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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 105, NUMBER 39 CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011 FIFTY CENTS ~ 16 PAGES, 1 SUPPLEMENT



IT'S BEGINNING TO look a lot like....Christmas! Residents throughout Cass City have decked the halls with bright lights. This photo was taken in front of Cass City Village President Carl Palmateer's home at 6292 Main St.

Water rate hike draws criticism from residents

by Clarke Haire
Publisher

For the third straight year, Cass City village residents can expect to see an increase in their water bills starting next month.

A 3 percent price hike for water and sewer rate services was deemed necessary Monday during the regular meeting of the village council, where officials approved the 2012 operating budget with expenditures totaling \$3.6 million.

Although the 2012 spending plan anticipates revenue levels to

decrease 5 percent during the upcoming year, the call for increased water rates drew criticism from a handful of residents during a public hearing held prior to passing the new financial measures.

First to the podium was Robert Piaskowski. The Third Street resident told council members he didn't think village residents should have to absorb the cost of higher water rates, which Village Manager Peter Cristiano has said is required partly due to the number of vacant houses in the community.

Please turn to page 6.

Deputy sentenced Monday to serve one year jail term

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Former longtime Tuscola County Sheriff's Deputy Dale Tompkins will spend some time behind bars.

Tompkins was sentenced Monday in Tuscola County Circuit Court by Judge Patrick R. Joslyn, who ordered Tompkins to serve one year in jail — 185 days of actual jail time and 180 days on an electronic tether.

In addition, he was placed on 3 years of probation and ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$3,466.

The 13-year veteran police officer was scheduled to go to trial last month after being accused of having sexual relations with a jail inmate, then granting her freedom while transporting her to the Tuscola County Jail in Caro. However, Tompkins, 41, avoided that trial in October by entering pleas to a pair of 15-year felonies: one count of escape - officer voluntarily allowing, and one count of bribery - public officer for non-performance of duty.

Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark E. Reese initially authorized several charges against Tompkins, including 3 counts of second degree criminal sexual conduct, a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison; 4 counts of possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony, punishable by a 2-year mandatory prison term; one count of escape - permit by delaying arrest (one-year maximum penalty); and one count of public officer - willful neglect of duty (one-year maximum penalty).

Tompkins was arrested following a lengthy investigation into the allegations.

"The conduct at issue occurred between July 5 and 6, 2010, in Indianfields Township, Millington Township and the city of Caro," Reese said, noting Detective Sgt. Brian Ferguson of the Michigan State Police served as lead investigator in the case.

"Mr. Tompkins was a deputy with the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department at the time of the charged offenses, with approximately 13 years experience," Reese said. "The charged offenses occurred after the former deputy took a female prisoner into custody for transport to the Tuscola County Jail on July 5, 2010. He resigned his employment in August 2010."



Dale Tompkins

Authorities apprehend fugitive after receiving tips from Fox 66 viewer

Thumb authorities apprehended a wanted fugitive Friday after a viewer of Fox 66 News Fugitive Files contacted them with a tip.

"We were able to confirm and

locate the whereabouts of a 38-year-old male, who was wanted for absconding from his parole with the Michigan Department of Corrections. It appears he has a

prison record that dates back to 1994," said Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson.

"Our deputies began to monitor a residence at 3539 N. Van Dyke Road in Filion," Hanson added, noting a short time later, officers decided to attempt to apprehend the suspect. "Sgt. Todd Schember, assisted by Deputy Brad Stozeski, Trooper Dan Thompson and Trooper Jason Berg, pulled into the residence only to find that the wanted individual had supposedly fled on foot."

A deputy and tracking dog from the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department responded and assisted, according to Hanson, who said the suspect, Virgil Edward-Carl Staudacher, was apprehended at the residence and transported to the Huron County Jail.

"As it turns out, Staudacher was also wanted in Tuscola County on a probation violation," Hanson said. "He was turned over to Michigan State troopers...to be transferred to another location. Our office will be seeking possible charges against another occupant of that residence for harboring a fugitive."

Tuscola, Sanilac and St. Clair counties

Investigation results in execution of five separate search warrants

Last week, members of the Denmark Township Police Office, Flint Area Narcotics Group, Michigan State Police, Thumb Narcotics Unit and the Tuscola County Sheriff's Office executed 5 separate search warrants at locations in Denmark Township in Tuscola County, Worth Township in Sanilac County and Kimball Township in St. Clair County, that have been involved in the illegal trafficking of marijuana in purported medical marijuana facilities.

The execution of the search warrants was part of a year-long and continuing investigation into multiple and repeated violations of Michigan's Controlled Substances Act. Investigators have received significant assistance from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Property seized includes, but is not limited to, controlled substances, records and U.S. currency.

At issue are the unlawful sales of controlled substances in a variety of forms and the illicit proceeds derived from such transactions.

Due to the ongoing nature and scope of the investigation, no additional details are available for release at this time.



HEIDI AND RANDY Smith are pictured above with their daughter, Lexi, 6, a first grader at Campbell Elementary School in Cass City. Lexi was recently diagnosed with an inoperable brain stem tumor. Local residents are planning to organize a fundraiser for the family in January. Details will be released as soon as they are available.

Nightmare

Smiths facing inoperable brain stem tumor with their daughter

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

She may be only 6 years old, but Lexi Smith personifies compassion for others.

"She's kind of the worrywart of the family. She's always, always concerned about other people," commented Lexi's mom, Heidi (Hartwick) Smith, Cass City. "She loves to play softball, and art, and she's in the Girl Scouts and loves to write."

Lexi is full of life, but Smith and her husband, Randy, are facing a parent's worst nightmare: Lexi has an inoperable brain tumor that doctors say will take her life.

The story unfolded quickly, within about 2 weeks, turning the family's life upside down.

"She was diagnosed with — it's called a Pontine Glioma brain stem tumor," Smith explained. "It started a couple weeks ago. She started with weakness, like she couldn't put 3 fingers up."

Smith took her daughter to a medical clinic and then an emergency

room. "I knew something (was wrong). I took her to Saginaw and saw a neurologist (at Covenant Hospital)," she said, adding Lexi's condition continued to worsen. "Her weakness on her left side had gotten worse. She couldn't hold a cup or her arm up, and she's got a limp."

Doctors in Saginaw ordered an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging exam, which allows physicians to look at the soft tissues of the body). The test revealed a mass in Lexi's brain.

"It's inoperable. To do surgery, it would kill her," Smith said. The doctors in Saginaw suggested radiation as a temporary treatment, and the family was referred to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, where they are spending their weeks these days, with Lexi undergoing treatments 5 days a week for 6 weeks.

Smith said her daughter's prognosis is not good.

"Our 2 options were to just let her come home and let it (tumor) just

Please turn to page 8.



THE LOCAL KNIGHTS of Columbus recently donated \$510 to the Cass City Rotary Club's Christmas for Kids campaign. Pictured above with the check are Treasurer David Barrios and Grand Knight Chris Pawloski.

Engaged



Jessica Nicol and Lane Hurd

Jessica Lynn Nicol of Almont, formerly of Cass City, and Lane David Hurd of Armada would like to announce their engagement.

Jessica is the daughter of John and Gayle Nicol of Cass City. She is the granddaughter of Stuart and Vera Nicol of Cass City, and Lois Sebald of Hale. Jessica is a graduate of Grand Valley State University with a bachelor's of science degree. She is employed by GreenStone Farm Credit Services in Lapeer.

Lane is the son of David and Jeanne Hurd of Armada. He is a graduate of Grand Valley State University with a bachelor's of science degree, and Mary Grove College with a master's of education degree. He is employed by Clarkston Community Schools.

The wedding is currently being planned for May 26, 2012 at St. Pancratius Catholic Church in Cass City.

Apply for 4-H Capitol Experience scholarships

High school students ages 14 and older can apply for partial scholarships — up to \$150 — that are now available to participate in the 4-H Capitol Experience in Lansing. The annual 4-day conference is slated for Sunday, March 18, through Wednesday, March 21.

