrs. Gerald Wills visited Mrs. Curtis Cleland Sunday.

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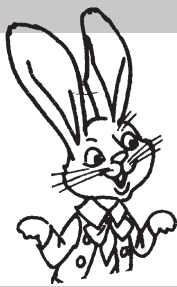
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## Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Tuscola County employees are big losers. Hopefully.

Undersheriff Glen Skrent reports that 65 county employees have signed up to participate in a 3-month "biggest loser" contest. Prizes will be awarded for the biggest weight loss or weight loss per body weight ratio. There will be several weigh-ins during the contest and those individuals adding pounds will pay a small fine.

The goal, says Skrent, is to reduce county health care costs, saving taxpayers dollars, and to help improve the overall health of the county employees.

\*\*\*\*\*

While I don't have any plans to share restaurant reviews like my dad did over the years, my experience Sunday at the Bay Café in downtown Caseville rated an 11 on the 1-10 scale.

Foremost, our breakfast fare was excellent, including the chocolate chip pancakes enjoyed by my 2 kids. I also noticed a first place trophy on display for the best tasting ribs in Caseville's recent town-wide "Ribstock" gala.

Still, it was owner Ron Bergman that put the eatery over the top.

When my credit card payment was denied, I was embarrassed as, without cash or check book, I had no way of paying my bill.

Ron came out to our table and put me at ease with a smile and his pleasant demeanor, asking that I just drop a check in the mail Monday.

\*\*\*\*\*

Turning to my credit card debacle. I've had this particular card for a number of years. Originally, it had a credit limit of about \$2,000 but over the years, without requesting it, the company raised my credit limit to \$11,500.

When I called the company Sunday night to see why it wasn't accepted, I was told that I had an outstanding balance of \$1,165 with a minimum payment of \$31 that was due on July 18.

Despite having over \$10,000 of available credit, I was then told I couldn't put my breakfast tab of \$22 on the card until the minimum payment was received.

I told them to cancel my card.

\*\*\*\*\*

According to the website www.michigan.gov, beginning June 1, 2009, travelers entering the U.S. from Canada must present an identity and citizenship document approved under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

Not true, reports Rochelle Brown.

Crossing the border at Port Huron earlier this month, her family was allowed back into the states without possession of the enhanced driver licenses that they applied for nearly 4 weeks ago.

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## 4-Hers inviting buyers to auction

The Tuscola County Fair Board and the 4-H Livestock Committees are inviting prospective buyers to the 2009 4-H Livestock Auctions.

The auctions will take place on Thursday, July 23, at the Tuscola County Fairgrounds in Caro. The Small Livestock Sale will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the Large Livestock Sale will begin immediately following, but not before 11 a.m.

Through participating in 4-H livestock projects; young people gain skills in raising, showing, and marketing livestock. In the process, they learn fundamental skills that last a lifetime, such as record keeping, responsibility, financial accountability and animal care. Not only are the young people of our communities taught the responsibility of caring for an animal, but they also get experience in the American free enterprise system and have an opportunity to benefit from their effort.

The 4-H Livestock Auction is the culmination of livestock members' efforts, when the animals they have raised are sold to the public. Each spring more than 100 Tuscola County youth (ages 9-19) select animals for participation in the auction. This auction is the highlight of the project for most participants and its success is entirely dependent upon the bidders.

The 4-H Livestock Auction is open to the general public. Animals can be purchased by businesses or by individuals; in fact, two or more individuals can also go together to purchase an animal by splitting the purchase price. Buyers who are not able to attend the auction can purchase an animal by authorizing another individual to bid on their behalf. You can set a limit on the amount you wish to spend and specify whose animal you wish to purchase; the 4-H office can assist you in finding a proxy bidder, if needed.

All prospective buyers must check in at the registration table, which opens at 8:30 a.m. Sale catalogs will be available at the registration table. Parking for bidders and buyers is available at the Michigan Sugar plant for the day of the sale. Gate passes are available upon request that will allow buyers to enter the grounds with ease

on sale day. As a potential buyer, it is a good idea to plan to arrive early enough to register, review the sale animals, and talk to the 4-H/FFA members and other buyers.

Buyers at the 4-H Livestock Auction purchase high quality meat and have the personal satisfaction of supporting 4-H youth in their "learn by doing" projects. All buyers also receive public recognition and a banner for display. Those who purchase champions get considerable advertising and publicity. You may even qualify for a tax deduction; consult a tax advisor.

Photos will be taken of all livestock at the sale. Buyers are welcome to be in the photo with the 4-H member and their project animal. Framed pictures will be given to each buyer for display. A complimentary meal will be provided for auction supporters at the Farm Bureau tent across the road from the sale pavilion.

The Tuscola County Farm Bureau will be sponsoring an informal luncheon of grilled bratwurst and hot dogs between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Buyers do not have to assume any responsibility for the animals they purchase. They have several options when determining what to do with the animals. One option is to have the animal processed for either personal consumption, as a bonus to employees, as a gift to customers, or for donation to a local food pantry. Buyers may also resell the animal at the local market price. Another option is to donate the animal back to 4-H with the proceeds going to support 4-H programs of the buyer's choice.

Buyers must close out their purchase at the auction, including specifying the packing company to be used for processing the meat; buyers must contact their packing company directly to provide processing instructions. This year, large livestock buyers will not be able to make changes after closing out the sale on Thursday, because United Producers auction staff will be working at other fairs on Friday and Saturday and Tuscola County livestock are shipped early Sunday morning.

More information is available by contacting MSU Extension at (989) 672-3870.

## 34th Thumb area tractor show set

Aug. 7, 8 and 9 are the days to be in Caro for the 34th annual Thumb Area Old Engine and Tractor Association Show.

Club members and exhibitors from throughout the state will be hauling in tractors, antique farm engines, and antique farm machinery to display at the fairgrounds. Many of the displays will be in operation to demonstrate what life on the farm was like before today's modern farm machinery took to the fields.

Displays will include equipment

being powered by antique farm engines, threshing wheat, baling straw with a stationary baler, cutting cedar shingles with a shingle mill, and each day there will be a parade of tractors.

For added displays this year, there will be planting equipment. Every crop on a farm has to be planted in one way or another, and organizers are looking forward to seeing how many different planters they can have on display. There will be planters that are hand operated, horse drawn, tractor mounted and a few modern day planters to show how technology has advanced through the years.

After viewing the many displays, visitors can browse the flea market, watch the chainsaw carving demonstrations, or sit back and enjoy a bowl of homemade ice cream while listening to live music. Denny Ewald and friends, Wayne Lapratt and family, and Bob Shafer will provide Friday and Saturday afternoon's music. Saturday there will be an auction of donated items at 4 p.m. and the proceeds will go to help pay for future shows. To keep the children occupied, there will be a pedal pull on Saturday and Sunday afternoon, and they can search for candy in the straw pile all 3 days.

As always, all exhibitors and all makes of tractors and engines are welcome at the show. There is no charge to display items, and everyone is welcome to bring items to the fairgrounds beginning Thursday, Aug. 6.

For visitors, show admission for adults is a \$4 donation to the Thumb Area Old Engine and Tractor Association, and children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult.

Additional information on the show is available by calling (989) 673-3430 or (989) 872-2549.

## Blood drives set

Upcoming blood drives in the Thumb include a drive at the Cass City VFW hall, 4533 Veterans Dr. The event is slated for Tuesday, Aug. 18, from 1 to 6:45 p.m.

Blood needs often increase during the summer when vacation travel and activities escalate the chance of serious accidents that may require life-saving or sustaining care. At the same time, blood supplies can dwindle as donors become busy with summer fun.

American Red Cross officials are asking eligible donors to make or keep appointments to give blood this summer to help maintain a stable blood supply for ongoing and emergency needs.



Everyone wants to save the family farm. Farm organizations, environmental groups, and people like me all want to save the homestead.

That's fine. Agriculture is the backbone of America, and anything that helps farmers benefits us all.

I do have a question, though: After we save the family farm, what are we going to do with it?

This may sound strange, but anyone who has purchased a family farm knows what I'm talking about. You can buy the land, and the cows, and all of the machinery, but where can you get the family to do the work?

I'm surely not going to crawl out of bed at 4 a.m. to milk 30 cows, slop the hogs, and drive a 1950 John Deere from dawn 'till dark. Anyone who thinks I am has been smoking the corn silks again.

That's the problem with our romantic concept of the family farm. It's a bit out of date.

I grew up on a farm, and I've seen things change. The farm was a wonderful place to live when I was a kid, but we didn't expect to have all of the things people now consider essential. The town kids thought we were rich because we lived in a big house. Just like we think today's farmers are rich because they drive a big tractor.

One of my brothers bought Dad's cows and machinery when I was in high school. He later bought the entire farm. I lit out for college at the first opportunity.

Over the years, my brother purchased and leased more land, maintained modern equipment, and insisted on making a decent living like the rest of us.

How's that for gratitude? We want him to preserve the place so the rest of us can hunt squirrels, but he goes and turns the whole thing into a business!

