

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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75 CENTS - 20 PAGES, 1 SUPPLEMENT



JAKE LOUNSBURY, a Cass City High School graduate who recently returned home following a 9-month tour of duty overseas with the Michigan Army National Guard, is pictured above in the turret of an M-ATV while on patrol in Afghanistan. The M-ATV is a mine resistant ambush protection vehicle specifically engineered for treacherous environments.

Time served

Lounsbury home from tour in Afghanistan

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A funny thing happened to Jake Lounsbury on his way to pursuing a teaching career; the Cass City native decided to chase another job path and at the same time followed through with a strong desire to serve his country.

Lounsbury, 35, a 1996 Cass City High School graduate, recently returned to his Saginaw home after spending 9 months in Afghanistan as a member of the Michigan Army National Guard. During his deployment, the specialist served as a cavalry scout with Bravo Troop 1st Squadron, 126th Cavalry, based in Manistee.

It was a first tour of duty abroad for Lounsbury, who left behind his wife, Sarah, and the couple's children, Madison, 11, McKenna, 9, and

Abigail, 6.

"I always wanted to. It was kind of my crazy patriotic moment, I guess," Lounsbury said of his decision to join the Michigan National Guard 3 1/2 years ago. As for his time in Afghanistan, he added, "It was a learning experience. You get your eyes opened over there."

"I would do it again if I was called up, but it's not just me doing; when a soldier gets a call, there is a focus on him and his service. People want to have parades and shake your hand. That's all fine, but don't just thank the soldier — the family left on the home front has a great share of challenges, too, and in my case, they were my heroes," Lounsbury said.

"My deployment had its rocky moments, but it was an experience. I lost 45 pounds and learned some new things," he noted. "The mission is changing there, so Afghan

involvement is much higher in our mission, which could be good but also leads to a lot of tension."

Lounsbury said his unit took on a mix of missions, many of them similar to the duties of military police officers, including manning observation posts and running security checkpoints with an eye out for individuals "of interest" as well as anyone transporting drugs and/or explosives. They were also involved in village patrols and helped villagers with various needs.

Lounsbury acknowledged he and his fellow soldiers were faced with some of the dangers inherent in serving in Afghanistan, including dealing with mine fields and IEDs (improvised explosive devices). However, he said his unit was assigned to an area where the level of risk was lower compared to other nearby areas. Please turn to page 10.

Council tables rental ordinance

by Clarke Haire
Publisher

A capacity crowd gathered Monday for the regular monthly meeting of the Cass City Village Council. Most of the 30-plus community members present attended to voice their opinions during a public hearing on a proposed rental ordinance for properties located inside the village limits.

The need for some type of regulation came to light after an early morning upstairs apartment fire on Main Street last April. The blaze

prompted Elkland Township Fire Chief Glenn Guilds to address the council with some concerns.

Shortly after the downtown fire, Guilds informed the council that the fire at 6467 Main Street "could have been bad", although the 8 occupants, including 6 children ages 9 months to 9 years, escaped unharmed after some electrical wires shorted out and ignited a blaze between the ceiling and roof of the building.

Guilds was first to take the podium again on Monday during the public hearing.

"I want to squash some rumors"

Bedell stands mute to 68 felony counts

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A Sanilac County man was formally arraigned on nearly 70 felony charges last week in Tuscola County Circuit Court stemming from a midnight burglary spree in the Kingston area over the past year or so.

Brian Bedell, of Snover, who is charged in the break-ins along with Lorrie Bickel, 42, Snover, stood mute during his arraignment. A plea of not guilty was entered on his behalf and a pre-trial hearing was ordered scheduled in the case.

Bedell faces 68 charges, including multiple counts of break and entering a building with intent to commit larceny, home invasion, larceny in a building, larceny of firearms, conspiracy, possession of a firearm by a felon, and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony. The most serious of the charges, conducting a criminal enterprise, carries a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in prison and/or a \$100,000 fine.

Bedell is also being charged as an habitual offender, meaning he could be facing enhanced penalties because he has a criminal record that includes at least one prior conviction. Please turn to page 10.