"This is an opportunity for (them) to check out what it's like to be a state legislator, a lobbyist or a legislative aide," explained Betsy Knox, a 4-H Youth Development representative at the Institute for Children and Youth, Michigan State University Extension. She said participating youth learn how they can impact public policy in their communities and in state government during the Michigan Legislative Simulation.

"(They) will propose, research, debate, vote on and sign into law Senate or House bills," Knox added, noting students are also given the opportunity to tackle a public policy issue that they care about, such as social justice, environmental protection, agriculture, education, health, jobs or the economy.

The total cost of the event is \$310. Students interested in applying for a partial scholarship must do so by Friday, Jan. 20. More information is available by logging onto the website <http://msue.msu.edu/4h/4hcapitol> experience.

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4	5	3	8	7	9	6	2	1
7	9	1	2	6	3	4	8	5
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1	7	6	4	5	8	2	3	9
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In Our OPINION..

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Local chamber has done wonderful job

If you had the opportunity to attend any of this month's Cass City Christmas in the Village events — from the popular craft show and chili cook-off to the community gathering — you've seen your local chamber of commerce at work.

And we're proud to say chamber members and the chamber's coordinator, Dee Mulligan, have again done a fine job.

We wondered, as the crowds poured into the Cass City VFW Hall, how many small towns could draw some 500 people for such an event. Sure, the activities, including plenty of goodies and visits and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, were offered free of charge, but it was still quite an impressive showing. In all, more than 200 children were treated to an evening they probably won't forget anytime soon.

The children — that's what Christmas is really about, after all.

The adults enjoyed themselves as well, however. This year's celebration featured a record 62 vendors during the annual craft show, and a record 205 people cast votes in the chili cook-off, which featured a whopping 20 entries submitted by the best chefs throughout town.

There's a great deal of credit to go around when it comes to the success of Christmas in the Village.

Start with the local businesses that, in spite of having to pinch pennies like the rest of us, continue to faithfully contribute to the cause, keeping this party cost-free. We won't try to list them here because we don't want to leave anybody out. However, Mulligan will tell you the event would not be possible without them.

Area residents might want to keep that in mind the next time they decide to leave town to do their shopping.

The group of volunteers that shows up each year also deserve a pat on the back, as does Mulligan, whose tireless recruiting and cheerleading has turned this holiday extravaganza into a monster event that requires some pretty serious organization.

With so many tiny towns dying and fading away, it's rewarding to see that Cass City hasn't lost its will to not only survive, but also to thrive during the holidays, regardless of the obstacles that come with living and doing business in any small community.

The number of people who participate in the Christmas in the Village festivities is proof enough of that.

Slices of Life

by Jill Pertler
Learning to run




There are two types of people in this world: those who run and those who can't.

I always believed I belonged in the second group. I can walk just fine. I can do jumping jacks and a little yoga. I can exercise and lift weights. I can do a whole lot of things an ordinary person might define as physical exertion. Running didn't happen to be one of them. It was outside my realm of possibilities.

Or so I believed. Then, one unsuspecting day while on an ordinary, leisurely-paced walk, something foreign came over me and an unlikely thought crept into my head: Maybe I should try running.

I ignored the impulse at first because it was crazy. I am not a runner. Never have been. I can't run.

But that day on the tarred road — after I made sure no one was watching — I took a few tentative strides. Before I had a chance to think, "I can't," I'd covered most of a block. My lungs were about to burst, so I resumed my normal walking pace and huffed and puffed — trying to catch my breath — for what seemed like an eternity.

About a block later, I had the urge to do it again.

I wasn't good at it. I couldn't go very far. I'm sure my form was flawed in numerous ways. The effort made me completely out of breath. But I was running. (Okay, probably more like jogging, but let's not get caught up in semantics.) The newness and the possibilities brought on a sense of exhilaration.

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Anyone who believes such lore should meet my 81-year-old dad. He hasn't taken up running (yet) but he did cook his first ever turkey this Thanksgiving. Two years ago, his kitchen expertise consisted of hitting the button on the microwave and (perhaps) turning on the coffee.

Now he's roasted a turkey — to perfection. The bird was tender and juicy and such a success that he's already cooked a second one. He's doing other things in the kitchen as well. My dad has become a cook.

I guess the old apple doesn't fall far from the old tree. My dad is learning to cook; I am learning to run. Two old dogs learning new tricks.

Unlike my dad, I haven't mastered my new set of skills. You don't start out in the kitchen by roasting a turkey. You stir up a pot of soup, or give a go at scrambling a couple of eggs. You work up to the turkey. The same goes for running — and life.

Some people run marathons or 5K races. I run a teeny tiny bit — at best a block or two. Someday I may go the length of a 1K (impressive, isn't it?). Still, I am running.

Reporter's notebook

Wow! Just \$19.99 for these bargains

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Just when I thought I had this whole Christmas shopping thing figured out — you know, wandering from store to store, looking totally lost — I found out that I could have been doing it all at home, watching paid programming on television.

You wouldn't believe the rare bargains that are out there.

I used to nag my wife for gift ideas for her, always hoping I could come up with just the perfect gift. After all, Christmas is all about giving. But, I'm a guy, and while I want to give her something special, my ideas about what she wants and what she would actually like tend to differ a bit.

At the same time, I like to use my imagination a bit and come up with something that absolutely surprises her.

Anyway, I was watching a late show the other night, and learned there's a great selection out there, and at prices that are insane.

This is great stuff!

Take the Slice-O-Matic for example, with all the attachments included. Or the exotic pedicure set from Asia, the face cream that melts away years in a few moments with just a dab or 2 (okay, so I'm suspicious of those commercials, given they use models who are so young they

have no business having wrinkles), and how about that Thighmaster and the handy dandy comfort pillow that guarantees an uninterrupted night's sleep?

Like I said, great items and all reasonably priced.

What I don't understand, however, is how most of these products carry the same price tag. I'm not complaining. I mean, they don't even cost \$20 — just \$19.99!

And, if I call now, I'll get not one set, but 2 for the same low price! All I have to do is pay for the extra shipping and handling, right?

Wow. Do people really buy this stuff? They must, otherwise the folks that put these commercials together wouldn't be able to recover their costs.

Now, I just have to settle on the perfect gift for my wife.

Maybe the Slice-O-Matic? Nah, I do most of the cooking around here, and I have no problem using a knife for those chores. Perhaps I'll invest in one of those crazy pillows that she can twist and contort to help her sleep better. I would, except I'm guessing she's usually more concerned with battling with me over blanket coverage at night.

That's it! I'll buy her a blanket that sticks to her like glue. Perfect.

And, at only \$19.99, how can I go wrong?

A year ago my dad couldn't cook a turkey. A month ago I couldn't run. Now look at us.

There are two types of people in this world: those who run and those who believe they can't. I used to be a member of the latter group. That's changed, leaving one question: What else is out there that I can't do — yet?

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.mchs.com/.

Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)



There's still time to help support the Greater Thumb Area Fraternal Order of Police Criminal Justice Scholarship. All you have to do is pick up the phone and dial (989) 673-3360 to order a box of their world famous big yellow trash bags.

One box is \$45.88, the same as last year, and will be delivered to your door with a smile and the thanks of the FOP.

Band Director Jonelle Lull invites the public to attend Thursday's Christmas Band Concert in the Cass City Middle School gym beginning at 7 p.m., with a cookie reception to follow. She also encourages everyone to visit Santa's Workshop before the concert for those special holiday gifts. Profits from the workshop go to fund the annual 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip.

I'll be among the couples, that we here hope number several, married 15 years or longer who submit "Then & Now" photos to appear in our annual Bridal Guide.

To be included in the special section, stop by the corner of Oak and Main by Friday, January 6, 2012 with your photos and we'll return them while you wait after a quick scan.

Better yet, scan the photos yourself and email them to: chronicle@ccchronicle.net. Be sure to include who, when and where information on your wedding day, and a contact number.

