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presents generous gift**

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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 52

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011

FIFTY CENTS ~ 16 PAGES



Man critically injured after striking truck last Tuesday

A Cass City man was critically injured last week when the vehicle he was driving collided with a semi-truck just east of town.

The accident occurred at shortly before 10 a.m. Tuesday, according to Tuscola County Undersheriff Glen Skrent, who identified the victim as Donald Kruse, 78.

Skrent reported that Kruse, was driving northbound on Schwegler Road when he stopped at the stop sign at M-81 and then pulled into the path of the truck, which was headed

westbound. That vehicle was driven by Eric Hagen, 50, of Ubyly, who was not injured.

"Kruse was airlifted to a Saginaw hospital by FlightCare, then transferred to Hurley Hospital in Flint, in critical condition," Skrent said. "He was found not to have been wearing a seatbelt."

MMR ambulance personnel, members of the Elkland Township and Elmwood Township-Gagetown fire departments, and Cass City police assisted at the scene.

A CASS CITY area man was listed in critical condition after the vehicle he was driving struck a semi last week at the intersection of M-81 and Schwegler Road. The driver, Donald Kruse, 78, was flown to a Saginaw area hospital, then transferred to Hurley Hospital in Flint.



Tuscola Co. Sheriff: this program will target teen drivers

Tuscola County Sheriff Lee Teschendorf is again reminding parents of teenagers who drive of the STOPPED program. STOPPED stands for Sheriffs Telling Our Parents and Promoting Educated Drivers.

The program is sponsored statewide by the Michigan Sheriff's Association and AAA.

"The STOPPED program is a parental notification system with a goal to reduce the number of young drivers who are injured or killed in motor vehicle crashes each year," Teschendorf explained. "Annually, over 3,000 drivers ages 16 to 21 years old, die in the United States as a result of motor vehicle crashes. Although young drivers represent less than 15 percent of all licensed drivers in Michigan, they are involved in almost 25 percent of all crashes.

"By signing up (with the STOPPED program), you get an emblem for the windshield of each vehicle that is used by your child," the sheriff said. "If a deputy stops the registered vehicle while a person under 21 years of age is driving, whether or not a ticket is issued, a notification is mailed to the parent of the traffic stop. This makes the parent aware of potential problems as well as enables them to enforce parental rules that often co-exist with teenage privileges."

Parents can learn more about the program and sign up by either calling 1-800-875-5500 or go online at: www.MichiganSheriff.com. Enrollment forms are also available at the Secretary of State Office in Caro.

Couple with roots in the Thumb running own disposal business

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

For most folks, trash is simply something you toss out.

Not to Melanie (Churchill) and Ryan Radabaugh, a couple whose roots in the area brought them back to the Thumb with their own disposal business in hopes of serving their friends and neighbors and, at the same time, earning a decent living in

the community they've called home for years.

In the process, the Radabaughs, who now reside in the Deford area, have proven themselves good business managers, earning the trust of a growing number of customers.

The Radabaughs — Melanie graduated from Cass City High School in 1992 and Ryan is a 1995 Owen-Gage High School graduate — formed Diva Disposal in 2009.

"We were living out of the Thumb area for the past 13 years, and once we had children knew that we wanted to raise our family back in this area and be closer to our own families," said Melanie Radabaugh, who along with Ryan have 2 children; Colin, who is 5 weeks old, and Madison, 3.

"We spent the last several years discussing that we'd like to own our Please turn to page 4.

Sweet legacy Battels gearing up to share 129-year maple syrup history

Talk about sweet success.

The Battel family has perfected the process of transforming maple tree sap into syrup, not to mention candy and other natural maple treats over the course of nearly 130 years.

And, for the past 2 years, they've invited the Thumb community to stop by for a tour and a taste of their natural family legacy. This year's open house is slated for Saturday, March 19, at Battel's Sugar Bush, which is located at 7964 Daus Rd. (also known as Ritter Road). The sugar bush is one mile west of M-53 and one mile south of Bay City-Forestville Road.

"This is the third year we're doing a free public open house where people can see how syrup is made. We make sure everyone gets a pancake with fresh maple syrup," said family member Sue Stuever Battel. "Join us anytime from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a free, public open house. See firsthand how we make our sweetness from the woods.

"Visitors are invited to experience the making of fresh maple syrup as the family shares its tradition. Participants can try their hand at tapping a maple tree, see how sap is gathered and boiled, and get a taste of the finished product," Stuever Battel said. "Guided tours will be given by request, and children may enjoy a self-guided scavenger hunt.

"We had about 100 people attend the open house last year, although the weather was terrible. The year before, with better weather, we had nearly 300," Stuever Battel noted. "We're also having a special 'Maple Syrup Day' for homeschoolers on Friday, March 18. We expect homeschooling families from as far as Livonia and Flint to be there."

The Battel family's maple syrup history dates back to more than a century.

"One year after the Great Fire of 1881 swept across the Thumb, George and Annie Battel settled on a farm on Daus Road, northeast of Cass City, having moved from Ontario," Stuever Battel said. "They began tapping a 10-acre stand of sugar maple trees that was spared by the 1881 fire and also by the 1871 fire, and from these trees they made pure maple syrup. Their sons, Daniel, George and John, continued making syrup, as did John and Bessie's son, Arthur, and his wife, Marjory. Today, 129 years later, their son, Mark, and his wife, Diane, are still making maple syrup in the same sugar bush."

Two more generations are carrying on that tradition, with their son, Bob, and his wife, Sue, and their young children pitching in to help. And, Mark and Diane's daughter, Brenda, is sure to spend time in the woods each "sugaring season", while Mark's siblings, John Battel and Margaret Battel — although no Please turn to page 8.

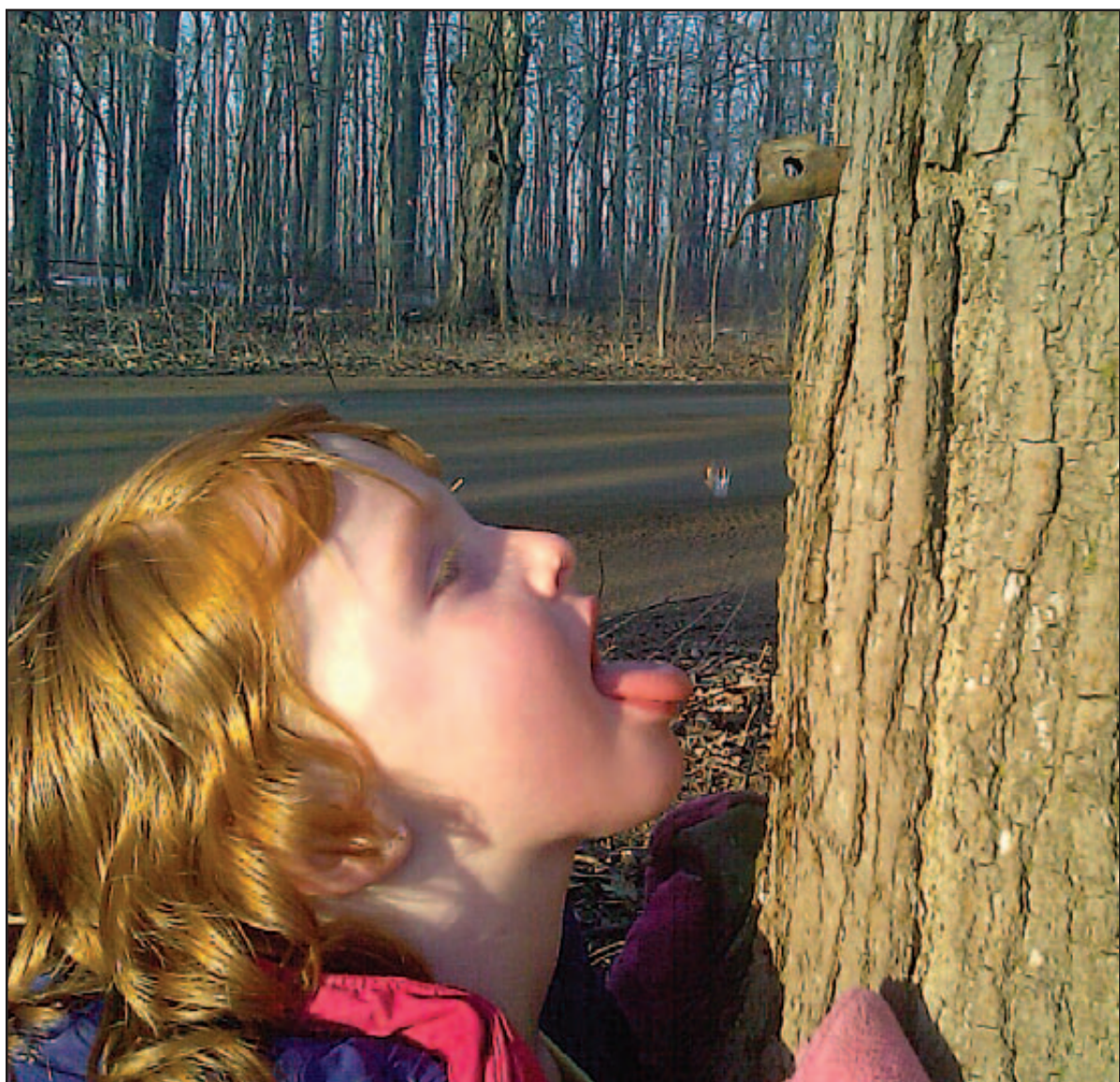


Photo courtesy of Sue Stuever Battel

DORI BATTEL, 5, one of the sixth generation of Battels to help in the family's Cass City area sugar bush, catches a drip of sweet maple sap right out of the tree. The Battels will be hosting a public open house Saturday, March 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The sugar bush is located at 7964 Daus Rd. (also called Ritter Road), one mile west of M-53 and one mile south of Bay City-Forestville Road.



