

Huron deputies seeking suspect in break-ins

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# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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FIFTY CENTS ~ 14 PAGES



**MINOR INJURIES** were reported in a 2-vehicle traffic accident at the intersection of Schweigler and Bay City-Forestville roads northeast of Cass City late Friday afternoon. Details, including the names of the drivers, were not available at press time.

## TOP 10

### *Cass City senior places among the top students in nation at BPA competition*

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Brandon Montgomery didn't come home from the National Business and Professionals of America (BPA) Leadership Conference with all of the hardware he may have liked, but the Cass City High School senior did himself proud just the same.

In the process, he also helped to shine a little national spotlight on the Cass City Public Schools and the Tuscola Technology Center, which have both played a role in his pursuit of studies focusing on computer information technology.

Montgomery, 18, competed in the national BPA competition May 4-8 in Washington, D.C., where he

medaled by finishing among the top 10 high school students in the nation in the Computer Security Concepts testing competition. The weeklong leadership conference drew thousands of students from across the country, with competitors testing their skills in more than 4 dozen different categories.

"I competed in Computer Security Concepts and Computer Network Concepts. Those 2 required qualifying for each at the state level — being in the top 5 at states. I also competed in several 'open events', events that don't require pre-qualification, including Information Technology Concepts, Administrative Concepts, MMHR (Market Managing/Human Resources) Concepts," explained Montgomery, the son of Deb and Tom Montgomery.

"Computer security involves keeping user data safe from hackers," he said. "This means not only keeping data secret from unauthorized individuals — hackers — but also making sure the data is unchanged. Basically, computer security involves using encryption to keep data secret, hashing to keep its integrity, as in data has not been

altered, and authentication to allow those users who need access to get access, and so on."

Montgomery enjoyed plenty of success at the Michigan BPA Leadership Conference in Grand Rapids last March (he finished first in Computer Networking Concepts, second in Information Technology Concepts and fourth in Computer Security Concepts).

"I was surprised at the results (at the national leadership conference) to say the least," he commented. "Although I was first in Computer Networking Concepts at both the regional and state level, I didn't place at all in those in nationals. I did, however, get in the top 10 in computer security, which is awesome. Disappointed? No. Surprised? Yes."

Regardless of the results, Montgomery enjoyed his experience.

"The national leadership conference was more fun than the previous (BPA) events, probably due to the awesome announcer," Montgomery said after returning home from the event. "Also, the first general session was held on the lawn of the

Please turn to page 6.

## Voters unseat veteran Turner in school vote

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Cass City area voters unseated a 24-year veteran school board member and Ugly residents decided a close race among challengers for one of 2 available 4-year terms in last week's annual school elections.

In the Cass City School District, voters re-elected incumbent and current board of education President Craig Bellew, who won his second term with 305 votes. Also elected was challenger Dan Manwell, who garnered 227 votes. Incumbent Jim Turner, who has served on the board for 24 years, lost his bid for reelection, receiving 208 votes.

In the Ugly Community School District, voters also filled a pair of 4-year terms. The winners included incumbent Kelly Jo Osentoski, who received 268 votes. Challenger Shawn Wright narrowly edged another challenger — Bryan Schulte — for the second available seat. Wright garnered 156 votes to Schulte's 155 votes. Also running was write-in candidate Kevin Gracey, who received 101 votes.

Incumbent John Rutkowski, who was appointed to fill a vacancy and served on the board for the past 2 years, opted not to run this year.

In other area districts, Kingston Community School voters, meanwhile, re-elected incumbent Ray Wolak, who ran unopposed for one available 4-year term. He received 34 votes.

In the Owen-Gage School District, Brenda Kretzschmer also ran unopposed and was reelected to a 4-year term with 19 votes. Kretzschmer, who previously served as a board member, returned to service via appointment following the resignation of Ron Maurer.

*Cass City Board of Education incumbent Jim Turner, who has served on the board for 24 years, lost his bid for reelection, receiving 208 votes.*

## O-G board places interviews on hold

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

A planned special meeting to interview a half-dozen prospective part-time superintendent candidates in the Owen-Gage School District last week was abruptly canceled and rescheduled after some board members evidently had a change of heart.

The Owen-Gage Board of Education was scheduled to meet this week, Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the school library, to discuss the planned interviews.

"It was a, I guess you'd call it, a desire or something on (the part of) a couple board members, that we should be heading in a different direction,"

interim part-time Owen-Gage Supt. Bob Drury said of the last week's meeting cancellation. "We're going to try to determine what is the course that the majority of the board wants

to fill the superintendent position."

Board members had planned to interview 6 candidates by telephone last week, then narrow the field of candidates to those they wanted to meet with face-to-face.

The candidates were Jim Wencel, who retired as Bad Axe Public Schools superintendent following the 2009-10 school year; Tom Ridder, a retired school official from Alpena; Laura Zdybel, a principal at Shaftsburg Elementary School; Loren Vannest, a superintendent/principal at Harbor Light Christian School in Harbor Springs; David Watson, a superintendent at Howe Military School in Howe, Ind.; and George Bauman, a former principal in the Fort Wayne, Ind., area.

Zdybel has already backed out from the interview process, according to Drury, who acknowledged time is Please turn to page 9.

## Prescription collection a big success

A second, collaborative effort between the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the Sanilac County Drug Task Force was another huge success, surpassing all expectations in terms of the collection of out-dated prescription medications collected in the county.

"During Saturday's operation, drug task force personnel accepted old/outdated prescription medications at 4 collection sites: Sanilac County Sheriff's Office jail lobby window, Worth Township Hall, Marlette Police Department lobby and the Deckerville Village Hall," said Bill Gray director of the Sanilac County Drug Task Force.

"Previously, in September's first collection effort, 38 pounds of pills were collected," Gray said. "Once again, this past Saturday in Sanilac County, we collected 6, 30-gallon trash bags of bottled prescription medications. Once the pills were removed from the bottle containers, the bulk weight of the pills without the containers was over 38 pounds. That is 38 pounds of prescription medications that will not be flushed down the toilets into our groundwater or water treatment systems. That is 38 pounds of prescription medications that will not be going to our landfills."

Gray estimated, based on the weight of the collection, that more than 27,000 pills were collected.

"Based upon the success of these 2, one-day collection efforts, the Sanilac County Drug Task Force

Please turn to page 6.

## O-G seniors earn top honors this year

Owen-Gage School officials recently announced the top graduates in their Class of 2011.

Earning valedictorian honors this year is Megan J. McLaren, daughter of Brian and Jennifer McLaren, Owendale, while the salutatorian is Dylan T. Powell, son of Michael and Amy Powell, Owendale.

McLaren, who accumulated a grade point average of 3.97, has been a member of the 3.0 Honors Club and on the honor roll throughout high school. She is a member of the National Honor Society, serving as president of the local chapter, and was named to the second team of the North Central Thumb League Academic Team. She has also been a member of the high school band, served as vice president of her class, and was the 2011 yearbook editor.

McLaren has participated in various sports throughout high school, including volleyball, track, softball, football and basketball. She was co-captain of the basketball squad.

Her community involvement has included serving as a hockey sta-

tistics keeper and a Sunday school teacher. She has participated in a roadside clean-up, 30-hour famines, rock-a-thon, and has volunteered at the Human Development Commission (HDC) in Caro.

After graduation, McLaren plans to attend Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Ill., where she has

been awarded a scholarship. Her career goal is to help children through pediatric nursing.

Powell, who will graduate with a 3.65 grade point average, has been on the yearbook staff and served as webpage editor for 2 years. He was crowned this year's snowball king.

Powell has participated in golf

throughout his high school career and basketball for 2 years. He has been a member of the 3.0 Club and on the honor roll for 4 years, and was named to the second team North Central Thumb League Academic Team.

Powell's career goals include attending Grand Valley State University to pursue a journalism degree. He would like to write for Alternative Press magazine, which covers a broad range of indie and alternative music, which is his passion.

Also graduating with honors this year are: Holly L. Errer, daughter of Kenneth and Faye Errer; Mitchel S. LaPratt, son of Scott and Tena LaPratt; Lauren B. Mandich, daughter of Michael and Angela Mandich; Eric J. Montreuil, son of Donald and Patti Montreuil; and Clyde D. Rhodes, son of Clyde and Lynn Rhodes.