Not everyone is chasing deer this time of the year. Local outdoor lover Matt Lynch stopped by the Chronicle office last week to show off his rabbit.





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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.

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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, December 14

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.

Swiss Steak Dinner, noon, Cass City United Methodist Church, 5100 N. Cemetery Rd. Cost: \$7. For takeouts, call 872-4604 and pick up between 11 a.m. and noon, or after 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 15

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.

Friday, December 16

Al-Anon meeting for family and friends of alcoholics, 7 p.m., United Methodist Church, Elkton. For more information, call (989) 912-0546.

Saturday, December 17

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

Sunday, December 18

Gagetown AA meeting, 8-9 p.m., Gagetown fire hall. For more information, call (989) 665-0086 or (989) 912-5493.

Monday, December 19

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.

Tuesday, December 20

Al-Anon meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis Parrish, Pigeon. Parkinson's Support Group meeting, 1:30 p.m., Holiday Inn Express, Bad Axe. For more information, call Kim at 1-800-843-6394 or Annette at (989) 864-3779.



A SANILAC COUNTY man escaped serious injury last week after swerving in an effort to miss hitting a deer on Roach Road, west of M-25, in Lexington Township. Sanilac County Sheriff Garry Biniecki said the man, Andrew Schmidt, 22, was traveling westbound when the incident occurred. He lost control of his vehicle, drove into a ditch and struck a tree. Fire fighters extricated Schmidt from his vehicle, and he was transported to Port Huron Hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

MDOT urging motorists to remember good driving habits in winter weather

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) recently announced an education campaign aimed at urging motorists to remember good driving habits in winter weather conditions, "Snowplows Need Room to Groom!"

"Road crews put their lives on the line every day to keep Michigan roads safe for everyone," said State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle. "Motorists must remember to drive with caution no matter how much salt we use or how often the roads are plowed."

A steady decrease in road funding and an increase in costs have forced state and local agencies to alter their winter maintenance plans and change plowing priorities. However, one important fact has not changed:

road crews must have ample room in order to safely clear the many miles of roadway of snow and ice.

"Motorists must do their best to minimize distractions and focus on driving and changes in road conditions," John Niemela, CRAM director, said. "Every year, despite the flashing lights on snowplow trucks, poor driver behavior near snowplows leads to collisions that can be deadly."

MDOT and CRAM offer the following reminders for motorists:

- Snowplows have limited visibility and drivers cannot see directly behind their trucks;
- Snowplows often throw up snow clouds, reducing visibility on all sides of the truck;
- Distracted driving is dangerous driving. Motorists should not text or

talk on cell phones while they are behind the wheel. In fact, texting while driving is illegal in Michigan;

- Motorists should never attempt to pass a moving snowplow on the right. With new wing-plow technology, the blade can clear the shoulder and the lane of travel simultaneously. Motorists attempting an illegal pass through a snow cloud on the right and/or shoulder of the road most likely won't see the plow blade and run the risk of a serious crash; and
- Always wear your safety belt and allow extra time to reach your destinations this winter.

Steudle added, "For the safety of everyone, motorists should use extreme caution when traveling in winter weather conditions. We can't emphasize this enough: Snowplows Need Room to Groom!"

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www.tbhsonline.com



Services are confidential.

Accident claims 3-year-old

An accident claimed the life of a 3-year-old Tuscola County child early last week, according to Tuscola County Sheriff Lee Teschendorf.

"The child died as a result of a dresser tipping over on the victim," Teschendorf said. "An autopsy has been performed by Dr. Virani, showing the child died as a result of the

incident. Names are not being released at this time. As standard procedure, DHS (the Department of Human Services) has been notified."

"This is not the first such incident to happen in Tuscola County," said Teschendorf, who urged every parent to take precautions to prevent young children from being around tall or top-heavy furniture.

An Evening of Christmas Music



Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Rawson Memorial District Library
Solos, duets and Christmas carol singing
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Deerings polished leadership skills during conference in San Diego, Calif.

Dairy farmers Brad and Mandy Deering of Deford recently polished their leadership skills at the National Milk Producers Federation's (NMPF) Young Cooperator (YC) Leadership and Development Conference in San Diego, Calif.

The Deerings were among nearly 30 Dairy Farmers of America Inc. (DFA) members who attended the event, which took place in conjunction with the joint annual meeting of NMPF, National Dairy Promotion and Research Board and the United Dairy Industry Association.

The Deerings milk 120 Holsteins on 430 acres and are currently building a new milking parlor for their dairy operation.

"By learning from experienced dairy leaders and meeting with fellow young dairy farmers, these young cooperative leaders are developing important relationships and strengthening their voices in the industry," said Randy Mooney, chairman of the DFA Board of Directors and NMPF's board.

During the conference, the Deerings participated in a variety of workshops and presentations with topics ranging from the global econ-

omy and markets, to dairy management and communication skills. A producer panel featuring DFA member Mary Kraft offered attendees an opportunity to hear from successful dairy producers about some of the innovative practices they use in their operations.

The young cooperators also participated in the joint annual meeting program, which highlighted efforts being made by national dairy organizations to help navigate a new course for the dairy industry. Features included an interactive town hall meeting discussion on the future of dairy policy, a panel showcasing industry-wide initiatives to protect and promote dairy, and prominent keynote speakers from leading media and agricultural organizations.

DFA's YC program fosters interaction between young dairy farmers, ages 18 to 40, who are involved as owners, partners or who hold distinct management responsibilities on a DFA-member dairy. The program facilitates the development of leadership skills, enabling young cooperators to improve their industry, their cooperative and their lives.

Senior citizen movies slated Friday at library

Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City will show the following Senior Citizen Movies Friday, Dec. 16, at 1:30 p.m.

Australia - The Great Ocean Road: Take a journey along one of the world's most exhilarating highways, set against a backdrop of crashing waves, spectacular rock formations and primeval rainforests. Venture off the road to encounter exotic wildlife roaming amongst giant trees, lakes and waterfalls or head down to the ocean to enjoy the delights of Australia's Surf Coast. Discover the story behind the creation of the Great Ocean Road, carved through rocks and cliffs to reveal some of Australia's most beautiful scenery. (50 minutes)

Sedona - The Spirit of Wonder: This spectacular motion picture has been filmed in panoramic high-definition, SuperVue TM. The film rises out of the darkness, enveloping viewers in a breathtaking spectacle of sight and sound. Dramatic aerial footage whisks you across sweeping vistas. The original musical score, which encompasses the spectrum of sound from a lone Indian flute to full orchestral scoring, enhances the imagery. Old West scenery and Native American settings are painstakingly replicated. The part of our heroine, after which the town took its name, is believably portrayed by the founder's actual great-granddaughter. Viewers will travel back eons in time as the earth transformed into this fascinating region. (37 minutes)

Refreshments will be served and closed captioning is available. This Older Adult Program is offered free of charge.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO

The Cass City Red Hawks jumped off to a 9-0 lead in the first quarter and went on from there to register a season-opening win over visiting Vassar Vulcans, 60-48. Cass City played without Andrew Martin, a 3-year veteran, because of an injury to his arm. Coach Aaron Fernald is uncertain when he will return. His absence enabled Shane McFarland and Shane Bloomfield to gain valuable experience at the varsity level. McFarland led the Hawks with 16 points, closely followed by Brad Hartel with 15 points. Cameron Lautner posted a double-double with 12 points and 10 assists. He also had 7 steals.

Chi-Ao "George" Yang and Kouhei "Kody" Sakaguchi might have figured their year as exchanged students in Cass City would be slow-paced, given they were paired with a retired lady living at Northwood Lake Condominiums. However, the teens' year in the rural Thumb, at least so far, has been packed with travel and as much activity as they can handle. "We have seen more of Michigan than most Michiganders," Gail Smith, who is hosting the pair, said Sunday afternoon as she relaxed at home with her "adopted" sons. "These boys - if I say we're going to go somewhere, they beat me to the car," Smith said. Yang, 16, is from Taipei City in Taiwan, while Sakaguchi, 15, hails from Shizuoka, Japan.

