



CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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FIFTY CENTS

20 PAGES

O-G approaches funds cautiously

The Owen-Gage School District could cash in on some federal "Race to the Top" funding, but school officials are approaching the idea with caution.

School Supt. Dana Compton updated board of education members on the program during a rescheduled monthly meeting Monday night.

Board members discussed what Compton described as pitfalls in participating in the program, and reviewed a letter from the district's law firm on the topic. Compton said the district has prepared a "memorandum of understanding" — a guarantee to state of Michigan officials regarding Owen-Gage's interest — in participating, but officials want to be certain they can back out should they decide the funding is going to be more trouble than it's worth.

"Our share of that (money) would be just under \$20,000, but the bottom line is, there are a lot of hoops that are included in this project, so it could be a little dicey to do it, and then there are restrictions on how you can use it," he said.

Compton recommended that the

board wait until to January to make a final decision.

The \$4.35 billion Race to the Top fund is the largest-ever federal competitive investment in school reform, according to the U.S. Department of Education, which plans to reward states for past accomplishments in education and create incentives for future improvements utilizing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.

The competitive grants, officials say, will be used to challenge states to create comprehensive strategies for addressing 4 central areas of reform targeting school improvement.

They are: adopting internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace; recruiting, developing, retaining and rewarding effective teachers and principals; building data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve; and turning around the lowest-performing schools.

In other business Monday, the board

Please turn to back page.

Record \$20.67 million awarded in Tuscola Co.

A Tuscola County Circuit Court jury verdict has resulted in a record \$20,675,913 award to Laethem Equipment Company (LEC) of Caro, Laethem Farm Services Co. (LFSC) of Fairgrove and Canusa Equipment Company of Caro.

The award stems from a verdict handed down in circuit court last month following a 6-day trial, when a jury of 3 women and 4 men, after deliberating for 90 minutes, awarded more than \$4 million to LEC, some \$1.25 million to LFSC and \$14,284 to Canusa Equipment Company against J & D Implement Inc., an Ohio corporation, for conversion of their property.

According to a news release issued Monday, Tuscola County Circuit Court Judge Patrick R. Joslyn last week signed a judgment tripling those

awards, respectively, to the amounts of \$12,170,757 for LEC, \$3,752,361 for LFSC and \$42,852 for Canusa.

Under the law, when a person is damaged because of someone stealing, embezzling or converting property, they can recover 3 times the actual damages and are also entitled to costs and reasonable attorney fees in an amount determined by the judge, the news release states.

Please turn to back page.



SATURDAY WAS "pack day" for the Cass City Rotary Club's annual Christmas for Kids project, which served a record 400 needy children this year. Among the volunteers helping out at the project headquarters, Curtis Chrysler in Cass City, were (from left) Bert Althaver, Pat Curtis, Colleen Langenburg, Susan Walsh, Andy Gray and Gray's daughter, Kalee, 6.

Christmas for Kids serves 400 this year

The holidays can fly by fast when you're trying to tackle the monumental task of ensuring a merry Christmas for dozens of youngsters.

Just ask Pat Curtis, who along with his fellow Cass City Rotary Club members have spent the past few weeks organizing their 11th annual Christmas for Kids campaign, collecting donations, cash contributions, shopping for gifts and, of course, sorting and packing items for each family on their list.

"It went by fast," Curtis acknowledged Friday, a day before club members were slated to gather at the campaign's headquarters, Curtis Chrysler in Cass City, to pack gifts. Families were scheduled to pick up their packages Monday.

Not surprisingly, this year's effort proved to be a tall order, with so many families struggling financially.

The Rotary Club served a record number of families, and Curtis, who headed up the effort along with Colleen Langenburg and Matt Priesskorn, described the campaign as another resounding success.

Please turn to page 10.

2009-10 campaign on track

U-W distributes 62 baskets Saturday

While Cass City Rotary Club members were packing Christmas gifts for some 400 children in the Cass City School District Saturday, United Way of Tuscola County officials were just a few blocks away, doing their part to lend a hand to needy families this holiday season.

According to United Way of Tuscola County Director of Operations Jim Heiser, Cass City, officials were able to distribute 62 Christmas baskets from a storage barn located behind Erla's Food Center. He noted that a handful of Erla's employees assisted with the distributions.

"In addition, United Way of Tuscola County will be making donations to various food banks throughout the county in January," he noted, adding Bank of America provided a generous \$5,000 grant for the Christmas basket program, and the funding left over from that effort will go to the food

banks.

