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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2012

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School approves lean budget for 2012-13

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

As promised, the Cass City Board of Education Monday approved another lean spending plan.

The board adopted both the district's amended 2011-12 budget and its proposed 2012-13 spending plan during a regular monthly meeting.

School Supt. Jeff Hartel and Chief Financial Officer Mike Klosowski presented the 2012-13 budget, which goes into effect July 1. The budget marks a reduction of more than \$1 million in spending compared to 2011-12. In spite of that figure, school officials still managed to bank more than \$680,000, or an amount equal to nearly 8 percent of the district's general fund.

Klosowski pointed out that Cass City is in relatively good financial shape, considering the factors — the economy, declining enrollment and reduced state funding in recent years — that has many Michigan districts facing the prospect of adopting 2012-13 budgets with deficit fund

balances. In contrast, he noted, Cass City is approving a balanced budget and still has a decent fund reserve.

Meeting that goal didn't come without some difficult decisions for school officials, who were able to trim \$400,000 from the budget through an agreement in which 5 veteran instructors agreed to leave the district in exchange for one-time payments of \$15,000 each.

In addition, the school board closed Campbell Elementary School this year, saving nearly \$220,000; implemented a number of personnel changes; cut freshman sports and transportation for athletic events; and eliminated transportation for field trips.

Total revenues in the coming year are projected at \$8.8 million, the largest share of which comes to the school in the form of a state foundation allowance based on a per-pupil formula (a total of \$7.134 million). Revenues in 2011-12 totaled \$9.4 million.

Spending is set at \$8.8 million in 2012-13, roughly \$1.178 less than in

2011-12.

Klosowski noted Cass City's food service program remains healthy. Expenditures and revenues in that fund are set at \$550,000 in the coming year, with a fund balance of just over \$118,000 at the beginning of the new fiscal year. The food service budget totaled \$540,140 over the past year and started with a fund balance of \$113,122.

Although school officials have a new budget in place, a number of questions remain, and the answers could significantly impact the district's financial outlook for better or worse.

Lawmakers earlier this year raised the minimum per-pupil grant paid to the lowest-funded Michigan schools by \$120 per student — from \$6,846 to \$6,966 — which translates into roughly \$140,500 more for the Cass City Public Schools.

However, Hartel has projected a loss of another 50 students in the coming school year based on Cass City's average annual enrollment dip over the past 10 years. If the district loses only 10 students, school officials could count on another \$278,000 in revenue. On the other hand, if enrollment drops by 70 kids, the school would lose an additional \$139,000.

Another key factor involves an effort in Lansing to overhaul Michigan's state retirement system.

The House recently voted in favor of Bill 1040, which was drafted to do just that and save schools hundreds of thousands of dollars in the process. However, the Senate delayed action on the legislation, effectively putting it on hold until lawmakers return from their summer break next month.

Legislators have been pursuing a major overhaul of the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System, also known as MPERS, in an effort to address an unfunded liability of some \$45 billion.

The bill calls for pension contributions to increase to 7 percent for school employees hired between 1990 and 2010 and 4 percent for workers hired before 1990 who currently contribute nothing to their retirement. The measure would also cap the rates school districts are mandated to contribute on behalf of employees.

That rate is currently set at 24.46 percent and is slated to increase to 27.37 percent in the coming year. If the rate is capped at 24.46 percent, the Cass City Public Schools would save about \$150,000.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

In other business Monday night, the

board:

•Adopted an annual resolution to borrow funds to meet the district's cash flow needs during the summer months until state aid payments resume in October. Cass City will borrow \$1.4 million this year, compared to \$1.499 million a year ago. The loan, which is necessary because the state government and school fis-

cal years differ, will cost local taxpayers about \$14,000 in interest payments.

•Approved the hiring of Laura Curtis of Cass City as the new director of bands, filling a vacancy left by the resignation of Jonelle Lull. Curtis, who was selected from a field of 16 to 18 applicants, brings to Cass City Please turn to page 8.



WORKING HARD at the condos in Cass City are Tyler Miller (right) and Nick Cook. The young men spend their day pulling weeds, trimming shrubs and other yard work. While working, the 2 make good use of their golf cart by using it to haul tools and maneuver from condo to condo.

Village hasn't yet okayed ORV law

by Mason Doerr
Staff Writer

Back in February, Tuscola County adopted an off-road vehicle ordinance that authorized the operation of off-road vehicles (ORVs) on roads within the county under certain circumstances.

The ordinance grants riders permission to operate on the far right shoulder of the maintained portion of the road. However, one of the exceptions to this ordinance was that a township must adopt their own ordinance or resolution in order for riders to legally do this. The ordinance was not intended to authorize the travel of ORVs on streets or highways, which are under jurisdiction of a municipality.

Although the option is possible, Cass City has yet to act upon creating a regulation or ordinance for many reasons.

"We don't have an ordinance governing ORVs," Cass City Police Chief Craig Haynes said. "It's for the community to decide what's best for the community."

Although several other surrounding communities have adopted such changes, Cass City is still unsure of what their decision will be.

"We'll watch closely what happens in Bad Axe and Kingston," said Cass City Village Manager Peter Cristiano. "We're looking at doing something and there may be something in the future."

Cristiano, himself, would like senior citizens to have the option of using an ORV within the village limits to make traveling easier.

Although the use of ORVs isn't permitted within the village, there are some exceptions, including the use of golf carts for work purposes at the condominiums.

Please turn to page 6.

Cass City Village Council receives favorable audit

by Clarke Haire
Publisher

Although the village of Cass City received a clean bill of health from auditors Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt & Doran during Monday's regular meeting of the village council, the good news was marred when the same expression couldn't be said about veteran village Manager Peter Cristiano.

"Peter was rushed by ambulance to Hills and Dales Hospital at about 8 o'clock this morning," village President Carl Palmateer told the gathering prior to the start of the monthly meeting. "That's why his chair is empty tonight," he said, offering no other details.

Turning to the village's 2011 audit, CPA Angela Burnett reported the village's financial statements received an "unqualified opinion" — the highest level of insurance that acceptable accounting practices are followed — and that "no material

weaknesses" were discovered in the village's internal controls. There were no "material instances of non-compliance."

Last year's financial statements revealed reductions in the General Fund, Major Street Fund and Local Street Fund over the course of 2011.

In the General Fund, expenditures topped revenues by \$59,069, leaving a year-end fund balance of \$479,265. A nearly identical reduction — \$59,127 — was seen in the fund balance of the Major Street Fund, which started the year with a beginning balance of \$135,519 and ended 2011 with a surplus of \$76,392. In the Local Street Fund, the fund balance decreased by just \$2,240 from 2010 year-end levels and finished 2011 with a balance of just over \$30,000.

Looking at the village's proprietary funds, Sewer Fund revenues increased 5.3 percent from 2010, while expenditures increased 4 percent during the same time, resulting in a \$68,987 reduction in 2011. In the Water Fund, a 10.4-percent

Please turn to page 8.

Suit against retired judge now settled

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A former Tuscola County employee has settled a lawsuit against her former boss and now-retired Tuscola County Probate Judge W. Wallace "Wally" Kent Jr. for \$285,000.

Kerri Zelmer, who once served the county as probate register, filed the suit against Kent in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District in Bay City last November, claiming the judge began a sexual relationship with her and then, after the affair had ended, gave her the ultimatum of either resigning or being fired from her job.

Court records state Kent allegedly forced Zelmer from her employment after he disclosed the nature of their relationship to his staff and to several others at a judges conference he attended.

According to court records, the relationship began in June 2010. In her lawsuit, which also named Tuscola County and the county's probate court as defendants, Zelmer claimed Kent violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and also violated sexual harassment laws by creating a hostile work environment. Please turn to page 6.



"THE BEST LEMONADE in town" was chanted by this young group of Cass City youngsters recently. Pictured (from l-r) are: Ayden Torres, Kylie McKee, Alexa Torres and Brianna McKee. They had their stand up on the corner of Garfield and Seeger St. and were selling their lemonade for 50 cents per glass.

Lengthy investigation expected in shooting death of Huron man

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson says he anticipates a lengthy investigation into the apparent accidental shooting death of a Caseville Township man last week.

Deputies were dispatched to a Kelly Lynn Drive residence Tuesday at 1:47 p.m. to investigate a report of a man being shot. Upon arrival, Deputy Randy Britt found Richard M. McLean, 22, deceased in a bedroom.

"The appearance was that the victim had died from a handgun discharge to his head," Hanson said. "A man claiming to be a witness to the incident, a 25-year-old Caseville resident, said Richard shot himself while demonstrating what Richard referred to as the 'double safety' of the gun."

Hanson said family members were in the residence at the time of the incident, but no one appeared to have witnessed anything.

"The 25-year-old witness, who is currently on parole from a methamphetamine conviction in 2010, was questioned extensively by Undersheriff (Ron) Roberts and later released," Hanson said, noting the Michigan State Police Crime Lab arrived later and processed the scene, while the victim was transported to Lapeer for a forensic autopsy.

"Major concerns were raised shortly after the victim was removed from the scene, because granular substances resembling heroin or methamphetamine or even bath salts were located about the room," Hanson said. "Other items, Please turn to page 6.

Kingston Schools recognize pupils for their outstanding attendance

Kingston Elementary School Perfect Attendance 4th Marking Period:

Grade 1 (perfect attendance)
Logan Cloyd.

Grade 1 (outstanding attendance)
Olivia Cofer, Hunter Davis, Wesley Decker, Destiny Dennis, Ethan Green, Brooke Retan, McKenzie Taylor and Jaelynn Thomas.

Grade 2 (perfect attendance)
Joey Cryderman and Madison LaFond.

Grade 3 (perfect attendance)
Andrew Bitterle, Kyleigh Clapsaddle, Kayla Hobson, Dustin Peter, ella Retan, Aiden Rulason, Olivia Ulewicz and Anthony Van Rijn.

Grade 3 (outstanding attendance)
Don Anger, Reese Campbell, Jolie Crittenden, Kendal Geister, Ronnie Lemke and Trayton Wenzlaff.

Grade 4 (perfect attendance)
Riley Ford.

Grade 4 (outstanding attendance)
Dustin Beckrow, Danielle Crisman,

A.J. Decker, Jake DeLong, Cheyenne Eagle, Kyle Henderson, Aaron Koehler, Jessie Pedigo, Logan Sears and Mason Tallieu.

Grade 5 (perfect attendance)
Masiey Bigelow, Mason DeBlois, Noah Edwards, Dustin Godin, Gary Goodman, Amber Jackson, Mike McLaughlin, Haley Parsell, Calvin Robinson, Carley Smith, Morgan Tallieu, Amanda Velez, Emily Warrington and Bryan Wright.