For the third straight year, the Owen-Gage volleyball program will be under new leadership as first year coach Ashley Pawlak takes over the reins of the Bulldog spikers. Pawlak, a former Bulldog player, replaces Sulyn Kipper following her one-year stint at the helm in Owendale.

10 YEARS AGO

Hills and Dales General Hospital officials recently honored Kathy Martin with a surprise party following her announced retirement after more than 25 years with the local hospital. She began her career as a ward clerk in 1974, then transferred 2 years later to the pharmacy and became a certified pharmacy technician.

The Cass City Middle School Quiz Bowl Team, competing in its first year, captured the inaugural Middle School Quiz Bowl title Thursday at the Tuscola Technology Center in Caro. The tournament featured 6 schools in all, including Reese, St. Michael's, Mayville, Kingston and Akron-Fairgrove. "The competition was played bracket style, double elimination. Cass City won every one of their matches, beating St. Michael's for first place," said team Coach Lisa Laventure. Cass City team members are Scott Meeker (captain) and Andrew Shagene, both

eighth grade students, and seventh grade students Alyssa Cryderman, Nancy Thane, Jessica Lange, Kyle Swanson, Whitney Kirn and Danielle Reed.

Jeff Storm, the only holdover starter from the Hawks' championship team, led Cass City to a win in the opening game of the season Tuesday. Cass City topped visiting Caro Tigers, 56-53, and retained possession of the M-81 Clash trophy for another year. In the 7-year history of the award, Caro has won 4 times, Cass City 3. Storm led all scorers with 25 points and Jake Brinkman added 10 for the Hawks. Robert Fulton netted 18, Brian Burgess, 13, and Brandon Corkins, 10.

25 YEARS AGO

Eight winners were selected in the second of 3 drawers sponsored by the Cass City Retail Committee. A total of \$500 was given away. Two \$100 certificates were presented to Barbara Ball and Kim Groosbeck, who were present for the Saturday afternoon drawing. Certificates worth \$50 were presented to 6 winners who were not present. They are: Grace Nemeth, Ivernia Schwartz, Florence Sweeney, Mary Hombacher, Charlotte Mellendorf and Martha Harbec.

Susan Caister, a Registered Dietitian at Saginaw's St. Luke's Hospital recently passed the first national Certification Examination for Diabetes Educators. Caister can now use the initials CDE - for Certified Diabetes Educator - after her name. She has been a registered dietitian at St. Luke's for 3 years. She graduated from Central Michigan University in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree and a dietetic major, then spent a year at Cincinnati's Christ Hospital as an intern. Caister graduated from Cass City High School in 1978. She is married to Durrell Caister, also a Cass City High School graduate. They live in Bay City. Caister's father, Royce Russell of Cass City, was impressed by his daughter's accomplishment. "We're kind of proud," Russell said. "That's quite an accomplishment. Not many dietitians, if any, have those kinds of credentials."

50 YEARS AGO

Two new staff members have been added to the Cass City Hospital. Joseph Willer, a registered laboratory technician, will be in charge of the laboratory testing program. He will handle all of the laboratory work for the hospital. Mrs. Kathryn Tyrrell, a registered records librarian, will handle the medical and surgical histories of the patients. She comes to Cass City from Kalamazoo General Hospital and is a graduate of Cleary College in Ypsilanti.

Close games marked the opening night of action Thursday in the City Basketball league as all six teams were in action at the Cass City High School gym. Tuckey's topped Mac and Leo, 56-44; Snover bowed to Erla's, 48-34 and Sherman's edged Walbro, 38-35. Tuckey-Mac & Leo - Paced by Ron Copeland with 19 points, Tuckey racked up a win over last year's champs, Mac & Leo, 56-44. Copeland was helped by D. Romaine with 12 points. Pacing the gasmen were the Gagetown duo of Clare Comment (16) and Don Simmons (15). Erla-Snover - The scoring was evenly divided in Erla's 48-34 conquest of Snover. Top scorer in the game was Dan Erla with 10 points. Sherman-Walbro - The closest game of the evening was Sherman's narrow 38-35 decision over Walbro. Pacing the scorers were J. D. Alexander with 12 and Mike Hnatiuk with 10.

Group singing highlighted the monthly meeting of the Cass City Business and Professional Women's Club, Wednesday, Dec. 6, at the New Gordon Hotel. The singing was led by Betty Jo Agar with Verna May MacRae accompanying. Games were also played and gifts were exchanged. The committee in charge of the Christmas party were Sherryl Seeley, Betty Jo Agar, Nancy Laszlo, Martha Knoblet and Marlene Ricketts.

100 YEARS AGO

Wallace Gilbert has installed a B. L. K. milking machine on his dairy farm in Greenleaf Township. The machine has two milkers, each taking the milk from two cows at the same time. The vacuum pump connected with the outfit is large enough to operate 8 milkers and thus Mr. Gilbert has provided for increasing the capacity of the plant at any time. "The machine has been in operation for about a week and it is working fine," said Mr. Gilbert to the Chronicle Thursday. "Sunday night we milked 16 cows in 45 minutes"

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that the members of the local Presbyterian church received the acceptance of the call which the congregation extended to Rev. S. H. Edgcumbe of Grand Rapids. He is a gentleman of culture and refinement and the members of the church consider themselves fortunate in securing so able a minister.

Greenleaf - The Thanksgiving dinner held at the Gleaner hall was a success financially, \$35 being the sum realized from the sale of dinner and supper. The proceeds are to be used towards remodeling the church.

Local - Alex Milligan left last Thursday morning for Scotland, sailing on the 9th inst on the Steamer Majestic of the White Star line for Liverpool.

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Cass City Area Church Directory

<p>Anchor Cove Outreach Church 1116 E. Caro Rd, Caro, MI 48723 989-872-2262 Directly across from Wal-Mart Saturday Service: 6:00 p.m. Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m. www.anchorcoveoutreachchurch.com</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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. Vacancy Pastor: Michael Boyer</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Novesta Church of Christ "the friendly church that cares" 2896 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 872-3658 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Minister: Brad Speirs Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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 6:00 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</p>	<p>St. Pancratius Catholic Church 4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726 872-3336 Summer Saturday Liturgy 4:00 p.m. DST Sunday Liturgy 9:00 a.m. Winter Saturday Liturgy 4:00 p.m. EDT Sunday Liturgy 9:00 a.m. Pastoral Administrator: Sr. Maria Dina Puddu MC</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Mizzpah Missionary Church 4631 N. Van Dyke, Cass City, MI 48726 Sunday School: 10 a.m. Worship Service: 11 a.m. Wednesday Prayer Group 7-8 p.m. Wednesday Kids' Club 7-8 p.m.</p>
<p>Cass City Missionary Church 4449 Koepfgen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 989-872-2729 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:50 a.m. Sunday Evening Service & Youth Group 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Phil Burkett www.casscitymc.org</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Visitors always welcomed... Please join us today!</p>

Obituary

Doris Long

Doris Marie Long, 68, of Cass City, died Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011 in her home with her husband by her side.

She was born Jan. 3, 1943 in Cass City, the daughter of Steve and Dorothy (Willy) Orto.

She married Dennis Long in the Cass City Lutheran Church April 4, 2004.

Doris worked at Walbro for over 23 years in the Aftermarket Division making service kits. She was a member of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Cass City. Doris was an avid reader and enjoyed a variety of books. In an effort to help people through the loss of their loved ones, Doris made memory bears, usually out of a piece of their clothing. Doris was a volunteer at Hills & Dales General Hospital. She worked in the gift shop and distributed mail to the patients. Doris also enjoyed watching basketball, football and NASCAR racing. Her favorite driver was Jimmy Johnson.

