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back for the summer

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steps up to the plate

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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011

FIFTY CENTS ~ 16 PAGES, 1 SUPPLEMENT

O-G board divided over chief search

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Owen-Gage Board of Education will stay on course in its search for a new, part-time superintendent, who will compliment an administrative team that includes K-12 Principal Terri Falkenberg.

The decision was backed by a majority vote during a rescheduled special meeting last week. However, support for the plan was hardly unanimous.

The special meeting was initially slated for Tuesday, May 3, when board members were scheduled to interview by phone a half-dozen prospective candidates for the job. But some board members expressed concerns about the direction in which the district was headed in terms of the administrative structure, prompting school officials to cancel those interviews and reschedule the special meeting for last week (Tuesday).

During that session, board members presented their cases for one of 2 proposals, the second being a return to the superintendent-K-12 position that was previously held by former Supt. Dana Compton before his resignation and the subsequent hiring of former longtime Lakers Public Schools administrator and educator Bob Drury to serve as interim superintendent last summer.

Roughly a third of the 30 community residents and school staff members in the audience also offered their opinions, and all agreed they support hiring a part-time superintendent.

Towards the end of the hour-long meeting, board President Terry Muntz asked for a resolution. Trustee Dan Warack offered one proposing that the board continue its

search for a part-time superintendent, and Trustee Brenda Kretzschmer seconded the motion. Asked for a roll-call vote, Warack, Kretzschmer and board Treasurer Deb Quick all voted “yes”, while board Secretary Loretta Schmidt, Vice President Kathy Champagne and Trustee Mike Mandich all cast dissenting votes. As board president, Muntz cast the deciding vote in favor of Warack’s resolution.

According to Drury, the phone interviews with candidates for the job were to take place during a special meeting Sunday at 6 p.m.

Candidates scheduled to interview 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; Loren Vannest, a superintendent/principal at 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.

Drury acknowledged the board’s split vote in favor of moving forward with those interviews could have a negative impact on the confidence level of those seeking the part-time superintendent position.

“I’m very concerned. When I first came here, my biggest concern was declining student enrollment,” Drury said. “About 3 to 4 months ago, when it became clear that state funding would take another hit, I was concerned with revenues — that we would get starved out of existence.” Now, he added, “I have a concern about unity on the board, making it difficult to make the difficult decisions in tough times.”

The challenges include a projected budget deficit of \$155,000 thanks to

Please turn to page 4.



Arriving to school in (country) style...

CASS CITY HIGH School senior Amanda Phillips steps down from a tractor driven by Travis Klimek, another Cass City senior, in the parking lot at the school Friday morning. A host of seniors carried on the years-long tradition of driving tractors to school on their last day of classes. (See related photo, page 8)

Kalis examination set for next week in district court

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Cody Kalis, the 17-year-old Unionville teen arraigned on charges stemming from the death of another teen last March, is scheduled to appear in Tuscola County District Court for his preliminary examination next week.

The exam, which has already been postponed once because prosecutors are still awaiting supplemental investigation reports and laboratory results, is slated for Thursday, May 26, at 8:30 a.m.

Kalis is charged with 3 counts, including open murder in the death of 16-year-old Zachary Harp, Caro. He faces up to life in prison if convicted on that charge. Kalis also faces one count each of manslaughter with a motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated — both 15 year felonies — in connection with Harp’s death following what investigators say was a confrontation between the 2 teens during the early morning hours of March 20 in Gagetown.

Bond in the case was set at \$75,000 (10 percent cash).

Tuscola County Sheriff’s deputies are continuing their investigation into Harp’s death, which prosecutors say occurred in the midst of a party involving underage drinking.

Investigators say Harp, who was a freshman at Owen-Gage High School, died from injuries he suffered when he was struck by a car. Tuscola County Undersheriff Glen Skrent said deputies responded to Elizabeth and Center streets in Gagetown at about 4 a.m. the day of the incident.

“A subject there had been reportedly run over by a car. Michigan State Police troopers arrived first and held the scene down for the deputies,” Skrent reported. “When the officers arrived, they found (Harp) critically injured. FlightCare Helicopter arrived and transported him to Flint Hurley Hospital.

“Investigators believe there was a party at a home located at 6525 Elizabeth St. in Gagetown and an altercation started between the victim and another subject,” Skrent said. “Witnesses say the other subject (Kalis)...intentionally ran over Harp with his car and dragged his body almost a block. When another person ran to the victim’s aid, the car

came around again and struck them, causing minor injuries to the other person.”

“Other people also fled the scene when police arrived,” Skrent said. “Other witnesses were uncooperative with officers.”

Kalis attended classes in the Cass City Public Schools after transferring from USA Schools. Following his arrest, he withdrew from the local school system. He is currently free on bond and was scheduled to continue his education at home.

Prosecutors are still asking anyone

with information regarding the investigation to call Detective Scott Jones at the Tuscola County Sheriff’s Department at (989) 673-8161 (ext. 2229).



Cody Kalis

Pair set to square off in August vote

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

With the annual school elections now history in the Thumb, area residents can turn their attention to their next trip to the polls in August.

Of special interest to Cass City residents will be the Tuesday, Aug. 2 general election, when they will have a say in a race for the District One seat on the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners.

Tuesday, July 5, is the last day to register for the election.

According to Tuscola County Clerk Margie White, absentee ballots will be available starting in mid-June. To receive one by mail, residents must submit an application to their township clerk by 2 p.m. Saturday, July 30. Citizens can vote by absentee ballot as late as 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 1, but they must do so in person in their township clerk’s office, White said.

Unionville area resident Roger Allen currently represents District One, which is comprised of Akron, Columbia, Elkland, Elmwood,

Fairgrove, Gilford and Wisner townships, including the villages of Cass City, Akron, Fairgrove, Gagetown and Unionville.

Allen was appointed to the county board Jan. 27. He also serves on the board of public works, Human Services Coordinating Council, Michigan Association of Counties Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, Great Start Collaborative - Tuscola County, and parks and recreation board.

Allen was appointed to serve on the county board to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Cass City attorney Amanda Roggenbuck, who won her second, 2-year term on the board last November, but opted to leave the post after being appointed the new probate judge in Tuscola County.

Allen, a Republican, faces a challenge in the August general election in Democratic candidate Zygmunt P. Dworzecki, Akron, who lost his bid for the seat last year, losing to Roggenbuck in the November general election.

Keaton joins staff at the Chronicle

The Cass City Chronicle’s editorial staff welcomed its 2011 summer news/editorial intern early this week.

Like many of the paper’s past interns, Sherri Keaton, 22, this year’s new staff member, attended Central Michigan University, where she graduated this month with a Bachelor of Science Degree in journalism.

Keaton, originally from Southfield, transferred to CMU from Oakland Community College in 2008.

At CMU, Keaton worked as a reporter, senior reporter, videographer and columnist for nearly 3 years for the university’s award-winning newspaper, CM Life. Last summer, she added to her resume by interning at The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead in Fargo, N.D., for 6 weeks.

Prior to attending CMU, Keaton freelanced for the Michigan FrontPage newspaper in 2007, writing weekly columns about young people, education and current events. The paper awarded her its first “Young Achievers’ Award” in

November 2007.

Since then she has earned third-place honors in the best feature story category from the National Newspaper Publishers Association for a story that appeared in the Michigan FrontPage newspaper.

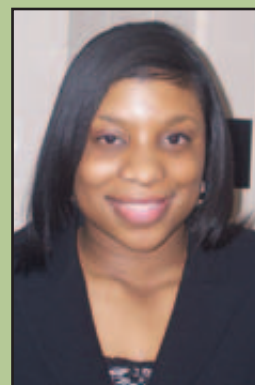
Keaton said she is excited about working at the Chronicle and is looking forward to the experience of living and working in a close-knit community. “(I) also hope to gain a better understanding of the people and the pulse” in the village, she added.

While in Cass City for the summer, Keaton is looking forward to finding unique story ideas and exploring the hopes and dreams of residents she meets.

“It’s my responsibility to invest my time in the places where stories can reach the hairdressers, dog walkers, soccer moms and executive directors,” she said of community journalism. “I see a future without limits, where news focuses on people.”

“We’ve been looking forward to Sherri joining our editorial staff for several weeks,” said Tom Montgomery, editor of the Chronicle. “Her enthusiasm for the job and this community are unequalled, and I believe her skills as a reporter and a writer are going to impress our readers.

“We’re expecting a great summer with Sherri, who will be responsible not only for general news and feature reporting assignments along with photo duties, but will also take on the challenge of compiling and helping to design our annual special Fourth of July section. She’ll also be reviving our man-on-the-street column, ‘Your Neighbor Says,’” he added.



Sherri Keaton



David and Jyoti Sutter

Sutter, Kothavale marry in Indiana

David Sutter, Jr. and Jyoti Kothavale were married Aug. 28, 2010 in Indianapolis, Ind. Officiating the double ceremonies were John Rathje, Sr., uncle of the groom, and Pandit Raghvendra Prasad.

The bride is the daughter of Shashi and Jayashri Kothavale of Atlanta, Ga. She is a graduate of Portage Central High School, University of Michigan, and Wayne State University School of Medicine.

The groom is the son of Connie and William Roemer, Sr. of Deford, and David Sr. and Leticia Sutter of Caro. He is a 2000 graduate of Cass City High School, University of Michigan, and Wayne State University School of Medicine.

The maid of honor was Janet Hur, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Manisha Relan and Kruti Joshi, both friends of the bride. The flower girl was Madison Sutter, niece of the groom.

The best man was Zachary Sutter, brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Chris Hyatt, friend of the groom, and Samir Kothavale, brother of the groom. Junior groomsmen were Hunter Sutter, brother of the groom.

Following the ceremonies, a reception was held at the Indianapolis Marriott North.

The couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Puerto Rico, and currently reside in Indianapolis. Both are completing their third year of residency at Indiana University.

