







# Roggenbuck creates a child safety team

Tuscola County Probate Judge Amanda Roggenbuck and a team of child welfare specialists from Tuscola County, including Tara Hofmeister, Heather Joles, Ariana Hemerline, Melissa Williams, Lisa Davis and Terry Hecht are working to help improve the application and effectiveness of the Child Safety Manual.

Roggenbuck was recently invited to create a team of professionals to work with children and families in the area of neglect and abuse.

Once Roggenbuck organized the team and each member had an

opportunity to prepare, the team met and worked to improve the application of rules and standards which are to be considered when determining when, if and how a child can be returned home.

"Our goal is to make sure our most vulnerable residents are safe and to help families through a very difficult and painful time in their lives," she explained.

The team has been invited to share its methods and approaches in mid-February with other child welfare professionals and courts.

# Dog license deadline set in Sanilac County

The deadline for Sanilac County residents to purchase 2012 dog licenses is Wednesday, Feb. 29. Dog licenses may be purchased through the mail or at the Sanilac County Treasurer's Office, Room 204, County Courthouse, Sandusky.

Michigan law requires all dogs 4 months old or older to be licensed in the county where the owner resides. No license can be issued without

proof of current rabies vaccination signed by a licensed veterinarian.

Dog license fees remain \$7.50 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$15 for male or female dogs. Seniors, 65 years and older, will be eligible for reduced dog license rates, \$5 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$12.50 for male or female dogs.

Dog licenses purchased after Feb. 29 will be charged an additional \$20 penalty per license.

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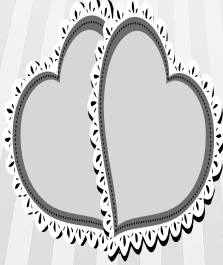

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Look for these ads in the Feb. 9 issue of the Chronicle. Deadline for ads is Feb. 4 at noon.

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# Not too late to get vaccinated

It's not too late to get vaccinated against the flu.

In recent weeks, the Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) Bureau of Laboratories has seen an increase in the number of confirmed cases of influenza. In light of these cases, getting vaccinated today will protect you before influenza peaks and throughout the season.

"The recent cases of flu serve as a reminder for Michiganders to get their flu vaccine - before the flu season peaks," said Olga Dazzo, director of the MDCH. "We encourage all Michigan citizens to get vaccinated as it truly is the single best way to protect you and your loved ones from getting the flu."

MDCH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that everyone 6 months and older get an annual flu vaccine. Being that it takes about 2 weeks after vaccination for the body's immune response to fully kick in, the sooner the vaccine is given, the better your chance of protection.

Based on information from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry, none of the individuals with confirmed flu cases received this season's flu vaccine.

The seasonal influenza viruses that have been submitted to CDC so far are well-matched to the virus strains in the 2011-2012 influenza vaccine. If this continues to be the case, this season's vaccine should provide good protection to help protect individuals from influenza illness and serious complications resulting from influenza infections.

It is especially important that people at high risk of serious flu complications get vaccinated. So far in Michigan, over half of the cases have been in children. Children, especially those younger than 2 years of age, are at higher risk of serious flu complications such as hospitalization and death. Other high risk group individuals include pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes, or heart and lung disease and people 65 years and older.

Vaccination is the first and most important step in protecting against the flu. In addition, there are some everyday steps people can take to stop the spread of influenza, including practicing good cough etiquette, washing hands frequently and staying at home when sick. For more information about the flu, visit [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu).

There is plenty of flu vaccine available throughout the state, and doctors' offices can still order flu vaccine if needed. Locations where the vaccine is being administered include doctor's offices, clinics, health departments, pharmacies and college health centers, as well as by many employers, and even in some schools. Find a flu vaccination clinic near you today with the flu vaccine finder at [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).

