

Life with Shadow is never a boring affair

Meg's Peg, page 2

Elkland Township firemen honor poster winners

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2010 crop year optimal in state, ag officials say

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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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VOLUME 104, NUMBER 31

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2010

FIFTY CENTS ~ 16 PAGES

Fritz gets 10 to 15 years in prison

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A sexual relationship with a teenage girl will cost Cory Fritz the next 10 to 15 years of his life.

That was the prison sentence Tuscola County Circuit Court Judge

Patrick R. Joslyn handed down to Fritz Monday morning.

A circuit court jury returned verdicts of guilty to 5 counts of criminal sexual conduct last August against the former Owen-Gage High School softball coach.

The jury, which deliberated for 2

1/2 hours following the 4-day trial, spent about 2 more hours discussing the case before returning the verdicts against Fritz.

The trial came down to whether the jury believed the defendant or the prosecution regarding how old the alleged victim was when she began

having intimate relations with her former softball coach.

Fritz, 27, was originally charged with 20 counts of third degree criminal sexual conduct, a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison, stemming from alleged sexual relations with a then-Owen-Gage High School sophomore at her Gagetown home between October 2005 and March 2006. She was allegedly 14 years old at the time, and Fritz was 22.

Prosecutors claim the couple's relationship led to a pregnancy, saying they believe the infant was born prematurely and died, and that the victim and/or Fritz disposed of the body.

Investigators subsequently conducted unsuccessful searches for the remains in the Gagetown/Elmwood Township area.

The trial concluded with closing arguments after 2 full days of "he said-she said" testimony, during which the alleged victim and Fritz, among others, offered conflicting

accounts of just how old the alleged victim was when the couple's sexual relationship began.

Reene has claimed the relationship began when the alleged victim was a minor, while Fritz and his counsel, Bay City attorney Kevin Rieman, insisted she was 16, the legal age of consent in Michigan.

During the course of the trial, Joslyn limited the jury's exposure to discussion of the alleged infant, saying the pregnancy and the whereabouts of the child's body were irrelevant to the criminal sexual conduct charges.

At one point, Joslyn dismissed the jury while attorneys questioned Michigan State Police detectives regarding the pregnancy.

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Cory Fritz



THE CASS CITY Chamber of Commerce is planning a 2-night haunted house, Friday and Saturday at the VIP Salon in Cass City, along with a costume party Saturday at Mulligan's Irish Links. Both are fundraisers that will help to pay for the chamber's Summer Mania and upcoming Christmas in the Village events. Above, Kristen Cherniawski, a nail technician at the VIP Salon, poses inside the haunted house.

Spook-tacular!

Cass City Chamber gearing up for a weekend of Halloween fun and chills

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Cass City Chamber of Commerce is planning some "spook-tacular" events this weekend to celebrate Halloween.

Officials have scheduled a pair of haunted happenings fundraisers in an effort to give area residents thrills and chills, as well as to raise money for the chamber's annual Summer Mania and Christmas in the Village events.

The chamber has organized a haunted house, which will be available Friday and Saturday, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the VIP Salon,

6447 Main St., Cass City. Admission is \$5 per person.

In addition, a costume party is slated for Saturday from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at Mulligan's Irish Links, 4795 Hospital Dr., Cass city. There will be a \$3 cover charge, and you must be 21 or older to attend. The party will feature live music by the popular local group, "Trigger Happy", along with costume prizes, drink specials and drawings throughout the evening.

Chamber Administrator Dee Mulligan said VIP Salon owner Joey Kreeger was quick to offer her help — and the space for this year's haunted house — which is a better

option than the haunted forest the chamber has organized in the past.

"We can do 2 nights without worrying about bad weather," she noted, "and she was generous enough to say, 'I'd really like to do this and give the money to the chamber'."

The fundraisers are vital in terms of keeping up with the popularity of the Summer Mania and Christmas in the Village celebrations, according to Mulligan. For example, she said, officials gave away 450 treat bags during last year's Christmas in the Village event, spent more than \$1,000 on

Please turn to page 16.

Cass City Schools ready to meet new nutrition standards

The Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) adoption of new Michigan Nutrition Standards didn't surprise Shari Bock, food service director for the Cass City Public Schools.

In fact, Bock and the entire Cass City Schools staff has spent the past couple years preparing to meet the new standards, which encourage healthy lifestyles through nutritious foods in schools.

"Our whole staff has been very proactive with this. We all realized what a big change this would be," Bock said. "I've got a good staff that understands how important this is, and the whole school is working together. And that's what put us ahead" of the game.

"We're in good shape," Bock added. "We offer a variety of fresh fruits and produce every day, and this year we took away the salt shakers. I don't see where we're going to have to make big changes. I think we're ready."

The Michigan Nutrition Standards, slated to go into effect beginning with the 2011-12 school year, improve the nutrition quality of food and beverages offered and sold on school campuses, including cafeterias, vending machines, concession stands, a la carte snack lines, school parties, school stores and at after-school events.

The standards emphasize colorful fruits and vegetables, whole grains, low fat dairy, beans, nuts and lean proteins.

"Less sodium, less fat," said Bock, who added Cass City's food staff has made changes in food preparation, such as baking rather than frying foods whenever possible.

The staff is also introducing middle school students to new healthy choices each week. Last week's experiment was sweet potato puffs. Bock said roughly 150 kids tried them, with about 100 saying the puffs were good or "okay".

Please turn to page 16.

Reward upped by \$1,000

\$3,500 offered in dog cruelty case

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The cash reward being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for poisoning 7 German Shepherds in Huron County has grown.

Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson included that announcement in an update on the case for the media last week.

"We have interviewed several indi-

viduals," Hanson said. We have more interviews to conduct, and for me to give any details might jeopardize the investigation.

"One positive note; because of all the attention this incident has received across the state, Birmingham resident Stephenie Vanhellemont has pledged another \$1,000 to the reward," Hanson added. "This now makes the total \$3,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those

involved."

The animal cruelty investigation caught the attention of Humane Society officials at the national level.

In fact, officials with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) responded quickly to the reported investigation by the Huron County Sheriff's Department, offering a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the individual(s)

Please turn to page 7.