Martin and Mercedes Smith

Smith and Chiroque exchange vows in Peru

Martin Ross Smith and Mercedes Carolina Landa Chiroque were married Aug. 14, 2010 in Lima, Peru. Martin is the son of Gary and Louise Smith of Unionville. Carolina is the daughter of Rosa Elvira Chiroque Abad and Segundo Landa Rodriguez of Lima, Peru. The couple currently reside in the Unionville area.

Senior movies slated at Rawson Library

Rawson Memorial District Library, Cass City, will show the following Senior Citizen Movie Friday, March 18, at 1:30 p.m.

Secretariat: Disney presents an astonishing true story bursting with hope, heart and courage. Behind every legend lies an impossible dream. Witness the spectacular jour-

ney of an incredible horse, Secretariat, and the moving story of his unlikely owner, a housewife who risked everything to make him a champion. Out of the gate, Secretariat is pulse-pounding entertainment. (123 minutes)

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



Barbara Ball
of Cass City will be celebrating her 60th birthday on March 29, 2011. Cards from family and friends would really brighten her day! Please help Barb celebrate her 60th by sending her a card to:
Barbara Ball
6328 Main Street
Cass City, MI 48726



Engaged

Kenneth L. Orton and the late Janice M. Orton of Deford announce the engagement of their son, Jess L. Orton of Saginaw, to Tobi L Ehmcke of Saginaw, daughter of Leonard and Patricia Ehmcke of Saginaw.

The groom-to-be is a 2001 graduate of Cass City High School. He received his Associate's of Science from Davenport University of Caro in 2008.

The bride-to-be is a 1985 graduate of Arthur Hill High School. She attended Delta College, where she received her Unit Secretary Certificate in 1986.

The couple is planning an April 2012 wedding.

Engaged



Ashleigh Finley and Kurt Hanby

Ashleigh Brooke Finley and Kurt Allen Hanby, together with their parents, announce their engagement.

Ashleigh is the daughter of Jill Finley of Plymouth, Ind., and Paul Finley of Crestview, Fla. She is a 2006 graduate of Plymouth High School and graduated from Bethel College, Ind., in 2010 with a Bachelor's Degree in elementary education.

Kurt is the son of Jim and Rita Hanby of Cass City. He is a 2007 graduate of Cass City High School, and will graduate from Bethel College in December 2011 with a Bachelor's Degree in international business and a minor in economics and finance.

The couple is currently planning a July 9, 2011 wedding at Koontz Lake Missionary Church, Ind.

Glaspie named to dean's list

Samantha Glaspie of Cass City has been named to the dean's list and the honor roll in her first term of study at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing.

Glaspie is a graduate of Cass City High School and the University of Michigan. She is the daughter of Kim and Jackie Glaspie of Cass City.

Shabbona UMC to host dinner

The Shabbona United Methodist Church will be hosting a roast beef/roast pork dinner Saturday, March 19, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the church, which is located at the corner of Decker and Severance roads. Donations will be accepted.

The church also hosts a senior lunch on the fourth Thursday of each month. Lunch is served at noon and everyone is welcome.

TACA to present "Steel Magnolias"

Tickets are now on sale for the Thumb Area Center for the Arts' production of "Steel Magnolias", Thursday through Sunday, March 24-27 at the Caro Knights of Columbus Hall.

There will be a \$14 "munchie buffet" Friday and Saturday, and a \$24 dinner buffet Friday and Saturday. Reservations can be made via email at: info@tacfta.org. Additional information and ticket reservations forms are also available by logging onto www.tacfta.org.

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SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers to Mar. 9, 2011

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

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In Our OPINION..

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Scholarship drive worth a donation

The annual Cass City Chamber of Commerce Dinner is still some weeks away, but area residents can make the event — which features the presentation of the “Citizen of the Year” and “Junior Citizen of the Year” awards — even more special.

It was Rawson Memorial District Library Director Kate VanAuken's idea last year to send the junior citizen award winner away with more than a certificate — namely, a \$500 scholarship. So, VanAuken enlisted the support of Tuscola County Community Foundation Executive Director Ken Micklash and Cass City Middle School teacher Mary Keroson. Together, they established an endowment to do just that.

We think VanAuken's idea was a great one. But we all need to pitch in to make this a reality.

Thanks to a number of generous donations, the fund has reached a total of about \$3,300 so far. However, \$10,000 is needed to make the fund self-sustaining in the coming years.

It's a lot of money, but think of it this way: if 1,340 residents would each contribute \$5 each, the goal would be realized.

And the return on that investment would be priceless, in our opinion.

It's no secret that the cost of a college education has skyrocketed over the years, and most families simply can't afford to shoulder that burden alone, especially these days. It's also no secret that the nominees for the Cass City “Junior Citizen of the Year” award are among the most promising high school students this town has to offer.

“These young adults have shown their motivation, dedication and outstanding desire to get involved in our community,” VanAuken commented. “They are true role models and, as a community, we should be very proud of their accomplishments and contributions.”

We agree. Past Junior Citizen of the Year nominees' resumes are more than impressive, and we're not just talking about good grades; they are active in the National Honor Society, student council, a host of extracurricular activities, volunteer work, you name it.

The 2011 version of the annual chamber dinner is slated for Saturday, April 30, at Northwood Meadows in Cass City, and \$1 dollar from every ticket sold will go to the newly-established Cass City Junior Citizen of the Year Scholarship Endowment Fund, which is being managed by the Tuscola County Community Foundation.

VanAuken has made it clear to us that she has no interest whatsoever in having her name or efforts included when it comes to publicity surrounding this endowment fund.

We understand, but we also can't help but applaud her initiative, considering how this scholarship could make a difference in the lives of our brightest, most active young citizens.

Who knows? It may be a past Cass City Junior Citizen of the Year who performs life-saving heart surgery on your loved one, or whose name we recognize when the media announces the next appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. Or, who raises a family that contributes to our communities in ways we couldn't begin to count, or even imagine.

“These young adults are our future. I can't think of a better way to say thank-you to them for all they have done for Cass City and, at the same time, help them embark on their future,” VanAuken said.

We can't think of a better way to say it.



Meow. It's me again, the Cat. You may remember my discourse from a previous occasion. Today I've brought my vast cat intelligence to fill your ordinary day with a dose of feline insight. Lucky you.

I'll let you in on a little secret: I have the universe at my whiskertips and I'm not afraid to say so. Cats rule the world. Oh sure, humans pay the rent, but we control the house - and all the contents therein.

Including the dog. Take my dog (and I mean that in the literal sense). I'd hand her over in an instant. Doing so would simplify my life. I'm all for simplicity - more so when it benefits me.

My dog, however, is another story. I displease her whenever felinely possible. Dog. What kind of a term is that? Say it out loud in the way you humans are fond of doing. Dog. Even the word sounds less than. Less than what? That's the point. Dog is just less than. I would apologize for my cattitude, but I am incapable of insincerity. I am a cat (thank goodness); my purr resonates only the truth.

Letters to the Editor

Stover, Dillon taught us some wonderful lessons

Re: recent editorial on a “normal” citizen becoming a “hero” during a house fire.

After reading the “In Our Opinion” article by the Cass City Chronicle, it brought into focus that things like this happen every day, but the news media has no time to waste on such issues. Rather, they seem to choose to use all of their time to reflect on the horrible nature of our human-ity.

The media follows the path of politics and mind-changing opinions and pushing one agenda after another. There is no time for them to waste on the fact that we indeed have many heroes among us and that they do extraordinary things every day.

This comment is not intended to create a yea or nay over any existing political issue being pushed or attacked by one. Please turn to page 4.