Heiser indicated this year's annual United Way Campaign, which was kicked off in October, is going well so far.

"The goal for the 2009 mail-in campaign is \$10,000. Last year's campaign is \$10,000. Last year's campaign is \$10,000. Last year's campaign is \$10,000.

Please turn to page 10.



EIGHTH GRADE student Katie Hacker assists Olivia Graff in picking out gifts for family members during the Santa's Workshop at Cass City Middle School last week. The event is a fundraiser that benefits the annual Cass City Public Schools' 8th Grade Trip to Washington, D.C.

Planning well underway for annual 8th grade D.C. trip

Planning for the Cass City Schools' 14th annual 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. is in full swing.

"This trip includes aspects of history studied in the 8th grade in preparation for the history curriculum at the high school," explained organizer Linda Bailey.

"(It's an) opportunity to see first hand our country's past and will hopefully give students the knowledge they will need later in life. This is an educational opportunity and as many experiences as possible will be packed into our day. This is not a 'family vacation' trip, but rather the 'I'm here to gather as much as I can in 4 days' trip. Lots of sleep, keeping on schedule, and walking shoes are key."

The trip was the combined idea of Bailey and the late Kally Maharg - the result of both educators' desire to mesh historical literature and U.S. History curriculums.

The goal, according to Bailey, is to provide a "hands on" experience in addition to the learned curriculums. The sites visited reflect, expand, or

expose the students to those specific areas studied in the social studies curriculum through 8th grade. The emphasis is on the historical side of the area rather than the political or law-making aspects of government, which is addressed at the high school level.

"Monthly parent/student meetings are held to keep parents informed and to plan fund-raising. Each meeting agendas are given with information on one or more sites that will be visited," Bailey said. "It is the hope that a scrapbook can be started before the trip so students and adults will be familiar with the sites they will see. For example, who is FDR; what is Iwa Jima; what is the Peterson House known for; what is the name of the lady statue on top of the capital?"

"Also visited are the Smithsonian Complex, Holocaust Museum and a medieval dinner theater where everyone cheers and eats with their hands," she added. "An itinerary with websites is available for anyone wanting more information."

Since the inception of the trip, more than 700 students and adults have

made the trek to the nation's Capital.

"With walking 3 to 5 miles daily, history is made real, as well as the opportunity to experience other areas of theater, aesthetics and camaraderie for all involved," Bailey noted. "Most of the monuments and many museums are visited along with other points of interest and history."

"One of the newest highlights we've been privileged to participate in is the laying of the wreath at Arlington. Students are given an opportunity to write an essay to be chosen as one of 4 to present the wreath. Our date for 2010 is June 13. The tour company is Son Tours which provide the wreath and all itinerary planning and scheduling, along with all liability insurances. They have allowed us to do our own bookkeeping, which is better for our families."

The first leg of the annual trip will be the Gettysburg Battlefield and surrounding area.

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Inside This Week

•HDC planning "Seniorize" classes for older adults Page 2

•Caro woman charged in stabbing, facing mental examination in Ypsilanti Page 4

•Cass City Middle School band students shine at area MSBOA festival Page 5

•Cass City student holiday artwork, Santa letters galore Section 2 - Pages 1-7, 10

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

~Hills & Dales Urgent Care
989-912-6114

~Ubyly Medical Clinic
989-658-9191

~Cass City General Surgery
989-872-5582

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

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

~Cass City Medical Clinic
989-872-8202

~Thumb Pediatrics
989-872-8503

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

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CASS CITY MIDDLE School band students who recently brought home medals from the MSBOA District 3 Solo and Ensemble Festival are: (front row, from left) Rebecca Graff, Katie House, Daymon Tabako, (middle row, left) Sam Bootz, Erika Martin, Libby Venema, Kara Reif, (back row, left) Rachel Patera, Elisabeth Milligan, Kristin Ewald and Audrey VanAuken.

At MSBOA festival

Local band students shine

A small group of Cass City Middle School students brought home several honors during a recent Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA), District 3, Middle School Solo and Ensemble Festival at North Branch High School.

"Students (had) the option of performing solos or small ensembles or a collection of both kinds of events," explained Cass City Director of Bands Jonelle Lull. "All of the (students) that were entered ended up coming home with a medal."

