

Deputies seeking owners of stolen work tools
Page 4

Perry's winning essay earns trip to Israel
Page 8

Quilting fun underway at the local library
Page 6

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012

75 CENTS ~ 18 PAGES

Damrow probe now in hands of state's AG

By Tom Montgomery
Editor

The investigation into allegations that state Rep. Kurt Damrow (R-Port Austin) filed a police report now rests with the Michigan Attorney General's Office.

Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark E. Reene, whose office was scheduled to review the probe and determine if the charge is legitimate, announced Friday that he has forwarded the report to the attorney general for review.

Reene declined to explain, saying only that his decision was based on "a variety of factors. Any additional action and/or determinations regarding this matter will be addressed by the attorney general's office at a future date," he said.

Damrow represents the 84th House District, which is comprised of Tuscola and Huron counties.

His first term in office has been riddled with controversy, including being ousted from the Huron County Republican Party late last year. More recently, Damrow resigned as chairman of the House Military and Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Committee.

In September, state police investigators confirmed that they had closed their probe into a myriad of allegations targeting Huron County public officials and residents after finding no criminal wrongdoing.

Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson, who was among those targeted in the allegations, called for some accountability on Damrow's part for the time and money spent by police.

The accusations focused on several individuals, including a pair of judges, a number of attorneys, members of the county's road commis-

Please turn to page 18.

Reene now focusing on homeowners in death of area teen

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The criminal case against Cody Kalis, 18, of Unionville, came to a conclusion last week with the teen's sentencing in the death of 16-year-old Zachary Harp last spring.

But Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark E. Reene isn't quite ready to close the books on this investigation. In fact, Reene is now turning his attention to the scene of the incident — a Gagetown residence — and the adult owners of that home.

Reene intends to hold those adults responsible for allowing a group of underage teens to gather during the early morning hours of March 20, when a combination of youth and alcohol and/or drugs led to the fatal injuries that claimed Harp's young life.

"Our focus is on the homeowners — the adults who should have

stepped up. These folks are the ones who created the atmosphere where this happened," said Reene, who suggested the adults in question evidently haven't learned their lesson. "There were parties of this nature even after this (Harp's death) happened," he added. "To have that is beyond comprehension."

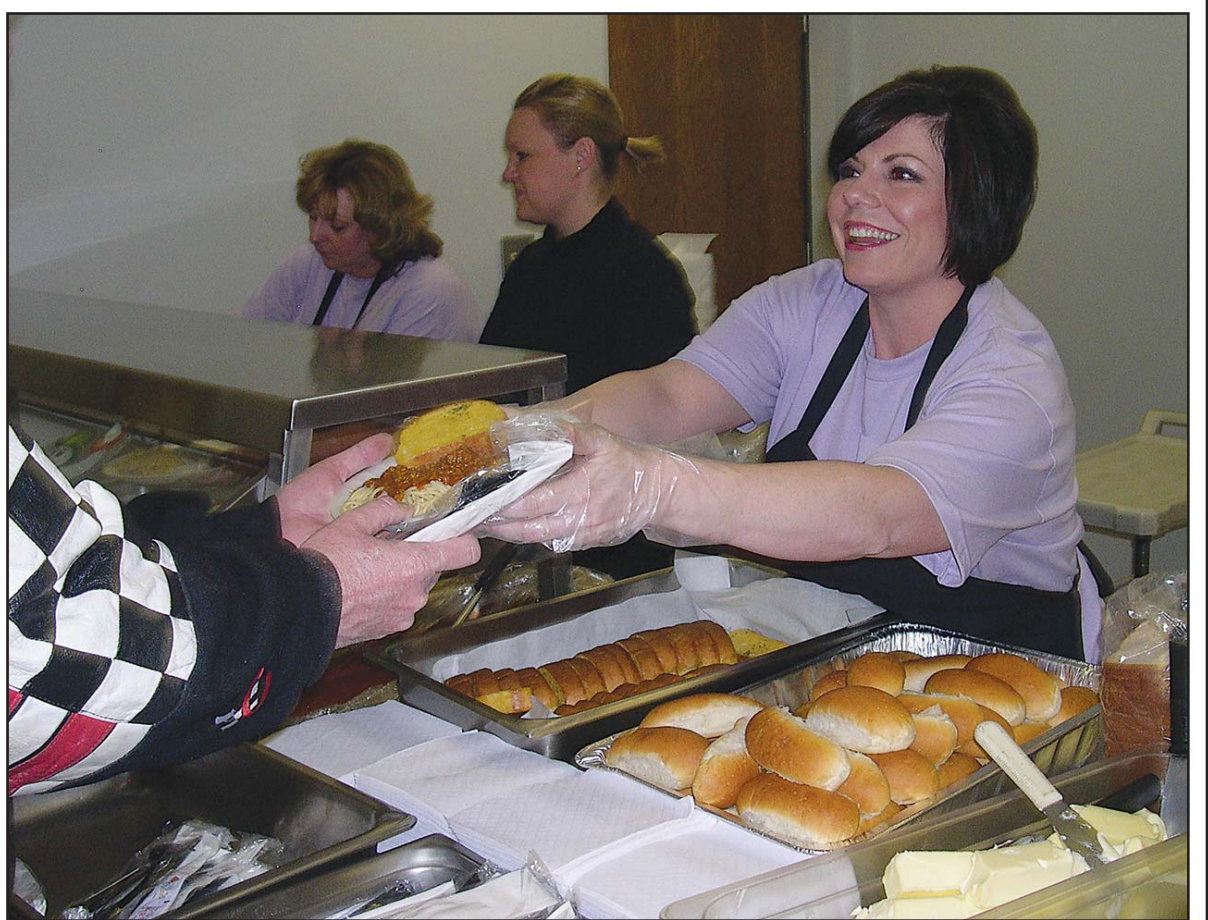
Kalis, who pleaded no contest to one felony charge — operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor-causing death — was sentenced last week in Tuscola County Circuit Court. Judge Patrick R. Joslyn ordered the teen to serve a minimum of 30 months in prison, with a maximum term of 15 years.

Joslyn also ordered Kalis to pay court costs and fines totaling \$198 plus restitution of \$5,915.20.

Investigators say Harp, an Owen-Gage High School student at the time of his death, suffered fatal injuries in the midst of a gathering of teens at a home located at 6525 Elizabeth St. in Gagetown, following an altercation.

Troopers from the Michigan State Police post in Caro, along with Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies, responded to the scene at about 4 a.m. after someone reported that a subject had been run over by a car.

Please turn to page 18.



MORE THAN 1,050 residents from the Thumb and beyond crowded into Cass City High School for Saturday's spaghetti dinner and auction benefit for the family of 6-year-old Lexi Smith of Cass City, who is battling an inoperable brain tumor. Above, volunteers (from left) Jenifer Green and Amanda Hartzell, both Cass City School teachers, and Christine Anthony, owner of Captured by Christine Photography, serve up spaghetti and garlic bread.

Amazing!

1,000-plus attend fundraiser for Lexi

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Amazing.

Shari Bock used that adjective liberally Sunday as she described the response to Saturday's spaghetti dinner fundraiser and auction benefit for 6-year-old Lexi Smith.

"It went well. It was wonderful, just wonderful," commented a tired Bock, who works as food service director for the Cass City Public Schools and was among the volunteers who spearheaded the event.

"I know we counted 1,050 people for dinner, and I'm assuming we missed some," she said. "This was by far the biggest and most generous (fundraiser) I've seen. There were people from Bay City who saw her (Lexi's) story on the news. They came all the way over here just to be here for her."

Aside from the dinner attendance, more than 180 people submitted bids during a live auction that kicked off at 6 p.m. "I can't even imagine what we had for the silent auction, but I would guess we had over 200 items for that," Bock said.