Thumb Tea Party slated for March 24

Dear editor,

James R. Keena, author of “We've Been Had: How Obama and the Radicals Conned Middle Class America,” will be the speaker at the Thursday, March 24 Thumb Tea Party in Cass City. His program will be on George Soros. Keena will go into depth about George Soros' career and ambitions.

Keena, a Detroit automotive executive, is the creator of the pro-liberty website Pathlessland.net, author of the political satire novel “Insurrection Resurrection,” and board member of the Tea Party organization “Rattle With Us.” He has been making the circuits on radio shows across the country, Tea Party rallies, town hall

meetings and educational seminars, to educate listeners about the camouflaged lurch of America into socialism, spearheaded by leftist radicals.

From American Thinker's review of Keena's latest book, “We've Been Had: Keena has produced a book that will be an indispensable reference for future generation's research in Obama. We've Been Had: is comprehensively researched, masterfully organized and fluently written.”

Anyone interested can attend at 6:30 p.m. at the Evangelical Free Church, 6430 Chestnut Blvd., Cass City. It is free of charge and open to the public.

Norma Wallace
Thumb Tea Party
Cass City

President should do what's right for people

President Obama is hoping that Congress will vote on the budget to keep the government from shutting down. It would be better for the American taxpayer if the government would get shut down. Then we could turn the White House into a homeless shelter. We wouldn't notice any change because they don't do their job anyway.

President Obama keeps saying that the economy is getting better, if that's true, the little upward swing is going to be killed with the high gas prices. All President Obama has to do is tell the world that we're going to dig for oil wherever we can get it from.

President Obama do the right thing, do what's right

for the American People, you can deal with the environmental people later. A one-term president is better if you do the right thing, than a 2-term president that didn't do anything good.

If the environmental people think you're doing the wrong thing, then just tell them to get rid of their vehicles and that will bring the consumption down and will also bring the prices down.

And, when the speculators hear that we're digging for oil, the price of a barrel of oil will drop to \$50-\$60. Then the people we do have working won't be spending all their money on foreign oil.

Robert Peruski
Ubly

While it's clear dogs will never be my equal, I'm sure they must possess some smidgen of value. If I could think of what that might be, I would write about it here, but there'll be plenty of opportunity to explore that subject during another lifetime. (I can probably fit it in between naps.)

Speaking of which, I believe I'm approaching time for a catnap right now. Frequent snoozing keeps my instincts honed and my mind sharp. I've shared some keen tidbits with you today. I hope you are grateful for my dialogue. If not, well, let's just say I won't lose any sleep over the matter. Because, until next time, I remain...

Apathetically Yours,
The Cat.

Jill Pertler, award-winning syndicated columnist and author of “The Do-It-Yourselfer's Guide to Self-Syndication” is collecting fans on Facebook on her Slices of Life page. Email her at permtm@qwest.net; or visit her website at <http://marketing-by-design.home.mchsi.com/>.

Local Women's Life Chapter 848, together with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, is planning a “Ladies Night Out” to answer the call of hunger in our community.

The event will be held at Northwood Meadows in Cass City on Friday, April 29, and will feature a variety of vendors, businesses and beauty consultants. The Cass City Backpack fundraiser will also feature a chocolate fountain, wine tasting, silent auction and raffles. Our goal, says Chapter President Susan Walsh, is to raise \$5,000, which will feed 50 children for one year.

The Backpack program provides children that are at risk of hunger with a backpack of food every weekend and school holiday throughout the school year.

For more information, contact Walsh at (989) 325-2400.

Always glad to help a Chronicle reader. Gina Retford asked if we could pass along that the Owendale-Gagetown Little League baseball/softball sign-up will be held Saturday, March 19, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. at the Owendale United Methodist Church. She says the leagues are for children ages 5-16 and will gladly answer any questions at (989) 550-2658.

Speaking of Chronicle readers, I'd like to recognize Cheryl Swick Dillon, who recently became the Chronicle's 600th Facebook fan.

There was another sighting of a bald eagle cruising the airways near town. Actually, I saw a pair of bald eagles on Thursday, just off of Dodge Road, about 3 miles north of Cass City.

I enjoyed watching Ubly junior Marshall Leipprandt play last week in the Class C boys' basketball district game against Cass City.

Sure, I was impressed with Leipprandt's overall game. Just like I was with his dad's skills in 1978, when Joel Leipprandt was a senior at Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Schools.

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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Rates & Policies

The Cass City Chronicle reserves the right to edit any and all copy for content and size restrictions. Final editorial judgement lies with the Chronicle management and staff. Deadline for classified advertising is Monday, noon and deadline for display advertising is Friday, 5 p.m. for the next week's edition.

Letters to the Editor

The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. The latter is in case it is necessary to call for verification, but won't be used in the newspaper. Names will be withheld from publication upon request, for an adequate reason. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

We will not publish thank you letters of a specific nature, for instance, from a club thanking merchants who donated prizes for a raffle.

Social News

The Cass City Chronicle will gladly publish social news free of charge. Social news includes: engagements, weddings, anniversaries, college graduations, birth announcements and similar items. There is a \$4 fee to include a photo.

Subscription Rates

Tuscola, Huron & Sanilac counties - \$21 per year.
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Out-of-State - \$27 per year.
College - \$15 per year.
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Obituary Rates

Obituary notices cost \$19 per insertion. There is a \$4 additional charge for including a photo.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Wednesday, March 16

Spoonfuls of Plenty FREE Community Meal, 4-6 p.m., LeeRoy Clark Building, 435 Green St., Caro. Open to anyone wanting a hot, home-style meal.

Cass City PTO meeting, 7 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.

Thursday, March 17

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.

Friday, March 18

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

Fish & Chicken Dinner, 4-7 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, Cass City. Adults \$8; children \$4; under 10 FREE.

Sunday, March 20

Gagetown AA meeting, 8-9 p.m., Gagetown fire hall. For more information, call (989) 325-2592.

Monday, March 21

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.

Tuesday, March 22

Al-anon meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis Parrish, Pigeon.

Wednesday, March 23

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

Tuscola Co. Sheriff asks for residents' help in burglary

The Tuscola County Sheriff's Department is asking for area residents' assistance in locating the suspect in a burglary at a small engine shop in Millington Township earlier this month.

Tuscola County Undersheriff Glen Skrent said the investigation is focusing on break-ins at Keenes Small Engine Shop on Arbela Road

near M-15.

"This is the second time in a week the business was broken into," Skrent reported. "During the first break-in, a stolen truck from a car dealership was used. This time a witness saw a full-size, Ford extended cab pickup truck at the business during the break-in. The only color described was a 2-tone color."

Skrent said the suspect is described as a tall, thin male, wearing a hood.

Anyone with information on these crimes or was in the Millington area March 8 at about 7:58 p.m., or who might have seen anything relevant to the investigation, is asked to contact Deputy James Hook at the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department by calling (989) 673-8161 (ext. 4005).



RYAN AND MELANIE Radabaugh and their daughter, Madison, stand in front of one of their Diva Disposal trucks. The couple has returned to the Thumb to operate their own disposal business.

Couple with roots in the Thumb running own disposal business

Continued from page one.

own business and finally decided on a garbage service, since the area only has 2 other providers," she said. "Ryan has almost 10 years experience in this field and my background is in sales and marketing.

A unique factor of our company is that we are also one of a few minority female-owned garbage companies in the state," Radabaugh added. "It was a challenge to take a business and build it from the ground up. Most people aren't even aware that when we started Diva Disposal, we didn't even own a garbage truck.

"It just goes to show that, with determination, support from family

and friends, good old-fashioned service, and a lot of prayer, that anything is possible," she continued. "Being locally-owned and operated helps us, too, because once word spread about our low rates and great service, things just started to take off."

While her husband has made the business a full-time occupation, Radabaugh has maintained a full-time job outside of Diva Disposal, working for a local hospice agency as a community liaison.

"I truly love my job and have always told Ryan that I didn't want to be a garbage truck driver when I 'grew up,'" she said. "Ironically, though, I had to prove that I could do the job out on the routes, too, and obtained my chauffeur's license to drive our smallest garbage truck. I've been a loader for him on more than one occasion, too.

"It was invigorating to ride on the back of my own garbage truck and spend a 'day in the life' of my husband," Radabaugh added. "The trash business sometimes gets a bad rap, but I can tell you that it's hard work, and I give credit to every employee in this industry."

Ryan Radabaugh runs the day-to-day operations and manages a few part-time employees.

"Diva's service area includes all of Huron County and portions of Tuscola and Sanilac," Melanie Radabaugh noted. "We provide weekly household garbage service and offer a seasonal recycling program. We also offer commercial service solutions for those looking to reduce costs on renting a traditional dumpster."

More information about Diva Disposal is available by contacting the Radabaughs at (989) 450-3834.

Stover, Dillon taught us wonderful lessons

Continued from page three.