Photo courtesy of David Kenyon / Michigan DNRE

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) biologists say that, with proper attention to habitat, pheasants can once again be a common sight in the Thumb and across the state. (See story, page 8)



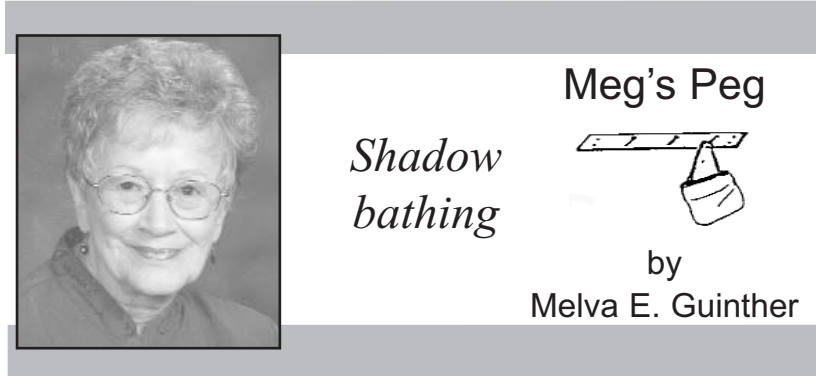
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Meg's Peg
Shadow
bathing
by
Melva E. Guinther

I took the bull by the horns - or rather the dog by the ears - and determined to give our dog, Shadow, a bath.
Yes, we've had her for a year and a half, but heretofore I had not personally bathed her. We'd taken her to professionals, and when our family was here from California, they managed to give her a bath.
She'd been scratching a lot and didn't smell so good, so I decided to tackle the task myself.
How hard could it be to get a 65-pound canine into a bathtub?
Not nearly as hard as keeping her in or getting her back into the tub once she's covered with suds, I learned.
Friend Harmony Doerr, not a stranger to the world of canines, saw me with a bottle of doggie shampoo and with a look that suggested she knew what I was in for, recommended keeping several towels at the ready and folding them up under my knees during the bath.
Thanks, Harmony, but I never made it to my knees, not even in prayer. One hand was on Shadow's head assuring her of what a good girl she was while attempting to hold her. The other was getting her wet and working in the shampoo. No time to kneel.
I tried to make the necessary preparations before undertaking the chore. The upstairs bathroom has 2 exit doors, which I closed.
Then I recalled that my granddaughter had actually climbed into the tub with Shadow when they bathed her, so I removed my jeans just in case necessity demanded it.
I didn't want to get carried away with clothing removal in case she managed to escape and I ended up chasing her down the street. (Talk about hilarious scenes.)
We both survived the episode — barely. But I've reverted to taking her to professionals.
Shadow is part German Shorthair and part Lab. Both breeds are known for their hunting prowess. We've learned that you can take the dog out of the hunt, but you can never eradicate the hunting instinct.
Since we obtained her, she's managed to catch a baby rabbit and a squirrel, both of which survived to tell their grandchildren. Less fortunate were a bird of unknown species, and a wild turkey. She also wiped out single-pawedly a litter of little red squirrels that had the misfortune of venturing into our yard.
I'm extremely uncomfortable when she catches another animal.
Shadow doesn't have a mean bone in her body. She's just doing what comes naturally. And she doesn't set out to kill anything; she simply wants to play with her prey. Alas! Few small animals survive her play.
The day after she nabbed the turkey in the woods, I was reluctant to take her back to the scene of her crime, so we visited relatives in the country instead.
As we strolled through the fields peacefully, guess what we discovered in my nephew's backyard - a flock of wild turkeys.
Shadow was out in front of me without a leash, but bless her heart, with monumental self-control, she obeyed my command to "stop" and the turkeys went on their merry way, totally unaware of how close to extinction they had been.
Life with my Shadow is never boring.

Arbor Day Foundation offering free trees in Oct.

The Arbor Day Foundation will brighten up your fall by giving you 10 free autumn classics trees when you join the organization in October.
The free trees are part of the non-profit Arbor Day Foundation's Trees for America campaign, a program dedicated to environmental stewardship through the planting of trees.
Everyone who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in October will receive 10 free autumn classics: 2 sugar maples, 2 red maples, a scarlet oak, a sweetgum, northern red oak, silver maple, white flowering dogwood, and Washington hawthorn.
"You'll especially enjoy these trees for years to come during the autumn

months because they'll add amazing, vibrant color to any yard or landscape," said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation.
The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between Nov. 1 and Dec. 10. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of

charge. Planting instructions will be enclosed with each shipment of trees.
To receive 10 free autumn classics, send a \$10 membership contribution to Autumn Classics Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by Oct. 31, or join online at www.arborday.org/october.

R. Wright certified Jazzercise instructor

Rhonda Wright, a newly certified Jazzercise instructor, has begun offering classes in Cass City.
Wright earned the right to teach Jazzercise by completing an intense 3-day workshop and performing a letter-perfect audition.
Becoming a Jazzercise instructor requires dedication and thorough training. After submitting adequate references and putting in long hours of practice, Wright recently participated in a rigorous workshop in Brighton, sponsored by the Franchise Programs and Services Department of Jazzercise, Inc.
She was required to learn approximately 15 Jazzercise routines for her audition; pass a written exam on basic anatomy, exercise physiology and nutrition; learn Jazzercise business practices; and become certified to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
Jazzercise combines effective exercise with Jazz dance-based choreography and popular music. Each 60-minute high-energy class includes a warm-up, aerobic segment, muscle toning and flexibility exercises, and a cool-down.

5th edition of safe food preservation book now available

The fifth edition of "So Easy To Preserve" is available for purchase at the Tuscola County MSU Extension office for \$18 each.
This popular book contains the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture recommendations for safe food preservation. "So Easy To Preserve" is now a 375-page book with over 185 tested recipes, along with step-by-step instructions and in-depth information for both the new and experienced food preserver.
Chapters include: preserving food, canning, pickled products, jellied fruit products, freezing and drying. This edition has 35 new recipes and a new section with recommended procedures for home-canned salsas.
For additional information, contact Kris Swartzendruher, Extension educator at Tuscola County MSU Extension, at (989) 672-3870.

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

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4	9	8	3	7	6	2	1	5
1	5	3	9	8	2	6	7	4
8	1	4	7	6	9	3	5	2
9	7	5	8	2	3	1	4	6
2	3	6	5	4	1	7	9	8
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5	2	9	6	3	7	4	8	1
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Thursday, October 21

AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 872-4816.
 Preschool Story Time, 10-11 a.m., Rawson Memorial District Library. (Ages 3 to 5)
 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.

Friday, October 22

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

Saturday, October 23

Narcotics Anonymous, 7 p.m., St. John Episcopal Church, Sand Point. Anyone with a drug problem is invited to attend. For more information, please contact (989) 963-9077.

Sunday, October 24

Gagetown AA meeting, 8-9 p.m., Gagetown fire hall. For more information, call (989) 325-2592.
 Spaghetti Luncheon Benefit for Karen Pallas, 11:30-3:30 p.m., St. Joseph Church Hall, Argyle. Take outs available. Anyone wishing to donate, please call Tracey at (989) 658-2598.