2 special programs scheduled at O-G

Owen-Gage Elementary School is hosting a pair of special programs for students this month.

School officials will welcome national award-winning Author Jeffery L. Schatzer today (Wednesday) at 10 a.m. (grades K-2) and at 12:15 p.m. (grades 3-5).

Schatzer's fun-filled presentations are packed with stories of how he came to write "The Bird in Santa's Beard", "The Bump on Santa's Noggin", "The Elves in Santa's Workshop", "Fires in the Wilderness", "Professor Tuesday's Awesome Adventures of History: Chief Pontiac's War", and "Professor Tuesday's Awesome Adventures in History: Migrating to Michigan".

He also authored the Library of Michigan's One State, One Children's Book choice, "The Runaway Garden".

The school will host "FoodPlay Productions" Monday, May 23, at 9 a.m. The performance, which includes audience participation, is geared towards "turning kids on to healthy habits".

FoodPlay, a national award-winning theater show promoting healthy eating and exercise habits, brings a cast of colorful characters, feats of juggling, motivating messages, music and fun to its performances.

More information is available by contacting teacher Sandra Parks at (989) 678-4141.

Ubly announces honor roll

Officials at Ubly Junior High School announce the third marking period honor roll.

Grade 7

Evan Block*, Kaylee Block, Emily Booms, Joshua Bowman, Macanna Briolat, Alexandria Camp*, Austin Chernow, Kyla Czewski, Abigail Deering, Trevor Dropiewski, Jennifer Gentner*, Jacqueline Gilbert, Lindsey Glaza, Madison Glaza*, Andrew Gosdzinski, Grant Hagen, Aaron Hund*, Ethan Hund, Aliyah Kaczor, Courtney Klee, Nicholes Maikrzek, James

McBride*, Jonathan Messing*, Justin Messing, Nicole Osantowski*, Ashley Osentoski*, Kasey Palmer, Arianna Partaka, Michaela Partaka, Shannon Particka*, Melanie Puvalowski, Lucas Rothe, Daniel Rutkowski*, Brandon Sadro, Haley Spicer, Ashley Sweeney*, Mariah Tezak, Jesse Vogel, James Weber, Roman Weltin, Jeffrey Wright and Jonathan Wright.

Grade 8

Jonathon Bischer, Courtney Cook, Mathias Dekker, Hanna Drake*,

Shelby Farver, Jaclyn Geiger, Alexis Gezequel, Adam Grifka*, Marisa Guza*, Michela Guza, Emily Halifax, Thomas Hill, Justine Hulburt, Cody Hutchinson, Alexis Inbody*, Cody Klee, Meagan Kozfkay, Kurt Kubacki, Logan Lemke, Joseph Lipskey, Tiffani Moore, Cynthia O'Connor*, Brandy Osentoski, Alex Ratcliff, Kelsey Ulfing, Trevor Walsh, Grant Weber, Bryce Weltin, Jenna White* and Jessica Wolschleger.

*Denotes all A's

Timko, King honored at Northwood

Two area residents are among the students at Northwood University, Midland, who were recently recognized for individual and organizational involvement at Northwood and in the community.

Local students honored were Krysta Timko, a sophomore from Cass City, who was named "Resident Assistant Programmer of the Year"; and Ryan King, a senior from Deford, who earned "Resident Assistant Leadership" honors.

Engaged



Danielle Johnson and Deric Murphy

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Scott Murphy announce the engagement of their children, high school sweethearts Danielle V. Johnson and Deric S. Murphy.

Danielle is employed at Marlette Regional Hospital and is awaiting her RN clinicals.

Deric is employed through Fahrner Asphalt Sealer Company.

They will be joined together as one in front of God, family and friends Oct. 15, 2011.

Ag scholarship winners include Gregory Leslie

Agricultural engineers, biologists, agricultural technologists and veterinarians. These are just some of the career plans for the 2011 crop of Agricultural Education Scholarship winners.

Among this year's recipients is Gregory Leslie, the son of member-owners Al and Dawn Leslie of Decker. Leslie will be a junior next fall at Baker College, Owosso, where he is studying diesel service technology. He has been on the dean's list for the last 4 quarters and expects to graduate in 2012.

This year the Foremost Farms USA Charitable Foundation awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to the sons and daughters of member-owners.

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In Our OPINION..

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

O-G trustees must now come together

A divided Owen-Gage Board of Education last week voted in favor of continuing on its path to hire a part-time superintendent to compliment an administrative team that includes K-12 Principal Terry Falkenberg.

The vote was close — 4 to 3 — with the dissenting votes cast by trustees in favor of returning to a single K-12 principal/superintendent administrative position.

That's the same arrangement the district utilized with former Supt. Dana Compton until he resigned and the board hired former longtime Lakers Public Schools educator and superintendent Bob Drury to fill in as interim school chief nearly a year ago.

Approving a motion on a split vote isn't unusual for boards of education across the state. After all, each community member serving as a trustee should share the same goal — offering students the best education possible — but they don't always agree on the best way to accomplish that goal. Considering school board members come from different backgrounds and have different beliefs, that's not surprising.

We commend those serving in Owen-Gage for voting their conscience.

However, we can't say the same thing for their timing.

School officials decided weeks ago to hire a part-time superintendent, then set up phone interviews with those candidates to narrow the field. Those interviews were supposed to take place during a special meeting Tuesday, May 3. Before that meeting could take place, some board members had a change of heart and asked for the meeting to be moved to last week, prompting school officials to reschedule.

Now, finding experienced candidates for a part-time administrative position is a challenge in itself. Already, one candidate has backed out after finding employment in another district.

Another important aspect is the fact that Drury, who has proven himself to be more than up to the task of guiding Owen-Gage through some rough financial waters, is leaving Owen-Gage at the end of June, so time is of the essence.

Equally crucial are the budgeting prospects for Owen-Gage and every other school district in Michigan, many of which could find themselves forced to close their doors after another round of significant funding cuts are implemented next year. In Bulldog country, school officials, who have already trimmed spending to the bone, are facing a potential deficit of some \$155,000 thanks to Lansing.

Accomplishing that goal isn't going to be easy, and it could prove nearly impossible if school board members don't pull together.

Now that the board has made its decision by majority vote, we're hopeful that every trustee will get on-board with the planned process for hiring a new part-time superintendent. We believe they will, given the reputation folks in the Owendale-Gagetown community have for sticking together and fully supporting their school system.

As we said, this is no time for dissension. And there's no time to lose.



Slices of Life

by Jill Pertler

Riding the grief train



It's a year this week since my mom died. Most people will tell you the initial year is the hardest because of all the firsts. First Christmas. First birthday. First Mother's Day without your mother.

I'll admit those firsts were difficult, but I persevered. Might even be that I'm stronger for it. To be honest, I'm not sure.

The surprising thing, for me, about the first year didn't involve any of the important firsts. It had more to do with what you'd call everyday moments that caught me off guard.

Like, I might be brushing my teeth, or thinking about whether we should have chicken or pork chops for dinner and - Bang! Something would hit me and a memory would rush in before I could think to stop it.

There were times when I thought about picking up the phone to call her. Or days when I sensed her presence, even though I don't suppose I really did. I think I wanted to, you know, believe she was close by.

Sometimes, for a moment, I'd forget she was gone. Then I'd remember and it didn't seem like the memory could be real and I'd have to pause and decide what to believe and a millisecond later when I figured it out, I'd cringe at the realization.

I guess the truth sometimes is stranger than fiction.

One thing I've learned during the past year is grief is an intimate experience. It is yours alone. Another tenet of grief is not many people are comfortable with it - whether it's theirs, or someone else's. I know I'm not and I've had a whole year of practice. Then again, I'm not sure I'd ever want to be comfortable - with grief.

While grief is intimate, it is universal - an inevitable part of life. As the days unfold, one after the other, we do what we can to cope. We find what works for us.

Words are a source of comfort to me, so when I miss my mom, I write about her. It's my catharsis - releasing emotions through written words to provide a respite from the sadness (sort of, in theory).

Not everyone identifies with catharsis. Rehashing a loss may seem more painful than helpful. Death and illness are unpleasant experiences best left in the past

when it is time to focus on the future.


Thing is, you can't move on at anything but your own pace. That's the intimacy of grief. This is hard to grasp: how one person can be at the end of the marathon and another still taking baby steps - like in a dream when you are trying to run but your legs won't work. The difference is exponential; and I never was good at math. Go figure.

So the grief train moves forward. Day 365 and counting. I think I can. I think I can.

At this time last year, I spent the bulk of my moments staring backward as the train left the station. Now I am able to turn my seat and look ahead a majority of the time. I'm finding a balance. Some would advise me to keep my eyes focused on the road in front of me, to ignore the grief and get on with the fun stuff.

Life and death aren't always pretty. Denying this fact only serves to deny the moments that truly are beautiful. And they do exist. I know this for certain because I remember. I've come to believe the road ahead is only part of it and - pain or no - I'm bound and determined to experience it all.

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 pertmn@qwest.net; or visit her website at <http://marketing-by-design.home.mchsi.com/>.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Wearing a seat belt is the easiest, most effective way to save your life in the event of a traffic crash. It can also save you \$65 bucks during the Click It or Ticket seat belt mobilization slated May 23-June 6.

Law enforcement agencies across the state, including Tuscola County, will take to the streets with big yellow enforcement zone signs and be on the lookout for unbelted motorists. More than 200 agencies statewide will take part in the effort, which will also include nighttime patrols.

Research shows when seat belts are used properly, the risk of being killed in a crash is reduced by nearly 50 percent.

Michigan law requires all drivers, front seat passengers and passengers 15 and younger in any position to be buckled up.

Here's a better way to help fund local law enforcement. The Greater Thumb Area Fraternal Order of Police will hold its annual country music show starring T. Graham Brown this Friday at the Caro High School at 7:30 p.m.