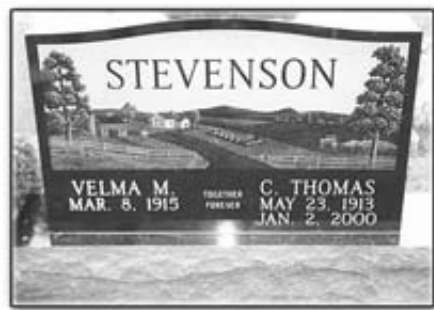
or the other parties, but is rather to add just another citizen's point of view on this action taken by Mr. Stover and also Pat Dillon. Both are wonderful examples of how great we are as a society in general.

While I do not know Pat Dillon at all, I am familiar with Mr. Stover. Mr. Stover has overcome some obstacles that many would consider insurmountable, but he did not give up. Then both he and his wife had to overcome an issue concerning their

daughter, and "never" a word of complaint on their parts. They have shown us all how to "overcome" issues in lives that many would have fallen apart over, but not them.

To Mark Stover and his wonderful bride, Brenda, and to Pat Dillon, all I can say is job well done. You all never gave up and never gave in and never gave out, and for this we have all learned a very life-altering lesson. God bless you all.

Mike Byron
Cass City



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Spring your home to life

Tips to make home improvements safe

Homeowners are increasingly hands-on when it comes to improving their homes. While it was once commonplace to call a contractor to do household repairs and renovations, nowadays more and more homeowners act as their own handyman.

Though often more affordable and rewarding, it is also more risky for homeowners to tackle projects themselves. Accidents are more likely to occur when a weekend warrior rather than a trained professional does the work. To help do-it-yourselfers work safely, Woodcraft offers the following tips.

Be Prepared

Even the most seasoned DIYers get hurt from time to time, but being prepared for an unexpected accident is the key to avoiding a tragedy.

"A fully-stocked first aid kit is a must for every homeowner and DIYer," says home expert Danny

Lipford who is host of the nationally-syndicated TV show, Today's Homeowner, and radio show, Homefront.

"Always have it handy wherever you're working. You'll be surprised at how often you'll need it. Plus, periodically check the kit and restock those items that are getting low."

It is also important to have a charged, portable or cellular phone within arm's reach at all times. While it's best to work with a partner, that's not always possible. Earlier this year, a Connecticut man's arm got stuck while he was mending a boiler. Trapped for two days, he eventually cut off his arm to save himself. Access to a phone might have saved his arm.

Select User-Friendly Products

Inexperienced amateurs often struggle because they choose the wrong tools or risk injury by using unfamil-

iar tools.

"The right tools make a job so much easier," Lipford adds. "Plus, they're safer to use because if you're using a tool not intended for the task, you increase your risk of injury. If you don't own the tool, consider renting it, particularly if it's relatively expensive and you plan to use it infrequently."

Choose easy-to-use products that promote safety, such as the Youngstown Glove Company's Anti Vibration Glove. The glove dampens shock and vibration, making it ideal for use with medium-to-large motorized tools, including chainsaws, weed eaters, edge trimmers, and more. With a unique wrist wrap designed to provide support and relieve arm tension, the glove ensures that homeowners won't weaken during a project. What's more, the extensive nonslip reinforcement on palm, fingers and thumb provides added grip to reduce the risk of injury, and the terry cloth thumb for wiping sweat and debris keeps workers focused.

The Kreg Deck Jig System offers an easy, safe way to create a beautiful, functional deck surface free of exposed fasteners and painful splinters. The jig's easy grip handle provides a secure hold and total control over every joint as the jig creates an incredibly strong wood-to-wood bond using precisely placed self-tapping screws. Three separate drill guides enable the deck builder to work like a pro to install deck boards, even in the hardest-to-reach areas.

Finish Without A Mishap

Many home improvement accidents occur when it appears a project is completed.

As homeowners confidently step back and admire their handiwork or resolve to clean up later, the risk of an accident increases. To be safe, step carefully and immediately put your work area in order, making sure tools are turned off.

For extra protection, use a SafeStart Systems SafetyGate(TM) Professional. It employs patented sensor technology that recognizes when tools are accidentally left on. An illuminated yellow LED light indicates when items are on but not in use, and a protective "gate" stops the flow of electricity, keeping tools from restarting while homeowners are away or otherwise occupied. Compatible with electric tools and home appliances, the SafetyGate is ideal for parents with young children.



SPRING MARKS THE first opportunity for homeowners to inspect their yard and assess any property damage that might have resulted from harsh winter weather.

Lawn care tips for homeowners

First-time homeowners can be overwhelmed at the responsibility that comes with home ownership. While some of those responsibilities can be stressful, others can prove therapeutic.

Many homeowners find caring for their lawns to be an enjoyable hobby that helps relieve stress. Time spent outdoors in the warm sun helps improve mood, and a lush lawn and garden can instill a sense of pride in homeowners. First-time homeowners with no history of caring for a lawn can still turn their lawn into a lush oasis to be proud of.

Start With the Soil

Soil is the foundation for any good lawn or garden. Healthy soil will result in healthy plants and vegetables. Unfortunately, not all homeowners are lawncare enthusiasts, and first-time homeowners might discover their lawn sand gardens need lots of work. That work should begin with a soil test. Do-it-yourself soil kits are available at most major home improvement and lawn and garden centers. For those who prefer to trust a professional, the United States Department of Agriculture has Cooperative Extension System offices in every state and U.S. territory. Such offices provide valuable information to homeowners, and many even provide free or low-cost soil tests. These tests can help homeowners learn more about their soil and what, if anything, they need to do improve its health.

Find the Right Grass

Some lawns might be an eyesore because the grass is not the right type of grass for that particular region. If a grass is not a good fit for the region

and local climate, it likely won't thrive or will require considerable and often costly maintenance to stay lush.

Bermuda and tall fescue grasses are popular options in many areas of North America, but it's still best to consult a lawncare professional to determine which grass is best for a given region. Learn the ins and outs of caring for the grass, including which types of seed and fertilizer are the best fit, as well as the recommended watering guidelines.

Plant Properly

Planting new grass might seem like a big undertaking, but it's actually quite easy, even for first-time homeowners. Once a person has determined the correct type of grass to install, planting is much more simple than one might think.

- Aerate the soil. Soil compaction is a problem for many homeowners. Heavy usage often compacts the soil, making it very difficult for the lawn to hold oxygen and water that roots need to grow and absorb valuable nutrients. Aerating increases nutrient, oxygen and water movement into the soil, improving rooting and controlling thatch buildup. Hand aerators might prove effective on smaller lawns, but most lawns would benefit from a core aeration machine. For first-time homeowners, it might be best to enlist the services of a professional the first time aeration is done to learn the process.

- Spread seed evenly. Grass seed should be spread evenly over all tilled areas. Spreading can be done by hand or by using a seed spreader.

- Add a light layer of soil over the seed. Once the seed has been spread, cover the seeded areas with a light layer of soil. Some soils are treated, and these treated soils provide nutrients that encourage growth.

- Water well but don't overdo it. The soil around the seed should be moist until the grass has grown in to its desired height. However, avoid overwatering, which can drown the seed and make new grass growth impossible.

Fertilize

Fertilizer is a friend to lawns, providing the nutrients a lawn needs to grow in thick. When fertilizing, use a spreader. The type of spreader is up to the homeowners, but know that drop spreaders, which drop the fertilizer directly below the spreader, tend to be more accurate but take more time, while broadcast spreaders, which drop fertilizer in a pattern away from the spreader, are less accurate but cover large areas in a much shorter period of time. Avoid fertilizing the same area twice, and be patient. Fertilizing might seem like a tedious process, but if done correctly, it should lead to a lush lawn.

When fertilizing, it's best to do so during the fall and spring. The exact time to fertilize depends on the region, but it's generally best to fertilize between April and early June, and then in the fall between late September and early November.

When it comes to lawn care, first-time homeowners should not be intimidated by this sudden responsibility.

Choosing a home air filtration system

What homeowners are breathing in every day has the potential to harm their health. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, it's the air inside of the home, rather than the air outside, that may cause the most physical harm. Many people seek options to reduce the toxicity of indoor air through a filtration system.

Indoor air can be 2 to 5 times more toxic than outside air. Newer, energy-efficient homes that are very well insulated against drafts may be among the most dangerous. That's because they restrict the ability for fresh air to seep into the home.

Resident dust mites, harmful airborne particulates and even mold could be residing in the house along with its occupants. An air filtration system can be one strategy homeowners can employ to clean up indoor air.

Homeowners may want to consider a permanent, whole-house unit that hooks up to the central heating and air conditioning already set up in the home. This enables every room in the home to receive filtered air. It is essential that the filters on the unit be changed frequently. Also, if a humidifier is hooked up to the HVAC unit, then the water should be changed on a regular basis so that mold does not proliferate and get blown throughout the home. Homeowners who don't have forced-air heating and cooling will have to have a different filtration system installed instead.