Grade 5 (outstanding attendance)
McKinzie Bigony, Otto Branch, Tristen Campbell, Nathan Cloyd, Levi Cryderman, Dakota Distelrath, Kara Haebler, Tyler Hayost, Brian Hobson, Shyanne LaFond, Camryn MacGuire, Hannah McSkulin and Van Riggan.

Grade 6 (perfect attendance)
Zoe Burrows, Lauren Cumper, Garrett Green, Amy Oland and Madisyn Spencer.

Grade 6 (outstanding attendance)
Mike Bailey, Dez Carter, Josiah Cofer, Grace Dinsmore, Greyson Guild, Courtney Mallory, Brandin McConnell, Jacob McDaid, Austin

Monica, Joselyn Rushlow, Joey Uhl and Caleb Weber.

Owen-Gage Honor Roll announced

Owen-Gage Schools Honor Roll 4th Marking Period:

Grade 3
Caden Caister, Clay Evans*, Ethan Harp, Hunter Heck*, Jameson McKnight*, Hunter Meier, Libby Ondrajka and Alivia Roehrig.

Grade 4
Hunter Dickson*, Braden Fritz, Carley Haldane*, Ethan Halama, Chentel Hill, Avery Hopper, Chase Howard, Kaitlyn Lacroix, Kurt Orton, Makayla Reed, Breanna Roe, Andrew Roemer and Hailey Schave*.

Grade 5
Jade Androl*, Brandon Binder, Cordell Clarkson*, Austin Coryell, Matthew Fritz*, Megan Fritz*, Brendan Grifka, Schyler Newton, Angelina Pudvan, Carlee Rievert* and Mackenzi Wendland.

Grade 6
Aaron Fahrner*, Morgan Ondrajka, Luke Retford and Kaitlynn Ross.

Grade 7
Jacob Warack*

Grade 8
Daniel Good, Kyle Miller, Andrew Muntz*, Tyler Roemer, Courtney Wightman and Jacob Wright.

Grade 9
Sidney Bencheck, Annie McCreedy*, Rachel Mroz, Adam Retford and Emily Sopha.

Grade 10
Benjamin Good, Mackenzie Gould, Bryan Hopper, Amaris Janos*, Alena Lotter* and Richelle Scharf.

Grade 11
Andrew Fahrner, Brittany Guilfoil*, Donna Hopper, Jeremy Jamieson*, Tiffany Jamieson, Michael Mandich, Courtney McCreedy*, Justin Miller, Kayla Montreuil*, Nathan Rabideau, Eric Rievert, Lorenzo Robinson* and Shiloh Starks.

Grade 12
Mariah Blackmer, Christin Harris, Alexis Morrish, Erika Mroz, Cherokee Parks, Lacie Prich* and Carli Warack.
*Denotes all A's

Blood drive set July 10 in Cass City

The need for blood increases yearly because of many reasons. One reason is that over half of the blood that is transfused is given to surgical patients, and the rate of elective surgery is increasing at a greater rate than the population is growing.

Also, chemotherapy treatments for cancer patients have greatly increased long-term survival rates. However, toxic effects from the drugs require many of these patients to have blood component transfusions.

To support this demand, Hills and Dales General Hospital officials encourage eligible persons to donate blood Tuesday, July 10, from 1 to 6:45 p.m. at the Cass City V.F.W. Hall. This blood drive is sponsored by the Hills and Dales General Hospital Auxiliary and Veterans of Foreign War Post 3644.

For more information, call Kerry Brown at (989) 912-6319 or Joann Smithson at (989) 872-2031.

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

In Our OPINION...

by Clarke Haire
Publisher

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

All star selections seem plentiful in GTW and NCTL

Hey, we get it. We understand the many benefits of recognizing individuals, especially at an early age, for a job well done. There's self-esteem gained with the receiving of most awards. Some honors can help provide motivation, or a means to track and measure improvements. Other rewards identify leadership, still others provide appreciation.

Confidence, poise, intelligence, talent – even cash – are often linked when one distinguishes themselves from their peers.

So why, then, do we have a problem with the recently released Greater Thumb West and North Central Thumb League all-conference picks?

Well, too many cooks spoil the broth. Or to put it simply, there are too many players receiving all-conference honors, which dilutes the award.

Let's look at the GTW 2012 all-conference baseball picks. In total, 46 players were named as first team, second team, or honorable mention picks.

The league has 7 schools. Each team has 9 starters. Implicating that there's better than a 70 percent chance (46 players honored from 63 starting players) to land as an all-conference choice if you crack the starting line-up for your school.

Turning to the selection of the GTW softball all-conference teams in 2012, those coaches didn't even meet as a group to select their all stars, electing instead to cast their votes for the first time on-line.

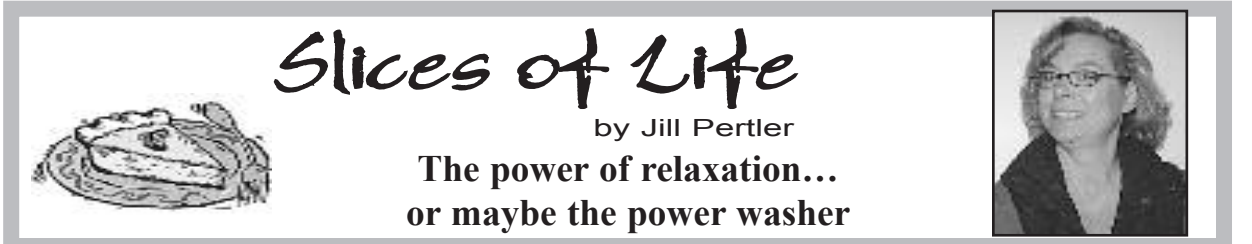
The on-line vote didn't present the opportunity for coaches to sell their own players, or discuss other players, in front of the other GTW coaches, which has long been the practice in previous years.

Things are even more messed up in the NCTL. There, all-conference selections are based on your team's finish in the league standings. If your school wins league honors, the number of first team, second team, and honorable mention all-conference choices are pre-determined.

So are the (lesser) number of all-conference picks for the second place team, and so on and so on, right down the line to the basement dweller. Add in that coaches in the NCTL can vote for or against their own players, and it is a system created for problems. Just ask Doug Hyatt.

Even more puzzling to us is that the GTW all-conference first teams both consisted of 11 members, while the NCTL dream teams each had 13 players. The last time we watched either a baseball or softball game only 9 players took the field.

Handing out awards to our student-athletes is fitting. But let's reserve our top praises for just the most deserving. It's a lesson that kids will carry over into their adult careers.



Slices of Life

by Jill Pertler

The power of relaxation... or maybe the power washer

It was to be an extended weekend of relaxation at the lake. I held a book firmly in hand, ready to spend some overdue quality one-on-one time on the deck with my summer reading.

My husband ran a quick errand to town and returned just as I read the first words of chapter one. He opened the rear hatch of the vehicle and struggled to remove something large and heavy. My curiosity piqued, I set the book down and leaned forward in my chair to get a better view.

"Need any help?" I asked. (Famous last words.) "That would be great," he said. "This will only take a minute." (More famous last words.)

I joined him at the rear bumper to view what can only be called a mechanically monstrous contraption. I recognized the machine as some sort of yard work implement, of which type I wasn't sure. It wasn't a lawn mower – although it had two tires, an engine and a handle. It wasn't a sprinkler, although it did have a hose attachment. It wasn't a snow blower, because this is summer, after all.

I looked at my husband with what must have been a quizzical expression. "It's a pressure washer," he said with the pride of a guy who is secure in his knowledge of lawn tools. "Just wait 'til you see how this takes the dirt and grime off the cabin."

I had to admit, our place had its fair share of dirty grime, not to mention grimy dirt.

"It's ours for the next four hours," he said. "Help me get it set up and you can give her a try."

I noted his generosity and followed him across the yard.

He attached the gizmo to our spigot and allowed me first crack at the water-shooting portion of the implement, which is technically called a spray wand, but looks and feels a whole lot more like an Uzi. Harry Potter carries a wand and wears a cape and spectacles. The Terminator carries an Uzi and wears a leather jacket and really cool sunglasses. Enough said.

The mechanism sat securely under my right elbow. My left hand supported the barrel. With index finger resting firmly on the trigger, I was locked and loaded and prepared to terminate some serious dirt. My husband turned on the water and motioned for me to give her a pull.

I've never made myself familiar with guns; can't say as I've ever fired anything larger than one that shoots BBs, but the power of this Uzi-like washer gizmo under my unassuming index finger felt good. It felt mighty good. I pulled again. And again.

I took aim and shot a steady stream at the mildew and moss growing on the fascia. Muck and dirt fled my unyielding flow of H2O. With the power of nearly three gallons per minute shooting out from my Uzi wand with the force of 2600 psi, I became unrelenting – a commando of sorts. I blasted a spider web and made my way down the exterior of the house, headed for the grunge of the deck. I was on a roll and in control. Who knew a pressure washer could bring about such pleasure?

The kids wanted a turn. I shoed them away with a flick of my wrist and a spray of the gun. Mama's got a new toy and she ain't sharing. This was too big a job for their inexperienced hands. Besides, my husband already had dibs on the next go 'round.

We took turns all afternoon, finishing with minutes to spare on our four-hour rental. Still grimy from our day's work, my husband and I made the trip to town to return the washer. As we pulled into the hardware store parking lot, he turned to me with enduring and endearing love in his eyes.

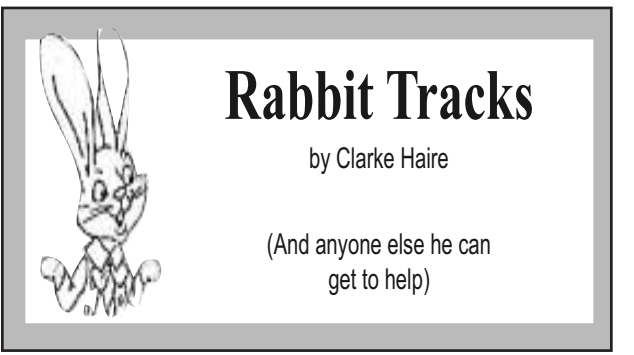
"I was wondering," he wondered, "what you thought about painting the deck tomorrow?"

I wiped the remnants of a soggy dead leaf from my hair. How could a girl say no to a proposition like that?

We picked out paint colors and got to work early the next morning.

So much for an extended three days of relaxation at the lake. My book sat on the deck chair all weekend. Some say summer reading is over-rated. I wouldn't know. At least not yet.