Important upcoming events for seniors include prom, Saturday, May 14 at the Franklin Inn in Bad Axe; baccalaureate, Sunday, May 22, at 6 p.m. at the Gagetown Church of the Nazarene; and graduation, Thursday, June 2, at 8 p.m.



Megan McLaren



Dylan Powell





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

### Wednesday, May 11

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.

Creating Confident Caregivers, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Country Gardens Assisted Living, Pigeon. For more information, call HDC at (989) 673-4121 or 800-843-6394.

Swiss Steak Dinner, noon, Cass City United Methodist Church, 5100 N. Cemetery Rd. Cost: \$6. For takeouts, call 872-4604 and pick up between 11 a.m. and noon, or after 12:30 p.m.

### Thursday, May 12

AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 553-5932.

Caregiver Connection, 3:30 p.m., Country Gardens, Scheurer Hospital, Pigeon. For more information, call Marie at (989) 453-5222.

### Friday, May 13

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

### Saturday, May 14

Spring Dance, 7-11 p.m., American Legion Hall, Unionville. Variety of music provided by Rich Lasceski & the Natural Tones. \$12 per person. Admission includes beer, pop & food.

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

Swiss Steak Dinner, 4:30-7 p.m., Gagetown United Methodist Church, Gagetown (across from fire hall). Adults \$8.50, children \$4.50, children 5-12 FREE.

### Sunday, May 15

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

### Monday, May 16

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) 553-5932.

### Tuesday, May 17

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

Parkinson's Support Group meeting, 1:30 p.m., Holiday Inn Express, Bad Axe. For more information, call Kim at 1-800-843-6394 or Annette at (989) 864-3779.

### Wednesday, May 18

United Sportsmen's Alliance, 7 p.m., Cass City Gun Club, 2676 Englehart Rd. All are invited to attend. For more information, please call (989) 872-2398.

## Huron deputies seeking man in recent break-ins and theft

Huron County Sheriff's Department investigators are asking for the public's assistance in identifying a suspect and suspect vehicle involved in the recent theft of property in Huron County.

Deputies began their investigation April 29 when they were asked to respond to a reported home invasion.

"Apparently, Jessica Brown of Bad Axe had just arrived at her fiancé's residence at 2551 Campbell Rd. in Meade Township, when she noticed a strange vehicle in the yard. Knowing that her fiancé, Dan Ritter, wasn't home, she continued to go to the house, which has a sign in front of it, listing it for sale," said Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson.

"While heading to the house, she heard a noise inside," he reported. "A male subject, possibly in his later 50s, walked out of the house and asked her how much land went with the house. He said he was interested in buying it and, after a short conversation, he eventually left."

Hanson said Brown did not recognize the subject, but described him as having long white hair, scruffy facial hair and was about 5 feet 10 inches tall with a medium build, wearing jeans and white and black flannel shirt.

"She described his vehicle as an older green, rusty, full-sized Dodge Ram pickup truck. The bed of the truck was loaded with junk in the form of metal," Hanson noted. "Brown went into the house and found that the door had been forced open, and a loaded .22 gauge rifle was lying inside. She thought possibly the...rifle might have made the noise she heard when she first arrived, as it was probably dropped on some cans. Nothing else appeared to be missing."

Deputies gathered evidence at the scene, including one piece that led Deputy Ryan Swartz to Cass City, where he was able to obtain video of the suspect and his truck at a business.

"It was also learned that the suspect was asking about how to get to Bad Axe, which leads us to believe that the suspect is not from our area," Hanson said.

The following day, Swartz learned that a vehicle and the subject matching the descriptions was seen at a vacant residence in Oliver Township. "Dave Ferris, who lives next door to his daughter's vacant residence, started walking down the road to

confront the individual who had been seen inside," Hanson said. "He said he flagged the vehicle over and it stopped as it attempted to leave southbound. Ferris claimed the driver said he wanted to buy the house, but Ferris told him it wasn't for sale."

"The (suspect) vehicle may have lime green pin stripes on it. Ferris claims the 2-wheel drive Dodge Ram has a plastic box liner and loud exhaust," Hanson continued. "We believe from when it was in Cass City until it arrived at the Meade Township residence, another residence or residences may have been entered. The truck's box was empty in Cass City and it had items in the back of it roughly a little over an hour later."

Hanson is asking anyone with information related to the incidents to call (989) 269-6421 and ask for a sheriff's deputy. The sheriff also urges residents to be aware of their surroundings and activities of their neighbors.

"When not home, secure your possessions. Any suspicious activity should be noted and reported," he said. "When possible, license plate numbers to suspicious vehicles should be recorded."

### Circuit court news

## Several charged with felonies

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

•Randy W. Newton, 38, Otter Lake, was sentenced to 270 days in the county jail (90 days deferred) for his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Oct. 17 in Vassar. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to jail time, he was placed on 60 months probation and ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$4,098.

•Theodore T. Harper, 38, Mayville, was sentenced to 180 days in jail (deferred) and 60 months probation for his plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor - with an occupant under the age of 16 years, second offense, June 7 in Indianfields Township. He was also ordered to pay \$500 in costs and fines.

•David V. Birk, 52, Fairgrove, stood mute to charges of operating a motor vehicle while under the influ-

ence of liquor, third offense, and driving while his license was suspended or revoked, subsequent offense, March 28 in Akron Township.

A pre-trial hearing was scheduled in the case and bond was continued at \$2,000.

•Justin D. Grice, 22, Deford, pleaded guilty to a charge of unlawfully driving away an automobile July 31 in Kingston Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case, bond was continued at \$1,000, and sentencing was scheduled for June 20.

•Kevin J. Martin, 24, Deford, pleaded guilty to unlawfully driving away an automobile and conspiracy to commit unlawfully driving away an automobile July 31 in Kingston Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$5,000. Sentencing was scheduled for June 20.

•Carl R. Vargo, 44, Caro, stood mute to charges of fourth degree criminal sexual conduct involving force or coercion, and indecent exposure Sept. 10 in Caro. He is also charged with being an habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

A pre-trial hearing was scheduled and bond was continued at \$5,000.

•Raymond A. Markey, 20, Millington, stood mute to charges of first degree home invasion, interfering with electronic communications and 2 counts of assault or assault and battery Oct. 16 in Tuscola Township.

A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled and bond was continued at \$3,000.

•Duane E. Thompson Jr., 43, stood mute to charges of second degree home invasion, larceny in a building and larceny of property valued at \$1,000 to \$20,000 July 28 in Tuscola Township; second degree home invasion, larceny in a building and larceny of property valued at \$1,000 to \$20,000 July 18 in Arbela Township; and to conspiracy to engage in criminal enterprises, second degree home invasion, larceny in a building and larceny of property valued at \$1,000 to \$20,000 July 16 in Arbela Township. He is also charged with being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department.

•Andrew S. Meyer, 27, Caseville, was sentenced to 180 days in jail and 36 months probation for his pleas of guilty to assaulting/obstructing a police officer and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor Dec. 6 in Akron Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines of \$1,376.

•Cody J. Harju, also known as Cotey J. Harju, 18, pleaded no contest to charges of second degree home invasion and larceny of firearms Dec. 14 in Elkland Township; delivery/manufacture of marijuana Sept. 9 in Elmwood Township; and breaking and entering a building with intent to commit larceny Feb. 26 in Cass City.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department.

•Robert A. Todd, 49, Vassar, pleaded guilty to delivery/manufacture of marijuana Aug. 31 in Vassar Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$10,000.

•Darci E. LaPratt, 41, was sentenced to 90 days in jail and 12 months probation for her pleas of guilty to possession of a controlled substance, subsequent offense, and possession of marijuana, subsequent offense, Dec. 31 in Dayton Township.

She was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,266.

•Nickolas P. Wilcox, 28, Caro, was sentenced to 18 months to 48 months in prison for his pleas of guilty to 3 counts of possession of child sexually abusive material Sept. 16. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to prison time, he was ordered to pay \$334 in costs and fines.

•Michael D. Tuttle, 22, Vassar, was sentenced to 180 days in jail and 36 months probation for his plea of guilty to delivery/manufacture of marijuana, subsequent offense, Aug. 31 in Vassar Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$2,698.



