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in new headquarters

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pole vaulters

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# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 105, NUMBER 5

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011

FIFTY CENTS ~ 14 PAGES

## School looking to cut \$670,800 in next budget

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Preparing for proposed state funding cuts was on the mind of Cass City School Supt. Jeff Hartel Monday night, and he offered the board of education a number of possible cost-cutting measures during a regular monthly school board meeting.

Those proposals range from privatizing transportation service to reducing staff to cutting administrative expenses.

Hartel made it clear that his suggestions are just that — ideas geared towards realizing a balanced budget along with a reasonable fund balance in the 2011-12 school year. However, he also emphasized that the Cass City Public Schools is going to have to make some difficult decisions along with its neighboring districts throughout the Thumb.

The local school system expects to be sitting on a fund balance of, perhaps, \$1.1 million — roughly 12 percent of the district's annual budget — at the end of this fiscal year.

"But don't kid yourself; that \$1.1 million could be gone in a heartbeat," Hartel told the board, referring to a proposed state budget that would cut per-pupil funding by \$470, which

would increase to \$800 per student when factoring in the impact of another hike — from 20.66 percent to 24.46 percent — in the contribution schools are required to pay to the state retirement account next year. Those figures don't take into account possible reductions in categorical funding and increased health insurance premiums.

Cass City's share of those cuts could cost the district \$800,000, enough to nearly erase the district's projected fund balance at the end of June.

School districts throughout Michigan are also coping with lost revenue stemming from falling property values, not to mention the loss of hundreds of students over the past several years.

In Cass City, the numbers are significant. The district boasted an enrollment of 1,496 students in 2005-06, but those numbers have since declined by nearly 380 kids, translating into a combined revenue loss of some \$3 million.

As for 2011-12, while some in Lansing are now hinting that the funding cut next year could be as much as \$200 less than now projected, Hartel said he will base the budget on the expected \$800-per-student

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CASS CITY NATIVE Dale Kaake, a racing veteran of 18 years, was among the participants in the Michigan Dirt Cup Allstar Performance Modified Tour's "Cans From Race Fans" promotion Sunday, parking his own race car at Erla's Food Center in Cass City and inviting area residents to come out for photos and to bring donations of canned food to be donated to Revive Ministries. Kaake, pictured above with Becky Bragg and her daughter, Zoie, 4, of Caro, proudly displayed his 9k UMP (United Midwest Promoters) Modified race car, which boasts a small block Chevy engine that generates a whopping 650 horsepower. Kaake is a regular competitor at the Owendale Speedway, where he is the reigning UMP Modified champion.

## BEATING THE ODDS

### State Board of Education recognizes middle school

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Top Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) scores recently posted by Cass City Public School students were enough to make any local school district official proud.

Now, school Supt. Jeff Hartel, his administrative staff, Cass City teachers and the support staff have an even greater reason to smile; acknowledgment of superior academic achievement, in spite of a variety of challenges, from the Michigan State Board of Education.

The state board last week praised 7 schools — most of them elementary schools but also one middle school (Cass City) and one high school — for "beating the odds". Students in the selected districts are succeeding

academically in spite of obstacles such as having a large percentage of kids qualifying for free or reduced meals, and being located in an urban or rural location, state Supt. Mike Flanagan told the board.

In each case, the honored schools are outperforming peer schools, he said.

"This is an attempt to really show that there are schools from different factions within the state...that in spite of high free-lunch counts, for example, are doing really well, and we wanted to give them a shout out," Flanagan said.

During the State Board of Education meeting, Joseph Marineau, executive director of the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) Bureau of Assessment and Accountability, explained that the schools were identified through 2 studies; one from MDE and the other from an outside expert. The studies focused on areas such as student achievement, graduation rates and statewide percentile rankings.

"These are schools that are frankly really beating the odds," he said.

MDE officials also spent a couple of days interviewing leaders from those schools in an effort to find out what they're doing to achieve their success, according to Vanessa Kessler, manager of evaluation research and accountability.

Other schools that fit the same profiles as the honored schools would do well to study their methods,

Flanagan suggested, adding it's a great opportunity for districts throughout Michigan to improve their own academic achievement levels.

"As detailed at the State Board of Education meeting, there are a variety of reasons why Cass City Middle School has achieved such academic success," Cass City Middle School Principal Don Markel said.

"One of the most important (is that) education decision-making is data-driven," Markel explained. "Students are tested to discover strengths and weaknesses, and decisions on curriculum, interventions, etc., are based upon the data gathered. We also have an established and dedicated staff at Cass City Middle School that has bought into the data-driven decision-making process."

Cass City School Supt. Jeff Hartel acknowledged he was pleased with the recognition from state education officials.

"Very impressive, isn't it? There's a lot of work that went into that," said Hartel, who was quick to credit the district's teaching staff, administration and support staff. "We (implemented) a systematic change and it's really made a difference."

"Our kids are doing well. We might have high economically-disadvantaged numbers, but we've maintained high academic achievement, and everybody should be very proud

Please turn to page 4.

## DTE Energy set to build 3 wind farms

DTE Energy officials are banking on harvesting a bumper crop of wind energy in the Thumb in the near future.

Company officials last week announced they will build their first 3 wind farms in Huron and Sanilac counties as part of their efforts to expand the DTE Energy's renewable energy resources.

The Minden, Sigel and McKinley wind farms, which together are expected to generate some 110 megawatts (MW) of electricity, will be located on nearly 15,000 acres in Bloomfield, Sigel and McKinley townships in Huron County, and Minden and Delaware townships in Sanilac County.

"This is a great opportunity to bring more renewable energy to our service area, and also a way to grow the renewable energy industry in Michigan," said Trevor Lauer, DTE Energy vice president, Marketing and Renewables. "These wind farms will add to the employment base, the tax base, and pro-

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### Big boost...

WALTHER FARMS and Thumb National Bank & Trust Company both recently made sizeable donations to the Cass City High School Agriscience Program barn project. Above (from left), Kevin Storm and Guthrie Laurie of Walther Farms presented a check for \$10,000 to Cass City High School agriscience teacher Ashlee Gibson, while Thumb National Bank's Eric Brown presented a check for \$2,500.

## Canadian pleads in drug smuggling case

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

A Canadian put an end to his own trial Thursday in federal court by entering a plea of guilty in a drug smuggling case that began with a \$10 million multinational drug bust at the Sandusky City Airport back in 2009.

Robert "Romeo" D'Leone of Ontario pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute 3 kilograms of cocaine in November 2009. Officials with the Sanilac County Drug Task Force assisted in the apprehension of D'Leone and 2 other Canadians in the case.

If convicted, D'Leone could face a prison term of 5 to 40 years and a maximum fine of \$2 million. Sentencing is scheduled for July 12, and the defendant remains in custody.

Authorities say all the suspects were linked to a group that smuggled drugs into and out of the United States.

Thumb authorities were alerted when a U.S. Customs and Border Protection helicopter spotted a single-engine Cessna airplane, flying at about 500 feet with no lights, dropping 8 large duffel bags on a runway at the Sanilac County airport shortly before midnight, according to drug task force Director Bill Gray, who said 2 men were seen attempting to load the bags

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# In Our OPINION..

Clarke Haire  
Publisher

Tom Montgomery  
Editor

## We agree fire run fee hikes justified

*Elkland Township officials' decision to increase fees for certain fire department runs this year may turn some heads, but we believe a thorough review of the reasons behind those increases will convince most area residents that it was time.*

*We know times are tough, but the hikes are justified, in our opinion.*

*The Elkland Township Fire Department is now charging \$300 for the first hour and \$300 for each additional hour (up to a maximum of \$600) when called out to respond to a vehicle fire. That fee was doubled, as was the charge for responding to personal injury accidents — from \$150 to \$300 for the first hour and from \$150 to \$300 for each additional hour, again up to a maximum of \$600.*

*Those fees haven't been increased in about 10 years, according to Fire Chief Glenn Guilds.*

*We can't think of too many expenses that haven't increased over the past decade — fuel, for example, not to mention equipment. And fire trucks don't come cheap.*

*Guilds estimated that his department's 1996 pumper, purchased for just over \$200,000, would cost roughly \$450,000 today, while another pumper, purchased in 2006 for \$186,000, now retails for about \$300,000.*

*There are other factors to consider, such as runs that department can't/won't bill for. Aside from bills the township is unable to collect on, fire fighters often respond to false alarms, and instances when someone has a legal burning permit but fire fighters are called anyway because a passerby has seen what they believe is a dangerous situation. The department can also be asked to assist in the search for a missing child. "How can you bill for something like that?" Guilds asked.*

*He's right.*

*Runs that can't be billed account for, perhaps, a third of the Cass City department's annual activity, and yet each time, those volunteers are rolling out of the fire hall with \$500,000 to \$700,000 worth of equipment, plus fuel, plus the cost of paying a dozen or more firemen.*

*The biggest bargain, as far as we're concerned, is the fee for responding to personal injury accidents.*

*Anyone care to compare a maximum \$600 charge to the bills submitted by an ambulance company and/or a medical helicopter crew, neither of which can render aid to accident victims that are trapped in their vehicle until the fire department can safely remove them using the Jaws of Life?*

*Rest assured, the fire run hikes approved for this year aren't going to pay for new office furnishings, company cars or any other luxuries.*

*At best, the additional revenue will cover the payroll (our volunteers each earn what amounts to less than \$9 per hour) along with the purchase of some diesel fuel.*

*Small price to pay when it comes to saving lives.*

## Slices of Life

by Jill Pertler

**Now hiring**





**Help wanted:**  
Must be available nights, weekends, legal holidays, as well as any and all odd hours on days ending with the letter Y. Early morning work slots expected and required. Vacation not guaranteed. Sick time unavailable.  
Both male and female applicants are encouraged to apply.

**Terms of employment:**  
Tenure of position will be measured in 18-year increments, renewable without prior notice or approval. Job duties and responsibilities may double or triple (or even quadruple) throughout the duration of the appointment. Upon successful assignment to the position, applicant relinquishes all rights to terminate said employment. In other words, quitting is not an option.