Monday, October 25

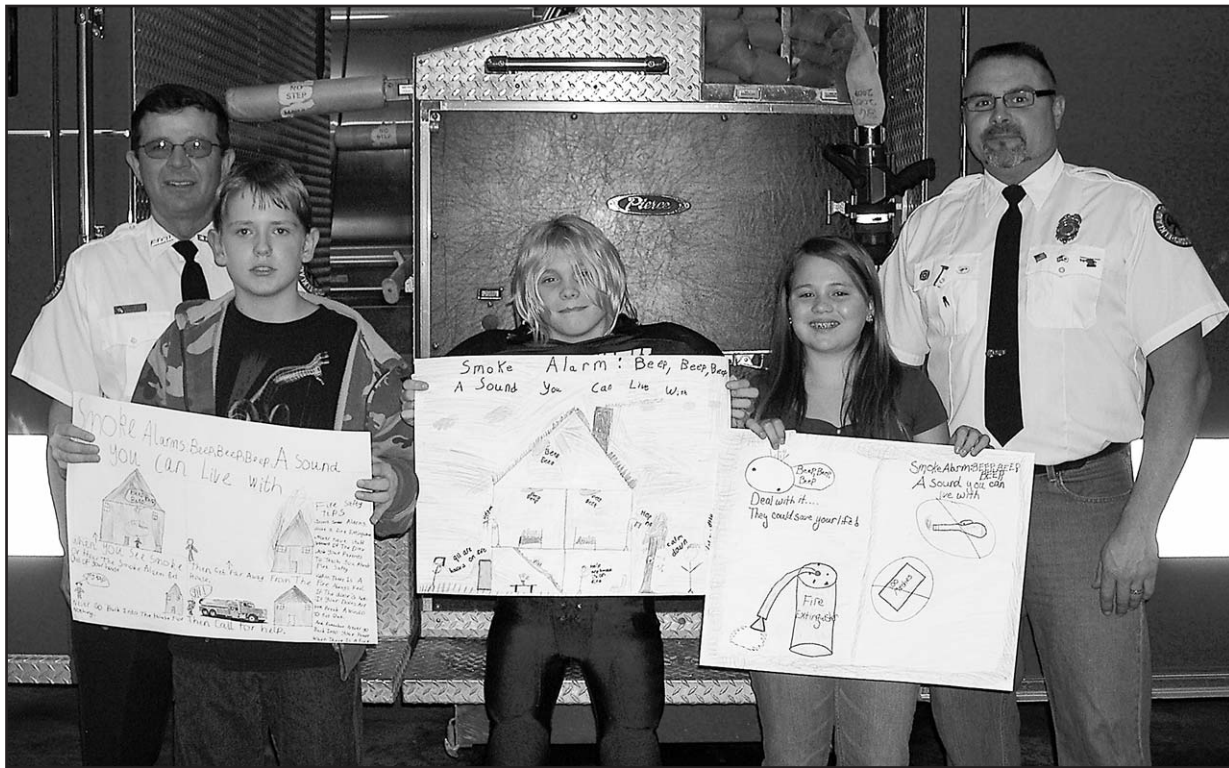
Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Uby. For more information, call Angela R. at (989) 658-2319.
 AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 872-4816.
 Cass City School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
 Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary meeting, 11:30 p.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. (7th-8th graders)

Tuesday, October 26

Toddler Story Time, 10-10:30 a.m., Rawson Memorial District Library. (Ages 18-36 months)
 Young Adult Book Club, 3:30 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library. (5th-6th graders)

Wednesday, October 27

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



THE ELKLAND TOWNSHIP Fire Department offered prizes for the first time this year in their annual fire safety poster contest. Pictured above with Fire Chief Glenn Guilds (far left) and Assistant Fire Chief Scott Wright are the winners (from left to right), Brandon Wright (first place, \$20 prize), Zane Wright (second place, \$15 prize), and Riley Klein (third place, \$15 prize). Brandon Wright's poster was submitted for additional judging against other fifth graders in Tuscola County at the Tuscola Technology Center in Caro.

Circuit court news

Several charged with felonies

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

- Garrett A. Brossoit, 33, Caro, stood mute to charges of uttering and publishing and forgery involving a judgment of sentence (public record) March 11 in Indianfields Township. He is also charged with being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).
 A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled in the case and bond was continued at \$15,000.
- Tyler G. Trollman, 45, Kingston, received a one-year delayed sentence following his plea of guilty to a charge of larceny of property valued at \$1,000 to \$20,000 between Nov. 29, 2009, and April 2010 in Caro/Mayville/Vassar.
 He was ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$828 plus restitution of \$1,116.17.
- Justin J. Klein, 17, Fairgrove, was sentenced to 180 days in the county jail, with work release and worksite privileges, for his pleas of guilty to delivery/manufacture of marijuana and possession of cocaine, heroin or another narcotic Aug. 5 in Vassar.
 He was also placed on 24 months probation and ordered to pay \$2,756 in costs and fines.

- Troy A. Withers, 29, Caro, was sentenced to 270 days in jail, with work release and worksite privileges, for his pleas of guilty to violating the Sex Offenders Registration Act by failing to notify law enforcement of a change in address within 10 days May 25 in Caro.
 He was also placed on 36 months probation and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,991.
- Justin W. Withers, 20, Caro, was sentenced to 365 days in jail and 36 months probation for his pleas of guilty to delivery/manufacture of cocaine, heroin or another narcotic, and creation/delivery of a counterfeit substance (narcotic/methamphetamine/Ecstasy) Dec. 7-8 in Caro.
 He was also ordered to complete 75 hours of community service and pay \$2,406 in costs and fines.
- Michael K. Sabo, 57, Pontiac, was sentenced to 90 days in jail (45 days deferred) and 24 months probation for his pleas of guilty to carrying a concealed weapon and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor June 30 in Dayton Township.
 He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,381 plus restitution of \$100.
- Jody L. Putnam, 34, Mayville, was sentenced to 120 days in jail, with work release, for his pleas of guilty to 2 counts of delivery/manufacture of marijuana between Dec.

- 29, 2009, and Jan. 4, 2010, in Fremont Township.
 He was also placed on 24 months probation and ordered to pay \$2,256.
- Jahmaul M. Spencer, 21, Caro, stood mute to 5 counts of assaulting or obstructing a police officer Sept. 17 in Caro.
 A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled and bond was continued at a combined \$20,000.
- Raydar R. Williams, 19, Caro, stood mute to 5 counts of assaulting or obstructing a police officer Sept. 17 in Caro.
 A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled and bond was continued at \$10,000.
- Jeremy A. McTaggart, 34, Vassar, was sentenced to 92 days in jail and 24 months probation for his plea of no contest to larceny in a building July 10-11 in Vassar.
 He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,628.
- Karri L. Dillon, 42, Caro, stood mute to charges of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, assaulting or obstructing a police officer, and driving while her license was suspended or revoked, subsequent offense, Sept. 17 in Caro. She is also charged with being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).
 A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled and bond was continued at \$5,000.

