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# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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**THE BEN VARNEY family has passed on ownership of Rolling Hills Golf Course to Ryan and Amy Lowman, who are no strangers to the Cass City business community. The Lowmans, pictured above with Varney (far left), also own and operate All Season Sales & Rent-All. The Varneys purchased the course from former longtime owner John Maharg back in 2005.**

**Lowmans take over the reins**

## Varneys sell Rolling Hills

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Rolling Hills Golf Course in Cass City is changing hands, but don't expect major changes from the new owners, Ryan and Amy Lowman, both avid golfers who have already established a reputation as successful business owners in the village. Rolling Hills owner Ben Varney announced the sale of the local golf course last week, saying he and his

family — wife, Kathy, and children, Lukas, Alex and Kristin — have been blessed to have owned and operated Rolling Hills.

"We have loved operating the course and meeting and getting to know such great people," Varney said. "(Our members) have truly made owning the course very rewarding."

The Lowmans officially took over the reins Thursday, according to Varney, who purchased the golf

course from John Maharg back in 2005. Maharg owned the business, which boasts roughly 100 members, for 26 years. "We will continue to be active in the golf course this year as they transition in to their new ownership role," Varney said of the Lowmans. "We know Amy and Ryan will put their heart and soul into the course."

Ryan, a 1998 Cass City High School graduate, and Amy, a 1998 USA High School grad, have 2 sons, Connor, 6, and Drew, 5. Since 2004, the couple have owned and operated All Season Sales & Rent-All, Cass City, which specializes in the rental of construction and yard equipment and tools. The business also offers tent rentals.

Amy, who works full time for Thumb Cellular, said she and her husband will continue to run the rental company in addition to Rolling Hills. A golf course was the perfect fit for the family, she said, noting both her sons enjoy the sport.

"We really enjoy golf a lot and we've spent a lot of time up here and got to know Ben and Kathy," Amy said. "We just thought it would be a lot of fun as a family."

Ryan indicated area golfers can expect to find the same course and service they've come to appreciate over the years. He said the couple

## Prosecutor: no charges in Damrow investigation

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Genesee County Prosecutor David S. Leyton won't be authorizing a criminal charge of filing a false police report against freshman lawmaker Kurt Damrow.

That was the message Genesee County Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Randall Petrides relayed in a recent letter to Michigan State Police Detective Sgt. Brian Ferguson, the lead investigator in the case against Damrow, a Port Austin Republican. Damrow currently serves as representative of Michigan's 84th District, which is comprised of Tuscola and Huron counties.

"We have reviewed the investigative reports of the claim that Kurt Damrow made a false police report. As you know, the attorney general assigned this matter to the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office after the Tuscola County Prosecuting Attorney recused himself," Petrides stated in his letter to Ferguson.

"From our analysis of the reports submitted to us, it is our conclusion that there is not sufficient evidence to sustain a prosecution of a charge of false report of a crime," Petrides said. "Further, there are other legal remedies available to the com-

plainant or others who may be aggrieved by the acts and statements of Mr. Damrow.

For these reasons, and the exercise of prosecutorial discretion, this office will not authorize criminal charges in these matters."

Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson, who initially requested the charges against Damrow, said he wasn't surprised about the outcome

"considering how this incident came to be last August and the questionable events that followed over Please turn to page 8.



Kurt Damrow



Kelly Hanson

## Deadline near for most candidates

Area residents interested in running for local, county or state office have until Tuesday, May 15, at 4 p.m. to file the necessary paperwork.

This year's state primary election will be held Tuesday, Aug. 7, while the general election will be Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Several county officials' terms in office are expiring, including the 4-year terms being completed by Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark E. Reene, Sheriff Lee Teschendorf, Clerk Margie White, Treasurer Pat Gray, Drain Commissioner Robert Mantey and Register of Deeds Dan Grimshaw.

County commissioners' 2-year terms are also expiring, and this year marks a new layout of representation

in the county due to redistricting. Commissioners now serving and their districts are:

•**District One** – Commissioner Roger Allen represents Wisner, Gilford, Akron, Fairgrove, Columbia, Elkland and Elmwood townships.

•**District 2** – Commissioner Thom Bardwell represents the city of Caro and the townships of Almer, Ellington, Novesta and Kingston. Please turn to page 8.

## Voters asked to okay tax renewal for the library

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

The Tuesday, Aug. 7, primary election is still weeks away, but Tuscola County officials have already received a handful of millage proposals slated to be placed on the ballot.

Among them is a millage renewal question affecting residents in the Cass City area.

Rawson Memorial District Library officials will be asking voters in Elkland, Novesta and Elmwood townships to approve renewal of .75 of a mill for operations for 12 years, through 2024.

"This is the amount of the original millage back in the early 80s when (then-library director) Barb (Hutchinson) and the board first went for a millage," said library Director Kate VanAuken, who noted renewal of the tax would raise roughly \$118,000 for library operations annually.

"It's actually bringing in much less Please turn to page 8.

## Benefit set for Murawski

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Family members and friends of a Gagetown native battling a serious liver ailment are rallying around him with plans to host a fundraiser this month to help with medical and other expenses.

Organizers are planning a spaghetti benefit dinner for Pete Murawski,

who was born and raised in Gagetown and now resides in Richmond. The fundraiser is slated for Saturday, May 19, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Sherwood on the Hill, 6625 Third St., Gagetown.

The dinner will include spaghetti, salad, bread, beverages and dessert for an \$8 donation (kids 5 years and younger get in free). Take-outs will be available. Also planned are a 50/50 drawing and a live auction.

Murawski is continuing to undergo treatments for a liver disease that he was diagnosed with last October. Due to the aggressive nature of the treatments, Murawski, a husband, Please turn to page 8.

## Doerr joins news staff at Chronicle

The Cass City Chronicle this week welcomed Mason Doerr to its news/editorial staff. He will spend the next several weeks completing a summer internship at the paper before continuing his college education.

Doerr, 20, is no stranger to Cass City.

The 2010 Cass City High School graduate just wrapped up his second year of studies at Delta College and plans to complete one more semester before transferring to Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in journalism.

Doerr, the son of Rick and Mary Doerr, Cass City, served as assistant editor at the Delta Collegiate (Delta College's student newspaper) over Please turn to page 8.



Mason Doerr



**Outdoor classroom...**  
CASS CITY FIRST graders recently traveled to Dow Gardens in Midland, where they enjoyed learning about the lifecycle of the butterfly. Above, students (left to right) Vaughn Severance, William George, Lucas Krug, Savannah Louks and Aidan Bogart get an up-close look at a butterfly during the field trip. This was the sixth year Cass City teachers successfully wrote a grant that paid for transportation to and from Dow Gardens.





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

## Wednesday, May 9

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.

Pork Chop 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, May 10

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

Sandusky Farmers' Market, 2-7 p.m., Sanilac County Court House, Sandusky.

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

## Friday, May 11

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

## Saturday, May 12

Closed AA meeting, 10-11 a.m., St. Joseph Church, 4960 N. Uby Rd., Argyle. (Meeting will be held in the hall next to the little stone church). For more information, contact Mandy at (989) 975-0544.

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

## Sunday, May 13

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

## Monday, May 14

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, May 15

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

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

# For 84th District House seat Grimshaw airs candidacy

Tuscola County Register of Deeds Dan Grimshaw last week formally announced his candidacy for the 84th District Michigan House seat representing residents in Tuscola and Huron counties.

Grimshaw, of Vassar, will challenge embattled first-term state Rep. Kurt Damrow (R-Port Austin) in the Tuesday, Aug. 7, primary election.

"The people deserve representation by a legislator who shares their conservative values and who will also serve with integrity, accountability and a sense of personal duty," Grimshaw said. "I am that candidate. I have a clear record of honest leadership and deliver real results for taxpayers."

Grimshaw said he has accomplished what he set out to do when he was elected register of deeds — cutting costs, modernizing records and improving customer service, and he feels a sense of duty to run for state representative.

A lifelong resident of the district, he

cited his experience as a successful small business owner, local and county elected official, and community leader as having prepared him to hit the ground running as the area's legislator.

One of 15 children, he graduated from Vassar High School in 1972 and later earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Flint. He has worked in the land title industry for more than 27 years, owning Mid-State Title Services since 1996. In addition to serving as register of deeds, he served on the Vassar Board of Education for 5 years and as a member of the Tuscola Behavioral Health Board for the past 20 years. He is also an active member of his church, Rotary Club, chamber of commerce and Gideons International chapter.

Grimshaw is perhaps best known in the area for his years as a Gospel singer with The Grimshaws and The Calvarymen Quartet. He says faith guides his personal life, public serv-

ice and professional endeavors.