Follow Slices of Life on Facebook. Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist and author of "The Do-It-Yourselfer's Guide to Self-Syndication" Email her at permtm@qwest.net; or visit her website at <http://marketing-by-design.home.mchsi.com/>.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

The Chronicle received a letter from the Village of Cass City Friday announcing a public hearing concerning financing plans for the Downtown Development Authority.

The letter was hand written and addressed: John Haire, c/o Cass City Chronicle, 6550 Main St., Cass City, MI 48726.

Many Chronicle readers will recall my dad passed in 2009. Not so many, I figure, would connect that the village's notice arrived here on John's birthday.

I am just saying...

Tim Lyons thought he could sneak a round of golf in Friday without telling the wife. But the Kingston area resident's plans were spoiled when he recorded a hole-in-one on the 5th hole at Rolling Hills Golf Course.

"I'll have to tell my wife now," joked Lyons, noting the ace was his first.

The Michigan Supreme Court has designated July 2012 as Michigan Juror Appreciation Month. Accordingly, Tuscola County District Court Judge Kim David Glaspie and Probate Judge Amanda Roggenbuck would like to thank citizens chosen for jury duty for their distinguished service and commitment to the judicial process.

The right to trial by jury is a core value of the judicial system, one that the citizens of Tuscola County preserve and protect on a regular basis. Any resident of Tuscola County with a driver's license or state identification card, who is at least 18 years of age and not convicted of a felony is eligible to provide jury service.

More news from the courts, in light of the Jerry Sandusky verdict.

The National Megan's Law Helpline (888) ASK-PFML (888) 275-7365, is available to provide support to communities: on issues related to accessing sex offender registration information; responsible use of information; sexual abuse prevention resources; and accessing crime victim support services. Parents for Megan's Law (PFML) staff provide assistance to the community in accessing their state sex offender registries and prevention specialists provide support to parents and community members to assist in their sexual abuse prevention education strategies. Certified rape crisis counselors are available to support all victims of violent crime and to provide geographically appropriate referrals.

Also, the Sex Offender Registration Tips Program provides the public an opportunity to report registrants who are failing to comply with registration requirements, employment or supervision restrictions or who are in positions of trust where they can access children. Tips can be provided via the Helpline or website at www.parents-formeganslaw.org.

Megan's Law is named after 7-year-old Megan Kanka, a New Jersey girl who was raped and killed by a known child molester who had moved across the street from the family without their knowledge.

Area farmers aren't the only industry that could benefit from some rain. So could the boating business, which is experiencing low lake levels from all parts of the state.

Bob Stickle – Kelly & Co. Realty salesman - informed me that lower than usual water levels can be found around the Paradise area of the Upper Peninsula, while closer to home, Mike Brinkman – Parkway co-owner - reports 2 sailboats have been stuck navigating in the Caseville harbor.

Please note the Chronicle office will be closed next Wednesday in observance of Independence Day. Also closed will be all state offices, including area post offices.

While Chronicle deadlines will remain unchanged, subscribers will get our July 4th issue one day later than usual on Thursday. Can't wait? Newsstand copies will be available on Tuesday morning.

Please have a safe and wonderful holiday.

Letter to the Editor

Gas prices in Cass City are an outrage

Dear readers,

Did you know that the citizens of Cass City pay the highest price for gasoline?

I recently drove from Cass City to Atlanta, Ga., via I-75. The price of gas was \$3.65 a gallon in Detroit, \$3.59 in Cincinnati and \$3.69 in Atlanta. At no time along the way did the price exceed \$3.69 a gallon, compared to \$3.79 a gallon in Cass City.

In fact, through Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia, the price was generally \$3.59 a gallon or less (\$3.47 in Kentucky and \$3.39 in Tennessee).

This is nothing unusual in Cass City. I have regularly noted that gas prices here are consistently the highest in the Thumb, and all the way to Detroit – also cheaper. Why? Even rival Caro is 10 to 15 cents per gallon less. Why?

I refuse to support this outrage.

Hunt Hool
Windsor, Ontario

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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

Letters to the Editor

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

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

Social News

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

Subscription Rates

Tuscola, Huron & Sanilac counties - \$21 per year.
In Michigan - \$25 per year.
Out-of-State - \$27 per year.
College - \$15 per year.
Email subscriptions- \$20 per year.
Payable in advance. Discounts available for multi-year subscription.

Advertising Rates

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

Obituary Rates

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Wednesday, June 27

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.

Teen Zombie Fest, 6:30 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.

Thursday, June 28

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. Vendors are asked to contact Bruce Irland at (810) 404-1535.

Story Time for all ages, 1:30 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.

Senior Lunch, noon, Shabbona United Methodist Church.

Thumb TEA Party, 6:30 p.m., Evangelical Free Church, Cass City.

Friday, June 29

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

"Music in Rotary Park", 6:30-8:30 p.m., Main Street in Cass City (just east of the Fairway store). Featuring: I Sam 3 and Evangelical Free Church of Cass City.

Saturday, June 30

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.

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

Mid-Michigan Renaissance Festival, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (rain or shine), 7464 Frankenmuth Rd., Vassar (east on Bridgeport exit off of I-75). Admission: \$10 (adults), \$7 (under 13), FREE (under 6). For more information visit the website: www.midmichiganrenfest.com.

Sunday, July 1

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

Evangelical Free Church Summer Lawn Chair Church, 10-11:30 a.m., near the gazebo at Cass City Park. Area residents are invited to bring their lawn chair to service. In case of inclement weather, services will be held at the church (across from Cass City High School). More information is available by calling (989) 872-5060.

Gagetown United Methodist Brunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. All you can eat. \$6 donation.

Monday, July 2

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.

Novesta Township Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 3

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

Cass City motorist hurt

Driver distracted in crash

Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies say a distracted driver rolled her vehicle in a traffic accident early last week in Almer Township.

Deputies were dispatched to M-81 near Caro at about 6:45 p.m. Monday, according to reports, which state a vehicle driven by Andrea Boyd, 17, of Cass City, was east-

bound on M-81 when the crash occurred.

"A vehicle in front (of Boyd), going eastbound, was slowing to make a turn. Boyd told investigators she was on the phone and realized she could not stop in time," Undersheriff Glen Skrent said. "Her vehicle

swerved and then went off the road, rolling over. MMR transported Boyd to Caro Community Hospital for treatment.

"This is the second such crash of this type in a week," Skrent noted. "Remember, distracted driving is as dangerous as drunk driving."

Circuit court news

Several face felony charges

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

•James F. Dubrovich, 22, Sterling Heights, was sentenced to 30 days in the county jail for his pleas of no contest to charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and attempted assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer Nov. 20 in Cass City.

He was also ordered to complete 100 hours of community service and pay court costs and fines totaling \$1,448.

•Tammy A. Miller, 48, Clifford, was sentenced to 60 days in jail and 12 months probation for her plea of guilty to a charge of inducing another person to commit a felony (delivery of a controlled substance) Oct. 26 in Kingston.

She was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$598.

•Steven M. Galloway, 25, Snover, was sentenced to 90 days in jail and 12 months probation for his plea of guilty to writing 2 non-sufficient fund checks within 10 days. Court records state the checks, for \$50, \$50 and \$100, were all drawn on Independent Bank April 15-16, 2011, in Dayton Township.

Galloway, who was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction), was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$698 plus restitution of \$425.

•Tracy P. Smith, 31, Pigeon, was sentenced to 270 days in jail and 36 months probation for her pleas of guilty to 3 counts of obtaining a controlled substance (Vicodin) by fraud between December 2011 and January 2012 in Cass City. She was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to jail time, she was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,334 plus restitution of \$53.

•Jason L. Garlick, 30, Caro, was sentenced to 365 days in jail and 60 months probation for his plea of no contest to violating the Sex Offenders Registration Act by failing to notify local law enforcement of a change in address within 10 days between July 2010 and Jan. 28, 2011, in Caro.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,198.

•Dwight S. Gay, 31, Bay City, was sentenced to 365 days in jail and 60 months probation for his pleas of guilty to larceny from a motor vehicle and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony Dec. 5-9, 2010, in Millington.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,688 plus restitution of \$3,226.36.

•Roger W. Bearinger, 32, Cass City, pleaded guilty to a charge of breaking and entering with intent to commit larceny May 28 in Ellington Township. He 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.

•Nicholas R. Williams, 27, Akron, pleaded guilty to a charge of breaking and entering, without breaking, with intent to commit larceny May 28 in Indianfields Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

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

•Karen L. Zirkelbach, 37, Elkton, was sentenced to 90 days in jail (deferred) and 36 months probation for her plea of no contest to assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer April 6 in Caro. She was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to jail time, she was

ordered to complete 150 hours of community service and pay costs and fines totaling \$698 plus restitution of \$1,625.43.

•Gary W. Clark Jr., 30, Vassar, pleaded guilty to violating the Sex Offenders Registration Act by failing to notify local law enforcement of a change in address April 16-17 in Vassar Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

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

•Eric C. Malone, 24, Chicago, pleaded no contest to assault with a dangerous weapon and attempted interfering with electronic communications May 3 in Caro.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Cory J. Lewicki, 22, Caro, was sentenced to one year and 4 months to 8 years in prison for his plea of guilty to a charge of larceny in a building Feb. 12 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

In addition to prison time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$198 plus restitution of \$75.

•Jacob Brooks-Simeon Pratt, 20, Saginaw, was sentenced to 180 days in jail and 24 months probation for his plea of guilty to intentionally damaging a school bus Dec. 14 in Mayville. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to complete 100 hours of community service and pay costs and fines totaling \$898 plus restitution of \$500.

•Donovan H. Gartee, 38, Millington, received a one-year delayed sentence following his pleas of guilty to delivery/manufacture of marijuana and possession of marijuana July 26 in Forest Township.

He was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$948.




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- Targeted Case Management Services



TUSCOLA Behavioral Health Systems

To inquire about services or programs offered please call

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989.673.6191 or

1.800.462.6814

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Caro, MI 48723

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Reporter's notebook

Whining about my children once again

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

I haven't whined in a few days (well, in print anyway), so I'm going to vent a little this week about the younger generation.

I'll cut right to the chase. Why is it that my now-grown son can only seem to put a container of food or anything else back in its place (i.e. a cupboard) if the container is absolutely empty and should be tossed away? This phenomenon absolutely floors me, although I'm certain I'm not the only one who occasionally finds an empty cereal box or milk carton where it shouldn't be.

Okay, so it's not that big of a deal in the grand scheme of things, but it still grinds me.