For renters or individuals who don't want a permanent system, there are

many portable air filtration units on the market. These can be moved from room to room and even brought along when traveling.

Air filtration units will vary depending on what they are cleaning from the air. Some tackle mold, others viruses and bacteria. Individuals with allergies should look for filters that target dust and pollen. Others can trap fumes and microscopic particles through unique processes. Here are some of the advanced cleaning filtration systems to consider.

- Ionizers: Emit a small electric charge to the air stream creating a magnetic-like attraction for pollution particles, which causes them to adhere to the filter.

- Ultraviolet light purification: Air passes through a UV system that destroys bacteria, viruses and dust mites of any size.

- Electrostatic precipitators: These create opposite charges on metal wires or plates, attracting and holding dust, pollen, smoke, and other particles as small as .0001 microns. The assembly often can be removed and washed for reuse.

- High efficiency particulate air (HEPA): These filters are designed to remove 99.97 percent of the particulates that pass through the filters. They will have no effect on fumes, viruses, bacteria, smaller mold spores, or some tobacco particulates.

- Ultra HEPA: An even more efficient form of HEPA cleaners, which typically clean out 99.999 percent of the particulates that pass through.

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SUMMER CAN BE rough on patios and patio furniture. Homeowners can take several steps to protect their patios from wear and tear.

Protect your patio from wear and tear

Patios are typically the go-to spot for warm weather outdoor meals. Whether hosting friends or simply enjoying a relaxing meal under the evening sky, homeowners tend to spend as much time as possible on the patio once the weather warms up.

Because it's such a high-traffic area, the patio should be protected from wear and tear. Wear and tear on the patio can result from Mother Nature or be a byproduct of all those spring and summer evenings spent relaxing outdoors. Fortunately, there are a handful of ways homeowners can keep their patios looking pristine through the summer party season.

- Stain the concrete. Staining concrete protects it from natural elements, which can cause the color of a patio to peel or flake. Concrete stain penetrates deep and infuses the concrete with a permanent color that's less likely to fall victim to the elements. Stains are generally solid-color stains or acid stains. Solid-color stains, as their name suggests, provide a more even and solid look, while acid stains provide a more marble-like appearance. While neither are likely to fade or peel quickly, over time an additional coat or stain might need to be applied to counter natural factors like sunlight.

- Cover the furniture. Patio furniture can vary significantly in price and quality. Homeowners who picked up a few plastic chairs at the nearby grocery store might not feel furniture covers are worth the investment. For those with more expensive patio furniture, durable furniture covers that can withstand year-round weather are a sound investment. Waterproof and heat-resistant fabric

is ideal, as the furniture will be vulnerable to spring rains, summer showers and high temperatures during the summer party season. Covers should also fit snugly around the furniture to provide optimal protection.

- Consider retractable awnings. Retractable awnings might cost a little money, but they can also pay homeowners back over the long haul. First and foremost, retractable awnings protect patio from sunlight and ultraviolet rays in hot weather. A retractable awning can also protect friends and family members should an unexpected summer shower appear or keep them safe from sunburns during summer afternoons when the UV index is high.

When placed near a window, retractable awnings can lower ener-

gy bills. Such awnings can keep sunlight and ultraviolet rays from entering the home. This lowers the temperature indoors, which reduces reliance on air conditioning units to maintain a comfortable temperature. These awnings can also extend the life of furniture, which tends to fade when placed inside windows that get heavy sun exposure.

- Plant trees. An eco-friendly way to maintain and add to a patio's aesthetic appeal is to plant trees around the patio. Trees can protect the patio from sunlight and ultraviolet radiation while providing some shade for friends and family members who want to spend some quality time outdoors on hot afternoons. In addition, trees can create a serene setting to a patio, adding to its relaxing nature.

Keys to fixing wet basements

A wet basement is something thousands of homeowners contend with but none look forward to fixing. Water entering the basement can be an expensive repair job, and it seems like few homes are impervious to water infiltration.

Water can enter a basement or crawlspace in a number of ways, seeping through the floor if the surrounding ground is constantly saturated or entering through cracks in the foundation walls. Leaky basement windows could cause water to enter, while improperly draining downspouts and gutters may cause water to pool around the home's foundation and enter the home.

A wet basement can decrease a home's value and potential damage what's in the home. Standing water in a basement can also pose health hazards, such as mold and mildew growth, and can prove a breeding ground for insects that like moist conditions.

There are a number of techniques used to combat basement water issues. A waterproofing company can help homeowners ascertain what method will be best for the type of water issue they have.

- Find the source of water. Sometimes water remediation requires minimal effort or simple solutions. It may be a grading issue on the property or landscaping that is causing water to pool around the home's foundation. Fixing these issues can alleviate water in the basement.

- Create a barrier. A dampness or water issue may be remediated by creating a barrier between the water and the inside of the home. Waterproofing paints and sealants can be applied to both the outside and inside walls of a basement. However, waterproofing application on the outside of the home may cause disruption to landscaping and the need for excavation to reach foundation walls. Inside application is easier, but eventually the product may need to be reapplied if water pressure causes the sealant to blister or peel off. A plastic vapor barrier can be installed in crawlspaces that have vented concrete or dirt floors. This will help to protect against moisture in the space.

- Install drains. Various drainage systems are designed to help with basement water issues. Depending on the drain, it may be installed at the perimeter of the basement interior or on the exterior of the home. The drains are designed to capture water from the ground and direct it far away from the foundation. Drains can gradually become clogged with

sediment and dirt and may need to be cleaned or replaced. Newer innovations in basement drainage systems that alleviate clogging issues are available through reputable businesses.

- Use a sump pump. For other water issues, a sump pump can help gather groundwater in a sump pit and pump it out and away from the home. It's a good idea to have a backup source of power for the sump pump because if

the power goes out, the sump pump will be rendered useless.

Water is the No. 1 enemy of basements and crawlspaces. It behooves the homeowner to take fast action to correct water issues in the lowest part of the home to ensure comfort and safety.

Waterproofing a basement is generally not a do-it-yourself job. It requires the expertise of a trained contractor who will do a quality job.



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Battels gearing up to share 129-year maple syrup history

Continued from page one.

longer living in the area — return as often as they can to take part in the family tradition.

“While some things have changed since the Battels of the 19th century boiled sap in an open kettle, the basic process is still the same — and nearly as quaint,” she added. “When it’s almost spring and sun begins to warm the trees, yet winter weather still freezes them at night, that’s when the Battels begin to tap trees. Sap is coaxed from the sugar maples and boiled for hours over a rolling fire until nothing remains but pure syrup. It takes approximately 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup.”

“Sap drips from the sugar maples and is boiled in a special 3-foot-by-10-foot evaporator pan,” Stuever Battel explained. “It takes several hours over a rolling fire until it reaches 219 degrees and becomes pure maple syrup. When driving down Daus Road, the large quantities of steam boiled off can be seen escaping out of a special vent in the roof of the sugar shack building. Smoke from the wood fire underneath the evaporator pan leaves through a chimneystack.

The sugaring season typically runs from late February through early April, “though we aren’t the ones in charge of the weather,” said Stuever Battel, who pointed out the family offers not only organically-produced maple syrup, but also maple cream and candy, and pure maple sugar.

“In a society where it seems just about everything is manufactured, maple syrup is something we can still enjoy straight from nature,”

Stuever Battel said. “Maple syrup is a whole food and a natural sweetener. Nothing added.”

Today, the Battel family taps its stand of 300 sugar maple trees with roughly 700 taps. With an average yield in the 150- to 200-gallon range, the sugar bush is a sideline to their full-time jobs. The Battels are also active in the community and in the Michigan Maple Syrup Association.

In addition, Mark and Diane are part of a committee helping to plan the annual meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council/International Maple Syrup Institute to be held in Frankenmuth in October. Three busses of visitors from the U.S. and Canadian maple-syrup-making regions will tour the Battels’ operation as part of a Thumb agriculture day trip from Frankenmuth.

The Battels have always welcomed visitors to stop by the sugar bush and take in the sweet aroma as the sap boils down throughout the sugaring season. An April 1962 issue of the Cass City Chronicle stated: “...a large number of young people met at Arthur Battel’s to watch the maple syrup sugaring off process. Mrs. Battel served refreshments to the group.”

Three years ago, as Bob and Sue returned to the area, the family decided to bring visitors together on one day to see the whole process.

“It’s hard to predict when they might be boiling syrup — the most interesting part to watch — as it is weather-dependent,” Stuever Battel said. “With the open house, they make sure to boil that day so visitors can enjoy and learn.”