The students and their honors were:

- Elisabeth Milligan, piano solo and baritone saxophone solo, Division I rating (the highest mark possible).
- Sam Bootz, clarinet solo, Division I rating.
- Rachel Patera, piano solo, Division II rating.
- Libby Venema, alto saxophone solo, Division II rating.
- Rebecca Graff, trumpet solo, Division II rating.
- Erika Martin, clarinet solo, Division II rating.
- Sam Bootz and Daymon Tabako, clarinet/bass clarinet duet, Division II rating.
- Libby Venema and Katie House, saxophone duet, Division II rating.
- Katie House, Libby Venema, Erika Martin and Daymon Tabako, wood-

wind quartet, Division II rating.

*Kristin Ewald, Audrey VanAuken, Kara Reif and Elisabeth Milligan, saxophone quartet, Division II rating.

Assistance is only phone call away in county

Did you know that Sanilac County residents have a toll free number to call for health and human services assistance?

This number, 1-888-580-5437, is available for residents to get information on services such as rent and utility assistance, food, counseling, clothing, shelter, health care needs, substance abuse services, support groups, child care, housing and more. They can also call the line if they would like to volunteer or donate items.

This service would not be possible without the support of the United Way of Sanilac County. The 2009 campaign is in desperate need of your help.

If you support the Kids' Connection, donate to the United Way. You can send your donation to 217 E. Sanilac Ave, Suite 2, Attn: United Way, Sandusky, MI 48471. You can also donate online at www.unitedwaysanilac.org.

Down Memory Lane

By Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO

Cass City chalked up win number 4 this season with a one-sided victory over the Mayville Wildcats, 72-38. Chris Landrith opened the scoring with a hoop and Justin Glaza followed with a trey. Cass City bounced out to a 5-0 lead in the first 4 minutes of the game and was not threatened the rest of the way.

The Cass City Village Council didn't waste any time dealing with the challenge of finding a new village manager following Frank Sheridan's resignation early last week. And, it appears that Sheridan's replacement will be a familiar face, bringing many years of village government experience on board. Council members, meeting in special session Friday afternoon, voted 6-1 to enter into negotiations to hire Sandusky City Manager and former Cass City Village Manager Lou LaPonsie as Cass City's interim manager.

The Cass City School Board decided it will send a letter of congratulations to Unionville-Sebewaing School for winning the Division 7 state football championship at its regular monthly meeting Monday at the school.

Army Pfc. Rebecca S. Rumpitz has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. Rumpitz is the daughter of Linda Rumpitz of Ugly. She is a 2004 graduate of Ugly High School.

won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee Dec. 15 and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship. The school-level bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the twelfth annual National Geographic Bee. The local bee was held under the direction of Connie Baranski and Joe Candela. The following students were runners-up: first - Heidi Scott, second - Tim Kain. The bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

his feet in a tub of hot water, enjoying his milk and cookies. "We really love Christmas. This is one way we can say Merry Christmas to everyone," he said.

35 YEARS AGO

Jack McCampbell, 41, recalled that he was working one day in Gagetown and noticed a high number of cars speeding through town. Knowing the village relied on police patrol from the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police, McCampbell offhandedly mentioned he would be interested in police work in Gagetown. "The next thing I knew, one of the council members picked up the idea and by June 1 I was on the job," the soft-spoken, compassionate McCampbell said. Compassion. That's a major part of how Jack McCampbell handles his job. "I believe laws are made to benefit man, not man to benefit the law," he said, reflecting on how he views police work. "You have to be understanding on the job. You have to be flexible."

25 YEARS AGO

Laura Vandiver and her father, Todd Vandiver, Unionville, were visitors at Santa's house in Cass City Friday night. The two-year-old girl told Santa that she, like so many other children this year, wanted a Cabbage Patch doll for Christmas.

For many people, a Christmas tradition is a visit to grandma's house for the Dec. 25 feast, or caroling through the neighborhood on Christmas Eve. For the Mike Bigelow family, one of the Christmas traditions that has been passed on to him is the large decorative scene in the front yard of his Cass City home at the corner of Pine and Woodland Streets. Bigelow explained that his father, Dr. M.C. Bigelow, Flushing, developed the holiday scene in 1952 or '53. It was given to him about four years ago. Santa and his eight reindeer are en route to a small house complete with a glass of milk and cookies. Inside the house, Bigelow has a microphone connected to a loudspeaker in Santa so that he can talk to the children visiting the display. "I would have just loved to live around here when they called Cass City Christmas town. I don't feel it (his display) is anything compared to what they had in the past," he said about the elaborate displays that Cass City residents used to have. On Christmas Day, Santa will be taken from his sleigh, and placed in the display house with

Nine years ago, Mrs. John Wright of North Greenland Road thought she'd give decorative painting a try. She knew she had some talent but until then hadn't really seen what she could do. Today she's turning out a wide variety of hand-painted jewelry, that seems to keep bringing customers back for more. Mrs. Wright, a Cass City native, creates a world of color and expression on the smallest porcelain plaques and can create a winter scene, complete with a covered bridge, in no more than an inch of space.

