

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

VOLUME 106, NUMBER 30

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75 CENTS ~ 16 PAGES

Cass City loses 21 kids in statewide count

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Cass City School District continued to lose students this fall, but the trend appears to be slowing.

Schools across Michigan conducted their annual fall statewide student count last Wednesday, and the results in Cass City revealed a total enrollment of 1,082 — 564 kids in Young 5s through the sixth grade and 518 students at the junior-senior high school.

“If you look back at last winter, we were at 1,103, so we’re down 21 kids from our last count,” said Cass City School Supt. Jeff Hartel. “If you look at it from last fall — 1,122 kids

— that puts us down 40 (students). “Either way, we’re ahead of where we projected. We’re starting to see a leveling-off,” Hartel said.

For the purpose of budgeting this year, Hartel projected the loss of 50 students based on a 10-year trend that has seen the district’s enrollment plummet by roughly 500 kids. Fifty students translates into about \$342,000 in state revenue based on the current funding level of \$6,848 per student. In contrast, the actual loss of 21 pupils this fall adds up to about \$144,000 in revenue.

The local school system isn’t alone in facing a shrinking enrollment. In fact, the combined enrollment of all public schools within the Tuscola

Intermediate School District fell from 10,759 students in the 2007-08 school year to 9,200 students last year.

While Cass City officials were thankful their projection of losing 50 kids this fall didn’t materialize, other

area districts fared better in terms of enrollment stability.

Ubyly Community School officials reported a total of 796 students following last week’s count, an increase of 5 pupils since the last statewide tally in February. Ubyly’s enrollment

was unchanged compared to a year ago.

In the Kingston Community Schools, meanwhile, officials reported a K-12 enrollment of 639, an increase of 11 students compared to Please turn to page 6.

Bardwell named MAC president

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Chairman and Ellington Township resident Thom



Thom Bardwell

held in Antrim County.

“Tom is taking over during critical

times for all local governments and will help shape the future of county government in the next year,” said Timothy McGuire, executive director of the Michigan Association of Counties.

In addressing the 350 conference participants, Bardwell assured them “that the focus of MAC’s leadership efforts in the Legislature will continue to address the counties’ state funding issues related to unfunded mandates and the proposed reductions in State Revenue Sharing, impending revenue reductions associated with the Personal Property Tax elimination, and on-going revenue difficulties with counties receiving Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for their state land. These issues and others are among those shared across the 83 Michigan counties and affecting their ability to delivery essential services to their residents.”

Please turn to page 6.

Area youth invited to have a “blast” with the Dazzlers

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Mark and Patricia Hansen are old hands when it comes to putting together a blast.

The Deford couple’s resume includes leading a group of area youths to a 10th-place finish at last year’s national finals in the Team America Rocketry Challenge, but they are perhaps best known for their work with the Deford Dazzlers 4-H STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Club, which they founded 3 years ago.

The couple has since been organizing hands-on science projects that draw enthusiastic young people in for an evening of fun and learning.

Among the Hansens’ most popular activities is the annual Tuscola County 4-H Science Blast. This year’s event, focusing on robotics, is slated for Friday, Oct. 19, and youths ages 5 to 19 are welcome to participate regard- Please turn to page 6.



Flushing away cancer...

CASS CITY’S “TRAVELING toilet” is making the rounds in conjunction with the village’s annual Pinktober event, a month-long celebration designed to increase awareness of breast cancer and raise cash for the American Cancer Society. The toilet made its way to Plain & Fancy Decorating last Wednesday, where area resident Dale Doyen found a comfortable seat (above). Look for a special 2-page section detailing a host of Pinktober activities in the Oct. 17 edition of the Chronicle.



THE CASS THEATRE HAS been a focal point of Cass City’s downtown for decades and continues to be, but progress in the film industry — specifically a shift to all digital technology — could force the local theatre and hundreds of others like it across the country to close due to the cost of installing digital equipment.

End of an era? Progress threatening small town theatres

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Walking into the Cass Theatre is like slipping back in time.

Sure, the movie title is current and popular, but there’s something oh so nostalgic about the Cass.

Movie goers, bathed in the warm glow of neon wrapped around the Cass City theatre’s classic marquee, step through wooden doors into the modest but neat lobby, the heavy scent of fresh popcorn basted in coconut butter hanging in the air.

They’re welcomed with a smile, and with ticket stubs and goodies in hand, they make their way down the long carpeted aisle and into thickly cushioned seats, waiting for the single, big screen to light up. And the familiar sound of owner Dick Hendrick’s voice, repeating the same intro he has for decades — basically asking patrons to be courteous to one another and do their best to avoid

“spillage” of their refreshments inside the ultra clean theatre.

“We’re noted for being a good, quiet, clean theatre, and we don’t put up with any foolishness,” Hendrick will tell you. “People don’t go out and spend money to have a rowdy bunch around.”

For decades Hendrick and his wife, Elaine, have managed to stay ahead of progress in the movie industry. But progress is finally catching up to the couple, who say the Cass’ days could be numbered.

The dilemma the Hendricks face stems from a film industry trend of going to an all-digital format, requiring installation of tens of thousands of dollars worth of new equipment.

“We’re not putting \$80,000 into it,” Dick Hendrick recently commented at the theatre, referring to the prospect of installing the new digital equipment. “Everything in the booth, other than the surround sound stereo, will be junk because it would be an entirely different set-up,” he said.

The change would mean distributing movies via computer rather than physically delivering copies of films. Although Hendrick already has a modern sound system and 3-D screen, the switch would still carry a hefty price tag of at least \$65,000.

“Every film company will eventually go all digital and do away with film. The studios want it so they don’t have to ship anything,” Hendrick explained.

A SOLUTION?

Hendrick has approached Cass City Village officials with a proposal in which if the village can find a way to finance the new equipment and is willing to allow Hendrick to continue operating the theatre for awhile, he would donate the building to the village.

There has been discussion of expanding the Main Street building’s use to include a playhouse. Please turn to page 16.

Chronicle wins award

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Cass City Chronicle was recognized in the 2012 Michigan Press Association (MPA) Better Newspaper Contest. The contest results were recently announced in conjunction with National Newspaper Week, Oct. 7-13.

Members of the North Carolina Press Association reviewed and judged dozens of entries submitted by Michigan newspapers during this year’s contest.

In the category of Enterprise News Reporting, Chronicle Editor Tom Montgomery was awarded third place in the Class D Weekly

Newspaper division (circulation of under 4,000) for his story entitled, “KABOOM”, a piece detailing an area resident’s expanded business enterprise following changes in state law allowing Michigan citizens to legally purchase and set off more powerful fireworks.

There were a total of 15 entries submitted by Class D weekly newspapers in the category, which recognizes “a writer for a single story or series that demonstrates in-depth exploration of an issue with strong news value that helps the reader better understand a facet of life, the community or issues surrounding news events. Strong writing, thoroughness.” Please turn to page 6.

Inside This Week

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•Area patrons salute O-G homecoming candidates
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MADALYN HICKS received the first-place prize for her grandma, Carol Hicks, in the drawing for the American Girl Doll, "Kanani", during the recent American Doll Program held at Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City. An estimated 60 people attended the event.

Historical society gearing up for weekend event

The Cass City Area Historical and Genealogy Society is gearing up to participate in a Tuscola County-wide historical society event this weekend.

Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City will host a special historical display Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 13 & 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The display, entitled, "Bits and Bytes", will feature cemetery records, past editions of the Cass City Chronicle, historic homes, genealogy, people, events and memorabilia.

The local historical and genealogy society is also planning its annual soup supper in the meeting room at the library, Monday, Oct. 15, at 5:30 p.m.

The program for the evening will be presented by Al and Dave Eicher of Program International and is entitled, "When Mark Twain Came to Michigan". The Bits and Bytes presentation will also be on display for viewing.

Everyone is welcome to attend. More information is available by calling the library at (989) 872-2856.

Maurer graduates Life University with chiropractic degree



Renee Maurer

Dr. Renee A. Maurer recently graduated from Life University with her chiropractic degree.

Maurer, a 2005 graduate of Ubyly High School, earned her Associates of Science Degree at Delta College, Saginaw, in 2008. She then moved to Atlanta, Ga., where she pursued a degree in chiropractic care.

Maurer is the daughter of Dale and Rachel Maurer of Snover, and the granddaughter of Louis and Rosalie Walsh of Ubyly and Bob and Selma Maurer of Filion.

It's a girl!



Caralyn Gniewek

Brad and Cori Gniewek announce the arrival of their daughter, Caralyn Grace.

Caralyn was born July 24, 2012. She weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long.

Caralyn was welcomed home by her older siblings, Madilyn, Mason, Evelyn and Easton.

Johnson graduates from basic training

U.S. Air Force Airman First Class John K. Johnson recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

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

Airmen who complete basic training earn 4 credits toward an associate's degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force.