The Battels sell their syrup from

their homes and also at area farmers’ markets throughout the summer,” she added. “While pure maple syrup has always been popular, it is gaining the interest of a new group of people who shop for local foods — health-minded consumers who purchase minimally-processed whole foods, as well as ‘goodies’ — the gourmet chefs who appreciate its rich flavor.”

“The Battel family encourages people to give pure maple syrup a try, whether it is produced by them or one of the other area families that spend their early spring ‘sugaring’.”

More information about the process and the upcoming open house is available by contacting Sue and Bob Battel at (989) 872-4794 or by sending an email to: BattelSyrup@gmail.com.

Obituary

Beverly Reckinger

Beverly “Joan” Reckinger, 76, of Grayling, went to be with the Lord, Thursday, March 10, 2011 after a long courageous struggle with health concerns.

Joan was born Nov. 12, 1934, the daughter of Mark and Marguerite (McQueen) Patterson.

She married Dennis Reckinger Feb. 25, 1971 in Sarasota, Fla.

Joan grew up a farmer’s daughter in Cass City. She graduated from Cass City High School in 1952. She worked at Crossroads Restaurant and then at Walbro for 11 years before starting at Midwest Rubber Co. in Deckerville where she met and fell in love with the love of her life, her husband of 40 years, Dennis.

Joan saw the beauty in the intricate details of life, including people, nature, animals and the many collectibles that she owned. She was a master counted cross-stitcher and spent hours upon hours sitting in her chair cross-stitching. Joan and Dennis loved to travel. They owned a home in Florida where they spent their winters soaking up the sunshine and enjoying life as Michigan snowbirds. Joan’s favorite word was “special” and she used it often to describe people, animals and nature. Joan was the special one and she will be sadly missed by all that had the opportunity to know and love her.

Joan is survived by her loving husband, Dennis; children: Denise (Cameron) Mackenzie of Lexington, Dina Wurmlinger of Lexington, Dennis L. Reckinger of Rochester, Jeff (Teresa) Reckinger of Sandusky, and Greg (Tammy) Reckinger of Locust Grove, Va.; 12 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; sisters: Janet Muntz of Cass City, and Mary Margaret Quinn of Shelby Township; nieces and nephews: Terry Muntz, Tanya Evans, Lisa Ostroski, Lori Petracci, Bryan Quinn; her beloved golden retriever, Abby; and many, many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother-in-law, Howard Muntz; and 4 other beloved pets.

Funeral services were held Sunday, March 13, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with Pastor John Heim of Gagetown United Methodist Church.

Memorials may be made to AuSable Valley Animal Shelter.

Family and friends may share memories, prayers and stories with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

Green announces website expansion

State Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayville) recently announced the expansion of his official website to better serve the people of the 31st Senate District.

“I invite everyone in the 31st District to visit my online office,” said Green. “The website has been designed to serve as a ‘one stop shop’ for my constituents and to give them the tools they need to stay informed and involved.”

The website, located at www.StateSenatorMikeGreen.com, includes useful links to state agency websites, state and federal tax forms, and informational publications on a variety of topics, such as taxpayer’s rights, consumer protections, crime victim information, services for senior citizens and educational publications for children.

Visitors to the site are also able to access tools that will help them research legislation, check legislator’s voting records and contact Green’s office with questions, concerns or ways to receive additional assistance.

“There is an abundance of information on the site and I’m proud to offer it,” said Green.

The 31st Senate District includes Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties.



Photo courtesy of Sue Stuever Battel

MARK BATTEL helps his granddaughters, Dori and Addy Battel, learn to tap a tree by hand with a vintage hand drill. These days, Battel uses a gas-powered drill, which makes the tapping process quicker.



Photo courtesy of Sue Stuever Battel

BOB BATTEL and his father, Mark, boil sap in a special evaporator pan in the family’s sugar bush. Most of the water in the maple sap is boiled away until it becomes syrup.



Photo courtesy of Sue Stuever Battel

FRESH MAPLE syrup runs into a pan where it is heated one last time before being poured into containers for sale.

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TYLER CRANE secures a rebound from Owen-Gage's Andrew Fahrner and Mike Mandich (52) for Class D district champion Akron-Fairgrove.



BULLDOG Ben Good puts up a shot over Akron-Fairgrove's Jordan Smith in Class D district semifinal action in Owendale.

Vikings advance into own regional

Third time proved the charm for Akron-Fairgrove.

After falling twice during the regular season to North Central Thumb League boys' basketball champion North Huron, the Vikings prevailed, 48-44, Friday over the Warriors in the Class D district final in Owendale.

Trailing 23-20 at the break, the Vikings clawed back even at 44-44 with less than a minute remaining and used a Joey Dybalis field goal and a pair of free throws from Tyler Crane to come out on top, earning the school's first district championship since 1991.

Dybalis tossed in 15 points to lead the Vikings, while Brett Stockton chipped in 12 points and Archie Naert and Crane each added 7.

Erik Dhyse accounted for 16 points and Kevin Rice, 11, for North Huron.

SEMIS

The Vikings advanced into the championship game with a 69-53 decision Wednesday over tournament host Owen-Gage in a Class D district semifinal contest.

The visitors led 18-13 after one quarter and 41-26 at the break.

Hunter Champagne posted 23 points for Owen-Gage to lead all scorers, while Clyde Rhodes netted 10.

Stockton had 22 points for Akron-Fairgrove. The Vikings also had Crane with 19 points, while Dybalis and Naert each scored a dozen.

Playing in their final Bulldog contest were seniors Rhodes, Cherokee Parks, Eric Montreuil and Bryan Buschlen.

Lady Bulldogs fall behind early and suffer lopsided defeat in regional play

Owen-Gage dug themselves a hole they couldn't escape from and bowed 71-38 to Class D regional host Bay City All Saints.

Coach Doug Hyatt's Bulldogs couldn't slow down the Cougars' fast

break in last Tuesday's regional semifinal, which saw the hosts jump out in front 18-0 entering the period before the break.

"We decided not to show up until after the first quarter," joked Hyatt. "We had a great year earning both a North Central Thumb League and district crown, but All Saints were just too good."

Christin Harris heated-up after the intermission, where her Bulldogs trailed 37-12, and scored 11 of her game best 19 tallies in the third peri-

od. Still, Bay City outscored their guests 17-13 in each of the final 2 frames.

The winners had Marisa Ramirez with 17 points and Rachel Gasta with 11.

Bulldog Mandy Muntz scored 10 points as the game's only other double digit performer.

"We will miss seniors Lauren Mandich, Megan McLaren and Holly Error next year. But I think we have a chance to be a better team," said Hyatt.

Owen-Gage puts a 13-10 record into the history books.

OWEN-GAGE - Montreuil 0-1 (0-1) 3; Harris 5-3 (0-0) 19; Mandich 1-0 (0-0) 2; Muntz 5-0 (0-2) 10; McLaren 0-0 (2-3) 2; Morrish 1-0 (0-0) 2.
TOTALS - 12-4 (2-6) 38.

BCAS - Ramirez 4-2 (3-6) 17; Kleinau 2-0 (3-4) 7; Marvin 2-0 (0-0) 4; Grzegorzcyk 1-0 (1-2) 3; Gerulski 2-0 (0-0) 4; Hartson 1-0 (0-0) 2; Gasta 1-3 (0-0) 11; Case 0-0 (1-2) 1; Lutz 2-0 (0-1) 4; Sutton 1-0 (0-4) 6; Gillard 2-0 (2-2) 6; Wojciechowski 3-0 (0-0) 6.
TOTALS - 21-5 (14-21) 71.

Bearcats come up short in Harbor Beach

Some believe good guard play is essential to capture a high school boys' basketball district title.

And there's a good chance Ubyl Coach Ken Pichla is among them, especially after the first year skipper watched his Bearcats fall 57-46 in the semis of Class C district play in Harbor Beach.

Behind freshman play-maker Eli Kraft, the host Pirates raced to a 17-7 early advantage and never looked back. Kraft nailed a pair of treys in the initial frame en route to 19 points and game scoring honors.

The hot-handed Pirates connected on 5 first half treys to lead 31-19 at the break. The Pirates, who defended their district title with a hard fought 39-38 victory Saturday over USA, increased the gap to double digits in the final half thanks in part to a 10-of-14 showing at the foul line.

Sean Sorenson and Andrew Siemen tallied 13 and 10 points, respectively, for Harbor Beach.

Marshall Leipprandt was the lone Bearcat to reach double figures and finished with 19 markers.

Ubyl finishes the season with a 17-5 record. Ending their Bearcat careers on the night were seniors Brandon Glaza, Tyler Peruski, Eric Booms, Nathan Sorenson and Lenny Nowicki.

HARBOR BEACH - Grekowicz 0-0 (4-6) 4; Sorenson 2-3 (0-0) 13; Ginther 2-0 (1-2) 5; Hanson 0-1 (0-0) 3; Kraft 4-2 (5-6) 19; Mazure 0-0 (1-2) 1; Booms 1-0 (0-3) 2; Siemen 2-1 (3-4) 10.
TOTALS - 11-7 (14-23) 57.