Facts about chestnuts

Chestnuts are one of more than 200 commodities grown on a commercial basis in Michigan.

Campaign Management Academy slated Jan. 23

Are you running for public office or contemplating a run in the future? Could you use some pointers on how to improve your campaign and stand apart from other candidates? Or are you a campaign staff who wants to be a strong driving force behind your campaign's victory?

If so, Tuscola County GOP's Campaign Management Academy is for you. Class will be held Jan. 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Akron Municipal Building.

Led by past candidates and current elected officials, the workshop is non-partisan and open to candidates running - or considering running - for local, county or state-elected office, as well as their spouses and campaign managers. The purpose of the school is to help community leaders as well as current and potential candidates who are interested in running for public office execute a successful political campaign. The school is open to anyone interested in seeking public office, regardless of whether they are a first-time candidate or veteran office holder.

"This campaign school is perfect for anyone running for their local school board, city council, county commission, even a state level office," said Tuscola County District One Commissioner Amanda Roggenbuck. "I've attended many campaign academies and found them very beneficial to me and my campaign. We have many elected officials and members who wanted to share their collective knowledge with others."

The Campaign Management Academy is comprehensive and offers hands-on training with issues such as deciding to run, media coverage, selecting a campaign theme and key issues, identifying and targeting voters, campaign structure, volunteer recruitment and coordination, budget preparation and fund raising.

In addition, participants will also receive discounts on photography and printed materials for use in their campaign. As an extra benefit to Tuscola County GOP members or individuals who sign up to be Tuscola GOP members at the time they enroll in the workshop, is a web page presence on the worldwide web.

To allow for individual attention and involvement, the seminar will be limited to 20 students.

Pre-registration is required by Jan. 15. Register online at www.ThumbGOP.org. Questions may be directed to Roggenbuck at amanda@voteroggenbuck.com or (989) 872-8881.

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(corner of M-53 & Bay City Forestville Road)

Cass City Area Church Directory

<p>Calvary Bible Fellowship an Independent Baptist Church 4446 Ale St., Cass City, MI 48726 989-872-4088 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Pray/Bible Study & Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Pastor - Chuck Carr Transportation available</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Living Word Worship Center <i>(Where the Word is Life)</i> 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</p>
<p>Cass City Church of Christ 6743 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726 Contacts 872-2367 or 872-3136 Worship Service Sunday 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Bible Study Sunday 10:00 a.m. & Wednesday 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>First Baptist Church <i>(Independent, Fundamental)</i> 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 Thursday Teen Club 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Pastor: David G. Hill Website: www.fbccc.us</p>	<p>Novesta Church of Christ 2896 N. Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 872-3658 or 872-1195 Bible School 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Youth Group & Sunday Evening Services 6:00 p.m. Ministers: Brad Gniewek & Brad Speirs Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org</p>
<p>Cass City Church of the Nazarene 6538 Third St., Cass City, MI 48726 872-2604 or (989) 912-2077 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Wed. Prayer & Bible Study & Children's Activities 6:00 p.m. Rev. Judy A. Esckilsen</p>	<p>First Presbyterian Church 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</p>	<p>Potter's House Christian Fellowship Church Corner of 6th and Leach, Cass City, MI 48726 872-5186 Thursday Evening 7:00 p.m. Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. Pastor: F. Robert Tucker</p>
<p>Cass City Missionary Church 4449 Koepfgen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 989-872-2729 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service & Youth Group 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m. Pastor - Bob Sweeney www.casscitymc.org</p>	<p>Fraser Presbyterian Church 3006 Huron Line Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 872-5400 Sunday School - Sept.-May 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Pastor: Dave Blackburn</p>	<p>St. Pancratius Catholic Church 4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726 872-3336 Saturday Liturgy 4:00 p.m. Sunday Liturgy 9:00 a.m. Pastoral Administrator: Sr. Maria Dina Puddu MC</p>
<p>Cass City United Methodist Church 5100 N. Cemetery Rd., P.O. Box 125, Cass City, MI 48726 872-3422 Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Summer 9:30 a.m.) Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m. Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon) Pastor: Rev. Paul G. Donelson</p>	<p>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 6820 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726 872-2770 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Michael Boyer</p>	<p>Visitors always welcomed Please join us today</p>

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Hawks still winless at holiday break

For a while Friday, it appeared the Cass City girls' basketball team would enter the Christmas break on a positive note.