# Kingston Cardinals

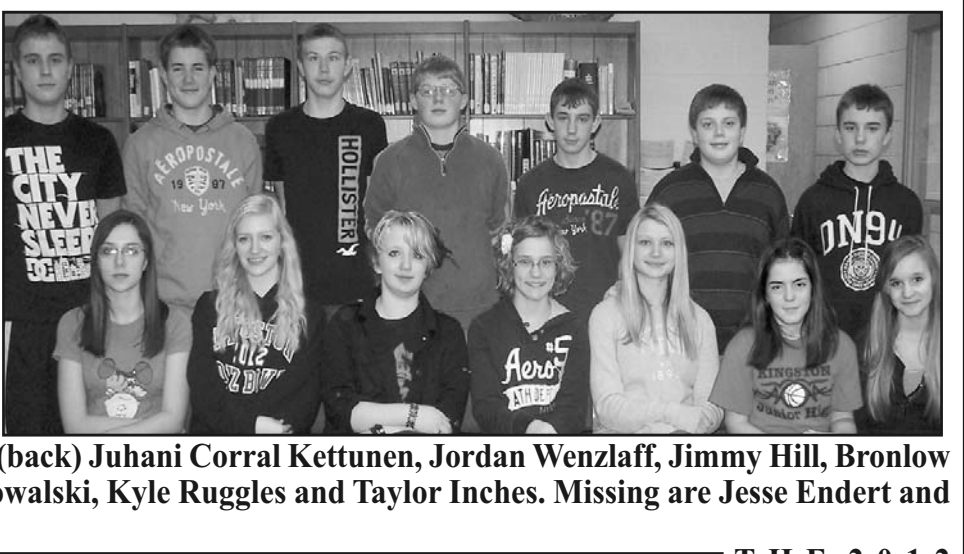
## 2012 Snowcoming

Tipoff at 6 p.m. ~ February 10, 2012 ~ vs. Akron-Fairgrove



**THE 2012 KINGSTON High School King & Queen candidates are (front, l-r) Ashlyn Thornton, Stephanie Marquardt, Quinn Daily (back) Paul Slater, Evan Bootz and PJ Henderson.**

**THE 2012 KINGSTON High School Snowcoming Representatives are (front, l-r) Kassi Anger, Aleshia Cloyd, Viola Poppeck, Kylie Zyrowski, Jenna Boyl, Victoria Hale, Samantha Smith (back) Juhani Corral Kettunen, Jordan Wenzlaff, Jimmy Hill, Bronlow Miller, Stauch Kowalski, Kyle Ruggles and Taylor Inches. Missing are Jesse Endert and Justin Smith.**



**THE 2012 KINGSTON High School Prince & Princess Candidates are (front, l-r) Colin Smith, Sean Reavey, Riley Magiera (back) Ashton Fetting, Priscilla Proctor and Taylor Goss.**

## Troopers: farmers should beware of trucking scam

The Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) and Michigan State Police are warning farmers to use caution when considering whether to pay a consulting firm to assist them in meeting state and federal requirements for drivers and trucks that haul agricultural commodities.

"Farm Bureau members have been contacting us because they've gotten letters from various firms saying they can help farmers follow certain procedures to meet their commercial motor carrier requirements. The letters don't make it absolutely clear just who the firms are, but unless you look closely, the letter looks like it was sent from a government service, and it was not," said MFB Legislative Counsel Matt Smego.

Citing a price range for varying services, the letters carry legal disclaimers on the bottom, Smego said, but they are in very fine print.

"Mostly the letters focus on issues surrounding training of employees and provisions for drug and alcohol testing," Smego said. "The companies who sent the letters offer to help train you to test your employees for a fee, and they usually ask people to act now or lose the opportunity."

"But farm trucks have some exemptions unique to agriculture, so people should be diligent in reading the fine print. The fact is, the state offers the same services for little or no fees, funded by money motor carriers already pay in."

Smego said companies allegedly are sending letters to everyone who has applied for a U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) number since 2006, when Michigan started enforcing the USDOT number requirement on intrastate carriers. But many farmers are exempt from some regulations if they meet certain criteria.

Brenda Dietrich, assistant division commander of the Michigan State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, said she is aware of fraudulent notices "that appear to be from a federal agency, but are not," and ask for the release of financial records.

"It is a fictitious letter appearing to be official and requesting the release of financial information," she told the Michigan Farm News, MFB's member newspaper. "I haven't had any complaints regarding carriers in Michigan receiving this letter. I would recommend, however, that (Farm Bureau) members be suspicious of any safety consultant requesting financial information. None of the safety requirements relate to a carrier's financial information. Verification of appropriate insurance coverage can be accomplished without a carrier releasing financial information."