Farmers have been doing this all over the country. They have adopted technology and used their management ability to become larger and more efficient. Many have incorporated, like other businesses.

Some folks think farmers shouldn't be allowed these options. They believe farming more land turns these

places into "megafarms," and incorporation makes them "huge corporate farms," as described by television commentators and the national press.

That's baloney. Why should farmers have to milk the same 40 cows for the rest of their lives?

When I read about "The nation's largest farms" grossing over \$100,000 a year, I think of my own business — and remember that gross income is a long way from net.

All I have to maintain is a couple of computers. A farm of any size has expenses that would scare the rest of us to death.

If we plan to save all of those, we had better pack a lunch.

## Cherries

The U.S. cherry crop yields between 200 and 300 million pounds of tart cherries per year.

Approximately 94 percent of the cherries consumed in the United States are grown here.

There are about 7,000 cherries on an average cherry tree, with each tree capable of producing more than 100 pounds of fruit in a season.

There are 2 main types of tart cherries. The most commonly grown tart cherry in the United States is the Montmorency

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## Ask your neighbor

### Really would like to attend county fair

Are you excited about this year's Tuscola County Fair?

The 128th annual Tuscola County Fair is underway this week and area residents are taking full advantage of all the fun it offers.

The fair held at the fairgrounds in Caro, started on Sunday, July 26 and runs to this Saturday, Aug. 1. From carnival rides to the grandstand events, area residents will have plenty to do for only a \$10 admission price and kids who don't meet the ride height requirements will be admitted free.

On Thursday, there will be the annual 4-H and FFA Small Livestock Sale at 9:30 a.m., followed by the large livestock sale at 11 a.m. Children are invited to participate in a pedal pull near the Merchants Building at 4 p.m., there will also be motorcycle racing at 7 p.m., and a Re/Max New Image hot air balloon launch in front of the grandstands at 7 p.m.

Friday's festivities include a 4-H Cloverbud Learning Experience from 9 to 11 a.m. at the rabbit barn, and a 4-H livestock judging contest from 9 a.m. to noon. There will also be a light horse pull at 10 a.m. and other horse pulls throughout the day.

Championship rodeo action also returns to the fair Friday, starting at 7:30 p.m., and a second day of rodeo action is scheduled for Saturday, also at 7:30 p.m.

Janette Hull, of Decker, said she plans on attending the fair if she doesn't have to work at the Light-house Rehabilitation Center in Caro. "I'd like to go, but it depends on my work schedule," she said. "But I would really like to go...I like to go hang out with my friends and go to the grandstand events like the races and tractor pulls."

Sandra Deeg, of Bad Axe, said she also hopes to go to the Tuscola County Fair in Caro.

"I'm not sure if we will be able to make it, but I really want to go. I like seeing the animals," she said.

Similarly, Elena Rodriguez, 11, and 9-year-old twins, Izabel and Emelia Rodriguez, all of Bad Axe, said they like to go to the Tuscola County Fair, too.

"I love the rides," said Elena.

But the twins said they favor the games more.

"I love to play all the different games," Izabel said. Her sister, Emelia agreed and said she likes the games, too, because "they are cool."



Izabel, Elena & Emelia Rodriguez

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# Several face charges

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

•Russell L. Underwood, 37, Vassar, was sentenced to 180 days in the county jail (deferred) and 36 months probation for his plea of guilty to possession of a firearm by a felon Nov. 16 in Juniata Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to a jail term, he was ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$2,128.

•Edward M. Fisher, 42, Caro, was sentenced to 180 days in jail (160 days deferred) and 36 months probation for his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Jan. 31 in Indianfields Township.

He was also ordered to pay \$2,628 in costs and fines.

•Jeffery S. Sasser, 51, Mayville, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor and possession of a controlled substance June 24 in Vassar.

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

•Edward C. Bates, 37, Caro, stood mute to charges of possession of a stolen, false or counterfeit registration tab, driving without a license and driving without insurance March 28 in Caro.

A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled and bond was continued at \$2,000.

•Jimmie R. Rogers Jr., 53, Caro, was sentenced to 365 days in jail (180 days deferred) and 60 months probation for his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, April 18 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$3,128 plus restitution of \$95.

•Preston T. Berry, 20, Burton, pleaded guilty to carrying a concealed weapon May 6 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

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

•Dorrina L. Beaudry, 36, Center Line, pleaded guilty to forgery involving a \$1,400 check drawn on National City Bank July 17, 2008, in Arbel Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$2,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Cory K. Sanborn, 28, Reese, pleaded guilty to domestic violence March 1 in Denmark Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

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

•Jeremy L. Sharp, 27, Vassar, pleaded guilty to assaulting a police officer and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor April 5 in Vassar.

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

•Kenneth D. Schultz, 47, Vassar, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor May 22 in Vassar Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$10,000. Sentencing is to be set.

•Ralph C. Holbrook, 54, Lapeer, was sentenced to 270 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, Feb. 8 in Caro.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$4,628.

•Paul D. Fick, 69, Otter Lake, was sentenced to 365 days in jail (deferred) and 60 months probation for his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Dec. 18, 2004, in Vassar.

He was also ordered to pay \$5,628 in costs and fines.

•David C. Parker, 58, Bath, pleaded no contest to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor - causing serious injury May 30, 2008, in Vassar Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$10,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Lenard Konesko Jr., 40, Sanford, was sentenced to 365 days in jail (185 days deferred) and 36 months probation for his plea of guilty to possession of a firearm by a felon Nov. 21 in Elmwood Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$3,028.

•Matthew W. Parcham, 45, Vassar, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, March 28 in Vassar.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$2,000. Sentencing is to be set.

•William C. Leiner II, 27, Vassar, pleaded guilty to violating the Sex Offender Registration Act by failing to notify law enforcement of an address change within 10 days last October-November in Vassar Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$10,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Jeffrey T. Bellinger, 30, Vassar, pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm while under the influence of liquor, and no contest to domestic violence Dec. 24 in Vassar.

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

•Albert B. DeSander, 46, Millington, was sentenced to 180 days in jail (30 days deferred) and 60 months probation for his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, March 11 in Arbel Township.

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$3,668.



**CASS CITY HIGH School continues to undergo a facelift of sorts via bond dollars that are paying for a host of improvements, including new windows, new offices, a remodeled bus garage and renovation of the central kitchen facilities. School Supt. Ron Wilson said R.C. Hendrick & Son, Inc., Saginaw, which is overseeing the work, is on schedule to complete all projects by Aug. 21. Construction and renovation is also underway for Campbell Elementary and at the middle school.**

## Tuscola County teens charged in recent chase, thefts in Caro area

Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies say the arrest of a pair of Caro teens has enabled them to solve several recent crimes in the Caro area, including a number of motor vehicle break-ins.

Arraigned in the case are Kyle G. Roat, 18, and Tyler W. Love, 17.

Roat is charged with unlawfully driving away an automobile, home invasion, larceny in a building and 2 counts of conspiracy. Love is charged with unlawfully driving away an automobile, fleeing and eluding a police officer, home invasion, breaking and entering a motor vehicle, driving without a license, and 3 counts of conspiracy.

According to Undersheriff Glen Skrent, the arrests followed a car chase with the suspects July 21 when Sgt. Ryan Pierce and Deputy Doug Kinney attempted to stop a vehicle traveling with no lights along M-81 in Caro.

"The vehicle refused to stop and a chase began. The officers saw items being tossed from the vehicle, which later was found to be money," Skrent stated in a news release.

"The suspects ended up driving into a cornfield near Vangeisen and Unionville Road and fled on foot. A MSP tracking dog was called and eventually found clothing the suspects dropped, but the dog lost the

trail," he said. "A short time later, one suspect was caught walking on Gilford Road. He was arrested and lodged at the Tuscola County Jail. Evidence at the scene had linked him to the vehicle, which officers found had been stolen from a residence east of Caro. The money that was tossed from the stolen vehicle was found to be stolen from the same home that the vehicle was taken from. The keys had been left in the vehicle."

Skrent said subsequent investigation by detectives led to the arrest of the second suspect.

"Interviews with the suspects...have cleared up several other crimes, including car burglaries that happened in Caro," he added.

## EDC tally: 400 jobs kept or created in 2008-2009

Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) officials say the past year was an economically productive one for the county.

In his annual report to the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners, Tuscola County EDC Executive Director Jim McLoskey reported that nearly 400 jobs were retained and created with his agency's assistance during the 12-month period ending July 1.

The EDC was involved in helping to create 247 new jobs and helping to retain another 141 existing jobs, with a total of 32 major projects having a positive impact on virtually every part of Tuscola County.

"When broken down by the type of business, there are 15-service related businesses, 6 retail, 6 manufacturing and 2 agricultural processing businesses," McLoskey told commissioners. "Even though most of the activity was in the Caro, Cass City, Vassar, Mayville, Millington, Reese and Gagetown areas, the EDC Board feels all parts of the county benefit from these projects."

Compared to the previous year, McLoskey noted, the number of business-related projects tackled by the EDC was about the same, but the number of jobs created and retained increased.