Brian Bedell

Sanilac Co. deputies seek suspects in armed robbery

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies are asking residents to keep their eye out for the suspects involved in an armed robbery Friday night in Sanilac County's Watertown Township.

Sgt. Darrin Siemen said the crime was reported at about 8:22 p.m. at

the Watertown Depot, 2734 Sandusky Rd.

"The clerk at the store made a 911 call to Sanilac County Central Dispatch and stated that she was just robbed at gunpoint. The suspect got away with an undisclosed amount of cash and personal checks," Siemen said.

The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 30 years old, 5'8" tall, 170 lbs, with short dark hair and a mustache. Please turn to page 6.

Races for judge, sheriff top Nov. 6 ballot in county

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

From the heated race for president of the United States all the way down to battles for local school board seats, Tuscola County voters will have their hands full when they arrive at the polls for next week's general election.

After weeks of political advertisements bombarding citizens via television, newspapers and mailboxes, residents will finally have their say Tuesday, Nov. 6. The polls will open at 7 a.m. and remain open until 8 p.m.

Area voters will decide several races, including battles for 2 judge seats in the county.

Circuit Judge

Caro attorneys Amy Grace Gierhart and Robert Betts are both vying to become the next Tuscola County circuit judge, a position vacated by the retirement earlier this year of long-time Judge Patrick R.



Amy Gierhart

Joslyn.

Gierhart, who earned her law degree from the University of Kentucky in 1994, garnered nearly 50 percent of the vote in the August primary election. Her past experience includes working for the Tuscola County Friend of the Court Office and for Attorneys Abbey and Abbey, Caro, before starting her own practice.

Betts received nearly 23 percent of the vote in the primary. He received his law degree from Wayne State University in 1984 and worked with Caro attorney George Holmes for 5 years before establishing his own practice.

Robert Betts

Probate Judge

A sitting judge and a veteran attorney/friend of the court official are battling for the right to serve Tuscola County citizens as the county's probate court judge.

The candidates are incumbent Amanda L. Roggenbuck and challenger Nancy Thane. Roggenbuck is the first female to hold the office of judge in Tuscola

County.

Then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm appointed Roggenbuck to the probate court bench in 2010 following the resignation of Judge W. Wallace Kent.

A former Tuscola County commissioner, she previously owned and operated Amanda L. Roggenbuck and Associates, PLLC, Cass City, for several years, specializing in family law, abuse and neglect law, and estate planning. She completed her undergraduate studies at Michigan State University and received her degree in political science. She completed law school through the Thomas M. Cooley School of Law in 1986.



Nancy Thane

University, earning her law degree from the Thomas M. Cooley School of Law.

In 1987, Thane was named an assistant prosecutor in Tuscola County.

Brown, Canfield, Grimshaw set for battle in the 84th District

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A former state representative, a county register of deeds and a physician are battling for the right to represent citizens in Tuscola and Huron counties in Lansing in one of the most closely watched races of this political season in the Thumb.

The 3-way race for the 84th District House of Representatives seat pits former state Rep. Terry Brown (D-Pigeon) against Vassar Republican and Tuscola County Register of Deeds Dan Grimshaw, and

She was appointed he county's friend of the court - family court referee in 1988, a position she held until 2011. At that time, she was

Please turn to page 7.

Sebewaing physician Dr. Edward J. (Ned) Canfield of Sebewaing, who is running as an Independent candidate.

The seat is currently held by Elkton Republican Kurt Damrow, a first-term legislator who lost his bid for reelection in the primary election in August.

Damrow's first term in office was marred by controversy, including campaign finance discrepancies and a Michigan State Police investigation Damrow initiated when his office passed on a 5-page narrative of a shooting. Please turn to page 7.



Terry Brown



Dan Grimshaw



Edward Canfield



REBECCA Morrish, a sixth grade student and the daughter of Irene Morrish and Max Morrish, and high school freshman Michael Rader, the son of Susie Dennis, were recently honored as the first recipients of the Cass City Public Schools' "Red Hawk Award of Excellence" for the 2012-13 school year.

Morrish, Rader earn Red Hawk Award of Excellence

Cass City School officials recently recognized the first recipients of the district's "Red Hawk Award of Excellence" for the 2012-13 school year.