That letter, apparently different from the ones Smego spoke about, carries a logo that claims it is from USDOT and is signed by "David Hoffman, Senior Procurement Officer."

While there are legitimate consulting companies that provide an excellent service to the trucking industry, experts advise farmers to be cautious and first do their homework.

"Read the fine print, and check out the company with the Better Business Bureau, and other industry organizations," said Dietrich.

But don't throw away everything received in the mail regarding truck safety requirements, said Smego.

"You can't always assume it's a scam," he said. "For example, the Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) form will come through the mail, and you will get one that may require fees if you have a DOL registration, particularly for interstate trucking. So read things thoroughly and with caution."

Despite the scams, Dietrich said farmers still need to be aware of their responsibilities if they own or operate a vehicle subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR).

"A lot of times, farmers claim they are not in the trucking business, but if they transport a commodity down the road, they're a trucker and must comply with the rules applicable to their industry," she said. "They still need annual inspections, which is something they forget because the truck is used only seasonally. If applicable, they need up-to-date medical cards and DOT numbers on the sides of their trucks."

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## Card Of Thanks

WE WOULD LIKE to thank all our friends and family who supported us during the recent passing of our mother, Doris Karr. Your presence and/or cards helped to lighten our burden and we were grateful to hear your lovely memories. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Ray and the staff of Hills and Dales Hospital who gave our mother the best care they could provide, American Hospice for their support, and most of all the loving staff at Satchell's AFC who cared for mom in her last days. Finally we would like to thank Thabet Funeral Home, Pastor Phil Burkett, and the wonderful Cass City Missionary Church for everything they did to help celebrate the life of Doris; it was a beautiful service and meal. We are truly blessed to be surrounded by so many kind and generous people. With sincere thanks, Mike and Dawn Karr, Paula Karr, and Les Karr. 13-2-8-1



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### EVENTS

RED GREEN HILARIOUS ONE-MAN SHOW. APRIL 14TH, DOW EVENT CENTER, SAGINAW (1-800-745-3000); April 15th, Ford Centre, Dearborn (313-943-2354); May 10th, Kaufman Auditorium, Marquette. (906-227-1032). www.redgreen.com.

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**NEW!!**  
 Well maintained home in Caro. Located near the hospital and HS. This home is ready to be moved into. It features 3 bedrooms, attached garage with carpet attached to the front of it. The full basement could easily be finished off. Partial dropped ceiling already exist. Nice sized rooms and backyard. Come and take a look! Buyers must be pre-qualified or have PO's. Seller offering 2-yr limited home warranty. CT-919

**PENDING !!**  
 3 C's... Cute, Comfortable, Corner lot. This home is just waiting for you to take a look. This house has a large breezeway in knotty pine. 3 bedrooms, kitchen offers plenty of cabinet space Spacious living room. The lower level has a natural fireplace, 1 bedroom and 1/2 bath. CCT-478

**PENDING!!**  
 Finish to your taste. Property features an inland lake. Has a fireplace as the focal point of the great room. Cathedral ceilings with a great view of the lake. Call to see for yourself. Need to be a cash buyer and have proof of funds. M-393

**REDUCED!!**  
 Spacious 2 bedroom home with outbuildings. This home has approx. 1,650 sq. ft. of living space with nice bathroom with a whirlpool tub and basement. Outside you'll find 4 great buildings. A 24x24 barn w/ 10' lean, a 28x38 workshop with cement floor, a 32x56 utility shed and a smaller storage shed. Just think of the possibilities! Call Marty for a showing. CT-656

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## GO GREEN - GO



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**SET IN A QUIET AREA** of town. This 3 bedroom ranch home features a full finished basement, 2-car garage and a nice yard. TCC 1570

**IDEAL COUNTRY RANCH.** Only 2 miles from town on paved road. 3 bedroom brick home with a full basement. Fireplace in living room, deck off the dining area, attached 2.5-car garage, 12x16 shed with loft area, 12x22 entrance room with wood stove. CY2641



**IT WAS JUST ABOUT** standing room-only in the Cass City High School cafeteria Saturday as hundreds of residents enjoyed spaghetti and at the same time supported Randy and Heidi Smith and their daughter, Lexi.



**HEIDI SMITH** (right), mother of Lexi Smith, visits with Karen Haire of Cass City Saturday in the Cass City High School gym, where residents looked over a host of auction items.

