

Knights of Columbus names spelling winners

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Can you identify these McConnell School pupils?

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Cass City youngster '09 state poster winner

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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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VOLUME 103, NUMBER 44

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010

FIFTY CENTS

16 PAGES

School aid deficit will cost schools

Dave Martel may have said it best in describing last week's state Revenue Estimating Conference:

"While the numbers could have been worse, they certainly could have been better," said Martel, who serves as director of the Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO).

Cass City School Supt. Ron Wilson agreed after joining with several other superintendents and business managers at the Tuscola

Intermediate School District Office to watch the hearing.

"In a nutshell, the SAF (Student Aid Fund) shortfall that came out of the hearing was estimated at \$268 per pupil," said Wilson, who along with other school officials were previously told the deficit could cost schools \$600 or more per pupil in 2010-11.

"That number (\$268) is to be deducted from where we are this year," Wilson explained. "If we go

back to 2008-09, we would need to start with the base foundation allowance of \$7,316, reduce that by the cut for 2009-10 of \$165 (per pupil) and then further reduce by the estimated \$268 for 2010-11 to arrive at the 'net' foundation of \$6,883.

"Assuming this information remains constant, and based on current enrollment numbers, Cass City Public Schools would realize a loss of approximately \$525,229 in our

2010-11 foundation grant," he continued.

Wilson cautioned that it's too early to say where state officials will cut school funding. "This information provides only one solid bit of information, but things can and will change a lot between now and June, when we need to adopt our 2010-11 budget," he said. "We may not have a clear picture until...maybe May or June."

12," Martel said. "The really bad news is the General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP) budget is also showing a shortfall - the shortfall is over a billion dollars. This does not bode well for getting additional SAF support from GF/GP coffers."

Given the state budget estimates at this point, Wilson said future cuts are inevitable for the Cass City Public Schools.

Towards that end, ad hoc committees have been formed and have been meeting to discuss various ways school officials can trim expenses in the areas of staffing, transportation and extracurricular activities, including athletics.

Those committees are scheduled to first report their ideas during a special Cass City Board of Education meeting to be held Monday, Feb. 15, starting at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Wilson said a second meeting has tentatively been slated in conjunction with the board's regular meeting in March (Monday, March 22, at 6 p.m.). The committees' suggestions will then go to the board's finance committee for action.

Martel described the Revenue Estimating Conference as a "good news, bad news" report. The good news, he told school officials, is that schools shouldn't face an additional funding reduction this year.

The bad news, he said, is that even with the state relying on the remaining \$184.1 million in federal stabilization funds, next year's School Aid Fund will be short by \$423 million, which translates into the reduction of \$268 per student.

"The governor now has the challenge of preparing a balanced 2010-11 School Aid Budget based on these numbers and present the budget to the Legislature no later than Feb.



DIVE TEAM MEMBERS search for drowning victim Louis Verschaeve, 52, of Dryden, in Saginaw Bay over the weekend. Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson is warning fishermen to stay off the ice following the fatal accident.

Sheriff: stay off the ice

Fisherman drowns in bay

Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson is warning Thumb fishermen to stay off the ice of Saginaw Bay following the drowning death of a Dryden man over the weekend.

Hanson identified the victim as Louis C. Verschaeve, 52.

Dive team members recovered Verschaeve's body Sunday, according to Hanson, who urged fishermen to use caution. "I would like to warn people to stay off the ice, because during the recovery operation, our people actually watched another ATV break through the ice," he said. "The ice is in poor condition and is not suitable for safe travel."

The search and rescue operation began Saturday evening after some Caseville Township residents called the Huron County Sheriff's Department to report that a man had just walked to their door and advised that he and his father were ice fishing on Wild Fowl Bay and were returning back to their vehicle in Bay Port when their 4-wheelers broke through the ice.

The man, Michael L. Verschaeve, 27, of Waterford, was treated at Scheurer Hospital and later released.

Hanson reported that several agencies responded, including his department and its dive team, Pigeon police, the Caseville and Fairhaven fire departments, the U.S. Coast

Guard Station Harbor Beach Ice Team and a helicopter from Selfridge Air Station.

An initial dive operation Saturday night was unsuccessful, and one diver was transported to Scheurer

Hospital and treated for early stages of hypothermia. He was later released.

Rescue crews returned to the scene early Sunday morning and located the victim.



MOTHER GOOSE School Board members (from left) Jackie Good and Joanne Stoutenburg present a ceremonial check to fund a Safetyville program in Sanilac County to Sheriff Garry Biniecki, Sgt. Charlene Washkevich and Undersheriff Bradley Roff. (See story, page 4)

Gould bound over on murder charges

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Wurmlinger, 64, and Reynold's wife, Cynthia Reynolds, 67.

The 47-year-old man charged in the July 22 murder of 2 men and the attempted murder of 2 women, including his mother and stepfather, has been bound over to Sanilac County Circuit Court for arraignment.

Sanilac County District Judge Gregory S. Ross bound Gary Lee Gould over on 2 counts of open murder and 2 counts of assault with intent to murder Friday after Gould's preliminary examination in district court. He now faces arraignment in circuit court Monday, Feb. 1.