Among those items was a hand-painted picture of a tree, created by Lexi herself using a piece of cardboard as her canvas. The artwork drew a winning bid of some \$3,000. "That was just amazing; there wasn't a dry eye in the gym," Bock noted. Other donations included furniture, halves of beef and pork, and several hours of

labor donated by Cass City High School sports teams and members of the Elkland Township Fire Department.

"We had so many wonderful volunteers. We had probably 50, and we had 20 to 25 kids that volunteered throughout the day to help out," Bock continued.

All of the proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Lexi's family. She is the daughter of Randy and Heidi Smith of Cass City, and the

granddaughter of Rick and Donna Hartwick and Randy and Jackie Smith.

Just weeks ago Lexi, a student at Campbell Elementary School in Cass City, was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Doctors have offered the family little hope, although Lexi recently underwent a series of radiation treatments to slow the tumor's growth.

"Our 2 options were to just let her

Please turn to page 18.



Cody Kalis



KINGSTON HIGH School Principal Mike McLaughlin is tackling plenty of added responsibility in his new role as the district's superintendent.

Kingston principal-superintendent

McLaughlin enjoying new role

by Ryan Walker
Freelance Writer

In a time when the job description for school administrators is increasing, Kingston High School Principal Mike McLaughlin has added to his list of responsibilities.

He's no longer known as just the high school principal; he has also added superintendent to his job title

at Kingston Public Schools. McLaughlin, a 1990 Kingston High graduate, returned to his alma mater 4 1/2 years ago to serve as high school principal. "I came back because I love this town. I've always been a Kingston fan," he said.

McLaughlin's role as high school principal includes involvement in many aspects of academic life.

"A big responsibility for any educa-

tional leader is to manage the day-to-day operations of the building," he said. McLaughlin also serves as head curriculum director for the high school. As curriculum director, he must maintain an in-depth understanding of the base curriculum as well as any programs used to enhance the curriculum.

McLaughlin also serves as data

Please turn page 6.



SMITH FAMILY members, including Lexi's aunt, Jessica Smith of Cass City, sported T-shirts honoring Lexi during Saturday's fundraiser.

Delta College recognizes students on honors list

Several area residents were recently recognized by Delta College officials for earning a place on the school's honors lists.

Students named to the president's list earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average while completing at least 6 credit hours; those named to the vice-president's list received a grade point average of 3.7 to 3.99 while completing a minimum of 6 credit hours; and students named to the dean's list achieved a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.69 while completing at least 6 credit hours.

Among those honored were:

- Full-time dean's list** – Josiah Battel, Cass City; and Nathaniel Lambie, Travis Ozbat and Sheldon Shacena, all of Caro.
- Part-time dean's list** – Lori

Herrmann, Justin Ladra, Hope Lipe and Brady Wright, all of Cass City; Carolyn McLoskey, Ishmial Morell, Ann North and Crystal Rickard, all of Caro; Jessica Proctor, Deford; and Joseph Varosi, Snover.

- Full-time vice-president's list** – Kevven Dorland and Marshall Venema, both of Cass City; Brittany Campbell, MacLain Credeur, Breana Henry, Stephanie McLoskey and Adam Putnam, all of Caro; Don Dorsch, Roberta Laponis and Justin Stilson, all of Gageton; Adam Gilley, Kingston; and Brian Rutkowski, Uby.
- Part-time vice-president's list** – Valerie Behrends, Scott Bolsby, Ashleigh Burrill, Rikki Butterfield, Angela Goodro, Jordyn Kolasinski, Kyle Montgomery, Caitlin Murphy, Kyle Nordstrom, Elisa Pelletier and

Kenneth Trisch, all of Caro; Tracy Nicol, Deford; Madonna Cox, Kingston; and Brandi Burton, Connie Heleski, Laken Rich and Mariah Shetler, all of Uby.

- Full-time president's list** – Kevin Hrabcak and Alicia Wills, both of Cass City; and Stephanie Hall and Jessica Smith, both of Caro.
- Part-time president's list** – Kayla Delong, Daniel Manwell, Jessica Prieskorn and Heather Sweeney, all of Cass City; Travis Hernandez, Steven King, Darryl Poppeck II and Rochelle Thompson, all of Caro; Scott Stimer, Decker; Travis Fletcher and Mitchell Langlois, both of Gageton; Amanda Davis and Danielle Sonnenberg, both of Snover; and Alyssa Briolat, Uby.

Join Arbor Day Foundation and receive 10 free trees

Join the Arbor Day Foundation and receive 10 free trees to plant when the weather turns warm.

Every person from Michigan who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in February 2012 will receive 10 free Colorado blue spruce trees.

"Planting Colorado blue spruce trees will add beauty to your landscape in Michigan with their blue-green hue and distinctive shape," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. "These trees will also add to the proud heritage of Michigan's 120 Tree City USA communities. For more than 30 years, Tree City USA has supported community forestry across Michigan, and planting these beautiful trees will add to this important tree-planting tradition."

The 10 free Colorado blue spruce trees are part of the non-profit foundation's "Trees for America" campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge.

Arbor Day Foundation members also receive a subscription to the foundation's colorful bi-monthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book, which contains information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Colorado Blue Spruce Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor

Ave., Nebraska City, Neb. 68410, by Feb. 29, or visit arborday.org/February.

Sanilac Co. Band Fest. scheduled

The 62nd annual Sanilac County Band Festival for senior high school bands will be held Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Sandusky High School gymnasium.

The band festival will begin with an individual performance of 2 selections by each of the 7 participating high school bands. The evening of music will be highlighted with a performance by the 2012 Sanilac County High School Honors Band under the direction of Mr. Dennis Duso, director of instrumental musical at Marysville Public Schools.

The public is invited to attend the band festival. Donation to the performance is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

Baker College slated to hold a workshop

Baker College of Cass City, a satellite campus of Baker College of Flint, will hold its 2012 Senior Open House/Financial Aid Workshop Saturday, Feb. 18.

Baker's Senior Open House/Financial Aid Workshop is designed to help area college-bound high school seniors and their parents understand and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2012-2013 academic year.

The event is free of charge and open to all high school seniors, regardless of whether or not they have identified their college of choice.

This year, there will be a special drawing to win a scholarship for a 4-hour credit class to Baker College of Cass City.

The schedule for the financial aid workshop at Baker College of Cass City is: registration, 8:30 to 9 a.m.; breakfast and financial aid presentation, 9 to 10 a.m.; individual financial aid assistance, 10 to 11 a.m.; and campus tours.

Advisors will be on hand to provide one-on-one assistance in completing the online financial aid form, and to answer questions and offer information about Baker College of Cass City.

If available, bring the following: 2011 W-2 forms for parents and students, 2011 federal and state 1040 tax returns for parents and students, and 2011 untaxed income amounts (e.g., ADC, SSI, child support, etc.).

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Devon York at (989) 872-6000. Or, visit the Baker College website at baker.edu, click on Future Students, and then click on Financial Aid Workshop.

Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas

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5								
		8	7	3	2			
6	3	5						

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Answers to Feb. 1, 2012

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

In Our OPINION..

by Clarke Haire
Publisher

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Help a neighbor spread the news

For many of us, the thought of organ donation doesn't enter our minds until we renew our driver's license and take notice of the opportunity to sign up as an organ donor by filling in a few lines on the back.

Most of us don't give it a second thought unless we know someone in need of a lifesaving transplant. After all, no one wants to think about donating organs in the event of their own death.

But there are other options. Donating a kidney while you're still healthy, for example. The procedure has been successfully performed for years, enabling the donor to give the gift of life to a fellow human being. The recipient, meanwhile, can look forward to a new lease on life, no longer tied to the constraints of dialysis, and no longer worried about a shortened life span.