**Qualifications:**  
Ideal applicants will bring an innate sense of optimism to their work as well as an immeasurable capacity to love. Applicant's heart will have the ability to expand exponentially as the rigors of the job increase.  
Extreme endurance and stamina a plus. Desired applicants must be willing and able to experience sleep deprivation and intense emotion including but not limited to: worry, frustration, worry, apprehension and worry, combined with equal doses of happiness, hope, content-

ment, pride, excitement, tenderness and awe.  
Ability to laugh when you feel like crying will prove useful in normal, day-to-day duties. Aptitude for handling high levels of stress a must.  
Vocal responsibilities include yelling approval at soccer games and whispering prayers at bedtime. Keeping one's mouth shut, even when you know you are right, can serve as an advantageous skill - especially during years 13 through 18.  
Must not have an aversion to substances that may be (planfully or inadvertently) expelled from any body orifice in any remote or public location, at any time - day or night.  
Should possess a masterful competence for remaining calm when faced with a variety declarations including, but not limited to: "Have you seen my iguana?" "I got into a little crash with the car," and "Did you know the lid on the green paint can was loose?"  
Bonus points given to applicants with knowledge of the food pyramid and/or a knack for making broccoli appealing to a 6-year-old.  
Frequent role-playing required. Characters include: a giant rabbit, molar-loving fairy and a jolly old elf. Other roles may be assigned on an as-needed basis.  
Familiarity with new math helpful, but not essential. Kissing boo boos mandatory.

Applicants must recognize that during the first decade of their appointment they will be viewed as possessing unsurpassed knowledge and awareness about the world in general, and should act in such a capacity.

During the second decade on the job, applicants will suddenly and inexplicably lose all intelligence, becoming, quite obviously, an embarrassment. At this point, hugging in public will no longer be tolerated and applicants should do their best to remain invisible whenever possible.

**Training:**  
None offered. Nine-month preparation period provided, after which learning on-the-job is expected and required.

**Benefits:**  
Include a belief in miracles and firsthand knowledge of unconditional love.

**Payment:**  
This is a salaried position. No overtime pay will be authorized. In fact, monetary payment is not included with this job. Compensation will be received in the form of handprints on the walls, dandelion bouquets, sticky kisses and immeasurable joy - not necessarily in that order.

-----  
*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 [pertmln@qwest.net](mailto:pertmln@qwest.net); or visit her website at <http://marketing-by-design.home.mchsi.com/>.*

## Letter to the Editor

### State needs repairing but protect education

Your "In Our Opinion" article garnered the attention you were hoping for. Unfortunately, the message was buried in your article.

Our state is in trouble. The governor and representatives are attacking the middle class. Our state needs to be fixed, unquestionably. Making public education and public services shoulder the burden while offering tax breaks to the richest is just wrong.

The MEA (Michigan Education Association) is looking for ways to send that message to our leaders in Lansing. In this effort, the board of directors has surveyed the 1,100 units that make up the MEA. You chose only to report and sensationalize the extreme!

The Cass City Education Association is dedicated to teaching students of Cass City. We also understand the need to get the attention of those in Lansing who think underfunding K-12 education is a feasible option.

Please join with us as we continue to educate our students and send the mes-

sage to Lansing that our future is dependent on the youth whom our representatives have forgotten. Contact your representative. Call them, email them or send them a postcard. Let them know, they need to fix Michigan, but not at the expense of public education.

Education — we breathe it, we live it, we love it!

Mary Keroson, president  
Cass City Education Association

*Editor's note: Mary, we agree the state needs fixing, and not at the expense of public education. However, our editorial was hardly an effort to "garner the attention (we) were hoping for", nor was the message buried.*

*The message was, simply, this: A union that repeatedly emphasizes its dedication to educating our state's youngsters has no business entertaining the idea of "a job action", thereby robbing students of instruction time and possibly threatening the jobs of thousands of teachers across the state.*

## Write-in candidate: change needed now

My name is Kevin Gracey and I am running for the Ubyly School Board. I am 53 years old, married to Diane Gracey, and have 4 kids: Amber, Nathan, Jessica and Nicholas. I have been a resident of Ubyly my entire life, growing up just a few miles from where I now live.

I am running for the school board as a write-in candidate because there needs to be change. In these tough economic times, decisions need to be made. I am ready and willing to begin working with other school board members to make these difficult decisions.


Recently, a lot of talk has been done about what needs to change, but there is no action to follow through with these things. Time after time, important topics are laid on the table and no decisions are ever made.

I believe it's time that someone steps up and does more than just talk. It's your vote that will determine whether or not your precious tax money is used to its fullest potential.

This is why I ask you for your vote. Write-in Kevin Gracey for the Ubyly School Board.

Kevin Gracey  
Ubyly

**Send Letters to the Editor to  
Cass City Chronicle  
P.O. Box 115, Cass City**



## Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Small world department. Subscriber Bill Ewald called Monday to change his address back to Cass City from Zephyrhills, where he spent the winter.

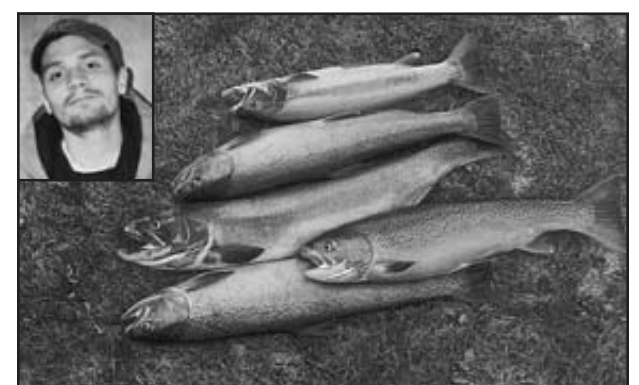
The former Walbro executive said while attending church recently in Florida, he turned to greet members of the congregation sitting in the pews near him.

Of course, he met some folks from Michigan. They were from Cass City. And actually are neighbors of the Ewalds and are my next door neighbors, the Brownriggs.

\*\*\*\*\*



Avid fisherman David Lavalee, Cass City, stopped by the Chronicle office with a fishing report from Tippy Damm. He fished there Sunday with his dad and landed 6 steeties, keeping a pair for the dinner table.

Lavalee, 25, says the Manistee River is a bit murky and he had success using spawn and wax worms.



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Don't forget, the Chronicle office will be closed this Friday from noon until 3 p.m. in observance of Good Friday. The Chronicle staff wishes everyone a happy Easter.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">CASS CITY CHRONICLE</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">6550 Main Street P.O. Box 115 Cass City, MI 48726 Phone: (989) 872-2010 Fax: (989) 872-3810 Email: <a href="mailto:chronicle@ccchronicle.net">chronicle@ccchronicle.net</a> Website: <a href="http://www.ccchronicle.net">www.ccchronicle.net</a></p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6550 MAIN STREET, CASS CITY, MICHIGAN, by Clarke Haire, publisher.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Periodical postage paid at Cass City, Michigan 48726.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CASS CITY CHRONICLE, P.O. BOX 115, CASS CITY, MI 48726.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">National Advertising Representative, Michigan Weekly Newspapers, Inc., 257 Michigan Avenue, East Lansing, Michigan.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">For information regarding newspaper advertising and commercial and job printing, telephone: (989) 872-2010.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">(USPS 092-700)</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">News Staff</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Clarke Haire Publisher <a href="mailto:clarke@ccchronicle.net">clarke@ccchronicle.net</a></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Tom Montgomery Editor <a href="mailto:tom@ccchronicle.net">tom@ccchronicle.net</a></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Harmony Doerr Office / Advertising Manager <a href="mailto:chronicle@ccchronicle.net">chronicle@ccchronicle.net</a></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Tina Pallas Digital Media Director <a href="mailto:tina@ccchronicle.net">tina@ccchronicle.net</a></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Deb Severance Composition</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Melva Guinther Columnist</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Jill Pertler Columnist</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Rates &amp; Policies</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">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.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Letters to the Editor</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">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.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">We will not publish thank you letters of a specific nature, for instance, from a club thanking merchants who donated prizes for a raffle.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Social News</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">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.</p>
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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Obituary Rates</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Obituary notices cost \$19 per insertion. There is a \$4 additional charge for including a photo.</p>		 	

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

## Wednesday, April 20

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.

## Thursday, April 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.

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, April 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, April 23

Thumb Dance Club, 7-11 p.m., Maple Valley School, Sandusky. Everyone is welcome to attend. Members: \$4; non-members: \$4.50. For more information, call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

## Sunday, April 24

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

## Monday, April 25

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

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

Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary meeting, 11:30 p.m., Gilligan's.

Tuscola County Right to Life meeting, 6:30 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.

## Tuesday, April 26

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

Toddler Story Time, 10-10:30 a.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.

## Wednesday, April 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.

# M-81 paving project scheduled this year

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) was scheduled to begin a paving project Monday on M-81 in Tuscola County.

The project involves paving 1.1 miles of M-81, from the Wal-Mart entrance in Caro to just east of

Deckerville Road. The work includes widening to allow the addition of a center left-turn lane, resurfacing, safety upgrades and drainage improvements.

Single-lane and shoulder closures

will be in effect for the duration of the \$720,000 project, which is expected to be completed in mid-June. Traffic will be maintained under flag control, and motorists can expect some delays, MDOT officials said.

# Weight restrictions lifted

Effective Monday, April 18, weight restrictions were lifted on all state trunkline highways from the southern Michigan border up to and including the Mackinac Bridge. State trunkline highways typically carry the M, I or US designations.

In restricted areas, the following will apply:

•On routes designated as "All Season Routes" (green and gold on

the Michigan Department of transportation — MDOT — Truck Operator's Map), there will be no reduction in legal axle weights.

•On routes designated as "Seasonal" (solid or dashed red on the MDOT Truck Operator's Map), there will be weight reduction of 25 percent for rigid pavements and 35 percent for flexible pavements.