Doris is survived by her husband, Dennis; children: Sabrina (Mike) Wood of Mayville, Anthony (Cindy) Moran of Scottsdale, Ariz., Shawna (Tim) Marquardt of Kingston, and Aaron (Kaylee) Long of Goodells; 11 grandchildren; a brother, Emery Orto of Forest Park, Ill.; and a sister, Sandra Tierney of Florida.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Visitation will be held from 2 to 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 17, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City.

Interment will be in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

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.



PICTURED ABOVE ARE this year's fifth and sixth grade Cass City Middle School Spelling Bee winners. They are: (from left, front row) Jalene Krol, first place; Claire Kausch, second place; Shane Hoppe, third place; Alexandria Crase, fourth place; Hayden Larkin, fifth place; and school principal Don Markel. The top 4 places will be invited to compete in an area spelling bee in Imlay City next month. The event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus 8892.

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PICTURED ABOVE ARE this year's seventh and eighth grade Cass City Middle School Spelling Bee winners. They are: (from left, front row) Sally Groombridge, first place; Chandler Cryderman, second place; Devan Kluger, third place; Branden Horne, fourth place; and Richard Sanchez, fifth place. In the back row are Chris Pawloski, grand knight of Knights of Columbus Council 8892, which sponsors the event, and school Principal Don Markel. The top 4 finishers will be invited to an area spelling bee in Imlay City next month.

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Village officials approve budget plans for 2012

Continued from page one.

Piaskowski asked the council if they had looked for other suppliers to reduce costs, or if the best prices have been negotiated from current suppliers.

"Maybe we could join other municipalities and buy our chemicals together to save by buying in large quantities," said Piaskowski "Maybe we should evaluate some of the projects that are planned (for next year) and see if they could be put on hold."

Lorna Piaskowski joined in on the discussion and said she doesn't mind paying for good service, but the water in their home is just nasty. "Our water is brown. I won't drink it," she said.

Next to air his displeasure over the water rate price increase was long-time local resident and retired banker Dick Wallace. He agreed with Piaskowski's view on the new higher water fees.

"We are way out of bounds on our water fees. I called my son and he pays about \$45 a month for water service in Mt. Pleasant. It costs me about \$75 a month," said Wallace, who believes the financial hike may cause hardships for senior citizens on a fixed budget.

Last to address the council was Don Ball. He noted water rates will have increased 7 percent since the beginning of 2010. "Maybe we should have asked for a millage" to pay for

our wastewater treatment improvements, said Ball.

Councilmen Don Richards responded by telling the small audience in attendance Monday that council members didn't want to – but had to – raise the village's 2012 water rates.

"We were required by law to address the arsenic levels in our water," said Richards.

Good news concerning next year's spending strategy is that property taxes will remain unchanged at 18.137 mills, meaning the owner of a house with a market value of \$80,000 will pay roughly \$725 for the year. Unfortunately, taxable property values in the village have been reduced by some \$700,000 from 2010 levels, resulting in the reduction of about \$100,000 in available revenue.

Still, Cristiano feels the new proposal will allow citizens of Cass City to enjoy an exceptional quality of life.

"The programs and capital improvements scheduled for 2012 are a continuation of a program of excellence that is ingrained in Cass City history. The 2012 budget is balanced and meets the goals of village staff, council and residents," he said.

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Smiths are facing a nightmare

Continued from page one.

take its course, and to do radiation, which could give her a couple of good months," she said. "It's just buying us time, pretty much, but there isn't a cure for it."

Asked how she and her husband are holding up, Smith understandably said it hasn't been easy.

However, area residents' concern for the family has offered some comfort. "It helps to know that so many people care. It doesn't help the pain, but it helps knowing the community is there," she added.

Friends have placed donation canisters in area businesses, and efforts are underway to organize a benefit for the Smiths. Details are expected to be ironed out tonight (Wednesday), when a meeting will be held to form a committee — organizers are eyeing Saturday, Jan. 28, as a possible date. The Chronicle will publish specifics when they are

available.

In the meantime, anyone interested in helping the family financially is encouraged to stop by Thumb National Bank in Cass City, where a

special account — named "Love For Lexi" — has been established. More information on the account is available by calling the bank at (989) 872-4311.



Lexi Smith

Kingston Elementary announces honor roll

Officials at Kingston Elementary School announce the first marking period honor roll.

Grade 3 (all A's)

RayAnn Harp, Paige Klupp, Joslyn Lupa, Dustin Peter and Trayton Wenzlaff.

Grade 3 (B or better)

Don Anger, Thomas Barrett, Cheyenne Bearden, Hailey Bitterle, Houston Boots, Hunter Brown, Julie Brown, Reese Campbell, Evan Carpenter, Ava Ceci-Salas, Isabella Cofer, Jolie Crittenden, Mark Crousore, Jason Dibble, Kealsie Dinsmore, Lucas Fetting, Kendal Geister, Colten Gildner, Madison Haley, Kayla Hobson, Ronnie Lemke, Nathan Moorhouse, Lucas Pardee, Ella Retan, Dakota Robinson, Emma Schuler, Morgan Sheridan, Jessica Stoll, Olivia Ulewicz, Olivia Vanderpool, Anthony Van Rijn, Daniel Wilson and Landon Wyckoff.

Grade 4 (all A's)

Anna Ahern, Andrew Decker, Robin Edwards, Riley Ford and Braden Mosher.

Grade 4 (B or better)

Autumn Bearden, Raven Bearden, Danielle Crisman, Jake DeLong, Zoe Easlick, Vincent Favazza, Collin Geister, Landon Godinez, Caleb Goss, Nova Holland, Elijah Jobson, Aaron Koehler, Shelby May, Kristen McLaughlin, Wren Murdoch, Madison Nickens, Jessie Pedigo, Connor Schaller, Logan Sears, Tristen Skinner, Lohr Smith and Mason Tallieu.

Grade 5 (all A's)

Nathan Cloyd, Levi Cryderman, Faith Dennis, Jillyan Dinsmore, Shyanne LaFond, Lily Lyons, Camryn MacGuire, Michael McLaughlin, Brennan Schaller, Carley Smith, Morgan Tallieu and Emily Warrington.

Grade 5 (B or better)

Maisey Bigelow, McKinzie Bigony, Tyler Blankenship, Michael Bombard, Otto Branch, Tristen Campbell, Gerilyn Carpenter, Randy Crisman, Mason DeBlois, Kendra DeLong, Jamie Dibble, Dakota Distelrath, Justin Dost, Noah Edwards, Kara Haebler, Elizabeth Hardy, Tyler Hayost, Connor Henry, Brian Hobson, Ty Inches, Amber Jackson, Hannah McSkulin, Haley Parsell, Elysse Ragland, Calvin Robinson, Jonathan Tolfree, Lane Torrey, Andrew Tucker and Leigha Vanderpool.

Grade 6 (all A's)

Lauryn Cumper, Grace Dinsmore, Garrett Green, Greyson Guild, Hannah Pardee, Daniel Schwarck, Alayna Williams and Cassidy Zyrowski.

Grade 6 (B or better)

Austin Ahern, Michael Bailey, Dakota Bearden, Alexis Board, Dezerick Carter, Josiah Cofer, Austin Duvernois, Dalton Hency, Noah Hetzer, Brendon Kielitz, Courtney Mallory, Jacob McDaid, Brandyn Moorhouse, Amy Oland, Jillian Phillips, Madisyn Pennington, Haley Pohlod, Josselyn Rushlow, Madisyn Spencer and Joseph Uhl.

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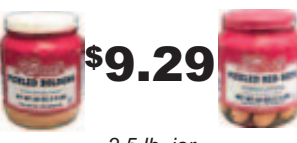
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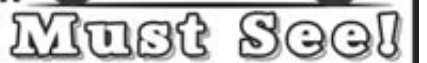
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Grapppler Jensen reaches career milestone

It wasn't the start Cass City, defending Greater Thumb Conference (GTC) wrestling champ, was hoping for on the mats.