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## Attention Gagetown Residents

### Spring Clean-Up Week

This shall serve as a general notice to the residents and property owners in the Village of Gagetown that Spring Clean Up Week is

**May 16-20, 2011**

Please remember that the DPW Department will be picking up

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The Gagetown Village Council appreciates your cooperation in keeping our town clean!



# Deford woman a finalist in National Cornbread Cook-off

She didn't finish in the top 3, but Donna Costello of Deford proved she can prepare a winning corn bread recipe with the best of them.

Costello was selected as a top-10 finalist in the 15th annual National Cornbread Cook-Off, sponsored by Martha White and Lodge Cast Iron. The event was held April 30 in South Pittsburg, Tenn.

Costello prepared her original main dish recipe, Southern Skillet Cornbread Pizza Casserole, for a panel of judges at the National Cornbread Festival.

Costello's recipe was described as "a hearty version of the Italian/American classic that is sure to become a family favorite. The cornbread crust, made with a combination of Martha White Sweet Yellow and Cotton Country Cornbread mixes, is studded with chopped pepperoni and Italian seasonings, and topped with a filling featuring Italian sausage, onions, peppers, mushrooms and Parmesan cheese. The casserole is finished with mozzarella cheese and pepperoni before baking."

Costello's recipe accompanies this story.

This year's National Cornbread Cook-Off winners were Jennifer Beckman of Falls Church, Va., who took first place with her recipe for Tennessee Onion Soup Gratin, followed by Margee Berry of White Salmon, Wash. (second place) with her recipe for Caramelized Maple Apple Bacon Brunch Bake, and Andria Gaskins of Matthews, N.C., who placed third with her recipe for Sausage and Spinach Calzone Cornbread.

## Local senior medals at BPA event

Continued from page one.

Washington Monument, which was pretty cool as well. I didn't really know what to expect, though — I expected to take an exam."

This wasn't the teen's first trek to the nation's capitol; he took part in one of the annual Cass City Middle School trips to Washington, D.C., a few years ago.

"Although we went on a tour and saw the monuments, unlike the eighth grade trip, that was not the sole purpose of this trip. Really, though, I was there to compete," he noted.

As for the future, he has enrolled at Saginaw Valley State University, where he plans to major in Computer Information Systems starting in the fall.

"I also plan to get more computer certifications, the next one, in the next few months, being CEH — Certified Ethical Hackers — a certification that teaches you to defend, by learning the attacks," added Montgomery, who has already earned professional certifications in Comptia A-plus, Security-plus, Linux, and LPIC (Linux Professional Institute Certification).

Not surprisingly, his ultimate career goal will focus on computer technology.

"Nothing too specific, though, maybe penetration testing — ethical hacking; a hacker paid by a company to discover flaws in their security so the holes can be patched before real hackers attack," he said. "Maybe a network administrator. (I) might work for Google."

"Nothing is certain yet — just getting lots of general knowledge."

## Prescription take-back a big success

Continued from page one.

determined there was a real public need for a long-term collection effort," said Gray, who noted the drug task force has established a 24/7 collection site for use by the public to turn in outdated medications at the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department in Sandusky.

"Citizens can turn in old, unwanted medications at the corrections office lobby door, which faces Elk Street," he explained. "Only medications in pill/tablet/capsule form can be accepted at this time — no liquids or salves. Pills do not have to be in their original containers. Pills can be turned in together in a single plastic bag for submission purposes. You do not have to identify yourself in any way, and this service is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, holidays included."

## Dinner slated

Sanilac County's annual dinner honoring all active and retired police officers, fire fighters and EMS first responders will be held Thursday, May 19, at 6 p.m., at Lakeview Hills Golf Course, 6580 Peck Rd. (M-90, 1.5 miles west of M-25), Lexington.

The cost is \$18 per person, payable at check-in. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP before Monday, May 16, by calling the Sanilac County Prosecutor's Office at (810) 648-3402, or Bill Gray at 1-800-544-3784.



**CASS CITY High School senior Brandon Montgomery placed among the top 10 high school students in the nation in the Computer Security Concepts testing competition during the National Business and Professionals of America (BPA) Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., May 4-8.**



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1 pound hot Italian sausage, cooked and crumbled  
2/3 cup chopped onion  
1/2 cup chopped green pepper  
1/4 cup hot pepper rings  
1 tablespoon dried oregano  
1 (8 oz.) can tomato sauce  
1 (13 oz.) can sliced mushrooms, drained  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese

**Crust**  
4 tablespoons butter  
1/2 cup chopped onion  
1 (7 oz.) pkg. Martha White® Sweet Yellow Cornbread Mix  
1 (6 oz.) pkg. Martha White Cotton Country™ Cornbread Mix  
1 cup milk  
2 large eggs  
5 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese  
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano  
1 1/2 teaspoons garlic powder  
1 teaspoon coarse black pepper  
2/3 cup chopped pepperoni

**Toppings**  
4 cups shredded mozzarella cheese  
20 pepperoni slices

- Heat oven to 375° F. Coat 12-inch Lodge® cast iron skillet with no-stick cooking spray. Place in oven to heat. In medium skillet, combine filling ingredients. Cook over medium heat 10 minutes.
- Melt butter in small skillet. Cook onion until tender. Mix together remaining crust ingredients in large bowl. Stir in onion. Pour into hot 12-inch skillet. Spoon filling over cornbread mixture. Top with mozzarella and pepperoni slices. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until cheese browns around edges. Cut into wedges. Serve hot or at room temperature.

*Makes 8 servings*

*Prep time: 15 minutes  
Cook time: 30 minutes  
Ready in: 45 minutes*

# Business marketing emphasis of seminar

The Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center Great Lakes Bay is offering a free Marketing Your Business seminar at the Huron Area Technical Center at 1160 S. Van Dyke in Bad Axe from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 1.

This seminar presents practical applications of marketing concepts designed to grow small businesses. It covers basic marketing tools including market analysis and research, target marketing, assessing competitors, and key marketing implementation tools. A strategic, well-planned approach to marketing is demonstrated, with several examples of effective hands-on marketing techniques. Focus is on the business's customers - creating and keeping them.

For more information about attend-

ing the free seminar, other seminars, resources or to register online [www.misbtdc.org/training](http://www.misbtdc.org/training) or call (989) 686-9597. Pre-registration is required. Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MI.SBTDC.Region.5](http://www.facebook.com/MI.SBTDC.Region.5)

Seminar sponsors are Huron Area Technical Center, Huron County Economic Development Center and Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center Great Lakes Bay.

The MI-SBTDC is a partner program of the U.S. Small Business Administration and provides confidential, no-cost business counseling services, training and research for Michigan's new business ventures, existing small businesses, expanding businesses, new technology companies and innovators.

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*Ken Martin, master electrician (Cass City),  
Dave Sturtevant (Cass City), Jim Baughman, MSEE (Deford)*

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clarke@ccchronicle.net



**SAFE AT THIRD.** Cass City's Morgan Erla can't come up with the throw in Thursday's opening game loss against visiting Vassar. However, the junior's 3-run homer in the nightcap propelled the hosts to a 7-4 victory.

## Greater Thumb West track stars slated to perform in Cass City

Since early March, some of the best Thumb area high school track stars have been busy prepping for the Greater Thumb West league meet slated for next week in Cass City. And although it's doubtful that the host Red Hawks will challenge for team honors in the boys' field, expect the Lady Red Hawks to be in Tuesday's quest for the GTW crown. Sure to be in the hunt for individual gold at the GTW outing is Alyssa Bennett. The Red Hawk freshman topped the 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter runs Friday at the 7-school Reese Invitational, captured by Frankenmuth with 128 points. Marlette was next in the team standings with 94 points, edging the host Rockets with 93. The complete team standings also had Cass City with 73 points, Saginaw Valley Lutheran, 68, Vassar, 51, and Unionville-Sebewaing Area, 20. In addition to Bennett, Cass City's Logan Rowell and Haley Wynn also have excellent chances of becoming individual GTW champions. Rowell will battle Reese's Jordyn Kiser for the top spot in the high jump at the league meet. The pair squared off Friday, with Kiser posting a winning height of 5' 4" on her home track,

while Rowell cleared 5' 2" to place second. Wynn's best chance of gold at the GTW meet will come in the 400-meter dash. She placed third in that event at Reese, with a time of 1:03.67, bettered only by Vassar's Brittany Noblin (1:03.04) and Frankenmuth's Angie Ritter (1:01) of the Tri-Valley Conference. In the relay events, Cass City's 3200-meter team of Ashley Potts, Jessa Prieskorn, Ashtyn Janiske-Weiler and Bennett came out on top at Reese with a blistering time of 10:31, which also should land them in the winners' circle at the league meet. Cass City also had Bennett with a second place effort in the 800-meter run and Weiler with a third place showing in the 110-meter hurdles at the Reese invite. In the boys' competition, Frankenmuth completed a sweep in the team standings easily distancing themselves from the field with 190.5 points. The Eagles were followed by Marlette with 108 points, Unionville-Sebewaing Area, 76, Reese, 53, Vassar, 46.5, Saginaw Valley Lutheran, 42, and Cass City, 11. Adrian Hartsell turned in Cass