Among the projects cited by McLoskey were the establishment of Excell Group call centers in Caro and Cass City, along with efforts involving Decker Equipment in Vassar, Northern Log Supply in Mayville, Vita Plus in Gagetown, and Rasmussen Trucking in Indianfields Township. He said his office provided free small business counseling services to all of the businesses in the areas of site location, gap financing, business planning, tax abatement and research.

In Cass City, the EDC's efforts helped to retain 22 jobs and create nearly 50 new jobs - most of them (40) at the new Excell Group call center in town.

Other local businesses impacted during the year were Ceramic Systems (8 jobs retained, 3 new jobs created), the LibraryBookShop.net (2 jobs retained and 2 new jobs created), Plain & Fancy Decorating (4 new jobs created) and Walbro Engine Management (12 jobs retained).

McLoskey told commissioners that 10 commercial and industrial properties in the county benefited from grant-funded environmental assessment work to help make the parcels more useable and productive. The Phase One and Phase 2 environmental assessments were provided at no cost to the property owners or the local units of government where the land is located. Cass City was on the receiving end of one of those grants for an assessment of property in the village's industrial park.

McLoskey closed by noting that EDC Board officers for the next year will be Dr. Doug Link as chairman, Don Beavers as vice chairman and Dave Gloer as treasurer.

More information about the services available through the Tuscola County EDC, established in 1982, is available by contacting McLoskey at (989) 673-2849.

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We've got cable, satellites and flat screens, we've got cell phones, we've got wi-fi and iPods. But there are a lot of things about the Cass City area that haven't changed a lot since the turn of the last century.

Like hospitality. Our willingness to lend a hand to a neighbor. And our work ethic. And we're frequently working on farms ... sometimes using methods that haven't changed in 150 years.

That often leads to some pretty serious injuries. Fortunately, we have the best modern technology to help treat them. We feature state-of-the-art ER services and the experienced people who provide them, including 24-hour board-certified physician coverage.

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# Roggenbuck: updated proposed maps of flood areas are coming

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is preparing to release preliminary maps of updated proposed flood prone areas in Tuscola County.

The new maps may change whether

a property is considered to be flood-prone, and therefore require additional insurance coverage to cover flood damage through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

“As a county commissioner I feel it

is important to make sure our residents and our local units of government are aware of such significant potential changes. I have watched the developments in Huron County and want the residents of Tuscola County and the local units of government to have as much time as possible to prepare for potential changes. It seems to me that our best opportunity for success is to be proactive and not reactive,” said Tuscola County District One Commissioner Amanda Roggenbuck.

Why would my local municipality join the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)? If your local municipality is not a member of NFIP and chooses not to join NFIP, your community and you, as a property owner, will be subject to sanctions from the federal government.

Those sanctions may include the following:

- \* Property owners are unable to purchase or renew flood insurance policies.

- \* Grants and loans for development under Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Environmental Protection Association (EPA), and the Small Business Administration (SBA) would be prohibited.

- \* Federal assistance would be prohibited for flood damaged buildings that could have been insured.

- \* Federal Mortgage Insurance or loan guarantees such as those granted by the Department of Veteran’s Affairs are prohibited.

- \* Banks and credit unions are permitted to make loans for these uninsured properties but may choose not to.

“It is important to make sure that our local units of government have an opportunity to study their options with regards to joining the NFIP. The more time they have to weigh their options the better opportunity they have to make the right decision for their residents,” Roggenbuck said.

Roggenbuck said she wants to make the residents and local units of government aware of these potential changes to allow people the most time to review the potential impact of a change in floodplain mapping.

For some property owners, this may result in additional financial burden. This determination is not something the county has input on or control over. The mapping is generated and controlled at the federal level. Residents will have an opportunity to weigh in on the proposed maps, but the date, time and location have not yet been provided to Tuscola County.

“I intend to stay active throughout this process and inform the residents and local units of government in District One as we are notified of the steps throughout the process,” said Roggenbuck.

Area residents can check [www.tuscolacounty.org](http://www.tuscolacounty.org) for updates as they are made available to the board of commissioners. Roggenbuck can also be reached at [aroggenbuck@tuscolacounty.org](mailto:aroggenbuck@tuscolacounty.org).

## Down Memory Lane

By Tina Pallas



### 5 YEARS AGO

Kelly Road resident Dick Szarapski is a lifelong gardener who enjoys reaping the fruits of his labor each year. His gardens are a healthy mix of vegetables and flowers. The secret, he says, is ensuring good topsoil fortified naturally with compost, occasionally applying lime and, of course, keeping the weeds in check.

Lloyd Marek celebrated his “35th” birthday with area resident Jane Hitler, who volunteered at Tendercare Wednesday to help residents celebrate all of the July birthdays. Marek is actually 75 years old, but as he ate cake and fooled around with the noise-maker, he said he felt 35 again.

Jaime Englehart continues to promote her upcoming concert at Davenport University as well as sales of her debut CD, *The Girl Next Door*, which came out July 3. The July 31 concert is sponsored by Foundation Records, who released her CD as well as music by Chilae, who will follow Englehart on stage.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Joe Delong sold his 112-pound Grand Champion Pen to McRae Farms of Cass City for \$3.25 a pound during Thursday’s Tuscola County Fair auction. Delong, son of Robert DeLong and the late Laurie McRae, is a member of the Cass City 4-H Livestock Club. He also sold his 132-pound Grand Champion Individual sheep during Thursday’s auction for \$4.00 a pound, \$100 of which he donated to the 4-H grounds’ bathroom and shower facility project.

Undefeated champion of the Caro Baseball Federation is the Cass City Thumb National Bank team coached by Rick Brinkman and Jim Turner. Team members are: Aaron Diegel, Nick Stoutenburg, Jeremy Schulz, Matt Stoutenburg, Jake Brinkman, Nick Turner, Chris Maharg, Jason Barrigar, Joe Lounsbury, Guthrie Laurie, Adam Talaski, Don Spencer and Sean Johnson.

The 19th annual Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All Star Football Game will be held this Saturday at Spartan Stadium on the Michigan State campus in East Lansing. The contest will feature 88 of the top 1999 high school graduates that are divided equally between 2 teams, the East All Stars and West All Stars. Nominees were selected from some 647 schools and approximately 547,300 students. Chosen to the East All Stars squad was Owen-Gage graduate Joel Bolzman. Bolzman led Owen-Gage to a 3-5 record in 1998 and was a unanimous selection on the

North Central Thumb League all-conference squad.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Shannon Roach, 12, showed her Holstein heifer at the Tuscola County Fair Tuesday. She is the daughter of Theron and Luana Roach of Gilford Road, Deford.

Brenda Battel’s three white Pekin ducks were judged grand champions in the market division Tuesday at the Tuscola County Fair. Age 10, she is the daughter of Mark and Diane Battel, Ritter Road, Cass City. She had the reserve champion ducks last year.

Steve Jackson, 11, won first prize at the bubble gum-blowing contest at the Clare’s Sunoco Saturday afternoon, part of sidewalk sale day’s kids’ games.

At the sidewalk sale day’s kids’ games Jenni Groombridge, 12, and Sonya Teller, 11, won the limbo contest on Friday for their age group.

Australian farmers farm during the winter and not during the summer. They grow crops common to American farmers such as wheat, oats and barley and such uncommon ones as lupine, triticale, cowpeas and bananas. Craig Kubacki of Munford Road, Ubyly, found that all out and more during five months spent Down Under. He completed his course work for a degree in agri-business and natural resources education at Michigan State University in the spring of 1983, worked on the family dairy farm, then departed for Australia last Oct. 1. Kubacki, 22, the son of Albert and Mary Kubacki, participated in a program offered by the International Agriculture Exchange Association for persons ages 18-28 with agricultural backgrounds.

### 35 YEARS AGO

What does someone who enjoys art but who admits he’s not an artist do to satisfy his needs? He becomes a collector and seller of art. That’s what Mike Holik, who was born and raised near Cass City and now lives in Caro, did. Holik’s specialty is velvet and the works he collects and sells as a sideline come from Juarez, Mexico. So far, Holik and his wife Jan have met with initial successes at sidewalk sales in Thumb villages. They estimate they have sold 75 canvases, which translate into between \$1,500 and \$2,000 worth of business.

Blessed with just right weather the crowds swarmed to Main Street in the village and merchants reported one of the best of summer sales. Especially pleased were the winners of the contests and the kids who found nickels buried in sawdust. Prizewinners in the water battle staged by McConkey Jewelry were Scott Murphy and Brad Hartel.

Seventy-five babies were entered in the baby contest sponsored by the Chamber and handled by Schneeberger’s. The winner, Pam Ross, four months’ old baby of Mr. and Mrs. John Ross of Cass City, was the grand prizewinner and received a baby crib from Schneeberger’s. Winners of competition in various age brackets were: Debbie Timmons, Georgina Langenburg, Billy Jack Ashbeeck and Kimberly Hodges. These divisional winners received a bedroom lamp from Schneeberger’s. In addition, three babies under three months received a walker from Schneeberger’s and every baby entered was awarded a gift from the Chamber. The walkers went to Lisa Peters, 2 days old; Lynette Smith, 9 days old, and Ophelia Garcia, 4 weeks old.