The charges stem from the fatal stabbings of Jacob P. Wurmlinger, 70, of Crosswell — Gould's stepfather — and Harry Reynolds, 68, of Lexington. The attempted murder counts stem from the stabbings of Gould's mother, Doreen

Gould,

who is being held without bond, allegedly attacked the couples in the Fremont Township (Sanilac County) home he had shared with the Wurmlingers since being released from prison last fall after serving a 12-year term on a conviction for assault with intent to commit great bodily harm less than murder.

The bizarre investigation began when one of the injured women sought help after the attacks, and Please turn to page 8.



Gary Gould

Wednesday pot seizure called Huron's biggest

Huron County Sheriff's deputies assisted the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department Drug Task Force in a drug raid last Wednesday that Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson called the largest marijuana seizure in Huron County's history.

Hanson said deputies assisted the St. Clair County drug team in executing a search warrant at 2241 Weaver Road in Huron County's Hume Township.

"The search warrant was for illegal narcotics from a lengthy investigation," Hanson explained. "Found during the search were approximately 200 pounds of processed marijuana from Mexico, \$6,000 in cash and drug paraphernalia. The marijuana is estimated to have a wholesale street value of \$1,200 per pound, totaling \$240,000."

Arrested in the drug sting were 2

Mexican-Americans from Texas along with 2 Huron County residents. All 4 suspects were arraigned Thursday in Huron County District Court.

They are:
•Dann C. Griesbeck, 57, of Port Austin, charged with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver, possession of cocaine and maintaining a drug house. His bond was set at \$75,000 cash.

•Jesus Jr. Campos, 18, of Los Fresnoa, Texas, charged with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver and possession of marijuana. His bond was set at \$50,000 cash.

•Hijinio Moreno, 24, of San Bin Dino, Texas, charged with possession with intent to deliver marijuana and possession of marijuana. His bond was set at \$50,000 cash.

Please turn to page 8.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Wednesday, January 20

Spaghetti Dinner with Al's Famous Meatballs, 4-7 p.m., VFW Hall, Cass City.

Thursday, January 21

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

Sanilac County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, 3 p.m., HDC Adult Day Services Building, 227 N. Elk St., Sandusky. For more information, contact Kim at (989) 673-4121 or Amanda at (810) 648-4497.

Genealogy Group meeting, 7 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.

Friday, January 22

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

Sanctity of Life Memorial Service, 7-8 p.m., Sacred Heart Parish Center, Frank Street in Caro. Light refreshments provided. Sponsored by Tuscola Right to Life Affiliate. For more information, call Donella at (989) 872-3259.

Sunday, January 24

Gagetown AA meeting, 8-9 p.m., Gagetown fire hall. For more information, call (989) 665-0086.

Monday, January 25

Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Ubly. For more information, call Angela R. at (989) 658-2319.

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

Cass City School Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Owen-Gage School Board meeting, 7 p.m.

Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary meeting, 11:30 a.m., Gilligans.

Tuscola County Right to Life meeting, 6:30-8 p.m., Caro Area District Library, 840 W. Frank St., Caro. For more information, call (989) 872-3259.

Cass City Village Council meeting, 7 p.m., municipal building.

Young Adult Book Club, 6-7 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.

Wednesday, January 27

Huron County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, Huron Behavioral Health, Bad Axe. For more information, contact Rhonda Quinn at (989) 269-9293.

Ravenous Readers Book Club, noon, Rawson Memorial District Library.

It's a boy!



William Stoeckle

Andrew and Laura (Horning) Stoeckle of Rochester Hills announce the birth of their son, William Allister Stoeckle.

William was born Sept. 1, 2009. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Grandparents are Mary and Gary Horning of Fenton, and Mark and Carol Stoeckle of Cass City. Great-grandmothers are RosaMae Krohn of Elkton, and Helen Stoeckle of Sebawaing.



Alicia and Stephen Miracle

Rauser and Miracle exchange vows in ND

Alicia Rauser and Stephen Miracle were married Oct. 16, 2009 in the Mennonite Brethren Church in Harvey, ND.

The bride is the daughter of Allen and Ardithe Rauser of Harvey, ND. The groom is the son of Mic and Evelyn Miracle of Merritt Island, Fla.

Attendants for the couple were Angie Bonness and Katie Bonness,

both of Minot, ND; Melinda Landis of Bismarck, ND; Luke Orenczak of Atlanta, Ga.; Jake Hostetler of Wichita Falls, Texas; and Sean Matthews of Las Vegas, Nev.

The couple lives in Enid, Okla.

Grandparents are Glen and Millie Miracle, and Stuart and Joan Merchant, all of Cass City.

Students named to honors list at Baker College

Officials at Baker College recently named several area students to the school's honors lists for the fall 2009 quarter.

They include:

•**President's list** (for earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average while completing 12 or more credit hours during the quarter) – Amy Bosley, Joseph Homrocky, Marideth Nizzola, Bailey Titus and Tammy Woodward, all of Cass City; William Kroetsch, Decker; Scott Dwyer and Kassandra Sontag, both of Deford; Stacie Dorsch, Gagetown; Sarah Waun, Kingston; Danielle Renn, Owendale; and Amanda Davis, Snover.