City's top finish with a time of 54:32 in the 400-meter dash, crossing the end line in 4th place. In the 800-meter relay, Red Hawks Braeden Perzanowski, Josh Jensen, Garret Ferguson and Alex Williams were clocked at 1:45.24, earning 5th place points. **Girls' results**  
**200-meter relay** - Cass City (Ashley Potts, Alyssa Bennett, Jessa Prieskorn, Ashtyn Janiske), 10:31.00; **110-meter hurdles** - Drew Findlay, Reese, 16.62; **100-meter dash** - Olivia Shelton, Frankenmuth, 12.51; **800-meter relay** - Frankenmuth (Lauren Reinbold, Chelsea Mertz, Olivia Shelton, Angie Ritter), 1:48.79; **1600-meter run** - Alyssa Bennett, Cass City, 5:33.00; **400-meter relay** - Frankenmuth (Lauren Reinbold, Olivia Shelton, Tiffany Gentner, Chelsea Mertz) 52.34; **400-meter dash** - Angie Ritter, Frankenmuth, 1:01.00; **300M low hurdles** - Drew Findlay, Reese, 47.11; **800-meter run** - Brittany Noblin, Vassar, 2:27.00; **200-meter dash** - Angie Ritter, Frankenmuth, 25.61; **3200-meter run** - Alyssa Bennett, Cass City, 12:18.00; **1600-meter relay** - Frankenmuth (Lauren Peterson, Chelsea Mertz, Olivia Shelton, Angie Ritter), 4:13.00; **Discus** - Kylee Dobbelaere, Marlette, 117'09.00"; **Shot Put** - Ashley Frahm, Frankenmuth, 35'07.00"; **High Jump** - Jordyn Kiser, Reese, 5' 04.00"; **Long Jump** - Angela Odoerfer, Marlette, 15'08.70" and **Pole Vault** - Whitney Reames, Vassar, 8'01.00".

## Offense heating up for Red Hawk soccer team

Things are warming up for the Cass City soccer team. And although pleasant weather finally allowed Coach Chuck Reed's Red Hawks to play twice last week, it was his team's offensive showing Friday at Sandusky that really turned up the heat. Against the Redskins, Cass City came out fast, dominated the ball and put the game away early, eventually winning by a 7-0 margin. Visiting keeper Becca Leslie saw only 3 shots for the entire game and her backup Meri Dzielinski got significant playing time late, but did not see a shot during the lopsided win. Cass City's offense woke up with Caitlin Reed getting 3 goals and an assist, Nicole Kelley a goal and an assist, Brooke Hartwick, Kaitlyn Messing, and Amanda Clifton a goal each and Tessa Kus an assist. The defense and mid field play kept Sandusky in their own end for most of the game, while the offense generated 20 shots total. Reed noted Jessica Bootz, Katie Michalski, Kelsey Cooper, Liz Milligan and Macey Messing all played well in shutting down the Sandusky attack. On Monday, Cass City traveled to Harbor Beach and suffered a 4-1 defeat. Cass City appeared a step slow

against the Pirates' fast, physical style of play and played their worst half of the season, according to Reed, and trailed 3-0 at the half. However, coming out in a different set for the second half, Cass City played with more intensity and generated much more offense, with Messing recording the score on an assist from Alyse Timko. "Amanda (Clifton) moved up from defense and had several good chances, but overall the Hawks generated only 8 shots while playing the Pirates even in the second half," said Reed. Leslie had 17 saves and was hit or knocked down on almost every one. The slow start doomed the Hawks, but they did come back with offensive pressure in the second half and defensive play also improved. "Lack of focus and intensity hurt the Hawks in the first half against Harbor Beach, but the second half at Harbor Beach and the Sandusky game got things back on track. The offense started showing signs that they are finally ready to play and the defense is getting more comfortable working with different people, so things seem to be on the right track," Reed said. Cass City has a record of 2-3-1 in Greater Thumb Conference action.

**Boys' results**  
**3200-meter relay** - Frankenmuth (Ben Sievert, Nathan Bookmyer, Jake Hall, Luke Bade), 8:23.00; **110M hurdles** - Brian Stearns, Frankenmuth, 15.86; **100-meter dash** - Donnie Thomas, Marlette, 10.91; **800-meter relay** - Frankenmuth (Ben Carter, Nick Veitengruber, Jeremy Borchard, Luke Bade), 1:35.84; **1600-meter run** - Ben Sievert, Frankenmuth, 4:51.00; **400-meter relay** - Marlette (Alex Storm, Ryan Miller, Joey Volz, Donnie Thomas), 45.26; **400-meter dash** - Justin Locklear, Vassar, 51.34; **300M interm. hurdles** - Brian Stearns, Frankenmuth, 41.26; **800-meter run** - Luke Bade, Frankenmuth, 2:02.00; **200-meter dash** - Donnie Thomas, Marlette, 21.95; **3200-meter run** - Ben Sievert, Frankenmuth, 9:51.00; **1600-meter relay** - Frankenmuth (Ben Carter, Nick Veitengruber, Jeremy Borchard, Luke Bade), 3:32.00; **Discus** - Jesse Micho, Frankenmuth, 121'03.00"; **Shot Put** - Dakota Gangler, USA, 48'11.00"; **High Jump** - Darius Taylor, Saginaw Valley Lutheran, 6'04.00"; **Long Jump** - Donnie Thomas, Marlette, 20'00.00" and **Pole Vault** - Tim Canfield, USA, 13'06.00".

## Red Hawks prep for return visit to Dow Diamond

The Cass City baseball team will experience a big-time atmosphere Friday when the Red Hawks travel to Midland's Dow Diamond, home of the Great Lakes Loons, to face a pair of non-conference foes. Coach Nathan Haag's squad will play a doubleheader against a pair of Greater Thumb East teams, starting with Ubyly at 5 p.m., and ending against Deckerville in the nightcap. The once-in-a-lifetime experience, for most, will cap a busy week that includes home tilts against Bay City All Saints and Frankenmuth on consecutive days. Cass City enters the week trading decisions Thursday against Vassar in GTW action. In game one, the visitors benefited from some shabby fielding by the Red Hawks to capture game one. Nolan Whitney handled the pitching chores for the Vulcans and earned the 10-2 win. He fanned 6, getting the better of Cass City's Nick Kappen, who suffered the loss for Cass City despite allowing just one earned run over 4 innings of work. With a 4-2 margin entering the final frame, Vassar added 6 insurance runs in their last at-bats to remove most doubt from the game's outcome. The Vulcans broke open the contest after Cass City reliever Jake Hacker and first baseman Rob VanAuken both played a bunt hit between them, but

that left nobody to cover first base, as there was a play at each base, including second. The entire series made the hosts appear somewhat confused, as did the Red Hawk infield over the course of the game. At the plate, Ethan Nicol collected 3 hits, including a double, to pace Cass City, while Jeff Leslie had a pair of singles and Cody Orban and Alex Varney had solo knocks and accounted for Cass City's scoring with one run apiece. In game 2, Cass City ace Orban held the Vulcans scoreless after the third frame to collect a 7-4 victory. Orban struck out 11, but walked 5 in a complete game outing. He allowed 3 earned runs, as did Vassar starter Gavin Greer who was labeled with the defeat. With the score even, 4-4, after 3 innings of play, Cass City used a 3-run homer off the bat of Morgan Erla and a little good fortune in the next inning to manage a split. "Erla hit a deep fly ball to center-field that bounced off the fielder's glove over the fence for an eventually game winning 3-run home run," said Haag. Adding, Orban did a great job of keeping the 3-4-5 hitters for Vassar under control. With the split, Vassar's record stands at 4-2 in the GTW. Cass City is 4-4 in the GTW, 11-9 overall.