Extended permits will be valid for

oversize loads only in the weight restricted areas.

Single-trip permits will not be issued for overweight loads or loads exceeding 14 feet in width in the weight-restricted areas.

Additional information and updates are available by calling 1-800-787-8960, or by accessing MDOT's Mi Drive website at michigan.gov/drive (click on "truckers").

# DTE planning wind farms in Thumb

*Continued from page one.*

vide many other economic development opportunities. Statistics show that nearly 5 jobs are created for every megawatt of installed wind capacity."

DTE's total investment in the Thumb is expected to be roughly \$225 million.

Aside from selecting a turbine manufacturer, DTE Energy officials also will seek a construction company and begin the permitting process that will lead to construction sometime next year.

"The comprehensive energy legis-

lation passed in 2008 has made these wind farms possible, and show what

can be accomplished when we all work toward making Michigan a better place to live and work," Lauer said. "We're looking forward to many more similar renewable energy projects."

The wind farm development is part of DTE Energy's plan to meet Michigan's renewable energy goals. DTE Energy officials expect to add about 1,200 MW of renewable power, or about 10 percent of its power, by 2015. The company plans to own facilities to supply up to half of that power and contract with

third-party producers for the remainder.

The company also expects the majority of its renewable energy to come from wind resources in the development and management of energy-related businesses and services nationwide. Its operating units include Detroit Edison, an electric utility serving 2.1 million customers in Southeastern Michigan; MichCon, a natural gas utility serving 1.2 million customers in Michigan; and other non-utility, energy businesses focused on gas storage and pipelines, unconventional gas production, power and industrial projects, and energy trading.

# Middle school is "beating the odds"

*Continued from page one.*

of that."

Cass City Public School officials earlier this month announced that local elementary and middle school students again earned outstanding scores in most categories following the latest Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) exam. Cass City's scores were at the top or near the top compared to the other public school districts in Tuscola County.

"We're seeing gains in the classroom," Hartel said at the time, adding the impressive performance was largely the result of successful, pro-active efforts to identify stu-

dents who are struggling in certain subject areas, and then providing those kids with individual attention to bring them up to speed.

Towards that end, school officials conduct assessment testing of students in the areas of math, writing, reading fluency and reading compre-

hension in the fall, winter and spring. In between assessments, officials identify students in need of additional help and implement intervention measures to help them. As a result, Hartel said, "We know where every kid's strengths and weaknesses are, and we can do something about it."

# Green to host office hours

State Senator Mike Green will hold office hours in Bad Axe Monday, April 25, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Huron County Building in the Board of Commissioners Room, located at 250 E. Huron Ave.

"I am pleased to host these hours and I look forward to sitting down with local residents to talk about the challenges we face in Michigan, to hear their concerns and to offer my help with any issues involving state agencies," said Green (R-Mayville). "It is one of many ways I am working hard to represent them effectively in the Michigan Senate."

Green said that he will also be introducing his newly-appointed district representative, Jim McLoskey, at the meeting.

Green represents the 31st Senate District, which is comprised of Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties.



# NOBODY IS PICTURE PERFECT!



57.7 million American adults in the United States have been diagnosed with a mental illness. - (Source: Mental Health America)

To inquire about programs such as...

- Assertive Community Treatment
- Case Management Services
- Children's Services
- Developmental Disabilities Services
- Emergency Services available 24/7
- Outpatient Services
- Psychiatric Services

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Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems:  
989.673.6191 or 800.462.6814



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THE RABBIT LEFT EASTER ISLAND AND HEADED FOR HOLLYWOOD  
ALL NEW ANIMATED PG FUN

**HOP**

NOTICE: STARTING APRIL 25TH THE CASS WILL CLOSE FOR A SPRING BREAK - WATCH FOR OUR NEXT NEW HIT.

**Make Retirement a Walk in the Park**

Even the most savvy investors wonder about how to best protect their retirement nest egg.

To find out more information on protecting your retirement income call David A. Weiler today.

**Harris & Company**  
Cass City, MI 48726  
989-872-2688



**VOLUNTEERS** Marcia Schember (right) and Harriet Stalter fold and organize clothing donations at Revive Ministries in Cass City.

## Revive Ministries up and running in new headquarters

Revive Ministries is settled into its new home in the former Burkhard building on Main Street in Cass City, and officials say they're ready for business.

The new store hours are Tuesdays from 1 to 5 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon.

The ministry also hosts a "coffee time" each Friday from 8 to 10 a.m., and officials are hosting monthly food pantries on the third Saturday of each month from 10 to 11 a.m.

"We are (also) in the process of establishing a tutoring program for children this summer," said Revive's Jaime Fritz, who said guidelines, dates and times will be announced when the details are finalized.

The local ministry's humble beginnings at the Cass City Missionary Church eventually led to housing the outreach in the former Millennium building next to McDonald's in the village. That arrangement ended last year, however, when the building was sold.

"At that time we began to explore our options and trusted that God would open doors we needed opened in order to continue providing support to the community," Fritz recalled. "Over the past (several months), we have worked hard to raise enough funds and monthly

pledges to put a down payment on the Burkhard Plumbing and Heating building."

Revive's roots date back to 2005 when the church hosted "Revive", a weekend family event geared towards the community and offering a host of children's activities. The gathering has since been brought back annually.

"When planning the 2008 event, we felt the need to further meet the needs of those in the community, so we held a clothing/food give-away and a children's fun fair. We also organized various mobile food pantries throughout the year," Fritz said. "The response was tremendous and the need within the community became even more real to us at that time."

"The program continues to be operated 100 percent by volunteers and funded by the community," she added. "We are continually looking for volunteer support in a variety of areas in order to keep the programs going. Our goal is to be a community organization meeting the needs of those in our community. We will continue to need financial support to both purchase food and to maintain the services/programs we offer."

More information is available by contacting the ministry at (989) 551-7803.



**THE FORMER** Burkhard Plumbing and Heating building in Cass City is now home to Revive Ministries, which provides a helping hand to those in need in the community.

## Calling all grandparents: share your grandkids' most humorous comments

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

A recent "Reporter's notebook" column in the Chronicle focusing on the "darndest things grandchildren say" drew the interest of some local readers, who suggested that the paper invite area residents to submit some verbal gems supplied by their own grandchildren.

We thought it was a great idea.

So, we're doing just that; all area grandparents are encouraged to send us the funniest, cutest or just interesting things they've heard their grandchildren say, and we'll publish as many of them as we can.

We've set a deadline of Wednesday, May 4, and we'll publish the submissions in our Wednesday, May 11 issue.

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# Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



### 5 YEARS AGO

This year's celebrating Tuscola's Stars winners were honored during a breakfast Thursday morning at the Tuscola Technology Center. They are Millington Lions Club President Todd Ostrander and Ambassador Bob Meinecke; James and Linda Will of Will's Greenhouse, Mayville; Tom Montgomery of Cass City; and Dan Hittler, also of Cass City.

The American Association of University Women in Cass City recently awarded its annual scholarships to local women who are returning to school to further their education. This year's winners are Rita Hanby, who received a \$1,000 scholarship and plans to seek a college degree in the healthcare field; Carla Dzielinski, who received \$500 and is pursuing a degree in business administration; and Deb Montgomery, who received a \$1,000 scholarship and is working towards her degree as a registered nurse.

The Cass City Red Hawk baseball team chalked up its third win in a row last week Monday at Freeland, defeating the Falcons, 10-7. Brad Langenburg allowed a run, struck out one and yielded 5 hits. Brad Hartel was touched for 6 runs and 4 hits with 3 strikeouts. He helped his own cause with 2 hits in 4 trips, while scoring 2 runs and knocking in a pair. Andrew Martin continued to produce at the plate for the Hawks. He was 2 for 3 with 3 RBIs. Cody Halasz collected a hit in 3 trips, scored twice and stole a base.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Bobbie Sierzputowski beams with confidence when she talks about her future - finishing her senior year at Uby High School, then off to the pre-med program at Michigan State University and, ultimately, starting a career as a radiologist. But first the 18-year-old has a national title to defend. Sierzputowski is gearing up for a trip to Anaheim, Calif., where she will compete in the National Business Professionals of America Leadership Conference May 9-13. She is the defending champion in the Extemporaneous Verbal competition, having nailed the title in her first-ever national appearance.

Cass City Middle School KCLICK students Andrew Peruski, Ivan Peruski, Alex Hiatt and Evan Bushong recently traveled to the Detroit area to compete in a robotics competition against the top 20 teams in the KCLICK program. The team of Peruski and Peruski finished first, while Hiatt and Bushong grabbed 3<sup>rd</sup> place honors.

Janelle Dickinson (560) and Jeff Krol (719) are Cass City's Charmont Lanes Bowlers of the Year for the 2000-01 season. Determined by a prestigious one-day tournament,

which began in 1987-88, it is open to all men keglers who rolled a sanctioned, in house, 3-game total of at least 650 pins during the year. Women contestants had to reach the 550 mark during the season.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Cass City is without a Ford dealership for the first time since 1915, when an agency was opened here by G.A. Tindale with Meredith B. Auten as a silent partner. At one time the dealership was the second oldest in Michigan. The end came several weeks ago when the last of a string of owners, Barney Hoffman, closed the doors. The remains were auctioned off Saturday by Lorn Hillaker and 2 assistants. The building is empty and deserted and Duane Chippi, owner, has not announced what his building may be used for.

Luis J. Salas has been named field service supervisor for Walbro Corporation's Carburetor Group. The appointment was announced by Donald D. Hilbig, director of sales. He has been employed by Walbro since 1976 in a variety of technical and engineering positions. He most recently served as Liaison Engineer for Walbro de Mexico, Walbro's diaphragm carburetor manufacturing facility in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. Salas has attended Wayne State University and Delta College. He and his wife Linda and two children will return to Cass City.