## Obituaries

### Paul Heckroth

Paul W. Heckroth, 88, of Deford, died Friday, July 24, 2009 in St. Mary’s Medical Center, Saginaw.

He was born Aug. 3, 1920 on the family farm in Unionville, the son of William R. and Amelia (Heck) Heckroth.

He married Donna Claire Webb in 1945 in Chicago. She died Nov. 3, 1995.

Paul was an organic crop farmer. He was one of the first to introduce soybeans to the area. Paul served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, serving on LST ships #387 and #137. He was a First Class Head Electrician. Paul’s ship was torpedoed during the war causing the death of many of his friends. After the service, Paul taught an electrical class in Chicago. He worked at the Defoe Shipyard in Bay City, then Active Homes in Marlette. Paul was very patriotic and loyal. He loved the USA and the military that protects it. In the last few years, he loved to get out of the house. Trips to Caro and Sandusky, visiting many area businesses, were a great treat for him. Paul enjoyed gardening.

Paul is survived by his children: Timothy A. (Vicky) Heckroth of Spencer, Iowa, Jan (Jeff) Tuckey of Cass City, Randall D. (Shelley) Heckroth of Caro, Karen (Matthew) Cooper of Wichita, Kan., Daniel (Heather) Heckroth of Sebawaing, Ronald T. (Raine) Heckroth of Clarkston, and Paula M. (John) Walker of Cass City; 23 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren, and a brother, Clayton “Bud” (Mary) Heckroth of Unionville.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Nancy Ann Stokes; a grandson, Christopher Heckroth, and a brother, Cletus Heckroth.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 28, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with Pastor David Cooper of Deford Community Church officiating.

Interment was in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Military honors were under the direction of the Cass City VFW Post #3644 and the U.S. Navy.

Memorials may be made to the Family Discretionary Fund.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

### Elmer G. Hoffman

Elmer G. Hoffman, 79, of Cass City, died Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at Brian’s House in Bay City following a brief illness.

He was born Sept. 24, 1929 in Brookfield Township, the son of the late William and Emma (Ruppert) Hoffman.

He married Marcia J. Abke April 28, 1956 in St. Paul Lutheran Church, Caro.

Elmer farmed in the Cass City, Gagetown area for many years. He was a maintenance aide for the Caro State Police post for 12 years and was deputy treasurer for Grant Township for 21 years. He was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City.

Elmer is survived by his wife, Marcia; a daughter, Gina (Larry) Smith of Pigeon; a son, Gordon (Susan) Hoffman of Sebawaing; 3 grandchildren: Kayla (Matthew) Livingston of Saginaw; Chad and Craig Smith of Pigeon; a sister, Mildred (Arthur) Priebe, Pigeon; his mother-in-law, Martha Abke of Unionville; a brother-in-law, Richard Abke of Unionville; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Mary Kay Hoffman; 2 sisters, Hannah Gardner and Alice Heiman; and a brother, Walter Hoffman.

Funeral services were held Friday, July 24, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City, with the Rev. Michael Boyer officiating.

Burial was in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Sebawaing.

Memorials may be made to Brian’s House or Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

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

### Jane Meredith

Jane A. Meredith, 66, of Snover, passed away peacefully Sunday, July 19, 2009 at her home in Evergreen Township.

She was born July 19, 1943 in Cass City, the daughter of the late Charles and Twila (Green) Biglow.

She married Alvin J. Meredith Aug. 30, 1959 in Caro.

Jane was a graduate of Cass City High School. She worked at Marlette Community Hospital as register ward clerk for 35 years, retiring in 2004. She enjoyed reading, knitting, crocheting, sewing, gardening, spending winter in Zephyrhills, Fla., and most of all, her family.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Alvin; a son, Ken (Shelly) Meredith of Snover; daughters: Kim (Dennis) Baer of Marlette and Kelly (Ron) Haag of Minden City; a sister, Linda (Larry) Sokol of Hope; and 9 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Twila Biglow.

Funeral services were held Friday, July 24, at the Marsh Funeral Chapel, Marlette, with Priest John Brinker officiating.

Burial was in the Johnson Cemetery, Snover.

Memorials may be donated to United Hospice Service.

Arrangements were made by Marsh Funeral Chapel, Marlette.

### Ray Surbrook

Ray Lewis Surbrook, 74, of Cass City, died unexpectedly Wednesday, July 22, 2009 in Cass City.

He was born Dec. 31, 1934 in Port Huron, the son of the Rev. Lewis and Edith (Kitchen) Surbrook.

Ray was a truck driver for Thumb Welding, retiring after over 30 years. He enjoyed coyote, rabbit and deer hunting and fishing. Ray attended Cass City Missionary Church. He was a very generous man. He truly loved and enjoyed his family.

Ray is survived by his daughters: Brenda (Terry) Betzold of Cass City, Suzanne (Steven) Perry of Inverness, Fla., and Leisha (Larry) O’Neal of Inverness, Fla.; grandchildren: Melissa (Thomas) Peet, Holly Perry, Stephanie Perry, Amanda O’Neil, and J.R. “L.J.” O’Neil; sisters: Evelyn (Wayne) Whittaker of Cass City, Sharyn (Ronald) Perry of Overland Park, Kan., and Eleanor (Earl) Dietzel of Caro; a brother: the Rev. Mark (Linda) Surbrook of Miltonvale, Kan., and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Rhonda Surbrook, and a sister, Lois Sugden.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 27, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with the Rev. Mark Surbrook of Miltonvale Wesleyan Church, Miltonvale, Kan., officiating.

Interment was in the Novesta Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Pallbearers for Mr. Surbrook were Dean Whittaker, David Dietzel, Lee Spencer, Greg Thane, Terry Tuckey and Fred Tuckey.

Memorials may be made to the Family Discretionary Fund.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

## Workshop for caregivers set in Caro Aug. 12

Chris Curtin and her staff from Healthcare RSA in Northwest Michigan will be in Caro Wednesday, Aug. 12, for a day of education, information and hands-on training for caregivers.

The morning session runs from 10 a.m. to noon and is entitled, “Helping People With Dementia With Activities of Daily Living.” Caregivers will learn about the changes in the brain that occur in someone with dementia, why behaviors occur, and how to create meaningful connections with their loved ones. Caregivers will learn skills and techniques for communicating and caring for individuals with cognitive loss.

The afternoon session begins after lunch and runs until 3 p.m. Entitled “Morning Care and Body Mechanics”, it will offer caregivers ideas and approaches for helping people with dementia get dressed, wheelchair use, moving people in and out of chairs, automobiles and beds. “Don’t break your back” is what most people like to call this session.

The sessions will take place at the Tuscola Tech Center on Cleaver Rd. in Caro. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m., with coffee and muffins, and time for caregivers to socialize. Lunch will be served at noon. Call the Human Development Commission at (989) 673-4121 or 1-800-843-6394 for register.

## Cass City Area Church Directory

**Calvary Bible Fellowship  
an Independent Baptist Church**  
4446 Ale St., Cass City, MI 48726  
989-872-4088  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Pray/Bible Study & Youth Group 7:00 p.m.  
Pastor - Chuck Carr  
Transportation available

**Cass City Church of Christ**  
6743 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726  
Contacts 872-2367 or 872-3136  
Worship Service Sunday 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study Sunday 10:00 a.m. & Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

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

**Cass City Missionary Church**  
4449 Koepfgen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726  
989-872-2729  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service & Youth Group 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m.  
Pastor - Bob Sweeney  
[www.casscitymc.org](http://www.casscitymc.org)

**Cass City United Methodist Church**  
5100 N. Cemetery Rd.,  
P.O. Box 125, Cass City, MI 48726  
872-3422  
Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
(Summer 9:30 a.m.)  
Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m.  
Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon)  
Pastor: Rev. Paul G. Donelson

**Evangelical Free Church of Cass City**  
6430 Chestnut Blvd., Cass City, MI 48726  
Phone: 872-5060  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Midweek Bible Studies  
Biblical Counseling  
Pastor: Rev. Todd R. Gould



**First Baptist Church**  
(Independent, Fundamental)  
Barrier Free  
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](http://www.fbccc.us)

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

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

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
6820 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726  
872-2770  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 a.m.  
Pastor: Gerald Meyer

**Living Word Worship Center**  
(Where the Word is Life)  
6536 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726  
872-4637  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
2nd & 4th Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. (Family Training Hour) 7:00 p.m.  
Pastor: Steve Totten

**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](http://www.novestachurch.org)

**Potter’s House  
Christian Fellowship Church**  
Corner of 6th and Leach, Cass City, MI 48726  
872-5186  
Thursday Evening 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Pastor: F. Robert Tucker

**St. Pancratius Catholic Church**  
4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726  
872-3336  
Saturday Liturgy 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Liturgy 9:00 a.m.  
Pastor: Father Steve Fillion

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Please join us today*



# 128th Annual Tuscola County Fair

## July 26-August 1, 2009

Schedule of Main Grand Stand Events only

For a full schedule of events, check out our website at [www.tuscolacountyfair.org](http://www.tuscolacountyfair.org)

Tuesday through Saturday: Pay one price \$10 daily - covers admission, parking, grandstand and rides. Children not meeting ride height requirements admitted free. No admission charge opening Sunday. \$3.00 admission on Monday. No carnival rides on Monday, but food vendors and games will be open! Midway rides open at Noon each day Tuesday through Saturday.