Johnson, a 2009 graduate of Kingston High School, is the son of John and Beth Johnson of Caro.

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Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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Answers to Oct. 3, 2012

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

In Our OPINION..

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Oh, deer! Thumb motorists beware

Fall has arrived in the Thumb, with the colors changing and temperatures cooling.

And deer moving.

October and November are 2 of the most dangerous months for car-deer collisions, according to the Michigan Deer Crash Coalition (MDCC), which reports that the number of reported car-deer crashes fell in 2011, from 55,867 to 53,592. However, those accidents resulted in 1,464 injuries and 8 deaths last year.

Seeing deer on the roadways is nothing new to motorists in the agricultural-rich Thumb, and the statistics bear witness to the number of drivers who have bagged a deer the hard way.

Sanilac County was among the top 10 counties in the state with the highest number of car-deer crashes last year at 1,128, according to the Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center. Huron County wasn't far behind with 1,114 accidents, and Tuscola County recorded 920 car-deer collisions. The combined 3 upper Thumb counties reported a combined 47 injuries.

With a deer herd estimated at 1.8 million strong, it's no wonder vehicle-deer crashes are a \$130 million-a-year problem in Michigan (the average crash results in \$2,100 in damage).

Experts say that knowing how to react to deer on or next to the road is critical to the safety of drivers and their passengers. Statistics show that in most car-deer accidents, deaths and injuries occur when drivers veer from their lane, hitting another vehicle or a fixed object such as a tree.

So what can you do?

Start by trying not to panic. Don't swerve, brake firmly, hold firmly onto the steering wheel, stay in your lane, and bring your vehicle to a controlled stop.

Here are some other tips, courtesy of the MDCC:

- Stay aware, awake, alert and sober.
- Seatbelts are your best defense in any collision.
- Watch for deer crossing signs.
- Deer frequently travel in groups. If you see one, slow down, because chances are good others are nearby.
- Be especially alert at dawn and dusk.
- Don't rely on gimmicks. Flashing your high-beam headlights or honking your horn may not deter deer.

Of course, all the safety tips in the world may not prevent a run-in with a deer, but being prepared could improve your chances of avoiding injury to yourself and others on the road this fall.



Slices of Life

by Jill Pertler

The making of a queen



Crowns – the glittery kind you wear on your head – aren't a normal part of typical American attire, except for one Friday night each autumn on high school football fields across the country. Homecoming. It's a tradition that often involves a king and a queen, but most definitely a queen.

Homecoming wouldn't be homecoming without her. Many of us possess high school memories of the anticipation and excitement associated with homecoming. Some are fond memories – of wearing an elegant dress and a crown. Others remember watching others wear crowns.

In high school I was a girl surrounded by other girls wearing crowns.

One of my very best friends was homecoming queen. I was thrilled for her. Truly. You know the cliché about being as beautiful on the inside as the outside? She was.

A number of my BFFs were princesses – serving as members of the homecoming court. At my school, all the princesses got to wear tiaras. They were smaller

than the queen's headdress, but still fashioned out of pure gold-tone metal and decked out with fake diamonds. Bottom line, they sparkled under the Friday night lights. At least they did from the vantage point of the bleachers.

Like the queen, the princesses at my school were characterized by the inside-outside cliché; they were beautiful in both places. Each deserved her moment in the spotlight.

I used to joke with them about being the only one without a crown. Humor is an effective buffer; sometimes you just have to laugh about things.

My laughter was replaced with the bittersweet truth about homecoming and the afterlife: high school ends and real life begins. A dozen years (give or take) after graduation, one of my princess friends surprised me with two tiaras – one for her and one for me. (They were on a clearance special at the mall.) We were young mothers then and although surrounded by diaper wipes, sippy cups and burp rags, our crownerage made us feel like queens. Sort of.

I still have my tiara. It's safely stored at the bottom of my underwear drawer. I don't take it out often – only when I need to access my princess powers.

Last week I attended the homecoming football game in town and witnessed the coronation of this year's queen. I happen to know she is a person who is beautiful on the inside as well as the outside. That seems to be a theme with the royalty in my life. It was clear this young lady was thrilled with her honor, and I was thrilled for her.

Still, my mind wandered to thoughts of all the other girls sitting in the bleachers, watching. Maybe some of them went home and cracked a joke about their inability to balance a crown without dropping it, or made some other silly attempt at humor.

I suppose because of this, we could abolish homecoming royalty. That way, there'd be no non-winners and no need to try to joke about not caring about not winning. Except, then no one would experience the joy of being queen. There's something to be said about the gift of joy.

We could redefine the system and let everyone be queen. If we did, everyone would own a crown; wearing the bling would no longer possess unique zing. It doesn't work to have a bazillion queens. Ask any hardworking ant or honeybee, the whole idea of having a queen is that there can be only one.

Besides (all my whining aside), homecoming is fleeting. It's a moment in time. A blip on the proverbial radar and not something to get hung up on for years and years. I've moved on. Mostly.

Over the decades I've learned real queens are years in the making. They wipe noses and drive minivans and are hardly ever late to pick up their kid from soccer practice. Most importantly, they have real tiaras with real powers, stored in secret, high-security locations – like the bottoms of their underwear drawers.

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear parents, pay your childcare bill

I would like to take the time and explain to the community why Busy Bee's Child Care Center & Preschool closed.

I meet people from the community that tell me it is such a shame that the daycare closed. It is a shame that it is closed and an even bigger shame that parents don't find it necessary to pay their daycare bills on time or not at all.

I know firsthand what a financial strain daycare is. My 2 children attended Higher Horizons Day Care Center in Cass City back in the late 1980s. It took at least half or more of my paycheck to send them there. They received excellent care and I made sure that each week I paid my bill no matter how much it hurt.

When I opened Busy Bee's, I vowed that I would not charge the parents for time that the children did not attend. In case you are not familiar with daycare rules, you generally have to pay for holidays, vacation days, and sick days that your children do not attend. We charged by the quarter-hour, this made it more affordable, especially for parents who worked part-time.

Not having a consistent cash flow made it extremely difficult to keep this going. Approximately 90 percent of our weekly earnings went directly to payroll expenses, and when payments were made late or not at all, this was an impossible feat. We had accumulated well

over \$10,000 in bad debt in 2 years. I had at least a dozen small claims filed with the court because of it.

The Department of Human Services only fueled the fire to our bad debt as the parents who applied for DHS were caught in a circle of paperwork. When a provider accepts children whose daycare is paid for by the state, it takes a good month to find out whether or not they will indeed be approved. So in the meantime, while caring for children you are not sure the state will approve, a bill is growing by the week. DHS will tell you that it is your responsibility to collect it from the parents up front. Sorry, but this sounds all well and good, but if they could afford to pay their child care provider, they wouldn't be seeking help from the DHS.

Don't get me wrong – we had our share of awesome parents who were very supportive and we made a lot of good friends. Best of all, we had the opportunity to love and care for a community full of great kids.

So I say to parents who have children in any kind of child care setting, pay your child care provider and pay them on time! They are not watching your children because it is a get rich quick gig; it is because they care about children.

Sincerely,
Julie Moore, owner
Snover

Judge's race just not about campaign cash

To the editor:

I think it is important that the people of Tuscola County know that Amy Grace Gierhart held a \$100 a plate dinner to raise money for her campaign. Who can afford \$100 to support a campaign (doctors, lawyers and businesses)? Who could be owed favors if she is elected circuit court judge?

This sounds like politics as usual to me, and not the kind of representation the people need in the position of circuit court judge. We the people need to elect representatives that repre-

sent the law and the oath they take when sworn into office. Not the ones that can raise and spend the most money.

There is someone that does not believe a candidate for judge should be taking campaign money from doctors, lawyers and businesses. The people of Tuscola County should take a good long look at Robert Betts before they vote.

I bet on Betts. Robert Betts for circuit court judge.

James A. Breckenridge
Cass City



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Area residents looking to prepare for the upcoming general election in November will find a wealth of resources on the Rawson Memorial District Library website (www.rawson.lib.mi.us), including the Michigan Voter Registration Guide, Michigan Absentee Ballot Guide, background information on each of the statewide proposals on tap, and a sample ballot prepared by Tuscola County officials.

Tyler Perry is in the process of doing some historical research on Cass City and has a question that might make for a good "Rabbit Tracks" piece. Here it is.


Travis Leach was the man who designed Cass City's wide Main Street and proportional side streets/alleys. Jack Esau (I wish he was here so I could ask him) used to mention a town in Florida or Texas that Leach designed later on, based on the dimensions of his Cass City designs. Does anyone know what town that might be?

Answers can be sent to Perry at typerry91@yahoo.com or left at Rawson Memorial District Library.

Rolling Hills Golf Course Club Champions were recently named. The winner of the Championship Flight was Erik Tamlyn (pictured) with a score of 74, while Dan Curtis won the 1st Flight with an 84; Dick Patanaude won the 2nd Flight with a 90; and Marv Irer won the 3rd Flight with a 93.