"And, as a business owner, I know very well that we need to get Michigan's economy moving again. I also believe that government must provide quality service and value for taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. Businesses succeed by doing that and those principles apply to government as well," Grimshaw said.

"Quality service from a legislator means representing the people with integrity, honesty and being accountable to those who elect you. Huron and Tuscola counties deserve nothing less. I will deliver each day if I am elected."



Dan Grimshaw

## Circuit Court

# Several face felony charges

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

- Robert L. Chapel, 38, Caro, was sentenced to 18 months to 10 years in prison for his plea of guilty to domestic violence, third offense, Jan. 24 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 court costs and fines totaling \$698.

- Lindsay K. Milot, 25, Cass City, was sentenced to 365 days in the county jail and 60 months probation for her pleas of no contest to fleeing and eluding a police officer, assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer, and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, second offense, Feb. 11 in Caro.

She was also ordered to complete 100 hours of community service and pay costs and fines totaling \$916 plus restitution of \$120.

- Christopher J. Reinke, 54, Cass City, was sentenced to 93 days in jail for his pleas of guilty to 2 counts of stealing/retaining a financial transaction device without consent of the device holder Dec. 20 in Cass City. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (2 prior felony

convictions).

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,266.

- Christopher W. Jones, 25, Otter Lake, received a one-year delayed sentence following his pleas of no contest to 2 counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and 2 counts of discharging a firearm, while aimed at another person, without malice May 13 in Watertown Township.

He was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$766.

- Mark A. Doan, 35, Caro, was sentenced to 365 days in jail and 18 months probation for his pleas of guilty to larceny of property valued at \$1,000 to \$20,000 between Dec. 1 and Dec. 24 in Almer Township; receiving and concealing stolen property valued at more than \$1,000 Dec. 24 in Caro; and to larceny in a building Dec. 24 in Caro.

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,194 plus restitution of \$1,483.

- Robert M. Debeau, 49, Mayville, stood mute to charges of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, and driving while his license was suspended or revoked, subsequent offense, March 24, 2011, in Dayton Township.

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

- Karen L. Zirkelbach, 36, Elkton, pleaded no contest to a charge of assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer April 6 in Caro. She was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

- Glen R. Jones Jr., 39, Columbiaville, stood mute to

charges of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, and driving while his license was suspended or revoked, subsequent offense. He is also charged with being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled in the case.

- Michael O. Morrison, 34, Vassar, was sentenced to 42 months to 30 years in prison for his plea of guilty to possession of cocaine, heroin or another narcotic (less than 25 grams) Oct. 11 in Juniata Township, and to 2 counts of delivery/manufacture of cocaine, heroin or another narcotic (less than 50 grams), subsequent offense, in August-October in Juniata 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 \$464.

- Brenton D. Hecht, 46, Vassar, was sentenced to one to 15 years in prison for his pleas of guilty to larceny in a building and false report of a felony (second degree home invasion and/or larceny in a building) May 20, 2010, in Denmark Township, and to identity theft between June 8 and Sept. 15, 2009, in Denmark 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 \$464 plus restitution of \$178.22.

- Donovan H. Garte, 38, Millington, pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana and delivery/manufacture of marijuana July 26 in Forest Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and sentencing was scheduled for June 18.

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CASS CITY SCHOOL Supt. Jeff Hartel (left) recently accepted a \$550 donation from Daryl Iwankovitsch on behalf of the Knights of Columbus Council 8892, Cass City. The donation money was collected during the council's recent annual Tootsie Roll Drive. The organization also presented checks to Highland Pines School, EMI-TMI School (\$100); Owen-Gage Schools, special education (\$100); Sacred Heart SPRED Program (\$250); Tuscola County Special Olympics (\$915.29); and state council charities (\$478.82).





# Red Hawk News

by Alex Warju



Just one of many perks during senior year, the senior trip is a much anticipated event. This year all seniors had the option to take a day off of school to attend a Detroit Tigers game with their classmates. The students attended the Wednesday, May 2, game against the Kansas City Royals.

Leaving around 9:45 a.m., students boarded a charter bus to make the long trip to Detroit. Despite the ride down taking a few hours, the seniors kept busy chatting with friends and generally enjoying a day out of the classroom. The charter bus was outfitted with reclining seats, DVD players, and WiFi, making the trip a comfortable one. Watching movies kept those on the field trip busy and made the long ride fly by.

The seniors' excitement to see the home team win faded as the Tigers lost in a 3-2 ballgame. After the game, students made the journey home, arriving back at around 7 p.m.

Regardless of the Tigers losing the game, students on the trip still marked the day up as a win.

"I had a lot of fun even though the Tigers didn't win. We ate a lot of food, watched movies and just had a great time," Becca Hacker commented. "It was really cool to see Verlander pitch." Verlander seemed to be the favorite of most going on the trip, and Kyle Middaugh echoed Becca by saying how he thought it was great to see him pitch, as well.

The trip was not just a homerun for the students in attendance. It was just as exciting for the teachers who chaperoned the game. Accompanying teachers were Stephanie Champagne, Nick Moyer and Brenda Burns. Ruth Fluegge also went with the seniors. "It was awesome! The students were perfect! It was great to get away from the office. I loved the home-run and the sun," Fluegge said.

The senior trip was not all for the students to look forward to during this time. Friday, May 4, was the last of 2 senior skip days. If prearranged absence slips were on file, students who missed could still participate in their sports that Friday. With 2 days out of the classroom for most seniors during this time frame, the excitement of being graduated and done with high school is mounting.

# SCAMMED

## Tuscola County couple duped into sending \$60,000 to foreign country

Detective/Sgt Scott Jones of the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department recently investigated a scam involving a Mayville area couple in their late 70s.

The couple reported being contacted by a male in July 2011. The male identified himself as Robert Alvarez, an attorney with the IRS. He reported that a couple had won a Publisher's Clearing House sweepstakes. However, the couple was told that the winnings were being held by what was found to be a fictitious government agency in Costa Rica.

The male continued phone contact with the couple for several months and talked them into wiring approximately \$60,000 to Costa Rica. The couple was told the money had to be wired to Costa Rica in order for the lawyers there to work on getting the money released. The couple was also told they would need to obtain citizenship in Costa Rica to claim the money and that part of the money being wired was being used to obtain citizenship.

The subject claiming to be Alvarez also talked one of the couple into providing personal information over the phone, including name, date of birth, social security number and bank account numbers. The couple was also told this information would be needed to obtain citizenship, according to Jones.

"With the personal information that was obtained, the suspect was able to open multiple online loans in the couple's name. The loan money was then deposited into the couple's

account and the suspect would request the money be withdrawn from the account and wired to Costa Rica causing additional losses to the couple as the loan companies used debt collection agencies to recover the original amounts," Jones said.

"In addition, electronic withdrawals in the amount of approximately \$16,000 were attempted out of the couple's account to pay somebody else's credit cards. Luckily, those withdrawals were stopped by the bank."

Alvarez was verified as being a real

attorney in Florida, but was found to have no involvement in this complaint. The suspect is merely using his name to con people out of money. This is the second complaint taken by the sheriff's department recently regarding a male subject identifying himself as Robert Alvarez.

As a reminder, Jones urges residents to not provide any personal information or bank account information to anyone over the phone. For more information, contact the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department at (989) 673-8161.



STATE SENATOR Mike Green (left) recently presented the 2012 Daniel Rosenthal Legislative Intern Award to Travis Colwell, grandson of Sanilac County native Len Richards.

## Corrections

Due to incorrect information provided to the Chronicle, a recent story regarding an apartment fire in downtown Cass City incorrectly identified the building in question as being the Plain and Fancy Decorating building. The affected building was actually the Hang in There Ceramics and Crafts business at 6465 Main St.

Also last week, a headline stating the "Thunder Across the Thumb" ride was set for Saturday. The correct day for the ride was Sunday. We apologize for the mistake.

## Motorists and workers still at risk

While the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities in road construction work zone crashes in Michigan were down from the year before, 2011 statistics released recently by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) indicate that workers, motorists and their passengers are still at risk.

Last year, there were 4,633 crashes, 1,312 injuries, and 18 fatalities in Michigan work zones - down from 2010's statistics: 5,632 crashes, 1,488 injuries and 23 fatalities.

"While this data suggests some improvement over 2010, drivers must remain focused at all times when they get behind the wheel," said State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle. "Many of these crashes are avoidable and the life you save could be your own."

MDOT's 2012 public awareness campaign will include a 60-second public service announcement on Michigan Radio Network affiliate stations throughout the state.

"We join other transportation agencies this week to raise awareness and promote our safety message: by eliminating distractions, our roads become a safer place," stated Steudle.