Technical education students, including several from Cass City High School who attended Tuscola Area Skill Center, recently participated in Delta College's 1986 Student Industrial Competition. James Rabideau, a Cass City High School junior, received a second place honor in the process and product design competition. Rabideau is a first year student in the drafting program at the skill center in Caro. His partner for the project was Jeff Hoppe, a skill center student from Unionville-Sebewaing Area High School.

### 50 YEARS AGO

Honored at a special induction ceremony this week were members of the Honor Society at Cass City High School. Included were 15 seniors selected for their outstanding abilities. Membership in the society is granted on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership and service. The seniors are: Susan Shaw, Larry Retherford, James Ross, Tim Anthes, Dorothy Ballard, James Reid, George Maleck, Marvin McCormick, Thelma Krueger, Richard Albee, Gary Bartle, Paul Holmberg, Frances Hunter, Ann Krueger and Shirley Ross.

Paul Holmberg set a new record in the broad jump Tuesday, April 11, at

Cass City Recreational Park when he leaped 21 feet, 10 ¾ inches to erase the former Cass City record of 21 feet, 4 ½ inches set by Tim Burdon in 1952. Holmberg also won the 440 and tied for first in the high jump to lead the Hawks to an easy victory over Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port and Marlette.

Bette Lou Bond, clarinetist, won the coveted Harold Ferguson Award at the spring concert of the Cass City High School Band Sunday. Miss Bond, a high school senior, was selected by her fellow band members to receive the medal given in the name of "an outstanding musician and teacher." Donald R. Gillette, director of the band who presented the award, stated that Miss Bond's name would be placed on a plaque in the rehearsal room.

### 100 YEARS AGO

Miss Christine E. Wettlaufer, who has been in Detroit for several months where she pursued a course in china painting, returned home Saturday. Miss Wettlaufer has her collection of china on exhibition at her home this week. It comprises a beautiful display, varied in style, and exceedingly dainty in design.

Verner Bird circulated a petition in town Saturday which requested the Elkland township board to survey two miles of road for improvement under state aid next year. The road in question commences at the north end of the state road built in 1910, next to the I. Passage farm, and runs ½ mile north and then east 1-½ miles. The petition was signed by a large number and it is thought that it will be favorably received by the board.

The following statement regarding the action of the Cass City High School in withdrawing from the Tuscola County Athletic Association has been given to the Chronicle by an interested party: "At a meeting of the superintendents and student delegates representing the County Athletic Association, affairs took a serious turn. After two or three necessary amendments to the constitution had been adopted, the question of the place for holding the annual field meet was discussed. Caro had the meet the first three years of the association while Vassar had it last year. We hoped to have the meet last year in Cass City, but were outvoted in the matter. This year we felt Cass City was entitled to the honor and this belief was shared by a majority of the Board of Control. The Board of Control, according to the constitution, have the power to decide the matter, but when it was voted upon by the delegates, Cass City was defeated. We felt that the meet should rightly go to Cass City, and rather than yield to the vote, we withdrew from the association."

# Cass City Area Church Directory

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

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

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

**Cass City Missionary Church**  
4449 Koepfgen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726  
989-872-2729  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service & Youth Group 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m.  
Pastor: Phil Burkett  
www.casscitymc.org

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

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

**First Baptist Church**  
(Independent, Fundamental)  
Barrier Free  
6420 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726  
989-872-3155  
Sunday School All Ages 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday -  
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
AWANA Clubs 6:45 p.m. During School Year  
Thursday Teen Club 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Pastor: David G. Hill  
Website: www.fbccc.us

**First Presbyterian Church**  
Barrier Free  
State & National Historical Registry  
6505 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726  
872-5400  
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.  
Pastor: Dave Blackburn

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

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

**Novesta Church of Christ**  
2896 N. Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726  
872-3658 or 872-1195  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Youth Group & Sunday Evening -  
Services 6:00 p.m.  
Ministers: Brad Gniewek & Brad Speirs  
Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org

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

**St. Pancratius Catholic Church**  
4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726  
872-3336  
Saturday Liturgy 4:00 p.m.  
Pastor: David G. Hill  
Pastoral Administrator:  
Sr. Maria Dina Puddu MC

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# School eyes cuts

Continued from page one.

reduction. "We're going to come back and discuss this again in May when we're going to have more precise numbers," he told the board.

As the numbers stand now, Hartel said he's looking at a per-pupil foundation allowance of \$6,516 next year, compared to this year's funding level of \$7,316 per pupil. He's also assuming the trend of dwindling enrollment will continue, so he's counting on 50 fewer students in 2011-12.

"This would be a \$894,400 decrease in state revenues for next year. If we shoot for (eliminating) 75 percent of this total, we would need to cut \$670,800, (and) an amount of \$223,600 would need to be spent from the fund balance. It's not a pretty picture, but again, it could change," said Hartel, who projected next year's fund balance at about \$923,883.

Hartel proposed several spending reductions, including elimination of 5 teaching positions (\$310,000); 3 support staff (\$50,000); elimination of one administrative position — special projects director, with the intermediate school district funding a part-time special education director (\$44,000); privatization of transportation (\$15,000); elimination of summer school for 2 years (\$20,000); elimination of text book purchases for one year (\$60,000); asking all administrators and support staff to pay 20 percent of their insurance (\$48,000); cutting the technology budget by 11 percent (\$23,000); reduction of athletic costs (\$20,000); and additional superintendent and other administrative expenses (\$14,350).

In addition, Hartel announced the potential for a savings of another \$12,000 in each of the next 2 years based on a proposal from officials at Baker College of Flint to use the Cass City Early Childhood Education Center as a location for primarily evening classes geared

towards the school's health-related curriculum offerings.

Under the proposed agreement, the college would pay for the utility costs of the building over the next 2 years (a combined \$24,000) in addition to more than \$53,000 in renovation costs. Rent would be negotiated beginning with the third year of occupancy.

Hartel said Baker officials have promised that their students will adhere to all behavior codes of conduct already in place in the Cass City Public Schools.

## IN OTHER BUSINESS

In other business Monday, the board:

\*Introduced and swore in new board member Kathy Leslie, who fills a vacancy left by the resignation of former board President Doug Lautner after nearly 7 years of service. Leslie's appointment will last through May 2012, when the seat will be filled for a full 4-year term during the annual school election.

\*Learned that all 3 of the district's principals — Aaron Fernald at the elementary school, Don Markel at the middle school and Chad Daniels at the high school — received favorable administrative evaluations. The board subsequently extended each of their 2-year revolving contracts by one year.

\*Reviewed a proposed board policy change that would extend the disciplinary point system policy used at the high school to include the eighth grade.

\*Approved fourth year probationary contracts for teachers Marnie Hacker, Terri Maurer, Tana Shrader, Nicole Maurer, Jill Rowland, Amy Tamlyn, Cori Gniewek, Christin Hempton and Andrea Ross. Also approved were second year probationary contracts for teachers Ashley Copeland, Mark Estelle, Amanda Hartzell, Steve Hollocker, Christina Swiderski, Ashlee Gibson, Christina Grim and Danielle Hall.

## Reporter's notebook

# Tattoos everywhere, but still none on me

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Maybe it's just age, but I simply don't get the attraction young folks today have with tattoos.

I was reminded of my attitude recently while attending a play put on by a group of students at Delta College. At one point I thought I had walked into a tattoo convention, and we're not talking about young adults with a discreet "tat" on an ankle — we're talking both men and women sporting large tattoos of every imaginable design plastered on shoulders, calves, backs, arms and who knows where else.

All I could think was, are these folks simply trying to express themselves? Don't have enough pain in their lives? Were they denied Crayolas as children? Couldn't find a piece of paper to write on?

I wonder how many of these young people have considered how a prospective employer might react to all of the body art. Or ladies who agree to be bridesmaids and end up wearing a strapless gown with a huge dragon on their shoulder, staring back at all of those people sitting in the pews.

And, let's face it, those tats might look good now, but wait until age takes its toll on the skin, which tends to loosen up and wrinkle a bit in time.

How many guys over the years have sported a tattoo boasting their love for Rose (or Dawn or Lisa or whoever), only to end up falling in love with and marrying a Terri or Sue or, well, you get the idea.

Oh well, to each his own, I guess. It's sort of like piercings. Over the years I've seen a few youths sporting a number of piercings — ears, of course, but also lips, eyebrows, tongues, etc. I've seen a couple teens who more resembled a fishing tackle display than teenage boys.

But back to tattoos. This obsession with body art stymies me. Always makes me think back to my grandfather's comment years ago when it comes to women wearing make-up: "Well," he'd say, "if the barn needs paintin', paint it."

Even a couple of my daughters have fallen prey to the tattoo bug. My wife knew long before I did. The girls didn't willingly share this information with me (can't imagine why). But, hey, they are adults and can make their own decisions, even if I think it's silly.

I'm not sure if my other daughter (now in college) has a tattoo, and I have no intention of asking. Don't ask, don't tell, you know?

As for me, I'll leave the tats and piercings to the younger crowd.

I have enough (aches and) pain in my life already.



**A CANADIAN CHARGED** in connection with a drug smuggling case dating back to 2009 cut his own trial short by pleading guilty in federal court. The investigation involved the seizure of some \$10 million worth of marijuana and Ecstasy that were dropped off at the Sandusky City Airport by a small plane. Above, Sanilac County Sheriff Garry Biniacki inspects an SUV used by the suspects in an attempt to transport the drugs. (See story, page one)

## Collection of HHW scheduled

The Tuscola County Recycling Center in Caro will be hosting a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection Saturday, May 7, beginning at 9 a.m.

Participants must have an appointment, and the collection is for HHW items only — no recyclable items. More information is available by calling the center at (989) 672-1673.

According to Mike Miller, Tuscola County Recycling coordinator, HHW "is a product that is toxic, flammable, caustic, or chemically reactive. Key words to look for are 'danger', 'poison', 'warning' or 'caution'.

The collection is free of charge to all Tuscola County residents. More information is available by calling the recycling center at (989) 672-1673, or emailing recycle@tuscolacounty.org.