**CASS CITY swept both ends of Thursday's GTW twin bill over Vassar. Scoring on a wild pitch in game one is Red Hawk Rebecca Hacker.**

### Softball Roundup

## Stec dominates Vassar in Greater Thumb West softball victories

Cass City's Shannon Stec appears to be rounding into shape at just the right time for first year Coach John Hacker. "Shannon was on her game," claimed Hacker after watching his ace shut down visiting Vassar Thursday in an important Greater Thumb West match-up. Stec, who has usually worked just one game up until last week, registered victories of 7-0 and 3-0 to help Cass City improve to 6-2 in the GTW. Stec will most likely need to handle the pitching chores in both ends of Monday's showdown against visiting GTW leaders Unionville-Sebewaing Area if the hosts hope to upset the Patriots. The Patriots will enter the GTW outing with payback on their minds, looking to avenge a loss to the Red Hawks last year that dropped the then 2-time defending state champions on the unbeaten ranks in GTW play. Still, when Stec is at her best anything is believable. She fanned 7 and scattered 3 hits to defeat the Vulcans in game one and looked even stronger in the nightcap where she

whiffed a dozen and surrendered just one hit. Stec issued just one free pass in 14 innings of work. Vassar's Chelsea Coffey blanked the Red Hawks for 3 innings, but yielded 6 runs in the 5th as Cass City sent 10 batters to the plate. Morgan Potter and McKensie Parrish each had 2 hits for the winners. Parrish delivered a bases-loaded triple to break open the contest. Rebecca Hacker added a double and scored for Cass City. Jessica Ostrander led Vassar with 2 safeties. In game 2, Cass City scored twice in the second inning and once in the third to complete the sweep. "Shannon retired Vassar 1-2-3 in 5 of the innings. She got some help from our defense, we played error free all night," said Hacker. Hacker and Dana Woodward each belted triples for Cass City, while Logan Rowell added a double. McKensie Parrish and Megan Parrish added singles in the 5-hit attack. Hayley Zwerk was saddled with the loss for Vassar. Cass City now stands 14-4 overall.



**DAN Vandecar, Decker, bagged this trophy turkey Friday morning while hunting in Tuscola County. His tom weighed 23 pounds and had a 10" beard and 1 1/4" spurs.**

# Owen-Gage explodes for 41 runs in twin bill wins

The Owen-Gage Bulldog softball squad took out their frustrations Thursday at the expense of host Akron-Fairgrove.

After suffering a pair of North Central Thumb League losses Monday to Port Hope, 11-10 and 14-10, Coach Doug Hyatt's Bulldogs rebounded to earn one-sided wins of 21-0 and 21-1 over the Vikings.

In game one, Bulldogs Lauren Mandich and Kayla Montreuil combined to handle the pitching duties and did not allow a hit. Akron-Fairgrove's McKenzie McHalpine took the loss at the rubber for the Vikings.

At the plate, Lacie Prich slugged out 3 hits and scored 3 runs, while Amanda Muntz scored 3 times and drove in 3 RBIs.

Game 2 mirrored the opener. Once again, Mandich started on the hill before Miranda Radabaugh worked

2 innings of relief. Lara Errer was the pitcher of record for the losers.

Montreuil, Prich, Amanda Muntz, Christin Harris and Erica Mroz all scored 3 times for the Bulldogs.

Owen-Gage is 7-3 in the NCTL and 7-5 overall.

**Coaches call in  
your scores  
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## Chip Shots

Monday Night Golf League as of May 2	
<b>Division 1</b>	
Don Warner	19
Dieter Roth	18
Don Ouvry	16
Jim Smithson	16
Daryl Iwankovitsch	15
Scott Richards	14
Ray Fox	13
Dan Caister	9
Jon Zdrojewski	8
Mike Lowe	7
Dan Curtis	6
Virgil Peters	6
Craig Helwig	4
Jim Peyerck	3
Iwankovitsch/Stickle	16
D. Jones/Peters	16
Biefer/Hoard	15
Alexander/Spencer	14
Craig/Knight	14
Wallace/Warner	13
Mastie/Robinson	9
Hobbs/Meck	8
Dillon/Irrer	8
Hendrick/Veggian	7
Davis/Tate	6
Henn/Herron	6
Jones/Marshall	5
Berwick/Greenlee	5
Individual medallists: Biefer 43; Knight 43.	
Team medallists: Biefer/Hoard 88.	

Low score: Dieter Roth 34

Division 2 - Late	
Tony Nika	18
Thad Phelps	16
Dick Wallace	16
Steve Osentoski	14
David Allen	13
Larry Robinson	13
Austin Brinkman	13
Doug Jones	9
Dan Mosher	9
Paul Regnerus	9
Noel Maurer	8
Jim Hobbs	6
Harold MacAlpine	6
Bruce LeValley	4
Bliss/Krol	18
Bitzer/Curtis	16
Hartel/Brown	16
Wallace/ Brent & Scott	16
Dadacki/Otremba	15
Ulfig/Corey & Paul	15
Green/Zdrojewski	14
Lagenberg/Brad & Joe	13
Prieskorn/Repshinska	12
deBeaubien/Lowe	12
LeValley/Morgan	10
Osentoski/D. Wallace	10
Biddinger/Smith	9
Hillaker/Murphy	8
Sattelberg/Weaver	7
Doerr/Haire	7
Lowman/Roemer	6
Langley/Tamlyn	6
Spencer/Sommerville	6
Martin/Stern	4
Individual medallists: Bitzer 36; Tamlyn 36.	
Team medallists: Bitzer/Curtis 80.	

Low score: Steve Osentoski 35; Dick Wallace 35.

Wednesday Night 2-Man Golf League as of May 4	
<b>Division 1 - Early</b>	
Burns/Caister	17
Smithson/Kurtansky	17

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## Schneeberger's

### ATHLETE of the WEEK

This week's Schneeberger's Athlete of the Week award winner is Cass City junior Shannon Stec.

The Lady Red Hawk pitching ace tossed a pair of shutouts Thursday against visiting Vassar, setting up a potential showdown with USA on Monday for the GTW title.

Stec, a second team all-conference selection in 2010, worked 14 total innings, fanning 19 and allowing one free pass. She limited the Vulcans to 3 hits in game one and gave up a solo knock in game 2.

Shannon is the daughter of Linda and Mike Stec.

**Shannon Stec**

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# O-G board places interviews on hold

Continued from page one.

short for school officials to act. Owen-Gage School officials hired Drury nearly a year ago following the resignation of Dana Compton, who served the district as a superintendent/K-12 principal for about 5 years. Drury, a retired, experienced educator and administrator who served the Laker School District for many years, has made it clear he will be leaving Owen-Gage at the end of June. Under Drury's leadership, Owen-Gage shed its "deficit-spending school district" status, although the school has continued to struggle in terms of building a significant fund balance. The district also inked a new, 2-year union contract with teachers after just 3 negotiation sessions. Drury also orchestrated the beginnings of a bond issue campaign in an

effort to enable the district to fund up to \$1 million worth of capital improvements, including replacement of a boiler along with unit ventilators in several classrooms, roof repairs, replacement of hallway and classroom lighting, interior and exterior painting, and technology upgrades. School officials have not yet decided whether to seek a bond issue or establish a sinking fund to pay for the work — both options would require voter approval. For now, the focus is on establishing a new administrative structure. Unfortunately, the district doesn't have a great deal of "wiggle room" financially. Owen-Gage has a total of roughly 206 students in grades K-12, with an annual budget of \$1.8 million and a staff of 28 — 14 teachers and 14 support personnel, including cooks, custodians, bus drivers, secretaries and para-professionals.