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Obituaries

Aileen Hawkins

Aileen L. Hawkins, 91, of Deford, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010 at Tendercare, Cass City.

She was born Feb. 22, 1919 in Spartanburg, SC, the daughter of the late George Washington and Lulu (Cash) Wease.

Aileen worked in the cotton mills during WWII and also worked for Glendale Foods. She enjoyed gardening and her dogs.

Aileen is survived by her children: Donniss (the late Archie) Adams of Sterling Heights, Rayeleen (John) Clark of North Carolina, and Finettie (the late Billy Kokenos) Hawkins of Warren; 13 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; 5 great great-grandchildren; and a brother, Talmadge (the late Ezza Dale) Wease of South Carolina.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Marleen Nullins; and a son, Aldo Hawkins.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Oct. 16, at Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City, with Pastor David Cooper officiating.

Burial was in the Marlette Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City.

Margaret Lounsbury

Margaret Lodica Lounsbury, 92, of Cass City, died Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010 in Northwood Meadows Medical Care Unit following a short illness.

She was born April 4, 1918 in Elmwood Township, the daughter of Wallace and Eliza (Evans) Morse.

She married Lyle A. Lounsbury Nov. 26, 1936 in Gagetown. He died March 31, 2001.

Margaret was a longtime active member of Sutton Sunshine Methodist Church, where she taught Sunday school for many years and was a member of their women's organization. She currently attended Cass City First Baptist Church with her daughter and son-in-law. She was a Farm Bureau member. Margaret was an excellent seamstress. She continued to sew for people up until a couple of weeks ago. Margaret did a great deal of handwork, including embroidery, knitting, crocheting and was very precise in all that she did. She also enjoyed traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Margaret is survived by her children: Barbara (Alvin) Hutchinson of Cass City, Alice (James) Halsey of Pickford, Sharon (John) Sting of Spring City, Tenn., and John (Lois) Lounsbury of McAllister, MT; grandchildren: Rodney (Eileen) Hutchinson, Jane (Rodney) SanDiego, Gregory Hutchinson, Joan (Melvin) Davis, Jill Hutchinson, Steven (Theresa)

Halsey, David (Jill) Halsey, Wendy Halsey, and Jennifer (Robert) Armstrong; 14 great-grandchildren; a great great-granddaughter; sisters: Ida Wiles of Cass City, and Ruth (Charles) Cutler of Saginaw; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Lena Tuckey; and an infant brother, Charles Morse.

Funeral services were held Monday, Oct. 18, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with Pastor David Hill of Cass City First Baptist Church officiating.

Interment was in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Memorials may be made to Rawson Memorial District Library or United Hospice of Marlette.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

Gerald Roeske

Gerald Arthur Roeske, 83, of Kingston, died unexpectedly Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010 in Covenant HealthCare, Cooper Campus, Saginaw.

He was born Oct. 20, 1926 in Detroit, the son of Arthur and Alverna (Hess) Roeske.

He married Jacqueline Barrons March 8, 1975 in the Kingston United Methodist Church, Kingston.

Gerald enjoyed sailing the Great Lakes and loved living in the country. He served in the U.S. Navy as seaman 1st class in Bremerton, Wash. Gerald worked at Creative Industries in Detroit for 35 years as a pattern and model maker for the automotive industry. He retired in 1990. Gerald collected guns and guitars. He was an airplane pilot and enjoyed making ship models and working with wood.

Gerald is survived by his wife, Jacqueline; a daughter, Gere Roeske of Richmond; a son, Kenneth (Sandy) Roeske of Chesterfield Township; 18 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; step-children: Rita McGowan of Royal Oak, Diana (Charlie) Cassisi of Mt. Clemens, Vicki (Ron) Stolzman of Decker, and Scott (Dawn) Woidan of Cass City; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Gerald; a brother, Ronnie; and a sister, Marie.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Oct. 13, at the Kingston United Methodist Church, Kingston, with the Rev. Debra Brown officiating.

Interment was in the Kingston Cemetery, Kingston.

Military honors under the direction of the Kingston VFW Post #5317.

Memorials may be made to the Kingston VFW Post #5317.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Kingston.

Rawson Memorial District Library calling all Thumb area woodworkers

Calling all woodworkers! Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City is hosting a woodworking show and is seeking interested woodworkers.

Each artist may exhibit up to 3 items. All works will be displayed in the Pinney room and in the main library Nov. 3-30 during regular library hours.

Beginning Monday, Oct. 25, items may be brought to the library. The deadline for drop off is Friday, Oct. 29. Artists are encouraged to place business cards or contact information on the pieces if they are interested in selling their items.

Contact Ann Craig at the library at (989) 872-2856 for more information.

Reward upped in dog cruelty case

Continued from page one.

responsible for poisoning the animals.

The probe began earlier this month when deputies were dispatched to 1855 W. Richardson Rd. in Colfax Township.

"The victim, Rachael L. Matson, reported her daughter called her to tell her that 7 of their 9 dogs were very sick. the Bad Axe Animal Clinic was called and veterinarian was sent," Hanson said. "It appears that during the day, an individual or individuals entered the unlocked kennel and put anti-freeze in the dogs' water.

"The on-scene veterinarian determined that the dogs were in such bad shape that a decision was made and carried out to euthanize the 4 young and 3 adult dogs," he added.

The sheriff noted that blood samples were taken and the suspected contaminated water was collected for testing.

"Deputy Bismack, assisted by Trooper Berg from the Bad Axe Michigan State Police Post, gathered

other evidence. This investigation will continue," Hanson said. "Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact our office at (989) 269-6500 or the Huron Central Dispatch at (989) 269-6421.

In announcing their reward offer, officials with the HSUS said that getting the serious attention of law enforcement, prosecutors and the community in cases involving allegations of cruelty to animals is an essential step in protecting the community. "Studies show a correlation

between animal cruelty and all manner of other crimes, from narcotics and firearms violations to battery and sexual assault," they said.

"Poisoning is a terribly cruel way to die, which is why deliberately poisoning an animal is a felony crime in Michigan," said Jill Fritz, the HSUS' Michigan state director. "The Humane Society of the United States is hopeful that this reward will help find the person(s) responsible for the intense suffering these dogs experienced."