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(989) 912-6115

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(989) 658-8611

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(989) 872-8503

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## Weather hampers Cass City thinclads' training as 2011 season gets underway

Missing a few key members, Cass City opened its 2011 track and field season with a 5-school gathering last week in the recreational park.

Injuries and academic ineligibility hampered the Lady Red Hawks in their season opener, captured by Bad Axe with 121 points. Vassar, with 102 points, Cass City, 73, Mayville, 35, and Saginaw Arts and Science Academy (SASA), 18, complete the team results.

Haley Wynn was a double winner for the hosts on the day, claiming the 400-meter dash in 1-minute flat and topping the long jump with a distance of 15' 7". Cass City also received an individual victory from Ashley Potts in the 3,200-meter run (13:13).

The Lady Red Hawks were awarded first place points in the 3,200-meter relay, clocked in a winning time of 11:15. Running for Cass City were Potts, Ashtyn Janiskee Weiler, Jessa Prieskorn and Wynn.

Cass City's other top finishes included second place efforts from Weiler in the 100-meter hurdles, Potts in the 1,600-meter run, and the 800-meter relay team consisting of Wynn, Katie Hacker, Miranda Williams and Megan Schoel. Prieskorn chipped in third place showings in both the 1,600 and 3,200 meter runs.

Turning to the boys' field, Mayville proved best with 114 points, followed by Vassar, with 112, Bad Axe, 65, Cass City, 36, and SASA, 26.

Cass City's best individual finish came in the field events, where Austin Baker placed second in the

The Lady Red Hawks' best showings came in the 100-meter hurdles and 3,200-meter relay. Weiler topped the field in the hurdles with a winning time of 18.92 and also was a member of the Red Hawks' winning relay team, along with Potts, Prieskorn and Wynn, who were timed in 11:18, over 7 seconds faster than runner-up Marlette.

"I have been pleasantly surprised with the ladies this early in the season. The biggest battle has been the relentless weather we are experiencing as wind, snow and rain have had an impact on early season training. As it improves, so will our fitness," said Coach Amy Cuthrell.

Other top 3 place winners for the Lady Red Hawks came in the 3,200-meter run, 400-meter dash, 300-meter hurdles and the long jump.

Potts recorded a time of 13:20 to finish runner up in the 3,200-meter, matching Wynn's finish in the long jump with a leap of 15' 02".

Wynn added a third place effort in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:10, as did Weiler in the low hurdles with

a time of 57.40. In the boys' field, Marlette ran away with top honors, easily out distancing runner-up Mayville, 204-98. Next in the team standings was Brown City with 90 points, Ubyly, 69, Bad Axe, 59, Harbor Beach, 34, Cass City, 27, and Sandusky, 7.

Individually, Potrykus and Terrance Bennett led Cass City with a second place effort in the high jump and a third place showing in the 100-meter dash, respectively.

Cass City's only other top 3 finish was earned in the 400-meter relay. Potrykus, Garret Ferguson, Bennett and Josh Jensen handed in a time of 50.89, third best on the day.

"The boys' team is progressing. Our 4x100 relay is getting better each week. These are young guys who will find success with experience," said Coach Scott Cuthrell.

## Final call all vaulters

by Clarke Haire, Publisher

When asked if I would be a field judge for the pole vault competition last week, I jumped at the opportunity with open arms.

After all, some 30 years earlier I was doing the same field event venue. I always considered vaulters complete athletes, needing speed, strength and coordination to be successful.

However, truth be told, I was a bit disappointed with what I saw using the pits.

Now let's be perfectly clear, the hours I've spend with our youth, and for me it's been mainly centered around athletics, have always been treasured. I've coached teams that finished the season undefeated and teams that finished the season winless. And you know what? *It's all good.*

All you can ask of an athlete is that they give it 100-percent. Your reward as a coach is time spent molding our youth. A banner season for me has always been measured in the relationships built with my players, not wins and losses. And that might surprise some, because I freely admit that I like winning.

Still, after watching the vaulters in last week's home opener, which included both boys' and girls' competitions, I wasn't completely satisfied with the winning heights of 9' 6" in the boys' field and 8' in the girls' field.

Back in the days, between 1975-1978, there wasn't a separate division for the girl vaulters and I can't remember ever competing against the opposite sex. So, I'll have to let the winning height pass among the ladies.

But if you compare apples to apples, in the late 70s Cass City had at least 5 vaulters on the Red Hawk rosters that would have passed (elected not to even attempt such a low height, conserving energy for higher heights) until the bar was at least 10-feet high. Guy Howard, Steve Ballard, and myself all cleared over 12-feet during our school days, with Ballard being the first in Red Hawk lore to ever top 13-feet.

Heck, during 1978 Vassar's Bill Heffelfinger was vaulting near 15-feet. The former Bad Axe Hatchet band director and rock star look-alike, dominated in the pole vault like nobody else, eventually winning a state championship, leading to a scholarship from the University of Michigan. Even so, it wasn't the lack of a spectacular showing that dampened my spirits at Cass City's home opener. Like I mentioned earlier, the kids I watched were giving it all they had, and I appreciated their efforts.

The problem, however, is that I didn't see anybody from Cass City entered into the pole vault event. And that included junior Stephanie Leeson, who, like Heffelfinger once did, entertains dreams of capturing an individual state championship. She claimed regional honors and a 5th place medal at the state meet in 2010.

Unfortunately, it won't happen this year due to a leg injury. "How long are you out?" I asked Leeson as she watched the competition in street clothes.

"Until volleyball season," answered the dejected Lady Red Hawk track star.

That's tough. Track, and especially the pole vault, are Leeson's passions. I am sure there are lessons to be learned from her tribulations. None can erase the fact that she will miss an entire year of competition. As for the rest of us, go out and give it 100-percent while you still can.

shot put with a distance of 33' 1". The Red Hawks also had individual third place finishers in Braedon Perzanowski, 200-meter dash, and Mike Potrykus, 800-meter run and high jump.

Track and field results can be found on page 12.

### BROWN CITY INVITE

On Friday, the Red Hawks traveled to compete at the 8-school Brown City Invitational, where the Lady Red Hawks finished in the middle of the pack with 77 points.

Bad Axe grabbed team honors with 156 points. Following the Hatchets were Marlette with 135 points, Ubyly, 96, Cass City, 77, Mayville, 59, Sandusky, 34, Brown City, 30 and Harbor Beach, 1.

### Soccer Roundup

## Lady Red Hawks trade decisions in early going

The Cass City Lady Red Hawk soccer team opened their 2011 campaign splitting Greater Thumb Conference tilts with Brown City and Marlette.

In Cass City's season opener Tuesday, Coach Chuck Reed's squad squeaked out a 1-0 decision over host Brown City, followed by a 1-0 defeat Friday against the visiting Marlette Red Raiders.

"Overall, the Hawks played well last week, but the offense is suffering from the reduced practice time due to the weather. Defense has picked up where they left off last spring, but the offense still needs some work," Reed said.

Against Brown City, the Red Hawks controlled the game from the start, getting 20 shots on the Green Devil keeper with Nicole Kelley and Caitlin Reed doing the majority of the damage for Cass City. Kelley got the goal unassisted late, but good keeper play by Brown City and inaccurate shooting by the Red Hawks kept the outing close.

Cass City keeper Becca Leslie faced only 4 shots, making 2 nice saves to preserve the win. Reed also said that Amanda Clifton played a strong defensive game and newcomers Liz Milligan, Macey Messing and Kelsey Cooper played solid in their first outing.

On Friday, the weather was as much a factor as was Marlette, with strong winds and cold weather dictating play.

The Red Hawks got 11 shots and Keeper Leslie made 14 saves, including a penalty kick, but the game was played mainly in the midfield with possession of the wind being the controlling factor.

Marlette got a goal late on a Red Hawk defensive error and managed to hold on to seal the win.

Reed praised Kaitlyn Messing and Alex Pena, who saw playing time on offense, and put good pressure on the defense, while Kristen Kawicki and Tess Kus had strong defensive efforts for the Red Hawks.



**JOSH JENSEN** reaches for the baton from teammate **Zac Potrykus** in Cass City's season opening meet at the recreational park stadium. The Red Hawk relay teams paced the boys' team efforts.

## Cass City baseball program is headed in right direction

In 2007, the year before Nathan Haag took charge of the Cass City baseball team, the Red Hawks won a total of just 5 games. Last week, the Red Hawks matched that sum over the course of 3 non-conference twin bills.

After dropping their season opener last Monday against guest Caro, 8-6, Haag's Red Hawks have reeled off 5 straight wins. They defeated the Tigers, 10-5, in Monday's nightcap and then recorded doubleheader sweeps over Deckerville on Tuesday, which was followed by victories of 19-3 and 6-5 Friday over Capac.

"Right now we are winning because we've flat out worked harder than the other teams in the winter and made sure to practice outside during the cold weather," said Haag. "But, we have to keep our focus because we have 3 doubleheaders again this week and they'll be a lot harder than the last 3."

Weather permitting, Cass City will begin Greater Thumb West play this Friday on the road against the Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Lakers.

At Capac, Red Hawk Nick Kappen tossed 4-innings of shutout ball to collect the win on the mound in game one, while Ethan Nicol held the hosts scoreless for 3 innings to collect the decision in the nightcap. "We had quality starting pitching in both games and all the kids are seeing the ball real well in the batter's box," said Haag.

In game one, Cass City leaped out to an 8-1 advantage and cruised to a lopsided victory in 6 innings. Among the Red Hawk hit leaders were Alex

Zaleski and Kappen with 3 knocks each, while Morgan Erla and Cody Ross each belted doubles.

In game 2, Cass City built a 6-1 edge and held on for the win.

At the plate, Erla and Zaleski slugged 2-baggers.

### DECKERVILLE

On Tuesday, Cass City entertained Deckerville and sent the Eagles home with defeats of 6-2 and 16-5.