Instead, host Marlette used a big second half to deny the Red Hawks' their maiden win on the season. With the 48-31 setback, Cass City will end the year winless in 6 tries.

In the early going, the visitors used the inside punch of Logan Rowell and the outside threat of Megan Parrish to gain control.

Rowell scored on a trio of shots in the paint and Parrish connected on 2 long treys to help put the Red Hawks in front, 15-10, at the end of the initial quarter.

Both teams' offenses struggled in the frame before the break, but solo field goals by Parrish and Haley Peters had Cass City clinging to a 20-17 advantage at the halfway point.

From there, however, it was all Marlette and more precisely, Amara Wilson.

Wilson scored 17 of her game-high 22 points in the final half, 9 in the third quarter where the hosts went on a 19-4 spurt to take a 12-point spread into the final 8 minutes.

Wilson continued her antics in the final period, adding 8 points, and was the only Red Raider to score from the floor down the wire. However, Cass City, hampered by 33 turnovers on the night, was held to a pair of baskets by Becca Leslie and one from McKensie Parrish in the last frame.

For Cass City, which shot 11-for-40 from the floor in defeat, Megan Parrish had a team-high 9 points. Rowell

added 6 blocks for the Red Hawks.

HARBOR BEACH

On Wednesday, Cass City had 9 steals and 7 assists, but was guilty of 30 turnovers while bowing to visiting Harbor Beach, 43-24, in non-conference play.

The Pirates, 3-1 overall, jumped out to a 14-4 lead after one quarter of action and then coasted to 28-8 at the intermission.

Trailing 31-14 entering the final quarter, Cass City was outscored 12-10 to the final whistle.

McKensie Parrish led Cass City with 12 points on 5-of-14 shooting, while no other Red Hawk finished with more than 4 tallies.

Samantha Essenmacher had a game-high 14 markers to pace Harbor Beach.

CASS CITY - Varney 6-1 (0-1) 15; Brown 1-0 (0-0) 2; Mulrath 3-0 (0-2) 6; Dunnuck 5-0 (1-2) 11; Ketterer 4-1 (0-2) 11; Rubey 1-0 (0-0) 2; Erla 4-0 (0-0) 8.
TOTALS - 24-2 (1-7) 55.

MARLETTE - Lange 0-0 (2-4) 2; Armstrong 7-3 (2-5) 25; Thomas 3-0 (2-2) 8; King 1-0 (3-4) 5; Polshuk 2-0 (0-0) 4; Moore 1-0 (0-0) 2; Hall 6-0 (0-0) 12.
TOTALS - 20-3 (9-15) 58.

CASS CITY - Martin 2-0 (0-0) 4; Parrish 5-0 (2-2) 12; Clifton 1-0 (0-0) 2; Hendrick 1-0 (0-2) 2; Rowell 2-0 (0-0) 4.
TOTALS - 11-0 (2-4) 24.

HARBOR BEACH - Grekowitz 1-0 (2-2) 4; T. Kraft 2-0 (1-2) 5; Cooper 3-0 (0-0) 6; Wilson 4-1 (3-7) 14; Essenmacher 0-1 (1-2) 4; S. Kraft 1-0 (0-0) 2; Woyechoski 3-0 (2-3) 8.
TOTALS - 14-2 (9-16) 43.



HALEY PETERS and her Cass City teammates faced heavy defensive pressure against Harbor Beach and were held to a season low 24 points.

University plates are great gifts

Have a big Spartan, Wolverine, Chippewa, or Bronco sports fan, or a proud alum of any of Michigan's public universities in your family? Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land suggests buying a university fundraising license plate as a unique gift.

"University plates are a great way to support higher education, while showing pride in your favorite Michigan university," Land said. "Surprise your loved one with a gift they'll be proud to show off for years to come." People can buy a plate at a Secretary of State office for a spouse or family member if they live at the same address.

For more information about license plate buying and personalizing options, and office hours and locations, visit www.Michigan.gov/sos.

Cass City drops pair in crossover battles

Cass City dug itself a hole against visiting Marlette Thursday in the opening half that would result in the Red Raider's first win of the season, 58-55.