Chief of Police Craig Haynes says code compliance is nearly 100 percent in Cass City. This year's statistics through the end of September are: 86 properties with blight concerns, 12 properties with zoning concerns and 7 properties in violation of the Inoperable Vehicle Ordinance. Also the police department had responded to 52 dog/animal complaints in 2012.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Wednesday, October 10

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.

Narcotics Anonymous: Stepping Straight, 8 p.m., Church of the Nazarene, 1494 Purdy Rd., Caro. Anyone with a drug problem is invited to attend. For more information, please call Richard at (989) 691-5369.

Turkey Dinner, noon, Cass City United Methodist Church, 5100 N. Cemetery Rd. Cost: \$8. For takeouts, call 872-4604, and pick up between 11 a.m. and noon or after 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 11

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

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

Thumb TEA Party meeting, "Tuscola Candidates", 6:30 p.m., Evangelical Free Church, Cass City.

Story Time, 10 a.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.

Friday, October 12

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

Narcotics Anonymous: Easy Does It, United Methodist Church, 150 S. Main St., Elkton. Anyone with a drug problem is invited to attend. For more information, please call Brandi at (989) 375-2013.

Saturday, October 13

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

Thumb Dance Club, 7-11 p.m., Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., Sandusky. Everyone is welcome to attend. Admission: \$4 (members), \$4.50 (non-members). For more information, call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

County-wide Historical Museum Open House, 10-5 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library (also on Sunday, Oct. 14).

Sunday, October 14

Narcotics Anonymous: Stepping Straight, 7 p.m., Church of the Nazarene, 1494 Purdy Rd., Caro. Anyone with a drug problem is invited to attend. For more information, please call Richard at (989) 691-5369.

Monday, October 15

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.

Cass City Area Historical Society Soup Supper, 5:30 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.

Tuesday, October 16

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

Narcotics Anonymous: Restored to Sanity, 7 p.m., Church of the Nazarene, 6538 Third St., Cass City. Anyone with a drug problem is invited to attend. For more information, please call Brenda at (989) 325-1558.

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

Shorter bypass set for Thumb motorists during bridge project

A new, shorter bypass on Old State Road will be available to passenger cars and emergency vehicles as the Michigan Department of Transportation fixes a bridge on M-25 over the Quanicasee River beginning Monday, Nov. 26, announced state Rep. Kurt Damrow. Large trucks will still be required to use the originally proposed bypass due to the weight restrictions on the Old State road bridges during the project. MDOT has, however, changed the construction start date to Nov. 26, instead of Nov. 1, due to the

annual high volume of agricultural related heavy truck traffic during the fall.

The changes in route occurred after Rep. Kurt Damrow met with MDOT and the Tuscola County Road Commission to explore options for a more direct bypass.

"I am pleased to see they are making necessary updates to this bridge, which is in poor condition and sits on one of the main routes drivers take in the Thumb to access the rest of the state," Damrow said. "Over 10,000 vehicles go this way

daily. The original bypass would have taken all vehicles south of Unionville or Essexville and then through Munger, Akron and Fairgrove, approximately 33 miles. By working closely with MDOT and the Tuscola County Road Commission, we were able to compromise on a bypass that will help save time and money for those who are driving cars and small trucks in the area."

The new Quanicasee bridge is scheduled to reopen on June 14, 2013.

Circuit court news

Several face felony charges

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

*William F. Everett, 49, Flushing, was sentenced to 48 months probation for his plea of no contest to receiving and concealing stolen property valued at \$1,000 to \$20,000 Dec. 23, 2010, in Millington Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

*Brent A. Piazza-Clark, 19, Vassar, received a one-year delayed sentence following his plea of guilty to larceny of property valued at \$1,000 to \$20,000 Feb. 12 in Vassar Township. He was ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$198. Restitution in the case is to be determined.

*Donald P. Schaudt, 32, Cass City, was sentenced to 90 days in jail and 24 months probation for his plea of no contest to embezzlement of \$1,000 to \$20,000 between Dec. 30, 2009, and June 19, 2010, in Elkland Township. He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$798 plus restitution of \$1,350.

*Robert R. Caughlin, 50, Millington, received a one-year delayed sentence following his plea of guilty to charges of delivery/manufacture of 5 to 45 kilograms of marijuana and possession of marijuana Aug. 5, 2011, in Millington Township. He was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$2,108.

*Jeremy W. Jansen, 35, Mayville, was sentenced to 30 days in the county jail, with work release (delayed for one year) following his pleas of no contest to charges of interfering with electronic communications, and assault or assault and battery May 31 in Fremont Township. He was ordered to pay costs and

finest totaling \$248.

*Anthony C. Gretz, 18, Vassar, stood mute to charges of killing/torturing animals, domestic violence and malicious destruction of property valued at less than \$200 Feb. 8 in Arbeta Township.

A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled in the case and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department.

*Jaime Garcia, 43, Caro, was sentenced to 365 days in jail and 30 months probation for pleas of guilty to larceny in a building and larceny of property valued at less than \$200 April 1 in Caro. The defendant was also convicted of being an habitual offender.

In addition to jail time, Garcia was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$628 plus restitution of \$80.

*Matthew D. Favazza, 35, Deford, was sentenced to 20 days in jail (delayed for one year) following his plea of guilty to charges of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor - causing serious injury, and possession of an open intoxicant in a motor vehicle March 13 in Novesta Township.

He was ordered to complete 120 hours of community service and pay costs and fines totaling \$745 plus restitution of \$120.

*Elizabeth A. Webster, 31, Sturgis, stood mute to charges of escape - aiding a prisoner, conspiracy to commit escape - aiding prisoner, and conspiracy to commit prison escape May 8 and Indianfields Township.

A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled in the case and bond was continued at \$10,000.

*Valentine R. Montelongo, 52, Bad Axe, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Sept. 11 in Columbia Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction). He was ordered to pay costs and

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

*James A. Jackson, 27, Mayville, pleaded guilty to charges of assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer, and escape from custody June 19 in Akron Township.

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

*Jason M. Fraley, 25, Millington, stood mute to charges of assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer, driving while his license was suspended or revoked, subsequent offense, and reckless driving Aug. 4 in Tuscola Township.

A pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled and bond was continued at \$2,500.

*Billy R. Fritz, 42, Caro, was sentenced to 180 days in jail and 36 months probation for his pleas of no contest to assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer and attempted assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer in Caro.

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$248.

*Amy Jo Witt, 37, Flint, was sentenced to 365 days in jail and 60 months probation for her plea of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, June 24 in Juniata Township.

In addition to jail time, she was ordered to complete 480 hours of community service and pay costs and fines totaling \$698 plus restitution of \$120.

*Russell L. Underwood, 40, Vassar, was sentenced to 270 days in jail and 18 months probation for his plea guilty to possession of marijuana, subsequent offense, May 11 in Vassar Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$498.

*Glynn P. Wilson, 29, Millington, was sentenced to 4 1/2 to 20 years in prison for pleas of guilty to breaking and entering a building with intent to commit larceny April 30 in Millington, and to 2 counts of breaking and entering a building with intent to commit larceny last May in Millington Township/village of Millington.

In addition to prison time, Wilson was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$464 plus restitution of \$10,592.48.



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57.7 million American adults in the United States have been diagnosed with a mental illness. - (Source: Mental Health America)

To inquire about programs such as...

Assertive Community Treatment
Case Management Services
Children's Services
Developmental Disabilities Services
Emergency Services available 24/7
Outpatient Services
Psychiatric Services

Please call:

Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems:
989.673.6191 or 800.462.6814



Services are confidential.

www.tbhsonline.com

Leonard Metzger Fundraiser

Proceeds to assist Len with expenses for a Ventricular Assist Device (Mechanical Heart)

Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale

Sunday, October 14, 2012 ~ 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Adults: \$6 ~ Children: \$3

Owen-Gage High School Cafeteria

Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, Homemade Biscuits & Gravy, Toast & Juice

Sponsored by: The Owendale Lions Club

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Even the most savvy investors wonder about how to best protect their retirement nest egg.

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Reporter's notebook

Nag your wife, mom, sister this October

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

I tease my wife frequently about being a big nag, but she and my daughters will tell you I'm the biggest nag in my household.

I like to think of it as "reminding". It can be a bad habit, but not when it comes to protecting your loved ones from breast cancer.

Area residents have been hearing plenty about October's designation as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. If you've passed through Cass City lately, no doubt you've seen large pink ribbons adorning just about every tree and store front downtown, thanks to the local chamber of commerce's month-long second annual Paint the Town Pink "Pinktober" event organized to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

The effort will also hopefully raise awareness, although how many of us haven't been touched by this horrible disease in some way?