# Everyday heroes theme of national observance

The theme of the 38th Annual National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, May 15-21, is "EMS: Everyday Heroes". Sponsored by the American College of Emergency Physicians, EMS week is an opportunity to promote safety and increase public awareness of the dedication and community contributions of the country's nearly one million EMS professionals. The theme for this year celebrates the exceptional service being provided to countless patients every day, often under incredibly challenging circumstances. It illustrates that EMS professionals are dedicated to saving lives and limiting suffering on a daily basis. "These individuals provide pre-hospital care that can make the difference between life and death, as well as provide comfort and support to patients and their families", said Leslie Hall, director of the Michigan Rural EMS Network. Emergency medical services are a vital, invaluable public service. During times of emergency, swift access to emergency medical services can dramatically improve the sur-

vival and recovery rates of those who experience sudden illness or injury. Emergency medical service professionals, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their life-saving skills. The Michigan Rural EMS Network is kicking off the week of celebration by hosting an EMS Scholarship Fundraiser, Friday, May 13, at Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth. The event will feature Cool2Duel dueling pianos. The public is invited to attend. There will also be an air medical fly-in at Bavarian Inn Lodge by LifeNet of Michigan at 5:30 p.m., weather permitting. Area children are welcome to come see LifeNet's helicopter, meet the crew and take pictures. The Michigan Rural EMS Network, an expansion of the Huron-Sanilac EMS Network, is a non-profit membership of EMS agencies and EMS professionals. The group is dedicated to increasing public awareness of EMS, offering unique educational opportunities for rural EMS professionals and improving recruitment and retention efforts.

# Obituaries

## Nancy Boyl

Nancy Lee Boyl, 70, of Kingston, died Friday, May 6, 2011 in MidMichigan Medical Center, Midland after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born Feb. 16, 1941 in Caro, the daughter of William and Rose (Hadi) Froede. She married Wesley Benjamin Boyl Sept. 28, 1963 in Caro. He died April 24, 2007. Nancy was a very active member of Kingston Methodist Church and United Methodist Women. She was an excellent cook, cooking for all family gatherings. Nancy shared her cooking talent at many church dinners including the annual Harvest Dinner. Nancy worked as senior cosmetology instructor for Howard's Beauty Academy, Caro, for many years. She enjoyed her students and her time at Howard's. The center of Nancy's life was her grandchildren. She loved and adored them and was very involved in their lives. Those left to remember and cherish her memory include her children: Scott (Glenda) Boyl of Kingston, Jeff (Lisa) Boyl of Carmel, Ind., and Justin (Alichia) Boyl of Kingston; grandchildren: Zachary, Jenna, Kaleb, Hannah, Wesley, Brennen and Faith; a special daughter and her family, Deb (Joe) Hart; Ben, Louie, Maria, and Addie; brothers: William "Bill" Froede of Kingston, and Jim (Shelly) Froede of Deford; a sister, Kay (Cap) Caverly of Kingston; mother-in-law, Jean Boyl of Kingston; a sister-in-law, NoraJean Little of Cass City; a brother-in-law, Wayne (Karen) Boyle of Otsego; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services were Tuesday, May 10, at Kingston United Methodist Church, Kingston, with the Rev. Debra Brown officiating. Interment was in the Kingston Cemetery, Kingston. Pallbearers for Ms. Boyl were Jim Jensen, Dan Shaw, Jim Froede, Bryan Froede, Dennis Steele and Ken Distlerath. Memorials may be made to the Kingston United Methodist Church, Kingston. 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, Kingston.

## Gregory Jones

Gregory Alden Jones, 61, of Deford died following a long illness Monday, May 2, 2011 in United Hospice of Marlette Residence Center. He was born Sept. 7, 1949 in St. Joseph County, South Bend, Ind., the son of Victor and Geraldine (Wright) Jones. He married Mary Hegadorn April 17, 1970 in Detroit. Greg served in the U.S. Army, serving 2 tours in Vietnam. As a child, Greg loved to take things apart to see how they worked. As he grew older, he enjoyed creating things and making his own designs work. He did this with cars, anything mechanical and with his carpentry. He worked for International Harvester in Florida as an auto mechanic. Greg later became a journeyman carpenter helping to build the Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant in Crystal River, Fla. After moving to Texas, he worked as a carpenter building homes for Fox and Jacobs. When Greg moved to Michigan, he worked for MK Chambers as a machinist

until his health no longer allowed him to work. He enjoyed motorcycles, both riding them and fixing them. Greg loved the outdoors. He loved to watch the deer, birds and other wildlife. Left to remember and cherish his memory are his wife of 41 years, Mary; children: Michael (Dawn) Jones of Armington, Ill., Jamie (Ryan) Jones of Normal, Ill., Jason (Jennifer) Jones of White Bear Lake, Minn., and Sarah (Jason Lermont) Jones of Cass City; grandchildren: Samantha, Brandon, Logan and Christopher; brothers: George Jones of Texas, and Dennis (Jeannie) Jones of Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents. Funeral services were held Thursday, May 5, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with Pastor David Cooper of Deford Community Church officiating. Pallbearers for Mr. Jones were Michael Jones, Jamie Jones, Jason Jones, Sarah Jones, Jason Lermont, and Don Hegadorn. Honorary pallbearers were Samantha Jones, Brandon Jones, Logan Jones, Christopher Jones and Dennis Jones. 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.

## Donna Rock

Donna Jean Rock, 88, of Sebewaing, died following a long illness Saturday, April 30, 2011 in Northwood Meadows Medical Care Unit, Cass City. She was born Aug. 9, 1922 in Sandusky, the only child of Ferman and Jeannetta (Sangster) Bright. She married Albert Rock Feb. 6, 1945 in Chicago, Ill. Albert and Donna had no children. He died April 20, 1999. Donna graduated from Cass City High School. She worked for Ford Motor Company, retiring after many years. She was a former member of the Order of the Eastern Star and enjoyed being part of a bowling league when she lived in the city. Donna enjoyed playing piano in her younger years. She was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sebewaing. She enjoyed fishing with Albert on their boat. Donna is survived by her cousins: Dorothy Wentworth of Deford, Dolores Howell of Essexville, Diane Sangster of Lapeer, Donna Lossing of Lapeer, Duane (Shirley) Sangster of Decker, and Sharon Daley of Westland; many second cousins and extended family; Albert's nephews: Herman Rock of Georgia, and Henry Rock of Millington and their families. She was preceded in death by her aunts: Olive Bartels, Avis Youngs, and Theresa Biddle; uncles: Samuel and James Sangster; cousins: George Sangster, William Sangster, Janice Youngs, and William Bartels. Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 4, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with the Rev. Daniel Hahn of Immanuel Lutheran Church officiating. Interment was in the Novesta Township Cemetery, Cass City. Pallbearers for Mrs. Rock: Herman Rock, Henry Rock, Rod Wentworth, Jim Wentworth, Duane Sangster, and Jeff Parsell. Memorials may be made to United Hospice of Marlette or Northwood Meadows. 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.

## Paul Leyva

Paul E. Leyva, 62, of Gageton, passed away Wednesday, May 4, 2011. He was born March 24, 1949 in Cass City, the son of Joseph and Estela Peña. He married Beverly Maxwell March 15, 1969 in Pigeon. Paul served with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam conflict. He was a member of St. Agatha Catholic Church, Gageton, the VFW in Cass City and the Vietnam Veterans of America, Bay City Chapter. He retired from Tower Automotive in Elkton after 39 years of service where he was a production operator. Paul is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Bev; brothers: Joseph D. Jr. (Judy) of Mayville, William R. (Lucia) living in Brentwood, Calif., and Claude C. (Dawn Miller) of Caro; and sisters: Rose (Sonny) Quinn of Cass City and Rachel (Jerry) Lamoureux of Decker. He was preceded in death by a brother, Ralph Leyva; and a special uncle, Raul Leyva. Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Monday, March 9 at St. Agatha Church, Gageton, with the Rev. Paul Bala and Sr. Dorothy Ann Blasko officiating. Interment was in the church cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the church or to the VFW, Cass City. Arrangements were made by Gageton Funeral Chapel, Gageton.