Nicol struck out 5 to collect the win in the opener. He helped his own cause with a 2-for-3 showing at the plate, which included a pair of RBIs.

In the nightcap, Cody Orban had 2 singles, 2 runs scored and 2 RBIs to lead Cass City's hit parade. Zaleski was the Red Hawk pitcher of record, working just 2 1/3 frames.

### CARO

Cass City rallied for 5 runs in their final at bats against the Tigers, but suffered defeat against the visitors from the Tri-Valley Conference.

Tiger Austin Licavoli bested Kappen on the rubber.

"We just didn't have timely hits when it was needed and Caro did," said Haag.

However, in the late game Zaleski made sure of the outcome by driving in 8 runs on a 3-3 showing, which included a 3-run homer and grand slam.

"The boys did a great job of answering back after a tough first loss. Nobody hung their heads, they just worked together," said Haag.



**RED HAWK Tess Kus** puts the ball in play Friday against visiting **Marlette**. Cass City suffered a 1-0 defeat in their home opener.



**CASS CITY'S Ashtyn Janiskee Weiler** gets off to a good start during the running of the 100-meter hurdles. The Red Hawk freshman finished as the runner-up in the event at the 5-school gathering with a time of 18:41.

# Charmont Lanes airs bowling league champs

Story by Dan Dickinson

More than 175 years of bowling experience took to the lanes recently in Cass City, as Ken Martin Electric faced Rooney Construction for the 2010-11 Wednesday Night Trio bowling league championship at the Charmont Lanes.

Ken Martin Electric bowlers Ed Schmaltz, Dan Dickinson and Ken Martin faced the more experienced (i.e. "older") Rooney Construction trio of Rick Doerr, Don Doerr, Wally "The Wall" Laming and advisor Dan Delamarter for league honors.

These teams are comprised of bowlers with an array of accolades from Bowler of the Year, to league high averages and 300 games. Paced by Martin and Schmaltz, the Martin Electric team jumped out to an early lead.

Laming, a former standout Cass City wrestler and still the all time win percentage leader, and Rick

Doerr led Rooney Construction in a second game comeback. Many of Doerr's strikes weren't pocket hits, but somehow no pins were left standing. Still, the Martin Electric team withstood the onslaught and squeaked out victory in the second game.

Heading into the third game the normally clutch Don Doerr began to complain about lane conditions (funny, because he oils them) and the Martin Electric team sensed victory. Led by Ken Martin's 633 series, Martin Electric claimed the championship.

Also an integral part of the Martin Electric team this year was John Hacker who had been sidelined with a broken finger, courtesy of an attempt to show the Cass City varsity basketball players how the game should be played. Although these teams remain steadfast enemies on and off the bowling lanes, they combine yearly for association and state tournament trips.

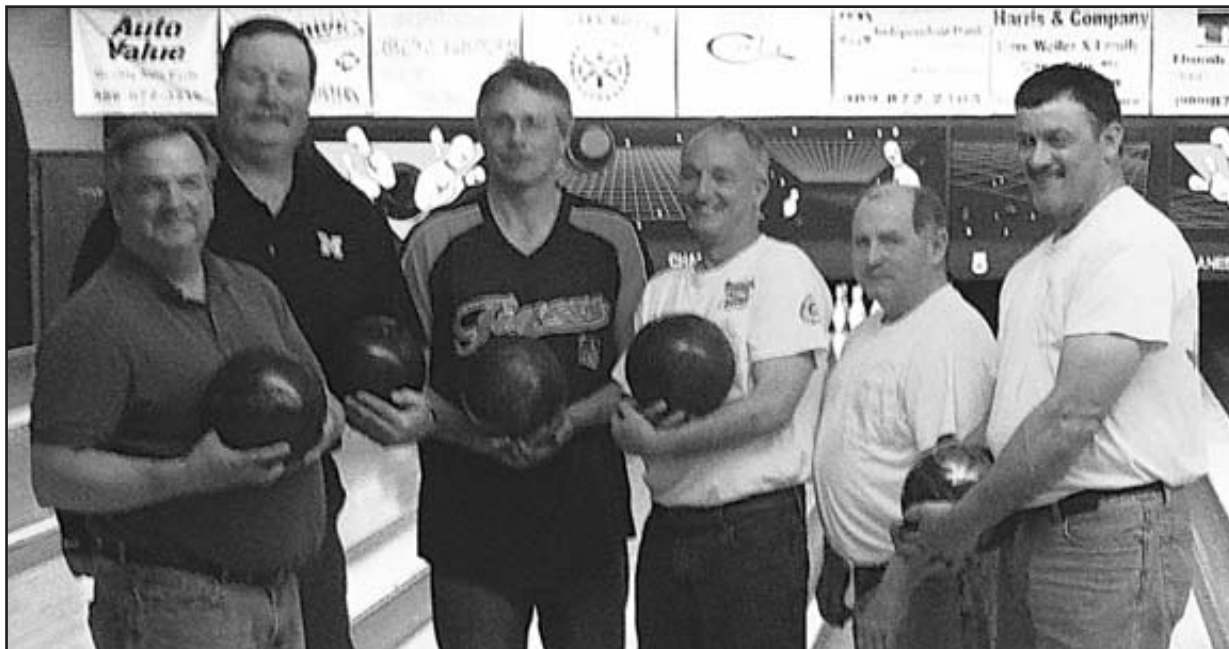


Photo courtesy of Brad Calahan

CHARMONT LANES bowlers (l-r) Dan Dickinson, Ken Martin, Ed Schmaltz, Rick Doerr, Wally Laming and Don Doerr.

# Lady Hawks win 5 out of 6 contests

Cass City bounced back from its only loss in early season play with a twin bill sweep Friday over host Capac by the scores of 11-2 and 7-3. With the wins, the Red Hawks improve to 5-1 in non-conference action.

After exploding for 20 runs in a pair of wins last Monday over Caro to kick off play in 2011, the Red Hawks' bats went silent the next day when visiting Deckerville traded decisions with first-year Coach John Hacker's squad.

In Tuesday's pitchers' duel, Cass City's Shannon Stec got the better of Eagle hurler Kelsay Paape in game one. Stec was dominating in the 2-0 decision, striking out 14 and surrendering just one solo knock in 6 innings of work.

In game 2, Paape pitched a 3-hitter to earn a split on the mound for the day as Deckerville blanked their guests 12-0. Dana Woodward was tagged with the loss for Cass City.

At the plate, Krista Guither belted a

triple for a lackluster Cass City offense.

### CARO

In somewhat of a surprise, Caro gave host Cass City all they could handle before bowing 7-6 in the opening game for both schools.

McKensie Parrish handled the pitching duties for the Red Hawks and fanned 5 in the victory. Caro's Mikeyla Tysick struck out 4 and suffered the defeat.

With the game deadlocked at 6-6, Morgan Potter singled in Logan Rowell, who reached base on a double, in the bottom of the 6th inning for the game winner.

In game 2, Cass City posted a 13-3 win.

Woodward was the recipient of Cass City's hit parade and received credit for the win. Caro's Katie Cockrill was saddled with the defeat.

Parrish clubbed a double and triple for the winners, while Potter had a double and 3 singles for Cass City.



**BIG BIRD.** Dustyn Parrish, 13, bagged his first turkey while hunting in the Deford area with his dad, Jeff Parrish on Monday, the opening day for spring gobblers. Parrish's tom weighed 20 1/2 pounds and had a 10 1/2 inch beard.



Photo courtesy of Kris Wright

**POLAR CATS** won the Silver Blade Tournament Squirt Division that was recently held at the Huron County Ice Arena in Bad Axe. The 9- and 10-year-old Huron County team members include: Ben McVey, Austin Roberts, Emma Hembrough, James Dubs, Tyler Burkhard, Josie Fitzpatrick, Abbi Drews, Brody Toner, Nicholas Wright and Codey Kozfkay. They were coached by Marty Hembrough, Sean McVey and Brian Roberts.

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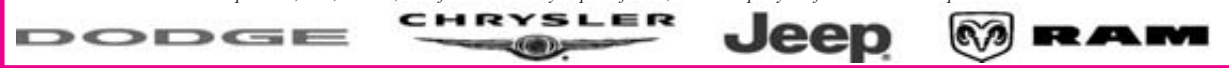
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# Obituaries

## Leroy Armstead

Leroy Everett Armstead, 80, passed away Sunday, April 10, 2011 in Livonia.



He was born June 25, 1930 in Gagetown.

He married his wife, Carol, July 8, 1950 in Caro.

Leroy was a farmer and hauled milk in the Thumb area for 14 years. Afterwards, he drove semi for 28 years for a local Livonia company. Leroy retired in 1995 and enjoyed spending time with his family and spending time at his property in Mio. He will be truly missed by all those who were fortunate enough to know him.

Leroy leaves behind his loving wife, Carol, 6 beloved children: Terri (Phil) Broom, Linda (John) Shepp, Judy (Nelson) Thibert, Rhonda (Richard) Davis, Debra (Brian) Longshaw and Mark Armstead; 11 cherished grandchildren: Phil Jr., Fred, John, Chrisalynn, Lisa, Matt, Zachary, Travon, Anthony, Nicholas and Madelynn; 2 great-grandchildren: Stephanie and Jacob; his dear siblings: Vern Armstead, Ellen Isler and Rodney Armstead; and many loving nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to Angela Hospice in his honor.

Family and friends may share a message or memory with the family at [www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com](http://www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements were made by Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia.

## Carole Hollis

Carole Jean Hollis, 71, of Cass City, died unexpectedly Sunday, April 17, 2011 in her home.

She was born June 18, 1939 in Saginaw, the daughter of Norman and Meletine (Gase) Sieggreen.

She married Larry Frank Hollis July 20, 1957 in Jeffersonville, Ind.