Recent studies have indicated that the typical patient will live 10 to 15 years longer with a kidney transplant than if they stayed on dialysis. Patients also tend to have more energy, a less restricted diet and fewer complications.

You don't have to look beyond your own community to find someone in need of a kidney.

If you read last week's issue of the Chronicle, you know about Cass City area native Les Auten, who was struck with a disease that robbed him of all kidney function. Today he's hoping to find someone who is willing and able to give him his own new lease on life.

Auten isn't alone. There are more than 83,000 Americans with renal failure on the national waiting list for kidneys, a grim new high. Almost 13 die each day. In Michigan, more than 2,400 residents are waiting for a transplant.

Kidneys top the list in terms of need — they are the second most common transplant operation in the country.

As for Auten, we couldn't say if one of our readers might consider exploring the possibility of being a donor — the process begins with a simple blood test, and the donor isn't obligated to follow through unless he or she wants to.

That's a big decision, one that requires a great deal of thought.

However, we are confident in the fact that every member of our small community can offer the local resident a helping hand by simply spreading the word about his need. Mention Auten's situation when you talk to family and friends, bring it up in conversation with your co-workers, post it on your facebook page (the Auten's have a facebook page entitled "Our Daddy Needs a Kidney", and their email address is auten@midmich.net).

It won't cost you a penny, and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing you might have made all the difference in possibly delivering a priceless gift to a neighbor.

Slices of Life

by Jill Pertler

Football mimics life? Maybe not




Football is life. At least it feels that way during the final days of January when we anticipate turning the calendar to February and the week of the biggest football game of the year.

Wikipedia even goes so far as to dub Super Bowl Sunday as a defacto American holiday. Last year, an estimated 111 million viewers stopped what they were doing to eat, drink and cheer for their favorite team.

You don't necessarily need to be a fan to watch. Even if you can't tell your Manning from your Brady, you might want to tune in for the commercials, pregame and halftime shows. Our friends at Wiki report that popular entertainers vie for the Super Bowl venue because of the vast opportunities for exposure — and not only in the Janet Jackson sense.

Football is life. Or maybe not. As I pondered the greatness of the game, I decided the metaphor goes both ways.

The offense — why football is life: No one wants to sit on the bench. Life is richer, fuller and better if you are a participant, not a spectator.

A team has only one starting quarterback. Not everyone can be the star; as you go through life you discover sometimes being the star is over-rated.

There are no do overs. Mistakes cost you — in football and in life.

Sometimes the commercials are better entertainment than the actual game. Such is true with life. There's never an opportune time to go to the kitchen for a dish of ice cream. Something exciting could happen when your head's stuck in the fridge. You've got to pay attention.

Hard work will get you where you want to go. We're all born with abilities, but it takes effort to turn them into something worthwhile.

If all else fails, go for the Hail Mary. When things seem most desperate, sometimes it's best to pull out the stops and go for the long bomb. You just might get lucky.

A touchdown is a touchdown. If you've truly earned it, no one can take an accomplishment away from you.

The defense — why football is not life:

The real world has no two-minute warnings or timeouts (unless you are 3 years old). You can't predict what tomorrow holds or count on the fact that you've got enough seconds on the clock for two more plays. Life is

Reporter's notebook

Just wondering... Am I dead yet?

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Funny how your perspective changes over the years when it comes to age.

These days 30 is looking pretty good to me, and 60 — a milestone I couldn't even begin to fathom back when I was in college a few years ago — isn't the end of the world, at least I hope not.

I've never really reflected all that much when another birthday rolled around, but with 50 just around the corner (okay, it was Friday), I'm finding myself thinking about some of the not-so-pleasant realities.

And I'm not just talking about a sense of hearing that has pushed the word "huh?" to the top of my vocabulary list, or the Mr. Magoo eyesight that finally forced me to throw up my hands and say "yes" to the "B" word (bifocals) a couple weeks ago.

Maybe it was naive of me to simply expect another birthday celebrated with a handful of cards and some good-natured kidding.

Oh, those will probably come, but I'm also being bombarded with suggestions/reminders that I'm not a teenager anymore.

For example, the medical community tells me that, at my age, I should be paying close attention to my blood pressure and cholesterol level (I'll admit it, mine is a bit high). This evidently is also a good time to schedule a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy (yeah, and while I'm at it,

why don't I just perform an appendectomy on myself). And what about osteoporosis?

Apparently, I should also be on the lookout for feelings of depression. Gee, I wasn't depressed until I started looking into all of the tests I should probably undergo so I can look forward to a few more birthdays down the road.

Good grief! Am I dead yet?

Ever the optimist, however, I decided to face this birthday with a humorous spin and some words of wisdom I've picked up here and there, sharing them liberally with good friends and family members who have already braved the big 5-0.

Here's the short list:

*Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes age just shows up all by itself.

*The cardiologist's diet: If it tastes good, spit it out.

*A man has reached middle age when he is warned to slow down by his doctor instead of the police.

*Growing old is a question of mind over matter. Provided you don't mind it really doesn't matter.

*You're not 50, just 49.95 plus tax.

*At your age, you don't care if your mind starts to wander, just as long as it comes back again.

*You know you're 50 when you can't find your glasses to find your glasses.

There, I feel better now. But so help me, if anyone gives me a gift certificate for a colonoscopy, I'm going to flatten them.

happening right now. In real time.

Life has no halftime entertainment — only the chance of a midlife crisis, which may or may not include wardrobe malfunctions.

Real grass can't grow that perfectly green. It has brown spots and rough patches, especially if you own a dog. A loyal dog can be as valuable as a loyal linebacker and rough patches serve to make you stronger.

The logo on the jersey may seem important, but it's not about what you wear; it's about who you are.

Life is not a game. It may be fun sometimes and even entertaining, on occasion. But, there are no instant replays, cheerleaders on the sidelines or fans in the stands.

Finally, it's not always about winning. In fact, a well-lived life is seldom about winning. There's so much more to it than that.

This Sunday, one out of every three Americans will tune in to see the Big Game. We'll all wear red, white and blue jerseys, but the solidarity will end there. For a few hours, most of us will choose to be either a Patriot or Giant, but not both.

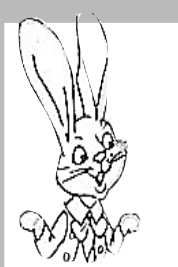
Because there is no such thing as a giant patriot or a patriotic giant — at least not during this Super Bowl.

Follow Slices of Life on Facebook. Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist and author of "The Do-It-Yourselfer's Guide to Self-Syndication" Email her at permtm@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)



Over the weekend, I made a return visit to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It was my first instate trip north of the Mackinac Bridge in over a decade. Although the snow was lacking, our group was able to accumulate 300 miles riding snowmobiles over the course of 2 days. Pretty good I thought, until I talked to Francis Withey. Originally from Cass City, the former retired local UPS employee, and his wife Mary, reside in the tiny town of Seney during the winter months. That allowed Francis to put 2,500 miles on his sled during the month of January alone. Last season, Withey rode over 7,500 miles on his machine.

You don't want to be late for this very important date so get your tickets now, says Carrie Luana, Director of Administrative Services at Hills & Dales General Hospital. She's referring to February 25, the date of our community hospital's 13th annual Millionaire's fundraising event. This year's theme: "The Mad Hatter's Ball", will take place at Northwood Meadows.

Here's a shout out to Carla Most. She's the Chronicle's 800th facebook fan. If you would like to become a Cass City Chronicle fan go to <http://www.facebook.com/cass-citychronicle>.

It's official, Cass City Athlete Director Don Markel reports that Scott Cuthrell will return to the helm of the Cass City football program in 2012.

Have a concern? A complaint? Just want to voice your opinion?

The Cass City 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.

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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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.

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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Advertising Rates

Transit (nonbusiness) rates, 10 words or less, \$4.00 each insertion; additional words 10 cents each. Three weeks for the price of 2--cash rate. Save money by enclosing cash with mail orders. Rates for display want ads on application.