## 1,050 attend fundraiser for 6-year-old battling cancer

Continued from page one.

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

Lexi's treatments proved worthwhile.

"She's doing well, pretty much what we expected. We're grateful she's feeling good," Smith said. "It's remarkably better — quickly, in 6 weeks, she's pretty much back to normal."

Saturday's benefit was the result of a community-wide effort, with the sponsoring groups including Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Women's Life chapters 848 and 877, the Cass City Lions Club, Cass City Public Schools, Erla's Foods, VIP Salon and local Girl Scouts.

Bock marveled at the crowds that packed into the school, with resi-

dents traveling from communities throughout the Thumb. "It was fantastic. They all just came together for this little girl," she said.

"I can't believe the love and support for this family," Bock added.

Heidi Smith agreed.

"It's unfathomable how many people supported us (just by) being there. We could never, ever, ever have imagined the support," she said. "We are just amazed at how many people came and took part and donated their time and the money."

"With things being so tough for everybody — people are struggling day to day — I just can't express it, how much this means to us and how much it puts our mind to ease," Smith added.

"It's beyond words, it's just been absolutely amazing," she said, noting she and her family are proud to call the Cass City community their "home". "There's nowhere else I'd rather raise a child."

## Damrow probe goes to AG

Continued from page one.

sion and various citizens.

"These outrageous allegations range from myself flying a drug dealer around the country during the 1990s and acts of intimidation as sheriff, to a judge running over a person, causing death, and then being covered up by the prosecutor's office. Others include the road commission, where members and

employees (were) implicated as being in conflicts of interest, to allegations of a judge and a local attorney being arrested for being with prostitutes and in possession of drugs," Hanson said.

The sheriff cited an unedited 5-page investigation document authored by Damrow, in which officials identified nearly 60 points of reference and as many as 80 allegations.

## Reene focusing on homeowners

Continued from page one.

The officers arrived to find Harp critically injured. He was airlifted by FlightCare helicopter to Flint's Hurley Hospital, where he died hours later.

Witnesses told police that Kalis intentionally ran over Harp with his car and dragged his body almost a block, and that when another person ran to Harp's aid, Kalis came around and struck them, resulting in minor injuries.

However, Reene said later that those witness accounts proved inaccurate during the course of the 10-month investigation that followed Harp's death.

"It was not an intentional act of running over the victim, nor was it intentional running over anyone else," he said.

Reene indicated he was satisfied with last week's sentencing. "He's (Kalis) held accountable for what happened," he said. "You can debate it...(but) no matter what, a sentence when you have a death is going to be inadequate. I think the most important thing is, in the end, we understood what happened. The judge certainly looked at all the factors."

Reene said the length of Kalis' prison stay will be determined by a number of factors, including his eligibility for parole and his behavior while incarcerated, although he will serve a minimum of 30 months.

"As for the homeowners, Reene said, "We're looking at all avenues (related to possible charges). Every last option is being examined."

"This needs to stop," Reene added. "You have to actually step up, be a parent, be an adult, and put a stop to it."

## Damrow hosting discussion

Rep. Kurt Damrow (R-Port Austin) is sponsoring a discussion on child abuse and family violence in Michigan Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Tuscola Technology Center, 1401 Cleaver Rd., Caro.

Damrow will be discussing the complex issues associated with child abuse and family violence during roundtable discussions. Speakers, including Daniel Quinn, Rehab Amer, Lauren Furneaux, Rick Calhoun and others from across the state will address issues such as reassessing the best interest of the child, the family court system, special consideration for relatives when children are placed into foster care, and raising awareness of child abuse.

"I am honored that we have been able to gather such an amazing group of people who are willing to share their tragic stories and help educate professionals and legislators so that we can make Michigan a safer place for children," Damrow said.

Damrow has invited attorneys, medical and mental health professionals, law enforcement and social workers, child and domestic violence advocates and legislators to the event. "Anyone that has an interest in children should attend this event to learn more about the heartbreaking problem facing the most vulnerable residents of our state," Damrow said.

The event is open to the public. Anyone interested in more information can go to [www.bestinterestsummit.com](http://www.bestinterestsummit.com) or contact Damrow by calling toll-free at 1-888-254-5284.



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