Veteran Coach Don Markel's Red Hawks kicked off their 2011-12 campaign Wednesday in Capac and suffered a pair of non-conference losses. Cass City bowed 46-30 to host Capac to get things started on the day, before falling 51-21 to Imlay City.

"We return 8 starters from our varsity line-up last year," said Markel. The Red Hawk skipper for the past 2 ½ decades returns a total of 15 letter winners. Markel points to seniors Ron Wolschleger, who recorded an 18-21 record as a junior, and Jim Merchant, who was 31-27 and GTC champion a year ago, to be consistent point winners for the Red Hawks.

The same can be said for seniors Travis Wright (24-31), Kurt Reif (33-25) Kyle Pomeroy (19-15), Nick Adkins (40-8), and of course, Josh Jensen (53-5).

Reif and Jensen enter their final Red Hawk season as defending GTC champs. They were the only double winners for the visitors; Reif was undefeated in the 189-weight class and Jensen in the 171-weight class.

On Saturday, Cass City traveled to Marlette, where they finished with a 3-2 record at the Red Raider Team Tournament. The Red Hawks opened their first tournament appearance of the season with victories over Sandusky, 53-15, Algonac, 42-33, and Brown City, 48-18, but came up short in their final 2 contests. North Branch nipped the Red Hawks 42-39, before Marlette claimed a 45-36 decision in Cass City's final match.

"As a team we showed improvement from our opening contests on Wednesday. In spite of the fact that we voided 3 weight classes the team was very competitive on Saturday. We look to be an even more improved team as our starting line-up comes together," said Markel noting Cass City is battling some eligibility and injury problems.

Wolschleger (125/130), Merchant (145), Reif (171/189), Bobby Beyette (135), and Austin Baker (285) all had banner showings in their listed weight classes over the weekend and finished with impressive 4-1 records.

Still, the day belonged to Jensen. He finished with a perfect 5-0 record and was voted MVP for the upper weight classes by competing coaches. Jensen also recorded a career milestone when he defeated Zeke Shifflett, North Branch, with a hard fought 7-3 decision, picking up his 150th career win in the process. Jensen now sits 4th on the list of most career victories, trailing just Adam Dorland with 159, Aaron Dorland with 167, and Kyle Sieradzki with 175.

"One big challenge this season will be to fill the holes left by graduation. We lost Jon Crouch, Cody Crouch, Cody Pringle and Mike Milligan. Their leadership was key in helping propel the team last season and they will be missed," said Markel.

Owen-Gage defeated by Port Hope in NCTL play

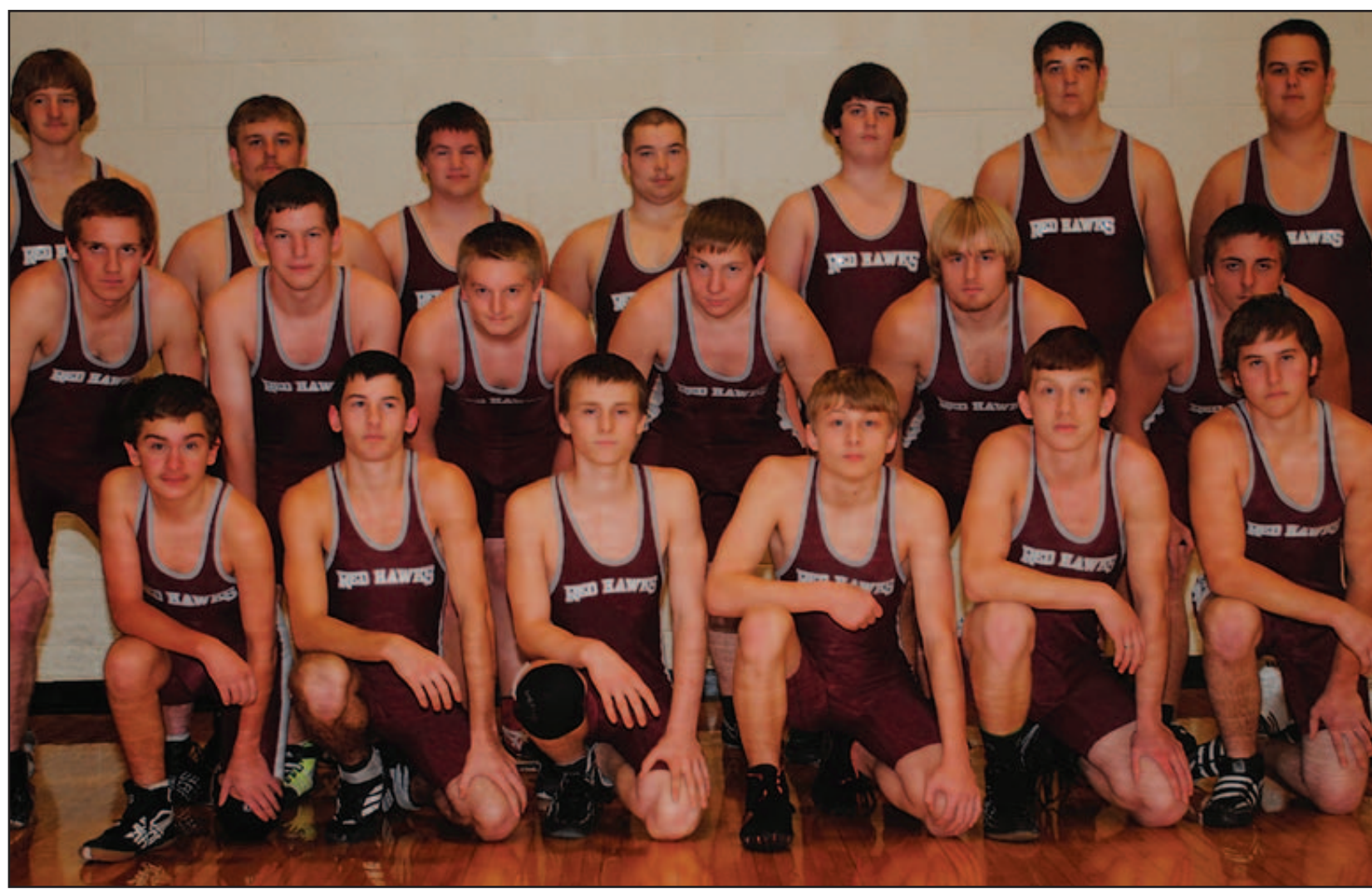
Owen-Gage's North Central Thumb League opener with Port Hope needed extra time to determine Tuesday's winner, captured by the host Bluestars, 46-44, in overtime.

Owen-Gage trailed 9-6 after one quarter, but was able to even the score at the break behind 9 points from Lacie Prich. The senior guard started her assault on the Bluestars before the intermission with a trey and followed with a pair of short jumpers, producing a 20-20 dead lock.

Port Hope outscored their guests 15-11 in the third quarter to gain a 35-31 edge, only to see Owen-Gage force overtime behind the antics of Christin Harris, who hit on a pair of shots from behind the 3-point arc in the closing minutes of regulation.

Neither team scored from the floor in the OT, but Port Hope made 5-of-8 free throws, compared to a 3-of-6

Please turn to page 10.



THE 2011-12 Cass City Red Hawk wrestling team members include (front, l-r) David McNaughton, Garret Ferguson, Blake Lebioda, Ron Wolschleger, Bobby Beyette, Justin Ferguson (middle) Travis Wright, Nick McCoy, Fred Leeson, Kurt Reif, Josh Jensen, Kyle Pomeroy (back) Jim Merchant, Nick Adkins, Harvey McCoy, Jon Owen, Josh Daniels, Ethan Monte and Austin Baker.

Red Hawks open with solid showings

This week should tell us plenty about the Cass City boys' basketball team.

Although the Red Hawks opened their season last week with a home victory over Sandusky, followed by a thrashing of host Mayville Thursday, it's way too early for Coach Aaron

Fernald to get excited.