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, February 8

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.

Meatball 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, February 9

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

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

Friday, February 10

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

Saturday, February 11

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

Sunday, February 12

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

Monday, February 13

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.

Elkland Township Board meeting, 7 p.m.

VFW monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m., VFW Hall, Cass City.

Tuesday, February 14

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

Thumb Octagon Barn meeting, 7 p.m., fire hall in Gagetown.

Tuscola County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, 1:30 p.m., HDC Generations Building, 430 Montague Ave., Caro. For more information, contact Kim at (989) 673-4121.

Kedron OES #33 of Caro meeting, 7 p.m.



THE HURON COUNTY Sheriff's Department is asking the public's assistance in identifying the owner(s) of thousands of dollars worth of construction tools and materials (above). Deputies, who already have a suspect in custody, indicated they believe seizure of the property could solve a number of random thefts over the past several weeks.

Huron deputies seize stolen equipment worth thousands

Huron County Sheriff's deputies are asking the public to help them find the owner(s) of thousands of dollars worth of tools and materials seized during a recent investigation into multiple thefts in the area.

Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson reported last week that the investigation first turned up a stolen deer hunting blind Jan. 25 in Oliver Township, where Sgt. Gary Polega responded to a theft complaint involving a residence on South Elkton Road.

"Apparently, a friend of Scott Solschlager, Kilmanagh Road, Bad Axe, spotted Scott's deer blind in the back yard of that residence. The blind was last seen in a fencerow north of Scott's days before," Hanson said. "The homeowner cooperated...and the \$550 blind was positively identified."

"After further investigation and assistance from our county's probation/parole office, Sgt. Polega took the homeowner's 35-year-old boyfriend into custody for violating his parole. He was taken to our jail where he remains lodged," he added. "This individual has been on parole since Aug. 26, 2001, from felony

convictions related to larcenies."

Two days later, Polega received information regarding a stolen wood burner.

"Our office investigated an incident Dec. 14, which had occurred at a residence near where the deer blind had been taken," Hanson noted. "This information led Sgt. Polega to the parolee's parents' residence in Bloomfield Township and resulted in the \$1,400 wood burner being recovered in a Verona Township van trailer. The wood burner was eventually turned over to its owner, Troy Chappel of Kilmanagh Road, Bad Axe."

Polega along with Undersheriff Ron Roberts then returned to the South Elkton Road address to meet with the homeowner/girlfriend about other possible stolen property.

"She voluntarily turned over assorted construction tools and materials that she claimed she had no knowledge of who they belonged to," Hanson said. "The value of these items is estimated to be in the thousands, possible over \$8,000."

Hanson added that some progress has been made involving other suspects/accomplices, with deputies reaching out to area police agencies as well as out-of-county agencies in an effort to find the owners of the stolen property, which remains stored at the sheriff's department.

The results of the investigation to-date suggest that random thefts may have taken place throughout the county and perhaps outside the county, according to the sheriff, who is asking anyone with information to call the department during regular business hours at (989) 269-6500.

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Four people injured in 2-vehicle crash Friday

Four people were injured in a 2-vehicle traffic crash Friday evening in Sanilac County's Argyle Township, Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies reported.

Deputies were dispatched to the scene of the accident — the intersection of Uby and Shabbona roads — at about 8:42 p.m. Sanilac EMS and the Argyle Fire Department also responded.

"The investigation revealed that 28-year-old Kristy Gogolen and her passenger, 11-year-old Draven Mills, struck a second vehicle. The second vehicle was occupied by 24-year-old Jennifer Milano and her 36-year-old passenger, Harold Barnes Jr.," said Sgt. Darrin Siemen.

Gogolen and Mills are residents of Buel Township in Sanilac County, according to reports, which state Milano and Barnes reside in the Snover area.

Siemen said the vehicle driven by Gogolen struck the rear of the Milano vehicle. Alcohol was not a factor in the accident.

Gogolen and Mills were transported to Marlette Community Hospital, while Milano and Barnes were treated at the scene and then released.

Foundation gearing up for distribution of grants in spring

Tuscola County Community Foundation officials recently announced preparations to award spring grant dollars to fund various projects in Tuscola County.

To provide an opportunity for those wishing to apply for funding, Tuscola County Community Foundation Executive Director Ken Micklash will offer an informational meeting and question-answer session Monday, Feb. 13, at 3 p.m. at the Tuscola Technology Center, 1401 Cleaver Rd., Caro.

Applications for funding must be submitted and postmarked by Thursday, March 1.

"Approximately \$95,000 will be available to apply for during this upcoming spring grant cycle for eligible Tuscola County organizations from funds held within the Tuscola County Community Foundation," Micklash noted.

Those funds are:

- **Janks Fund** — \$43,372 (unrestricted).
- **Andrews Fund** — \$13,062 (children's activities).

- **Future Youth Involvement Fund** — \$26,075 (youth programs).

- **Homelessness Fund** — \$1,254 (to aid homeless in Tuscola County).

- **Healthy Youth/Healthy Seniors Fund** — \$3,848 (tobacco cessation programs).

- **Founders Fund** — \$1,892 (unrestricted).

- **Anne S. Laethem Fund** — \$500 (preservation of historic buildings in Tuscola County).

- **Don List Fund for Special Needs Children** — \$679 (to provide for special needs children).

"The meeting will acquaint participants with the community foundation's grant guidelines, its grant application forms and additional details concerning the available funding," Micklash explained. "Interested parties are asked to RSVP on or before Feb. 8 by writing to the Tuscola County Community Foundation, P.O. Box 534, Caro, MI 48723, or by calling (989) 673-8223, or by sending an email to: tcfc534@centurytel.net."

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Circuit Court

Several face felony charges last week

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

•Steven J. Hill, 33, Cass City, pleaded guilty to second degree home invasion Dec. 26 in Cass City.

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

•Anthony L. Parrish, 23, Fairgrove, stood mute to charges of absconding or forfeiting bond Dec. 5 in Caro, and to being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

A pre-trial hearing was ordered in the case. Bond was continued at \$8,000.

•Corey J. Jobson, 20, Reese, was sentenced to 5 to 15 years in prison for his plea of guilty to one count of third degree criminal sexual conduct involving a victim at least 13 years of age but under 16 years March 31, 2010, in Reese.

•Anthony L. Golwitzer, 20, Mount Morris, received a one-year delayed sentence following his pleas of guilty to driving while his license was suspended or revoked – causing serious injury, driving while his license was suspended or revoked, and reckless driving Oct. 27 in Vassar Township.

•He was ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$1,204. Restitution in the case is to be determined.

•Galen A. Bellman, 36, Vassar, stood mute to charges of possession of cocaine, heroin or another narcotic (less than 25 grams), subsequent offense, possession of a controlled substance, subsequent offense and maintaining a drug house, subsequent offense, Nov. 18 in Tuscola Township. 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 \$5,000.

•Stephen M. Webster, 19, Caro, was sentenced to 365 days in the county jail and 36 months probation for his plea of guilty to carrying a weapon with unlawful intent Oct. 23 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay \$1,848 in costs and fines. Restitution in the case is to be determined.

•Annett M. Harris, 54, Fostoria, was sentenced to 180 days in jail and 60 months probation for her plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, April 13 in Mayville.

She was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,598 plus restitution of \$120.

•Timothy L. Beckman Jr., 22, Millington, was sentenced to 90 days in jail, with work release, for his plea of guilty to embezzlement of \$1,000 to \$20,000 while employed by Frankenmuth Credit Union Jan. 8 through Sept. 13 in Millington and Vassar townships.

He was also placed on 60 months probation and ordered to pay \$2,948 plus restitution of \$8,592.86.