I recently took a box of baggies out of one of our kitchen cabinets to find it empty, and I'm certain the culprit was our son, Brandon, who is home from college for the summer. Not that I'm the suspicious type, but he's also the one who chronically leaves empty bags of bread on the kitchen counter. I've repeatedly asked him if he has some planned use for that empty bag — perhaps a craft? — but my sarcasm only nets one of those snotty, know-it-all stares.

Sure, I should probably give him some slack. After all, he only has one year of classes at Saginaw Valley State University under his belt.

Maybe I should write a letter to the school and suggest that they require students to enroll in "Common Sense 101" a little earlier in their college careers.

For that matter, they should also be required to complete a few other electives before their first summer

break as college students. A few come to mind, including "How to Pick Up My Own Crap Without Being Told Because I'm An Adult For Crying Out Loud!" Or how about "Transporting Dirty Dishes From My Room to the Kitchen Before They Become Lab Experiments".

For years I've preached to the kids a few simple mottos to live by. My favorite is "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late".

Now, I never really had any hope that the girls would give my suggestion any more than a half-hearted roll of their eyes, but I held out hope for Brandon.

Forget it. I've gotten into the habit of giving him rides to work during the summer, and I've yet to see any improvement over his standard procedure of waking up 4 minutes before he has to leave.

As I'm ready to walk out the door, I call him. "Brandon, I'm leaving. Are you ready?"

"Yeah," he says as he trots upstairs, saunters into the bathroom, then returns to sit down and put on his shoes.

That's not being ready. That's making me wait. Again.

I don't say anything at first. Instead, I wait until we're in the car. There's only one thing Brandon hates more than my singing, and that's my whining.

Maybe he'll figure it out one day. Until then, if he keeps it up, I'm going to do my best to make him wish he was back in the classroom listening to some professor instead of me.

Hopefully, he'll be paying attention when the topic turns to "How To Throw Away the Package When I've Used the Last Baggie".

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2007)

The Cass City Reds won the 2007 girls' major league season. They are Coach Becky Moyer, Kendra Grady, Dana Woodward, Megan Parrish, Brooke Hartwick, Coach Sherry Bader, McKensie Parrish, Josie Moore, Stephanie Heckroth, Ellen Hulbert, Erin Moore and Kayla Montreuil.

Cass City will celebrate its 29th Annual Fourth of July Freedom Festival on June 29-30, with different kinds of patriotic activities taking place throughout the town. On the fourth, Shane Smith, 21 of Cass City will be going to Flint for a barbecue and has plans of heading to Bay City later in the evening. "I like the fireworks down in Bay City," Smith said. "And my family gets together and we barbecue."

10 YEARS AGO (2002)

The Charmont Motel opened its season last Tuesday at Caro's Graham Field and defeated Pat Curtis, 8-7. Tyler Erla collected the victory on the mound, while Bill Thane was credited with a save. At the plate, the Charmont Motel had Jake Brinkman and Scott Thane split 4 hits, as each player scored twice for the winners. Bill Thane and Pritchett each had doubles for Cass City, and Bennett added a single.

The vast majority of golfers never register a hole-in-one during their careers. Fewer yet record an ace when it really means something. One of the very few is Dale Auslander, a Cass City area native and 1973 graduate of Cass City High School who lives in Florida. He connected for a hole-in-one while participating in a United Way benefit tournament. He scored his ace on a 183-yard par 3 hole and when the ball dropped in he also won an 18-foot fishing boat and motor valued at \$12,000. There is a drawback to Auslander's good fortune. He is no longer an amateur nor is he a professional. He is barred from entering anymore tournaments for a year and his case will be reviewed after the year to determine what his status will be. (From Rabbit Tracks)

25 YEARS AGO (1987)

Cass City Village Council President Larry L. Davis, citing a job transfer/promotion, Monday night announced his resignation from office effective Aug. 1. Davis, 45, who was elected council president in March 1986, told councilmen during

the monthly meeting that he has accepted a job offer from his employer, General Cable Company. Davis will be plant manager of a General Cable plant in Lindsay, Calif. He's set to begin the new job July 13, but said he won't be moving until early August.

It was 54 years ago the Cass City historical couple moved into their house west of town at 6038 Cass City Rd. Luke Tuckey, 82, and his wife Evelyn, 77, had owned a farm they had to sell in 1933. The Great Depression had settled in and they, like most people at that time, didn't always have everything they wanted or needed. "When we moved in, there was no electricity here or anywhere around here except town. Three of their 8 children, Dorothy, Jay D. and Charles, were already born when they moved to the house where they currently reside. The rest of the children, Eunice, Donald, Bill, Bob and Roy, were all born in the house. "I never thought of having any of the children in a hospital. It seemed perfectly natural to have them here. That way I could make sure I got my own children," she explained with a twinkle in her eye while looking at a picture with the whole family, taken some 25 years ago. "When you've lived in a house for 54 years and when your children are born here and everyone went to the same school, you feel close ties to the town. Not everyone can say that. Cass City has given us a lot and we've been very fortunate through the years," she pointed out. If the community has given the Tuckeys a lot, then definitely the Tuckeys has given the community just as much. With 24 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, with many of them still living in the Cass City area, the Tuckey name will be spoken in Cass City long after they're gone.

50 YEARS AGO (1962)

Five Cass City Explorer Scouts have brought national and regional recognition to their troop and the village by taking top individual and team honors in the second annual NBA-BSA Explorer Scout postal rifle match. Local winners were announced Wednesday, June 20, at a special awards meeting held in the Scout rooms over the Elkland Township Fire Hall. Top individual honors went to John McIntosh, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin McIntosh, with team honors going to Jim Cybulski, Bill Hutchinson, Jim

Merchant and Bill Bliss, Jr., members of Red team. All are members of Explorer Troop 194.

John Shagena went the distance as the Giants posted their first win of the season Monday. Jack Selby was charged with the loss. Shagena and Terry Brinkman busted homers for the winners, while Tom Dewey had two for four for the Cubs.

Two Cass City High School musicians are among the 138 students participating in Central Michigan University's first high school music camp which began Sunday, June 17, and ends Saturday, June 30. Participating in the two-week session, from Cass City, are: Maryanne Barriger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Barriger, Unionville, and Bonnie Spencer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Spencer, Tyre.

100 YEARS AGO (1912)

Andrew Seeger has purchased an Overland touring car from E.A. McGeorge & Co. - H. Wettlaufer has sold a Michigan touring car, Model G, 33 horse power to Harry Young. In addition to this sale Mr. Wettlaufer says he has sold 14 Paterson cars, a Cartercar and a Metz roadster this season.

A card from State Fire Marshall Palmer calls attention to the good effects of the sane and safe Fourth of July movement which seized this country a few years ago. In 1909 there were only 20 cities where the sane and safe movement was adopted and in that year 5,307 persons were killed and injured by explosives. A year later, 91 cities took up the idea and there were only 2,923 killed and injured in the country. In 1911, with 161 cities joining hands in the endeavor to conserve the lives of our boys and girls, there were only 1603 killed and injured. Let your children buy only "sane and safe" fireworks and help to make the record for this year a possible nothing as far as deaths are concerned.

The plant of the Standard Condensed Milk Co. at Deford is being enlarged by a two-story addition on the south 72 by 26 feet in size, and an addition, 35 by 48 feet, on the west side. The original building is 45 by 56 feet. W.M. Neepier, the manager, says that the company expects to complete the building, install the machinery and be ready for business September 1. He says that the factory's product for the winter has all been contracted by a Philadelphia wholesale house.

Lutheran Church to welcome new pastor

The Rev. George Stevens Bagnall is slated to be installed as pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City, Sunday, July 1 at 3 p.m.

The Rev. Charles Schutt, pastor emeritus of St. Luke Lutheran Church, Clinton Township, will preach the sermon and the Rev. David Maier, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) Michigan District president, will perform the

rite of installation.

After graduation from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. in 1998, Bagnall was ordained to the pastoral office and has served congregations in Lewisville, Minnesota and Clinton Township. He and his wife, Jen, who works for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, have 2 daughters, Anna and Paige.

Ask your neighbor

Doerr shares advice for future judges

The Fourth of July Freedom Festival in Cass City is always packed with many events for all ages and all interests. Last year was the inauguration of the Thumb Smokin' BBQ competition, the new event was a hit and is already slated for the upcoming Freedom Festival. The competition was separated into 4 divisions of meat featuring pulled pork, ribs, brisket and chicken with each division of meat having a first place winner who received a trophy and a cash prize.



Joey Doerr

Cass City resident Joey Doerr was one of the many judges for the competition last year. "The BBQ competition was my first judging experience, I was asked last minute by my father to be a fill in judge for the competition. There was a lot of food, I probably gained 6 pounds after taste testing everything, but I had a fun time." Doerr stated.

Doerr shared a little advice for future judges of the competition. "Last year there were a lot of competitors and a lot of food that had to be judged. In the beginning of the judging all of us judges would start out with an entire plate of food eating everything on the plate, then we would get another plate full of more meat. By the end of the competition we were all so full and just picking at the food instead of eating everything given to us. My advice for future judges of this competition is to pace yourself in the beginning and start out eating smaller portions." Doerr stated.

When asked about his favorite part of the competition, Doerr said, "The ribs were the best part of the entire competition for me, they tasted really good." Doerr may again be one of the judges for the upcoming Thumb Smokin' BBQ competition in the annual Freedom Festival. "I enjoyed judging the competition and I hope that people come out to compete again. It was a lot of fun, and hopefully a great tradition for Cass City," said Doerr.

Besides judging the BBQ competition, Doerr's favorite part of the Freedom Festival last year was the fireworks show. "I've always enjoyed watching Cass City's firework shows growing up and last year's show was really good. I look forward to watching this year's firework show," Doerr said.

Joey Doerr is the son of Don and Barb Doerr of Cass City. Doerr graduated with the class of 2011 from Cass City High School. Currently Doerr works at the Elkland Township Cemetery.

Cass City Area Church Directory

Anchor Cove Outreach Church
1116 E. Caro Rd., Caro, MI 48723
989-672-2262
Directly across from Wal-Mart
Saturday Service: 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
www.anchorcoveoutreachchurch.com



Cass City United Methodist Church
5100 N. Cemetery Rd.,
P.O. Box 125, Cass City, MI 48726
872-3422
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
(Summer 9:30 a.m.)
Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m.
Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon)
Pastor: Rev. Jackie Roe



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
6820 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-2770
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Vacancy Pastor: Michael Boyer



**Calvary Bible Fellowship
an Independent Baptist Church**
4446 Ale St., Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-4088
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday -
Pray/Bible Study & Youth Group 7:00 p.m.