•**Full-time dean's list** (for earning a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.99 while completing 12 or more credit hours) – Thomas Besaw, Jacob Boynton, Brittany Buckner, Kimbra Burdge, Michael Essex, Selma Habicht, Crystal Kelley, Joshua Mackowiak, Perry Moore, Christina Osentoski, Rory Osentoski, Dennis Porter, Melanie Rutkoski, Miranda Wheeler and Jennifer Zmierski, all of Cass City; George Kile and Amanda Warner, both of Deford; Renea Claerhout, Douglas Dzielinski, Roberta Jarrett, Ronald King, William Ricker, Nancy Rolston and Cindy Stilson, all of Gagetown; Richard Nightingale and Shawn Roehrig, both of Kingston; Amy Aldrich and Drew Howard, both of Owendale; Darla Hux and Serena Nytko, both of Snover; and Reed Keyser, Sara Schmidt and Vicky Sharp, all of Ubly.

•**Part-time dean's list** (for earning a grade point average of 3.5 to 4.0 while completing 4 to 11 credit hours) – Jaime Anthes, Brenda Battel, Chelsey Bootz, Donna Daniel, Chelsa Deluyck, Timothy Forth, Anthony Groth, Rita Hanby, Melissa Harrington, Stacey Klee, Nicole Nicol, Douglas O'Dell, Susan Spencer, Jayson Tuckey, Dana Wentworth and Dallas Woodward, all of Cass City; Merry Steely, Decker; Jennifer Carlisle, Nickie Dzielinski and Eric Pinkoski, all of Gagetown; Jill Geister and Kelsie Geister, both of Kingston; Janice Brown, Snover; and Cammie Hill, Stephani Jackson, Marsha Messing, Danetta Snow, Gladys Custer, Diana Martin, Tiffani Pisha, Tiffanie Shaw and Jennifer Tallman, all of Ubly.

Locks for Love



TWO TUSCOLA youngsters recently donated some of their hair to the Locks of Love organization, which provides children suffering from illness-related hair loss with wigs. They are Alaina Fetterhoff, 7, of Argyle (left photo), and Mersadi Guthrie, 5, of Mayville. Both of the children had their hair trimmed at the VIP Salon in Cass City.

SUDOKU

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

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

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Retirement Party for Liz Roemer

After more than 20 years of service to the Owendale-Gagetown Area School District, Liz Roemer will be retiring from her post as secretary to the superintendent.

We invite members of the community to join us on **January 31, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., at the Owendale-Gagetown High School cafeteria**, to celebrate this time and show our appreciation to Mrs. Roemer's dedication to the school district.



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Conferences set at Owen-Gage

The Owen-Gage School District will be hosting parent-teacher conferences Thursday, Jan. 28.

Students will be dismissed at 11:45 a.m. with no lunch served. The conferences will be from 1 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Teachers will meet with parents in their classrooms to discuss their children's work and progress.

In the elementary, grades K through 5, teachers will make an effort to schedule specific times to meet with parents. In the secondary grades, an open format will be used without specific appointments.

The PTO will be sponsoring a drawing for all parents attending conferences. The prizes will be 2 \$25 gas cards and 6 Bulldog clothing items.

Funding approved for bay projects

Federal funding has been approved for several projects designed to help restore the Saginaw Bay coastal area.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recently announced grants have been awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office. The projects involved were all identified as part of the Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative.

The grants include \$31,500 for the Lake Huron Beach Sanitary Surveys project. The money will go to the Bay County Health Department, Central Michigan District Health Department and the Huron County Health Department to investigate and initiate corrective actions for potential sources of contamination at 5 Saginaw Bay beaches: Singing Bridge Beach in Arenac County, Whites Beach in Arenac County, Bay City Recreation Area in Bay County, Caseville Beach in Huron County, and Port Crescent State Park beaches in Huron County.

The Huron Conservation District will receive \$50,000 for the Agricultural Phosphorus Reduction Effort in Saginaw Bay Watershed