## NOTICE TO NOVESTA TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

The current Supervisor and one Trustee on the Township Board will not be seeking reelection. In addition, the current Treasurer will not be seeking election. The filing deadline for persons interested in running as a Partisan or Non-Partisan candidate is May 15, 2012 by 4:00 p.m. The filing deadline for persons interested in running without Political Party affiliation is July 19, 2012 by 4:00 p.m.

For more information or to obtain nominating petitions and other required documents for the vacating seats or ANY Board seat, please contact the Township Clerk, Joann Tauber, at 989-670-2943.

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**OVER 40 YEARS COLLECTION OF TOOLS & FARM EQUIP. AUCTION SALE**

Osentoski Auction Service has been commissioned to sell at public auction the following personal property at the place located 4 miles east of Cass City to Van Dyke (M-53), 2 miles south to the corner of Pringle and Van Dyke roads (M-53).

**HOARDING: BURIED ALIVE**

**Saturday, May 12, 2012 Commencing at 10:00 a.m.**

*This will be the largest quantity of shop, hand tools, power tools you might see in Michigan this year. Don't miss this auction! We will be selling 2 places at once.*

**FARM MACHINERY**

MM Moline gas Tractor, WF Ford 8N WF Tractor, Ford 400 gas Tractor w/loader, A2 Gleaner Combine, serial #35769, w/13' grain head, cab, heat, straw chopper • 3 Pt. Blade • 1979 Safemake 17' boat, in board motor on tandem trailer • Volkswagen V-block motor complete, rolls over • Electric Golf Cart • Case 222 Riding mower • MF Riding lawn mower • Lawn roller • 6' 3 Pt. Woods brush hog • 4 Sets of pellet jacks • 1978 Chevy Service van, w/gas welder/generator/air compressor, 12 volt starter, tool boxes • Oliver 18 1/2" disk, manual fold wings • HHC 12 R 3 Pt. Cultivator • JD 12" Transport disk • Brady 12" Flid. Cultivator • Oliver baler • NH 65 Compact baler • HHC 44 R Planter 12' • 200 Gal crop sprayer, fiberglass tank • Hand corn sheller • 8" Pop up camper, hardly used • 1957 Co-op tractor WF, hydraulics and pulley • Trailer type hydraulic log splitter • Trailer type 6' brush hog • Homemade HD 2 wheel trailer w/winch • Cherry picker • Yamaha snowmobile • Snowmobile dolly • MF diesel 33 straight frame pay loader w/cab, 2 1/2 bucket and a 1 1/2 yard bucket, newer tires and set of front chains • Case W20D pay loader w/cab, large bucket • 1948 Ford single axle dump truck, flathead V-8 engine, 5 yd. dump • A set of 4, 35x50xR15" tires w/8 bolt rims • 1997 GMC Sonoma 4x4 High Rider

**TOOLS**

Quantity of tool boxes • Large quantity of 1/4" 3/8" 1/2" 3/4" Socket Sets • Misc. size sockets, many different brands • Large quantity of hammers, pliers, screwdrivers, drill bits, elm wrench, torque wrenches, reset wrenches, extension cords, C Clamps, many many many too numerous to mention • Floor jacks • Bottle jacks, screw jacks, jack stands, creepers, chain come alongs, chain binders, logging chains, battery chargers, jumper cables, shop lights • Cement saw adapter for chain saw • Fire extinguishers • Air tools, several air compressors

**5% Buyers Premium will be added to your total. For more information, call Marty Osentoski at (989) 550-3400.**

*Without giving too many details, this seller has the addition of bbuying tools, etc. Because of this, we are holding this auction.*

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Out of State & Out of Country Buyers **MUST** bring cash or certified check. If using personal check, you **MUST** have letter of bank credit or equipment will **NOT** be released until checks are cleared.

# Obituaries

## Arthur Easton

Arthur LeRoy Easton, 84, of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away Monday, April 30, 2012.

He was born Nov. 10, 1927 in Birmingham, the son of the late Harry and Adeline Kruezer Easton



Arthur was a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Hot Springs Village. He was an investigator for the legal department of AAA of Michigan, a U.S. Navy veteran and enjoyed hunting, fishing, golf, cards and traveling.

Arthur is survived by his wife, Catherine Colville Easton of Hot Springs; a nephew, Randy (Nancy) Easton of Lapeer; 2 great-nephews; a great-niece; 4 great-great-nephews; 3 great-great-nieces; a brother, Richard (Patricia) Easton of Cass City; and a sister-in-law, Betty (Imre) Brasso.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Lucille Easton; and 2 brothers, Calvin and Harold Easton.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, May 8, at Faith Lutheran Church, Hot Springs Village, Ark., with the Rev. Mark Carnahan officiating.

Cremated remains will be interred in the Faith Lutheran Memorial Gardens.

Memorials may be made to the Faith Lutheran Church, Hot Springs Village.

Family and friends may share condolences at [www.grossfuneral-home.com](http://www.grossfuneral-home.com).

Arrangements were made by Gross Funeral Home, Hot Springs, Ark.

## Bill Kolacz

Bill Kolacz, 76, of Deford, passed away Wednesday, May 2, 2012, at Tuscola County Medical Care Facility, Caro.

He was born Feb. 7, 1936 in Kingston, the son of the late Casper and Pauline (Litvin) Kolacz.

He married Joyce House Feb. 7, 1959 in Pigeon.

Bill worked for 37 years for General Cable, retiring as an extruder operator in 1998. He served in the U.S. Army and enjoyed fishing, hunting and hobby farming.

Bill is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Joyce; children: Dianna (John) Dunham of Cass City, Steve (Niah) Kolacz of Sebewaing and Mike (Julie) Kolacz of Deford; a brother, John (the late Margie) Kolacz of Bay City; sisters: Sophie (the late Leonard) Beech of Florida, and Jennie (Walter) Pasternak of Warren; grandchildren: Andy, Erica, Sammy and NovaLee; great-grandchildren: Morgan and Aaiden; and a sister-in-law, Marge Kolacz of Westland.

He was preceded in death by 2 brothers: Tony and his wife Honey Kolacz, and Joe Kolacz.

Funeral services were held Saturday, May 5, at Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City. Honoring Bill's wishes cremation followed at Sunset Valley Crematory, Bay City.

Military honors were under the direction of members of the U.S. Army.

Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

Family and friends may share condolences at [www.thabetfuneral-home.com](http://www.thabetfuneral-home.com).

Arrangements were made by Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City.

## Shirley Stewart

Shirley A. Stewart, 83, of Cass City, passed away Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at Hills and Dales General Hospital, Cass City, after a long illness.

She was born June 12, 1928 in Kingston, the third of 4 children of the late Eber and Alice (Ferguson) Stewart.

Shirley worked for many years at Walbro, retiring about 20 years ago.

She is survived by her brother, Malcolm (the late June) Stewart of Warren; and several loving nieces

and nephews.

Funeral services were held Friday, May 4, at Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City.

Burial was in the Novesta Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Family and friends may share condolences at [www.thabetfuneral-home.com](http://www.thabetfuneral-home.com).

Arrangements were made by Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City.

## Nila Thorp

Nila Ruth Thorp, 77, of Caro, died unexpectedly Monday, April 30, 2012 in Hills and Dales General Hospital, Cass City.

She was born June 7, 1934 in Cass City, the daughter of Roy and Lela (Spaulding) Wright.

She married Richard Thorp Jan. 28, 1956 in the Cass City United Methodist Church.

Nila attended Cass City Public Schools. She and Richard celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 28, 2006. Nila was a member of the Kingston Wesleyan Church and enjoyed participating in the activities of the church. She took pleasure in bird watching, especially as they gathered around the bird feeder. She also enjoyed doing word puzzles and watching her favorite TV show, Little House on the Prairie.

Nila is survived by her husband, Richard; children: Jim Thorp and Karen Thorp, both of Caro; brothers-in-law: Richard Holcomb of McClure, Ohio, and Gerald (Sharon) Thorp of Caro; sisters-in-law: Eileen Thorp of Caro and Barbara Thorp of Davison; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by sisters: Betty (Philip) Doerr and Pauline Holcomb; a brother, Clifford Wright; brothers-in-law: Laverne "Jim" Thorp and Douglas Thorp.

Funeral services were held Friday, May 4, at the Kingston Wesleyan Church, Kingston, with Pastor Len Wyatt officiating.

Interment was in the Indianfields Township Cemetery, Caro.

Memorials may be made to Kingston Wesleyan Church or the American Heart Association.

Family and friends may share memories, prayers and stories with the family at [www.kranzfuneralhome.com](http://www.kranzfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Kingston.