Carole attended Saginaw Valley State University for 3 years. She worked for Hills and Dales General Hospital for 8 years in Housekeeping. She was a longtime devoted member of St. Pancratius Catholic Church where she taught 4th grade Catechism for 34 years. She enjoyed her volunteer work with Hospice and her ability to offer comfort to those who were suffering. Carole used her creative gift in her oil paintings. She also made gifts for

her grandchildren including pillows and sweatshirts. She also enjoyed cooking, canning, traveling and camping. Carole and Larry have visited all 50 states.

Carole is survived by her husband, Larry; children: Lawrence Scott Hollis of Virginia Beach, Va., Richard Michael (Connie) Hollis of Cass City, and Steve Norman Hollis of Salsburg, NC; grandchildren: Cacey, Allison, Scott, Megan, Eric, Gracy and Kyle; and a brother, William Sieggreen of Washington State. She is preceded in death by her brothers: Ronald Sieggreen, Butch Sieggreen.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m., today (Wednesday), at St. Pancratius Catholic Church, Cass City, with the Rev. Paul Bala and Sr. Maria Dina Puddu MC officiating.

Interment was in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Memorials may be made to United Hospice of Marlette.

Family and friends may share memories, prayers and stories with the family at [www.kranzfuneralhome.com](http://www.kranzfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

## John Kirn, Sr.

John Frederick Kirn, Sr., 80, of Helena, Montana, passed away at his home Sunday, April 10, 2011 from interstitial lung disease.

He was born March 14, 1931 in Berrien County, Mich., the son of the Rev. Stanley and Esther (Weihing) Kirn.

He married the love of his life, Alice Stangland, July 2, 1960. Together they raised 2 children, John F. Jr. and Andrea Leigh.

John graduated from Cass City High School in 1949. He earned a BA from Central Michigan University in 1952 and an MA from Michigan State University in 1955. He served in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1955.

John was an educator at the Muskegon High School in



Muskegon from 1955-1960, at the State University of New York at Geneseo from 1962 to 1970, and at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, New York, from 1970 to 1994. He was president of the New York State Speech Communication Association from 1983 to 1984, director of the Intercollegiate Legislative Assembly

in Albany for 15 years, and parliamentarian at Dutchess Community College from 1971 to 1991.

John enjoyed photography, bicycling, traveling, skiing and swimming. He served as president of the Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club from 1973 to 1975.

John was baptized in the Evangelical United Brethren church, which later became the United Methodist Church. He was a Methodist for many years, and since 1985, was an attendee with the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

John is survived by his wife of 50 years, Alice Kirn; children: John F. (Deanna Jane Cappo) Kirn, Jr. and Andrea L. (Michael) Pipp; grandchildren: John Frederick Kirn III, Andrew Paul Kirn and Kelsey Alice Pipp; a sister, Marjorie Kirn; nieces: Melinda Kirn and Kathy Kirn (Paul) Smith; a nephew, Michael (Barbara) Kirn; grand-nieces: Meredith, Whitney and Kally; and a grand-nephew, Benjamin.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and 2 brothers, Lowell Dean and Stanley Kirn.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

John's body has been donated to the WWAMI Medical Education Program for Medical Study and Research at his request.

Memorials may be sent in John's name to Hospice of St. Peter's Hospital, 2475 Broadway, Helena, MT 59601; Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting, 249 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 or to the Sports Museum of Dutchess County, PO Box 7, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602.

Family and friends may offer a condolence or share a memory of John at [www.retzfureralhome.com](http://www.retzfureralhome.com).

Arrangements were made by Retz Funeral Home, Helena, MT.

## Shirley Novak

Shirley Novak, 67, of Cass City, passed away Saturday, April 9, 2011 at Tendercare, Saginaw.

She was born Oct. 3, 1943 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, the daughter of the late Julius and Zelma (Chain) Novak.

In her youth, Shirley lived in Deford and went to Cass City High School, graduating in 1961. She made many, many friends through those years. Later, Shirley moved to Detroit where she worked for the American Red Cross, only to be followed by her career at Pan American Airways. During her years at Pan Am, Shirley traveled the world enjoying not only popular travel destinations, but seeking exotic places such as Burma and Nepal, searching for every opportunity at cultural enrichment, while having the best time she possibly could, while there. Shirley later, after many years, returned from the Detroit area, to the peace and solitude of the Cass City area that she loved so very much.

Shirley has helped many over the years, both friend, stranger and animal alike, by her numerous acts of kindness and generosity. They reflect her true nature of unconditional friendship and love, that has left her

gentle, yet indelible mark on many places, and on many souls the world over. She was a true humanitarian who was greatly loved and will be greatly missed by all, leaving a part of the world a better place than when she arrived.

Shirley is survived by her mother, Zelma Novak.

She was preceded in death by her father, Julius Novak.

Honoring Shirley's wishes, cremation has taken place.

A memorial gathering will be held at a later date.

Family and friends can share condolences at [www.thabetfuneralhome.com](http://www.thabetfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements were made by Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City.

## Gene Sickler

Gene Sickler, 80, of Morley, went to his heavenly home Saturday, March 19, 2011 in Apollo Beach, Fla.

He was born July 12, 1930 in Kingston, the son of the late Lowell and Florence (Moshier) Sickler.

He married Maxine Agar Sept. 3, 1949 in Cass City.



Gene graduated from Cass City High School in 1948 and went on to Seminary. A graduate of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, he was the pastor at several churches in the West Michigan area.

His greatest joy in life was ministering to youths at camps and retreats, serving as far away as Mexico and Australia. Gene will be best remembered by his sense of humor and love of the outdoors. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, making maple syrup and the Shipshewana auctions. He made friends everywhere he traveled.

Gene is survived by his wife, Maxine; a son, Mark Sickler (Kathy) of Greenville; daughters: Rebecca (Beci) Karcher (Steve) of Newaygo, Suzanne Reid (Bruce) of Apollo

Beach, Fla., and Nancy Radford (Fred) of Morley; sisters: Thelma Gaeth of Leesburg, Fla., Ellen Beach (Stan) of Leesburg, Fla., and Emma Jane Frank of Big Rapids. He was 'Papa' to his 9 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and many others who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and 2 brothers, Roy Thomas and Lowell Junior Sickler.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., April 23, at Green Corners Baptist Church in Belding, Mich.

Visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m. prior to the service.

The family would like to thank Hospice of West Michigan and Hospice of Florida for their help and comfort over the last few months.

## Suzanne Whelton

Suzanne M. Whelton, 51, of Bay City, passed away Monday, April 11, 2011 at Brian's House, Bay City.

She was born April 19, 1959, the daughter of the late George and Peggy (Phillips) Regnerus in Cass City.

She married Edward "Butch" Whelton on July 7, 2007.

Suzanne was employed by Outdoor Adventures, Inc., Bay City. Her co-workers were a special part of her life and Suzanne truly enjoyed working there and she loved them all very much.

Suzanne leaves behind her husband, Edward "Butch"; a daughter, Christina Joy Root of Bay City; a stepdaughter, Melissa Whelton of Chesaning; a stepson, Rusty (Danielle) Whelton of St. Charles; grandchildren: Anthony, Jayden and Mashela; 2 sisters: Dawn (Richard) Rick and Barbara (Dwayne) Peters II, both of Cass City; 5 brothers: Jim (Ruth) Regnerus of Chesterfield, Tim (Martha Jo) Regnerus of Shelby Township, Dennis (Linda) Regnerus of Cass City, Bill Regnerus of Gulf Port, La., and Paul (Virginia) Regnerus of Cass City; brother-in-laws: Rodney (Julie) Whelton of Hemlock, and Patrick Johnson of Houghton Lake; a sister-in-law, Debra (Dan) Dankert of Houghton Lake; a special uncle and aunt, Milt and Brenda Phillips of Cass City; a special friend of the family, Dan Bera; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and a nephew, Dwayne J. Peters, III.

A memorial service was held Saturday, April 16, at the Harvest Baptist Church, Bay City.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family's wishes.

Arrangements were made by Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City.

# NOTICE

## TO USERS OF VILLAGE WATER SERVICE

During the flushing of the hydrants Wednesday and Thursday, April 20 & 21, starting at 4 a.m. there may be an abundance of crystallized iron (rust) in the water supplied to your area of the village.

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**Card of Thanks**

Words cannot express our gratitude for all of the compassion, prayers, sympathy and cards we have received after the tragic death of our 16-year-old grandson, Zachary Harp, on March 20th. Special thank you to Hurley ER Hospital, Flight Care, Collon's Funeral Home, MMR, ladies from Gagetown Nazarene Church, Pastor Walls, Caro Church of the Nazarene. All of you were wonderful and went above and beyond your duties. Just knowing others care means so much. Thank you. Grandparents, John & Janice Rands. 13-4-20-1

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 <b>Evan Osentoski</b> 989-551-6600	<b>SOLD</b>  Bad Axe - Many updates include windows, siding, roof and kitchen. Garage with enter and exit doors for easy drive through. Call today. BA-195	<b>NEW!!</b>  Country home located on paved road in Colwood area. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, basement, woodstove and an attached garage. Sets on approximately 1 acre of land. 24'x40' pole barn with electric. Well was updated in 1991. Cass City schools. CC-660	<b>SOLD</b>  Spacious family style home. 3 bedrooms, family room with gas fireplace, 2 full baths upstairs and 1/2 bath on main floor. 3-car attached garage. 2.14 acres. M-378	 <b>Lola Osentoski Flores</b> 989-551-3577
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**SMALL TOWN LIVING!!!** Cute 2 bedroom Ranch, in Cass City, convenient to schools and downtown. Home features a full basement with a 12'x11' carpeted room and a walk-up attic that could be finished. There is also a 1.5 car detached garage with covered walkway and a 10'x8' shed. TCC1599

**PRICE REDUCED!**  
**2 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH**, 1,200 sq. ft., Condo built in 1994, in excellent condition. Vaulted ceiling in the living room and dining room, patio door off the dining room to a raised deck with a great view of the country. Utility plus 1.75 baths on the main level. Lower level features a 680 sq. ft. L shaped family room with a fireplace and a patio door leading to a cement patio, a 3/4 bath plus a 21'x14' storage room/workshop. TCC1571

**CAPE COD**, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, living room, family room with fireplace, open kitchen, dining area and sunroom, full finished basement with wet bar, 2-car garage and 2-car workshop. Cute gardening home in backyard. Country living in town. Come take a look! TCC1562

**PRICE REDUCED!**  
**THIS 4 BEDROOM**, 2 bath home features a lot of living area, large walk-in closets, a lot of character, 2-car detached garage, full basement and many new updates. Call today! TO758

**NEWLY LISTED!!!** Home has been redone. Newer kitchen cabinets and counter tops, remodeled full bath, 1st floor laundry area, newer carpets and flooring, vinyl windows and siding. TCC1606

**COMMERCIAL BUILDING** on Main St. Many possibilities for use, good parking. Call and take a look. COM1138

# Hospital awarded accreditation

Hills and Dales General Hospital in Cass City has been awarded accreditation from the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP), an independent, recognized accreditation authority.