UBLY - Glaza 0-2 (0-0) 6; Cleary 0-1 (0-0) 3; Peruski 1-0 (0-4) 2; Booms 2-0 (0-0) 4; Leipprandt 7-0 (5-8) 19; Kaufman 1-0 (0-0) 2; Sorenson 1-0 (0-0) 2; Nowicki 1-0 (0-1) 2; White 3-0 (0-0) 6.
TOTALS - 16-3 (5-13) 46.

Junior High Red Hawks



THE CASS CITY 7th grade boys' basketball team finished the 2011 season with an 11-1 record. Team members are: (front, l-r) Jose Torres, Sam Kolacz, Bransen Stimpfel, Sawyer Cuthrell, Devan Kluger, Tyler Hool (back) Coach Clarke Haire, Parker Haire, Zachary Clapper, Keith Lounsbury, Mason Erla, Branden Horne and Coach Nick Moyer. Missing is Tyler Vogelpohl.



THE CASS CITY 8th grade boys' basketball team finished the 2011 season with an 8-4 record. Team members are: (front, l-r) Brad Thornton, Dalton Prieskorn, Kyle Ross, Acer Hana, Justin Peters, Malik Bell, Jacob Guinther (back) Coach Josh Stern, Colby Peruski, Josh Daniels, Cameron Smith, Ethan Monte, Logan Raymond, Drew Loomis and Jack Stern. Missing are Aaron McClorey and Coach Steve Ross.

**2011 Lucky Thumb/Elkton Chamber
Antique Snowmobile Race Points Standings**

Year end results - top three

Number	Name	City, State	Total Points
Mini Sled Youth Class Stock Machine			
43	Shawn Colton	Decker, MI	48
77	Kyle Jeske	Kawkawlin, MI	20
58	Tyler Hurlly	Caro, MI	20
Mini Sled Youth Class Open			
43	Curtis O'Connor	Elkton, MI	116
1	Haven Bouverette	Deford, MI	100
4	Jordon Trost	Elkton, MI	68
Youth Class 7-15 Years Old			
7	Dalton Reichle	Bad Axe, MI	120
11	Chris Peyerk	Owendale, MI	100
40	Jordan Peyerk	Owendale, MI	85
HD & HR Box Stock Class			
33	Rob Foster	Fairgrove, MI	56
14	Matt Beemer	Lapeer, MI	52
15	Gary Beemer	Lapeer, MI	13
HD & HR Improved Stock			
30	Keith Russell	Cass City, MI	99
26	Justin Hess	Vassar, MI	92
72	Paul Fischer	Fairgrove, MI	52
'76 & Newer Single Cylinder Fan Cooled Stock			
7	Dalton Reichle	Bad Axe, MI	120
11	Chris Peyerk	Owendale, MI	116
90	Steven Wolschleger	Harbor Beach, MI	63
Modified Open Single Class '76 & Older			
29	Russ Otto	Shelby Twp., MI	76
97	Brandon Vermeersch	Akron, MI	24
82	Todd McArthur	Greenville, MI	20
Pre 84 0-485cc Box Stock Fan Class			
99	Brad Cloutier	Bay Port, MI	96
27	Darcy McCarty	Caseville, MI	76
83	Philip Kuhl	Sebewaing, MI	66
Pre 84 0-485cc Open Fan Class			
26	Bryan Hoeldtke	Vassar, MI	131
1	Rocky Bouverette	Deford, MI	107
27	Darcy McCarty	Sebewaing, MI	87
Fan Class '84 & Newer Stock Machine Open CC			
1	Shawn O'Connor	Elkton, MI	112
69	Jason Schmidt	Imlay City, MI	92
9	Jack Medley	Ray, MI	16
0-440 Twin Free Air Stock Class			
8	Todd Bartz	Marlette, MI	94
14	Greg Wilcox	Brown City, MI	66
46	David Parker	Leonard, MI	65
0-440 Free Air Open			
65	Matt Schaaf	Pigeon, MI	80
76	Will Schaaf	Pigeon, MI	78
80	Derek Fobear	Saginaw, MI	56
Pre 85 440cc Max Liquid Open Class			
26	Darcy McCarty	Caseville, MI	140
23x	Henry Rise	Mayville, MI	71
1	Rocky Bouverette	Deford, MI	69
Class X Michigan Frankenstein Monster Class Open			
26	Darcy McCarty	Caseville, MI	103
18	Chris Forbes	North Branch, MI	69
29	Russ Otto	Shelby Twp., MI	41
Powder Puff Class			
88	Megan Schoel	Cass City, MI	112
14	Whitney Olson	Dryden, MI	69
27	Amanda Rinke	Dryden, MI	44
Quad Studded			
99	Brad Cloutier	Bay Port, MI	85
226	Eddie Pasek	Owendale, MI	83
202	Bryon Swartzendruber	Bay Port, MI	62
Quad Rubber Tire			
88	Brandon Hergenreder	Caro, MI	60
66	Andrew Bock	Cass City, MI	16
83	David Baumeister	Deckerville, MI	16
250 & Up Open Studded Motorcycles			
77j	Kyle Johnson	Twin Lake, MI	60
93	Launce Sulaty	Marlette, MI	51
22x	Brandon Laursen	Marlette, MI	48



AWARD WINNERS for the Lucky Thumb M/C and Elkton Chamber of Commerce winter snowmobile races gathered over the weekend at the Brentwood in Caro.

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Wednesday Nite Trio as of March 9	220 (569). Team High Games & Series: Martin Electric 578-563-627 (1768).	Merchanettes as of March 10
Rooney Contracting	17	
Martin Electric	17	
Charmont	17	
JEBCO	16	Thumb Octagon Barn 52
Kelly & Co.	12	All or nothing 39
Scheurer Healthcare Network	11	Just One More 27
Walsh Farms	10	Team #4
Vandelay Ind.	9	Individual High Games & Series: Marlene Sieradzki 179 (454); Chris Little 171.
Scheurer Hospital	7	
Individual High Games & Series: Jim Smithson 234-194 (598); Daniel Caister 204-214 (606); Ed Schmaltz 224-200-246 (670); Ken Martin 194-211 (558); Tom Summers 213-192-220 (625); Dave Miller		Team High Games & Series: Thumb Octagon Barn 546-512 (1546). Splits: Chris Little 3-10; Peggy Hellwig 3- 10; Dee Sines 4-5-7-9. Strikes: Marlene Sieradzki 4 in a row.

**Cass City Red Hawk
Girls' Softball
Scotch Doubles
Bowling Night**

**at Charmont
Lanes**

**Saturday, March 19
starting at 7 p.m.**

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50/50 Drawing/Raffles**

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Lenten services scheduled to start

Lenten services at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church are scheduled for 7 p.m. every Wednesday night from March 16-April 13.

A dinner is served by various organizations of the church each week at 5:30 p.m. prior to the service. This

year a special program entitled "Journey to the Cross" will be presented at 6 and 6:30 p.m. each week.

Those attending will be taking a trip through time to experience some of the actual events of Holy Week. Members of the community are invited to attend.



Generous gift...

DENNIS GILKEY, CHEMICAL Bank-Caro Community president, presents a \$1,350 check to Amy Weaver (left), youth advocate for Junior Achievement of Northeast Michigan for Tuscola and Huron counties, and Cindy Bullen, youth advocate for Sanilac and Lapeer counties. Chemical Bank has partnered with Junior Achievement to sponsor the Personal Finance Planning Program for high school students in Cass City, Caro, Bad Axe and Marlette, and offered the services of the local staff to present the 5-week program. Junior Achievement's core purpose is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy.

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ANNUAL MEETING
for
ELKLAND TOWNSHIP
will be held
Monday, March 28th at 7:00 p.m.
at the Elkland Township Fire Hall
6691 Church St., Cass City

Ed LaBelle
Elkland Township Clerk

NOTICE
ELLINGTON TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

The Annual Township Board Meeting will be held at the Township Hall located at the corner of M-81 and Dutcher Road starting **Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.**

The Township Board will be reviewing the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2011-2012.

There will also be a public hearing for "Truth in Taxation" for the tax year 2011-2012.

Duane Lockwood
Ellington Township Supervisor

NOTICE
GREENLEAF TOWNSHIP
Annual Budget Meeting
will be held
Sat., March 26th at 1:00 p.m.
at the Greenleaf Township Hall
(2 miles north of Cass City Rd. on Gilbert Rd.)