•Brett William-Tasker Pleasant, 17, Mayville, received a one-year delayed sentence following his pleas of guilty to assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer and third degree retail fraud Nov. 7 in Caro.

He was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,831.

•Daniel A. Reichart, 36, Caro, pleaded guilty to delivery/manufacture of a controlled substance last August in Dayton Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$15,000.

•Charles J. Taylor III, 23, Caro, received a one-year delayed sentence following his plea of guilty to possession of marijuana and his plea of no contest to delivery/manufacture of a controlled substance Oct. 1 in Koylton Township.

He was ordered to pay \$1,331 in costs and fines.

•Harvey F. Hood III, 31, Shelby Township, was sentenced to 3 to 15 years in prison for his pleas of guilty to obtaining \$1,000 to \$20,000 by false pretenses Aug. 31, 2009, in Novesta Township, and to absconding or forfeiting bond Aug. 10, 2010, in Caro. 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 costs and fines totaling \$1,196 plus restitution of \$6,000.

•Jeffery R. Sutton, 35, Millington, was sentenced to 365 days in jail, with work release, for his conviction by a jury on one count of aggravated domestic violence July 18 in Millington Township.

He was also ordered to pay \$1,833 in costs and fines.

•Brian K. Bables, 45, Vassar, was sentenced to 2 to 20 years in prison for his pleas of guilty to second degree home invasion and larceny in a building July 29 in Arbel 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 costs and fines totaling \$266. Restitution in the case is to be determined.

•Nathan L. Hemingway, 32, Otter Lake, was sentenced to 4 years and 10 months to 30 years in prison for his pleas of guilty to 2 counts each of possession of burglars tools, malicious destruction of property totaling \$1,000 to \$20,000, and larceny in a building involving property valued at \$1,000 to \$20,000 Oct. 11 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 \$6,538 in costs and fines plus restitution of \$18,731.25.

•Christi S. Toombs, 37, Vassar, received a one-year delayed sentence following her pleas of guilty to delivery/manufacture of marijuana and possession of marijuana July 25 in Millington Township.

She was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$851.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2007)

Linda Derfny's sixth grade students were pretty impressed when they learned their teacher shook hands with President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush while visiting Germany last summer. But Derfny brought back much more than a few photos and some great memories; she returned to the United States and her classroom at Cass City Middle School with a variety of social studies and other lessons to share with her students. "It was a fabulous trip. Fantastic," Derfny said of her participation in the Transatlantic Outreach Program (TOP). "I was in Germany 6 years ago, but in different cities."

Lucille Hayes was honored Sunday, Jan. 28, in the morning service at Cass City Church of the Nazarene in recognition of her many years of faithful service and support of her church. During the years of her membership, she has served as Sunday school secretary, board member, Sunday school teacher, NMI Council member, song leader, VBS worker, camp sponsor, etc. She has also assisted in a weekly Bible study at Tendercare in Cass City for many years. Hayes was presented the Distinguished Service Award by Pastor Judy Eskilsen, an award given through Nazarene Missions International as a special tribute to those living and serving.

Bitter cold and stiff winds dropped wind chill levels to a dangerously cold 25 to 30 degrees below zero by early Monday morning, including Cass City, to close their doors for the day.

10 YEARS AGO (2002)

Greg Gliniecki has played the trombone for only a couple years, but his talent as a musician has brought him a long way since he made the switch from saxophone. "It was a pretty big switch, going from woodwind to brass," recalled Gliniecki, who decided to try his hand at the trombone after seeing the need for additional brass players at Ubyly High School, where he is a junior. The transition proved successful. In fact, the 17-year-old recently auditioned for and was selected to join the Lions of Michigan All-State Band, which will embark on a tour in Japan this summer.

Cass City thrives on home cooking and visiting Reese found out just how tough the Red Hawks can be when all burners are on go, as they were Tuesday when the Rockets were upset, 69-66. Grant Frank led the Hawks with 23 points, followed by Bill Thane with 12. Matt Hillborg netted 20 and Brad Ruhanen, 17, for Reese.

Old man winter has returned to the Thumb with a vengeance, dumping several inches of snow, closing area schools and canceling a host of athletic and other evening activities. The snowfall has meant plenty of work for road crews as well as area residents.

25 YEARS AGO (1987)

Four area Tuscola Area Skill Center students recently qualified to participate in a State Leadership Conference and Competition scheduled for March 13, 14 and 15 in Detroit. The students, Holly Conely of Kingston, and Kevin Haley, Ted Particka and Kathy Connolly, all of Cass City, qualified for the state competition by placing in the Business Office Education Clubs Regional competition held Jan. 31 at Baker College. The local pupils were among 53 students from the Tuscola Area Skill Center who competed against 539 students representing 19 area clubs in Region VII. In the regional competition, Conely received a first place in an impromptu speech category, Haley and Particka each earned 3rd place finishes in a spelling event, and Connolly placed 6th in an employment skills competition.

A Cass City resident was one of 34 new Michigan State Police motor carrier officers sworn in at graduation ceremonies held Friday in Lansing. Ronald L. Turner has been assigned to a post in the Saginaw area effective Feb. 8. Turner completed a rigorous 15-week program similar to training received by State Police troopers. The program's emphasis is on the enforcement of trucking laws, but also includes first aid, firearms, water safety and defensive tactics training.

50 YEARS AGO (1962)

Four Cass City men and three Gagetown men from the Caro Reserve Center, 428th Engineers Company, Supply Point, are scheduled to leave Saturday, Feb. 10, at midnight for two weeks' training at the Granite City, Ill., Engineers Supply Point. The four Cass City men are: Russell Schneeberger, Bill Tuckey, David Wilson and Fred Smith. The Gagetown men are: Jim Monroe, Francis Goslin and Jim Sontag. The men and the rest of the company, all Thumb area men, will receive two weeks' training in supply point operation. The trip will be made by bus and the men are scheduled to return February 25.

What began three years ago as therapeutic treatment for arthritic hands has developed into a creative hobby for a Cass City pharmacist. For Glen "Scotty" McCullough, making

hooked rugs in his spare time is no longer a prescribed chore but is instead an outlet for artistic abilities. "Scotty" has become so adept at making these rugs that two of them have been given away in promotions by the Cass City Gavel Club in past years and another is scheduled to be given away this April by the club. Since he began, he has finished eight of the 100 percent wool rugs. "It's so time consuming," he remarked. "Each rug takes about 150 hours to complete."

L/Cpl. Peter Kritzman, USMC, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Kritzman, Decker, and a 12-man squad set a new record for the five-mile cross-country run recently in a battalion field meet at Camp Schwab, Okinawa. Kritzman and his squad, carrying full combat gear, ran the course in 38 -minutes and 57 seconds, to pare a minute and a half off the old record. Four other companies competed in the meet. Active on the regimental track and wrestling teams, Kritzman began his track career at Cass City under Coach Mike Yedinak when he ran the mile in 1957-58. He also holds an expert rating in marksmanship with the M-1, rifle and the pistol. Kritzman is a rocket squad leader at Camp Schwab, one of the nine camps on Okinawa. With over seven months of his tour of duty left, Kritzman is expected to be discharged in September.

100 YEARS AGO (1912)

E. W. Jones advertised kitchen lamps at 15 cents as a special for Saturday, in the Chronicle last week. The entire lot of 71 lamps was sold before 4:00 p. m. and Mr. Jones says that he could easily have sold 100 of them during the day if that many had been in stock. And yet there are a few people left who say it doesn't pay to advertise.