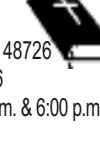
Evangelical Free Church of Cass City
6430 Chestnut Blvd., Cass City, MI 48726
872-5060
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Midweek Bible Studies
Biblical Counseling
Pastor: Rev. Todd R. Gould
www.casscityefc.org



Novesta Church of Christ
"the friendly church that cares"
2896 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726
872-3658
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Minister: Brad Speirs
Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org



Cass City Church of Christ
6743 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726
Contacts 872-2367 or 872-3136
Worship Service Sunday 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study -
Sunday 10:00 a.m. & Wednesday 7:00 p.m.



First Baptist Church
(Independent, Fundamental)
Barrier Free
6420 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-3155
Sunday School All Ages 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday -
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
AWANA Clubs 6:45 p.m. During School Year
Thursday Teen Club 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Pastor: David G. Hill
Website: www.fbccc.us



St. Pancratius Catholic Church
4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-3336
Summer
Saturday Liturgy 5:30 p.m. DST
Sunday Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
Winter
Saturday Liturgy 4:00 p.m. EDT
Sunday Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
Pastoral Administrator:
Sr. Maria Dina Puddu MC



Cass City Church of the Nazarene
6538 Third St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-2604 or (989) 912-2077
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study -
& Children's Activities 6:00 p.m.
Pastor: Jerry Harrington
Associate Pastor: Judy A. Esckilsen



Cass City Missionary Church
4449 Koepfgen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-2729
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service & Youth Group 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Phil Burkett
www.casscitymc.org



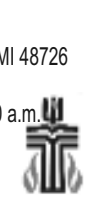
First Presbyterian Church
Barrier Free
State & National Historical Registry
6505 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-5400
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
Pastor: Dave Blackburn



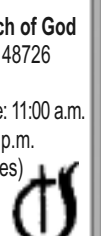
Mizpah Missionary Church
4631 N. Van Dyke, Cass City, MI 48726
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Service: 11 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Group 7-8 p.m.
Wednesday Kids' Club 7-8 p.m.
Pastor Dale Bullock 989-325-0736



Fraser Presbyterian Church
3006 Huron Line Rd., Cass City, MI 48726
872-5400
Sunday School - Sept.-May 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: Dave Blackburn



Living Word Worship Center Church of God
6536 Houghton Street, Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-4637
Sunday School: 10 a.m. Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.
Family Training Hour: Wednesday 7 p.m. (including youth and children's services)
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SEA CADET AWARD recipients (l-r) are: Alex Altergott, Bay City, Jilee Mallard, Millington, Holley Rochefort, Bad Axe, and Brianne Dybilas, Ubly. The cadets were awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars Naval Sea Cadet Award on June 10.

Ubly teen, Sea Cadet is among award recipients

by Mason Doerr
Staff Writer

Plenty of people in the Cass City area choose a military career after graduating high school, however, it is not as common to see them pursue and grasp excellence.

Four local sea cadets from the H.R. Doud Division, which is located in Saginaw, received the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Naval Sea Cadet awards. The winners were Alex Altergott, of Bay City, Jilee Mallard, of Millington, Holley Rochefort, of Bad Axe, and Brianne Dybilas, of Ubly.

In order to qualify for this type of award, recipients must meet several strict criteria. Cadets must be academically outstanding, must progress satisfactorily in the Sea Cadet Program, must demonstrate outstanding achievement in community service and naval education, and must also demonstrate outstanding leadership through a number of ways. The cadets must also be of high moral character, display outstanding military bearing and conduct both in and out of uniform, actively promote patriotism and Americanism and demonstrate growth potential.

Brianne Dybilas, 18, who has been a part of the USN Sea Cadet's program for the last 4 years, was one of the few chosen for this honor. Dybilas graduated from Bad Axe High School and is the daughter of Stephen and Carol Dybilas. Brianne's mother, Carol, knew that Brianne was going to be an outstanding citizen since she was younger.

"Brianne has been very active in community service groups since a young age," Dybilas said. "She

recently completed 13 years in Girl Scouting."

Dybilas also mentioned that her daughter has always been a part of the Care and Share program, and also the Bad Axe Hatchet Vanguard Marching Band.

Outside of the sea cadet program, Brianne has always enjoyed music, photography and cooking.

"She (Brianne) is looking forward to be in the Navy to pursue a career in culinary arts," Dybilas said. "She has wanted to be in the Navy since she was in junior high and her late grandfather, Joe Dybilas, served in the Army Air Force Service during World War 2."

Upon hearing the news that her daughter had won this honor, Dybilas was surprised. She had never expected anything like this to happen.

"I was a little surprised that she won this award," Dybilas mentioned. "Our Sea Cadet unit had not been awarded this medal before, in the past, and when it turned out that all 4 of our nominations were accepted, it was like 'wow'."

Dybilas' daughter was also very happy with the honor, and has been elated since its initial granting.

"She (Brianne) was in total shock," Dybilas said. "She couldn't believe that I knew a couple weeks before she did and I didn't let her in on the notice. She is still in shock."

Brianne is not a first-timer when it comes to winning awards, in fact, she has a colorful past.

"Brianne has been awarded ribbons for recruitment, community service, colorguard and marksmanship," Dybilas said. "She most recently received the Daughters of the American revolution ROTC award."

Village hasn't addressed ORVs

Continued from page one.

The Cass City Police Department has stopped citizens riding ORVs in town, but officers haven't issued any tickets thus far.

"We're just trying to save somebody from being ticketed and we were concerned about their safety," Haynes said. "We like to be non-confrontational and informational. We'd just like to inform these folks and keep them away from a ticket."

In order for a rider to legally travel

on the shoulder of Tuscola County's roads, they must follow a number of rules.

Riders must travel at a speed no faster than 25 miles per hour, be over 12 years of age, travel with the flow of traffic without interfering with other traffic, and they must also travel in a single file line unless passing another ORV.

Other rules include riding only when visibility conditions are appropriate; ORVs must have a lighted headlight and taillight at all hours;

operators and each passenger must be wearing Department of Transportation-approved helmets and eyewear, unless the vehicle is equipped with a roof that meets the standards for a crash helmet; the ORVs throttle must be designed so that when a rider lets off of the throttle the ORVs engine speed immediately and automatically returns to idle; the ORV must be equipped with a spark arrester approved by the U.S. Forest Service, and the ORV must meet noise emission standards.

Along with these regulations, there are many more that restrict certain riders. Any person who violates the rules is guilty of a municipal civil infraction, which is punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

The money collected from these fines goes into 2 separate funds. Fifty percent of the money goes to the road commission to repair damaged roads or to post signs for ORV speed limits and for the indication of whether roads are open or closed to ORV travelers. The other half goes to the county sheriff's department for ORV enforcement and training.

Lengthy probe expected

Continued from page one.

which resembled those (used in the) production of methamphetamine, were also present."

The sheriff reported that a Michigan State Police Meth Response Team was called in to investigate the scene. "They were not able to totally identify the substances, but further testing will occur. They did, however, have strong suspicions that some type of drug, possible in the form of meth or bath salts, had been produced, possibly off scene."

Officers seized the evidence and a hazardous material clean-up team was dispatched to secure the scene.

In all, investigators spent about 16 hours at the residence, according to Hanson, who said the probe into McLean's death is expected to be a lengthy one, although officers have a good idea of what happened.

"At this point, it is appearing the victim died from an accidental, self-inflicted wound to the head. It looks like it was caused from a revolver handgun that had 2 rounds missing from its cylinder," the sheriff said. "Apparently, the victim pulled the trigger twice before it fired. Several other guns, drug paraphernalia, pills and a small amount of marijuana, which all were confined to the bedroom where the incident occurred, were seized."

In addition to state police technical service teams, deputies were assisted by Huron County Sheriff's Department victim advocates, the Huron County Medical Examiner's Office, Caseville police and Scheurer Ambulance Service personnel.

County lawsuit now settled

Continued from page one.

Zelmer resigned in October 2010

after serving as probate register since May 1995.

Kent retired in December 2010 after 34 years on the bench.

DEALS OF THE WEEK

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Don't forget to vote

Registration deadline nearing to cast ballots in primary election

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

TUSCOLA COUNTY

Area voters have less than 2 weeks to register for the upcoming August primary election.

The deadline to register is Monday, July 9. This year's primary election will be held Tuesday, Aug. 7, while the general election will be Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Residents will be deciding a host of races not only locally, but also at the state and national levels.

Of interest to voters in both Tuscola and Huron counties is a heated race for 84th District state representative.

Tuscola County Register of Deeds Dan Grimshaw, Vassar, and Sebawaing business owner Sami Khoury are challenging incumbent state Rep. Kurt E. Damrow, Elkton, for the Republican nomination. Also vying for their party's nomination are former 84th District State Rep. Terry Brown, Pigeon, and Mayville area resident Richard L. Badger, both Democrats.

In the U.S. Senate race, incumbent Democrat Debbie Stabenow, Lansing, is running unopposed in the primary. In November she'll face 4 Republican challengers — Clark Durant, a Grosse Pointe Farms resident who co-founded Cornerstone Schools in Detroit; Gary Glenn, Midland, president of the American Family Association of Michigan; Randy Hekman, a former Kent County probate-juvenile judge and administrative pastor from Grand Rapids; and former U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, Holland.

Likewise, Republican incumbent Candace Miller, Harrison Township, is running unopposed in the primary for the 10th Congressional District seat. A pair of Democratic challengers — Jerome George Quinn of Rochester and Vassar Township Trustee Chuck Stadler will battle for the right to face Miller in November.

The 10th District includes a portion of Tuscola County as well as Huron and Sanilac counties.

The races on tap for Tuscola County include a contest for 54th Circuit Court judge, 5-way battle for register of deeds, and 2-way races for prosecutor, sheriff and probate judge. In addition, 4 of 5 county commissioners will be facing challengers.

Barring a write-in campaign, there will be no race for the office of county clerk, but voters will be electing someone new to the post just the same. Veteran Tuscola County Clerk Margie White is retiring after 20 years on the job. Her decision stems from plans to marry and move to Huron County.

White took over the reins of the clerk's office from Erma Brown, who served a 4-year term following the retirement of longtime Clerk Elsie Hicks.

Seeking White's job is Chief Deputy Clerk Jodi Fetting, a Kingston area native who now resides in Caro. Fetting has served in the clerk's office for nearly 4 years and was promoted to deputy chief about 18 months ago.

Four candidates are vying for circuit court judge following the retirement of longtime Judge Patrick R. Joslyn. The candidates are attorneys Robert A. Betts, Amy Grace Gierhart and Frederick C. Overdier, and Tuscola County Magistrate Joseph A. Van Auken.