"His T-Ness" as T. Graham Brown is affectionately known around Nashville is a multiple CMA Awards nominee.

Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$22 at the door. For more information call (989) 673-3360.

Tuscola County Undersheriff Glen Skrent says a business in Huron County reported a subject trying to solicit money from them. The imposter stated he was from the Tuscola County Sheriff's Office trying to get money to support a domestic violence dance. The subject was quite persistent.

"The Tuscola County Sheriff's Office is not soliciting money for this and is unaware of any domestic violence event such as this," Skrent said.

Chuck Emmert, former long-time preacher at the Novesta Church of Christ, now living in St. Johns, returned to the Thumb earlier this month to hunt for morels. He reports finding 188 mushrooms in his usual spots.

If you are interested in hearing who will be awarded bids for the Cass City High School Agriscience Program barn project, attend Monday's monthly board of education meeting. Don't show up at the regular starting time of 7 p.m., however, as sealed bids are to be opened beginning at 6:30.



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mgreen@senate.michigan.gov
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State Rep. Kurt Damrow
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Contact your elected officials

Letters to the Editor

School budget cuts are just unavoidable

Regarding House Bill 4325, the school aid, higher education and community colleges budget proposal:

I know that many schools in our area have decreased their spending over the last 5 years and are using best practices. Unless the May Revenue Conference reveals a surplus, however, we must make these cuts in order to put our state on solid financial footings. It is also necessary to recognize that the

3.5-percent per-pupil reduction in the K-12 budget is one of the smallest cuts made to the whole state budget.

We will continue the discussion as this budget moves through the process, and as we learn more about potential increases in revenue. If there is additional funding, I will fight to use this money for our schools and the unfunded pension programs.

State Rep. Kurt Damrow

Congress should vote against increasing debt

One would think President Obama and his administration would get one right out of a hundred.

President Obama claims we went into Libya to get rid of Gaddafi, to prevent him from slaughtering his own people, but yet you don't trust these same people to give them arms to overthrow Gaddafi. Why did you go in there if you don't trust them? With a plan that stupid, I don't think you and your administration can walk and chew gum at the same time.

Congress should vote against raising the debt ceiling, because if you spend the taxpayers' money that foolishly, you don't need any more. If the government shut down, that would be the best thing that could happen; our credit rating would drop, no country would lend us any money and the government would stop growing. But they claim if that happened, the Social Security checks

wouldn't go out, doctors and military wouldn't get paid, etc. If that's true, and we're in that bad of shape, the Congress better not raise the debt ceiling. We may as well face it now and get it over with or we will later.

President Obama, if I could split the United States in half, then had you choose a side to be on, I wonder how many people would choose your side? Where would you get your money from to run your side? I know that the majority of the taxpayers would not choose your side, and all the "give me and take care of me people" would want your side, but they would realize shortly that you didn't take them to the promised land that they envisioned.

One good thing Obama is doing that I give him an A for is that he is using drones over in Pakistan a lot.

Robert Peruski
Ubly

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

6550 Main Street
P.O. Box 115
Cass City, MI 48726
Phone: (989) 872-2010
Fax: (989) 872-3810
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Rates & Policies

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

Letters to the Editor

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

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

Social News

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

Subscription Rates

Tuscola, Huron & Sanilac counties - \$21 per year.
In Michigan - \$25 per year.
Out-of-State - \$27 per year.
College - \$15 per year.
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Obituary Rates

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Wednesday, May 18

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.

Thursday, May 19

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

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

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

Friday, May 20

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

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

Senior Citizen Movies, 1:30 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.

Saturday, May 21

Community Lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Cass City United Methodist Church (1 1/4 miles north of stoplight). Free - contributions accepted, but not necessary.

Free Crafting Day Fellowship, starts at 11 a.m., Restoration Outreach Center, 202 W. Burnside St., Caro. No cost. For more information, call (989) 672-2202.

Sunday, May 22

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

Monday, May 23

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

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

Cass City School Board meeting, 7 p.m.

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

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

Tuesday, May 24

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

Wednesday, May 25

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

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

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

Circuit court news

Several charged with felonies

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

•Melvin A. Romain, 47, Caro, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Feb. 3 in Mayville.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case and bond was continued at \$10,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Patricia A. Peters, 51, Caro, received a one-year delayed sentence for her plea of no contest to assaulting/obstructing a police officer and impaired driving Sept. 17 in Caro.

She was ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$251 plus restitution of \$95.

•William R. Marlow, 57, Mayville, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Jan. 22 in Mayville.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$5,000. Sentencing is to be set.

•Terence L. Simpson, 52, Fairgrove, pleaded no contest to charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor Oct. 9 in Juniata Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$7,500. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Anthony B. Haymon, 50, Clio, received a one-year delayed sentence for his pleas of guilty to assaulting/obstructing a police officer and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor Feb. 13 in Wells Township.

He was ordered to pay \$1,538 in costs and fines plus restitution of \$120.

•Kurt A. Urban, 49, Caro, stood mute to charges of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, driving while his license was suspended or revoked, subsequent offense, and possession of an open intoxicant in a motor vehicle April 16 in Vassar. He is also charged with being a habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

A pre-trial hearing was ordered in the case and bond was continued at \$50,000.

•Lisa R. Sims, 35, Millington, stood mute to a charge of third degree child abuse between Feb. 26-March 5 in Arbela Township.

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

•David M. Muz, 60, Caro, was sentenced to 180 days in the county jail (90 days deferred), with work release and worksite privileges, for his plea

of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Jan. 5 in Caro/Almer Township.

He was also placed on 60 months probation and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$3,798.

•Christopher M. Holman, 34, Vassar, was sentenced to 18 months to 15 years in prison for his plea of guilty to uttering and publishing involving a \$315.09 check drawn on Chase Bank Oct. 1-2, 2009, in Millington Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to prison time, he was ordered to pay restitution of \$315.09.

•Gerald E. Witmer III, 40, Kingston, was sentenced to 365 days in jail (335 days deferred) and 12 months probation for his pleas of guilty to larceny in a building, retaining/stealing a financial transaction device without consent of the device

holder, and possession of a financial transaction device belonging to another person Dec. 15-16, 2008, in Watertown Township.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$634.

•Kenneth E. Wilmoth, 47, Caro, stood mute to charges of larceny from a motor vehicle, 4 counts of stealing/retaining a financial transaction device, and breaking and entering a vehicle with intent to steal property valued at \$200 to \$1,000 April 9 in Caro. He is also charged with being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled and bond was continued at \$7,000.

•Anthony J. Sinkel Jr., 30, Vassar, received a one-year delayed sentence for his pleas of no contest to carrying a weapon with unlawful intent, trespassing and reckless use of a weapon Jan. 2 in Vassar Township.

He was ordered to pay \$1,804.

O-G board divided over chief search

Continued from page one.

SNOW DAYS


a proposed state funding cut of \$470 per student next year.

"It (balancing the budget) is a monumental task. But we have a couple of things going for us; we have approximately half of that (amount) in fund balance — not that I would recommend that we use all of that," said Drury, who estimates the district will have \$70,000 in the bank even after erasing \$23,000 in red ink this year.

The second advantage, he continued, is that 3 veteran teachers are retiring this year, enabling school officials to hire first-year teachers at pay levels that will save the district about \$26,000 per instructor compared to tenured educators. In addition Drury noted, school officials are looking at hiring teachers who are qualified to teach more than one subject, which means one or more of those vacancies could be eliminated by combining teaching assignments

In other business last week, the board approved a motion to accept a revised school calendar that will add 2 additional half-days of school (June 13 and 14) to the school year. On the mornings of those days students will be taking exams, and the afternoons will be set aside for staff members to correct exams and conclude the school year, according to Drury.

He noted the revision is the result of the district having had 8 "snow days" in which school was canceled due to inclement weather. State allows a maximum of 6 cancellations. "If we do not meet this day requirement, our district will be penalized 1/180th of our state aid for each day we are short of the required number of days," he said, adding the amount of lost funding would be minimal, however, it's important to do everything possible to comply with state education regulations.



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Reporter's notebook

A celebrity reporter? I'll stay in Mayberry

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Kelli Ameling, who served as our summer news/editorial intern from CMU last year, always seemed to have stars in her eyes when it came to celebrity news. She even has her own blog.

She can have it. If I were a celebrity reporter, I'd have multiple concussions from banging my head against a wall. I mean, who are some of these people? Certainly they don't live in the same reality that you and I do. And, in many cases, they don't have to follow the same laws (even if they do, their penalties are reduced time after time after time...).

Here's just a sampling of the names that, if I never hear them again, it will be too soon:

*Lady Gaga. There really is no word to describe this person or her outrageous changes in appearance day to day. I don't get her music(?), but some folks evidently do. Either that, or her attraction is similar to when you were a kid and just couldn't resist walking into the "freaks of nature" trailer when the traveling carnival came to town.

*Charlie Sheen. You know, I really enjoyed him in the movie "The Rookie" with Clint Eastwood some years ago, but he's become so self-absorbed and bizarre in his behavior, it's like watching a train wreck. If you or I had pulled half the stunts he has, we'd be locked up for life.

*Justin Bieber. What? He got a haircut?! Stop the presses! Again, I don't see the talent.

*Tiger Woods. Enough said. On the other end of the spectrum are reporters, like me, who work and live in small communities. Sure, the news may not be as exciting, but it's certainly more human.

A reporter friend of mine from Illinois, who has since authored a

successful book and now works as a copy editor in Chicago, occasionally enjoys poking fun at me and the "exciting" stories I must be publishing out here in "Mayberry". "Hey," he'll say, "I hear soft-serve ice cream is coming to Cass City. Hope you're going to cover the grand opening."

His name is Colt Foutz. With a name like that, he's poking fun at me?