Experts say breast cancer is the second most common cancer in women and the second-leading cause of cancer death. Each year breast cancer strikes nearly 200,000 women in the United States, including 6,000 in Michigan.

Breast cancer claims thousands of lives every year in this country, but the diagnosis doesn't have to be a

death sentence. Just ask my mom.

I was 16 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She spent her 40th birthday in a hospital bed after surgeons removed her left breast. It was a devastating experience for her.

But that was 34 years ago. At the end of August, we celebrated her 74th birthday together.

Now, I'll be the first to say that breast cancer isn't the easiest topic for a man to bring up with the women in his life. But any discomfort you might feel simply doesn't compare to the dread of having to schedule an appointment with an oncologist. Or sit in a hospital waiting room while someone close to you is undergoing a mastectomy.

Breast cancer survival is all about early detection.

So go ahead, guys; remind your wife, your mom, your sisters and your daughters about the importance of doing monthly breast self-exams, scheduling an annual clinical exam by their health care provider, and getting a mammogram every year if they're over 40.

And then, remind them again.

Do whatever it takes to prevent your loved ones from becoming another statistic in a book that might be quite a bit thinner if we all did a little more nagging.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2007)

There is still light at the end of the tunnel for the Cass City football team. The Red Hawks kept their 2007 playoff hopes alive Friday with an easy 56-0 Greater Thumb West victory over visiting Saginaw Buena Vista. With the win, coach Scott Cuthrell's squad evened its season mark at 4-4 entering this Friday's regular season finale against undefeated host Almont. Mark Koepf started the touchdown parade for the winners in the opening period when he scored from one yard out with 6:49 showing on the clock. Defensively, Tommy Parrish led Cass City with 9 tackles.

Lukas Varney led the way for the Cass City cross country team Saturday at the Reese Invitational. Varney recorded his fastest time on the day, claiming medallist honors at 17:14. Valley Lutheran's Ben Rueger finished second individually with a time of 17:19, while Cass City's Dewey Mabe was third at 17:48. Coach Amy Cuthrell also received times of 17:54 from Tyler Burke, 21:53 from Alex Varney, 22:15 from Thomas LeValley and 22:22 from Mike Potrykus.

The Spring Arbor University Alumni Board of Directors recently announced that Todd Tibbits, son of Lew and Gerry Tibbits of Sebawaing, formerly of Cass City, has been named the recipient of the 2007 Young Leader Award. The annual award is given by the alumni association with the design of proclaiming certain character traits, values and accomplishments of individual potential, as found in Christ.

10 YEARS AGO (2002)

Herbert Pallas had all but given up on his watermelon crop this year. In fact, the avid home gardener didn't expect to harvest a single melon. That all changed, however, after the Evergreen Township man discovered one plant emerging. Weeks later, the plant's vines appeared to be barren, but they did yield a single, nice watermelon. And then it began to grow. Pallas, 72, recently harvested that melon, which weighed in at a whopping 64 pounds, beating his previous largest watermelon by about 12 pounds. "If I'd had a normal growing season this year, I bet I'd have had a melon around 100 pounds," he said, referring to drought-like conditions that ravaged the pair of 35-foot by 80-foot gardens he tends at his Decker area home. Although his prized watermelon marks his personal best, Pallas has also had success with pumpkins, harvesting some weighing up to 200 pounds. He also enjoys growing corn, tomatoes, cucumbers and squads.

Libby Doerr, 14, was successful in the special youth hunt last weekend. The 6-point buck had an 18-inch outside spread. She dropped the buck in his tracks with one shot to the neck at 80 yards. She was hunting with a 45-caliber muzzleloader and was accompanied by her mom. Libby is the daughter of Dave and Jan Doerr of Cass City.

Newly appointed officers for the Cass City Gavel Club are Bill Klinkman- Vice President, Rick Hollis- President, Fred Leeson - Treasurer and Nick Bliss - Secretary.

25 YEARS AGO (1987)

The 20th Family Dollar store in Michigan and the 1287th in the fast-growing North Carolina based discount store chain will open in Cass City Wednesday, Oct. 14. Since the company was founded 28 years ago, Family Dollar has been known best for selling quality merchandise at everyday low prices.

Veteran Cass City gardener Joe Male picked champion banana squash in his garden last week. He grew 30 of the squash, which ranged from 20 to 40 pounds and measured 2 1/2 to 3 feet in length.

Years ago, when the leaves began to turn and fall's arrival was certain, cars could be seen lining up into Eldon Johnson's driveway off Snover Road just west of Snover. The people who showed up at Johnson's home year after year about this time did so for some good conversation and a cup of what some say is the best apple cider around. Now, Johnson, 67, has slowed down considerably, making fewer batches for fewer people. Not because the demand has slowed, but because of his age. Nonetheless, the cider Johnson makes today, using an old cider press his grandfather purchased some 80 years ago, is still made the old-fashioned way — by hand, one batch at a time.

50 YEARS AGO (1962)

Cass City High School sophomores wolfed down the first prize during Friday's annual Homecoming Parade

with a huge colorful dog float. "Bury Their Bones" was the theme. Second place went to the junior class and their animated steam iron float. Suzanne Barnes was crowned during halftime as the 1962 Homecoming Queen. Suzanne is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Barnes Jr. Members of her court were Amelie Claus, Kathy VanVliet, Sandy Copeland and Ann Starmann.

Cass City Jaycees, in conjunction with their current Seatbelt Clinic drive, donated two sets of seatbelts for the village police car Monday. Police Chief Carl Palmateer accepted the belts from Jim Jezewski, drive chairman. Assisting in the presentation were Dwaine Peters, distribution chairman and Richard Carpenter, installation chairman.

Coach Wayne Wilson announced this week that a "flag" football league has been organized for boys in the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Flag football eliminates tackling and "tackles" are made by pulling a cloth marker from the back pocket of the runner. There are four teams in the league — Colts, Browns, Packers and Lions.

100 YEARS AGO (1912)

The brick work on the first story of the business block on the corner of

Main and Oak streets, which will be the new home of the Chronicle, has been completed. The masons are now rushing the second story and the contractor expects to have the structure enclosed the latter part of October.

Harry Crandell of Elkland township received \$637.00 in prizes for showing his swine at various fairs in the state this fall. He was absent about six weeks. During that time he secured 13 championships in competing with other breeders and won grand championship three times on a Hampshire sow. The swine exhibited were O.I.C., Hampshire and Chester Whites.

On Saturday, while D.M. Houghton was writing at his desk at the post office, a messenger summoned him to his home with the news that there was a gentleman waiting to see him on business. Mr. Houghton, on arriving at his residence, was thoroughly surprised by meeting a company of old soldiers and their better halves, who had come to help him celebrate his 67th birthday. The company, numbering 14, brought their supper with them, and in addition to the refreshments, a short program was enjoyed and Mr. Houghton was presented with a shower of birthday cards.

CASS THEATRE CASS CITY • 872-2252
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WED. & THURS. 7:30
Walt Disney's PG Hit
"THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN"
STARTS FRIDAY (5 EVENINGS)
EVENINGS 7:30 - NO MONDAY & TUESDAY
Children \$3.50 - Teen/Adults \$5.00
An Aging Major League Baseball Scout
With Failing Eye Sight... (PG13)
CLINT EASTWOOD - JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE
AMY ADAMS - JOHN GOODMAN
TROUBLE WITH THE CURVE

**Cass City Village Council
PUBLIC NOTICE**
A Special Meeting of the Cass City Village Council has been scheduled at the Municipal Building, 6506 Main Street, Cass City, Michigan,
Monday, October 15, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.
And
Shall hold Public Hearings at 6:30 and 6:45 p.m. to consider a request from MiTech Tooling, LLC 6215 Garfield Avenue, Cass City, for consideration of a Plant Rehabilitation District and an Industrial Tax Facilities Exemption Certificate for equipment to be located at that address.
And
Any other business to come before the Village Council.
The Public is invited to attend.
Nanette S. Walsh
Clerk/Treasurer

The Cass City Chamber of Commerce & the Downtown Development Authority
Proudly Present
Cass City's Spotlight Business of the Week
Baker College
As Nelson Mandela is quoted as saying "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." That is a goal Baker College is committed to fulfilling, one student at a time. Celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2011, Baker College has grown from a small business school to the largest independent college in Michigan, with over 35,000 students pursuing more than 150 programs at 17 different on-ground locations, as well as an online. Throughout the years, Baker College has maintained its original mission: "to provide quality higher education and training which enables graduates to be successful through challenging and rewarding careers".
Baker College offers educational opportunities ranging from certificate programs to doctoral degrees, with courses available in some of the hottest current careers. Specific to our community, Baker College of Cass City has just rolled out its first Bachelor Degree Programs, recently announcing the addition of a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services and a Bachelor of Business degree in Management, including various minors.
Baker College is a "right to try" college, offering the hope of an education and a better life to those who are willing to put forth the effort to better themselves. Baker College also offers its graduates lifetime Career Services to assist students in employment preparation and career search. The college and its staff are committed to the success of the community, with each staff member volunteering time to various community organizations. The Cass City Campus facility hosts many community events and meetings, demonstrating their commitment to the businesses and people of Cass City. Baker College Faculty, Staff, and Students are "proud to be an important part of the Thumb Region". Come visit the campus at 6667 Main Street in Cass City or give them a call at (989) 872-6000 to see how Baker College can help you.
Be sure to check next week's paper for the next Cass City Spotlight Business of the Week.
And Remember to Shop Local and Support Those Who Support Cass City!