Both teams had trouble finding the basket in the early stages of the non-conference contest, and with 6 minutes removed from the clock, the Red Hawks trailed 10-2.

The Red Raiders would extend their advantage to 34-23 by halftime as Mike Armstrong consistently drove down the lane for easy scores throughout the opening half when he tallied a dozen of his game-high 25 points.

Still, Cass City was able to close to within 4 points of the Red Raiders, 16-12, following a steal and lay-in by Alex Varney, but it was Red Hawk center Cameron Dunnuck that was directing the hosts' attack before the break.

Dunnuck, who opened the scoring for Cass City in each quarter of the half, recorded a pair of pretty assists in the initial frame on passes from the high post to Morgan Erla under the basket, and to Varney as he cut down the lane.

But after a basket from Nick Brown, the Red Raiders went on a 10-2 run highlighted by Kyle Hall's work on the boards and back-to-back hoops from Armstrong to gain a double-digit margin entering the final half.

Cass City outscored its guests 17-12 to start the final half, when consecutive field goals from Erla had the hosts within a solo marker at 41-40.

The Red Hawks then turned up their defensive pressure in the final 8 minutes to gain their first advantage, 51-50, on a pair of baskets off turnovers that led to easy lay-ins for Varney and Justin Ketterer.

With 2:51 remaining on the clock, the 2 teams would trade leads 5 times before Armstrong nailed his third trey, with a hand in his face, for a 57-55 edge with 26 seconds left in regulation.

Forced to foul, Cass City actually had 2 chances to send the game into overtime as Brandon King split a pair at the stripe that preceded 2 misses at the line by sophomore Kolby Lange.

Lange's misses left 11 seconds for Cass City to get off shot to extend the game, but following a timeout by Coach Jim Green, the hosts weren't able to get a clean look at the basket, and Ketterer's shot from well behind the 3-point arc was off the mark, spoiling the hosts' late comeback attempt.

Although Marlette struggled from the line in the closing seconds, they made good on 9 of 15 tosses on the night, while the Red Hawks made just one of 7 freebies.

For Cass City, Varney recorded 15 points while Dunnuck and Ketterer split 22 markers.

Hall joined Armstrong as a double-digit performer for Marlette and chipped in 12 markers.

HARBOR BEACH

Cass City traveled to Harbor Beach Tuesday and suffered a 51-32 beating in a Greater Thumb Conference crossover tilt.

The Pirates, 3-0 overall, grabbed a 19-8 first quarter margin that they extended to 24-12 after 2.

The Red Hawks' offensive woes continued after the break as the host were able to double the score, 36-18, entering the final 8 minutes en route to the lopsided victory in non-conference play.

Jacob Murawski recorded game scoring honors for the winners, finishing with 17 points, while Justin Braun added 14.

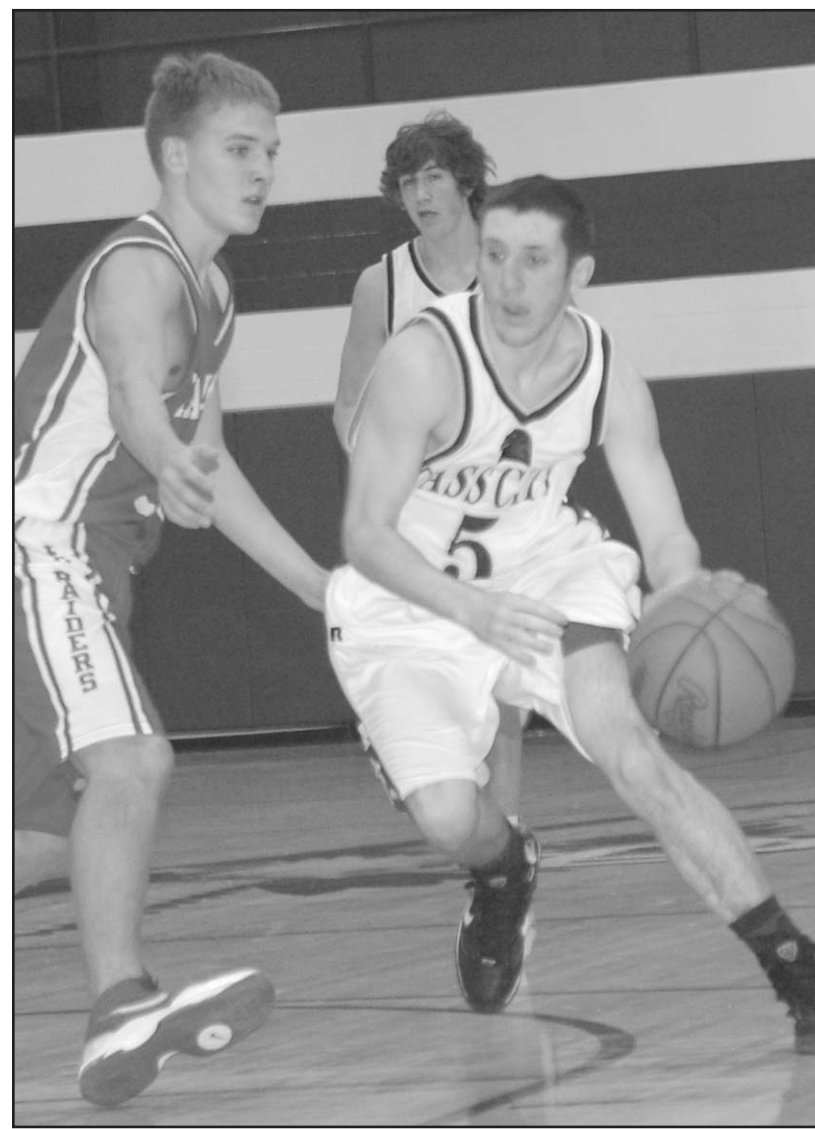
Varney was Cass City's top scorer with just 7 points.