## Lola Nicholas

Lola M. Nicholas, 91, of Cass City, passed away Monday, May 2, 2011 at Huron County Medical Care Facility, Bad Axe. She was born June 28, 1919 in Grant Township, the daughter of the late Newell and Rhoda (Summers) Ingalsbe. She married Earl Nicholas Aug. 28, 1937 in Flint. He passed away July 30, 1959. Lola lived on the farm where she was born and raised for 61 years, before moving to Cass City in 1980. She enjoyed time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Lola is survived by her children: Donna (the late George) Ferguson of Marlette, Roland Nicholas of Cass City, Lloyd (Paula) Nicholas of Sebewaing, Joyce (James) Turner of Cass City and Jean (John) Heck of Sebewaing; 17 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and 7 great, great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, Ronald Nicholas; a brother, William Ingalsbe; and a great-granddaughter, Krystal Lynn Tracy. Funeral services were held Friday, May 6, at Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City, with the Rev. Bill Wright officiating. Burial was in the Grant Township Cemetery. Family and friends may share condolences at [www.thabetfuneralhome.com](http://www.thabetfuneralhome.com). Arrangements were made by Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City.

great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, Ronald Nicholas; a brother, William Ingalsbe; and a great-granddaughter, Krystal Lynn Tracy. Funeral services were held Friday, May 6, at Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City, with the Rev. Bill Wright officiating. Burial was in the Grant Township Cemetery. Family and friends may share condolences at [www.thabetfuneralhome.com](http://www.thabetfuneralhome.com). Arrangements were made by Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City.

Donna graduated from Cass City High School. She worked for Ford Motor Company, retiring after many years. She was a former member of the Order of the Eastern Star and enjoyed being part of a bowling league when she lived in the city. Donna enjoyed playing piano in her younger years. She was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sebewaing. She enjoyed fishing with Albert on their boat. Donna is survived by her cousins: Dorothy Wentworth of Deford, Dolores Howell of Essexville, Diane Sangster of Lapeer, Donna Lossing of Lapeer, Duane (Shirley) Sangster of Decker, and Sharon Daley of Westland; many second cousins and extended family; Albert's nephews: Herman Rock of Georgia, and Henry Rock of Millington and their families. She was preceded in death by her aunts: Olive Bartels, Avis Youngs, and Theresa Biddle; uncles: Samuel and James Sangster; cousins: George Sangster, William Sangster, Janice Youngs, and William Bartels. Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 4, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with the Rev. Daniel Hahn of Immanuel Lutheran Church officiating. Interment was in the Novesta Township Cemetery, Cass City. Pallbearers for Mrs. Rock: Herman Rock, Henry Rock, Rod Wentworth, Jim Wentworth, Duane Sangster, and Jeff Parsell. Memorials may be made to United Hospice of Marlette or Northwood Meadows. 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.

Health care classes set this month. St. Clair County Community College's Workforce Training Institute will offer several monthly online health care classes beginning in May. The classes provide continuing education for nurses and other health care professionals. The classes meet the Michigan continuing education requirement for nursing license recertification. Classes are offered through online training partner ed2go. Classes begin monthly and run: • May 18 to July 8 • June 15 to Aug. 5 • July 20 to Sept. 9 • Aug. 17 to Oct. 7 For details, visit [www.sc4.edu/workforceonline](http://www.sc4.edu/workforceonline) or call (810) 989-5788.

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**2011 Cass City Youth Football & Cheerleading Registration**

**Tuesday-Wednesday, May 17-18 ~ 5:00-7:00 p.m.**  
**Mulligan's Irish Links Club House**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$50**

**REGISTRATION CLOSSES SEPTEMBER 9, 2011**

**JULY 26-28: Equipment sizing & distribution**  
 6:00-8:00 p.m., at Mulligan's Irish Links  
**AUGUST 8-11: Youth Camp**  
**AUGUST 15: First Practice**

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FOR SALE - Vintage Hammond M3 organ (made in 1959) with matching bench. Home style spinet with an internal amplifier and speaker. Includes original paperwork and manual. Will need picked up. Weighs 249 lbs. \$200 obo. Call and leave message at 989-671-7482. 2-4-20-nc

PARTY TENTS, tables & chairs. Call Dave Rabideau, 989-670-4433. 2-5-11-1f

FOR SALE - sofa and matching chair, good condition, call 989-872-1124. 2-5-11-1

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Bill Ehrlich, Sr. 665-2568  
Bill Ehrlich, Jr. 665-2503  
2-4-16-1f

**Household Sales**  
5TH ANNUAL BARN Yard Sale & Swap Meet, Thumb Octagon Barn, Gagetown (2 miles east of Gagetown off of Bay City Forestville Rd.), May 26-28, 9-5 p.m. Antiques, crafts, flea market, swap meet vendors, food concessions. For more information, call 989-948-3429. 14-5-11-3

MOVING SALE - May 12-14, 9-?. 4144 Maple St. Everything goes! 14-5-11-1

GARAGE SALE - May 11 & 12, 8-5 p.m. 6793 Third St., Cass City. 14-5-11-1

GARAGE SALE - Located at 6536 Houghton Street, Church of God, Cass City. Saturday, May 14, 9-4 p.m. Knickknacks, tools, clothing, etc. Everything must go! 14-5-11-1

**Household Sales**  
FIRST ESTATE SALE of many - Friday, May 13, 9-5 p.m.; Saturday, May 14, 9-5 p.m. Children & large women's clothing, toys, antique & costume jewelry, books, dishes, some furniture. Too many miscellaneous items to list. 4657 Schwegler Rd. (4th house on left from M-81). 14-5-11-1

GARAGE SALE - Thursday, May 12, 9-5 p.m.; Friday, May 13, 9-1 p.m. 6201 Dale St., Cass City (by hospital). Guns, tools, Honda VTX, TV, carseat, crib, clothes, baby clothes, videos, bed frame and much more. 14-5-11-1

**Real Estate For Rent**  
NICE 1-BEDROOM apartment - Includes appliances & all utilities except electric. \$350/month. Call daily 989-872-8825 or evenings 989-872-8300. Apply at Kelly & Co. Realty in Cass City. 4-4-20-1f

FOR RENT - 3 bedroom home with garage in country. Home newly remodeled. Cass City Schools. No pets, no smoking. For more information, call 989-550-9543. 4-5-4-3

NICE COUNTRY home - 2-3 bedroom, appliances, new carpet & paint. Paved road between Caro & Cass City. No pets, no smoking. \$450/month. Call daily, 989-872-8825 or 989-737-3517. Or stop at Kelly & Co. for info. 4-5-4-1f

FOR RENT - Cass City Mini Storage. Call 872-3917. 4-12-10-1f

VFW HALL weddings, parties, funeral dinners, etc. Call 989-872-4933. 4-8-11-1f

**VACATION RENTAL CASEVILLE BEACH HOUSE**  
Family rental only for summer of 2011. Located between Sleeper State Park and Caseville village limits on lake side of M-25. 100 feet of private sugar sand beach to water's edge. 3-bedrooms, 3 baths, hot tub, air conditioning. \$1,500 per week. For details, call 989-325-1270. 4-2-23-1f

**Real Estate For Rent**  
FOR RENT - K of C Hall, 6106 Beechwood Drive. Parties, dinners, meetings. Call Daryl Iwankovitsch, 872-4667. 4-1-2-1f

HILLSIDE NORTH Apartments - 1-bedroom, near hospital & grocery store. Water & garbage included. Rent: \$350/month plus security deposit. Call 872-4654, after 6 p.m. 4-4-20-1f

**Notices**  
**Swiss Steak Dinner**  
Saturday, May 14  
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Gagetown United Methodist Church  
4750 South Street  
Gagetown, MI 48735  
(across from Fire Hall)  
Prices per person:  
Adults: \$8.50  
Children (5-12 yrs.): \$4.50  
Under 5 FREE 5-5-4-2

SATCHELL'S CHRISTIAN Retirement Home Assisted Living - We have an opening for a man & woman. Call us at 989-673-3329. 5-10-13-1f

**Spaghetti Benefit for Paul Leyva**  
Friday, May 13 • 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
VFW Hall  
4533 Veterans Dr., Cass City  
Cost: \$6 per plate  
Children 6 and under are free  
**Dinner includes:**  
Spaghetti, garlic bread, tossed salad and cake or jell-o for dessert.  
50/50 Raffle • Bake Sale  
Take out available  
All donations go toward Paul's fight against cancer.  
Any questions please call, (989) 665-0179. Ask for Deb or leave a message. 5-5-4-2

**Knights of Columbus CHICKEN & FISH DINNERS**  
ALL YOU CAN EAT  
Friday, May 20  
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
K of C Hall  
6106 Beechwood Dr, Cass City  
Adults \$8.00 Students \$4.00  
10 & under Free 5-4-20-5

**Wanted To Buy**  
LOOKING TO BUY - Compost tumbler. 872-3190 or 872-2421. 6-5-4-2

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Weekday bottle drop off point:  
ConsultationsUnlimited, Suite 2 in Thumb Insurance office building on Main Street (next to Videomation). 5-5-11-1