CASS CITY AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Anchor Cove Outreach Church
Find Hope. Find Love. Find Purpose.
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

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.
Pastor: Steve Bagnall
www.goodshepherdlutherancasscity.webs.com

Novesta Church of Christ
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

Potter's House Christian Fellowship Church
Corner of 6th and Leach, Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5186
Thursday Evening 7:00 p.m. • Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
Pastor: F. Robert Tucker

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

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

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)
Pastor: Rev. Mark Karwowski
Website: www.lwccog.net

Thank you

I would just like to say thank you to all the wonderful people who helped me in my situation.

I would like to also thank TI Automotive, Walbro Corp., Modern Woodmen, Shabbona United Methodist Church for holding the benefit for me, local businesses for their donations and area churches for their support.

God bless you all,
David Caister & Family

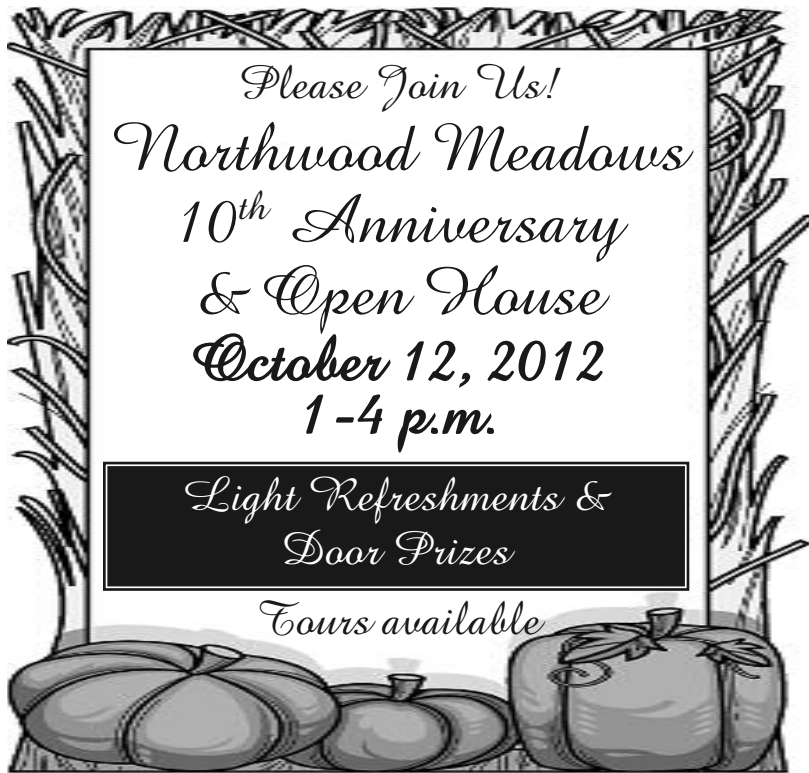


Please Join Us!

Northwood Meadows
10th Anniversary
& Open House
October 12, 2012
1-4 p.m.

Light Refreshments &
Door Prizes

Cours available



Area youth invited to have a "blast"

Continued from page one.

less of whether or not they're involved in 4-H.

The registration deadline for the 2012 edition of the "blast", which will get underway at 7 p.m. at the Deford Community Church, Deford, is Monday, Oct. 15. The program is limited to 40 kids, and 4-Hers planning to attend are encouraged to wear a 4-H T-shirt. More information is available by calling (989) 872-3480 or (989) 672-3870.

"Our annual science event is done in conjunction with the National Youth Science Day (NYSD) program. Each year we present a specific topic or set of topics in science in fun and exciting ways in order to help present the study of science in an engaging manner," explained Mark Hansen.

The Hansens have been very active in Tuscola County 4-H. Mark, a systems engineer for Hewlett Packard, serves as superintendent of the Youth Sciences Division, while Patricia, a former professional pianist and now stay-at-home mom, is superintendent of the Earth Science and Ecology Division.

"The first year we hosted a Science Blast (2009), we explored alternative energies, specifically 'green' fuels," Hansen recalled. "Students were able to set up an experiment using a variety of 'sugary' cellulose substances to determine which substance was more fuel efficient. We used corn syrup, yeast, table sugar, crushed apples, crushed leaves, etc., and had each table of participants test several substances."

The students completed lab work

and logged their results on the NYSD website, according to Hansen. "I also discussed the use of ethanol as an alternative fuel as well as mixed a 'green' rocket fuel based on sugar which we safely burned during the demonstration."

The following year, students tested several Mid-Michigan waterways for water quality under the Hansens' guidance, and discussed environmental disasters created by polluted waters — in particular the "death" of the Cuyhoga River and Lake Erie in the late 1960s/early 70s due to industrial pollutants, and presented options for keeping waterways safe.

"Last year, our third event, was centered around the science of Star Wars. My wife and I presented the scientific concepts behind 3 special effects that were popular from the original series. Students learned about making polymers in colloidal suspensions to create 'slime' which could be molded into 'Jabba the Hut'," Hansen continued, adding the right consistency of this substance created the type of movement necessary to film so animators could make Jabba "come to life".

"We followed that with the physics of using air to move vehicles," he said. "Students created their own mini-hovercrafts and then were given the opportunity to ride on a hovercraft that I built which ran off a

leaf-blower motor."

The final experiment pertained to the science of electricity and how the special effects of lightning bolts from Emperor Palpatine's finger tips appeared to "zap" Luke Skywalker.

"I built a Van De Graaf generator to create 100,000 volts of static electricity — 100,000 volts of electricity sounds dangerous, but this level of static electricity, while powerful, is very safe," Hansen noted. "Students were able to make their hair stand on end, shoot Cheerios and Rice Krispies across the room, and with the lights off, could see electrical currents emerging from their own fingertips."

This year youths will explore the use of robotics, particularly in the area of cleaning up environmental disasters.

"We'll discuss the B.P. oil spill, the danger to those that had to handle the dispersants that were used to try to contain and collect the oil, and how this danger to workers might be avoided in the future through robotics technology," Hansen said. "We hope to have 35 students participate and have kits for 40."

The Hansens have grant funding from Michigan State University to present the program. They've also come to depend on several volunteers over the years. "We are very, very grateful to them," Hansen said.

Bardwell named MAC chief

Continued from page one.

Last spring, Bardwell carried the county government message to Capitol Hill during the National Association of Counties' (NACo) 2012 Legislative Conference.

"Having attended these legislative conferences over the past several years, my NACo involvement has become critical in shaping the legislative platforms in the area of agriculture and rural development, representing the interests of commissioners across the country and the Michigan Association of Counties," Bardwell said following the conference.

Bardwell serves on the NACo Board of Directors, is a director on the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee and also chairs the Rural Action Caucus Committee on Rural Development.

While in Washington, D.C., he addressed several issues considered critical to the needs of rural America. He also worked with Congressional leaders concerning the importance of involving young people in American agriculture to replace aging farm owners, the need for food safety legislation related to agricultural imports, the importance of Country of Origin Labeling to allow con-

sumers to avoid countries with insufficient agricultural practices, and monitoring legislative restrictions related to rural produce auctions and the selling of produce via roadside stands.

In Tuscola County, Bardwell serves as the District 2 commissioner. He currently represents Almer, Ellington, Indianfields and Juniata townships, but due to redistricting will be representing Almer, Ellington, Kingston and Novesta townships beginning Jan. 1, 2013.

As a MAC official, Bardwell plays a key role as a member of the association's decision-making body. The board members are appointed or elected by their fellow commissioners and act on recommendations of the 6 MAC committees comprised of county commissioners from across the state.

THE MAC was founded in 1989 and is the only statewide organization dedicated to representation of all county commissioners in Michigan. MAC is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that advances education, communication and cooperation among county government officials. The group also serves as the counties' voice at the State Capitol, providing legislative support on key issues affecting counties.

Cass City loses 21 pupils

Continued from page one.

the fall of 2011.

Among Tuscola County schools, Akron-Fairgrove picked up an additional 10 students last week. Most other districts saw fewer kids, including Caro (-6), Millington (-30), Reese (-55) and Vassar (-52).

Michigan's public schools receive a majority of their revenue each year in the form of a state "foundation allowance", a funding amount (\$6,848 per pupil for most schools in the Thumb area) that is multiplied times the number of students in each district.