### July 26, SUNDAY NO CARNIVAL RIDES - ADMITTANCE FREE!

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Gospel Concert

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 4-H & Open Talent Show and Crowning of 4-H King & Queen

### July 27, MONDAY NO CARNIVAL RIDES - ADMITTANCE \$3.00

SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY (62 & OVER) & THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS - FREE UNTIL 6:00 P.M.

2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. Performance by: Fiddlers Restring (www.fiddlersrestring.com)

7:00 p.m. - M-T Pocket Pullers (www.mtpocketpullers.com)

### July 28, TUESDAY CARNIVAL OPENS AT NOON (www.skerbeck.com)

KIDS' DAY (14 & UNDER) \$2.00 DISCOUNT 'TIL 6 p.m.

Noon-6 p.m. Kids' Day Activity Tent located outside Merchants Building (Free T-shirts to first 800 kids in line with paid admission.)

7:30 p.m. - Demolition Derby/Scramble (No spectators allowed on infield)

### July 29, WEDNESDAY CARNIVAL OPENS AT NOON

7:30 p.m. - Pickup & Tractor Pulls

### July 30, THURSDAY CARNIVAL OPENS AT NOON

4:00 p.m. - Pedal Pull (open to all kids on the grounds) at pavement along Merchants Building.

7:00 p.m. - Motorcycle Racing (motorcycle time trials at 5:00 p.m.)

7:00 p.m. - Re/Max New Image Hot Air Balloon Launch in front of Grandstand - weather permitting.

### July 31, FRIDAY CARNIVAL OPENS AT NOON

10:00 a.m. - Light Horse Pull (wristbands only on infield)

1:30 p.m. - Heavy Horse Pull (wristbands only on infield)

7:00 p.m. - Championship Rodeo (www.superkickerrodeo.com)

### August 1, SATURDAY CARNIVAL OPEN FROM NOON UNTIL 11:00 P.M.


(www.skerbeck.com)

7:30 p.m. - Championship Rodeo (www.superkickerrodeo.com)

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# COME ONE, COME ALL





MATT LYNCH, Cass City, used a red and white Dare Devil spinner to land this 32” northern pike while fishing the Cass River recently in Tuscola County.



Wednesday Night 2-Man Golf League as of July 15

Division 1 - Early	
Davis/Tate	56
Hobbs/Meek	55
Hendrick/Kelly	55
Alexander/Spencer	55
Burns/Caister	52
Burns/Kritzman	52
Warner/Wallace	49
Young/Veggian	47
Craig/Knight	47
Berwick/Greenlee	45
Iwankovitsch/Stickle	45
Daniels/Wilson	44
Henn/Herron	43
Pobanz/Smithson	37
Jones/Marshall	36
Bliss/Irrer	33
Zdrojewski/Peters	22
Dillon/Tonti	19
Individual Medallist: D. Warner 34.	
Team Medallists: Hendrick/Kelly 85.	

Division 2 - Late	
deBeaubien/Lowe	66
Langley/Tamlyn	58
Hillaker/Murphy	54
Hool/Toner	53
Martin/Robinson	52
Bliss/Krol	50
Laurie/Lautner	49
Biddinger/Smith	39
Osentoski/D. Wallace	38
Hartel/Brown	37
LeValley/Morgan	32
Prieskorn/Repshinska	30
Doerr/Haire	29
Corey/Paul - Ulfig	29
Individual Medallist: E. Tamlyn 36.	
Team Medallists: Tamlyn/Bitzer 74.	

Monday Golf League as of July 20

Division 1	
Scott Richards	110
Craig Helwig	102

Chip Shots			
Richard Tate	102	Kelly 38	79
Daryl Iwankovitsch	98	David House	77
Don Ouvry	97	Keith Pobanz	72*
Mike Lowe	93	Division 3	
Dieter Roth	90	Terry Hendrick	133
Jon Zdrojewski	78	Dan Caister	120
Low gross score for the week: Craig Helwig 34		Thad Phelps	114
		Dan Curtis	95
		Bruce LaValley	91
		Larry Robinson	85
		Harold MacAlpine	80
		Dick Wallace	74
Division 2		Low gross score for the week: Dan Caister 43, Dick Wallace 43	
Ray Fox	121	Division 4	
Tom Kelly	114	Steve Palmer	120
Dave Allen	103	Josh Stern	118*
Dan Mosher	101	Paul Regnerus	108
Jim Smithson	99	Steve Osantoski	104
Jim Hobbs	88	Bob Stickle	92
Jim Peyer	87	Low gross score for the week: Tom Kelly 38	
Jack Hool	79		

\*Needs to make up matches.



We deliver the Cass City Chronicle to your mailing address or e-mail! Call (989) 872-2010 for more information!

Publisher's Point by Clarke Haire

In almost every dispute there are at least 2 versions of the event offered. That certainly holds true in the recent racially charged incident involving the Cambridge police and scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Gates, an African-American professor at Harvard University, was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge at his residence after James Crowley, a white officer, was summoned to investigate a possible break-in when a passerby called police, suspecting that 2 males were breaking and entering. The police state Gates initially refused to show identification and continued yelling at Crowley after being asked to step outside, where he eventually was handcuffed on his front porch.

Gates says he established his identity and noted he suffers from a severe case of bronchitis, which renders him incapable of yelling. The charges were later dropped by the Middlesex County district attorney's office.

Not surprisingly, the Reverend Al Sharpton called the incident "police abuse or racial profiling" both "outrages" and "unbelievable." He could be right, although Crowley is a decorated officer who once taught a course in "Racial Profiling" and his past actions suggest otherwise.

As a child, my parents did their best to make me aware of social biases. Never could we use any other word than "blacks" (politically correct in those days) when talking about African-American people. And despite having Polish ancestors myself, if I repeated a joke with reference to someone being a "Pollock" it meant big trouble for me.

What did catch me off guard was how quickly President Barack Obama responded to a local dispute and the words he used - "acted stupidly" - to describe the police actions after Gates proved the home in question was his.

One reason that Mr. Obama received my vote back in November was that he was very eloquent in his speeches, almost always saying the right things, in my opinion, with grace and style. I'm sure that's partly why his advisors have him addressing the nation on TV more than any other president that I can recall during his first few months in office.

Now, Mr. Obama has invited Mr. Gates and Mr. Crowley to his house for a beer to help defuse this issue.

It's a once in a lifetime offer for most people, but if it were extended to my family, I would prefer to have him refrain from calling the actions of others stupid. Versions of that word, just like forms of the words "shut-up" aren't allowed when directed at other people by my 8 and 11-year-old children.

Howard volleyball all-star

The 2008-09 All-State Senior All-Star Volleyball Classic will be held Friday, July 31, at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. Two semifinal matches will be played at 5:30 p.m., and the consolation and final matches are scheduled at approximately 7:30 p.m.

This tournament is put together to showcase the top senior volleyball players from across the state and give them the final opportunity to compete with and against the best. All seniors who were first, second or third Team

All-State, in classes A, B, C or D, or honorable mention Class A, were invited to participate. The coaches are those who led their teams to the quarterfinals or beyond in the 2008 Volleyball State Championships in each class.

Seventy athletes and 30 coaches have been invited to participate, and Carly Howard of Cass City High School has accepted the invitation and will play in the All-Star Classic.

Council okays payment

Continued from page one.

cerning the lack of a TAAA investment policy as required by PA 196 of 1997 and worries involving the long-term debt of the TAAA, in particular the interest rates on an installment purchase contract payable to a bank and to an excavating company currently at 6.25% and 8%, respectively.

Richards also believes that the TAAA should do a better job in its segregation of duties. He says that due to the limited number of staff, many critical duties are combined and given to the available staff, resulting in weakened internal controls due to the lack of segregation of duties. Richards suggests the TAAA put forth a concentrated effort to recruit additional members from other Tuscola County Communities and do a better job promoting the airport.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

At a cost not to exceed \$25,000, the council entered into an agreement with Scodeller Construction, Wixom, for street crack and joint filling work in 2009. The streets to be sealed included West, Leach, Ale and Pine at a cost of \$1.39 per pound, which includes material, labor and installation.

Council member Jenny Zawilinski said that Scodeller Construction has done excellent work for the village over the past 3 years and that the expense to extend the life of the village streets has remained unchanged from Scodeller Construction over that time period.

Also during the 40-minute meeting, the sale of a 2000 John Deere 911 lawn mower with a snow blower attachment and a 1986 Ford dump truck

were approved by the council after opening sealed bids on July 10th.