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 11-5-11-2

**Card of Thanks**

I WOULD LIKE TO thank Clarke at the Cass City Chronicle, Dave at TotalCom, Eric Brown of the Cass City Lions, as well as all the Cass City Lions, that helped make Lions International 2011 White Cane Drive a success. Plus, I would especially like to thank all you supporters throughout the Cass City area for donating your change & dollars. We really appreciate it! Lions president, Kelly W. Smith.  
 13-5-11-1

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**SOLD!!** Move right in - This home is ready for a family. Located in a nice subdivision with a fenced in backyard. Open floor plan on the main floor. Semi-finished basement with bar. CCT-460

**REDUCED!!** 2 bedrooms, updated bath, large living room, all appliances included and an attached garage on 5 acres. Seller is offering financing for approved buyers. CC-659

**NEW!!** Affordable 5 bedroom home. Some updates have been started such as newer kitchen cabinets, some windows and drywall. Bathroom has been updated. Fireplace in living room. M-385

**REDUCED!!** Country home on 10 acres. Remodeling started but needs finishing. Attached garage with extra depth. Nice full basement. 6 miles from Deford, 7 miles from Kingston. CC-661

**NEW!!** Country living. Stick built home with two pole buildings, setting on 2 wooded acres. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, new well, alarm system and all appliances. Close to plenty of state land on paved road. CC-664

**NEW!!** 1998 home sets on a town lot of .52 acres. New list includes: countertops (2009), furnace (2010) and an extra 2.5 detached garage (2008). The upstairs in this home has been redone as well. CCT-448

*We've been busy! Call us for all your Real Estate needs!*

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 6451 Main St., Cass City  
 Kelly & Co. Realty would like to welcome **Jenny Zawilinski** to the staff.  
**Phone: (989) 872-3375**  
**Cell: (989) 891-7717**  


**HOME FOR SALE**  
 Excellent location!  
 1,700 sq. ft., 2-story, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 1/2-car garage, 580 sq. ft. basement. Built in 1993. Nicely landscaped. Includes all appliances.  
**Asking \$105,900**  
**Call 989-670-7913**  
**for more info.** 4875 Hemlock Ln., Cass City, Northwood Subdivision  
 8-5-11-3

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# Recovery system to save cash for plant

A new waste heat recovery system at POET Biorefining - Caro has brought significant natural gas and water savings for the 53 million-gallon-per-year ethanol plant.

The plant's system recycles heat from the process, replacing about 10 percent of the facility's natural gas needs. Water that is condensed in the system is re-used, which reduces overall water use by 5 percent.

Because less live steam is running through the process, the waste heat recovery system also decreases by almost 50 percent the amount of time the plant is shut down for cleaning.

"The waste heat recovery system has been a phenomenal addition to the Caro facility," General Manager David Gloer said. "We are using less natural gas and less water, which is great for the environment, and this new system reduces our operating cost, making us much more cost competitive. The employees have embraced the new system and have become very proficient in operating the new equipment in a very short time frame."

POET, the largest ethanol producer in the world, is a leader in biorefining through its efficient, vertically integrated approach to production. The 23-year-old company produces more than 1.7 billion gallons of

ethanol and 9 billion pounds of high-protein animal feed annually from 27 production facilities nationwide. POET also operates a pilot-scale cellulosic ethanol plant, which uses corn cobs as feedstock, and will commercialize the process in Emmetsburg, Iowa.

## Foundation offers info on tree care

The Arbor Day Foundation has a handy tree-care booklet that is designed to help people plant and care of trees. Anyone can receive the Conservation Trees booklet just by giving a \$3 donation to the nonprofit tree-planting organization.

Conservation Trees is an easy-to-use booklet and features illustrations, colorful photos and easy-to-understand descriptions.

"It is important that people know the proper way to plant and care of their trees, and Conservation Trees is an ideal resource for tree planters throughout the country," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation.

"Trees are valuable, and it is important that we take good care of existing ones and plant more. Trees clean the air, help keep our water sources pure and help us conserve energy. Trees provide so many benefits to a community, and that's why it is so vital to take good care of them."

The booklet provides details about the right way to plant and prune trees. Also included are tips on how to use shade trees and windbreaks to save on energy costs, attract songbirds, create a living snow fence, and to learn how to plant the right tree in the right place.

To receive the Conservation Trees booklet, send a \$3 check along with your name and address to: Conservation Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, or order online at [www.arborday.org/conservationtrees](http://www.arborday.org/conservationtrees).



PAST & PRESENT employees of Hills and Dales General Hospital in Cass City recently met for lunch at Gilligan's. The next get together is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 29.

# Young farmers optimistic about their career path

Contrary to job outlooks for some other industries, optimism continues to swell among Michigan young farmers about their career path.

That's according to about 265 Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) members between the ages of 18 and 35 who participated in an informal survey at MFB's Young Farmer Leaders Conference in February. Although non-scientific, the annual survey is a general gauge of young farmers' opinions and habits on a broad range of issues, including their present outlook on farming.

The 2011 survey reveals that 89 percent of respondents said they are more optimistic about farming than they were 5 years ago. That's up from 80 percent last year. Similarly, 93 percent of this year's respondents said they are better off compared to five years ago. Last year, 86 percent shared the sentiment.

Also on a positive note, 95 percent of the young farmers surveyed see themselves as life-long farmers, and 96 percent would like their children to follow in their footsteps. As for the latter, 91 percent of the respondents see a bright future for their offspring, saying they think their children will be able to farm if they choose.

According to Lori Chamberlain, manager of the MFB Young Farmer Department, young farmers' steadfast devotion to their agricultural heritage tends to be a common thread from year to year.

"Over the last few years, no less than 90 percent of the young farmers surveyed have said they consider themselves lifelong farmers and would like their children to carry on their agricultural legacy. That's pretty impressive in today's job market. I'm not sure how many other industries can say the same," said

Chamberlain.

But the picture is not entirely rosy, said Chamberlain. Young farmers still face unique hurdles.

In identifying their top challenges from 12 potential answers, Michigan young farmers said profitability/economic challenges, securing adequate acreage and government regulations are at the forefront.

Despite these obstacles, young farmers are committed to environmental stewardship, with 89 percent saying that balancing environmental and economic concerns is important on their farms.

Respondents were also asked to identify steps the federal government should take to help young farmers. From a menu of 12 possible answers, young farmers said cutting federal spending, financial help for beginning farmers and boosting U.S. agricultural exports and trade take precedence.

When it comes to the general public's perception of farmers, the group is divided. Forty-five percent believe the general public views farmers positively; 31 percent say the perception is negative; and 24 percent believe the public does not think about farmers at all. Either way, 63 percent of the young farmers surveyed said communicating with consumers is a formal part of their job.

These Generation X and Y farmers are also technologically savvy, with the majority of respondents using a variety of communications gadgets from personal computers and smart phones to personal web pages.

Their utilization of the Internet is extensive, but some of the more common uses, as identified by the survey, include researching product information to make buying decisions at local retailers; banking and

record keeping; communicating with legislators; making online purchases; social networking with Facebook; and commodity marketing and trading.

\* Survey traces young farmers' agricultural roots

Attendance at the MFB Young Farmer Leaders Conference has steadily grown over the years, especially among married couples, said Chamberlain. This trend may be a reason why 48 percent of the survey respondents attribute their start in farming to marriage. Of the remainder, 20 percent said they started in agriculture as a member of a family partnership; 19 percent started on their own; and 13 percent inherited a farm.

More than a quarter of the young farmers surveyed are single and said farming is their sole occupation. For those who are married, 24 percent said both spouses work off the farm; 19 percent said the wife does; 17 percent said neither spouse; and 12 percent said the husband does. Forty-nine percent indicated they supplement their income with other farm-based enterprises such as seed sales or trucking.

\* State results mirror national statistics

Results from MFB's state survey track closely with findings from the American Farm Bureau Federation's national survey of young farmers.

"Farming and ranching is a tough but rewarding way of life. One trait all farmers and ranchers share is optimism and hope for the future," said Leelanau County fruit grower Ben LaCross, of Cedar, who is chairman of the AFBF Young Farmer and Rancher Committee. "Whether you produce tree fruit or beef cattle, you have to be an optimist to succeed in farming and ranching these days."



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