# MFB officials optimistic about new Farm Bill

Even with the 2012 growing season off to an unusually challenging start, Michigan's farmers have some good news with the introduction of the first draft of the 2012 Farm Bill.

Weighing in at 900 pages, the proposed legislation codifies national-level agricultural policy for the next 5 years and is the product of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, chaired by Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing).

"Michigan Farm Bureau appreciates the effort of Senator Stabenow and her staff," said Ryan Findlay, the organization's national legislative counsel. "The senator has continually communicated with Michigan farmers to learn the impact of various proposals, resulting in proposed legislation we feel keeps Michigan producers at the forefront."

"We look forward to continuing to work with Senator Stabenow and her fellow committee members throughout the long process of refining this

vital piece of legislation." Directly or indirectly, the farm bill impacts every farmer in Michigan.

"This bill will go a long way toward moving Michigan agriculture forward," Findlay said. "Michigan's agri-food industry contributes \$91.4 billion annually to the state's economy. We feel this is a bill that will help Michigan agriculture continue to prosper."

The proposed bill shaves approximately \$23 billion off its predecessor and contains welcome provisions for strengthening federal crop insurance programs.

"Agriculture is inherently risky, so we're pleased to see this bill focused on risk management tools to help farmers minimize those risks," Findlay said.

Michigan Farm Bureau is the state's largest general agriculture organization, representing the interests of more than 48,000 farm families statewide.

# Wheat check-off is now underway

The new Michigan Wheat Program (MWP), the state's wheat check-off program, began assessment collection on May 1. The funds collected will be used for research, education, market development and promotion of Michigan wheat.

The MWP was approved by the state's wheat farmers in July 2011. The program will benefit the state's 8,000 wheat farmers residing in more than 50 counties who annually plant 600,000 to 700,000 acres. Those acres produce a 40-million-bushel crop with cash farm receipts of more than \$180 million. In total, the wheat industry has an annual \$2.7 billion economic impact.

All wheat grown in Michigan and sold is to be checked-off, or assessed. Michigan farmers grow both red and white wheat and hard and soft wheat. They are all assessed, including seed wheat, as of May 1. The assessment rate is one half of one percent (.005) of the net value of the wheat. Net value of the wheat is the price received by the farmer after discounts have been taken. Each bushel shall be assessed only once and the assessment comes out of the payment to the farmer, as the farmers voted in the mandatory assessment

program. Wheat farmers interested in serving on the board and setting the direction of the program completed the process of gathering petition signatures and submitting their applications to the Governor's Appointments Office for consideration of a board appointment.

The board was appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder in November 2011. The board is comprised of David Milligan, Chair, Cass City; Art Loeffler, Vice Chair, Star of the West in Frankenmuth; Chris Schmidt, Secretary, Auburn; Scott Heussner, Treasurer, Marlette; Gerald Heck, Monroe; William Hunt, Davison; Dean Kantola, Ravenna; Carl Sparks, Cassopolis; and Frank Vyskocil, New Lothrop. They held their first meeting in December 2011. The board has met every month since they were appointed and have worked through the necessary steps to begin assessment collection.

Similar to other check-off programs, the MWP was voted in for 5 years. At the end of the 5 years, the program will go back to a vote of the farmers to decide whether or not their money was well spent and the industry moved forward.

# EDC to host Thumb summit in Cass City

The Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) will host a Thumb Area Economic Summit Thursday, May 24, starting at noon at the Cass City VFW Hall.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Timothy Nash, whose presentation is entitled "Can Capitalism and the American Dream Survive?" Nash is vice president, Strategic & Corporate Alliances, Northwood University.

The program will also include recognition of outstanding businesses in the Thumb area.

A luncheon buffet will be served. Ticket information is available by calling the Tuscola County EDC office at (989) 673-2849.

# Blood-drive slated for May 15

Area residents' next opportunity to give the "gift of life" will be Tuesday, May 15, from 1 to 6:45 p.m. at the Cass City VFW Hall. Donors are eligible to give blood once every 56 days, or every 8

weeks. More information is available by contacting Kerry Brown or Donna Engelhart at Hills and Dales General Hospital, Cass City, at (989) 912-6319.

**2 ONLINE-ONLY AUCTIONS**

**Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**6,228±sf Comm. Bdg.**  
2-story, mixed use on Main Street with adjacent parking lot  
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BIDDING ENDS at 1PM  
Inspection: Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> (12-1pm)

**3,976±sf Comm. Bdg.**  
2-story, mixed use vacant medical office 4BR, 1BA apartment upstairs  
**1 North Center Street Sebewaing, MI 48759**  
BIDDING ENDS at 2PM  
Inspection: Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> (2-3pm)

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## Varneys sell Rolling Hills

Continued from page one.

isn't planning any major changes. "Just a few cosmetic things. That's about it," he added.

Amy said she and her husband have

enjoyed a warm welcome among Rolling Hills members. "We've been overwhelmed by people just coming up and saying, good luck, and it's only been a couple of days," she added.

## Benefit slated for Murawski

Continued from page one.

father and grandfather, has been unable to work and has mounting medical and daily expenses, according to his step-daughter, Chasity Perzanowski.

Anyone who is unable to attend but would like to help Murawski and his family can send donations to: c/o Pete Murawski, 5193 Hurds Corner Rd., Gagetown, MI 48735. More information is available by contacting Perzanowski at (989) 550-9413 or Penny Hill at (989) 975-0701.



Pete Murawski

## Deadline near for candidates

Continued from page one.

•**District 3** – Commissioner Tom Kern represents Indianfields, Wells, Fremont, Dayton and Koylton townships.

•**District 4** – Commissioner Roy Petzold represents Tuscola, Arbel, Millington and Watertown townships.

•**District 5** – Commissioner Jerry Peterson represents the city of Vassar as well as Denmark, Juniata and Vassar townships.

In addition, the 6-year terms of Tuscola County road commissioners Pat Sheridan and Gary Parsell will be on the ballot.

All township board seats are also expiring. The following is a list of the officials (and their party affiliations) currently serving on those boards among townships in the Cass City area:

### Elkland Township

•Clerk Ed LaBelle, Republican; Supervisor Daniel J. Erla, Republican; Treasurer Dale J. McIntosh, Republican; and trustees Cynthia Kruse and Terry Muntz, both Republicans.

### Ellington Township

•Clerk/Sexton Frederick J. Bardwell Jr., Republican; Supervisor/land division Duane D. Lockwood, Republican; Treasurer Diane K. Wilder, Republican; and trustees Larry A. Finkbeiner, Republican, and Patrick Price,

### Novesta Township

•Clerk Joann M. Tauber, Democrat; Supervisor Dale Churchill, Democrat; Treasurer Terri Stimpfel (no party listed); and trustees Marlene A. Sieradzki and Ronald Patera, both Democrats.

### Wells Township

•Clerk Karen A. Varney, Democrat; Supervisor Melvin L. Witkovsky, Democrat; Treasurer Ronda K. Benjamin (no party affiliation); and trustees James Kratz, Republican, and Richard E. Witkovsky (no party affiliation).

## Voters asked to okay renewal

Continued from page one.

(money) than it had been before because of falling property values, but the millage is the bulk of our revenues — probably 65 percent," VanAuken said.

The wording of the ballot proposal may seem a bit confusing, as it refers to the millage including "an additional" tax of .0045 of a mill "to restore the millage rate previously authorized" by voters. That additional tax, VanAuken explained, is actually not an increase at all, but rather an attempt to recapture dollars lost to provisions of the Headlee Amendment.

The Headlee Amendment became part of municipal finance in 1978 via voter approval of the measure to amend the Michigan Constitution.

In a nutshell, Headlee requires local

units of government and other entities to reduce their millage rates when annual growth on existing property is greater than the rate of inflation. As a consequence, the local unit's millage rate is "rolled back" so that the resulting growth in property tax revenue, community-wide, is no more than the rate of inflation. A "Headlee override" is a vote by the electors to return the millage to the amount originally authorized via charter, state statute or a vote of the people and is necessary to counteract the effects of the "Headlee roll back".

Voters in the local library district previously renewed .75 mill tax in 2002. In the same year, residents authorized the library to collect revenue on another .35 of a mill, which generates about \$30,000 for operations. Voters have since renewed that proposal twice.

## No charges in Damrow probe

Continued from page one.

the last 9 months.

"I am disappointed that the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office has apparently condoned Mr. Damrow's actions," Hanson added. "Given the information I outlined in my statement to Detective Sgt. Ferguson, dated Oct. 14, 2011, and from legal opinions sought both locally and out of our area, this is why the investigation was initiated. From the information available then and now, all believe the elements of criminal wrong doing on Mr. Damrow's part existed.