The council accepted the high bid from Steve Meeker, Green Thumb Hydroseeding LLC, of \$755 for the John Deere tractor and the high bid of \$3,105 from Bill Chipipi for the F-700 Ford truck.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Sam Moore, Parks and Recreation Director, met with the Cass City Lions Club recently and worked out the details to allow the village to start taking reservations for the use of the Lion's Pavilion in the Recreational Park. The new cost for use of the shelter is \$75 and the money earned will be used to develop a maintenance budget for the structure.

The agreement entered into allows the Lions Club preference on days of choice for using the pavillion free of charge and gives groups that have traditionally used the area first choice to those days of use.

OTHER BUSINESS

In routine matters, the council also:

- Was addressed by Rawson Memorial Library Director Kate VanAuken during the Citizen Forum. VanAuken asked for the council's support in voting for the renewal of 3.5 mills for 5 years.
- Received, approved and filed the minutes from the June meetings of the Downtown Development Authority and Economic Development Corporation.
- Accepted the financial statements ending June 30 with a cash balance of \$11,068,913.

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\* Prices are figured with GMS employee discount and figuring eligible cars credit of \$4,500. Both trade-in and new vehicles must qualify for the above programs. Prices are all plus tax, title and license fees.



# State budget crunch hitting bottom line at the county jail

by Patricia Emenpour  
Staff Writer

Declining sources of revenue from Lansing are impacting the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department's bottom line.

The department receives revenue based on ticket fines statewide. For every civil infraction, \$5 goes into a statewide pot, which is distributed to sheriff's departments.

However, according to Tuscola County Sheriff Lee Teschendorf, officials are seeing a 12-percent decrease, translating into the loss of roughly \$14,000 for Tuscola County.

In addition to the loss of revenue, the state's Diverted Felon Program has not reimbursed the county for housing felons who otherwise would have been sentenced to a state prison.

Under the Diverted Felon Program, also known as the County Jail Reimbursement Program (CJRP), a county is eligible for reimbursement for housing a convicted felon for an original sentence, or a violation of probation sentence.

The CJRP was established in January 1989 via Public Act 324 of 1988. A new public act has been enacted every year since then to authorize the continued reimbursement for felons meeting the program requirements. The current act that authorizes payment is Public Act 245 of 2008.

Under the statute, Teschendorf explained, the state pays the county \$43.50, which is capped by legislation, to house a felon in jail.

"If the circuit judge sentences them here, they come here even if the state isn't paying us," he said.

According to Teschendorf, the state did not pay the county last year for the month of September because the pool of money was exhausted. The county lost more than \$10,000.

This year, he said, the money was gone even sooner, and about 25 percent of the remaining fiscal year will not include reimbursement to the county.

"We still have to keep the felons here, even if the state doesn't pay us. We are losing about \$6,000 each month, so for the 3 months they won't pay us, we will lose around \$18,000," Teschendorf said.

Although any revenue from the Diverted Felon Program goes into a general fund, somewhere along the line, Teschendorf explained, the county jail will be affected.

"But we can't absorb the loss...we have standards and regulations to keep up with, even if we won't be making what we projected we would," he said.

Lieutenant Penny Turner said the Tuscola County jail always has an overflow of prisoners, and in order to meet state requirements, officials currently have 14 felons housed at the Huron County jail, along with another 30 or so who have been sent to other

counties because they were convicted of felonies there, too.

"For every felon we have to house out, it costs us \$35 a day and that does not include and medical and transportation cost," she said.

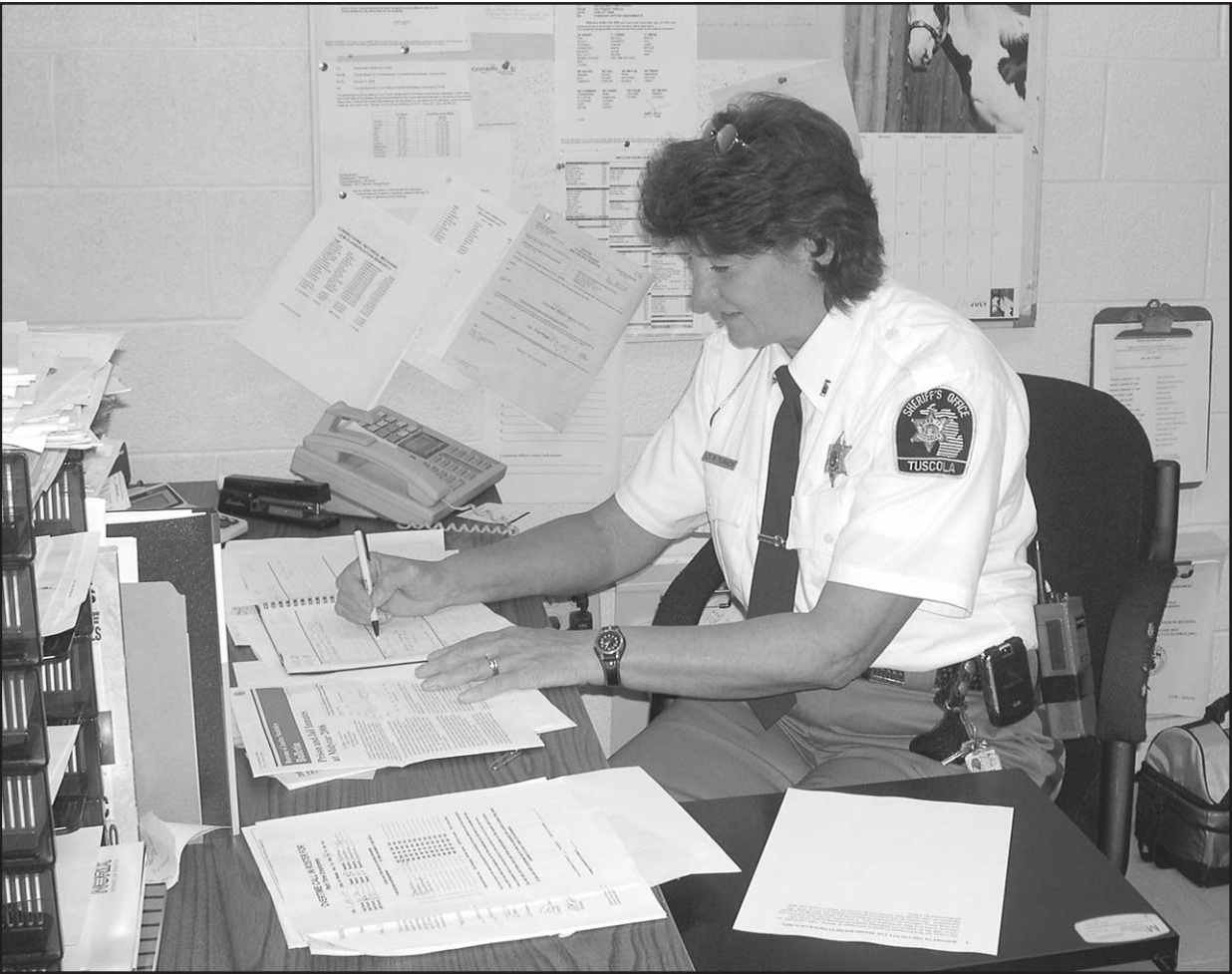
According to the Michigan Department of Corrections, all CJRP forms for the 2009 fiscal year must be received on or before Oct. 20. If sufficient funds are not available to process all FY 2009 requests, payments to counties will be made in the order in which requests for reimbursements are received along with any required documentation.

Teschendorf said the Tuscola County jail usually houses its maximum capacity of 80 and could use the revenue from the state.

"I don't know what they are going to do in the future, I would hope if the state has the money they would pay us. It is their obligation. But even if we don't receive any money, we will have to maintain them (felons) in jail. So, it is the judge's decision whether we continue to receive felons under the Diverted Felon Program."



**THE TUSCOLA COUNTY Jail, located at the sheriff's Department in Caro, has the capacity to house 80 individuals, but has faced chronic overcrowding over the years. When that happens, prisoners are transferred to the Huron County jail, costing Tuscola County \$35 per person a day.**



**LT. PENNY TURNER oversees the Tuscola County Jail, making sure all procedures are followed. Nearly 80 prisoners are housed in the county jail.**

## Audit: alcohol-related crashes down

The 2008 Michigan Drunk Driving Audit shows declines across the state in alcohol-related crashes, injury

crashes, injuries and overall arrests, but notes increases in crashes and deaths involving drugs.

Overall, fatalities resulting from alcohol and/or drug-related crashes decreased slightly from 381 in 2007 to 379 in 2008. However, traffic deaths involving drugs jumped 43 percent from 98 in 2007 to 140 in 2008. Some of this increase can be attributed to increased testing.

"A provision in Michigan's .08 BAC drunk driving law made driving with any trace of drugs such as heroin, marijuana or cocaine in a person's system illegal," said Colonel Peter C. Munoz, director of the Michigan State Police (MSP). "In response to that change, testing for these substances has increased."