Still, Fernald, known for his animation on the Cass City bench, has to like the possibilities he witnessed in the Red Hawks' opening contests as junior Cole Israelson, the team's 6' 8" center, and junior Cody Orban, the team's sharpshooter, dominated play in easy wins. Cass City defeated the Redskins 44-36, while the Wildcats were dealt a lopsided 61-32 setback.

"Sandusky was missing their big man," said Fernald. "And Orban is an unknown right now. That will change soon and teams will be setting up their defenses" to slow him down.

In Cass City's season opener, Israelson took advantage of the visitors' missing shot blocker and poured in 16 points. Israelson hit on his first 4 shot attempts in the final half, all from the low post, helping the hosts build a 32-20 edge entering the final quarter.

Orban, who recorded game scoring honors with 19 points, hit 4 of his 5 treys in the initial half that ended with Cass City in front, 21-14.

Orban excited the crowd in the final quarter, after the Redskins used part of a 16-12 run to close to within sin-

gle digits. The visitors' full court press had Cass City rattled, until Orban drove to the basket and restored order when he converted his shot after switching shooting hands in midair.

Phillip Schaufeled paced Sandusky with 14 points.

MAYVILLE

Mayville couldn't stack up against visiting Cass City's inside duo of Israelson and Morgan Erla and surrendered 61-32 in the non-conference outing.

Cass City took a 16-9 first quarter margin and then held the Wildcats to just 5 points until the intermission, where they enjoyed a 29-14 gap.

Despite sitting the final frame, Israelson tallied 16 points to lead all scorers. He made 7-of-11 shots from the floor. Orban added 9 points for the winners, who had Erla and Cody Ross each with 8 points.

Tyler Dunham led Mayville with a dozen markers.

Cass City will remain on the road this week as they are scheduled to meet Harbor Beach Tuesday, before Friday's tilt against host Capac.

If Cass City gets past the Pirates,

favorable by many to capture the Greater Thumb East title, Fernald will be among the Cass City supporters energized heading into the holidays.

CASS CITY - Orban 2-5 (0-2) 19; Schenk 1-0 (0-0) 2; King 1-0 (0-0) 2; Rasmussen 1-0 (1-2) 3; Erla 1-0 (0-0) 2; Israelson 7-0 (2-3) 16.
TOTALS - 13-5 (3-7) 44.

SANDUSKY - Zeiger 0-1 (0-0) 3; Mills 2-1 (0-2) 7; Schaufeled 4-2 (0-0) 14; Tucker 2-0 (0-3) 4; Frank 0-1 (0-0) 3; Grosso 1-1 (0-0) 5.
TOTALS - 9-6 (0-5) 36.

CASS CITY - Orban 4-0 (1-2) 9; Nicol 1-0 (0-0) 2; Schenk 0-0 (4-4) 4; King 0-1 (0-0) 3; Ross 2-0 (4-4) 8; Summers 2-0 (0-0) 4; Rasmussen 0-0 (1-2) 1; Zaleski 2-0 (2-4) 6; Erla 2-0 (4-6) 8; Israelson 7-0 (2-6) 16.
TOTALS - 20-1 (18-28) 61.

MAYVILLE - Buggia 0-0 (0-1) 0; Wiley 2-1 (0-2) 7; Dunham 0-4 (0-0) 12; Murawski 0-1 (0-0) 3; Stevenson 1-0 (0-0) 2; Pyles 3-0 (1-3) 7; Pyles 0-0 (1-2) 1.
TOTALS - 6-6 (2-8) 32.

Lady Hawks struggle with Redskins; whip Mayville, 43-17

If Cass City is to play a factor in determining the Greater Thumb West basketball champion in February, the Red Hawk defense will most likely lead the way.

Coach Lloyd Schinnerer's Lady Red Hawks rebounded Friday with an easy win over host Mayville by holding the Wildcats to just 17 points on the night.

Cass City's 43-17 non-conference whipping comes on the heels of their only defeat, delivered 2 days earlier during a defensive struggle with guest Sandusky.

Cass City got off to a good start against the Redskins behind a pair of baskets by Carley Hendrick in the early going. Shania Chambers and Logan Rowell also netted baskets in the maiden frame and entering the period before the break the home team held a slim, 11-9, advantage.

Both teams had trouble scoring for the remainder of the half. Rowell recorded a pair of free throws for Cass City's only tallies in the second quarter, while the Redskins' offensive output consisted of a free throw by Emily Hale and a solo field goal recorded by Miara Okie.

Cass City remained cold after the intermission, but a triple by Carly Mausolf and baskets by Kristen Krahnke had the Redskins enjoying

Please turn to page 10.

CASS CITY - Parrish 1-0 (0-0) 2; Chambers 1-1 (0-0) 5; Hendrick 4-0 (2-4) 10; Rowell 2-0 (3-4) 7.
TOTALS - 8-1 (5-8) 24.

SANDUSKY - Mausolf 1-1 (0-0) 5; Stauffer 3-0 (1-2) 7; Krahnke 2-0 (0-0) 4; Hale 1-1 (2-4) 7; Okie 1-0 (0-1) 2.
TOTALS - 8-2 (3-7) 25.

CASS CITY - Parrish 1-0 (0-0) 2; Kelley 2-1 (0-0) 7; Kolacz 0-0 (1-4) 1; Hendrick 5-0 (1-1) 11; Rowell 6-0 (4-4) 16; Hacker 3-0 (0-0) 6.
TOTALS - 17-1 (6-9) 43.

MAYVILLE - Bakewell 0-0 (2-2) 2; Middleton 1-0 (0-0) 2; Diller 2-0 (1-2) 5; Cock 0-2 (0-0) 6; Marks 1-0 (0-0) 2.
TOTALS - 4-2 (3-4) 17.



THE 2011-12 Cass City Red Hawk gymnastic squad members are (front) Robin Dinsmore (middle, l-r) Kendra Kerkau, Catherine Lugo, Dakota Wilson (back) Haley Wynn, Katherine Woodruff, Samantha Mathewson, Katelyn Hacker and Coach Kathy Bouverette.

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Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011

Cass City at Harbor Beach
Caro at North Branch

Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011

Owen-Gage at Kingston
Ubyly at EPBP

Friday, Dec. 16, 2011

Cass City at Capac
Frankenmuth at Caro

Monday, Dec. 19, 2011

Peck at Kingston
Owen-Gage at Caseville

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011

Caro at North Branch
Kingston at Deckerville
A-Fairgrove at Owen-Gage

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011

Bad Axe at Cass City
Brown City at Ubyly

Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011

Caro at Frankenmuth
Frankenmuth at Caro

Friday, Dec. 16, 2011

Kingston at Owen-Gage
Owen-Gage at Kingston

Monday, Dec. 19, 2011

Imlay City at Cass City
Cass City at Imlay City

Last Week's Results

Season's Results

Cass City struggles against Sandusky; whips Mayville

Continued from page 9.

a 21-17 margin in the low-scoring affair en route to a 25-24 win.

"Tremendous defensive effort by the Lady Hawks, but we were unable

to get our offense on track," said Schinnerer.

The hosts made just 10-of-30 field goal attempts and committed 16 turnovers in defeat.

Hendrick collected 10 points to

pace Cass City and was the game's only double digit scorer.

MAYVILLE

Cass City held Mayville to 3 points in the second quarter and a solo basket over the final 8 minutes to win handily.

Rowell had a banner night, connecting on 6-of-9 shots from the floor and 4-of-4 shots from the stripe, on her way to scoring honors for both teams with 16 points.

She got plenty of help from her inside partner, Hendrick, as she added 11 points and 6 steals in victory.

Cass City led 29-15, before using a 14-2 run to the final buzzer.

Lady Bulldogs suffer loss

Continued from page 9.

effort at the stripe for Owen-Gage, to seal the win.

Prich led Owen-Gage with 15 points, while Amanda Muntz chipped in 12 and Harris, 10.

Port Hope's Kristin Kowaleski led all scorers with 16 points, while Jessica Schuh added 14.