Each school's enrollment is determined by "blending" 2 separate

counts; one conducted in the fall and the other one during the previous February. The state's formula places a heavy emphasis on the fall tally, which counts for 75 percent of the total.

Chronicle

Continued from page one.

ough research and good presentation are critical".

In all, the Chronicle has received 15 MPA awards over the past several years in various categories ranging from news and feature stories and photos to general excellence.

Mike Green's office hours set in village

State Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayville) announced that October office hours have been scheduled for the 31st Senate District.

District office hours provide residents with an opportunity to meet with the senator or a member of his staff to address issues related to state government. No appointment is necessary.

The next scheduled meeting hours will be Monday, Oct. 15, at the Cass City Municipal Building, 6506 Main St., Cass City, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, or to contact Green, visit www.statesenatormikegreen.com or call toll-free at 1-866-305-2131.

The 31st Senate district includes the counties of Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola.

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NOTICE TO VILLAGE RESIDENTS Fall Yard Waste Management

The Village will begin picking up leaves on **Monday, October 15, 2012**, Monday through Friday. Please rake leaves in windrows out to the curb and gutter area on curbed streets and to the shoulder of the street on non-curbed streets.

Leaves are NOT to be placed in plastic garbage bags.
Grass clippings are NOT collected by the Village.

No sticks, branches or grass clippings should be mixed in with the leaves at the curb.

Richfield Management will continue to pick up the compost containers through the end of November. Please place grass clippings in these containers along with any other yard waste items.

During the Fall Yard Waste Management, large limbs and brush which are too big to be placed in the containers will be picked up by the Village crew on Fridays. Please call by Wednesday for pick up. Brush and limbs should be no longer than 4' lengths, placed neatly at the curb with limbs parallel to the street.

Nanette Walsh
Village Clerk
Village of Cass City

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Cass City Oil & Gas, Talbot Funeral Home,
Knights Insurance and Varsity Monthly.

And our program would not be possible without the many volunteers that have given so many hours of their time to make our program a huge success.

OWEN-GAGE BULLDOGS

2012 Homecoming



Friday, October 12, 2012

vs. Merritt Academy --New Haven



Photo courtesy of Julie Warack.

THE OWENDALE-GAGETOWN 2012 homecoming court members are: (front, l-r) freshmen Brooke Soderquist & Courtney Wightman, sophomores Andrea McCreedy & Crystal LaPratt, juniors Alena Lotter & Amaris Janos (back) freshmen Dylan Fritz & Tyler Roemer, sophomores Adam Retford & Joey Littlepage and juniors Brett Morrish & Coty Wilson-Cole.



Photo courtesy of Julie Warack.

CANDIDATES FOR the 2012 Owendale-Gagetown homecoming king and queen are: (front, l-r) Tiffany Jamieson, Kayla Montreuil, Brittany Guilfoil (back) Michael Mandich, Dan Jeffery, Jeremy Jamieson and Andrew Fahrner. Missing is Shiloh Starks.



THE 2012 Owen-Gage Bulldog gridiron team members include: (front, l-r) Asst. Coach Austin Harris, Russell Stalter, Danny Jeffery, Eric Rievert, Dylan Fritz, Manager Jackson Hollocker (row 2) Asst. Coach Jim Wencel, Mike Ransom, Bryan Hopper, Devon Lorenz, Dan Good, Coach Steve Hollocker (row 3) Manager David Lorenz, Jordan Kain, Antonio Torrez, Quinn Smith, Jacob Wright, Adam Retford (back) Andrew Fahrner, Ben Good, Michael Mandich, Coty Wilson and Derik Harp. Missing is Joey Littlepage.

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Northwood Meadows open house this week

The Northwood Meadows Senior Living Community in Cass City will be celebrating its 10th anniversary with an open house featuring tours and refreshments Friday, Oct. 12, from 1 to 4 p.m.

“A fall open house was planned due to the fact that the original anniversary was during the winter,” explained Northwood Director Kelly Richmond. “Northwood Meadows opened in January of 2002. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held March 11 of 2002.

“I remember attending the open house,” Richmond said. The facility was beautiful, so open.”

Northwood Meadows, the first facility of its kind built in the Thumb area, offers seniors a home-like environment, according to Richmond.

“We continue to encourage independence, but we are there to lend a helping hand when needed,” she said.

The facility offers 3 levels of care: independent living, assisted living and medical/memory loss care.

Over the years, staffing and residents have changed with one exception — Rita Kaake, who has been with the facility since the grand opening.

“We have had many interesting days at the facility. We have met some remarkable people during these last 10 years,” Richmond said.

“We are proud of the care we provide,” she added. “It takes special people to work at Northwood Meadows. We have been granted the trust of families to care for their loved ones. We take that very seriously.”



CASS CITY AREA residents don't have to travel far to enjoy some of Mother Nature's best fall artwork. The colors still haven't reached their peak, but a spectacular color tour is as close as Cass City Recreation Park, where this photo was taken Sunday afternoon.

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DICK SZARAPSKI, of Cass City, has enjoyed a banner fall turkey hunting season. He bagged 3 birds recently over a 2-day period, including these 2 toms taken with a gun Friday near the Cass River. One day earlier he used a cross bow to harvest his first turkey.

MHSAA sets attendance marks in postseason tournaments

The 2011-12 school year marked the fifth straight that attendance at Michigan High School Athletic Association postseason tournaments totaled more than 1.47 million fans – with records set for total attendance at tournaments for 5 sports.

Total attendance for 2011-12 was 1,479,421 fans, with 1,050,405 at boys' tournaments and 429,016 spectators at girls' tournaments. Attendance is kept for all sports except golf, skiing and tennis, for which admission typically is not charged.

The previous year, total attendance was 1,522,468 – a 5-year high – with 1,090,040 fans at boys' tournament events and 432,368 at girls' events. The 2011-12 overall attendance figure was the lowest since 2006-07 and represents a 2.8 percent drop from 2010-11, with boys' attendance down 3.6 percent, but girls' attendance down slightly less than one percent.

Eleven sports saw increased tournament attendance last school year from 2010-11: boys' soccer (33,399), team wrestling (30,415), baseball (47,692), boys' lacrosse (7,899), volleyball (99,295), competitive cheer (23,511), girls' lacrosse (5,526), girls' soccer (26,928) and softball (41,434). Two tournaments at which boys' and girls' compete simultaneously, bowling (12,346) and track and field (36,904), also saw increases during 2011-12.

Three girls' sports set attendance records. Cheer and girls' lacrosse each set all-time highs for the eighth consecutive year, with lacrosse's annual increases dating back to its first year as an MHSAA-sponsored sport in 2005. Volleyball set a high for the fourth straight year, despite a slight decrease in District attendance – totals at Regionals, Quarterfinals, Semifinals and the Finals all increased from 2010-11, the Finals total by 27 percent.

The combined bowling tournament also set a record, besting its figure of

12,099 fans in 2009-10, and the track and field tournament set a record for a second straight year, besting the 2010-11 attendance of 36,873.

Eight more Finals joined volleyball with increases in attendance from 2010-11. Among the most notable, Girls' Basketball Finals weekend saw an increase of 9.7 percent, while attendance at Team Wrestling Finals weekend and the Track and Field Finals both were up 8 percent from the year before. Finals for cheer, girls' soccer, bowling, boys' soccer and individual wrestling also saw small increases in 2011-12.

Football again ranked as the most-attended MHSAA tournament, with 427,520 fans. Since playoff expansion occurred in 1999, the football playoffs have been the single most attended tournament series on 10 occasions. Boys' basketball was second in 2011-12 attendance with 322,988 fans, and girls' basketball was third with 158,481. All 3 of those sports saw attendance drops from the previous year – football by 4.7 percent, boys' basketball by 3.6 percent and girls' basketball by 5 percent. Boys' basketball hit a record low for the second straight year. The 2011-12 football attendance, however, was still more than 24,000 fans better than in 2009-10, and girls' basketball attendance was roughly 5,000 fans more than in 2008-09.

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by more than 1,500 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments, which attract approximately 1.5 million spectators each year.



Rolling Hills Golf Course Fall League 2012 Week #5 Oct. 3 Final standings Division 1 - Early

Davis/Tate	66
Hacker/Nika	62
Irrer/Kelly	61
Berwick/Veggian	56
Hendrick/Caister	56
Wallace/Peters	55
Hobbs/Meek	46
Smithson/Zawilinski	38

Medalists
Individual: T. Kelly 39
Team: Irrer/Kelly 87

Division 2 - Late

Cotton/Israelson	76
Wallace/Darren & Scott	71
Langenburg/Retzler	66
Ahleman/Halasz	63
Lowman/Roemer	59
Krol/LeValley	56
Ulfig/Corey & Paul	53
BLIND DRAW	47
deBeaubien/Peters	32
Spencer/J. Wallace	27

Medalists:
Individual: J. Krol 37
Team: Langenburg/Retzler

BOWLING

Merchanettes as of Oct. 4

Nuts and Bolts	23
Just One More	17
Thumb Octagon Barn	14
No Shows	2

Individual High Game & Series: Dawn Carbeno 170-176 (494).
Individual High HDCP Game & Series: Dawn Carbeno 227 (647).
Team High Game & Series: Thumb Octagon Barn 618 (1707).
Team High HDCP Game: Thumb Octagon Barn 845 (2388).
Splits: Cyndi Martin 5-7; Dawn Carbeno 3-10.
Strikes: Denise Guinther 3 in a row; Dee Sines 3 in a row.