Red Hawk Marching Band enjoys success

The Cass City High School Red Hawk Marching Band recently traveled to Lakers High School to participate in the Thumb Friend of the Arts first-ever Marching Festival.

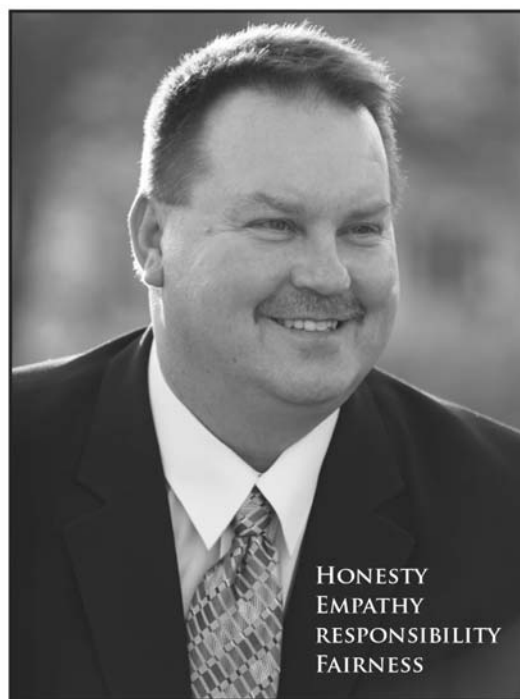
The band was judged in 3 separate categories by 3 different judges. The first category was music and they received a Division one rating. The

second category was marching where they received a Division 2 rating, and the third category was overall effect and they received a Division one rating.

Those 3 ratings are then averaged together and the band walked away from their first successful marching festival with a Division one rating.

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DNRE aims to restore the pheasant population in state

As pheasant season opens across the Lower Peninsula, veteran hunters recall a time when the birds were a premier quarry for Michigan hunters. At its peak in the 1950s, Michigan boasted a half a million pheasant hunters or more, who bagged almost a million birds annually.

At one time, opening day of pheasant season was almost akin to a holiday. Schools and factories closed in prime pheasant hunting communities for the day.

Although deer hunting has surpassed pheasant hunting in popularity, biologists at the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) have not abandoned management for the colorful game birds. In fact, the department - along with a handful of partners - is embarking on an initiative aimed at restoring Michigan's pheasant hunting heritage.

"We are giving greater focus to small game hunting opportunities in Michigan," said DNRE Wildlife Division Chief Russ Mason. "We believe by restoring our high quality pheasant hunting tradition, we can attract new hunters and bring back hunters who have left the sport."

The DNRE has been working with a number of partners - including Pheasants Forever, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Department of Agriculture - to develop a pheasant recovery initiative. The DNRE believes that with proper attention, pheasant hunting can once again become an important component of Michigan outdoor recreation.

Pheasant populations have declined across the state for a variety of reasons, primarily habitat loss. In the golden age of pheasant hunting, some of the best counties for pheasant hunting were Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Most of that habitat has been lost to urbanization.

Elsewhere in the state, continued development, changing agricultural practices and reforestation has led to degradation of the remaining pheasant habitat.

That's where the new plan kicks off - restoring habitat in areas that have the potential to support pheasant populations and hunting opportunities.

"We believe this can work if people will work together through a grass roots community approach to get

habitat on the ground," said Al Stewart, the upland game bird program leader at the DNRE. "Up to this point, many of the pheasant habitat programs have been piecemeal processes. We want to focus our dollars and activities on the best projects on a larger scale - perhaps a township in size. We want to identify deficiencies in the habitat and then hopefully restore that habitat."

The succession of grasslands into brush and woodlots has deprived the birds of the nesting, escape and winter cover that they need to thrive. From 1980 through 1993, forest cover increased in southern Michigan by 40,000 acres a year. Research indicates that once forest cover reaches 10 percent of the landscape, it becomes increasingly difficult for pheasants to thrive.

The plan calls for identifying 10,000-acre areas where landowners are interested in resurrecting pheasant hunting. If those areas are identified, the DNRE will study the habitat, determine any deficiencies and work with partners and landowners to eliminate those deficiencies.

Once that is accomplished, the possibility exists to get birds from other pheasant-rich states, such as Kansas or South Dakota, to revitalize pheasant populations.

"It's sort of salting the pot," explained Stewart. "It's not going to be a put-and-take program. If people are committed to doing something for pheasants, then we're committed to helping them. Wild birds could help stimulate the revitalization."

The DNRE never forgot about pheasant hunting. During the 1980s and early '90s, the department brought Sichuan-strain pheasants to Michigan in an attempt to see if birds that were more genetically suited to brushy habitat could make a difference.

"That was the first time wild birds were brought to this continent," Stewart said. "That genetic strain can still be identified in wild birds."

"And we continue to be leaders in federal farm-bill discussions and activities. Our private lands coordinator just helped host a national discussion on the future of the farm bill. The farm bill puts pheasant habitat on the ground."

The revitalization will not be easy. "Today the upper Thumb counties and the diamond-shaped area - from Flint to Ithaca, to Grand Rapids to Jackson and back to Flint - have

the best habitat available," Stewart said. "In the heydays of pheasant hunting that was considered to be fair to poor pheasant hunting."

"We continue to have an interest and emphasis on managing for pheasants on the state lands, but that isn't going to be enough. We need people on the land to help with this. We need to do it on a landscape level and we need to do it with community support. We have evaluated the habitat and have identified priority areas for pilot projects."

The group has identified three priority areas: Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties; Hillsdale, Lenawee and Monroe counties; and Gratiot, Saginaw and Clinton counties.

"We will host community meetings in these pilot areas," Stewart said. "We're trying to see if people are truly interested. If they are - and will identify their friends and neighbors who want to do things for pheasants - then we'll look at those specific areas and focus our efforts on the needs of pheasants in those areas."

A key component is doing it on a landscape scale.

"Efforts up to now have concentrated on small areas - 50 acres here, a filter strip there, a single landowner who want to do things for pheasants. Instead of a piecemeal approach, we're going to make a focused effort on a landscape scale. We need the whole package; food, nesting cover, winter cover, escape cover."

"State land can be paired up with private land to meet those needs."

"Optimistically, we can have 200 of these 10,000 acre areas," Stewart said. "The long-range objective will be to get 2 million acres into programs like this. It's like rebuilding a city one neighborhood at a time"

"We know that when you have the habitat, you have the pheasants. We hope that if we do it on the broad scale, it will revitalize pheasant hunting in Michigan."

The improved habitat will pay benefits not only for pheasants, but for other species, such as deer and wild turkeys, as well. Stewart said he believes the program will attract other conservation groups as partners when they see the benefits of improved habitat.