The number of people injured in crashes involving alcohol and/or drugs also declined last year, dropping from 7,159 in 2007 to 6,248 in 2008.

The Drunk Driving Audit, an annual report issued by the MSP Criminal Justice Information Center, includes arrest activity by law enforcement agency for each county, as well as crash, injury and fatality information by county. The report is a collaborative effort between the MSP and the Michigan Department of State.

In 2008, 47,251 alcohol and drug-related driving arrests were made, a drop of more than 2,600 from 2007. More than three times as many men as women were arrested for impaired driving offenses, with 35,508 men arrested compared to 11,743 women.

## Letters to the Editor

### Support library millage

Once again, the time has come to vote to renew the millage for the Rawson Memorial District Library.

Yes, the economic times are tough, but that is all the more reason to vote "yes" for the renewal. Despite our state's economic turmoil, we must offer all the educational opportunities to our kids that we can in order to give them a step up on an uncertain future.

Rawson Memorial has, for many years, consistently offered programs to help develop the youth and young adults of our community for little to no cost. From the story hour that gets our young children enthralled with reading, to the book club for young adults that gives middle and high schoolers more opportunities to learn to analyze what they are reading, the Rawson programs are helping many develop a love for learning and preparing them for the future.

Our library is much more than a place to check out books. Aside from the numerous books, there are movie rentals, tapes, a computer lab, classes offered, story time, community movies, exciting programs, and affordable field trips for all. We believe that the taxpayers get a huge return on their investment in the library.

We have visited many libraries in various places around the country, and we unanimously and honestly agree that we have yet to visit one whose staff and services outshine

those of Rawson Memorial.

We are going to vote to keep our library running at the level we have enjoyed for so many years and we would like to encourage the rest of the community to do the same. Vote "yes" to the Rawson Memorial Library renewal!

The Kausch family  
Deford

### Article was a great tribute to John Haire

Dear Cass City Chronicle Editor, I just finished reading Clarke Haire's wonderful tribute to his father, John. I think it would be easy to say that many of us in the community could only hope to write such a loving and informative article about our own fathers.

I appreciate you for taking the time to open up your heart and share your memories of your dad, Clarke. I am sure your article made him proud!

Sincerely,

Barbie (Merchant) Tilt  
Cass City

### We all need to get involved

Obama was elected on "change" and we have gotten that. We definitely have gone from bad to worse in just six short months. People were upset with Bush's deficit, well our president has quadrupled the deficit in just the same six months.

When he was campaigning, he promised transparency. He said he would have a bill on the Internet for 5 days before he would sign it. Another lie! He cannot wait for anything. Apparently his motto is: Slip it through quickly before the public knows what has transpired. The stimulus package was rushed through. Next "cap and trade," 95 percent of the citizens have never heard of it even though it will cost the average home owner \$1,200 a year more for utilities.

Next comes nationalized health care. He wants it voted on before the government break Aug. 1. Again, what is the hurry? The bill is 1,118 pages long. Do you believe our Congress people have read the entire bill? No way! Are you aware Obama's health care plan will pay for abortions? It appears he already forgot about his promise to the Pope to reduce the abortions in our country. How quickly he forgets. In 2009, we should be educated enough to realize that it should be prevention - not abortion. I am Pro-life, and why should my tax dollars go for something that is morally wrong and against my principles? I resent that.

We need an insurance plan for the poor and the low income people. Perhaps free clinics could be the answer. For the middle class, catastrophic insurance would be affordable. The doctor and the patient should be making patient care decisions, not the government. Leave those of us who are insured alone.

Do you realize what a terrible job our government is doing with Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security? They keep warning about SS running out of money. Medicare keeps cutting, like things they will not pay for. In the stimulus package, the government sent checks to people who have been dead for years. Do you

want that kind of management of your healthcare? I do not. Anything the government can do - private industry can do better. If Obama continues, we will not have any private industry left. Just let the government run everything, socialism and then communism.

It is about time our government start operating like we run our homes. If we cannot afford it, we do without. When we were young and wanted something, my parents would say, "Do you think money grows on trees?" Apparently Obama does and he is taking our country toward socialism fast and what comes next but communism. When he was a Senator in Illinois, he never put one bill through on his own. One term in the Senate, and he knows the answer to our country's problem. Not so! I believe he is wrong, wrong, wrong!

I am not a politician. I am an independent. I am tired of our great country going to hell and Obama is taking a direct path. We Michigianians have 2 of the most liberal senators in Washington and both are Democrats. I would like both parties to work together and forget the party label. We need you, our citizens, to write, call, or email our senators, voicing your opinions.

The only way evil or wrong can triumph, is because good people do nothing. Wake up before it is too late.

Then there is unemployment. Obama said "if" the stimulus package didn't pass unemployment would rise from 7.2 percent to 9 percent by 2010. Here we are late July 2009 and unemployment is already 10.1 percent, and forecasted to remain high through 2011. It has already topped 10 percent in 16 states and in Michigan 15 percent. Looks like the stimulus package did not help. Incidentally, my fellow Americans, are you aware the states that voted for Obama compared to McCain's states got double stimulus money. Obviously, Obama does not have all the answers and how could he, a one-term senator. Now it is on-the-job training at taxpayer expense.

We ALL need to know what is happening with our country. We need to get involved and take our country back. As I remember, it is supposed to be a government of the people, by the people, for the people just as our forefathers intended. What has happened?

Thank you,

Ginna Gentner  
Cass City

### What goes around still comes around

Dear John,

First, let me apologize for the fancy stationary. It's the most readily available.

Imagine my surprise when I opened my Chronicle and found a second paper addressed to: Parsons, Martha, Prescott, AZ.

I put a note on it and put it back in the mailbox. Imagine my further surprise when I read "Rabbit Tracks" and found your note about picking up 2 papers.

I guess, what goes around comes back around, and yes, I did notify the editor.

I moved here in November 2005 and still enjoy reading about old friends and neighbors. I'm sure Martha Parsons does, too.

Pat Gee  
Tucson, Ariz.

#### Letters to the Editor

*The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor.*

*Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. The latter 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.*

## YOU CAN BE A LIFESAVER!

Congratulations to these donors who reached significant milestones at our last Blood Drive:  
• Bill Kirk - 10 gallon Pin  
• Judith McQueen - 8 gallon Pin  
• Michael Holik - 5 gallon Pin  
• Michelle Mossner - 1 gallon Pin  
The Caro Community Hospital Auxiliary thanks you for your incredible support!



Give Blood at the next CCH Auxiliary Blood Drive...

Thursday, July 30, Noon - 6 PM

at the Caro United Methodist Church.

Drop-ins welcome, or call 673-6641 to schedule.

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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.

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 Greg L. Ashmore and Karen M. Ashmore, husband and wife, original mortgagors, to Oxford Bank Mortgage Services, LLC, Mortgagee, dated March 21, 2003, and recorded on April 28, 2003 in Liber 928 on Page 255, and assigned by said Mortgagee to National City Mortgage Co. 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 Fifty-Six Thousand Fifteen and 36/100 Dollars (\$256,015.36), 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 August 20, 2009.

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

Part of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 35, Town 11 North, Range 8 East, Vassar Township, Tuscola County, Michigan, described as beginning at a point on the North line of Section 35 which is North 89 degrees 46 minutes 42 seconds East 300.00 feet from the North 1/4 corner of said Section 35; thence continuing along said North line North 89 degrees 46 minutes 42 seconds East 347.75 feet to a 1/16 line; thence along said 1/16 line South 90 degrees 09 minutes 46 seconds East 1329.36 feet to the North, East and West 1/8 line; thence along said 1/8 line South 89 degrees 45 minutes 23 seconds West 649.41 feet to the North and South 1/4 line of said Section 35; thence along said 1/4 line North 00 degrees 06 minutes 28 seconds West 966.61 feet to a point which is South 00 degrees 05 minutes 28 seconds East 363.00 feet from said North 1/4 corner of Section 35; thence North 89 degrees 46 minutes 42 seconds East 300.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 05 minutes 28 seconds West 363.00 feet to said North line of Section 35 and the place 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: July 22, 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 #275136F01

7-22-4

NOTICE PURSUANT TO MCL 600.3205a(4)

NOTICE is hereby provided to Wesley F. Taylor and Lisa M. Taylor, the borrowers and/or mortgagors (hereinafter "Borrower") regarding the property located at: 4221 Birch Ln., Vassar, MI 48768-9279.

The Borrower has the right to request a meeting with the mortgage holder or mortgage servicer. The agent designated by the Mortgage Servicer and/or Mortgage Holder to contact and that has authority to make agreements under MCL sections 600.3205b and 600.3205c is: Trott & Trott, P.C., 31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2525 at (248) 593-1313.

The Borrower may contact a housing counselor by visiting the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's website or by calling the Michigan State Housing Development Authority at http://www.michigan.gov/mshda or at (866) 946-7432.

If the Borrower requests a meeting with the agent designated above by contacting an approved housing counselor within 14 days from July 24, 2009, foreclosure proceedings will not be commenced until 90 days after July 24, 2009.