That's okay, I got the best laugh of all. After Colt published his book, which focused on the legacy of the man (Don Warren) who built the world champion Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps from scratch out of a handful of Boy Scouts wandering the mean streets of Chicago, I sent him a note regarding the quotes he had included in the book from me on my involvement in the corps as a member sponsor.

"Great book, Colt. Really," I said. "I just wish you had spelled my name right."

I could envision his jaw dropping and him running to his notes to double-check the spelling of my name. After checking to be certain that he had, indeed, spelled my name correctly, he responded to my note with a few choice words and a laugh, saying only another journalist could have sent him into a panic like that.

Not bad for a small town reporter, eh Colt?

Over the years I've considered (momentarily) taking on a reporting job in a city environment. Hey, couldn't be any worse than writing about Justin Bieber getting egged on stage in Australia, or actress Lindsay Lohan's latest travail — breaking the law, scolded by yet another judge and then set free anyway because she is, well, Lindsay Lohan.

Forget it. I'll stay here in Mayberry and report on the opening of the new soft-serve ice cream stand. At least that's real life as most of us know it.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO

Aces again! Cass City's Frank Kelly, 84 years old, recorded his second career hole-in-one Monday at Mulligan's Irish Links. Both aces came on the course's #1 hole, which measures 85 yards.

The Cass City lady thinclads turned in their best performances of the season last week, claiming victory in a triangular meet in the Recreational Park with Reese and Sandusky and a solid showing at the Akron-Fairgrove Invitational. Jennica Richards, who won both the 100 and 300-meter hurdles, paced Cass City in the triangular meet win while Ashley Weiss captured the 100-meter dash at the Akron-Fairgrove invite.

On the ball diamonds, Courtney Rabideau pitched the Hawks to a pair of victories over Marlette, combining for 13 strike outs. Jeff Stoutenburg anchored the Hawk defense catching 6 games on 3 days rest. Stoutenburg also led the Hawks' offensive with 3 hits in a doubleheader against state ranked Saginaw Nouvel.

Chad Daniels has reason to sound confident — over the past 10 years he has turned Cass City's forensics and debate programs into a powerhouse among Michigan schools. His students have won hundreds of individual and tournament trophies. Daniels' resume includes back-to-back Michigan Class C state championships in 2002-03 and 2003-04. Two of his students — Leslie Hacker and Courtney Rabideau — have also won individual state titles. His success hasn't gone unnoticed. The Michigan Speech Coaches, Inc. (MSCI) will honor Daniels this weekend by inducting him into the MSCI Hall of Fame during the organization's annual conference on Mackinac Island.

10 YEARS AGO

The 21st winners of the Gavel Club Golf Tournament were Jack Baker, Eric Wilmore, Bill Weibel and Elwyn Helwig. The 4-man team scrambled to an 18-hole score of 58 Saturday at Cass City's Rolling Hills Golf Course.

Double bearded bird, Kevin Phillips took his first turkey Wednesday morning hunting in Tuscola County. The 12-year-old Deford resident's turkey tipped the scales at 14 pounds.

It's official; Cass City's Craig Emmert signed a letter of intent Saturday night at Rolling Hills Golf Course to attend Milligan College. Witnessing the signing were Chuck Emmert, father, and coaches Jim Green, Cass City, Tony Wallingford, Milligan College, along with Cass City Athletic Director Jeff Hartel.

Owen-Gage student Josh Error recently placed third in French poetry at the 28th annual Foreign Language Day at Central Michigan University.

25 YEARS AGO

No one was better with story trivia than Mike Eliasohn, when he served at the Chronicle for seven years. He still is a demon with details. He writes: If anyone wonders when gas was less than \$1 a gallon in Cass City prior to this spring it was in approximately Oct., 1979. The price for regular was 99.9 cents and I figured gas would never be under \$1 again and I had my picture taken with a sign showing the price. Other hangovers from his Tuscola County days include service offers for his Ford to be used in Cass City and a call to serve on the Tuscola County circuit court in February. Mike lives in St. Joseph now, about 200 miles away. (From Rabbit Tracks)

Residents at Provincial House set loose 117 balloons as part of National Nursing Home Week. Provincial House, which is owned by Beverly Enterprises, released the balloons along with other Beverly Homes across the country. A total of 100,000 balloons were released Wednesday at 4 p.m.

The Croft-Clara Kings are opening the 1986 season in fine style as they are boasting a 7-1 record. Three non-league doubleheaders preceded the first league doubleheader Thursday night in Flint. LKF and Snitko, both of Flint, fell 5-0 and 3-1 respectively to give the Kings a 2-0 record in the league. Craig Helwig gave up one hit and struck out 10, on the way to the 5-0 shutout against LKF. Jeff Williamson had two doubles and Kenny Jackson had a double and a single to lead the way at the plate. Ken Martin downed Snitko 3-1, striking out 11 batters and giving up five hits. Kenny Jackson had three hits to again lead the way.

50 YEARS AGO

Cass City qualified seven thinclads for Saturday's state track meet at the regionals held at Cass City Recreational Park Saturday. Competing will be Dick Albee, Bob Wright, Roger Parker, Paul Holmberg, Tim Anthes, Roy Powell and Bob Harmon.

Cass City's Ed Freeman has long been known as a top-flight pole vaulter at Central Michigan University. But Freeman, a senior, is proving his versatility this year by filling in on the injury-riddled team in the javelin, discus and broad jump as scorer on Central's unbeaten team this year. In his specialty, the pole vault, his best vault this year — 13 feet, 6 inches — ranks him sixth

among the nation's NAIA colleges.

Area residents who were highly critical when the village abandoned a traditional free swimming period at the Cass City pool will applaud the 1961 schedule adopted Tuesday night at the regular meeting of the village council. It establishes one free day a week so that all area residents can use the pool. Other charges remain the same. Season passes are \$5.00. Other rates are 15 and 25 cents. The pool will open June 19 and again be under the direction of Dick Carroll.

Jim King reported to trustees that the Little League program is more popular than it has ever been...105 boys have reported for practice.

100 YEARS AGO

The new deer law lengthens the season from 20 days, as now, to 45 days — that is October 15 to December 1. The purpose of this is to determine whether a long open season will not reduce the number of hunters shot in the woods by mistake. In so short a season as 20 days, the woods are congested with hunters, each fearful he will not secure his legal quota of game. With a long season, in which, however, a hunter's license permits him to hunt 25 days, it is argued that there will not be the frantic rush, fewer hunters will be in the woods at the same time and the percentage of danger will thus be lessened. Whether it will work out in this way is problematical, but the idea will have a two years' trial of it.

The average monthly wages of farm hands, with board, on Michigan farms is \$25.36, an increase of 22 cents a month over last year, according to the monthly crop report prepared by the secretary of state. In the southern counties, it is \$25.76, in the central counties \$24.96 in the northern counties \$24.10 and in the Upper Peninsula \$28.27.

A hard fought game throughout was that played by the Marlette and Cass City high school teams Friday afternoon on the local diamond. Until the last man was up to bat in the ninth, the game was in Marlette's favor and the locals had small hopes of winning. With two out, Duncanson came to bat for Cass City and after two strikes had been called on him, he sent a hot grounder down the third baseline, cutting the sack in the middle and bringing in two scores. This made the local team one to the good and the game ended. Cass City had 11 and Marlette, 10.

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Ask your neighbor

Residents share their Memorial Day plans

Rose Hancock doesn't have any concrete plans for Memorial Day, on May 30. Hancock may decide to cuddle up with the 2 to 3 books she checks out weekly at Rawson Memorial District Library, 6495, Cass City. Or she may have a visit from her sons.

"If my sons come, that is fine, if they don't that is fine too," she said.

"I don't like to read the American mystery books because there is too much sex in it." Hancock likes author James Patterson because there is "usually no sex" in the books, she added. "On Memorial Day (I might) just stay at home. I might watch the parade," she said.



Meredith Kirn

Delta College fifth year student Meredith Kirn said it is not always easy to have a break from school so she doesn't have any set plans on Memorial Day.

"I don't really have a whole lot of plans," Kirn said. "I go to school so it is hard to get away and relax."

Kirn has lived here her whole life and she loves the small town atmosphere.

"My family has been from here since forever. (My) great-grandpa ministered at what used to be the Methodist Church," she said. On Memorial Day she does plan to stay at home and take the day from there.

Rawson Memorial District Librarian Jesika Ferris has possible Memorial Day plans for a barbecue, bonfire and small get-together at home. Because of her busy schedule, raising 2-year-old twins as a single mother, she said Memorial Day was the last thing on her mind. "I haven't even thought of (the day) yet honestly," she said. Ferris lives out in the country and she said that after the eating and gathering, her family and friends will probably hang out at home.



Rose Hancock



Jesika Ferris

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 Koeppgen 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.
Sunday Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
Pastoral Administrator:
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TNB chief attends summit at the capital

Jay C. Dubey, CEO of Thumb National Bank & Trust Co., Pigeon, participated in 2 days of congressional visits as part of the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) Washington Policy Summit held May 2-3 in the nation's capital.

During the summit, Dubey and other Michigan community bankers, advocated the needs of Main Street and pertinent community banking issues that help drive economic stability and prosperity within the Thumb and Bay City area.

"Bringing ICBA member community bankers to Washington to talk one-on-one with their representatives is key to ensuring the community bank perspective is heard loud and clear on top community bank issues such as the Tester/Corker Interchange bill, the harsh regulatory examination environment, suffocating regulatory burden and reforming the housing-finance GSEs," said Sal Marranca, ICBA chairman and president and CEO of Cattaraugus County Bank, Little Valley, N.Y., and a participant in the event.

"The community bankers who attended ICBA's Washington Policy Summit made a difference at this critical time for Main Street - prov-

ing once again that community banks truly are the financial foundation of our nation and the economic engines that drive prosperity and well-being on Main Street."