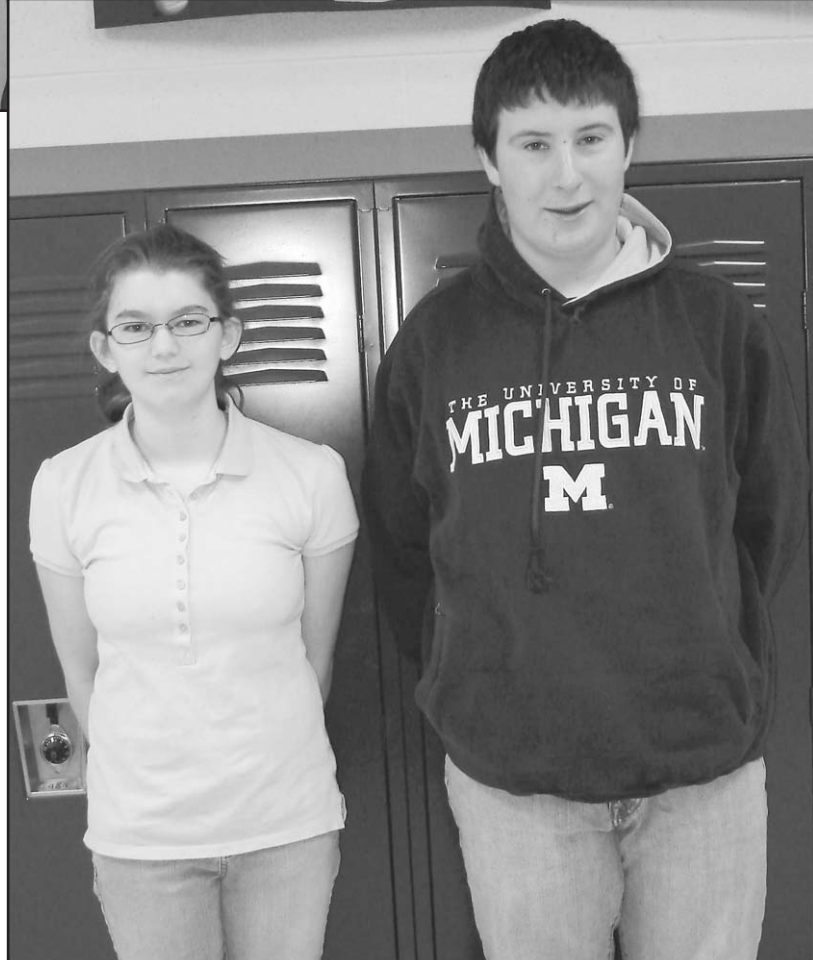
project. The money will provide for a water quality improvement technical assistance program to small and medium livestock facilities in Huron, Tuscola and Sanilac counties, with special emphasis on the Pigeon and Pinnebog River watersheds. The effort will focus on corrective actions at livestock facilities, resulting in the reduction of phosphorus discharges to Saginaw Bay.

Finally, \$69,210 will go towards implementation of a pilot wetlands monitoring project in the Saginaw Bay Area of Concern. This project will fund the implementation of a 3-year pilot wetland monitoring project in Saginaw Bay. The DEQ, working with Central Michigan University, will select 5 sites to test 3 wetland monitoring protocols.


"These projects are important to our continuing effort to restore the Saginaw Bay coastal area," said Interim DEQ Director Jim Sygo. "We appreciate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to provide these funds, and we look forward to working with local interests as part of the Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative."



CASS CITY Middle School students recently represented their school well in the Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee in Midland. In Level One (above, from left), fifth and sixth graders Zachary McCoy, Ilana Blattner, Katlyn Babcock and Maegan LeValley competed, with LeValley the top Cass City finisher, leaving the competition in the 10th round. In Level 2, for students in grades 7 and 8 (at right), Kayla Zmierski was named the winner, while Michael Mulligan finished in fourth place. Zmierski will next participate in a Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee March 6 in Standish.



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Donation brings Safetyville to Sanilac Co. communities

Sanilac County Sheriff Garry Biniecki last week announced plans to start a Safetyville program.

"This program, made possible by the generous donation from the Mother Goose Nursery School Board, is designed to educate children from nursery school age

through the second grade in real-life community situations by inviting them to the safe and controlled learning environment of 'Safetyville Village,'" Biniecki said.

"The Safetyville Village is set up in a secure location, such as a school gym or civic center, where the children come and take an interactive role in the educational process. The Safetyville program is made up of constructed storefronts, roadways and signs, complete with businesses from the community that the children will recognize," he explained. "The children will also have the opportunity to drive small ride-on toys on the roadways, so they get the full effect of village interaction."

By taking part in the interactive program, the sheriff said, the youngsters will benefit by widening their perspective to a world beyond that of their home or immediate neighborhood, but in a protected neighborhood.

"Mother Goose's donation will cover all the costs related to the Safetyville program, including the building of the Safetyville buildings, the equipment and the storage trailer to transport the program to different communities within Sanilac County," Biniecki noted.

The Mother Goose Nursery School was established in 1973 after a group of about 10 women began looking

for better ways to come together and enhance the learning experience and socialization of their preschool aged children. The school was certified by the state and utilized certified teachers, as well as many assistants and parents to educate the children.

"Mother Goose Nursery School occupied the familiar little red schoolhouse on Custer Road, which was the old one-room Bolsby School that was moved there," Biniecki said. "The school closed in 2002 after nearly 30 years of working faithfully in fulfilling its mission to the children and to the community."

"The Mother Goose Nursery School Board contacted the sheriff's office to fund the Safetyville program as a way of continuing their legacy now that the school is closed," he continued. "This donation will assist in ensuring their mission lives on by finding safe, effective ways that children can learn and relate to others by using a variety of methods and materials outside their normal, familiar surroundings."

"It is through the generosity and strong partnerships with citizen groups, such as the Mother Goose Nursery School Board, that the sheriff's office can continue to emphasize safety to our children to help ensure they grow up safely into productive citizens."



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Gary Gould bound over

Continued from page one.

ended with Gould's arrest less than 3 hours later, several miles to the north in Huron County's Meade Township.