If the Borrower and the agent designated above reach an agreement to modify the mortgage loan, the mortgage will not be foreclosed if the Borrower abides by the terms of the agreement.

The Borrower has the right to contact an attorney. The telephone number of the State Bar of Michigan's Lawyer Referral Service is (800) 968-0738.

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

Date: July 29, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL: FC F (248) 593-1313  
Trott & Trott, P.C.  
Attorneys for Servicer and/or Mortgage Holder  
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2525  
File # 276334F01

7-29-1

The Want Ads Are Newsy Too!

CLASSIFIEDS

Real Estate For Sale

FOR SALE - 20 acres, mostly wooded. Excellent hunting. Severance Road east of Englehart. \$129,000. Ask for Eric, 989-551-4871. 3-7-29-tf

Real Estate For Rent

OWENDALE AREA - Large lot. Appliances included. \$400/month plus deposit. Call 989-872-2858 after 5 p.m. 4-7-22-6

2-BEDROOM DOWN-STAIRS apartment - All utilities except heat. Stove, refrigerator, AC. Next to grocery and hospital. Ideal for older person. Call 872-3315, ask for Bud. 4-7-15-tf

1-BEDROOM APARTMENT - All utilities except heat. Refrigerator, stove. \$249/month. Call 872-3315, ask for Bud. 4-7-15-tf

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

UPSTAIRS - 1-bedroom apartment one mile from town, \$450/month, includes heat, electric & TV. \$300 deposit with references. 872-1837. 4-6-24-tf

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

UPPER 2-BEDROOM - Freshly painted & new carpet. Located near downtown. Rent \$425/month plus deposit. Call for information, 872-4654 after 6 p.m. 4-7-1-tf

FOR RENT - 1-bedroom, no steps, central air. In Caro town. Very modern, new paint, new carpet, new vinyl flooring. Very energy efficient. \$410 negotiable. 989-488-4487. 4-7-22-3

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

2-BEDROOM UPSTAIRS apartment - Close to downtown. \$375/month plus security deposit. Includes electric, sewer, water and garbage pickup. No pets. 989-872-3363. 4-7-1-tf

UPSTAIRS 1-BEDROOM apartment - Electric, water, sewer, garbage included. 872-8373. 4-7-29-3

3-BEDROOM APARTMENT with appliances - \$400/month plus deposit. Water, sewer and garbage included. 872-8373, leave message. 4-7-29-3

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**1951 Kingston Rd, Deford**  
(3 miles north of Kingston - Corner of Bevens & Kingston roads)



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**Help Wanted**

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**Help Wanted**

to Thumb Volunteer Alliance, Attn: Becky Brown, c/o Human Development Commission, 429 Montague Avenue, Caro, MI 48723, or by email to becky@hdc-caro.org. Deadline is 5 p.m., Aug. 14, 2009. 11-7-29-2

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**PRICE REDUCED**

Beautiful 1998 custom built Ranch setting on 23 acres +/- mostly tillable. This home has approximately 1,700 sq. ft. of living space plus a semi-finished walk-out basement. Kitchen has oak cabinets, main floor laundry, french doors to raised deck, living room has vaulted ceilings. Attached 24'x25' fully finished garage. 18'x20' pole barn construction built in 2003. Isabella County, Fremont Twp. Occupancy at closing. Q-129

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This beautiful 2,400 sq. ft. home located in Port Austin comes on a large lot within walking distance to downtown and the beach. What more could you ask for except maybe built-in bookcases, an open floor plan, a garden shed with dry sink, a screened-in 10'x14' back porch and a fenced in garden. Yes, this home has all that plus much, much more. It's move in ready! You've just got to see this one to appreciate all it has to offer. Priced way under. CA-42

**NEW**

Here's another handyman's special. A 3 bedroom home with basement that could use a little work, but with this special comes a great 40'x84' shed with 220 electric and 1/3 cement floor for the handyman or woman. It also includes two more outbuildings. Great price. OW-177

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**PRICE REDUCED!**

**Updated and newer addition in the past 5 years.** This home has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, full basement, 2 car garage, a fenced lot and is close to downtown. Move in condition. TCC1557

**Location, Location, Location -** Yes, this turn of the century home features over 3,000 sq. ft. of living space, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, formal dining room, living room, fireplace, country kitchen plus a lot more - updated throughout. On close to 3 acres. CY2577

**HAVE IT ALL!!** This 3 bedroom home has 2 baths and central air. For all your toys there is a 32'x40' pole building with concrete and electric. You also get 5 acres with woods only 1/4 mile from state land. Call today! MH974





## On with the show...

RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY recently hosted a magic show in conjunction with its Summer Reading Program. The magician, Gordon Russ, entertained a large group of young children from around Cass City. Before the show began, the children were able to decorate "Pick Me" signs, in hopes of being picked to be one of the magician's volunteers. "It was a lot of fun," said Sanvayn Cuthrell, 7, of Cass City (right) who was one of 3 children chosen to assist Russ with his different comical tricks. Russ performs his "Fun Comedy Magic" show around the state at different schools, libraries and parties.

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## Library millage vote set Aug. 4

Continued from page one.

added. "The Mel databases are also facing this cut. Mel databases are a huge resource among all libraries, especially (for those patrons) in the academic and medical fields. K-12 schools also rely on these databases." VanAuken said the Cass City library may also have to put an end to providing state and federal tax forms to residents in the community. "Libraries do more than just have forms available at the door for patrons," she noted. "The staff spends lots of hours helping patrons find the right forms, finding the directions and how to fill them out, etc."

"We have (also) helped patrons to

use the unemployment website to file unemployment claims. Due to our high speed Internet, patrons use the library computers (because) dial-up access at home is too slow," VanAuken continued. "We all know how much libraries were used during the winter when patrons couldn't get into the 5 phone lines that unemployment had available for so many people. We may not be able to do this in the future."

"There are many more services such as job searching for patrons who are without work, teen programs keeping teens off the street and out of the court systems, summer reading programs promoting the Michigan Education Trust, Michigan Education Savings

Program and the Library of Michigan Foundation," she said.

"Libraries are busier now more than ever," VanAuken added. "It has been an issue all over the United States and on national news. This is why local support is so important."

Rawson Memorial District Library is open 60 hours a week and boasts a collection of more than 30,000 materials.

In 2008 alone, patrons checked out a whopping 58,141 items and borrowed nearly 2,400 items from other libraries via the inter-library loan program. Residents also used the library's 11 public computers 14,228 times to access the Internet or for word processing.

## MI-SBTDC helps Westover open processing plant in Caro

The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC) recently announced the opening of Westover Wild Wings Poultry Processing in Caro. Westover Wild Wings Poultry Processing is a full-service, year-round poultry processing business serving area residents, hobby farmers, organic poultry growers and other conscientious-poultry growers/consumers in the Thumb Area, Tri-Cities, Flint and all of Michigan.

"Last fall we decided to begin the process of opening the business after discovering our poultry processor was retiring and the nearest processor was over 50 miles away," said Ann Westover, owner of Westover Wild Wings Poultry Processing.

Westover Wild Wings Poultry Processing owners, Ann and Shane Westover, had been customers of The Cluck Stops Here in Kingston, which was managed and operated by David and Jeanette Kratz for more than 25 years. Ann worked part-time with the Kratz's last fall to learn the "how to's" of poultry processing.

"I wanted to ensure I maintained the Kratz's quality of processing and customer service," said Westover. "What better way to do that than to work side-by-side the expert."

As Westover learned the trade, she was also busy working behind the scenes with the MI-SBTDC on the development of her business plan and marketing strategy. She needed to purchase the equipment from the Kratz's and build a facility on her property; as well as, get approval from the Tuscola County Health Department, Michigan Department of Agricultural and the United States Department of Agricultural (USDA).

Taking a business idea from concept to reality can be overwhelming, especially when you're working full time. Westover would assist the Kratz's with poultry processing in the morning, and then head off to her day job as a car salesman all the while squeezing in time to work with her local MI-SBTDC Certified Business consultant, Kris C. McArdle. Together, Westover and McArdle walked through the steps of business planning, which included obtaining market research, searching for a business loan, and developing an effective, yet affordable marketing campaign.

"We worked together for 10 months before she opened the doors to the business," said McArdle. "The process wasn't always easy and there were times we'd take 5 steps forward and then go 2 steps back."

Westover was grateful for having the assistance of the MI-SBTDC. "Having Kris as a business coach gave me the extra confidence I needed to overcome the hurdles in business planning which arise without notice," said Westover. "She was always there for me whether I needed support in resolving an issue or simply a positive outlook on a matter at hand."

"I'm proud of Ann and glad to have helped her defy the odds and overcome the obstacles to achieve her dream of business ownership," continued McArdle. It's very rewarding to work with such a passionate, driven entrepreneur."

Westover Wild Wings Poultry Processing is located just 3 1/2 miles west of Caro at 3198 W. Gilford Road, between Unionville and Sheridan roads.

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