"Not only hunters will benefit," Stewart said. "People continue to be interested in pheasants. Non-hunters continue to enjoy hearing and seeing them. And they provide a positive economic impact."

Our library through the years...100 years and going strong

by *Kate VanAuken, director*
Rawson Memorial District Library

The Tuscola County Literacy Council was formed in 1988 and had branches in Cass City, Kingston, Caro, Mayville and Millington.

Evelyn McRae, Ellen Toner and Jane Hittler volunteered their time and spearheaded this effort. These gals recruited and trained tutors and would use local libraries as a meeting place.

Over the years, many volunteers have provided tutoring services to a wide age range of people in our area. For the past number of years, the council has been based at Rawson Memorial Library.

This program provides so much more than reading help. The staff at the library continues to witness the bond that grows between pupil and

tutor.

Over the years, many of these folks have met at Rawson and have become part of our family.

Some of the participants include students helping other students to retired residents teaching others who are still in the work force.

Currently there are between 20-30 tutors in our county ready, willing and able to

help those in need. Over these past 20 years, there have been hundreds of people helped by the Tuscola County Literacy Council and their goal is to continue this important endeavor for many years to come.

If you are interested in becoming a tutor or know of someone who needs help, please contact Jane Hittler at (989) 872-3147.



NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF CASS CITY

The "political season" is once again upon us. As such, this is a reminder to all Cass City Village residents and business owners that signs "...shall not be located in, project into, or overhang a public right-of-way or dedicated public easement."

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LEAVES CAN BE a lot of fun, when you don't have to rake them. Above, Keagan, 5 (standing), and Devin Voss, 3, enjoy some fall time fun in a big pile of leaves. They are the sons of Christina Lawrence of Cass City.



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KELLY DELONG, 12, straddles the 220-pound bear the Cass City Middle School student shot near Newberry.

Bennett and company continue to impress

And now there's one. Only one runner to catch, on the Cass City Top Ten Record Board, for cross county phenom Alyssa Bennett.

The Red Hawk freshman broke the 20-minute mark twice last week, including Saturday at the Reese Invitational where she recorded a season-best time of 19:48, good for third place individually.

Bennett now has her eyes firmly focused on Carrie Lautner's long standing school record time of 19:41.

Bennett, and 2 other top 15 showings, saw Cass City place third in the team standings, trailing winner Caro and runner-up Frankenmuth with 50 and 66 points, respectively. Tawas with 81, Bad Axe 102, and Vassar 120, completed the team rankings.

Red Hawk Jessa Prieskorn was clocked in 21:17 (12th place) and Ashley Potts in 21:36 (13th) to finish next for Coach Amy Cuthrell's squad, which also had Becca Leslie and Ashtyn Janiske-Weiler with time of 23:10 and 23:31, respectively.

Medalist among the ladies was Freeland's Breanne Lesnar with a time of 18:47.

The Red Hawks boys failed to qual-

ify for the team standings, but had Eric Churchill with a time of 18:29; Mike Potrykus, 20:31; and Cody Ross, 21:14.

Team champion Frankenmuth had the 2 fastest runners on the day in Ben Sievert and Eric Edmond who completed the 3.1 mile race in 16:09 and 16:16.

BAD AXE INVITE

Earlier last week, on Tuesday, Bennett posted a time of 19:52 to capture medalist honors and Potts (21:11) and Prieskorn (21:50) finished third and fourth individually, to lead the Red Hawks to the top of the team standings with 27 points, followed by Vassar, 59, Bad Axe, 64 and Mayville, 65.

Helping to put Cass City on top were Janiske-Weiler's effort of 22:38 and Leslie's time of 23:32.

In the boys' field, Vassar held off Mayville 33-37 for the team championship.

Mayville's Hayden Garlick bested the field with a time of 17:22.

For the Red Hawks, Churchill's time of 19:28 was tops, while Trevor Brown, Ross and Potrykus chipped in times of 20:11, 20:14 and 20:29.

Bulldog spikers fall short



BULLDOG Marissa Woodruff makes a play in NCTL action with CPS.

After opening North Central Thumb League play last week suffering defeat in straight games against league-leading Caseville, the Bulldogs gave visiting Carsonville-Port Sanilac all they could handle Thursday before dropping an exciting 5-game thriller to the Tigers.

Although the Eagles kept their NCTL mark unblemished Tuesday with easy decisions of 25-21, 25-12 and 25-17 near the bay, it was a different story for the Bulldog spikers on their own court.

There, Owen-Gage came out and grabbed the initial game 25-13, only to see the Tigers take the next 2 games by the tallies of 25-18 and 25-22.

The Bulldogs then sent the match to a deciding 5th game with a one-sided 25-16 victory, but couldn't complete the comeback as the hosts fell 15-8 in the rubber game.

Individually, Christin Harris had a big night for the Bulldogs and posted 20 kills, 5 blocks and 3 ace serves against the Tigers, while Amanda Muntz added 16 kills, 2 blocks and 7 ace serves; Lauren Mandich, 8 assists, 5 kills and 5 ace serves; and Kayla Montreuil, 16 assists.

Defensively, the hosts had Erika Mroz and Lacie Prich with 17 and 12 digs, respectively.

Against the Eagles, Harris recorded 15 kills, 3 blocks and Muntz had 7 kills and 2 blocks to pace the Bulldog offense, while defensively the visitors had Prich with 8 digs, Mroz with 5 and Carli Warack with 3.

Cass City 46, Lakers 6

Red Hawks return to win column in splendid fashion

Loaded with several senior class members, Cass City's 2010 home finale ended as it should have for the Red Hawk gridiron team.

The hosts' thorough 46-6 whipping of the Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Lakers Friday halted the team's 4-game losing streak, while improving their record to 4-4 entering this week's contest at Caro, also 4-4 on the campaign.

And while the regular season finale will be played for pride only, as both squads are expected to miss this year's playoff action, there's plenty of that at stake.

Yes, both teams will be looking to conclude the season with a winning record, but for several Thumb fans, and former players, the one-time heated rivalry will bring back memories from the 1950s, 60s, 70s and 80s when the 2 neighbors squared off annually as members of the Thumb B Conference.

Caro has dominated the series, especially as of late, winning the last 10 contests. If the current Red Hawk team plans to turn the tide, Caro's last defeat came in 1992, another solid showing from the Red Hawks' 2010 graduates will be needed.

It starts with Justin Ketterer. The Red Hawks' 2-year starter at quarterback saved his best performance of the year for the hometown crowd Friday, completing 7-of-11 pass attempts for a season-high 112 yards.

Ketterer looked sharp on the night and helped the winners gather 452 yards of total offense, while the defense held the Laker attack to just 77 total yards.