"My suspicion is that if one were to research past convictions in Genesee County, or even locally, that resulted from the charge of filing a false police report of a crime or equivalent, one would find Mr. Damrow should have been charged," Hanson continued.

"Kurt Damrow created a lot of unnecessary burden on several individuals involved in this complaint," the sheriff said in his statement to Ferguson last fall. "As an elected official, he is expected to be held to a higher level of truthfulness and honesty. This complaint has proven Kurt Damrow alleged allegations that never existed. I and others involved in this complaint believe he needs to be held accountable for his actions."

Damrow's accusations focused on several individuals, including a pair of judges, a number of attorneys, members of the Huron County Road Commission and various citizens.

The accusations included Hanson allegedly flying a drug dealer around the country during the 1990s and acts of intimidation as sheriff; and a judge allegedly running over and killing a pedestrian. Road commission employees were implicated as being in conflicts of interest, and a judge and attorney were accused of being arrested for possession of drugs and being with prostitutes.

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

"Regardless of my disagreement with this decision, the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office has the final say about the criminal portion of this incident," Hanson commented last week. "As indicated by Chief Assistant Prosecutor Randall Petrides, the option of other legal remedies definitely exists. That option could be explored at a later date. For now, my primary focus will remain on our sheriff's office.

The Chronicle contacted Damrow's office for comment on Leyton's decision. However, there was no response as of press time.



MEMBERS OF THE Rolling Hills Golf Course can expect to find the same course and service they've come to appreciate from Ben and Kathy Varney, according to new owners Ryan and Amy Lowman, Cass City.

## Doerr joins Chronicle staff

Continued from page one.

the past year and was just promoted to the job of editor-in-chief for the fall semester.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to be the intern at the Cass City Chronicle this summer," Doerr said. "It's definitely going to be a great experience being able to work in my hometown with the people I've known my whole life."

"Although I already have a basic understanding of how our little community works, I'm grateful for the chance to become more connected with the business and people," he added. "I feel like this is going to be a great way to further my education and experience in the field of journalism."

"We're looking forward to working with Mason this summer, and we're confident he's going to make a solid

contribution to the Chronicle's news and feature pages," said Chronicle Editor Tom Montgomery.


"Mason has a leg up on most of our past interns in that he's already familiar with the 'lay of the land', but he's also proven himself in the field at the Delta Collegiate, which is among the finest student newspapers in Michigan. We believe the internship will be a win-win for both Mason and our readership."



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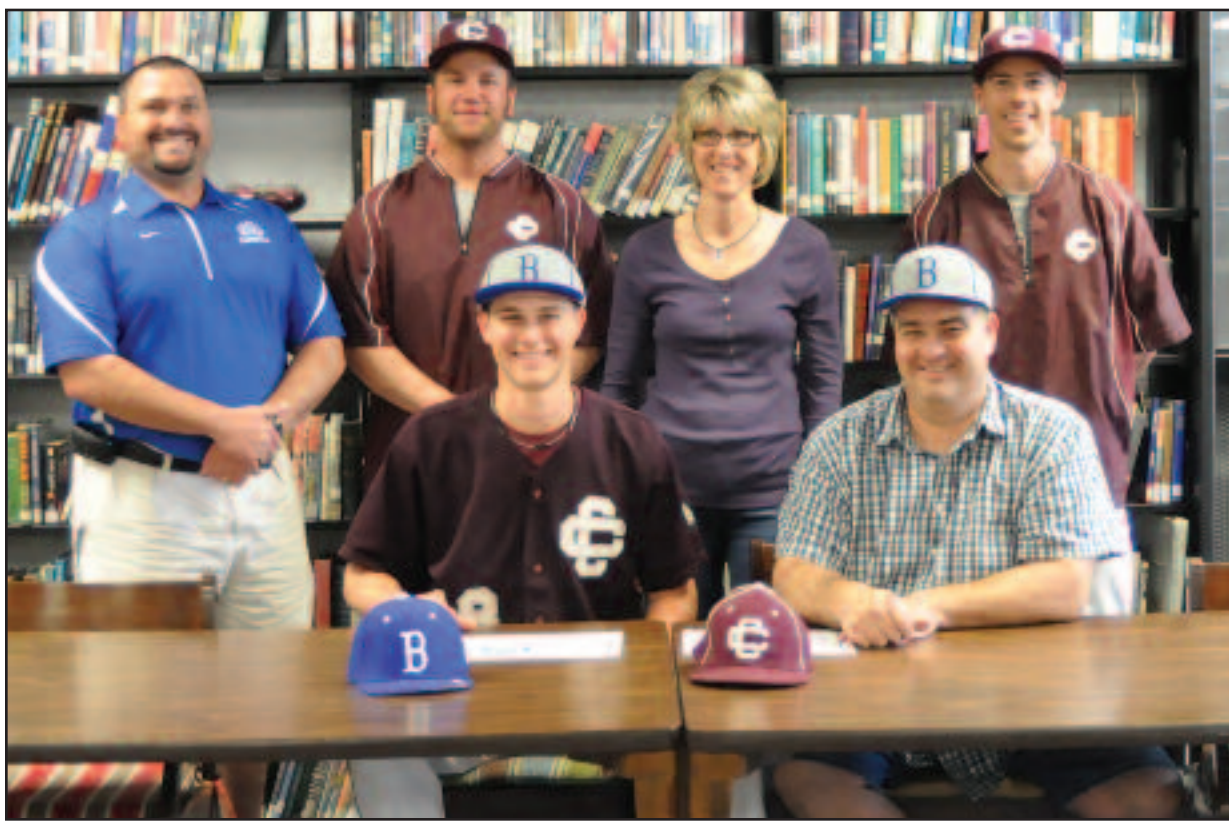


Photo courtesy of Christin Hempton

**CURTAIN CALL.** Morgan Erla, Cass City, signs his letter of intent to continue his baseball career at Bethel College. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Morgan Erla, Chuck Erla; (back) Seth Zartman, Nathan Fritz, Michelle Erla and Nathan Haag.

## Orban takes care of business in GTW showdown with Reese

Things are about to get really interesting for the Cass City baseball team. First up for the Red Hawks is Friday's return to the Dow Diamond, where the Red Hawks will square off against Marlette in a Greater Thumb Conference (GTC) double header. The opening pitch is slated for 5 p.m. in the GTC crossover contest. More appealing to Red Hawk backers, however, is next Thursday's showdown in Unionville where, barring upsets, the Greater Thumb West baseball crown should be decided. Both the Red Hawks and Patriots enter this week saddled with a solo defeat in conference action, both teams splitting twin bills with the Reese Rockets.

Cass City traded victories with the Rockets last week, as they earned a tight 3-2 victory in Tuesday's opener before bowing 12-4 in the nightcap. Cody Orban took care of business in game one for the hosts. Reese tagged starter Nick Kappen for a pair of runs in the first inning before he settled in and handed the pitching chores over to Orban, who collected the win in a dandy relief appearance. The junior ace worked the final 3 2/3 innings and yielded just 2 hits, striking out 3. Trailing 2-1, Cass City took the lead for good when Orban singled home Dakota Hartel and Kappen in the bottom of the second. Although Orban was terrific in the Red Hawk victory – he and Morgan

Erla each went 2-for-3 at the plate; it was a late defensive play that sealed Cass City's victory. Red Hawk catcher Kyle Hanby caught Reese attempting to gain an extra base and a backhanded tag by Kappen at third ended the Rocket's best chance at sending the contest into extra innings. Matt Sahr suffered the loss for Reese. In the late game, Reese earned a split with an easy decision in 5 innings. At the plate for Cass City, Orban was 2-for-3, while Cody Ross, Ethan Nicol, Lukas Schenk, Jake Hacker and Hanby all added base hits.

## Erla inks with Bethel College

by Mason Doerr  
Staff Writer

After high school most students are done with their sports careers, but Morgan Erla is not the typical athlete. On May 3, Erla signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and baseball careers at Bethel College. Erla was given the opportunity to play for Bethel through the Michigan College Prospects of America. There were several colleges that were interested in picking up Erla, including Aurora University, St. Clair County Community College, Delta College and Mott Community College. However, Erla decided that Bethel was his best choice. "I think it will be a good experience," Erla said. "It's a good match for me." As a high school baseball player, Erla has been honored several times throughout his career. As a sophomore, Erla made second team all conference. As a junior, he made first team all-conference, first team all-district and first team all-regional. Throughout his baseball career, Erla has proven to be a dedicated player and a force on the field. "There's not a more deserving player to come through the Cass City athletic program to earn this scholarship," said Nathan Haag, Cass City High School varsity baseball coach. "Nobody spends more time dedicat-

ing themselves to improving the team more than Morgan." Erla's determination and work ethic are expressed not only through his coach's words, but also through his actions. As a junior, he boasted 51 hits, including 33 singles, 15 doubles, 1 triple and 2 homers. His batting average for that season was .418 and his on-base percentage was .489. Currently, as a senior, Erla is batting .340 with a .435 on-base percentage. Along with being a great player, Erla is also a great team-player, student and person outside of school. "You won't meet a better 18-year-old kid. He's very unselfish and will always do what is best for the team and others," Haag said. "You will never have to worry about him letting the team down or what he might be doing on the weekends." Erla is eager to pursue the continuation of his baseball career and he is excited that the opportunity has finally risen. "It's been a goal of mine since freshman year to play college baseball," Erla said. "To finally fulfill that dream is a good feeling." Erla's parents and coach are excited to see where this opportunity will take him, and his coach is confident that he will do well. "We'll just say this, the ball flies off his bat a little bit different than everybody else's," Haag said.