They are Rebecca Morrish, the daughter of Irene Morrish and Max Morrish, and Michael Rader, the son of Susie Dennis.

During the months of October, December, February and April, each school building staff is asked to nominate students for the coveted Red Hawk award, which recognizes students in the areas of leadership, service, outstanding behavior, excellent academic performance, being most improved or other accomplishments in or outside of school.

The nominees and their families are then invited to attend a Cass City Board of Education meeting, where the board presents the students with

a maroon ribbon and certificate, and personally congratulates each recipient.

Math teacher Ron Woloshen nominated Morrish, a sixth grade student, for the award.

"Rebecca Morrish embodies all the character traits that make an excellent student. Her outstanding efforts are demonstrated in her grades, which are always at the top of her class," Woloshen said. "She is reliable and dedicated when it comes to academics, and she always works to achieve what is expected of her, or even go beyond. She has begun her sixth grade year with an A in every subject.

"She is respectful of both adults and other students, demonstrating this by her behavior in the classroom as well as in the hallways, cafeteria and

gym. She is polite and well-mannered at all times," he added.

"Rebecca is always willing to help other students when they need it, and works well with everyone in her class."

Nominating Rader, a high school freshman, meanwhile, was guidance office secretary Ruth Fluegge.

"As freshman class sponsor, I have seen Michael show responsibility and maturity," Fluegge noted in her nomination letter. "The first meeting of the freshman class officers, he came with pad and pencil, ready to take on the task of class secretary. He was always present during float-building and took responsibility to get the job done.

"During my first time working at concessions this school year, Michael was also there and just took charge of the popcorn and hotdogs," she continued. "He is a very responsible young man and makes one feel confident the job will get done if he is involved. Michael is a good example of our...youth today. I feel he is very deserving of the Red Hawk Award with not only his volunteerism but also with his academic excellence."

T. Bennett completes training



Terrence Bennett

Terrence Bennett recently graduated from basic training at the Naval Recruit Training Command Center in Great Lakes, Ill.

A 2012 Cass City High School graduate, he is the son of Laura Connolly and Sean Connolly of Davison, and Edward Bennett of Walthourville, Ga., and the grandson of David Gabler of Cass City.

Bennett initially joined the U.S. Navy's Delayed Entry Program in October 2011 while still a senior in high school. Last September he completed the 8-week basic training program and is now in school to train to become a fire control man in the Advanced Electronics Computer Field at the Training Support Center in Great Lakes.

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

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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!

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Email: chronicle@ccchronicle.net

Answers to Oct. 24, 2012

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

In Our OPINION..

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Check facts before boycotting a store

Talk is cheap. When that talk is negative and based only on unsubstantiated claims, it can be hurtful.

Sometimes it can be enough to prompt a business owner to consider throwing his or her hands up in the air and give up altogether.

Erla Foods owner Venu Ganga appears to have reached that point, judging by the "letter to the editor" he penned and the Chronicle published last week.

Ganga wrote the letter largely because he felt he had run out of options in his efforts to address negative talk about changes — some of them unpleasant — implemented at Erla's since he and his family purchased the business earlier this year.

As we understand it, Ganga enjoyed smooth sailing during his first 3 months of ownership. However, he was alerted to claims of possible theft of store products from within the company. He investigated and, after putting considerable time and effort into collecting evidence, learned his losses added up to an astounding \$650,000 over a period of several weeks.

The investigation of those alleged incidents has been turned over to law enforcement and is continuing, but Ganga says he has run into another challenge he hadn't expected — an apparent boycott of sorts against the store based on what he believes is negative talk about the business stemming from some disgruntled employees, among others.

That's not altogether surprising, considering Ganga "cleaned house" following his probe into the theft issues, which meant showing a few workers to the door. However, he didn't expect the cold shoulder from a significant percent of shoppers in the weeks since.

No one is obligated to buy their milk, bread and roasts locally. But, as far as we're concerned, local residents who stay away only because they've heard someone they know "was shafted" by the new owners — without checking into the FACTS - are only cutting off their nose to spite their face.