Judy Doerr
Greenleaf Township Clerk

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MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by KENNETH W. HOWE and HOLLY R. HOWE, HUSBAND AND WIFE, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns., Mortgagee, dated May 2, 2007, and recorded on May 17, 2007 in Liber 1119 on Page 1101, and assigned by said mortgagee to FLAGSTAR BANK, FSB, as assigned, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Three Dollars and Five Cents (\$132,403.05), including interest at 6.750% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, front entrance of the Courthouse Building in the City of Caro, Michigan, Tuscola County at 10:00 AM o'clock, on March 24, 2011.

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

PART OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST FRACTIONAL 1/4 OF SECTION 6, TOWN 12 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST, DENMARK TOWNSHIP, TUSCOLA COUNTY, MICHIGAN, BEING FURTHER DESCRIBED AS COMMENCING AT THE WEST 1/4 CORNER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 434.82 FEET ALONG THE WEST SECTION LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 225.00 FEET ALONG SAID WEST LINE; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 11 MINUTES 39 SECONDS EAST, 240.00 FEET ON THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF SAID NORTHWEST FRACTIONAL 1/4; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, 225.00 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE WEST SECTION LINE; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 11 MINUTES 39 SECONDS WEST, 240.00 FEET TO THE WEST SECTION LINE AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 1.24 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

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

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3-3-16-3

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Adults \$8.00 Students \$4.00
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5-2-23-4

NOTICE Ellington Township Residents

The regular scheduled planning commission meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ellington Township Hall.

Duane Lockwood
Ellington Township Supervisor
5-3-16-2

Roast Beef & Pork Dinner

Sat., March 19
4:30-7:00 p.m.
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Saturday, March 19, 2011 ~ 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
• Try your hand at tapping a maple tree. • See how sap is gathered and boiled. • Taste the finished product. • Take a guided tour. • Kids may participate in a special scavenger hunt. • Sample a pancake with fresh maple syrup provided.
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11-3-2-4

SATCHELL'S CHRISTIAN Retirement Home is seeking part-time staff. Stop in & fill out an application or call Peg Satchell at 989-673-3329.

11-3-2-1f

Card of Thanks

THE FAMILY OF Juanita Burk wishes to thank all those who sent cards and attended the funeral. Special thanks to the Rev. Jackie Roe for the beautiful service and the Shabbona United Methodist Church for the meal.

13-3-16-1

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8-3-16-2

Card of Thanks

The family of Gil Freeman would like to first thank everyone for his 80th birthday cards. He really enjoyed them. And also we would like to thank those who sent sympathy cards.

13-3-16-1

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3 bedroom, 1 bath Ranch, full basement, 2-car garage and a nice yard. A lot of potential. Call for a personal showing today. CCT-461

NEW!!

Close to schools and park. Basement is partially finished and also has a finished bedroom with egress window. Roof, siding, windows and insulation new in 2005. All appliances included. MUST SEE! CCT-463

NEW!!

Custom built in 1997. All appliances included. Sunporch off the back. Fenced in yard. Nice basement. Come take a look. Move in ready!

REDUCED!!

Roger Pohlod 872-2747

NEW!!

2,700 sq. ft. of living space, attached garage, large rear deck and a 24'x30' pole barn. Tiled flooring and countertops and a fireplace. Sets back off the road on 5 acre parcel. MI-174

NEW!!

Nice Ranch with spacious living area on 10 acres. Finished basement with half bath, beautiful kitchen cabinets, 2-car attached garage, deck out the back, screened in front porch, 30'x40' workshop and a 38'x56' hip roof barn. M-383

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MOVE IN AND ENJOY this wonderfully laid out home on a nice landscaped lot in Cass City. The home features 3 bedrooms, living room with gas fireplace, kitchen with family area and a full partially finished basement with recreation area and dry bar. TCC1564

PRICE REDUCED!

THIS WELL MAINTAINED home sets on a corner lot and is within walking distance to downtown. This home features 1st floor laundry, central air, basement, sunporch and hardwood floors in living room, dining room and 1st floor bedroom. 2-car garage and even offers a home warranty! TCC1596

PRICE REDUCED!

LOCATION, LOCATION - Brick Ranch only 2 miles from town. 3 bedrooms, full basement, 2 1/2-car garage and a lot of living space. A must see! CY2612

PRICE REDUCED!

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, 1,217 sq. ft. Ranch home in move-in condition with newer roof, windows, floor coverings, Oak kitchen cabinets, custom Oak trim, large front deck, fenced-in backyard, 24'x30' attached garage that is insulated, drywalled and heated and an extra wide cement driveway. TCC1579

TO SETTLE ESTATE - 3 bedroom home in Caro. Basement, garage and some updates. TC509

"THE POINT" in Cass City. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home looking for a new owner. Extra large open living area. MH979

42nd annual 4-H Exploration Days scheduled

More than 2,500 students and adult chaperones will be on the Michigan State University (MSU) campus June 22-24 for the 42nd annual 4-H Exploration Days.

This pre-college program is for students ages 11 to 19 and adult volunteers from all over Michigan. Participants stay in residence halls and attend sessions in their areas of interest ranging from veterinary medicine to web design, performing arts, how to start their own business, organic farming and many more. Nearly 200 hands-on classroom and field trip sessions are offered.

Exploration Days, Michigan's largest annual 4-H event, is designed to help students learn new ideas and techniques while exploring career options and developing decision-making, independence and teamwork skills. They also meet and interact with people from different backgrounds and areas throughout Michigan. 4-H volunteers and staff are on hand to offer oversight and guidance.

"Exploration Days gives 4-H youth an authentic collegiate experience," says Judy Ratkos, MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development program leader and coordinator of the event. "They are exposed to things they cannot get at the local level. Information learned in a session may spark their interest in a college major or career. Many are inspired to come to college at MSU because they feel confident and comfortable here."

When not in sessions, students will have a plethora of recreation and learning choices. This year's Exploration Days features tours of

the MSU Skandalaris Football Center, Breslin Student Events Center, the MSU Dairy Store, the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory, the 4-H Children's Gardens and a planetarium show. The opening night entertainment on June 22 features "4-H's Got Talent!" with performances by a variety of

talented groups and individual 4-H'ers and alumni at the Wharton Center Great Hall. The annual State 4-H Awards Celebration, a formal event celebrating the accomplishments of more than 160 Michigan 4-H members, takes place June 23.

The fee to attend is \$165; youth not enrolled in 4-H pay an additional

\$10 4-H participation fee. (Local scholarship support may be available.) Teens interested in attending, whether 4-H members or not, should contact their county MSU Extension office at 1-888-MSUE-4MI or (989) 269-9949. The registration deadline is April 29. Sessions are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis so

early registration is encouraged.

For more information about 4-H Exploration Days, visit <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/4h/expo-days.html> or stop by the Huron County MSU Extension Office (temporarily located at the Huron Area Tech Center) at 1142 South Van Dyke, Bad Axe.

Farm Service Agency announces general CRP sign-up

Christine White, executive director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Michigan, recently announced the next general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will begin on March 14, and continue through April 15. During the sign-up period, operators and landowners may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general sign-up at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

"Over the past 25 years, CRP's benefits have grown thanks to many unexpected, but welcomed improvements to our natural resources - cleaner water, improved air quality, better habitat for wildlife, viewing opportunities of that wildlife and of course, a huge reduction in soil erosion," said White. CRP helps agricultural producers convert environmentally sensitive agricultural land to achieve conservation benefits."

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this sign-up provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers.

Contracts awarded under this sign-up are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1.

To be eligible for CRP, the producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the close of the CRP sign-up, April 15, 2011. Land must be cropland which has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity 4 of the 6 crop years from

2002- 2007, and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa and other multi-year grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for this year.

Benefits to CRP include:

- improved and increased wildlife habitat
- improved water quality

- increased soil quality
- reduce soil erosion
- increase air quality

In return for planting long-term resource conserving covers, FSA provides CRP participants annual rental payments, maintenance payments, cost-share and technical assistance. Don't miss this opportunity. Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

Green to speak at Thumb TEA Party

State Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayville) will speak to the Western Thumb TEA Party Thursday, March 17, at the Bullard Sanford Library, 520 W. Huron, Vassar, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Green will provide an update on his responsibilities in Lansing, as well as an overview of the issues presently before the Senate. A period will be provided for questions and answers from the audience.

A small business owner, retired tool and die maker and former farmer,

Green was elected to the Senate in November. He represents the 31st District, which includes Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties.

Green serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, as a member of the Capital Outlay Subcommittee and as chairman of 3 Appropriations Subcommittees for the Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Quality. He is also a member of the standing committees on Banking and Financial

Institutions and Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes.

The meeting is sponsored by the Western Thumb TEA Party, which is committed to educating family, friends and neighbors. There will also be information on immigration, health care and Michigan's economic future available. There is no charge for this event and doors open at 5:30 p.m. For more information visit www.tuscolatea.org or email tuscolatea@yahoo.com or call (989) 272-5416.

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