## Frankenmuth claims honors at Reese Invitational Friday

Coaches Amy and Scott Cuthrell continues to see improvement as their Cass City thinclads prepare for Tuesday's Greater Thumb West Invitational in Pigeon, where 2012 league honors will be determined. In Cass City's latest showing Friday, several Lady Red Hawks turned in top performances at the Reese Invitational. Red Hawk Stephanie Leeson won the pole vault with a height of 9' and Logan Rowell placed second in the high jump with a jump of 4' 11". Haley Wynn leaped 15' 5" to finish third in the long jump. "I was really happy with our efforts in the field events," said Amy Cuthrell. "The area's best gathered in Reese and we were able to compete with teams we have yet to race. These teams we will see again at regionals and we found ourselves in the mix." Frankenmuth captured the multi-school meet with 115 points. Rounding out the top lady teams

were USA with 80 points, Reese, 60 and Cass City, 56. In the boys' competition, Frankenmuth defeated Marlette 152-119 for the team title. Reese tallied 49 points to place third, while Akron-Fairgrove finished next with 41. "Strong competition at the Reese Invite," said Scott Cuthrell. "Proud of my boys and the way they competed. We want to get better each and every meet and so far they are doing it." The boys' winning track and field results were: **3200-meter relay** – Frankenmuth (Kent Redford, Jake Hall, Matt Hinds, Nick Veitengruber), 8:27.00; **110-meter hurdles** – Brian Stearns, Frankenmuth, 15.98; **100-meter dash** – Donnie Thomas, Marlette, 11.67; **800-meter relay** – Marlette (Ryan Miller, Conner Thomas, Joey Volz, Donnie Thomas), 1:33.00;

**1600-meter run** – Jacob Bowman, Marlette, 4:41.00; **400-meter relay** – Marlette (Ryan Miller, Conner Thomas, Joey Volz, Donnie Thomas), 45.39; **400-meter dash** – Devin Diem, Montrose, 52.24; **300-meter interm. hurdles** – Austin Rodriguez, Akron-Fairgrove, 40.12; **800-meter run** – Nick Veitengruber, Frankenmuth, 2:05.55; **200-meter dash** – Jeremy Borchart, Frankenmuth, 23.36; **3200-meter run** – Jacob Bowman, Marlette, 10:13.00; **1600-meter relay** – Frankenmuth (Quinn Hoffman, Ian Fisher, Jeremy Borchart, Nick Veitengruber), 3:35.00; **Discus** – Eric Schian, Reese, 143'03.00"; **High Jump** – Drew Dutcher, USA, 5'09.00"; **Long Jump** – Austin Rodriguez, Akron-Fairgrove, 21'04.00"; **Pole Vault** – Austin Felske, Reese, 13'02.00"; **Shot Put** – Jeff Roe, Birch Run, 50'00.00".



**SLIDING** into third base is Reese's Paige Luth as Red Hawks Megan Parrish (5) and Shania Chambers are late with the tag. Host Cass City was swept by the GTW leaders.

## Cass City title hope sustains big blow

Errrrrr, THUD. That loud crash you heard come from behind the Cass City high school last week didn't result in damages to any vehicle. The same can't be said for the Lady Red Hawks' Greater Thumb West title hopes. Coach John Hacker's squad came up just short in a showdown meeting between undefeated GTW leaders Tuesday, as Reese all but secured the GTW softball championship with decisions of 2-1 and 6-3. They needed 9 innings to get the job done in game one. Cass City actually took a 1-0 lead in the opening inning when Shania Chambers rode home on a Rebecca Hacker single. The advantage held up until the 6th inning, when Reese sent the contest into extra innings with an unearned run off starter Shannon Stec, who whiffed 8.

Reese then posted another unearned run in the 9th to escape with the win. Both Reese runs were the result of poor defense in the Red Hawk infield, according to Coach Hacker. Becki Herbolzheimer fanned 10 to collect the win on the mound for Reese. "Boy, when you think of all the chances we had. I couldn't sleep at all last night, thinking about all the 'what ifs, only ifs,'" said Hacker following the defeat. In game 2, Cass City enjoyed an early 2-0 margin, only to see the visitors plate 3 runs in the bottom of the fourth en route to victory. Once again, Stec and Herbolzheimer were the pitchers of record for both teams. Chambers, Morgan Potter, Megan Parrish and Lauren Perry all knocked singles for Cass City.



**GOOD EXCHANGE.** Cass City's Katie Hacker and Kendra Kerkau, right, swap the baton without any problems during the 800-meter relay at the Reese Invitational.

The girls' winning track and field results were: **3200-meter relay** – USA (Kennedy Hicks, Lexi Pitcher, Leah Desimplear, Cali Valentine), 10:54.00; **100-meter hurdles** – Emily Wee, Frankenmuth, 15.74; **100-meter dash** – Olivia Shelton, Frankenmuth, 12.86; **800-meter relay** – Frankenmuth (Sydney Bronner, Olivia Shelton, Emily Wee, Angela Ritter), 1:46.00; **1600-meter run** – Crystal Schaible, Bad Axe, 5:40.00; **400-meter relay** – Frankenmuth (Rebekah Barger, Sarah Beulla, Rachel Crompton, Olivia Shelton), 53.03; **400-meter dash** – Jaydn Fuerst, Reese, 1:03.00; **300-meter low hurdles** – Emily Wee, Frankenmuth, 45.36; **800-meter run** – Crystal Schaible, Bad Axe, 2:31.00; **200-meter dash** – Drew Findley, Reese, 27.67; **3200-meter run** – Leah Desimplear, USA, 12:21.28; **1600-meter relay** – Frankenmuth (Lauren Peterson, Carly Hammond, Olivia Shelton, Emily Wee), 4:20.00; **Discus** – Ashley Frahm, Frankenmuth, 128'10.00"; **High Jump** – Sydney Bronner, Frankenmuth, 4'11.01"; **Long Jump** – Sarah Rievert, USA, 16'04.50"; **Pole Vault** – Stephanie Leeson, Cass City, 9'00.00"; **Shot Put** – Kaitlyn Janson, Frankenmuth, 36'03.00".

## Harbor Beach blanks CC

Inclement weather, and Harbor Beach, got the best of the Cass City soccer team. Because of the wet, rainy conditions, the Lady Red Hawks played just one game last week, a 5-0 loss Monday to visiting Harbor Beach. The Red Hawks put a depleted line up on the field due to injury and illness and while they started well, were unable to match the Pirates as the game progressed. Cass City keeper Meri Dzielinski had 20 saves and the defense added 11 more as the Pirates shot often

against the host defense that never quite came together. According to Coach Chuck Reed, Tessa Kus and Liz Milligan played solid games, but Harbor Beach was still able to get good scoring chances off nearly every offensive attack. Haleemah Aqel scored twice for the winners, while Rachel McCloskey, Ashley Guitar, and Jocelyn Braun added solo markers, Cass City generated 6 shots, all from Jessica Bootz, but none found the back of the net.



**HEAVY BIRD.** Joshua Stone harvested his first turkey while hunting with his dad, Steve, in the Deford area. It weighed 27 pounds, had a 10 1/2" double beard with 1 1/2" spurs.



**SAMUEL RUSSELL,** Cass City 8-year-old, took his first turkey while hunting near the Cass River in Tuscola County. His trophy had an 8" beard with 3/4" spurs.

# Golfers at home Thursday

Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port all but wrapped up Greater Thumb West (GTW) golf honors Friday, as the Lakers captured their own GTW Jamboree held at Century Oaks Golf Course in Elkton.

"Cass City still has an outside chance to overtake Lakers (for the GTW championship) but that requires us finishing first at the remaining 2 jamborees and Lakers taking third at one of them," explained Red Hawk Coach Jon Zdrojewski, who noted the final GTW Jamboree of the season is scheduled for Thursday at Rolling Hills Golf Course in Cass City.