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Schneeberger's ATHLETE of the WEEK

Schneeberger's honors Cass City Red Hawk Erin Zdrojewski as their "Athlete of the Week" award winner.

The Lady Red Hawk sophomore recorded her fastest time of the season over the weekend at the Cass City cross country invitational. She finished 5th overall with a time of 21:02.



Erin Zdrojewski

Zdrojewski is the daughter of Deidra and Jon Zdrojewski.

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Sunday By appointment
Rest of year by appointment only.



Obituary

DeRussell "Russ" Dillon

DeRussell "Russ" Charles Dillon, 74, passed away Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012, after a short battle with esophageal cancer. He was surrounded by his loving family.



He was born Jan. 8, 1938, in Cass City, the second child of Edward James and Beatrice Sarah (Litt) Dillon.

Russ spent most of his youth growing up near the Dillon Family home-stead in the Hamlet of Colwood and graduated from Cass City High School in 1957. He moved to the Chicago area as a young man, settling in Des Plaines, where he married and raised his family. He proudly worked as a heavy machine operator for 46 years, and was a member of Local Union 150. His hobbies were oil painting and carving, and he loved spending his retirement years at his camper in Seneca, Ill.

Russ is the proud father of 3 children: Tamara (Sam) Romano of Schaumburg, Ill., Tina Huber of South Elgin, Ill., and Tanya (Dan) Italia of Roselle, Ill. He was proud brother to his sister, Deborah (Joel Berkowitz) Bohan of Asheville, N.C. His loving partner of 19 years, Nancy Brocar of Des Plaines, Ill. Proud grandfather to 9 grandchildren: Shelli and Adam Layton, Korinne, Kailey, Kloeey, Kas

sidy and Kamryn Huber, Angelina and Isabella Italia. Loving "Uncle Sonny" to 2 nephews and 7 nieces, 17 great and 17 great-great nieces and nephews.

Russ was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Edward, Donald, and Ronald; a niece, Lori (Dillon) Gruber; and a nephew, Derek Dillon.

He will be missed by all his wonderful friends at the Korner House in Elk Grove, Paps in Mt. Prospect, T-Woods in Wood Dale, Ill., and Boon Docks in Seneca, Ill.

Russ loved spending time with his family and friends.

An open house was held Saturday, Oct. 6, at Boon Docks, Seneca, Ill. In addition, the family will host a memorial celebration of Russ's life near his childhood home in Colwood, with the date, time and place for this event to be announced.

In honor of his 3 year old granddaughter, Isabella, any memorial donations can be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund (JDRF).

Rebecca Waggoner

Rebecca "Becky" Jane Laming Waggoner left us on the morning of Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012, leaving behind 4 beautiful children. Jordon Lynn 14, Timothy Donald and Thomas Wesley 10, and Jacob William 4.

She was born on Jan. 6, 1978 to Theresa and Dale Laming.

She married Marty Waggoner in August of 2001. They shared 4 children.

Becky graduated from Cass City High School in 1997. She was active

in volleyball, track and basketball. She worked at many places, including Lear Automotive in Marlette, Walmart in Bad Axe, the sugar beet plant in Gera and Sebewaing, and Grupo in Marlette. Becky lived for her children and her desire was to be the best mother ever and being their biggest fan cheering them on in sports and any aspect of their lives, she has touched many hearts and will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her 4 children; Marty Waggoner, father of her children; her mother, Theresa Gibbard Welby of Ubly; a sister, Cheryl Laming; a niece, Gabrielle Laming of Cass City; grandparents, Evans and Lillian Gibbard of Ubly; marital grandparents: Kathryn Dilts and Jerry Waggoner; aunts, Christine (Greg) Moore of Snover, Sandy (Dan) Taylor of Ubly, and Kim (Kevin) Thiel of Baldwin; uncle, Dan (Chris) Gibbard of Cass City; cousins: Wesley and Amanda Gibbard of Brighton, Tory and Cyrus Healy of Ubly, Gregory Moore and Sherry Johnson of Snover, Micheal and Erin Moore and children, Ryleigh and Adalynn, Katie Moore and sons, Braydon and Benjamin Pine of Brown City, Heather Moore of Snover; Brian Taylor of Ubly; stepsisters, Danielle and Amy Gedert; a good friend, Phil Fahrner; and many more cousins, nieces, nephews, and the Laming family.

Any memorials will be greatly appreciated in a fund for her children in the name of Theresa Welby.

Services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City.

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6:30 p.m. - Program: *"When Mark Twain Came to Michigan"*



The lecture covers a period in the mid 1890's when Mark Twain and Major James Pond, his business manager, started the author's world lecture tour. Diaries of his travels in Michigan, old photos and scenes of hotels, steamships, train stations and the St. Clair Flats are just a few of nearly 100 scenes depicting the days of Mark Twain in Michigan.

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This condition does not render the water unfit or harmful for consumption; however, clothing washed in this water will probably become discolored.

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Farmhouse located on 5.62 acres. Property is surveyed and staked. Offers 3 bedrooms, 1 bath. It has potential but does need work. Cash buyer as it won't pass inspection for financing. Give us a call to preview. Seller is offering up to \$500 towards home warranty of buyer's choice for owner occupants. This property is eligible under the Freddie Mac First Look Initiative through 10-18-12.

37 acres available just outside of Cass City Village limits. Many possibilities here. The property is located on the corner of 2 paved roads and is mostly wooded. Call for more information. A-568

REDUCED!! **SOLD!!** **SOLD!!**

Lake Huron - This home is close to all the action Caseville, Port Austin and the surrounding area has to offer yet back off enough to give you peace and relaxation if you want it. Less than 1/8 mile from the water. Features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2-car garage, paved drive, nice sized lot with mature trees. This is a Fannie Mae HomePath property. It has been approved for both HomePath Mortgage and Renovation Mortgage Financing. It can be purchased with as little as 3% down. EPB-198

3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home on 10 beautiful acres. Not only is this a great piece of property, there is a nice 11'x24' covered patio and an 11'x34' open deck on the rear of the home to enjoy the view. Plus an attached garage and a large finished rec. room in the basement. Roof is in need of some repair. NB-261

North Branch country 3 bedroom home setting on 2 acres +/-, with a pond, walk-out basement and a 2-car attached garage. Kitchen appliances stay. Buyers must be pre-qualified. Seller is offering a 2 year Home Warranty to owner occupants. NB-258

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MOTIVATED SELLER!! Possible lease with option. Very well taken care of 2 bedroom, 1,700 square foot home on almost 3 acres. Home features large living room, dining room, sun room off the back with great views and kitchen with an island and new appliances in 2010. Also a 32'x28' detached garage. Cass City schools. Home warranty. CY2639

35 ACRES OF LAND in CRP. Nice possible hunting spot. A634

HANDYMAN SPECIAL to settle estate. 1.6 acres with nice barn and shed. CY2657

GREAT CONDO WITH full finished walkout, 3 baths, 2 bedrooms and a gas fireplace. TCC1642

THIS HOME HAS 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, long deck overlooking the pond, unfinished basement, 2-car attached garage and sets on 5 acres with a winding treed circle driveway. Cass City schools. CY2646



BOTH DICK AND Elaine Hendrick share the workload, with Elaine helping out in the lobby on movie nights. Above, Hendrick wraps up some maintenance on the theatre's distinctive marquee.

Progress threatening small town theatres

Continued from page one.

but Hendrick says that would be difficult because the screen is permanent and there are no dressing rooms. The village is working with the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to explore grant possibilities, but the effort is still in the early stages. It's a project officials are taking seriously, in spite of the odds of landing the needed financing.

"I don't want to see another empty building when it isn't necessary, and this is one building — if not the only building — that has remained unchanged for this many years. And it's so well run," said Sam Moore, who serves as Cass City's community development director. "It's the quintessential downtown anchor. If you look at any picture of downtown from the past 80 or 90 years, what do you see? We don't ever want to see the doors close," Moore added.

That sentiment is shared by many others, including Tyler Perry, whose passion for local history is well known throughout the community. Perry has set his sights on organizing a "friends" group to raise awareness of the theatre. Towards that end, he recently set up a facebook page (Friends of the Cass Theatre) dedicated to the business.