In the race for prosecutor, Republican Pamela Stefan is challenging incumbent Republican Mark E. Reene for a 4-year term.

Likewise, there are 2 candidates for sheriff — incumbent Republican Lee Teschendorf and Democratic challenger Chris Rogner — and for probate judge — incumbent Amanda Roggenbuck and challenger Nancy L. Thane.

A field of 5 candidates is vying for a 4-year term as register of deeds following incumbent Dan Grimshaw's decision to run for the 84th District seat in the Michigan House of

Representatives. The deeds candidates are Republicans John Bishop, Paula Cavanaugh and Scott McCool, and Democrats J. Warren Taylor and Aaron Gyurko.

Running unopposed for 4-year terms are county Treasurer Pat Donovan-Gray and Drain Commissioner Robert Mantey.

All of the county commissioners' 2-year terms are expiring, and this year marks a new layout of representation in the county due to redistricting.

The following candidates filed to run for those terms:

District One — Republican Commissioner Roger Allen currently represents Wisner, Gilford, Akron, Fairgrove, Columbia, Elkland and Elmwood townships. He is running unopposed.

District 2 — Republican Commissioner Thom Bardwell represents the city of Caro and the townships of Almer, Ellington, Novesta and Kingston. He is being challenged by Democrat Ricky A. Jonas.

District 3 — In District 3, which is comprised of Indianfields, Wells, Fremont, Dayton and Koylton townships, newcomers Lynne L. Staples, a Democrat, and Republican Christine Trisch are vying for incumbent Tom Kern's seat. Kern, a former longtime Tuscola County sheriff, opted not to seek reelection to another term as commissioner.

District 4 — Two newcomers are also vying for the District 4 seat, which represents Tuscola, Arbela, Millington and Watertown townships. The candidates are Douglas DuRussel and Craig W. Kilpatrick, both Republicans. Incumbent Roy Petzold is not seeking reelection.

District 5 — District 5 Commissioner Jerry Peterson also opted not to seek another term. Vying for the right to represent the city of Vassar and Denmark, Juniata and Vassar townships are Judy Adams and Matthew Bierlein, both Republicans.



GOV. RICK Snyder recently signed legislation, co-sponsored by state Rep. Kurt Damrow, to allow Michigan law enforcement and health officials to quickly remove dangerous synthetic drugs from store shelves.

Snyder signs law banning bath salts

Gov. Rick Snyder recently signed legislation to allow Michigan law enforcement and health officials to quickly remove dangerous synthetic drugs from store shelves, state Rep. Kurt Damrow announced.

House Bill 5714, co-sponsored by Damrow, and Senate Bill 1082 are part of a 4-bill package that lists chemical classifications that allows the state to quickly identify and eliminate illegal mind-altering products no matter what name or form they take by temporarily categorizing the products as a controlled substance.

"I want to thank my colleagues for fast-tracking this legislation to the governor's desk to be signed before summer," said Damrow (R-Elkton).

"I also want to thank concerned parents, residents, police officers and local officials for their efforts to raise awareness and fight synthetic drugs to protect our kids."

The drugs contain strong stimulants that can cause increased heart rate,

chest pains, dizziness, delusions, panic attacks, nose bleeding and nausea. Patients ingesting these chemicals can be extremely paranoid. Some individuals have been involved in homicides and suicides while under the influence. Severe cases may require long-term psychiatric care.

"Under the new law, state health officials will be able to declare drugs such as K2 and bath salts as an imminent danger," Damrow said. "Police will then be permitted to quickly remove them from the shelves."

The legislative package lists chemical classifications that are prohibited and grants authority to the Michigan State Police to remove those drugs from stores effective July 1 if businesses haven't already done so.

Individuals with "bath salt" related medical concerns or questions are asked to call the Michigan Toxic Hotline at (800) 648-6942 or visit www.michigan.gov/substance-abuse.

Study: Michigan's ag, food industries remain prosperous

An updated economic impact study recently released by the Michigan State University (MSU) Product Center shows Michigan's agriculture and food industries not only survived the recent recession, but have emerged prosperous and are growing stronger by the day.

Actually a comprehensive update of a study first published in 2004, "The Economic Impact of Michigan's Food and Agriculture System", found steady, consistent growth and a cumulative increase of almost 50 percent over the past 8 years, now totaling an annual contribution of \$91.4 billion to the state's economy.

MSU Product Center Director Chris Peterson and economist William Knudson presented the report at the April 11 meeting of the Michigan Agriculture Commission in Lansing, praising Michigan agriculture as "among Michigan's most successful business sectors."

"This is such an encouraging report, and solid proof that Michigan's farmers are a vital component to the long-term stability of our state's economy. Always have been, always will be," said Michigan Farm Bureau President Wayne H. Wood. "More than any specific line item, what strikes me most is the annual growth figure. For any of Michigan's core industries to average 7 percent growth every year—consistently—that's good news for all Michigan residents and the state as a whole."

That the study revealed such steady growth was a surprise even to those who carried it out, including Knudson, the report's lead technician.

"Unlike manufactured goods and tourism, food is a necessity, so we knew this sector had the potential to fare better than other industries in an economic downturn," Knudson said. "But even we were surprised to see the size of the increase despite the global recession."

With the second-most diverse agriculture industry in the nation, Michigan's farm sector is not the easiest jigsaw to assemble. Among its more than 200 different commodities, dairy continues to lead the way, generating approximately \$1.3 billion annually in total economic activity. Combined with other livestock production, Michigan's animal agriculture sector accounts for nearly \$5 billion annually.

Field crops such as corn, soybeans, wheat, sugar beets, hay and dry edi-

ble beans together add another \$3.2 billion every year. Michigan is the nation's second-largest producer of dry edible beans; they account for almost a quarter of a billion dollars every year.

The often-overlooked nursery and landscape plant sector contributes \$1.2 billion every year, and the state's wildly diverse fruits and vegetables together add another \$1.4 billion.

The agricultural processing and manufacturing sector turns those raw commodities into consumer-friendly products and contributes nearly \$25 billion annually to the Michigan economy.

"That processing sector is very significant, and a real area of growth for us to look forward to," Wood said. "Michigan now is a much more business-friendly environment than at any point in recent memory, with a more certain tax and regulatory environment that encourages economic development."

"With improvements to our infrastructure, better access to existing markets and a more conducive environment to expanding our own food processing capacity, Michigan is poised for even more robust expansion of its agricultural economy."

The study was even encouraging in what it didn't include. Several types of direct marketing — farm markets, agri-tourism and community-supported agriculture — aren't yet on economists' radar, but are known to be popular and rapidly growing segments of the industry.

The report found Michigan has more than 73,000 full-time farmers and farm workers. That's 12 percent of 618,000 direct jobs in Michigan's food and agriculture business sector. Food and agriculture account for 22 percent of all jobs in Michigan.

The total jobs line showed an overall downturn overall from 2004 to 2010, with most losses coming from food wholesale and retail. Jobs in food processing and agricultural production rose more than 6 percent in the same time period.

"It's not surprising that there were job losses in the service sector," Peterson said. "Fewer people are eating out, which leads to fewer wait-staff, cooks, restaurant hosts, etc. However, we're seeing the numbers of new jobs created in food processing plants and on the farm continue to increase."

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Obituaries

William Hartsell

William James Hartsell, 81, of Deford, died at home with his family by his side Sunday, June 24, 2012.

He was born Feb. 26, 1931 at home in Elkton Township, the son of Roland and Ann (Quinn) Hartsell.

He married Thelma May Willer July 5, 1952 in Marlette.

William worked for Gregory Construction Company of Bay City as a commercial construction laborer retiring after over 30 years. He truly enjoyed hunting with gun and bow and he enjoyed ice fishing. He was a member of an Elk Hunting Club that took its members to Colorado on a regular basis for elk hunts. William had a beautiful organic garden and enjoyed the time he spent tending his garden. Many of his children and other family members enjoyed the results of his labor.

William is survived by his wife, Thelma; children: William (Jennifer Gladding) Hartsell of Ionia, Lucille (Glen) May of Caro, Jeffrey (Maryanna) Hartsell of Kingston, Leatha (Scott) Germain of Deford, Connie (John) Sommer of Deford, and Cole (Stazha) Hartsell of Cass City; grandchildren: Caitlin (Dustin) Higdon, Bennett Hartsell, Jeffrey Hartsell, Eric Hartsell, Joshua (Dee) Kamrad, Jessica Kamrad, Lindsay Germain, Adrien Hartsell, Erin Hartsell, Mason Hartsell, and Lauren Hartsell; great grandchildren: Joshua William, Haley and Cody; a brother, Leonard (Donna) Hartsell of Owosso; sisters: Elda Straty of Prudenville, and Anna Mae (Joseph) Owens of Bridgeport; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by brothers: Leland, Orville, and Roland Hartsell; and sisters: Euleta McComb and Wilma Ashmore.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 26, at Kranz Funeral Home, Kingston, with Debra L. Kranz, Funeral Service Celebrant, officiating.

Interment was in the Kingston Cemetery.

Pallbearers for Mr. Hartsell were Josh Kamrad, Jeffrey Hartsell, Eric Hartsell, Adrien Hartsell, Mason Hartsell, and Bennett Hartsell.

Memorials may be made to Family Discretionary Fund.

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

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Kingston.

*Send Letters to the Editor to
Cass City Chronicle
P.O. Box 115, Cass City*

William Retford

William "Bill" F. Retford, 76, of Owendale, passed away Tuesday, June 19, 2012 in the comfort of his



own home.

He was born June 3, 1936 in Highland Park, the son of the late Earl and Eva (Draschil) Retford.

He married Janet Gettel Dec. 26, 1960.

When Bill was 5 years old, the family moved to the farm. He was a volunteer fireman for 20 years and chief for 14 years for the Owendale Fire Department. Bill was a Lions charter member for 17 years and a member of the Owendale United Methodist Church, where he was a member of the trustees. He enjoyed farming, cooking, snowmobiling in his younger years and spending time with his family.

Bill is the beloved husband of Janet Retford; loving father of John (Gina) Retford of Owendale and Linda (Doug) Detterman of Chelsea; proud grandfather of Adam and Luke Retford, and Nicholas and Alexander Detterman; dearest brother of Earl Retford of Idaho, Tom (Earlene) Retford of Ohio, and the late Roger (late Georgia) Retford and the late Audrey; brother-in-law of Jim (Mary) Gettel of Sebewaing; also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were held Saturday, June 23, at the Owendale United Methodist Church.

Burial was in the Grant Township Cemetery, Gageton.