After responding to the scene at 3107 Mortimer Line Rd., Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies broadcast a description of the suspect and a 2008 Jeep Compass that was missing from the residence.

Later that morning, 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. Deputies arrived at the scene and spotted Gould, who fled. Assisted by other police agencies, officers found Gould hiding under a large bush and arrested him without incident.

A short time later, deputies learned that 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 in the same day in Sanilac County.

Doreen Wurmlinger and Cynthia Reynolds testified against Gould last September, according to Sanilac County Prosecutor James V. Young.

"Together, the 2 women indicated that the defendant...had attacked each of them and that they suffered multiple knife wounds and numerous other injuries as a result," Young said, adding the testimony marked the beginning of Gould's preliminary exam in district court.

"Mrs. Reynolds also testified that she had seen the defendant repeatedly hitting her husband in the upper chest in the laundry room area. Mrs. Wurmlinger further testified that she had seen the defendant repeatedly striking her husband in the living room area. She later saw her husband lying outside and non-responsive," he said.



MEMBERS OF THE Cass City High School Spanish Club recently held a bottle drive to raise money for their upcoming trip to Costa Rica in April. The group raised \$417 and noted appreciation for Kareem and Tahani Khoury, owners of Quaker Maid for taking in the empty bottles and cans. Pictured above (from left) are club members Krista Guinther, Zac Deering, Rob VanAuken, Brad Whittaker, Tommy Brinkman, Matt Lintner and Becca Leslie.

Wednesday pot seizure called Huron's biggest

Continued from page one.

David A. Fegar, 51, of Kinde, charged with possession with intent to deliver marijuana and possession of marijuana. His bond was set at \$20,000 (10 percent cash).

"In addition to the narcotics and cash, 2 vehicles were sized, with one of the vehicles, a pickup truck, having a hidden compartment in its box

which apparently was used to transport the marijuana," Hanson said. "Also seized were 2 snowmobiles. This investigation will continue.

"It is believed that this is the largest marijuana seizure in our county's history," he added. "Several years ago, approximately three-quarters of a mile west of this location, 1,200 marijuana plants were confiscated from a growing plot."

Baker College enrollment up

Baker College Online officials recently announced a 4-percent increase in fall enrollment compared to the same period in 2008. A total of 5,256 undergraduate students attended online classes exclusively during fall quarter 2009.

"We attribute our steadily increasing enrollment numbers to a variety

of factors, including flexibility, affordability and accessibility," said Dr. Julia Teahen, president, Baker College Online. "We also strive to offer the types of programs that will enhance or advance a career. Case in point is our new Bachelor of Nursing Degree, which offers RNs the opportunity to continue their professional growth through an online program."

A total of 45,687 students throughout the Baker College system took Baker Online classes this fall quarter.

This total includes:

- 6,188 students who took 100 percent of their classes online, including 5,256 undergraduate students and a total of 932 MBA, MSIS, MOT and DBA students
- 8,149 students who took a combination of online classes and campus-based classes
- 31,350 students who took campus-based classes that also included online coursework, a 56.4 percent increase over fall 2008.



BECKY ZMIERSKI of Deford brought this photo to the Chronicle in hopes that some area residents may be able to help her identify the students pictured above at the McConnell School. The photo was taken in 1935.

U-M Women air recent meeting

The United Methodist Women held their regular monthly meeting Jan. 4 with 13 members in attendance. Judy Wallace and Melody Frankowski prepared the meal.

Frankowski read the secretary's report from November and December minutes.

Shirley Wagg read the treasurer's report with a balance of \$9,903.23 as of Dec. 31.

Food Safety Classes were being offered at the Tuscola County MSU Extension Office Jan. 12.

The group received a Bronze District Achievement Award.

The treasurer reported 10 percent of bazaar money split to several groups and missionary.

A baked potato luncheon will be held Sunday, Feb. 14 after church to help with expenses of the church.

A program on pledges was done by Wagg and Norma Dawson. These pledges can be made anytime through the year.



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Red Hawks and Red Raiders marquee matchup

Wrestling showdown tonight in Cass City

There's little doubt tonight's Greater Thumb Conference wrestling match in Cass City will include the league's 2009-10 eventual champions.

The Red Hawks did their part to enter the GTC showdown last week in Pigeon, where Coach Don Markel's grapplers defeated Saginaw Nouvel, 39-22, and host Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port, 64-12, to remain undefeated in conference play.

"We wrestled very well this past Wednesday to defeat a very solid Nouvel squad. In order to defeat state ranked Marlette on Wednesday

we will have to pull off some upsets," Markel said.

The Red Hawks and Red Raiders, both 6-0 in the GTC, will square off at 6 p.m. to highlight Cass City's parents' night outing during a triangular contest that also includes Bad Axe. Still, it's tonight's marquee outing - with the winner claiming the dual meet portion of the GTC championship formula and gaining a leg up en route to capturing an undisputed crown - that has Markel energized.

"Marlette is tough up and down the

line-up and will be a formidable opponent, we look forward to the excitement and energy that the meet with Marlette will generate," he said.