OWEN-GAGE - Montreuil 0-0 (3-6) 3; Harris 1-2 (2-2) 10; Prich 4-1 (4-6) 15; Muntz 3-0 (6-12) 12; Radabaugh 0-1 (0-0) 3; Morrish 0-0 (1-2) 1.
TOTALS - 8-4 (16-28) 44.

PORT HOPE - Schave 1-0 (3-6) 5; Kowaleski 4-2 (2-2) 16; Abraham 1-0 (2-4) 4; Popour 0-0 (0-2) 0; Reinke 1-0 (0-0) 2; Schuh 6-0 (2-4) 14; Jahn 1-0 (3-3) 5.
TOTALS - 14-2 (12-21) 46.

Bowling results on page 14.



DOUBLE THE FUN. Sharon Engelhardt harvested 2 deer during the 2011 season. She downed an 8-point buck while hunting in Gladwin on opening morning, and a 4-point on her farm near Gagetown later in the season.

Schneeberger's ATHLETE of the WEEK

Schneeberger's honors Cass City grappler Josh Jensen as their Athlete of the Week award winner.

Jensen opened his senior season last week with 7 straight victories and was named MVP over the weekend at the Red Raider Team Tourney in Marlette.

Jensen's career win total now stands at 150, just 25 away from Kyle Sieradzki's all-time win mark of 175. Jensen wrestles mostly in the 171-weight class and is expected to set a new career win total standard for the Red Hawk program in mid February, barring injury.



Josh Jensen

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<p>SOLD!! Country living. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home sets on 15 acres in the Marlette area. It has an open floor plan, there is an extra room between the main part of the house and the garage that could be used for a family room or an office area. There is a full basement, and out-building and a pond. Buyers must have pre-approved financing. MR-139</p>	<p>REDUCED!! Lovely subdivision is waiting for you to make your move. Take a look at this newly built home that has 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Ceramic tiled floors, in kitchen and baths. Needs some carpeting and a fresh coat of paint but that is about it. Give us a call for your personal showing. Must be pre-qualified with lender. Seller is offering a 2-year home warranty. Are you dialing us yet? V-201</p>	<p>INVESTMENT!! Great investment opportunity!!! Well maintained 12-unit apartment building available in the city of Bad Axe. All units are presently rented. Building includes laundry area for tenants, maintenance room and 3 mechanical rooms. Nicely landscaped with deck/patio areas. All units come with stove, refrigerator and garbage disposals. Call for showing. CO-224</p>
<p>HUNTER'S DREAM!! HUNTER'S DREAM. 15 acres has 2 I.D. numbers. Will sell the 5 acre parcel for \$35,000, the 10 acre parcel for \$44,900. Will sell parcels separate or together for \$74,900. Has a mobile home with a roof built overtop, some updates, great hunting get-away. Also has a pole building built in 2007. Call for more details. BA-202</p>	<p>SOLD!! Owner has put \$35,000 of updates in the home over the past few years. All receipts stay with the home. Spacious rooms and fireplace. Kitchen has plenty of nice wood cabinets and a lot of counter space. All appliances stay. Private fenced in backyard, nicely landscaped, deck and concrete patio. This is a must see. OCT-468</p>	<p>REDUCED!! Tired of throwing your money away on rent? Here's your opportunity to own your very own home. This 3 bedroom home is a Fannie Mae HomePath property. Contact agent for financial options. The home also has a breezeway, enclosed porch, partial basement and a 2.5 detached garage. Buyers must be pre-qualified or show proof of funds. Priced to sell! Call today! OW-183</p>

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SET IN A QUIET AREA OF TOWN. 3 bedroom Ranch home with full finished basement, 2-car garage and nice yard. To settle Estate. TCC1570

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• 2 bedroom mobile \$400/mo.
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THIS 3 BEDROOM. 1 1/2 bath is beautifully landscaped and sets on a hill with a great view! Central air, hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen, 2 1/2 attached garage are only a few features of this home. Call for more details on this one! TCC1544

3 BEDROOM. 2.5 bath, 2-story, 1,700 sq. ft. home, in move-in condition, 2-car attached garage, central air, fireplace, open stairway to the 2nd level, large master bedroom with its own bath & walk-in closet, vaulted ceiling in the living room & family room, semi-finished partial basement, laundry on the 1st level & basement. Nicely landscaped yard. Close to schools. Located in Northwood Estates Sub. in Cass City. One Year Home Warranty included. TCC1618

SOS: there's still time to donate nonperishables

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson recently reminded residents that there's still time to donate nonperishable food items at local Secretary of State branch offices as part of the 21st annual Michigan Harvest Gathering campaign.

"Eighteen percent of Michigan residents struggle to put food on the table and nearly one in every 6 Michigan children is at risk for hunger," Johnson said. "Please visit one of our branch offices to drop off your donation to help your neighbors in need this holiday season. All donations collected in Michigan stay in Michigan to help local families."

The 2011 Harvest Gathering goal is 300,000 pounds of food and \$750,000. Last year, Michigan Harvest Gathering collected more than 180,000 pounds of food and \$930,000.

The campaign is coordinated by the Food Bank Council of Michigan, which supplies the state's regional food banks through donations of food and money. The regional food banks serve food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in every Michigan county. The Food Bank Council wrapped up its annual cam-

paigned Nov. 10 but the Secretary of State's branch office campaign runs until Dec. 16.

People are asked to donate food items such as canned meats, dry beans, soups, beef stew, pasta products, peanut butter and tuna. They can also donate baby food or formula, diapers, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes. People donating items should check the packages to ensure the food donated isn't past its expiration date. The Food Bank requests donors avoid items in glass, as they often break in transit. Financial donations may be made online at www.feedmichigan.org.

For more information about branch office locations and Secretary of State services, visit www.Michigan.gov/sos. You may also sign up for the official SOS Twitter feed, www.twitter.com/Michsos, and Facebook updates, www.facebook.com/Michigansos.

Customers also may call the Department of State Information Center to speak to a customer-service representative at 888-SOS-MICH (767-6424).



CAMPBELL ELEMENTARY School recently held its annual Christmas program at Cass City Middle School, where students in grades Young 5s, kindergarten and first were on the stage, and the older students — in grades 2, 3 and 4 — shared their talents of singing, dancing, playing instruments, and performed a musical basketball routine. The programs were directed by Rebecca Walker, Campbell Elementary creative arts teacher.

Hey kids! It's time to write letters to Santa

Hey kids, get busy writing those letters to Santa.

Everybody knows Santa has a subscription to the Cass City Chronicle, and he checks each issue closely this time of year in search of Christmas lists from children in the Thumb area.

All you have to do is write your letter and send it to us. The easiest way is to have mom or dad

of yourself to: chronicle@cass-city.net. Letters can also be mailed

to the paper at 6550 Main St., Cass City, MI 48726, or drop

them off to us in person (we're located at the corner of Main and

Oak streets, next to Schneeberger's). All of the

letters will be published in December - most of them in our annual Christmas edition, Wednesday, Dec. 21. But get started now because the deadline is Thursday, Dec. 15.



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Holly's Picks of the Week!

<p>2009 PONTIAC VIBE Local owner, low miles \$12,995</p>	<p>2009 Chevy Traverse LT Loaded, Leather, Power Moon, Quad Buckets \$23,995</p>	<p>2011 Chevy Malibu LT 7,000 miles, 1-owner trade SAVE THOUSANDS OVER NEW NOW ONLY \$17,995</p>	<p>2004 GMC ENVOY XUV 4x4, unique SUV/pickup body Good Miles \$10,995</p>
<p>2008 JEEP PATRIOT LIMITED 4x4, Loaded, Leather, Great MPG \$13,995</p>	<p>2009 Chevy Malibu LT 7,000 miles, 1-owner trade SAVE THOUSANDS OVER NEW NOW ONLY \$17,995</p>	<p>2007 CADILLAC ESCALADE Loaded, Leather, 22 inch chromes \$28,995</p>	<p>2003 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER TOURING 96,000 miles, Clean as new \$6,995</p>

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