Memorial donations may be given to the Owendale United Methodist Church or the Owendale Fire Department.

Family and friends may share a memory at www.jmfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements were made by Juengel-Mellendorf Funeral Home, Sebewaing.

Board approves lean budget

Continued from page one.

City 8 years of experience as band director in the Deckerville School District.

•Tabled action on spending money to draft and implement a 3-year district-wide strategic plan. "I guess I'd like to see some vision of what we'd like to be in the future," explained Hartel, who brought up the suggestion. "Most schools have some sort of strategic plan that they use. This

would be our road map for the next 3 years."

One of the options available, Hartel explained, would be to contract with the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) to draft the plan. The cost would be \$5,200.

Board members indicated they're hesitant to spend money on drafting a plan at this time. "I see too much risk," commented board Treasurer Jim Veneziano, who cited the lack of

stability in Michigan when it comes to funding for education these days.

•Adopted an annual resolution to maintain membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

•Learned that board officers will retain their positions through January. The school normally conducts its reorganization meeting in July. However, Hartel explained that session is being postponed due to the state's election schedule this year.

Village receives favorable audit

Continued from page one.

increase in revenues, coupled with a 3.7-percent reduction in expenditures, added \$28,109 to its fund balance entering the current year.

CITIZEN FORUM

During the citizen forum portion of the June meeting, a pair of residents addressed the council with opposing views. One barked disapproval of Cass City's tax rate, while the other asked the council for its support on a millage renewal request on the upcoming August ballot.

Kate Van Auken, director of Rawson Memorial District Library, said the approval of .75 mills for 12 years is imperative for the Cass City public library to provide the same quality of service area residents have become accustomed to over the years. If approved, VanAuken says the millage will generate about \$118,000 annually for the non-profit facility.

Ed Scott, however, told the council that high taxes are driving folks out of the community.

"I've talked to my neighbors and to people all over town. They're leaving Cass City because taxes are too high and their water and sewer bills are too high," he said.

Scott also blasted the village's Department of Public Work (DPW) crews.

He said that DPW personnel use village vehicles for their own business, including shopping on Sundays.

"I've seen DPW trucks just driving around town," he said, adding he has seen the same trucks parked at McDonalds for over an hour during lunch time and for extended periods throughout the day.

"Something needs to be done."

OTHER BUSINESS

In other matters during the hour-

long meeting, the council:

•Agreed to accept sealed bids for an enclosure of the ferric tank at the wastewater treatment plant until 3 p.m. July 24.

Council member Jenny Zawilinski said the new tank replaced a steel tank that corroded through the side of the tank as a result of weather and the reaction to chemicals.

Zawilinski says the enclosure – expected to cost around \$35,000 – is necessary for public safety.

•Following a brief public hearing, the council approved the reaffirming of the Downtown Development Authority's 2012-2032 amended development and tax increment financing plan.

Village Clerk-Treasurer Nan Walsh

conveyed the new plan will not increase or change the amount village property owners pay in taxes.

According to Walsh, neither changes in the size or number of parcels in the district, nor changes to funding methods or levels are proposed.

"This is truly an extension of the original plan, she said.

•Heard from Chief of Police Craig Haynes, who reported that while the new fireworks laws allow for firecrackers, bottle rockets, Roman candles, and the like – users may be in violation of the village noise ordinance after 10 p.m. Haynes said he's waiting for a decision from the governor's office on the matter before any action is taken.

The Cass City Chamber of Commerce & the Downtown Development Authority Proudly Present Cass City's Spotlight Business of the Week

Cass City Chamber of Commerce

The mission statement of the Cass City Chamber of Commerce reads "The Cass City Chamber of Commerce, which was incorporated in 1951, is organized to advance the general welfare and prosperity of the Village of Cass City, as well as the surrounding area, so that its citizens and all areas of its business community shall prosper. All necessary means of promotion shall be provided, and particular attention and emphasis shall be given to the economic, civic, commercial, cultural, industrial, and educational interests of the area."

As a community, we do not have a lot of money or resources, but what we do have in abundance is small town community values and pride. To that end, we have set up the Spotlight Business of the Week initiative. If you have not stopped into those businesses already spotlighted, please consider doing so as we move forward and spotlight more of our town. At this time of the year, as we celebrate the birthday of our country and honor those who fought to protect it, it is especially important that we remember our blessings and do all we can to acknowledge and support the things that make our community strong, so that they and Cass City can prosper well into our future.

Be sure to check next week's paper for the next Cass City Spotlight Business of the Week.

Without official Public Notice

published in your newspaper,

this may be all the information you get.

Currently and historically, it is the responsibility of government to publish public and legal notices here in Michigan's newspapers. Facts concerning court actions, government bids, zoning changes, tax increases, and legislative proposals are all published here. In fact, it's the law serving your right to know; assuring that you are informed of events and important information affecting your life and community.



Public Notices in Newspapers.
Your Right to Know, Delivered Right to Your Door.

VILLAGE OF CASS CITY NOTICE

As a reminder to all Cass City Village residents and business owners that signs "...shall not be located in, project into or overhang a public right-of-way or dedicated public easement."

This includes political signs.

Code Enforcement Office
Village of Cass City

In Concert

Jerry Garcia

at the

Pigeon River
Mennonite Church
7120 Geiger Rd., Pigeon



July 1, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Free will offering

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 ASHLEY GRAVES, A MARRIED WOMAN, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated January 20, 2005 and recorded on February 1, 2005 in Liber 1025 on Page 941, and modified on April 21, 2012 recorded April 30, 2012 in Liber 1247 on Page 1385, and assigned by said mortgagee to FLAGSTAR BANK, FSB, as assigned, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Four Dollars and Seventy-Seven Cents (\$78,344.77), including interest at 6.500% 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 July 19, 2012.

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

COMMENCING 48 RODS NORTH OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 27, TOWN 12 NORTH RANGE 10 EAST, THENCE SOUTH 113 FEET; THENCE EAST 66 AND TWO - THIRDS RODS, THENCE NORTH 113 FEET; THENCE WEST 66 AND TWO - THIRDS RODS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

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.

FLAGSTAR BANK, FSB
Mortgagee/Assignee

Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C.
23938 Research Drive, Suite 300
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
FSB.003346

6-20-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Shawn A. Chambers, an unmarried man, original mortgagor, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., Mortgagee, dated November 16, 2006 and recorded on December 6, 2006 in Liber 1104 on Page 802, and assigned by said Mortgagee to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as assignee as documented by an assignment, in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety-One Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Three and 15/100 Dollars (\$91,843.15).

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, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on July 26, 2012.

Said premises are situated in Township of Watertown, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Lot 4, Block 17 Map of the Village of Fostoria according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1 Page 45 A and 46 A, Tuscola County Records.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to 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.

Dated: June 27, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC D (248) 593-1309
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #403644F01

6-27-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Paul Dost, single man, original mortgagor, to James B. Nutter & Company, Mortgagee, dated May 29, 2007 and recorded on December 11, 2007 in Liber 1136 on Page 1295 in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Two and 18/100 Dollars (\$159,472.18).

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, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on July 26, 2012.

Said premises are situated in Township of Wells, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Part of the West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 16, Town 12 North, Range 10 East, Township of Wells, Tuscola County, Michigan, described as: Commencing at the Southwest corner of said Section 16, thence East 1039.80 feet; thence North 835 feet; thence West 400.57 feet; thence South 250 feet; thence West 640 feet; thence South 585 feet to the Point of Beginning.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to 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.

Dated: June 27, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC H (248) 593-1300
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #402722F01

6-27-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by John LaRue and Sara LaRue, husband and wife, original mortgagors, to National City Mortgage Services Co, Mortgagee, dated September 19, 2002 and recorded on September 30, 2002 in Liber 896 on Page 97, and modified by agreement dated November 1, 2008 and recorded on February 20, 2009 in Liber 1167 on Page 1359, and assigned by said Mortgagee to National City Mortgage Co. as assignee as documented by an assignment, in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Six and 21/100 Dollars (\$83,696.21).

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, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on July 26, 2012.

Said premises are situated in Township of Millington, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Part of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 4, Town 10 North, Range 8 East, described as Beginning at a point on the centerline of Ellis Road that is West 333.13 feet along the South line of Section 4 and North 32 degrees 19 minutes 10 seconds West, 700 feet from the South 1/4 corner of Section 4, North 32 degrees 19 minutes 10 seconds West, 150 feet along centerline of Ellis Road, thence West 589.61 feet; thence South 20 degrees 40 minutes 25 seconds East, 135.49 feet; thence East 621.98 feet to the point of beginning.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to 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.

Dated: June 27, 2012
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC F (248) 593-1313
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #194131F02

6-27-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Sue Wood, a single female, and Doris Wheeler, a single female, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., Mortgagee, dated November 19, 2007 and recorded on December 6, 2007 in Liber 1136 on Page 721, and assigned by said Mortgagee to Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, L.P., f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, L.P. as assignee as documented by an assignment, in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Thirty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Eight and 06/100 Dollars (\$38,828.06).

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, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on July 26, 2012.

Said premises are situated in Village of Fairgrove, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Lot 10, Block 1, of Phillips Addition to the Village of Fairgrove, according to the recorded plat thereof.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to 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.

Dated: June 27, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC X (248) 593-1302
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #404668F01

6-27-4

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Jason Franklin Wirsing and Andrea Rachelle Wirsing, husband and wife, whose address is 5777 Conrad Road, Mayville, MI 48744, to Oxford Bank Mortgage Services LLC, mortgagee, which mortgage is dated August 15, 2006, and was recorded on August 28, 2006, in Liber 1093, Page 269, Tuscola County Records and is now held by Oxford Bank, as successor by merger to the mortgagee. The mortgage was modified by a Loan Modification Agreement, dated September 29, 2009, which was recorded on October 29, 2009, in Liber 1186, Page 990, Tuscola County Records. The mortgage was further modified by a Loan Modification Agreement, dated August 30, 2010, which was recorded on September 3, 2010, in Liber 1204, Page 1378, Tuscola County Records. There is claimed to be due on that mortgage, at the date hereof the sum of THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETEEN and 60/100 Dollars (\$369,519.60), including interest, plus all expenses incidental to or arising from the sale or sales of the mortgaged premises. Additional interest will continue to accrue until the mortgage is satisfied. There is no suit or proceeding at law or in equity which has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage.

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, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, Michigan, at 10:00 am on Thursday, August 2, 2012.