Drew Lawrence fired a 37 on the Lakers' home course to record medalist honors, while teammates Tyler Matteson and Adam Hazard both carded scores of 39 for the winners, who tallied a winning team score of 158.

Following the Lakers in the team standings was Cass City with 164, Bad Axe, 183, Vassar, 189 and Unionville-Sebewaing with 226.

For Cass City, Tyler Samons led the way with a score of 39, one shot better than Red Hawks Michael Mulligan and Brandon Green who posted rounds of 40. Drew King added a score of 45 for the runners-up.

Top individual point winners, their school and point totals, in conference play entering this week action are: Tyler Matteson - Laker - 34 points; Drew Lawrence - Laker - 33 points; Brandon Dean - Bad Axe - 31.5 points; Trenton Loomis - Cass City - 17 points; Drew King - Cass City - 16 points; Brandon Green - Cass City - 13.5 points; Tyler Samons - Cass City - 13 points; Wade Foltz - Laker - 11 points; Adam Hazard - Laker - 8.5 points; Austin Baker - Vassar - 7.5 points; Michael Mulligan - Cass City - 7.5 points; Jake McIntyre - Vassar - 6.5 points; Greg Frank - All Saints - 5.5 points; Steven Schooley - Laker - 4.5 points; Ben Grzegorzczak - All Saints - 4 points; Andrew Batzer - Bad Axe - 3.5 points; Chase Langenburg - Vassar - 1.5 points; Bryan Beachy - Laker - 1 point; Derik Wurst - USA - 1 point.

**Golf results on page 15.**

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## Schneeberger's ATHLETES of the WEEK

This week's Schneeberger's Athlete of the Week award winners are the Cass City Lady Red Hawk 800 meter relay team members.

At the Ugly Invitational, Red Hawks Katie Hacker, Miranda Spry, Haley Wynn and Stephanie Leeson captured first place honors with a time of 1:57.

The only other Cass City wins in Tuesday's 8-school meet were earned by Wynn in the 400 meter dash, with a time of 1:03, and Logan Rowell in the high jump, where she cleared 4' 10".

The final scoring had Bad Axe topping the team listings with 145.5 points. The Hatchets were followed by USA, 117.5; Cass City, 87; Ugly, 87; Brown City, 69; Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port, 60; Harbor Beach, 24; and Bay City All Saints, 0.

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# Legal Notices

SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, P.C., IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT (248)539-7400 IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

**MORTGAGE SALE** - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by DAWN GLEASON, A SINGLE WOMAN, and JEFFREY RAYMOND, A SINGLE MAN, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns., Mortgagee, dated April 29, 2008 and recorded on May 5, 2008 in Document No. 200800907215, Liber 1148, on Page 716, and assigned by said mortgagee to GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO GMAC MORTGAGE CORPORATION, as assigned, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Eleven Dollars and Eighty-Eight Cents (\$98,611.88), including interest at 6.125% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, front entrance of the Courthouse Building in the City of Caro, Michigan, Tuscola County at 10:00 AM o'clock, on June 7, 2012.

Said premises are located in Tuscola County, Michigan and are described as:

LOT 15, BLOCK 29 OF PLAT OF THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF VASSAR ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN LIBER 2 OF PLATS, PAGE 93 OF TUSCOLA COUNTY RECORDS.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the

date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 600 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO GMAC MORTGAGE CORPORATION Mortgagee/Assignee

Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C.  
23938 Research Drive, Suite 300  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
GMAC.007706

5-9-4

N.A. f/k/a The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. as successor-in-interest to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee for MASTR ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2005-2, MORTGAGE PASSTHROUGH CERTIFICATES, Series 2005-2, thru mesne assignments, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of \$45,681.56 (forty-five thousand six hundred eighty-one and 56/100) plus accrued interest at 7.375% (seven point three seven five) percent per annum. And no suit proceedings at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof.

Now, therefore, by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, and pursuant to the statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that on, the 7th day of June, 2012, at 10:00:00 AM said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction, to the highest bidder, front entrance of the Courthouse in the Village of Caro, Tuscola County, MI, Tuscola County, Michigan, of the premises described in said mortgage.

Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the Township of Almer, in the County of Tuscola and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit:

ALL THAT PARCEL OF LAND IN TOWNSHIP OF ALMER, TUSCOLA COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 667, PAGE 487, ID#002-036-000-2400-00, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED COMMENCING AT A POINT 272 FEET EAST OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 36, TOWN 13 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST, THENCE EAST ALONG THE SECTION LINE 4 RODS, THENCE SOUTH AT RIGHT ANGLES 10 RODS, THENCE WEST PARALLEL WITH THE SECTION LINE 4 RODS, THENCE NORTH 10 RODS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; BEING A PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 36, TOWN 13 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST, ALMER TOWNSHIP, TUSCOLA COUNTY RECORDS. Commonly known as: 1518 E. Deckerville.

Parcel Number 002-036-000-2400-00

The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: May 9, 2012

By: Foreclosing Attorneys  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A.  
2155 Butterfield Drive, Suite 200-S  
Troy, MI 48064  
WWR# 10092031

5-9-4



**MICHIGAN HOUSE** candidate Terry Brown was in Cass City Monday afternoon. Brown, who met with residents gathered at Rawson Memorial District Library, called on legislators to restore nearly \$1 billion in funding that was taken away from schools last year.

## Brown: lawmakers must restore school funding this summer

As Lansing politicians debate next year's state budget, Michigan House candidate Terry Brown Monday called on legislators to restore nearly \$1 billion in funding that was taken away from Michigan schools last year.

Brown spoke on the issue at Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City.

A majority of the money raided from schools has been eliminated again in the latest budget proposal.

"I've been horrified to see the impact of this \$1 billion cut on our public schools over the past few months," said Brown, who chaired the House Appropriations Subcommittee on School Aid when he previously served in the Legislature. "We've seen school district after school district eliminate programs, lay off teachers and squeeze more students into each classroom. These devastating cuts were brought on because legislators gave away \$1.8 billion in no-strings-attached tax cuts to corporate special interests."

The Legislature has set a target date of June 1 to send a budget to Gov. Rick Snyder. House and Senate Republicans are offering slightly different versions of the education budget, but both divert money out of the School Aid Fund for non-K-12 programs. If money were not diverted out of the School Aid Fund this year, per-pupil funding would have gone up by \$650, without any additional taxes on middle-class families, homeowners or seniors.

"At a time when we need to be putting more resources into our classrooms, Lansing politicians are taking resources away from our kids," said Brown. "They've lost sight of what middle-class families in Tuscola County and Huron County really want: a high-quality education system that can give our kids the education and skills they need to compete for jobs."

Under the House Republicans' education budget plan, the Cass City Public Schools would receive more than \$300,000 less in per-pupil funding than they received in 2010-11. In Huron County, the Bad Axe Public Schools would receive about \$350,000 less in per-pupil funding than in 2010-11.

"These continued cuts to our local schools have put our children's future at risk," said Jeff Hartel, superintendent of Cass City Public Schools. "We've had to cut our budgets drastically, to the point we may soon be endangering our students' ability to compete in the 21st century economy."

Since 2003, Michigan has fallen in state rankings for student performance on national standardized tests. Michigan fourth graders ranked 28th in reading and 27th in math in 2003. By 2011, Michigan had dropped to 35th and 41st in fourth-grade reading and math, respectively.

Michigan has also fallen behind in graduation and degree attainment levels. In 2000, Michigan ranked 21st for the percentage of its students that graduated from high school and earned either an associate's or bachelor's degree. By 2008, Michigan had fallen to 31st.

## Handbells will ring May 12

Area residents are invited to the "Sounds of Ringing Concert" Saturday, May 12, at 7 p.m. at the Cass City United Methodist Church, located just north of town at 5100 N. Cemetery Rd.

The performance will feature the Cass City Community Handbell Choir joined by the students of the Thumb Area Homeschooler's Association hand chime classes.