The local hospital earned the distinction after HFAP officials conducted an extensive and objective review of the quality and safety standards of the hospital and its facilities.

"Hills and Dales clearly demonstrates a commitment to quality patient care," said Michael Zarski, CEO of HFAP. "We base our decision on federal standards, patient safety and treatment, quality improvement, and environmental safety. Hills and Dales General Hospital met or exceeded standards in every case."

"We're proud to achieve this prestigious distinction," commented Mike Falatko, president and CEO of Hills and Dales. "By awarding us accreditation, the HFAP has recognized our commitment to providing outstanding care to our patients and our community. In fact, quality is consistently the priority focus in our strategic plans and goals."

The HFAP is one of only 3 national voluntary accreditation programs

authorized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to survey all hospitals and other medical facilities for compliance with the Medicare Conditions of Participation.

The HFAP is a non-profit, national-

care organizations and insurance companies.

Officials described Hills and Dales General Hospital as "a very well equipped, modern, 25-bed Critical Access Hospital offering a wide range of services to residents of Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties. It has state-of-the-art technology and a highly trained and competent physician and support staff."

"Our medical staff includes 17 active staff physicians encompassing the areas of family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, general surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology and ENT," Falatko noted. "In addition, we have 40 physicians on our consulting staff that includes the specialties of anesthesia, cardiology, emergency medicine, neurosurgery, obstetrics/gynecology, oncology/hematology, pathology, physical medicine, podiatry, psychiatry, rheumatology and urology."

"Hills and Dales continues to be committed to providing a broad range of needed services and state-of-the-art diagnostic services to the residents of Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties, and to continually communicate with the residents in our service area," Falatko said.



ly recognized accreditation organization. It has been accrediting health-care facilities for more than 60 years and under Medicare since its inception. Its mission is to advance high quality patient care and safety through objective application of recognized standards. Its accreditation is recognized by the federal government, state governments, managed

# Canadian pleads guilty in smuggling case

Continued from page one.

into an SUV before fleeing the scene.

The plane, meanwhile, escaped, with the pilot heading back to Canada.

"In his plea, D'Leone admitted meeting a courier in Hartland, Mich., and giving the courier 3 kilograms of cocaine for onward transport into Canada," Gray said. "The courier then added that cocaine to other cocaine already collected, and drove to the Sandusky airport, where a total of 25 to 30 kilograms of cocaine (55 to 66 pounds) were loaded into an airplane in exchange for 400,000

tablets of BZP/Ecstasy and 80 pounds of marijuana.

"Couriers Matthew Moody and Jesse Rusenstrom, both Canadian citizens, were subsequently arrested in Sandusky by drug task force (officers) and Sanilac Road Patrol deputies after a short chase."

Gray said D'Leone was later arrested, last August, in New York, where he was living at the time.

D'Leone, 36, pleaded guilty on the third day of his jury trial in federal court in Ann Arbor, according to Gray, who noted the 36-year-old is a Canadian citizen and native of Kosovo.

The other 2 Canadians arrested in

Sanilac County in 2009 pleaded guilty last year and are awaiting their sentencing dates.

The multi-national investigation involved cooperation among a host of law enforcement agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Department of Homeland Security/Customs and Border Protection Great Lakes Air, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Toronto Police Service, York Regional Police Service, Peel Regional Police Service, Durham Regional Police Service, Halton Regional Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police, and Canada Border Services Agency.

# Cass City Middle School Honor Roll

Officials at Cass City Middle School announce the third marking period honor roll.

## Grade 5

Travis Albrecht\*, Dustin Arter, Kelsey Bouverette, Sarah Colton, Dakota Cook, Sayge Cuthrell\*, Lauren Dickinson\*, Megan Graham, Heaven Hartwick, Darren Hutchinson\*, Claire Kausch\*, Riley Klein\*, Danielle Kopah, Katelyn Kuenzli, Lydia Montei, Baylee Murphy\*, McKenna Nye, Layna Oliphant, Jaelyn Palmer\*, Nicholas Perry\*, Eric Peters\*, Shaylee Ponder, Kelsey Priestley\*, Seth

Roggenbuck, Bailee Ross, Alyssa Sangster, Joshua Schaufele, Joseph Skiles, Samantha Stern\*, Brittany Stilson, Brooklyn Stilson, CarLee Stimpfel\*, Hunter Vaughan, Savannah Walker\*, Rylie Weiler, Reed White\* and Nicolette Younglove.

## Grade 6

Kelcie Autry\*, Brent Baker, Cole Chippi, Joel Collins\*, Evan Craig, Victoria Cumper, Savana Doerr, Josephine Loomis\*, Diane Matson, Zachary McCoy, Hunter McGrath, Katelynne Mester, Adam Michalski, Darren Miller, Seth Osentoski, Joel

Patera, Shaede Perzanowski\*, Emily Peters\*, Kelsey Peters, Logan Schenk, Kyle Schmotzer, Olivia Smerdon, Drew Susalla\*, Alexa Torres, Amy Verhines, Travis Williams, Hope Wilson\* and Chase Winter\*.

## Grade 7

Ilana Blattner\*, Alicia Crouch, Chandler Cryderman\*, Sawyer Cuthrell, Kelly DeLong, Macy Dickinson\*, Artist Drejjaj, Mason Erla, Alexander Graham, Parker Haire, Erin Hartsell, Tyler Hool, Nathan Hutchinson, Maegan LeValley, Cassandra Long, Rebecca Mulrath, Tara Nicholas, Jesse Nye, Jessica Peters, Lauren Potter, Michael Rader\*, Taylor Rasmussen, Sophia Romain, Bransen Stimpfel, Maria Weibach and Maricella Zietz.

## Grade 8

Jane Ballard\*, Samuel Bootz, Samantha Bosley, Rachel Collins\*, Rebecca Graff, Katie House\*, Kendra Kerkau, Luke Koepf\*, Hunter Langenburg, Blake Lebioda, Lake London, Drew Loomis, Erika Martin\*, Rachel Miller, Lindsey Montei\*, Kyle Osentoski, Chandler Pawloski, Colby Peruski, Kyle Ross, Lindsay Schotter, Nathan Shantz, Cameron Smith, Barbara Steely, Jackson Stern\*, Lauren Stilson, Rachel Tanner, Elizabeth Venema\*, Aubrei Witherspoon\*, Genna Woodward, Lucas Wright\* and Erin Zdrojewski\*.

# EPA exempts milk and dairy from new rules

After decades of murky interpretation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently formally exempted milk and dairy products from burdensome federal regulations intended to prevent oil and fuel spills.

EPA officials acknowledged that treating milk the same as oil and fuel "placed unjustifiable burdens on dairy farmers."

"Finally, dairy farmers can breathe a sigh of relief and put their energies and resources into producing safe and nutritious milk and dairy products and safeguarding other parts of their farm instead of being bogged down with needless regulations," said Ryan Findlay, Michigan Farm Bureau national legislative counsel. "At the same time, EPA can concentrate its attention and resources where it belongs, and that's on real hazards like true oil spills."

Concern arose 2 years ago when EPA officials published a proposal to exempt dairy farms from being required to develop oil spill prevention plans for on-farm bulk milk storage in accordance with the federal Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule. Prior to this, the rule was never very clear pertaining to dairies, although some in the EPA interpreted the SPCC to include dairy farms on the basis that "milk typically contains a percentage of animal fat, which is a non-petroleum oil. Thus, containers storing milk (which meet the applicability criteria) are subject."

Pending a final ruling on the exemption, the threat of EPA enforcement hung over farmers' heads until last week's announcement, Findlay said.

"After working closely with dairy farmers and other members of the agricultural community, we're taking common sense steps to exempt them from a provision in this rule that simply shouldn't apply to them," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson.

"This step will relieve a potential burden from our nation's dairy farms, potentially saving them money and ensuring that EPA can focus on the pressing business of environmental and health protection," Jackson added, noting the exemption stands to save the milk and dairy industries more than \$140 million annually.

EPA officials said their decision is consistent with President Obama's executive order on regulatory reform, which requires federal agencies to design cost-effective, evidence-based regulations that are compatible with economic growth, job creation and competitiveness.

Farm Bureau advocated for the exemption, and officials credit Michigan Congresswoman Candice Miller (R-Harrison Township) with helping to advance the cause by introducing legislation in the prior Congress to exempt milk and dairy products from the SPCC requirements.

The final exemption applies to milk, milk product containers and milk production equipment. The exemption does not apply to fuel oil and other applicable oils stored on farms.

Because some dairy farms might still have oil storage subject to the SPCC regulations, EPA is also amending the rule to exclude .

## Bullying presentation slated April 20

Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems (TBHS) and the Michigan State Police are inviting community members to a presentation entitled "How to Stop, Report and Handle Situations of Bullying — Bullying is Not a Fact of Life".

The program, which will include a

question-and-answer period, is slated for Wednesday, April 20, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Ben H. McComb Elementary School in Caro.

More information is available by contacting Susan R. Holder, director of Marketing and Training, TBHS, at (989) 673-6191.

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