Said premises are situated in the Township of Fremont, County of Tuscola, State of Michigan, described as follows:

Commencing at the West quarter corner of Section 27, Town 11 North, Range 9 East, and the Point of Beginning, RUNNING THENCE North 88 degrees 56 minutes 15 seconds East 1319.56 feet along the East and West quarter corner of said Section 27; thence South 0 degrees 48 minutes 01 seconds East 330.50 feet along the West eighth line of said Section 27; thence South 88 degrees 56 minutes 15 seconds West 1319.54 feet; thence North 0 degrees 48 minutes 14 seconds West 330.50 feet along the West line of said Section 27 to the Point of Beginning. Commonly known as: 5777 Conrad Road, Mayville, MI 48744.

Tax Id No: 011-027-000-1600-07

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the notice provided under that statute, whichever is longer.

Pursuant to MCLA 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.

Dated: June 27, 2012

Oxford Bank
mortgagee

WALTON & DONNELLY, P.C.
Attorneys for mortgagee
By: Jonathan T. Walton, Jr.
1550 Buhl Bldg.
535 Griswold Street
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 963-8989

6-27-4

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Stuart A. Thornton and Bonnie J. Thornton, husband and wife, original mortgagors, to Chase Bank USA, N.A., Mortgagee, dated August 27, 2007 and recorded on September 13, 2007 in Liber 1129 on Page 1378, and assigned by said Mortgagee to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association as assignee as documented by an assignment, in Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Five and 15/100 Dollars (\$126,785.15).

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, at the place of holding the circuit court within Tuscola County, at 10:00 AM, on July 26, 2012.

Said premises are situated in Township of Fremont, Tuscola County, Michigan, and are described as:

Northeast quarter of Southwest quarter and West half of Northwest quarter of Southeast quarter of Section 9, Town 11 North, Range 9 East, Township of Fremont, County of Tuscola, State of Michigan.

Less and Except: Commencing at Northwest corner of Northeast 1/4 of Southwest 1/4, thence East 300 feet; thence South 726.70 feet; thence West 300 feet; thence North 726.70 feet to point of beginning. Parcel 2 5A. Excepting and reserving all that certain property known as Northwest corner of Northeast 1/4 of Southwest 1/4, East 300 feet, South 726.70 feet, West 300 feet, North 726.70 feet to point of beginning.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to 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.

Dated: June 27, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
FC S (248) 593-1304
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for Servicer
31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525
File #365353F03

6-27-4

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 GARY CRYDERMAN and ANN CRYDERMAN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, to CHASE BANK USA, N.A., Mortgagee, dated September 25, 2007, and recorded on October 11, 2007, in Liber 1132, on Page 308, and assigned by said mortgagee to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, as assigned, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred One Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars and Twenty-Five Cents (\$101,938.25), including interest at 8.999% 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 July 26, 2012.

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

COMMENCING AT A POINT IN THE CENTER OF OLD M-38 HIGHWAY THAT IS 467.00 FEET SOUTHEASTERLY FROM THE INTERSECTION OF SAID CENTERLINE WITH THE WEST LINE OF THE EAST HALF (E 1/2) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF SECTION 28, TOWN 11 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST, THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG SAID CENTER LINE 467.00 FEET TO ABOVE MENTIONED INTERSECTION, THENCE NORTH ALONG SAID WEST LINE OF EAST HALF (E 1/2) OF SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF SAID SECTION 28, 206.00 FEET, THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY 500.00 FEET TO A POINT, THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY 169.00 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING.

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.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Mortgagee/Assignee

Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C.
23938 Research Drive, Suite 300
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
JPMC.000699 CONV

6-27-4

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 RYAN PURDY, A SINGLE MAN, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated April 18, 2008, and recorded on April 30, 2008, in Liber 1148, on Page 200, and assigned by said mortgagee to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, as assigned, Tuscola County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars and Seventy-Two Cents (\$150,584.72), including interest at 5.500% 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 July 26, 2012.

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

COMMENCING AT THE SOUTH 1/4 CORNER, SECTION 4, TOWN 10 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST, MILLINGTON TOWNSHIP, TUSCOLA COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST 1203.28 FEET ALONG THE NORTH-SOUTH 1/4 LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. RUNNING THENCE WEST 1116.60 FEET, THENCE NORTH 32 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 37 SECONDS WEST 418.83 FEET ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF ELLIS ROAD, THENCE EAST 1347.06 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 58 SECONDS WEST 354.04 FEET ALONG THE NORTH-SOUTH 1/4 LINE TO POINT OF BEGINNING. BEING PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4, SECTION 4, TOWN 10 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST, MILLINGTON TOWNSHIP, TUSCOLA COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND CONTAINING 10.010 ACRES MORE OR LESS INCLUDING ROAD RIGHT OF WAY AS SHOWN AND SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY OF RECORD.

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.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Mortgagee/Assignee


Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C.
23938 Research Drive, Suite 300
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
JPMC.000689 CONV

6-27-4

GO FOR THE GOLD
Vacation Bible School
July 9-13, 2012
6 to 8 p.m.
For children 4 years old to those who completed 6th grade.
Cass City Missionary Church
4449 Koepfgen Road
Cass City, MI 48726
Children will be able to participate in soccer, basketball, or cheerleading clinics!
Come join us as we celebrate this year's Summer Olympics at VBS!
Contact Shirley Tuckey at 872-3236 or
Cass City Missionary Church at 872-2729

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WOODLAND COTTAGE owner **Caroline Rutkoski** (left) and her daughter-in-law, **Kristy Rutkoski**, recently hosted their annual **Summer Solstice** event at the Lamton Road business.

At Woodland Cottage Rutkoski welcomes residents to summer solstice celebration

by **Ryan Walker**
Freelance Writer

Normally the summer solstice will fall either on June 20 or June 21 in the northern hemisphere. The determining factor in the exact date is the presence of leap year.

This year the summer solstice brought in the official start to summer June 20. Not only does the summer solstice kick off summer, it also marks the longest day of the year in terms of daylight. Ancient cultures revered the summer solstice as an event that held practical and reli-

gious implications; therefore its arrival each year was marked by celebrations.

An example of an ancient civilization that greatly valued the annual occurrence was the ancient Egyptians. They built the Great Pyramids so that during the summer solstice the sun, as viewed from the Sphinx, sets precisely between 2 of the Pyramids.

Another example of an ancient eastern hemisphere culture that highlighted the importance of the season change is evident at the legendary Stonehenge located in the United Kingdom. Stonehenge has been associated with both the winter and summer solstice for approximately 5,000 years. Observers in the center of the standing stones can still see the summer solstice sun rise over the Heel Stone which stands outside Stonehenge's main ring.

Few cultures in the modern world celebrate solstice festivities with the intensity and frequency as in the distant past. However, if you were driving down Lamton Road June 22, you may have noticed a Summer Solstice event taking place at Woodland Cottage.

Caroline Rutkoski began Woodland Cottage at its current location at 3396 Lamton Rd., Decker, 10 years ago. The household garage was initially converted into part of the main shop, with an addition to follow shortly thereafter. Currently, business continues in the main shop along with 3 outdoor buildings.

Woodland Cottage offers a wide array of gifts for home and garden, including florals, candles, pictures, garden décor, seasonal décor, and gourmet food. Woodland Cottage also delivers bereavement mementos and schedules afternoon teas on its premises.

Rutkoski has hosted the Summer Solstice event for 4 years. It's one of the 7 events connected to the business normally undertaken by Rutkoski throughout the year. The purpose isn't just to celebrate the official first day of summer; it's also to thank Woodland Cottage's patrons for its business and support.

"I love early summer; I wanted to do something to let customers know I appreciate them. They can come and relax and forget about everything going on at home. It's all about relaxing," Rutkoski explained.

The theme of relaxation was evident through the various sights, sounds and smells emanating from the gathering. Guests were welcomed by live dulcimer music provided by Joyce Anderson and Vickie Vader.

Several tents were set up behind the main building to provide shade for the participating artists, vendors and volunteers. The tents also served as protection from a few rogue rain clouds that blew through in the middle of the event.

There were 3 featured Michigan artists present at the event. I "C" Art by Cass City resident Traci Souva offered unique handmade jewelry. Eclizp Gems-Heathers Designs of Auburn Hills was also selling jewelry. J.L. SoapMakers of Shelby Township had soaps, lotions, lip balms and shampoo balls that are all chemical- and dye-free on display for purchase.

In another way to show her appreciation, Rutkoski provided stations that offered free health and beauty services to her consumers. Hot wax and hand massages by Mary Corrigan and therapeutic messages by Emily Butterfield, CMT, eased the tensions of daily life. Lynn Spencer shared her manicure skills, and Sally Zimba offered beauty tips to eager participants.

Even though it's doubtful past cultures celebrated the summer solstice in the same manner, participants of Woodland Cottage's Summer Solstice event left with a similar feeling of renewal at the official beginning of summer.



VICKIE VADER (left) and **Joyce Anderson** provided dulcimer music during the **Summer Solstice** event at Woodland Cottage.

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Police write fewer tickets this summer

During a statewide effort to get motorists to buckle up, law enforcement agencies in 26 counties recently issued 8,050 seatbelt and child seat violation tickets, nearly 1,000 fewer citations than during last year's enforcement effort.

Preliminary reports from police agencies indicate 14,761 vehicles were stopped during the May 21-June 3 "Click It or Ticket" campaign. The enforcement is part of a national effort to save lives and reduce injuries by increasing seatbelt use.

Following the state's record-high rate of 97.9 percent in 2009, seatbelt use has declined to 94.5 percent in 2011. Every one percent increase in belt use means 10 fewer traffic deaths and 130 fewer injuries. In 2011, nearly 200 people who died in Michigan traffic crashes were not buckled up.

"When properly used, seat belts can reduce the risk of being killed in a crash by almost 50 percent," said Office of Highway Safety Planning Director Michael L. Prince. "Efforts like Click It or Ticket are an opportunity to remind motorists about the importance of buckling up."

In addition to seat belt violations, 95 drunk drivers were arrested during the enforcement period and 53 drug arrests were made. More than 1,000 tickets were written for uninsured motorists and 535 for suspended licenses. In Detroit, a seatbelt stop resulted in the arrest of a federal fugitive. While in Allegan County, a driver with unbelted young children in the car fled from police on foot and was arrested under the state's high blood alcohol content law.

Ten people died in traffic crashes over the Memorial Day holiday period. Of those, 2 were not wearing a seatbelt, 3 were motorcyclists and 2 were riding off-road vehicles along the roadway. This is an increase from the 2011 Memorial Day holiday period when 9 people were killed in traffic crashes.

Officers will again take to the streets working stepped up drunk driving patrols July 1-8 and Aug. 16-Sept. 3 during the heavily traveled July Fourth and Labor Day holidays.