About seventy-five people attended the wrestling match which was held at Doerr's hall Monday evening. The contestants were Edward Fitch and Norman Cooke. As this was the first match in town for some time, not a little interest was centered on the contest. The crowd was very enthusiastic, both men being applauded vigorously. Marc Wickware, the referee, acquitted himself nobly, his decisions being received favorably by the spectators. The men were equal in weight, their net tonnage being about 175 pounds each. Time was called at 9:15 p.m. Fitch secured the first fall in 45 seconds. Cooke got the better of Fitch in the next two falls, putting his shoulders to the mat in 2 1/2 and 4 1/2 minutes. The match went through without a trace of unsportsmanlike conduct.

Ask your neighbor Super Bowl perfect time

The big Super Bowl XLVI, game was held Sunday, February 5 in the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN. The New England Patriots faced the New York Giants for one of the most important football games of the season. Coming into the Super Bowl, the Giants and the Patriot both had 3 Super Bowl wins. Every year millions of Americans enjoy the tradition of sitting down with friends and family, picking a team and rooting like crazy for their team to win and for some fans the Super Bowl is all about the halftime show. This year Madonna, who grew up in Bay City, rocked the stage performing a few of her classics, plus her new single "Give Me All Your Lovin'."

For Cass City resident Kurt Romstad, the Super Bowl is the perfect time to get together with friends and have some relaxing fun. "I always hope our Michigan team makes it to the big game." Romstad stated when asked about his team choice.

Always a Michigan fan, Romstad further stated, "I'm betting Patriots for the win, Brady started out playing for Michigan, that'd give us some pride if he could take home the victory." Tom Brady started his professional career playing for the University of Michigan football team as quarterback in 1998 and 1999. Brady has since then progressed to one of the greatest players in NFL history.

Romstad lives in Cass City with his wife Cynthia and their 2 children; Payton, 5, and Abby, 1. He is a 1998 graduate of Cass City High School and currently works for Regency Plastics in Ubyly.

The New York Giants defeated the New England Patriots with a score of 21 to 17 for Super Bowl XLVI.

Kurt Romstad

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Cass City Area Church Directory

<p>Anchor Cove Outreach Church 1116 E. Caro Rd, Caro, MI 48723 989-672-2262 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>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</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. Eskilsen</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>St. Pancratius Catholic Church 4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726 872-3336 Summer Saturday Liturgy 5:30 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 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>Mizzpah Missionary Church 4631 N. Van Dyke, Cass City, MI 48726 Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday Service: 11 a.m. Wednesday Prayer Group 7-8 p.m. Wednesday Kids' Club 7-8 p.m.</p>

Visitors always welcomed... Please join us today!



RAWSON MEMORIAL District Library is showcasing a number of activities focusing on the art of quilting this month. Aside from a library-wide display of quilts, a “Bessie and Margaret’s Quilters Tea” is being planned for Saturday, Feb. 18, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Cass City Methodist Church. The event was named in honor of Bessie Muntz and Margaret Lounsbury, 2 local women who were avid quilters and sewers. Also this month, there will be 2 quilt classes Saturday, Feb. 25, at 10 a.m. (10-minute table runner) and 1 p.m. (9-patch pillow). The cost is \$7. Residents can register for all the programs at the library.

Quilting mania

Library hosting several programs and displays

Rawson Memorial District Library, Cass City, is devoting the month of February to “Threads Across the Thumb IV”.

Throughout the month, quilts will be on display that are created or owned by local residents. These quilts, displayed throughout the library, bring color and beauty to this cold winter month. Created by beginners and experts they are a testament to the skill and artistry of many of local residents.

Three other events are planned during the month. First, Tuesday, Feb. 7, from 1 to 5 p.m., Ernie Messing from the Thumb Sewing Center will clean sewing machines for \$60. If you are interested in this service, call the library at (989) 872-2856 for an appointment.

Then, Saturday, Feb. 18, from 1 to 3 p.m., the library will host Bessie and Margaret’s Quilter’s Tea at the Cass City United Methodist Church. Virginia Anderson of Flushing will present “Then and Now: A Look at 19th, 20th, and 21st Century Quilts”. Backstreet Quilts of Elkton will have quilt supplies and fabric for sale. The cost for lunch and program is \$10. Tickets are available at the library (please purchase or call the library by Thursday, Feb. 16).

Tina Gordon is teaching 2 quilt classes Saturday, Feb. 25. At 10 a.m. join the fun, making a table runner, and/or at 1 p.m., make a 9 patch pillow. Both classes are perfect for the beginner as well as the experienced quilter. Each class is \$7 and may be paid when you pre-register.



McLAUGHLIN, A 1990 Kingston High School graduate, returned to his alma mater 4 1/2 years ago to accept the position of high school principal. “I came back because I love this town,” he said. “I’ve always been a Kingston fan.”

McLaughlin enjoying challenge

Continued from page one.

coordinator at the high school for 2 key programs implemented throughout the Kingston Public School district: Student Achievement Model (SAM) and MiBlisi.

The results of curriculum and additional programs are often measured through standardized testing. The district’s state assessment coordinator is responsible for ordering and ensuring the validity of items such as those relating to the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), Michigan Merit Examination (MME) and the ACT test. McLaughlin serves as the district’s state assessment coordinator, therefore he oversees the standardized assessment process from start to finish.

McLaughlin’s new role as superintendent of schools added additional duties. For example, he is the district’s transportation director, which reflects the changes in his role as educational leader. Instead of managing the day-to-day operations of only the high school, as superintendent he becomes the educational leader for the entire district. This involves stepping into the shoes worn by the superintendent as chief executive officer (CEO) working with the financial side of education, including a multi-million dollar budget.

“Evaluation of all programs with the understanding that I have to ensure that I’m being as effective as I can be is important. Our students are and always will be our number one focus in every decision we make,” he said.

Upon taking on the job as superintendent, McLaughlin found it necessary to share certain responsibilities

that he solely held as high school principal. He no longer handles the scheduling of students’ classes at the high school. Counselor Shelly Moots is in charge of class placement for students. Student discipline was a part of McLaughlin’s job title that is now handled by Jim Green, dean of students. The Head Student Council advisory role also used to be on McLaughlin’s docket, but now that job resides with classroom teacher Amy Kotsch.

Past educational experiences have aided McLaughlin in his new post as superintendent. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Saginaw Valley State University. His master’s degree training came in the form of educational leadership.

His first foray into the realm of education was a 4-year stint serving as a teacher and counselor at Pioneer Work and Learn Center (PWLC) in Vassar. He then taught fifth grade at Peck Elementary for 8 years before becoming the principal at Peck Elementary. After 2 years, he returned to his alma mater to serve as Kingston High School principal.

McLaughlin’s personal and professional philosophies revolve around hard work and teamwork. “I try to be the best, and I want our district to be the best. I want everyone to do their part and work their hardest while being part of a team,” he said.

McLaughlin indicated he recognizes the importance of the school to the community as a whole. “The school is the hub of our community. We want to make our community proud of what we do and the students we produce,” he said. He and his wife, Rachelle, reside within the Kingston School District with their 4 children: Michael, Kristen, Joshua and Lauren.

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Red Hawk News

by Alex Warju



The FFA organization is not just a learning experience for members; it is also an opportunity for kids to compete in events based on what they learn. A districts competition was held Wednesday, Feb. 1. There were many events, but interviewing and agricultural issues were favorites among students.

Districts took place this year in Sandusky at the career center. Competing at the event were many different schools, but all were from the Thumb area. This meeting is a precursor to regionals, which take place Wednesday, Feb. 15 in Ubyly. Winners from that match will move on to states.

For interviewing, participants had to fill in job applications, complete job interviews, make resumes and cover letters.

One of those from Cass City High School who took part in this event was Jeroen de Vor. He was excited for the competition, but explained that there would be a lot of people and he wasn't sure how he would do. However, Jeroen did better than he thought he would and placed second in the interviewing portion. Due to this score, he will now move on to regionals. "We made a cover letter and a resume. We did practice applications and job interviews," he said about preparations for the competition. Contestants have been hard at work for 2 weeks for this contest. As a senior, the victory is a little sweeter for Jeroen.