Each year, the ICBA Washington Policy Summit brings community bankers from across the country to Washington to meet with their members of Congress and federal regulators and discuss a wide range of issues that affect community banking. This year, the nearly 1,000 attendees heard from Sen. Mary L. Landrieu (D-La.), Reps. Spencer T. Bachus III (R-Ala.) and Blain Luetkemeyer (R-Mo.), Deputy Treasurer Secretary Neal S. Wolin and Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City President Thomas M. Hoenig.

"Personal contact with policymakers is the most effective way for Thumb National Bank to educate our representatives in Washington about the issues facing community banks, our customers and our local community, which we so proudly serve each and every day," said Dubey. "It's vital for the Thumb and Bay City area community to have our voice heard in Washington so we can let our members of Congress know what issues we need addressed back home to make our community an even better place to work and live."



PICTURED ABOVE ARE Bruce Cady, CEOP, Lapeer County Bank & Trust Co.; Judi Sullivan, president of the Community Bankers of Michigan; James MacPhee, CEO, Kalamazoo County State Bank and immediate past chairman of the Independent Community Bankers of America; Jay C. Dubey, CEO, Thumb National Bank & Trust Co. and current chairman of the Community Bankers of Michigan; Peter Kubacki, CEO of the Dart Bank in Mason; Douglas Ouellette, CEO, FirstBank, Mount Pleasant; Mark Kolanowski, CEO, Hastings City Bank; and Cortney Collison, CEO, Union Bank, Lake Odessa.

Swap meet, flea market set May 21

The Tuscola County 4-H Small Livestock Committee is sponsoring its second annual Swap Meet and Flea Market Saturday, May 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Tuscola County Fairgrounds in Caro.

While the primary focus is to encourage sales of small livestock related animals, feed and equipment, vendors are encouraged to sell other types of family-friendly items, including collectibles, crafts, household items, toys, garage sale items and more.

Food concessions will be available on site. The public is invited to attend. Admission is free. Vendor space is available for \$10 each (bring your own table). For more information, contact Jennifer Beardslee at (989) 717-1370.

A small livestock clinic for youth interested in goats, poultry, rabbits, cavies (guinea pigs) and dogs will be held in conjunction with the swap meet. This event is also free to all, and participants need not be 4-Hers to attend. Activities include: showmanship, judging, animal health and more.

The scheduled times are dogs from 9 to 10 a.m., poultry from 10 to 11 a.m., rabbits and cavies from 11 a.m. to noon, and goats from 1 to 2 p.m.

The Tuscola County 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Michigan State University Extension. For more information about the swap meet, clinic, or other local 4-H programs; contact Tuscola County MSU Extension at (989) 672-3870.

Registration is still open

Registration is still open for spring and summer classes at St. Clair County Community College.

The college is offering accelerated day, evening and online courses in accounting, astronomy, biology, business, computers, criminal justice, English, math, political science, speech and other subjects. Students can earn college credit or take courses for personal enrichment.

Registration is open online and on campus in Port Huron.

For more information, call (810) 989-5500.



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KRISTA COUNTS of Caro was the lucky winner of this Easter basket full of quality chocolates valued at well over \$60 dollars. The drawing was held at Laursen Veterinary Service, where **Dakotah Sherman** holds the winning ticket. **Donna Auten** and her daughter, **Samantha**, put together an Easter basket every year as a fundraiser for the **Cass River Pet FriendZ**. This year's basket raised a total of \$243 to assist the organization in their spaying and neutering efforts.

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Obituaries

Wendy Carr

Wendy Michelle Carr, 40, a 14-year resident of Lapeer, formerly of Cass City, passed away Saturday, May 7,

2011. She was born May 5, 1971 in Cass City, the daughter of Richard and Karen (Beck) Walker.

Township Cemetery, Cass City. Pallbearers for Tommy were Jason Mester, Steven Anderson, Bill Seltz, Jerry Michaels, Eric Chippi, Scott Mersman and Jack Edwards III. Memorials may be made to Family Discretionary Fund. Family and friends may share memories, prayers and stories with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com. Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

Mildred Parker

Mildred Irene Parker, 78, of Decker, died suddenly in her home Friday, May 13, 2011. She was born Sept. 23, 1932 in Cass



She married Brett Carr Nov. 8, 1996.

Wendy was a 1989 graduate of Cass City High School. She was an assisted living aide for Oak Hill Adult Foster Care in Attica.

Wendy is survived by her husband, Brett Carr; children: Jaron (Ashley) Walker of Lapeer, McKenna Carr of Lapeer, and McLyne Carr of Lapeer; a grandchild: Addison; father, Richard Walker of Cass City; a sister, Lori Walker of Cass City; a sister-in-law, Wendy (Rob) Robitaille of Northville; mother-in-law, Linda (Mike) Rogers of Lapeer; father-in-law, Jim (Sue) Carr of Fairview; nieces and nephews: Trevyn and Austin Conley, Karen and Savannah Muma, and Brianna Robitaille.

She was preceded in death by an infant son, Jacob Carr; mother, Karen Walker; Grandma and Grandpa Beck; Grandma and Grandpa Walker; and cousins, Marty and Jeff Robinson.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 11, at Muir Brothers Funeral Home, Lapeer, with pastor Todd Smith officiating.

Burial was in the Attica Township Cemetery, Attica.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family.

Arrangements were made by Muir Brothers Funeral Home, Lapeer.

Thomas "Tommy" Mester

Thomas "Tommy" Ray Mester, 24, of Cass City died unexpectedly Tuesday, May 10, 2011 near his mother's home.

He was born June 9, 1986 in Cass City, the son of George Ray Mester and Belinda Anderson.

Tom previously worked for a dairy farm. Although the work wasn't his favorite, he loved the cows. He currently helped his brother, Jason, with concrete projects. Tommy truly enjoyed cutting hair and was excellent at it. He enjoyed coon hunting with Jack, who he loved and considered his step dad, and loved the peacefulness of fishing. Tom had a spiritual and creative mind. He put this to use writing song lyrics and singing with friends.

Tom is survived by his mother, Belinda (Jack Edwards) Anderson of Cass City; father, George R. (Chrissy Hill) Mester of Deford; fiancé, Kerry Guinther of Cass City; a daughter, Jovi Lee Mester; a son, due in July; a brother, Jason (Amanda) Mester of Cass City; a sister, Jessica (Scott Mersman) Mester of Cass City; a step-brother, Jack Edwards III; a grandfather, Wayne "Peewee" Anderson of Cass City; an aunt, Jeanne (Pete) Murawski of New Haven; an uncle, Jim Anderson of Cass City; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandmothers: Betty Anderson and Doris Mester; uncles: Johnny Anderson and Bill Mester; and an aunt, Eileen Mester.

Funeral services were held Friday, May 13, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with Brad Speirs of Novesta Church of Christ officiating.

Interment was in the Elkland

City, the daughter of Jay C. and Mae Belle (Rondo) Hartley.

She married Earl Leroy Parker Dec. 5, 1953 at the Lamton parsonage in Decker. He died March 17, 1982.

Mildred attended country school as a young girl. She was a homemaker and an avid gardener. The fruits of Mildred's garden were a tremendous benefit to her family and preserved by her love and skill of canning. She also enjoyed cooking and working crossword puzzles. But above all else, Mildred found particular joy in her horses.

Mildred is survived by her children: Ellen Parker Home of Cass City, Randy Parker of Mayville, Andy Parker of Decker, and Karen (Thomas) Barr of Decker; grandchildren: Michele, Melissa (Rob), Candice, Lisa (George), Andrew II (Shannon), Jeremy, Sheila, Kayla, Tera (Kevin), Tommy (April), and Trisha (Joshua); great-grandchildren: Nicholas, Ariel, Darren, Wyatt, Charley, Alex, Ryan, Jackson, Trey, Joshua, Nolah, Glennah, Arianah, Thomas VI, Gloriana, David, and Logan; sisters: Alice Marie Cybulski and Louella Lyle; and a brother, Johnny Hartley.

She was preceded in death by her sons: Gary Lee and Lary Floyd Parker; a granddaughter, Kelda; a sister, Clara Cybulski; and a brother, Carl Hartley.

Funeral services were held Monday, May 16, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with the Rev. Chuck Carr, Cass City First Baptist Church, officiating.

Interment was in the Ellington Township Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Family Discretionary Fund.

Pallbearers for Mrs. Parker were Andy Parker, Randy Parker, Jeremy Parker, Andrew J. Parker II, Nicholas Horne and Rob Dickson.

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

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

William "Bill" Zemke


The Mayor of Deford, William H. (Bill) Zemke, prominent retired real estate agent of the Tuscola County area, and amazing man overall, will be laid to rest Friday, June 10, at Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Rd., Holly. We will be burying his ashes along with those of his wife, Joan M. Zemke.

The service will begin at 1 p.m. All friends and family are welcome to attend. There will not be a luncheon at this time. A celebration of his life will be held later this summer.

Call Chris Zemke with any questions at (989) 315-8266.

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would like to thank the following partners that provided for a tremendous "After Prom Party" for Cass City students. Please thank them for their generous donations and for keeping our kids safe.



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CASS CITY Little League presidents Dan Dickinson, left, and Matt Prieskorn, right, stand with Dan Curtis, vice president of Pat Curtis Chevrolet Cadillac.

Curtis Chevrolet steps up to plate for area youths

Pat Curtis Chevrolet Cadillac steps up to the plate for Cass City youngsters as part of the National Chevy Youth Baseball program.

The Thumb Chevrolet Cadillac dealership, located in Caro, is supporting the Cass City community through a partnership with the Cass City Baseball Federation. The dealership will provide baseball and softball equipment, instructional clinics, a monetary donation and an opportunity to raise an additional \$5,000 in funds through a Chevy vehicle giveaway-fundraiser. The effort by Pat Curtis Chevrolet Cadillac is part of the Chevy Youth Baseball initiative being rolled out across the nation from March through July 2011.