Senior Brandon Stine, 19 carries for 166 yards, accounted for Cass City's only first quarter points with a 2-yard plunge and then put the hosts up 14-0 early in the second stanza when he busted loose from 35 yards out.

Stine's second marker capped a 99-yard march that moved into Laker territory on a pair of passes to senior Jeff Leslie and one to junior Morgan Erla.

The Lakers, who couldn't move the ball while under center, used an 89-yard kick off return from Tim Warack to crack the score board.

But Stine's final marker on a 50-yard sprint followed by senior Austin Osentoski's 3-yard TD run had Cass City with a comfortable 27-6 margin at the midway point.

It didn't take Cass City long to put the game out of reach in the third period.

The hosts took the final half kickoff

Football Standings			
Greater Thumb West		Greater Thumb East	
Team	W	L	W
*Reese	5	1	7
*Vassar	5	1	6
BCAS	4	2	6
USA	4	2	4
Cass City	2	4	4
EPBP	1	5	2
Bad Axe	0	6	0
Team	W	L	W
*Ubyly	5	0	8
Sandusky	4	1	6
Brown City	2	3	4
H. Beach	2	3	4
Marlette	2	3	4
Mayville	0	5	0
North Central Thumb League	W	L	W
*Deckerville	4	0	6
N. Huron	3	1	4
Kingston	2	2	3
Memphis	0	3	1
Peck	0	3	1
8-Man	W	L	W
*CPS	4	0	7
A-Fairgrove	2	2	3
Owen-Gage	0	3	2

*Clinched title.
 *Clinched at least share of title.
 ° Clinched playoff berth



CASS CITY'S Ethan Nicol (2) makes a good hit on Laker Chase Voelker despite being blocked by Brody Lawrence (20) in GTW play. The Red Hawks rolled to a 46-6 win.

O-G no match for Carsonville-Port Sanilac

Owen-Gage will enter Thursday's season finale against Michigan School for the Deaf in Owendale on the heels of a 41-12 setback against Carsonville-Port Sanilac.

The Bulldogs received touchdowns from Clyde Rhodes and Jordan Kain Friday, but it wouldn't be enough to knock the Tigers from the unbeaten ranks.

Hunter Champagne collected 116 rushing yards to pace the visitors, but needed 32 carries to break the 100-yard plateau. Champagne also completed 4-of-10 pass attempts for another 36 yards, which included a scoring strike to Rhodes, the Bulldogs' leading receiver with 4 catches.

Defensively, Champagne led the visitors with 7 tackles, while Kain recorded 4 stops.



LEADING the cheers along the Kingston football sidelines in 2010 are Cardinals, front, l-r, Jessica LaBlanc, Elizabeth DuRussell, Darlene Pearce, Lisa Shippey, Joleane LaBlanc (back) Cardinal mascot, Erica Stoll, Dominique LaCourse and Jazmine LaCourse.

CC spikers fall

Cass City dropped its third straight Greater Thumb West volleyball outing last week, bowing to the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Patriots in 4 games.

After watching her Red Hawks fold by the scores 25-12, 17-25, 25-12 and 25-18 on Tuesday, Coach Brenda Sherman summed up the defeat by saying, "Errors were the name of our game. We beat ourselves in all aspects of the game."

McKensie Parrish had 19 digs and 52 receptions to lead the visitors, while Stephanie Leeson recorded 23 assists and Carley Hendrick 8 kills, all in vain.

Volleyball Standings Greater Thumb West		
Team	W	L
Reese	6	1
Cass City	5	2
USA	5	2
Bad Axe	4	2
Vassar	3	4
BCAS	1	6
EPBP	0	7
Greater Thumb East		
Team	W	L
Brown City	6	1
Marlette	6	1
Ubyly	5	2
Mayville	2	5
Sandusky	2	5
H. Beach	0	7

Cass City Bowling

Merchanettes as of Oct. 14		Wednesday Nite Trio as of Oct. 13	
Thumb Octagon Barn	29	Martin Electric	15
Just One More	23	Scheurer Hospital	15
All or Nothing	16	Rooney Contracting	14
		JEBCO	14
Individual High Games & Series:		Vandelay Ind.	14
Joan Montgomery 163-169 (434);		Kelly & Co.	13
Marlene Sieradzki 159-157 (462);		Charmont	12
Elaine Romain 156-155 (416);		Scheurer Healthcare Network	12
Deidra Zdrojewski 161.		Walsh Farms	6
Team High Games & Series:		Individual High Games & Series:	
Thumb Octagon Barn 555-583 (1583).		Ryan Bennett 205-203 (588); Roy Hull 215 (545).	
Splits: Dorothy Sweeney 3-10;		Team High Games & Series:	
Elaine Romain 3-10; Joan Koch 3-10;		Rooney Contracting 535-572-508 (1616); Charmont 538-504-472 (1514).	
Renee Mallory 5-6-10; Denise Sines 2-10.			
Strikes: Joan Montgomery 3 strikes in a row.			

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Varsity Football



Clarke Haire



Tom Montgomery



Tina Pallas



Doug Hyatt

Friday, October 22

Sandusky at Bad Axe	Sandusky	Sandusky	Sandusky	Sandusky
Saginaw MLS at BCAS	BCAS	Saginaw MLS	BCAS	BCAS
Cass City at Caro	Caro	Cass City	Caro	Caro
Imlay City at Lakers	Imlay City	Imlay City	Imlay City	Imlay City
USA at Habor Beach	USA	USA	USA	USA
Brown City at Memphis	Brown City	Brown City	Brown City	Brown City
Peck at Marlette	Marlette	Marlette	Marlette	Marlette
Mayville at Kingston	Mayville	Kingston	Kingston	Kingston
North Huron at Ubyly	Ubyly	Ubyly	Ubyly	Ubyly
A-Fairgrove at Wyom. Tri-U	Wyom. Tri-U	Wyom. Tri-U	Wyom. Tri-U	Wyom. Tri-U
Flint MSD at Owen-Gage	Owen-Gage	Flint MSD	Owen-Gage	Owen-Gage
Last Week's Results	6-5	8-3	6-5	7-4
Season's Results	58-32 (64%)	59-31 (66%)	52-38 (58%)	63-27 (70%)

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CARLEE Stimpfel, 10, fans the tail feathers of his first partridge kill. The Cass City youth took the bird while hunting on state land with his dad Tom and brother Bransen.