Despite being a part of the Cass City student body, not all those from the school were competing on behalf of the school. As members of the Tuscola County Tech Center Agriculture Science class, Hayley Thorp and Brandon Green are a part of the FFA. Along with their other 3 teammates, they took part in the agricultural issues event. Through hard work, they placed first and will also be moving on to regionals. Senior Hayley Thorp said, "It was a blast, and I'm glad we all had fun. But now, it's time to prepare for regionals."

Districts highlighted the skill of the high school's FFA students. Showing how hard they work, all involved walked away with a sense of pride for what they accomplished. Even as members of a different team, Hayley and Brandon brought pride to their school. Beating his expectations, Jeroen is honored to continue representing his school.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of Elkland Township will hold a public hearing on the 29th day of February, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall located at 6691 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to hear public comment on the proposed 2012 Zoning Ordinance in final draft form.

A copy of the Zoning Ordinance will be available at the Township Hall's address above and at the Rawson Memorial District Library, 6495 Pine St., Cass City, MI, for public viewing.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing to ask questions or to make comment on the proposed Zoning Ordinance. Written comments may be submitted to the Planning Commission at any time prior to the meeting and mailed to the Township's address above.

Roger Root, Chairperson
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Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt & Doran, P.C., Certified Public Accountants welcomes Angela Burnette, CPA to our staff of accounting professionals as a senior accountant. Angela has over 15 years of experience in tax preparation and planning, accounting and auditing and will be responsible for client service work primarily in our Cass City and Marlette locations. Her expertise in tax preparation for individuals, partnerships, corporations and non-profits as well as her governmental and non-profit auditing experience will be an asset to our firm. Angela lives in Cass City with her husband Donald and their two children. You can reach Angela at our office by email at aburnette@atbdcpa.com or by phone at 989-872-3730 (Cass City), 989-635-7545 (Marlette) or 989-673-3137 (Caro).

Obituaries

Lois Levitsky

Lois Diana Wilson Levitsky, 86, died peacefully Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012 at home in Cass City due to the complications of Lewy Body Dementia.

She was born June 14, 1925, the daughter of the late Annie Laura Mason and John David Wilson of Petersberg, Ind.

Lois met Paul Levitsky on Miami Beach in the summer of 1945 when he was stationed there as a Russian interpreter with the U.S. Navy. They married in December of that year and moved to Langhorne, Penn. They later moved to Florida where they made their home for 57 years.

Lois was a gymnast and ran track at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Va. She was a faithful high school reunion participant, Class of '44, through the 60th Anniversary Reunion in September, 2004. A lifelong learner, Lois took classes in everything from the Russian language to belly dancing. She was an artist, an accomplished seamstress and a designer, business owner and foster parent in Ocala, Fla.

Known by all as a kind and talented woman, Lois will be remembered for her boundless energy; particularly when shopping, and her personal integrity. Her greatest legacy is the example she set for her children, grandchildren, and all who knew her.

Lois is survived by her brother, Willie Wilson (Jean Gaynone) of Tucson, Ariz.; 4 children: Christine Stevenson of Lexington, SC, Paula Graves (Dave) of Cave Junction, Or., John David Levitsky (Jane) of Palm Harbor, Fla., and Lisa Laventure (Todd) of Cass City; 6 grandchildren: Amy Lara Stevenson Robbins, William Adam Stevenson, Jeffrey Allen Graves, Joseph Paul Herbert Graves, Brandon Todd Laventure, and Cameron Todd Laventure; and 5 great-grandchildren.

Lois was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Levitsky in November, 2005.

It was Lois's wishes that there not be a memorial service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Lewy Body Dementia Association, Inc.

Cremation services were provided by Reigle Funeral Home of Flushing.

Bernice McConnell

Bernice V. McConnell, 97, of Harrison, died Thursday, Jan. 19,

2012.

She was born June 26, 1914 in Silver Creek, NY.

She married Carl McConnell May 13, 1933 in Royal Oak. He was a former Cass City resident, and passed away in 2011 at the age of 102.

Bernice is survived by 2 sons: Gerald (Johanna) McConnell of Warrenton, SC, and Richard McConnell of Harrison; 2 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews, many in the Cass City area.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, 2 brothers and 2 sisters.

Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 23, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church with Pastor Michael Schaedig officiating.

Burial was in the Maple Grove Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be sent to St. Luke Lutheran Church.

Family and friends may share condolences at stockingfuneralhome.com. Arrangements were made by Stocking Funeral Home.

Justin Presley

Justin John Presley, 27, of Cass City, died suddenly from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012 in Cass City.

He was born July 5, 1984 in Saginaw, the son of Rhonda Richardson and Kermit Presley.

Justin graduated from Cass City High School in 2003. He attended Michigan Career Technical Institute

in Plainwell studying culinary art. Justin worked for Erla's Food Center in Cass City in the meat department for 2 years during high school and then after completing his study at MCTI he worked at Erla's again as a stock person for about 4 years. Justin loved to help out. He volunteered at Videomation and on Tuesdays and Fridays he volunteered in the store with Revive Ministries. He also helped with the Revive Ministry food drives. Justin was an avid reader. He loved biographies, thrillers and books about trivia and history. Justin also loved music. He listened to classic rock and could tell you what group was singing when a song came on the radio. Many people knew Justin from seeing him ride around town on his scooter. Justin was a member of the Caro First Baptist Church. He loved his cat, Dexter, and his dog, Maggie, and often took her on walks and to watch his brother's games. Justin was a great big brother and loved his brother, Jacob very much.

Justin is survived by his parents: Rhonda and Brian Wright of Cass City; a brother, Jacob Wright of Cass City; father, Kermit Presley of New Baltimore; a half-brother, Joel Presley of Mt. Holly, New Jersey; a half-sister, Leah Presley of Hermitage, Tenn.; aunts and uncles: John (Karen) Richardson of Mt. Clemens, Kevin Richardson of Bad Axe, Pastor Chuck (Diane) Richardson of Stanwood, Linda (Kerry) Borodychuk of Grayling, Judy (Tom) Gould of Sebawaing, and Randy (Carol) Wright of Cass City; grandparents: Kermit and Mary Presley; and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents: John "Jack" and Hazel Richardson, and Harry and Isabell Wright.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Feb. 2, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with Pastor Ron Wigand of Caro First Baptist Church officiating.

Interment was in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Memorials may be made to Family Discretionary Fund or Revive Ministries.

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.

Wolfe graduates

Air Force Airman Aidan K. Wolfe graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, 8-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Wolfe is the son of Mike Wolfe of Bad Axe. He is a 2011 graduate of Ubyly High School.