CASS CITY - Megan Parrish 1-2 (1-2) 9; Martin 0-0 (1-2) 1; McKensie Parrish 3-0 (0-0) 6; Peters 1-0 (1-3) 3; Leslie 2-0 (0-0) 4; Rowell 4-0 (0-0) 8.
TOTALS - 11-2 (3-7) 31.

MARLETTE - Spinks 0-0 (2-2) 2; Odoerfer 0-0 (2-2) 2; McEwen 1-0 (0-3) 2; A. Wilson 10-0 (2-4) 22; Dobbelaere 1-0 (1-4) 3; K. Wilson 2-0 (0-0) 4; J. Hirsch 3-0 (2-4) 8; Baize 1-0 (3-5) 5.
TOTALS - 18-0 (12-24) 48.





CASS CITY - Phillips 1-0 (0-0) 2; Varney 3-0 (1-2) 7; Brown 2-0 (0-0) 4; Mulrath 3-0 (0-0) 6; Dunnuck 1-0 (0-0) 2; Ketterer 3-0 (0-0) 6; Rubey 1-0 (0-0) 2; Erla 0-0 (3-4) 3.
TOTALS - 14-0 (4-6) 32.

HARBOR BEACH - Grekowitz 2-0 (0-0) 4; Sorenson 2-0 (0-0) 4; Ginter 2-1 (0-0) 7; Booms 1-0 (1-1) 3; Delpiere 0-0 (0-1) 0; Murawski 7-1 (0-0) 17; Braun 5-0 (4-5) 14; Klaski 1-0 (0-0) 2.
TOTALS - 20-2 (5-7) 51.



CASS CITY'S Jeff Mulrath penetrates the lane using the dribble in non-conference play against visiting Marlette. The Red Raiders escaped with an exciting a 58-55 win.

Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

Varsity Basketball Pick Results	 Clark Haire Last Week's Results 21-6 Season's Results 40-14 (74%)	 Tom Montgomery 17-10 35-19 (65%)
Varsity Basketball Pick Results	 Tina Pallas Last Week's Results 17-10 Season's Results 38-16 (70%)	 Chris Hyatt 14-13 30-24 (56%)

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sided loft. CT-865

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CY2605



UNITED WAY OF Tuscola County officials, assisted by some Erla's Food Center employees in Cass City, distributed more than 60 food baskets Saturday morning in conjunction with the United Way's annual Christmas Basket Program. Pictured above are (front row, from left) Erla's employees Greg Wills, Michelle McMahon and Rob Robinson, and United Way representatives Dawn Prieskorn, (back row, left), Jim Heiser and Shelli Pohold.