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*Treat her for breakfast, lunch & dinner at one of these restaurants*

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**Household Sales**

RUMMAGE SALE – Rain or shine! 8 a.m.-night, May 11 & 12. 6526 Chapin Rd. (9 miles south of Cemetery Rd., 1/8 mile east of Cass City.) 14-5-9-1

UBLY/BAD AXE – 5445 S. Van Dyke (just north of Huron Line Rd. on M-53). May 10 & 11, 9-5 p.m. No clothing! Variety of items. 2 child car seats. 14-5-9-1

MOVING SALE – 4764 Hunt Street, Cass City. Stove, refrigerator, piano, bookcases, entertainment center, Pool collection, plus many more furniture and household items. Some antiques. Thursday, May 10, 9-5 p.m.; Friday, May 11, 9-5 p.m. More info., go to Thumb Craigslist. 14-5-9-1

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# Kingston's Walker pens fiction piece on outdoors

by Ryan Walker  
Freelance Writer

*"Boone Mason couldn't believe his eyes. He really does exist, he thought, as his left hand trembled on the bow. Thirty yards away was the biggest buck he'd ever seen. It was a moment he'd been waiting for all his young life."*

These are the first 4 sentences of the summary located on the back of the book, "The Legend of the Ghost Buck," written by Kingston resident Lane Walker. They provide a preview of the action that will unfold throughout the realistic fiction book.

For Walker, the book is the culmination of a lifelong dream. "I've always dreamt about being an author," Walker said. The book, released May 4, is the first in Walker's "Hometown Hunters Collection". "I think there's a huge need for books that will recruit kids and their families into the outdoors," he noted, adding, "the main goal of this book is to promote family and the outdoors."

The author's background and life experiences have provided an essential foundation for the writing of his book.

"Our family has always hunted and fished; it has created many great memories," said Walker, whose pro-

fessional writing career began a decade ago as a writer for an area newspaper. During the fall, he also writes for the Outdoor Obsession.

In the 10 years that have followed, he has published over 120 newspaper and magazine articles on various outdoor topics. His work can be found in a variety of publications, including Woods-N-Water News and Michigan Outdoor News. Recently, Walker was inducted into the Michigan Outdoor Writers Association as an active member. Outdoor writing has helped lead the newly crowned author to the public speaking podium as a guest speaker at wild game dinners and other outdoor related events.

Even though Walker's outdoor writing background provided the foundation for his novel writing, it is his career as an educator that alerted him to the need for realistic fiction that focused on hunting and the outdoors.

Currently, Walker serves as the principal at Kingston Elementary School. Before becoming an administrator, he taught fifth and sixth grade writing. His students would ask for reading recommendations that included realistic fiction that was grade level appropriate and revolved around the theme of hunting. The same question would often arise while speaking at wild game dinners and other organized events.

Walker conducted extensive research and found that there weren't many books that fell into the outdoor realistic fiction genre. He encountered many how-to books for very young children and informational books for adults.

The lack of realistic outdoor fiction prompted Walker to brainstorm for a few years. One night last December he started putting pen to paper in order to create a draft of what would later become "The Legend of the Ghost Buck".

"Once the plot was developed, I reached out to a friend, Jonathon Rand, for advice," Walker recalled. Rand is the well-known author of the Michigan Chillers and American Chillers book series. "Rand mentored me through the process and connected me with illustrator Dwayne Harris," explained Walker. The following months were spent revising and editing the book before presenting it to an advisory panel of individuals that ranged in ages from 8 years to adults in their 40s.

The Hometown Hunters Collection is not a series; rather it's a collection of different books whose settings take place across the country.

While book one, "The Legend of the Ghost Buck", focuses on white-tail deer, each successive book will highlight a different game animal such as elk, brown bear and waterfowl. Walker is working on the second book in the collection, titled "Scarface's Secret," in which readers follow the adventures of twins Kyle and Kent as they pursue a tom turkey nicknamed "Scarface". The plot of the next book unfolds in the state of Nebraska.

The initial book in the collection can be purchased online at [www.hometown-hunters.com](http://www.hometown-hunters.com) or in person at The Red Zone party store in Kingston, Gambles Do It Best Hardware store in Caro and the Wild John's party store located east of Cass City.

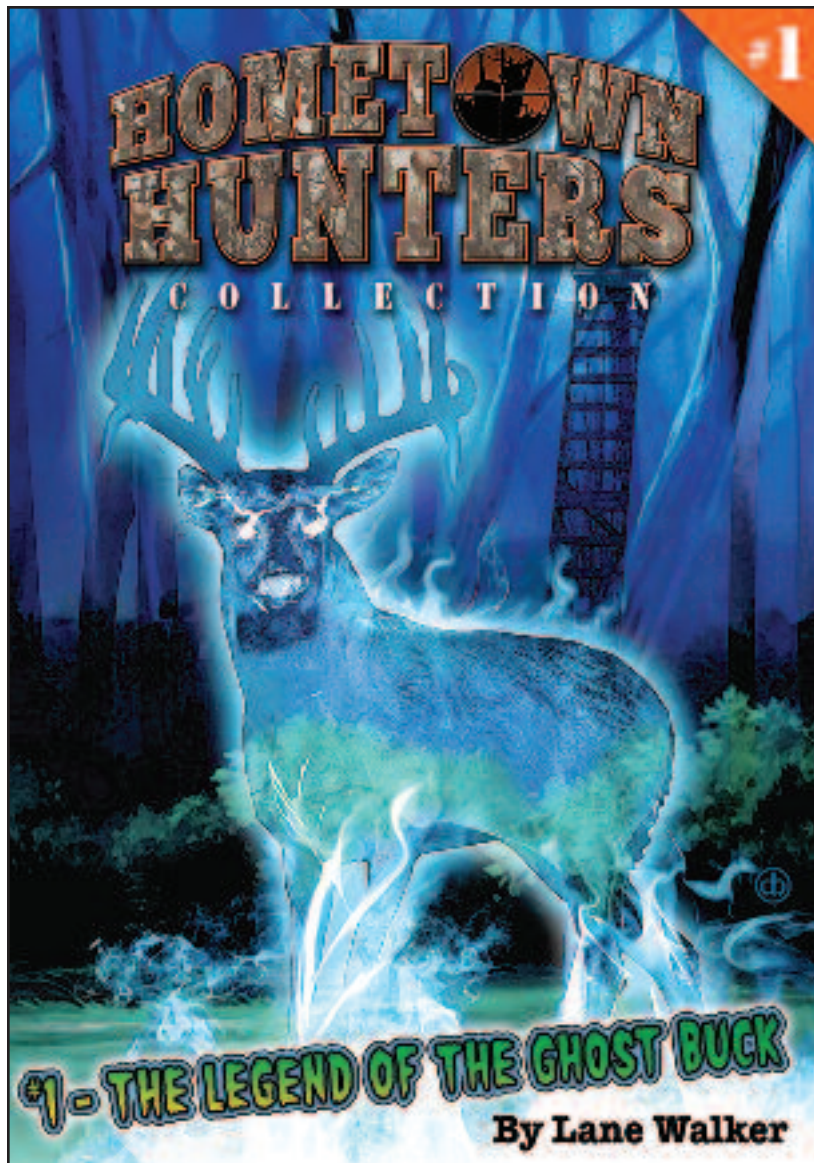
Walker is looking for other local businesses interested in carrying his creation, and he's also in negotiations with some national outdoor retail distributors. "I hope to do a couple of book signings this month to get the books into as many kids' hands as possible," he said, noting his future plans for the book include outdoor trade shows and other vendor friendly environments.

For more information, including updates on future books, visit the Hometown-Hunters facebook page.



Signing his work...

KINGSTON AREA resident, outdoor enthusiast and author Lane Walker, whose "day job" is serving as principal at Kingston Elementary School, signs a copy of his book, "The Legend of the Ghost Buck", which was released May 4 and is the first in Walker's "Hometown Hunters Collection."



WALKER'S FIRST book, "The Legend of the Ghost Buck", is the culmination of a lifelong dream to combine his love of the outdoors and writing.

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## Heleski among award recipients

The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) recently announced the recipients of this year's MCGA scholarships.

Among the winners is Ubley High School senior Connie Heleski.

In all, the MCGA awarded nearly \$10,000 in scholarships to 13 talented high school and college students throughout Michigan.

"We received many scholarship applications and were very impressed by the high caliber of the students applying," said Tom Durand, MCGA Scholarship Committee member. "Serving on the (committee) is very rewarding. We get the chance to meet the students who are the future of agriculture and this country. The only downside is deciding which ones will receive scholarships."

The recipients will be recognized during the MCGA Annual Meeting Feb. 5 at Cooley Law School in Lansing.

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**2012 Cass City Youth Football & Cheerleading Registration**

**Saturday, May 19 ~ 10 a.m.-noon**  
**Monday, May 21 ~ 5:00-7:00 p.m.**  
**Mulligan's Irish Links Club House**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$50**

**REGISTRATION CLOSSES SEPT. 7, 2012**

**JULY 16-20:** Equipment sizing & distribution  
6:00-8:00 p.m., at Mulligan's Irish Links  
**AUGUST 6-10:** Youth Camp  
**AUGUST 14:** First Practice

Questions?  
Contact Leroy Beecher,  
**(989) 295-8841**