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The Essay: "Why I Love Israel and the Jewish People"

by Tyler Perry

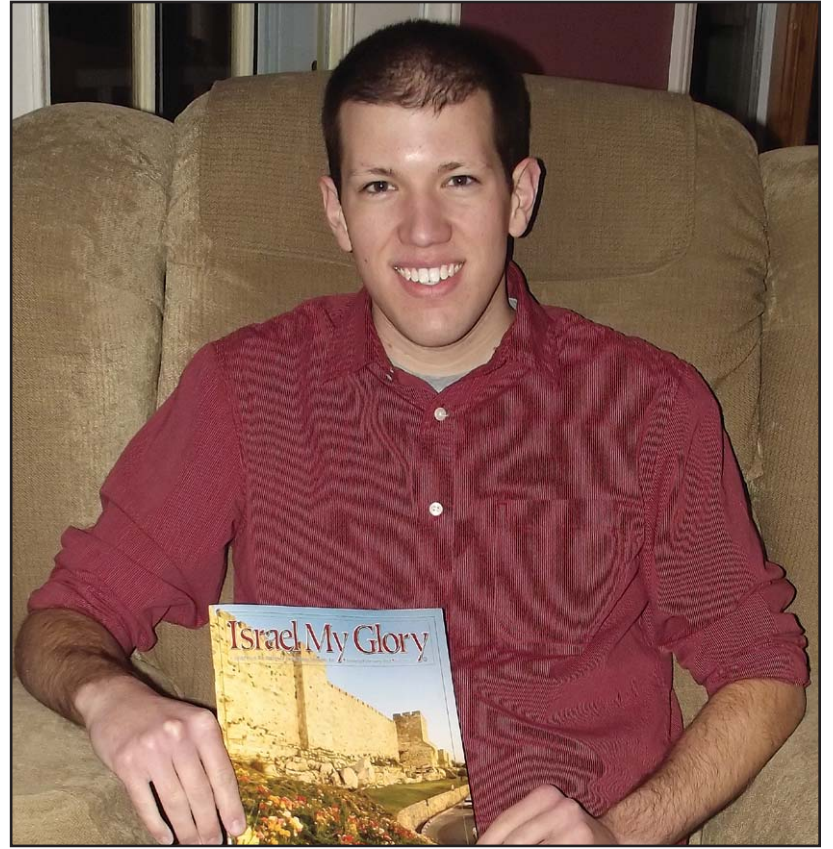
Israel and the Jewish people have been on the receiving end of the world's oppression for thousands of years. From conspiracy theories to the theological terror of replacement theology, it remains popular in today's politically correct environment to blame the Jews for societal ills and to amend the promises God made to them. So, given the great disdain much of the world (and sadly, much of the Church) has for them, why do I love Israel and the Jewish people? The better question is "how could I not love them?"

I love Israel and the Jewish people because of the great contributions they have made to nearly every area of our culture. Einstein and the atom bomb to science; Kissinger's diplomacy to American government; Jonas Salk's polio vaccine to modern medicine; Alan Greenspan to economics; Rodgers and Hammerstein to classical music. These Jewish people and many others like them have become household names and we will forever be indebted to them for their contributions to society.

I love Israel and the Jewish people because of the great spiritual blessings they have made available to a Gentile like me. From the opening phrase of Genesis to the final "Amen" of the book of Revelation, every God-breathed word of Scripture was penned by Jewish men, save for Dr. Luke. Never has a book united, divided, broken, nor healed as the Word of God has. It was also from the seed of David that the hope of salvation came in the form of a tiny Jewish baby over 2,000 years ago when God became man, dying for the sin of all mankind. And, although I was not yet born, I rejoice over that momentous spring day in 1948, when God's promise to bring the Jewish people back into the land of Israel was fulfilled. Surrounded by hostile neighbors, attacked by far greater armies, Israel's very existence is a testimony to the watching world of God's faithfulness to His people.

But above all else, I love Israel and the Jewish people because the Lord God of Israel loves them. It's astonishing to think that many of those who claim to be believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have adopted the unsound idea that the Church has replaced Israel as the apple of God's eye. To accept this view is to deny vast portions of Scripture and to challenge the holy character of God. "My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips," says the Lord, "...I will not lie to David: His seed shall endure forever". What love the Lord has for Israel! Despite their waywardness, their idolatry, and their lack of faith throughout their existence, God remained (and remains) faithful to them. What better reason to love the Jewish people and their nation than that the Lord of all creation - the maker of you and me, and every man that has ever lived - loves them?

The finite mind of man can scarcely comprehend the enigma named "Israel". Persecuted and scorned throughout the ages, the Jewish people live on and prosper. From their contributions to nearly every area of society, to the spiritual heritage of the Word of God and the Messiah Jesus, Israel has truly been a blessing to the families of the earth, and I love them for it. But most of all, I love Israel because my God loves Israel. My mind does not fully comprehend the depth of His love for them, but I know that as a child of His I am called to love them as well. And that is why I love Israel and the Jewish people.



DEFORD AREA resident Tyler Perry's submission in the "Go Israel Essay Contest" proved to be a winner, earning him an all-expense paid trip to Israel along with other members of a mission team that has been selected to take part in the ORIGINS (Our Resolve Is Giving Israel Never-ending Support) tour.

Perry's essay earns him a month-long trip to Israel

Editor's note: Tyler Perry is an occasional contributor to the Chronicle, most recently sharing his experiences following a 2-week mission outreach in Uganda, Africa, where he took part in a preaching/orphanage volunteer program.

A Cass City High School graduate, Perry, 20, is the son of Randy and Joy Perry of Deford. He attends the First Baptist Church in Cass City and is employed at Hills and Dales General Hospital and at Rawson Memorial District Library. His future plans include attending classes at Saginaw Valley State University next fall.

by Tyler Perry
Special for the Chronicle

All my life I have had a sincere love for Cass City, its people and its history. I don't know what makes it so endearing; perhaps the fact that I feel right at home nearly everywhere I go, or knowing that a majority of the people passing on the street are friends or at least familiar faces.

But as much as I love this dear place, I must admit that I have always had a desire to see what the world is like beyond the confines of cornfields and gravel roads.

That dream was realized this past June when, as I wrote in an earlier issue of the Chronicle, I had the opportunity to travel to Uganda, Africa, on a 2-week preaching/orphanage ministry trip. The trip was an experience I contin-

ue to thank God for to this day. But I was recently asked to share about another upcoming adventure; one that, this time, will take me to the Middle East.

Growing up, Bible stories such as that of David and Goliath, Daniel in the lions' den, and the fall of Jericho thrilled me. To me, knowing that these accounts were not mere fairytales, but were the true stories of people who had an intimate relationship with God, were captivating. And the more I learned about God's love for these Jewish people and the nation of Israel as a whole, the more I came to love them myself. So, you can understand that with my combined appreciation for history and my devotion to the Jewish people, visiting Israel has always been high on my "bucket list".

But having just visited Uganda, traveling yet again seemed nigh unto impossible; until a couple of months ago, that is.

For several years, my church has supported the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry (FOI), and (thanks to my friend and Cass City native Frank Morris) I receive their bi-monthly publication, "Israel My Glory". Founded in 1938 as an outreach to the persecuted Jews of the world, FOI's main purpose is to reach the Jewish people with the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The organization sponsors the annual ORIGINS (Our Resolve Is Giving Israel Never-ending Support) tour, a missions/tourism opportunity

for young adults, ages 17 to 26. And for the second year in a row, FOI has held the "Go Israel Essay Contest", the requirements being that the essay is 650 words or less on the topic "Why I Love Israel and the Jewish People", with first-place guaranteeing an all-expense-paid spot on the ORIGINS team.

To tell you the truth, as much as I wanted to go on the trip, I almost never entered the contest in the first place. After several failed attempts at writing a quality essay, I thought I would forget the idea of entering completely. But after a very helpful brainstorming session with my pastor, David Hill, I decided to give it a shot. What did I have to lose?

On Jan. 20, I received a call telling me I had won the contest, which is something I certainly wasn't expecting. With the contest open to a wide range of young adults throughout North America, I thought my chances of winning were slim-to-none. After picking myself up off the floor, I thanked the gentleman who had phoned me, assured him that I definitely was interested in going, and the smile has yet to fade from my face.

Many have asked what the itinerary for the trip includes, but to be honest, I really don't know much yet. The folks at Friends of Israel assured me that I will be receiving more information in the coming months.

Based on last year's trip information, however, I know that we will be doing volunteer work at an Israeli hospital, visiting Biblical sites, attending the Sunday services of believers assemblies, and getting to know the rest of the dozen or so other young adults on the mission team. Whatever the trip entails, it will doubtless be an adventure unlike any I've ever had before.

The Chronicle has asked that I also share the second half of this story - my account of the trip itself - when I return in July. I look forward to sharing the experience, but until then, as the Jewish people say, shalom!

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