Perry shouldn't have any trouble finding current and former residents interested in sharing their memories of growing up in town and going to the Cass for an evening of reason-

ably priced entertainment — A ticket will still cost you just \$5, \$3.50 for kids, and a punch card will earn you a free showing for every 12 paid admissions.

Perry's page has already drawn some fans of the theatre, including former Cass Cityan Karen O'Dell Bolz, now of Milan.

"Who can ever forget The Cass Theatre?" Bolz recently posted. "And Dick walking down the aisle with his flashlight, making sure everyone was quiet. What else was there to do on a Friday or Saturday night in Cass City! Dick has always run a top-notch theatre. How many have you ever seen with a cry room? And who can forget the ads before the main movie, featuring 'McConkey's Jewelry and Gift Store...right next door to where you are sitting'. I can remember the days when my allowance of \$1.25 a week would get me into the movie and buy me a popcorn and drink!"

"I don't know what we'd do without it," commented Joan Merchant, whose family owned and operated Sommers Bakery and Restaurant in town for many years, and whose members have been faithful patrons of the Cass for decades. "Dick would be a hard act to follow," she said. "He's done such a good job with it."

A LIFETIME

The Hendricks have devoted a lifetime to the business.

In fact, Dick, who is looking forward to starting his 50th year at the theatre in the spring, started out as a part-time projectionist. The 1952 Cass City High School graduate worked there throughout his high school years.

You could say Hendrick officially broke into the theatre business in the late 1940s, when he would set up a portable drive-in in towns such as Argyle, Tyre, Cumber, Gagetown and Cass City, and show free movies paid for with advertising purchased by area merchants.

Back then, there would be a 20- or 30-minute intermission, and local businesses would stay open during that period so people could pick up groceries or whatever.

After spending 2 years in the service, Hendrick returned to the village in 1957, and he resumed showing films at what is now Bartnik's at the corner of M-81 and M-53. He also worked as the clean-up man and projectionist at the Cass Theatre, which was then part of the Schuckert Theatre chain.

"This was the last theatre they owned," Hendrick recalled. "Mr. Schuckert kept this one till I was ready to take it over."

Aside from continuing the Schuckert's legacy locally, Hendrick enjoyed his own "15 minutes of fame" in the early 1980s, when a movie producer, director and writer by the name of Ron Teachworth filmed a portion of his movie, "Going Back", in Cass City. The finished production, released in 1983, include shots of the theatre.

Over the years, Hendrick hired dozens of kids to work part-time at the Cass, but he tired of dealing with some teens who were less than reliable. That, along with his aging projection equipment, prompted him to automate the theatre in the early 1990s. He spent roughly \$12,000 to install a Xenon lighting system and a set of 3 large, circular film platters with the capacity to show up to 4 1/2 hours of film without changing a reel. The equipment is still in use today.

THE FUTURE

But how long Hendrick will continue to fire up that equipment in the second floor projection room at the Cass is anyone's guess, although he has no plans of closing the theatre in the immediate future.

"We figure as long as we can get films and we don't have to wait too long. If it gets to the point to where I'm going to have to wait 3 months to get a film...nobody is going to wait that long. They'll be on video in 6 months," he said.

Hendrick, who retired from GTE (now Verizon) about 15 years ago after 36 years on the job, says he doesn't have a lot of options outside of waiting and seeing what happens.

A crushing economy in recent years has left store fronts empty in small towns across the country, including Cass City, making the chances of luring a buyer for the theatre into town pretty slim.

"Twenty years ago, if they (film industry) had done this to me, I'd have changed (equipment) right then," Hendrick said. "It isn't the money; it's the idea that, if stores aren't open, people aren't going to" purchase a theatre.

Still, while the phone company was always Hendrick's career, the theatre has always been his love, and he's quick to acknowledge there's a certain sadness when he considers a future without the Cass.

"It's going to be a dirty shame to see it, if it just sits there," he said.



THE CASS Theatre has been around for decades, but offers today's movie goers a modern 3-D screen and surround sound stereo.



THIS PHOTO OF the Cass Theatre is dated 1940, not long after the theatre was rebuilt at the Main Street location where it remains today following a devastating fire in November 1939.

From Pastime to Cass; the history

The Cass Theatre opened with plenty of fanfare, judging by the press given it by the local newspaper back in December 1935. A story on the grand opening announced: "Beauty, Comfort, Modern Equipment in Remodeled Building".

The Chronicle's Dec. 20 edition offered readers the following:

"Second to none in any town of comparative size in Michigan and comparing favorably with many city playhouses, the beautiful new Cass Theatre at Cass City is modern and up-to-date in every detail, convenience and equipment, will open its doors for the first time this evening when Schuckert & Schuckert, the proprietors, will welcome the show-going public to a playhouse of which the community is proud.

"The new theatre is the successor of the Pastime Theatre which the Schuckerts have been conducting in Cass City for several years. The Schuckerts have been showing high grade pictures. Their selection of up-to-date, clean productions found approval with the public, with the result that the Pastime was unable to hold the crowds, and the proprietors started the improvement and enlargement of the theatre building late in the summer.

"And that's the story of the passing of the 'Pastime' and the birth of the 'Cass', an appropriate name for Cass City's playhouse. Within 3 weeks, there will be erected a vertical 2-faced neon sign with the words 'CASS' which will feature the marquee over the theatre entrance. Centered below the beautiful marquee with its 60 electric lights is the ticket office flanked by 2 doors through which the theatre-goers advance into the lobby."

DEVASTATING FIRE

Four years later, a fire of unknown origin destroyed the Cass Theatre building.

As reported in the Dec. 1, 1939, issue of the Chronicle:

"The fire was well underway when it was discovered shortly after 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Dense smoke in the building added to the difficulty of fighting the flames and the fire department, as flames broke through the roof, had a hard fight to keep the fire from spreading to nearby business places.

"Village President E.B. Schwaderer sent a message to the Caro Fire Department for help and they responded promptly. Next door business neighbors to the theatre had reasons to be nervous while the fire was at its height. The A & P Store removed its safe but no merchandise was moved, though a truck was backed up to the front door ready to load if things became too hot. Fire fighters were on the roof of the Fort Confectionary ready to extinguish any blaze which might be kindled in that territory."

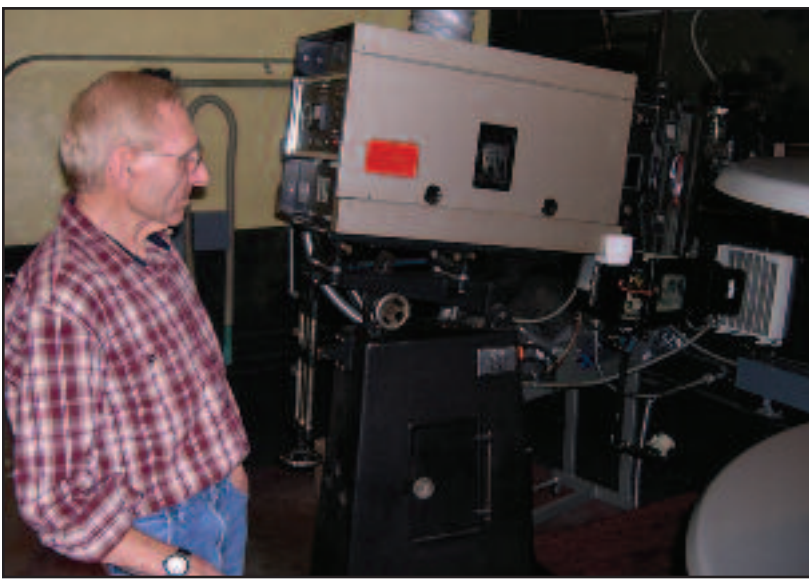
A NEW BEGINNING

Owner Harold Schuckert vowed to immediately begin work on rebuilding the theatre. It's a promise he kept, and the Chronicle reported a second grand opening Feb. 28, 1940:

"The beautiful new Cass Theatre will open its doors for the first time. It occupies the same location and bears the same name of the theatre which was destroyed by fire on Nov. 29 last. But little time elapsed after the flames had been extinguished before Schuckert & Son, owners of the playhouse, had workmen clearing up the wreckage and the contract had been let for building of the new theatre.

"There was no stinting of expenses and the new 'Cass' with a seating capacity of 500 and up-to-the-minute sound and projection equipment will be ready for its opening next Wednesday. The investment in building and equipment, according to Nile Stafford, local manager, is slightly above \$41,000.

"The main floor will seat 388 persons and from the foyer, stairs lead up to a balcony which has seats for 104. Persons partially deaf who regretted the passing of silent films will read, with interest, about a new feature installed in the balcony for their particular benefit. Four seats are equipped with earphones in which the volume control will regulate the sound from an amplifier in the same manner as in a radio."



HENDRICK STANDS in the automated projection room on the second floor of the theatre.

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