Despite so much on the line, it seems unlikely that Cass City's showdown match could provide much more excitement than the Red Hawks' come-from-behind win over Saginaw Nouvel.

In a back-and-forth affair with many closely contested matches, Cass City actually trailed 32-24 entering the last 4 matches before rallying to win.

Dean Rabideau started Cass City's

comeback bid with an 11-7 victory over Dan Rosales in the 160-pound weight class, and then following Josh Jensen's pin in the 171-pound weight class the Red Hawks had a 33-32 edge with 2 matches remaining.

Eric Reif extended Cass City's margin to 36-32 when he recorded a 5-1 victory over Alex Gillanardo, in the 189-pound weight class, which left the match's outcome in doubt until the final bout.

"Especially gratifying was the fact that Rabideau and Reif had lost to their opponents last season and then came back to defeat them this year to give the team a huge boost," Markel said.

In the final bout, Cass City junior Mike Milligan defeated Bill Strause, 2-0, in the 215-pound weight class to complete the rally.

Milligan, Reif and Rabideau were all double winners on the night for the Red Hawks, as were Ron Wolschlager, Jon Crouch, Cody

Crouch and Kevven Dorland.

IMLAY CITY INVITATIONAL

On Saturday, the Red Hawks traveled to compete in the Spartan Invitational and finished 5th with 136.5 points.

"At the individual tournament on Saturday the team was flat, definitely not one of our better performances of the season. We were out of position during many of our matches and got caught by our opponents resulting in losses. We will need to improve on our techniques and our positioning to be competitive with Marlette," Markel said.

The top 5 team finishes had Capac with 211.5 points, host Imlay City, 157, Almont, 142, Lapeer West, 138, and the Red Hawks, 136.5.

For Cass City, earning medals for their efforts were runners-up Rabideau and Reif, while finishing third on the day were Jon and Cody Crouch, Dorland, Jensen and Milligan

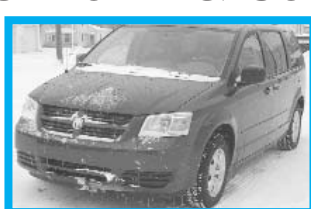
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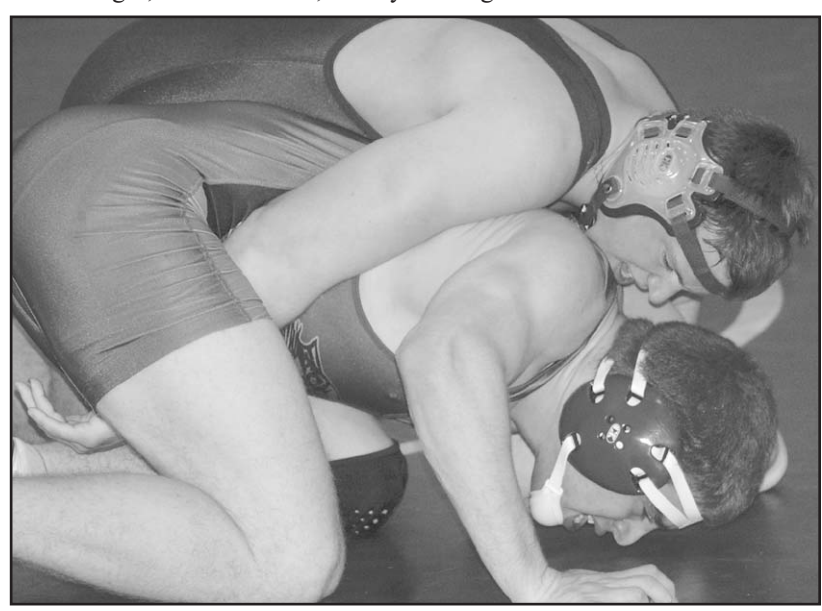
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ERIC REIF, Cass City, muscles Saginaw Nouvel's Alex Gillanardo towards the mat during the 189-weight class match. Reif earned a 5-1 decision.

O-G boys win

In a light work week, the Owen-Gage boys' basketball team recorded their first North Central Thumb League victory last Tuesday in convincing fashion with a 66-38 decision over guest Port Hope.

The Blue Stars remain winless on the year, as they were outscored in every quarter. The Bulldogs jumped out in front, 18-9, and never looked back.

Nick Zaleski poured in 22 points to

lead the winners, while Ryan Francis chipped in 18 and Hunter Champagne added 13.

OWEN-GAGE - Rhodes 2-0 (1-2) 5; Champagne 4-1 (2-3) 13; Prich 0-2 (0-0) 6; Buschlen 0-0 (0-2) 0; Zaleski 10-0 (2-4) 22; Francis 8-0 (2-2) 18; Kain 1-0 (0-0) 2.
TOTALS - 25-3 (7-13) 66.

PORT HOPE - Oeschger 2-1 (0-0) 7; Lackowski 2-2 (0-0) 10; Pleiness 3-1 (0-0) 9; Phillips 1-0 (1-2) 3; Snvreen 1-1 (0-0) 5; Lee 2-0 (0-0) 4.
TOTALS - 11-5 (1-2) 38.