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Schneeberger's ATHLETES of the WEEK

Schneeberger's honors the Cass City cross country teams as their Athletes of the Week award winners. Coach Amy Cuthrell has her Lady Red Hawks poised to capture the Greater Thumb Conference championship Tuesday in Marlette during the one-day event which will determine league honors. The Lady Red Hawks could finish the outing with the top 3 individual finishers in Alyssa Bennett, Ashley Potts and Jessa Prieskorn. On the boys' side, Cuthrell feels freshman Eric Churchill should be able to record all-conference honors.



MEMBERS of the 2010 Cass City Red Hawk cross country team include: (front, l-r) Shelby Abell, Hayley Wynn (middle) Ashley Potts, Becca Leslie, Elisabeth Milligan, Alyssa Bennett, Ashtyn Janeskee-Weiler (back) Trevor Brown, Eric Churchill, Alex Zaleski, Cody Ross and Michael Potrykus. Missing are Garrett Ferguson, Justin Ferguson and Jessa Prieskorn.

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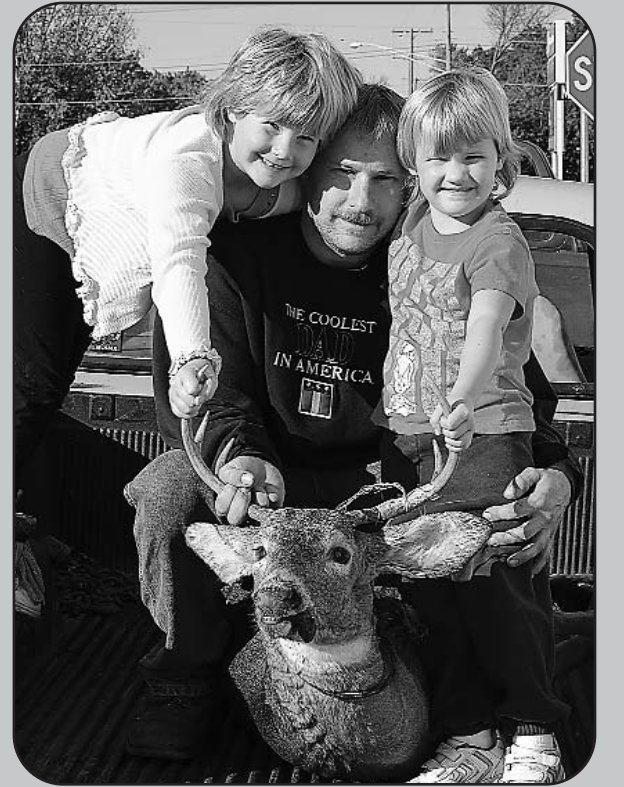
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Hunting success



MIKE Prosowski holds his 14-point non-typical buck shot in the Argyle area Friday night. The Sanilac County trophy has an 18 1/2" inside spread.



CASS CITY'S Jim Polega took this 6-point buck, with a 14 1/4" inside spread, while hunting east of Cass City. He's pictured with daughters Jennifer, left, and Jordan.

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Great house! Great price! You couldn't build this home for what it's selling for. Plus it sets on 4 acres and has a nice pole barn. You've just got to come take a look at this one. It sets back off the road. Home is move-in ready with gas fireplace and finished basement. North Branch schools. Buyers must be pre-qualified. Immediate possession. Call today for a tour. NB-252	Like new home with an extra tall, full basement. Set up for wood stove in living room. Open floor plan. 2 car garage, rear deck and pond setting on 4.9 acres. Located between Mayville and Foster. Immediate occupancy. M-365	Sand Point Lakefront. Shape cottage or home, whichever you prefer. It has 3 bedrooms with an attached garage, fireplace, nice windows in back for a great view of the lake. It sets on a 75'x130' lot plus there's another 75'x125' lot across the street with a 22'x24' garage that goes with this property. Plenty of parking for your guest or outdoor entertainment. Well maintained and move-in ready. CA-56
PRICE REDUCED!!	NEW!!	AFFORDABLE!!
Older Brick home with nice character. Original woodwork throughout in good to excellent condition, including unique doors and fireplace. Country kitchen with wall oven and an extra room with fireplace that could be used as a 5th bedroom. This home also has a family room with fireplace, large deck off the back, a 40'x80' pole barn with 220 electric and a chicken coop that could also be used for storage. Located just 2 1/2 miles south of town. Great location. CC-627	Great newlywed home. Appliances included. 2-3 bedrooms. Third bedroom is finished upstairs, but there are no heat ducts. This home is move in ready. Very well maintained with an appealing yard. Full basement. In town, Cass City. Close to park. Call for an appointment. CCT-456	Very affordable, move in ready home, featuring 4 bedrooms with approximately 1,500 sq. ft. of living space and a nice 2 car garage. Appealing lot. Occupy yourself or leave as rented. Owner says sell it! Call today. This one will go fast! CCT-454

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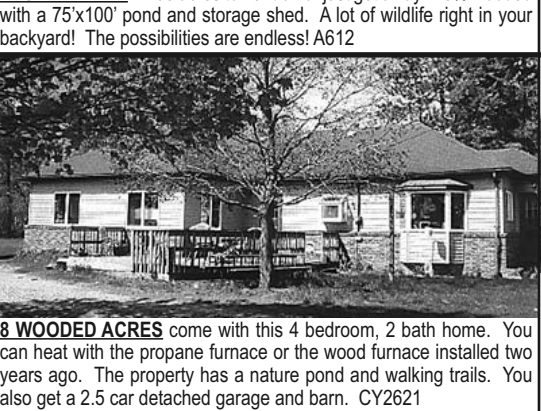
VACANT LAND! 14.95 acres to hunt on or just get away. 75% wooded with a 75'x100' pond and storage shed. A lot of wildlife right in your backyard! The possibilities are endless! A612



FEATURES: Well maintained 3 bedroom, 1 bath home, close to schools, and a 2-car attached garage with a 10'x12' enclosed breezeway. Furnace with central air, upgraded electrical, counter tops and garbage disposal in 2008. Newer kitchen cabinet faces and dishwasher. Hardwood floors in the bedrooms and newer Berber carpeting in the living room and kitchen. TCC1589



COUNTRY VIEW from your deck off the dining area. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and family room in basement. Great Condo on Misty Hill. TCC1587



8 WOODED ACRES come with this 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. You can heat with the propane furnace or the wood furnace installed two years ago. The property has a nature pond and walking trails. You also get a 2.5 car detached garage and barn. CY2621



3 BEDROOM, 1 3/4 bath, 2 story, 1,680 sq. ft., home with a 2-car garage and an attached 24'x32' storage building. Located on the east end of town, with many updates. Home is currently set up as a 2nd floor rental, but can easily be changed back to a single family home. The yard has a lot of flowers, shrubs, mature trees and a path in the back giving sanctuary to our feathered friends. T0759

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