"Baseball is a great American pastime and Chevrolet is proud to have a longstanding history with this tradition on a national level. Pat Curtis Chevrolet Cadillac is proud to have an almost 15-year relationship with youth baseball in the Cass City community, where our customers and their families live," said Dan Curtis, Vice President for Pat Curtis Chevrolet Cadillac. "The Little League programs in Cass City is truly cherished and we are always happy and excited to support the kids in a significant way."

Pat Curtis Chevrolet Cadillac will present the Cass City Baseball Federation with equipment kits complete with equipment bags, baseball buckets, dugout managers and Chevy Youth Baseball t-shirts. The dealership sponsorship includes clinics with experienced instructors from former MLB/MiLB players and coaches or the Ripken Baseball professional staff.

In addition, a one-time monetary

donation check will be presented by Pat Curtis Chevrolet Cadillac to the Cass City Baseball Federation. The team also will have an opportunity to raise additional funds for their use as part of a Chevy Youth Baseball Fundraiser. Sponsored leagues across the country will each receive 1,000 fundraiser entry tickets to distribute for a suggested donation, and the league will keep 100 percent of proceeds raised. At the end of the fundraiser, there will be five winners of a Chevy Equinox or Chevy Cruze vehicle of choice (up to \$30,000 in value), and in each participating market there will be a secondary prize of a home entertainment center valued at \$1,000.

Chevrolet is recognized on the national level as the "Official Vehicle of Major League Baseball." "Chevrolet vehicles are made for families and we hope the kids or their parents will consider a Chevrolet as an official vehicle of their household," said Curtis.

Chevrolet has expanded its support of MLB to the youth baseball players in communities across the country through the Chevy Youth Baseball program. The Chevy Youth Baseball program began in Atlanta in 2006. In 2010, more than 980 Chevrolet dealers participated in Chevy Youth Baseball and helped raise more than \$3 million for youth baseball programs across the USA. Now going into its sixth year, more than \$10 million has been contributed to youth baseball in the communities where Chevrolet's customers live, work and play. Currently, 1,423 Chevrolet dealers are participating in this national program.

For more information about Chevy Youth Baseball, please visit www.youthsports wired.com.

New Recreation Passport a great state park bargain

Given the rainy, windy weather Michigan residents have endured this spring, summer can't come quickly enough. What better way to make the most of those summer days than to camp, fish, hike, bike or explore at any of Michigan's 98 scenic state parks?

With the new Recreation Passport, introduced by the Department of Natural Resources last October, Michigan residents can now spend just \$10 (or \$5 for motorcycles) and get a year's worth of relaxation-inducing access to all Michigan state parks, recreation areas and boat launches.

Regular visitors to Michigan's state parks will recall the old \$24 resident motor vehicle permit, or window sticker. The \$10 Recreation Passport has completely replaced the MVP and makes the buying process even easier, because it can be purchased at the same time drivers renew their annual motor vehicle license plate registrations.

"Thanks to great support from our partners at the Secretary of State, getting the Recreation Passport is a breeze," said DNR Parks and Recreation Division Chief Ron Olson. "When it's time for a driver to renew his or her car or motorcycle registration, there is an option to check 'YES' for the Passport right there during registration for a year's worth of access to our beautiful parks."

Olson explained that, instead of the window stickers, residents will instead have the letter "P" (for Passport) designated on their license plate tabs. Additionally, the words Recreation Passport will be printed right on their registrations.

People who have purchased the Recreation Passport may drive right through the state park entrance rather than stop at a contact station, Olson said. Park rangers will perform spot checks on vehicles in the parking lots and campgrounds to see whether the owner has yet (depending on their renewal date) had the opportunity to renew his or her license. If the renewal date has passed and there is no telltale "P" on the license tab, a reminder will be given and then the

driver is welcome to purchase the Recreation Passport from park staff.

Using the Recreation Passport is something of an honor system, but given the very reasonable (and reduced) \$10 cost, the DNR believes the Recreation Passport will be embraced by regular park users, appeal to new users, and pique the interest of those who simply like the idea of protecting Michigan's natural resources and supporting a positive and long-lasting program in Michigan.

"For just \$10, you essentially get an all-access pass to enjoy Michigan's network of parks, campgrounds, trails and historic sites," said DNR Director Rodney Stokes. "At a time when many states are closing or significantly reducing their park system offerings, Michigan continues to buck that trend and look for new ways to sustain itself for the long term."

Stokes explained that a portion of Recreation Passport proceeds will be used to help preserve and protect state forest campgrounds and trails, historic and cultural sites within state parks, and local parks through a competitive grant process.

"The Recreation Passport is a win for everyone involved," said Stokes. "It creates a sustainable funding source that our state parks, forests and local recreation resources have long needed, and also makes it easier and more affordable for Michigan residents to get outdoors and enjoy our plentiful recreational opportunities."

The money will also be used to address roughly \$340 million in infrastructure needs and repairs in state parks. Since state parks receive no General Fund tax dollars, the funds generated by the Recreation Passport will prevent drastic cuts to park programs and allow necessary repairs. A percentage of the money will also allow for maintenance and improvements at state forest campgrounds and non-motorized trails.

"If 50 percent of vehicle owners purchase a Recreation Passport each year, we will have enough to adequately fund park operations and start making some of the necessary repairs," said Olson. "We'd also put

\$2.3 million into the local park grant program and provide more than \$600,000 to historic and cultural sites inside state parks."

As the DNR approaches its first summer season since the Recreation Passport became available, it expects there will be some confusion and questions from customers. DNR employees are working hard to build awareness about the Recreation Passport at Secretary of State offices and state parks.

According to Maia Stephens, recreation programmer with the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division, when most people hear about the benefits of the Recreation Passport - not to mention the significant cost savings over the former motor vehicle permit - they are immediately sold.

"Gorgeous parks, endless trails, clean beaches and great family activities, smack in the middle of Michigan's lush outdoors, and you can visit as many parks as you want for just \$10? Most people say, 'Sign me up!'" Stephens said.

All in all, that little \$10 Recreation Passport can have far-reaching effects locally and statewide.

Stokes says the Recreation Passport is exactly that - a passport, a ticket in, an invitation for residents to come in to explore and enjoy everything that Michigan's unique state outdoor recreation places have to offer.

"I have traveled to and lived in other states and I know many people who have done the same and then returned home to Michigan," he said.

"Everyone tells me the same thing - in Michigan, we are so fortunate because we have some of the most beautiful natural resources to be found anywhere.

"The Recreation Passport makes it possible for residents to not only get outside and enjoy nature, but to protect it for future generations, too. If you ask me, that's a pretty good deal, no matter how you look at it."

For more information about planning a trip to Michigan state parks, visit www.michigan.gov/stateparks. To learn more about the Recreation Passport, visit www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport or call 517-241-PARK (7275).



FRESHMAN ELISABETH Milligan also participated in "tractor day" at Cass City High School Friday, thanks to her father, area farmer Dave Milligan, who transported a 1940 McCormick-Deering Farmall tractor to the school parking lot for his daughter.

Business plan seminar on tap

The Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center Great Lakes Bay will offer a free Writing a Business Plan seminar at the Huron Area Technical Center, 1160 S. Van Dyke in Bad Axe from 6 to 8:30 p.m. June 7.

Developing a business plan is your roadmap to successful business ownership. A business plan allows you to test the feasibility of your product or service, target audience, understand your competition and customers, plots your course of action to get from concept to reality, establishes a marketing plan and determines your financial outlook and needs. Plus, it allows investors or bankers to see how they will get repaid for their investment. This seminar is a must for any entrepreneur or small business owner just getting started.

For more information about MISBTDC, resources, other seminars, or to register for this free seminar online, go to www.misbt dc.org/training or call (989) 686-9597. Pre-registration is required. Find us on

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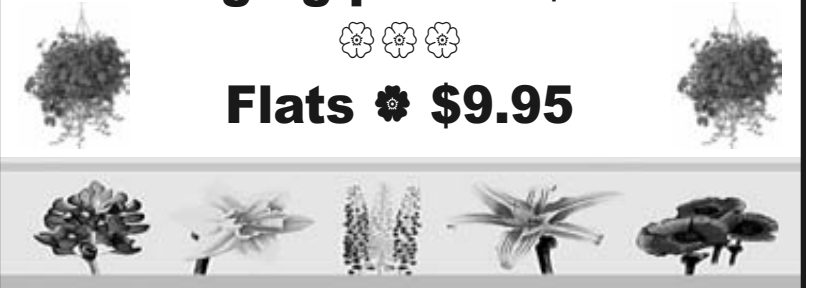
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RED HAWK McKensie Parrish is called out attempting to steal second base in the opener against visiting USA.

USA secures softball crown

With an opportunity to snag a share of the Greater Thumb West softball title Monday, hosts Cass City came up just shy to defending champs USA.

The Patriots remained undefeated in GTW play with victories of 4-3 and 5-2, while the Red Hawks will enter a league mark of 8-4 into the record book under first year coach John Hacker.

"Hitters. They are just better hitters than we are," lamented Hacker after watching his squad struggle in the batter's box.

Still, it was a pair of unearned runs in the first inning that doomed the Red Hawks in the opener. After retiring the first 2 batters on infield pop-ups, the Patriots loaded the bases on 4 straight walks and then cashed in on an uncharacteristic error by all-conference short-stop McKensie Parrish for a quick 2-0 edge.

The Patriots added 2 more tallies in the 4th to double their margin and appeared to be headed to a relative easy decision as the hosts were limited

to a Logan Rowell single entering the final frame.

That changed when Cass City pushed 3 runs across the plate on a Rowell double, an infield grounder by Rebecca Hacker, and a single off the bat of Carley Hendrick to close to within 4-3.