O-G girls lose

The Owen-Gage Lady Bulldogs traveled to Memphis Thursday and returned home believing the Yellowjackets' 8-1 record is no fluke.

The hosts built leads of 17-10 after one period and 42-13 after two en route to a 58-23 North Central Thumb League crossover beat down.

The NCTL-South leaders then held Owen-Gage to a Christy Schmidt free throw after the break and increased their margin to 50-14 with 8 minutes remaining.

One bright spot for the Bulldogs

was the outside shooting of Christin Harris, who paced the visitors with 12 points on 4 treys.

Thursday the Bulldogs will face another NCTL-S foe when Kingston invades Owendale.

OWEN-GAGE - Harris 0-4 (0-0) 12; Schmidt 2-0 (1-3) 5; Muntz 2-0 (1-1) 5; McLaren 0-0 (1-2) 1.
TOTALS - 4-4 (3-6) 23.

MEMPHIS - Guarnieri 2-1 (0-0) 7; Gaedeke 2-0 (0-0) 4; Cumming 1-0 (0-0) 2; Owens 3-0 (0-1) 6; Marchand 3-3 (0-0) 15; Gillespie 3-0 (2-2) 8; Kain 4-0 (0-3) 8; Thomas 2-0 (0-0) 4; Nutatis 2-0 (0-1) 4.
TOTALS - 22-4 (2-7) 58.

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BOYS' BASKETBALL - GIRLS' BASKETBALL - GYMNASTICS - WRESTLING

BOYS' BASKETBALL	
Dec. 8	Sandusky 53, Cass City 41
Dec. 10	Mayville 41, Cass City 56
Dec. 15	Harbor Beach 51, Cass City 32
Dec. 17	Marlette 58, Cass City 55
Jan. 5	Ubyly 70, Cass City 44
Jan. 12	BCAS 59, Cass City 47
Jan. 14	Lakers 48, Cass City 42
Jan. 22	Vassar
Jan. 27	Reese
Jan. 29	Bad Axe
Feb. 3	USA
Feb. 5	Deckerville
Feb. 10	BCAS
Feb. 12	EPBP Lakers
Feb. 17	Caro
Feb. 19	Vassar
Feb. 24	Reese
Feb. 26	Bad Axe
Mar. 2	USA
Mar. 4	Deckerville
Mar. 8,10,12	Districts

Follow the Hawks at home

Boys' Basketball

January 22 - Cass City vs. Vassar

January 29 - Cass City vs. Bad Axe

Girls' Basketball

January 26 - Cass City vs. Reese

February 11 - Cass City vs. EPBP Lakers

Gymnastics

January 19 - Cass City vs. Vassar

February 13 - Cass City vs. Freeland

Wrestling

January 20 - Cass City vs. Bad Axe/Marlette

GIRLS' BASKETBALL	
Dec. 1	Ubyly 50, Cass City 42
Dec. 4	Brown City 61, Cass City 27
Dec. 9	Sandusky 62, Cass City 25
Dec. 11	Mayville 50, Cass City 38
Dec. 16	Harbor Beach 43, Cass City 24
Dec. 18	Marlette 48, Cass City 31
Jan. 6	USA 46, Cass City 37
Jan. 8	Deckerville 49, Cass City 37
Jan. 13	BCAS 35, Cass City 38
Jan. 15	EPBP Lakers 51, Cass City 22
Jan. 19	Open
Jan. 21	Vassar
Jan. 26	Reese
Jan. 28	Bad Axe
Feb. 2	USA
Feb. 4	Deckerville
Feb. 9	BCAS
Feb. 11	EPBP Lakers
Feb. 16	Open
Feb. 18	Vassar
Feb. 23	Reese
Feb. 25	Bad Axe
Mar. 1,3,5	Districts

GYMNASTICS	
Dec. 17	Vassar
Jan. 12	Freeland
Jan. 19	Vassar
Jan. 26	Vassar
Jan. 30	St. John's Invite
Feb. 13	Freeland
Feb. 16	Vassar Invite

WRESTLING	
Dec. 2	Imlay City
Dec. 5	Cros-Lex Team Tourney
Dec. 9	Caro/Freeland/Nouvel
Dec. 12	Marlette Team Tourney
Dec. 15	Sandusky/Mayville
Jan. 6	Brown City/Vassar
Jan. 9	North Branch Team Tourney
Jan. 13	Nouvel CC/ EPBP Lakers
Jan. 16	Imlay City Invite
Jan. 20	Bad Axe/Marlette
Jan. 23	Mayville Team Tourney
Jan. 27	Pinconning/Oscoda/Standish
Jan. 30	Bullock Creek Team Tourney
Feb. 3	Yale
Feb. 6	GTC League Meet @ Lakers
Feb. 10	Team Districts
Feb. 13	Individual Districts

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Very nice 3 bedroom Ranch on the outskirts of Bad Axe but close to all the conveniences of town. Call to view this well kept home. TO751

COUNTRY LIVING RIGHT IN TOWN!
This beautiful Ranch has many updates which include master bedroom with large walk-in closet and wide entry doors. Bath has marble/Oak vanity, open kitchen/dining room, solid Oak cabinets, central air, gas log fireplace, large family room and a lot of storage, full basement, 10'x14' shed and a 12'x30' deck. A must see home! TCC1491