U-W distributes 62 baskets

Continued from page one. VG's in Caro is our newest payroll deduction partner, and the employees there have pledged a total of \$882. Tuscola County Medical Care Facility employees have increased their donations by over 39 percent and now pledge over \$2,300 for the year. In all, the United Way of Tuscola County allocated \$59,956 at its April 2009 board meeting, according to Heiser. "Checks for 50 percent of the allocation were mailed on April 9, and the

remaining 50 percent was presented at the annual kick-off breakfast on Sept. 17 at the Tuscola Technology Center," he said. "United Way of Tuscola County is also helping families cover prescription costs by providing the FamilyWize Drug Discount Cards. This card could lower the cost of medications by an average of 35 percent. United Way of Tuscola County is providing these cards free of charge," Heiser pointed out. "There are no age restrictions, no income restrictions, no limit on how many times you can use it and no waiting period to receive the card."

"People with Internet access can go to www.familywize.org to print a card, look up drug prices, and get a list of participating pharmacies," he added. "Those organizations wishing to maintain a supply of the cards for distribution can contact United Way of Tuscola County at (989) 325-1980." Heiser extended an invitation to anyone in the county interested in serving on the United Way board. "Board members are especially needed from Millington, Vassar, Reese and other areas throughout the county," he said. "Officers will be elected for a period of one year at our annual January board of directors meeting."

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Planning well underway for D.C. trip

Continued from page one. "Students will travel, by coach, through the battleground with a guide explaining important aspects of the battle, generals and 'plans' of attack that worked and failed," Bailey said. "Students get out frequently and walk in the footsteps of those past, and when in the cemetery are taken to the burial area of the Michigan units and names are read. The spots of Lincoln's address and ceremony at the gravesites are also visited. When downtown, the students are shown the remnants of damage to buildings made recognizable by the bronze plaques by the door. The next 3 days are spent in Washington, D.C. There are 43 participants planning to attend the upcoming trip, leaving slots for just 6 more. The trip is all inclusive of food, travel, accommodations and entrance fees to events. "There are many fundraising activities that have been made available so students and families can choose which suit them the best. Other ideas for sponsorship for students are also provided. The annual magazine sales starting at fifth grade provide students the opportunity to begin their trip fund and add to it cumulatively for 3

more years," Bailey said. "Students collected bottles in November and worked with a company for home goods sales in December, and recently hosted the annual Secret Santa's Workshop, the brain child of Deb Montgomery. All fundraising activity is designed to be service oriented to the public. This organization has support given by many local and outlying businesses and individuals who donate privately. It is the intention that our students are able to earn the bulk of the trip through the opportunities available. Sadly, Mrs. Maharg was not able to participate in these trips, but by establishing a scholarship in her name, has made this trip possible to many students," Bailey continued. In addition to Bailey, there are two other key staff members that help to make the trip a reality. They are Laura Schinnerer, who handles all of the accounting and distribution of payments and compilation of fund raising money, along with supervision and planning; and Jon Zdrojewski, who is responsible for all student announcements, information, Red Hawk card sales, and supervision and planning. "The middle school office staff —

Brenda Sherman and Kathy Milligan — along with the entire district has made contributions of one form or another in bookkeeping, donations, supervision, announcements, fund-raising, participation and emotional support," Bailey pointed out, adding organizers also appreciate "the huge support group of positive parents that participate and add their help in many ways.

Christmas for Kids serves 400 children

Continued from page one. "It went well. I think we're right around 130 families when it's all sorted out," he said, noting the club was able to serve roughly 400 children this year. "I think everybody got clothes and toys, so it should be a good Christmas for them. "The club has been great about supporting this, and the community does a great job of helping the club," Curtis added.

O-G looking at funding cautiously

Continued from page one. discussed its commitment to work with the Huron Intermediate School District to provide Owen-Gage with accounts payable, payroll and other

financial services once veteran school district bookkeeper Liz Roemer retires next month. The board also gave its "thumbs down" to an athletic league proposal that would have boys basketball

games slated on Wednesdays and Friday, rather than on Tuesdays and Fridays. The concern, Compton said, stems from a desire to keep Wednesdays open for the many youth groups that meet on that night, as well as school district commitments.

Record \$20.67 million awarded in circuit court

Continued from page one. In addition interest will accrue at the rate of 5 percent from Feb. 28, 2003, the date J & D took over the Laethem businesses, until the filing of the complaint Feb. 15, 2005, against J & D on the tripled damages. The statutory interest rate will then run from the date of the filing of the complaint.

LFSC's business relationship or expectancy," the news release states. "In addition, LEC was awarded \$1.7 million for damage it suffered to its

business reputation as a result of J & D's conduct, and LFSC was awarded \$1.7 million for damage it suffered to its business reputation."

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