However, with Hendrick representing the tying run on first base and with just one out, hurler Kelsey Schaus kept the Patriots' mark unblemished as she recorded the final 2 outs on a grounder to the pitching mound and a routine fly ball to left field.

In the nightcap, the visitors grabbed a 3-2 edge after 3 and added solo insurance runs in both the 4th and 5th innings to complete the sweep.

The hosts jumped in front 1-0 when Megan Parrish rode home on a 2-out RBI single from Ali Smith, only to see USA answer with 3 run in their half of the second stanza.

Cass City got one of those markers back in their next at bats when Dana Woodward scored on Morgan Potter's grounder to second base, but would be limited to a McKensie Parrish single for the remainder of the game.

Shannon Stec handled the pitching chores for Cass City on the night and

was saddled with both defeats.

O-G trade twin bill sweeps

The Owen-Gage softball team's bid for a fourth consecutive North Central Thumb League title suffered a huge setback Thursday as Memphis posted doubleheader victories of 12-1 and 22-3.

In game one, the Yellowjackets scored 3 runs in the first and 7 runs in the 5th to post the mercy rule decision. In game 2, the Yellowjackets tallied 15 runs in their final 2 at bats to collect the lopsided decision.

Lauren Mandich was on the mound for the Bulldogs and was tagged with the defeats. She struck out 7 in the opener and whiffed 4 in the nightcap.

Earlier in the week, on Monday, Owen-Gage defeated Carsonville-Port Sanilac by the scores of 10-5 and 24-8.

Once again Mandich went the distance on the hill for the Bulldogs and earned both victories. She struck out a total of 9 batters on the night.

At the plate, Amanda Muntz clubbed a pair of doubles to lead the winners.

Red Hawk golfers peaking as district play approaches

With just one Greater Thumb West golf jamboree remaining, this Thursday at Scenic Golf and Country Club, 3-time defending champion Cass City sits in third place in the conference standings.

And although the Red Hawks won't be able to catch GTW front runner Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port for league honors in 2011, Coach Jon Zdrojewski likes what he has been seeing of late from his young Red Hawk squad.

"We got off to a slow start this spring, the weather was horrible and many matches were rescheduled," Zdrojewski said. "But we are now coming into our groove and the timing couldn't be better as districts are slated for June 3 at Verona Hills."

In the team's latest outing, Thursday at Rolling Hills Golf Course, the hosts continued to show improvement. Leading the way was senior Alex Varney who finished as the runner-up in the GTW jamboree with a score of 40, one shot behind medalist Cam Stuessnig, of Bad Axe.

Cass City also received scores of 43 from both Brandon Green and Tyler Sammons on their home course, resulting in a tie for 7th place individual honors in the GTW's fifth jamboree of the season.

Jeff Bliss added a score of 47 and Michael Mulligan posted a score of 48, while Kyle Middaugh shot 55 to complete the top scoring for Cass City on the day.

"We have finished second in the last 2 jamborees," said Zdrojewski. "I am looking forward to districts as we are playing our best golf and our district overall is not as strong as it has been in the past several years."

"I am hopeful that we can finish in the top 3 teams at districts, but if not I believe that at least one of my golfers should advance."

The top 3 teams from districts plus the top 3 individuals not on one of the top 3 teams advances into regional play.

"This has been a rebuilding year with only one returning golfer, Alex Varney, but I have been pleasantly surprised at the improvements being made by many other of my varsity golfers this year."

"Freshman Michael Mulligan has been a very strong asset as we near the end of the season, sophomore Brandon Green has been a very

strong performer this year as well and I have several juniors that I will be expecting great things from next year including Drew King, Tyler Samons, Trenton Loomis and Kyle Middaugh," Zdrojewski said.

Team standings in the GTW entering the final jamboree are topped by EPBP with 30 points. Following the Lakers are Bad Axe with 23 points; Cass City, 18; Vassar, 16; USA, 9; and Bay City All Saints, 7.

Lady Red Hawks bow twice, 3-1

The Cass City Lady Red Hawk soccer team dropped a pair of home outings last week, bowing to Memphis and Harbor Beach by identical scores of 3-1.

On Monday, against Memphis, Cass City started its attack quickly with Amanda Clifton scoring on a breakaway early in the contest, while Caitlin Reed and Nicole Kelley had 3 nice runs later in the opening half, but failed to find the net.

Memphis scored late after a mid-field error by the hosts turned the ball over and the game was 1-1 at the intermission, despite the Red Hawks controlling the ball most of the time.

The final half saw Memphis pick up the intensity, scoring 2 goals, one on a screen that keeper Becca Leslie never saw, to put the game away. Leslie ended the game with 18 saves, while Tessa Kus and Kristen Kawecky both had stops on the goal line to keep things close.

"Overall the Hawks played a Please turn to page 10.



CASS CITY'S Alex Zaleski uses a head-first slide after belting a triple against Deckerville in non-conference action at the Dow Diamond in Midland.

Orban comes up large for CC at Dow Diamond

It's not uncommon for a pair of flame throwers to square off at the Dow Diamond in Midland. And that's what spectators were treated to Friday when Cody Orban and Nick Taylor took to the mound in the nightcap of a non-conference doubleheader.

And if not for the uniforms, those fans in attendance may have thought they were watching players from the Great Lakes Loons perform, instead of a high school match-up between Greater Thumb Conference foes

Cass City and Deckerville.

Both hurlers topped 80 mph according to the radar gun at the professional complex, before the Red Hawks squeaked out a thrilling 5-4 decision.

"We knew it was going to be a hard fought game because each team had hard throwers on the ant hill," said Cass City Coach Nathan Haag.

Orban had his usual good stuff on the mound, but in a twist, it was his bat that lifted the Red Hawks to the Please turn to page 10.



SENIOR Jeff Bliss eyes a shot from behind the green on the opening hole at Rolling Hills Golf Course in Cass City.

Varney, Parrish named outstanding athletes

Alex Varney has collected 15 letters during his career as a varsity athlete at Cass City High School over the past 4 years, but the activities he's devoted his time to off the gridiron, basketball court and track are equally impressive.

The senior was recognized with the school's highest athletic honor — the Paul Smarks Award — during the annual Cass City High School Senior Honors Night last

week. Not to be outdone, the Lady Red Hawks were also well represented, with senior McKensie Parrish taking home this year's Outstanding Female Athlete Award.

ALEX VARNEY

Varney, who will graduate later this month with a cumulative grade point average of 3.902, has excelled in a

number of sports. His top honors include being named a Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Scholar-Athlete finalist in Class C — one of 12 Class C boys finalists and one of 120 Michigan athletes nominated out of 1,901 athletes in classes A, B, C and D.

In football, Varney was co-captain in his junior and senior years, named an all-conference first team defensive back in 2009, a Tuscola County Dream Team Second Team defensive back nominee, also in 2009, and a Greater Thumb West (GTW) Scholar-Athlete in 2008 and 2009.

In track, Varney was a member of Cass City's GTW champion team in 2009, the Division 3 regional championship teams in 2008 and 2009, earned all-conference honorable mention in the 300 M hurdles in 2008, all-conference first team honors in the 3,200 M relay and the 1,600 M relay in 2009, and all-conference second team honors in the 300 M hurdles in 2009. He was an all-conference scholar-athlete in 2008, 2009 and 2010, a Division 3 state qualifier in the 3,200 M relay in 2009, and a member of the school-record 3,200 M relay team in 2009.

Varney also proved talented in cross country as a member of the GTW championship team in 2008, the GTW regional championship teams in 2007 and 2008, and the all-conference second team in 2008 and first team in 2009. He was named an all-

conference scholar-athlete in 2007, 2008 and 2009, and was a Division 3 state qualifier in 2007 and 2008.

In basketball, Varney was an all-conference scholar athlete in 2009 and 2010, a team co-captain in 2010 and 2011, and a member of the GTW all-conference second team in 2010.

He was also a member of the GTW league champion golf team last year,

as well as a member of the all-conference second team and was honored as an all-conference scholar-athlete.

Outside of athletics, Varney, a past Red Hawk Award of Excellence Award winner, is a member of the National Honor Society, student council (vice president this year),

Please turn to page 10.



N A M E D THE recipient of this year's Outstanding Female Athlete Award was McKensie Parrish. The honor was presented by Cass City Public Schools Supt. Jeff Hartel.

CASS CITY Public Schools Supt. Jeff Hartel presented the 2011 Paul Smarks Award to the district's most outstanding male athlete, Alex Varney, during last week's annual Cass City High School Senior Honors Night.





FIRST BIRD. Adam Michalski, 12, bagged this tom in 2011 while hunting south of Deford. His trophy weighed 21 pounds and had a 9 1/2" beard.

Hawks win at Dow Diamond

Continued from page 9.

non-conference win. Orban had a no-hitter after 5 innings, helping Cass City build a 3-1 advantage. He fanned 14, including 9 straight, but with a high pitch count and USA coming up on Monday, Haag decided it wasn't worth it to leave him in the game.

"Honestly, in the heat of the moment, I didn't even realize he had a no-hitter when he came off the mound. All that mattered was his pitch count."

It didn't take long for the Eagles to capitalize on Orban's absence on the hill, as the Eagles tallied 3 unearned runs off reliever Ethan Nicol in the sixth inning.

"Going into the bottom of the seventh inning it looked as though we were going to lose to a team that we struck out 19 times and only had 3 hits," said Haag. But, much to their credit, Cass City answered with 2 runs in their last at-bats in a wild finish.

Freshman Jake Hacker led off the last frame with a walk and Rob Van Auken executed a perfect bunt to move Hacker to second base. Van Auken was thrown out, but with no one covering third base, Hacker took

off towards third. "It was a heads up play, but the Deckerville catcher busted down the third baseline and got to the bag as the first baseman made a perfect throw to the catcher covering third for the out. So, now we have no one on base and two outs," explained Haag.