Well maintained 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1-story, 1,460 sq. ft. home with a 2 car garage on a large nicely landscaped lot, close to schools, in the village of Cass City. Living room with a gas log fireplace, Deck off the master bedroom and a cement patio off the kitchen. Move in day of closing. TCC1573

NEW LISTING!
4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home on 21 acres. Features include: Oak kitchen cabinets, Oak doors, ceramic floors, finished den with wood fireplace, central air, backup electrical system, French doors to family room that has an open kitchen, outdoor firepit, heated shed, swimming pool and a large pond stocked with fish. F770



Local youngster '09 conservation poster champion

A Campbell Elementary School student has been named the winner of a 2009 Michigan Conservation Poster Contest.

Matthew House, son of Mark and Angie House, Cass City, was the first-place, Division One winner in the Tuscola Conservation District's local contest, according to Steve Schaub, education coordinator for the county organization.

"Not only did Matthew place first in the local contest, but his poster entry also took first place at the state level and has been entered to represent Michigan in the National Conservation Poster Contest hosted by the National Association of Conservation Districts," Schaub said.

He also lauded the efforts of Rosemary Bushong and Jeannine McGee, who team teach grades one and 2 multi-age classes at Campbell. "They participate in the conservation poster contest every year and have inspired many students to appreciate their environment and to learn to practice good stewardship," he said.

- Other winners in the local contest were:
- *Grace Conley, Campbell Elementary, second place, Division 2.
 - *Samantha Potts, Campbell Elementary, third place, Division One.
 - *Brendan Hamilton, Campbell Elementary, first place, Division 2.
 - *Alexis Hecht, Reese Elementary, second place, Division 2.
 - *Hanna Honeman, Reese Elementary, third place, Division 2.
 - *Lyndsey Cobb, Vassar Central Elementary, first place, Division 3.
 - *Wyatt Cunningham, Meachum Jr. High, second place, Division 3, and
 - *Macie Hornbacher, Caro Middle School, third place, Division 3.

THE 2009 MICHIGAN Conservation Poster Contest winner, Campbell Elementary School second grader Matthew House is pictured above with (from left) teacher Rosemary Bushong; his parents, Mark and Angie House; and teacher Jeannine McGee.

Blood drive scheduled Feb. 16 in Cass City

Upcoming American Red Cross blood drives in the Thumb area include a drive scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 16, from 1 to 6:45 p.m. at the VFW Hall 3644, 4533 Veterans Dr., Cass City.

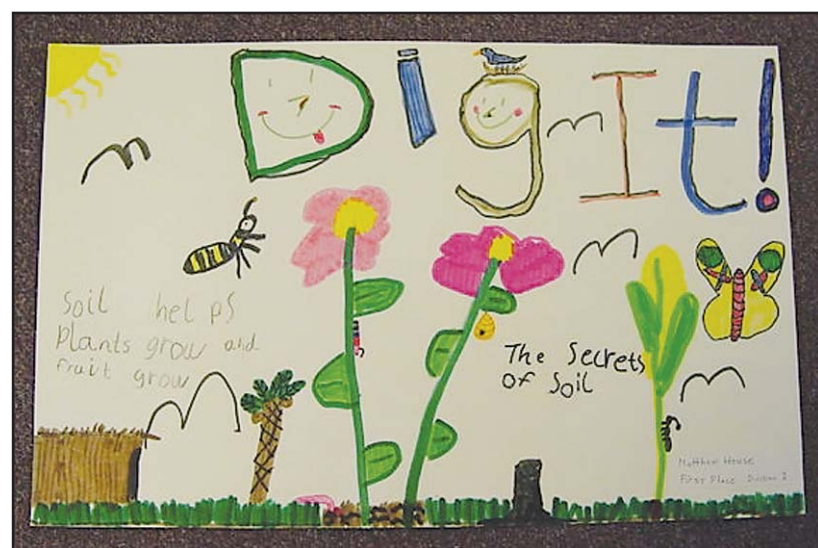
"When you resolve to donate blood, you're committing to something that can help change lives—including your own," commented Sharon

Jaksa, CRO for the Great Lakes Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross. "Your donation is needed and may give someone another day, another week, another life to spend with loved ones and friends."

A single whole blood donation can help save the lives of up to 3 people, and may be given through Red Cross

blood drives at schools, churches, community centers, businesses and other organizations.

Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission), weigh at least 110 pounds) and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. Donors are asked to present their Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive identification when they donate.



MATTHEW HOUSE'S winning poster.

2010 BRIDAL GUIDE

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO CASS CITY CHRONICLE'S JAN. 27 EDITION

the DRESS

apparel and accessories

your HAIR

hot styles and salon services

food

catering halls
menu suggestions

invitations,

flowers, favors, gifts

honeymoon

longer trips for less

wedding PHOTOS

then & now photos of couples married 15 years or longer (due by Friday, January 22, 2010)

+ our complete wedding checklist!

JANUARY 2010