But seniors Alex Varney worked a walk and Jeff Leslie battled through a 1-2 count to draw another walk, allowing Varney to steal second and third base during the at-bat. With runners at first and third, that set the stage for Orban, who sent a 78 mph fastball up the middle for the walk-off, 2-RBI hit.

GAME ONE

In game one, Cass City took a 7-run margin into the 6th inning against Ubyly and held on for a 9-5 win.

Nick Kappen collected the win on the mound, whiffing 4 and yielding a solo hit in 4 innings of work.

At the plate, Morgan Erla was perfect in 4 trips, knocking in 3 runs and scoring twice. Cass City also had Watson Moore with a 2-for-3 effort, while Varney, Leslie, Kyle Hanby and Nicol each added knocks. Cass City is 16-10 overall.

Soccer team drops pair

Continued from page 9.

strong, consistent game against a very strong team and had their best performance of the season," said Coach Chuck Reed.

Against Harbor Beach, on Wednesday, the Red Hawks started slow, giving up 3 goals in the initial half, before getting back into the contest with an unassisted goal from Kaitlyn Messing after the break.

Krista Roggenbuck scored twice and Lisa Volmering, once, for the winners.

Cass City generated 10 shots for the game, while Leslie had 38 saves as the Pirates shot early and often

against a Red Hawk defense that never quite got things together, according to Reed.

Reed and Kelley again had chances to score, but the Red Hawks could not consistently control the ball to disrupt the Pirate attack and establish their own rhythm and control.

"This past week represented the best and the worst that the Hawks can play. Consistency is still lacking as the season starts to wind up, but the Hawks still have a chance to influence the final league standings if they play more like they did against Memphis and less like Harbor Beach," said Reed.

Varney, Parrish receive athletic awards

Continued from page 9.

and Tuscola County Community Foundation Future Youth Involvement.

His community service resume is extensive and includes participation in the Rotary International "End Polio Now, Purple Pinkie Project", writing a grant for the high school agriscience program's building fund project, and participating in Adopt-A-Highway clean-ups, Thumb Octagon Barn celebrations, Cass City Youth Sports Program, Cass City Rotary Christmas for Kids campaigns, Red Cross blood drives, Kally Maharg Golf Tournament, and Hills and Dales annual 5K Run.

MCKENSIE PARRISH

Parrish's resume is also impressive, having earned a 3.84 grade point average while earning 4 varsity athletic letters in basketball, softball,

track and volleyball.

As a freshman, she participated in volleyball, basketball and softball, earning second team all-conference honors as an infielder. She was also an all-conference scholar-athlete and a member of the dance team in grades 9 and 10.

She was an honorable mention all-conference pick and an all-conference scholar athlete in volleyball as a sophomore, as well as a second team all-conference and all-conference scholar-athlete selection in basketball, and a second team all-conference infielder, Division 3 all-district team member and an all-conference scholar-athlete in softball.

As a junior, Parrish earned first team all conference honors in volleyball along with being named an all-conference scholar-athlete. Named a first team all-conference pick in basketball and, again, as an all-conference scholar athlete in basketball, she earned honorable mention all-

conference accolades as an infielder in softball and was a member of the District 3 all-district team. She remained a regular on the list of scholar-athletes in softball as well as in track, where she received all-conference honorable mention in the 100 M low hurdles.

During her senior year, Parrish was named to the all-conference first team and all-region first team in volleyball. Her other honors include selection as a member of the third team Class C all-state volleyball team and as an all-state academic pick. She was also repeated as an all-conference scholar-athlete.

Chip Shots on page 14

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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 Ethan Nicol. Nicol has helped the Cass City Red Hawk baseball team to a 16-10 overall record with a solid bat and strong arm. On Friday, at the Dow Diamond in Midland, Nicol recorded a double in a game one victory over Ubyly and then punched a single in the nightcap win against Deckerville.

Earlier in the week, Nicol picked up an extra base hit against visiting Frankenmuth on Tuesday, which followed a 3-hit showing against Bad Axe on Monday during the course of a Greater Thumb West twin bill.

Ethan Nicol

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MILLENNIUM STEERING is currently accepting applications for full-time production operators for first & second shifts. Manufacturing experience is a plus, but not required. Full benefits offered after 90 days. Must be 18 years of age or older. Please apply in person at Millennium Steering, 6285 Garfield Ave., Cass City, MI 48726. 11-5-11-2


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 Signature Bank is accepting applications for a full-time IT Support Technician in Cass City area. This position assists staff with technical support of desktop computers, applications, and related technology. An associate degree or equivalent of experience preferred with technical courses completed in accounting and computer skills.
Applications may be obtained at any office of Signature Bank or at www.signaturebankmi.com. Send complete application and resume to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 9, Cass City, MI 48726-0009. EOE M/F/V/D
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 11-5-18-1

Card of Thanks

WE WISH TO THANK all our friends and relatives for the cards, flowers, food, prayers and expressions of sympathy in the passing of our mom, grandma, great-grandma, and great great-grandma. A special thank you to Rev. Bill Wright for his comforting words at her service, Dwight at Thabet's Funeral Home for all his help and kind words, to the Knights of Columbus for the use of the hall and the ladies of St. Pancratius for the delicious meal. May God bless you all. The family of Lola Nicholas.
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| <p>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</p> | <p>NEW!!  Country living and affordable. Kitchen has appliances included. Exterior is updated. This is a Fannie Mae HomePath property. Purchase this property for as little as 3% down. This property is approved for Home-Path Mortgage financing and Home-Path Renovation Mortgage financing. PH-106</p> | <p>REDUCED!!  Grand home with 1,909 sq. ft. The home has been updated through the years and is mainly completed with a few exceptions. Nothing that would delay you from moving right in. Partially finished basement, extra deep garage, hot tub in master bedroom, nice kitchen cabinets and plenty of them, deck off kitchen/dining area, plus much more. USA schools. Keys at closing. USA-194</p> |

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JONELLE LULL, director of bands for the Cass City Public Schools, presents senior Zachary Deering with the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award during the annual Senior Awards Night.



LULL ALSO presented this year's John Phillip Sousa Award. This year's recipient was Mariah Tabar. In addition, the Harold Ferguson Award, presented since the late 1930s in the Cass City Public Schools to an outstanding band member, went to senior Katie Nizzola. Nizzola was unable to attend the honors night gathering.



NANCY FOLK (second from right) and Danielle Laming present members of the Cass City High School chapter of the National Honor Society with their membership sashes for graduation during the high school's annual Senior Honors Night last week.

Senior Honors Night

Cass City grads collect honors, thousands in scholarship awards

Cass City High School seniors took home thousands of dollars in scholarships following the annual Senior Honors Night, held last Wednesday in the high school gym.

The 90-minute ceremony included presentation of a host of awards, including band honors, class certificates, honor cords for graduation, and individual college scholarships.

A highlight of the evening was presentation of various scholarships offered by area families, service clubs and other organizations.

Among the awards and recipients announced were:

• **Leone Lee Shaw Memorial Scholarship** — Alex Varney (\$500).

• **Ben Hobart Memorial Scholarship** — Rebecca Leslie (\$500).

• **Wallace and Helen Zinnecker Memorial Scholarship** — Angela Janssen.

• **Cass City Rotary Club Scholarship** — Alex Varney and Michael Milligan (\$500 each).

• **Rawson Foundation Scholarship** — Amanda Clifton (\$7,000).

• **Olaf Goodell Scholarship** — Amanda Clifton.

• **Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival Scholarship** — Alex Varney (\$500).

• **Judy Ann Weippert-Churchill Scholarship** — Lauren Zdrojewski.

• **Cass City Gavel Club Scholarship** — Thomas LeValley, Krista Guinther and Hayley Peters (\$500 each).

• **Anna Marjorie MacRae Scholarship** — McKensie Parrish (\$2,000) and Krista Guinther (\$1,500).

• **Cass City Athletic Booster Club Scholarship** — Alex Varney, Krista Guinther (\$500 each).

• **Caro Kiwanis Scholarship** —

Rebecca Leslie (\$300).

• **Cass City PTO Scholarship** — Victoria Spencer, Mitchell O'Dell, Brooke Hartwick and Chelsea Green (\$500 each).

• **Cass City Lions Club Scholarship** — Colin Mason, Michael Lange, Elizabeth Lintner and Hayley Peters (\$500 each).

• **Cass City Fire Fighters Scholarship (first year)** — Charles Kester (\$500).

• **Cass City Thumb National Bank scholarships** — agricultural scholarship, Michael Milligan (\$500) and business scholarship, Mandi Bartnik (\$500).

• **Alison Emmert Memorial Scholarship** — Brooke Hartwick and Amber Warju.

• **Cory Merz Endowment Fund Scholarship** — Lauren Zdrojewski (\$1,000).

• **Phyllis Brinkman Memorial Scholarship** — Tommy Brinkman.

• **Kally Maharg Leadership Scholarship** — Amanda Clifton, Brooke Hartwick, Krista Guinther and Alex Varney (\$1,000 each).

• **Dr. Bruce Dunn Memorial Scholarship** — Mandy Bartnik (\$500).

Green votes to eliminate business tax

State Sen. Mike Green recently voted to eliminate the Michigan Business Tax and replace it with a flat, corporate income tax. The legislation included major changes to the original proposal to apply the income tax to pensions.

Green issued the following statement after the vote:

"Our number one job is jobs. We need to bring good-paying jobs back to Michigan for our kids and our grandkids.

"The business tax reforms passed today are needed to turn this state around and get it headed in the right direction. The legislation will bring much-needed relief to job providers throughout the state.

"While I supported an amendment to remove the pension tax changes from the legislation, the final plan did include major changes to the governor's proposal. Seniors who live on Social Security, our military retirees and a large majority of senior citizens, including those with modest pensions, will see no change under the bill.

"The legislation passed by the Senate today will help bring jobs back to the state and will protect the modest incomes of our senior citizens."

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