Simply put, if a business closes because folks aren't shopping locally, we have no one to blame but ourselves. In this case, the same goes for the potential loss of roughly 80 full- and part-time jobs.

Of course, a merchant who jacks up prices, pays no attention to how employees treat customers, and contributes nothing to the community might expect a tough time.

However, Ganga isn't guilty of those things, as far as we know. In fact, he's already contributed \$10,000 to various groups/events in town, and he's launching a campaign encouraging shoppers to donate a quarter, with Ganga pledging a \$500 match for every \$1,000 raised a month for the next 2 years for the Cass City School District.

Ganga was right when he suggested in his letter that there are 2 sides to every story and he has a right to be heard.

We hope local residents will take advantage of his invitation to address him directly with their concerns before deciding to take all of their grocery dollars to another town.

Slices of Life
by Jill Pertler
Treacherous traditions date back thousands of years

Hidden identities. Planned thievery. Street walking. Threats and coercion. Tooth decay. All carried out under the cover of darkness. By your children. On your watch. Sounds a little like reality TV at its best.

Imagine the following: you instruct your precious and beloved young offspring to change out of their normal clothing and dress up in a manner that makes their identities unrecognizable. You may even provide them with masks. Together, you wait until nightfall. Then, you let them loose, knowing full well they plan to spend the next few hours walking the streets aimlessly. You direct them to ring doorbells of random houses, and not only talk to the strangers living there, but coerce them into contributing candy by placing it in a vessel your children have brought with them for just such a purpose.

Here's the real kicker: as a parent, you're supposed to be okay with this outrageous situation and — in fact — call it a holiday. Sort of makes an overweight guy in a flashy red suit piloting a sleigh led by flying reindeer seem pretty reasonable, doesn't it?

Halloween hasn't always been a day to dress in costume and eat candy. The celebration originated about 2,000 years ago (give or take a century) as an ancient Celtic festival. The good Celtic farmers believed that on the last day of October, ghosts of dead spirits returned to earth to help them celebrate the end of harvest and the beginning of the long, cold winter. Somehow, they associated winter with death, which is understandable given all the ghosts floating around at the time. The day also precedes All Saints' Day — a time for honoring saints and the recently departed — another ghostly reference. Boo.

Over the generations, the day somehow evolved from harvests, saints and the beginning of winter to dressing up like a Power Ranger, demanding candy from your neighbors and coming down from a sugar-induced high right around bedtime. At least that's how things work at my house.

A normal person couldn't make this stuff up — well,

except the part about the flying reindeer. I know I couldn't. Then again, I don't have an imagination big enough for Halloween, so I guess that's to be expected.

Some people love Halloween. Some fun, creative and outgoing people with gigantic imaginations love the holiday. They are happy Halloweeners. I can't claim to be one of them.

I lack the necessary skills to be a successful Halloween hollower. For one, I can't seem to get into character. When it comes to roles, I always play myself. Talk about limiting. Especially on Halloween, when you've got to step out of yourself and be a witch, goblin, ghoul or at the very least Honey Boo Boo — who is reportedly a hot costume choice this year. I'd never be able to create the attitude needed to pull off Honey Boo Boo, and I'm not even sure what a ghoul is (or a Honey Boo Boo, if we're being honest).

There are some things I appreciate about the last day in October. Chocolate, of course, is one of them. What's not to love about a Reese's or a Kit Kat — or maybe one of each? Exactly. I also enjoy a well-placed scary movie on a dark, chilly, somber night — as long as I have a fluffy quilt to cover my eyes during the really frightening parts.

All in all though, when we're talking about October 31, I'm not the world's biggest fan. With the exception of my sugar-laden stomach, the day leaves me feeling empty — much like the triangle-eyed pumpkin illuminating my front steps. There's no changing the truth: I am a hollow Halloween.

Thank goodness my candy dish is nowhere near as empty as my pumpkin — or my Halloween psyche (or lack thereof). A chocolate-induced coma — now that I can appreciate, on October 31, or any day of the year.

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@gwest.net; or visit her website at <http://marketing-by-design.home.mchsi.com/>.

Letters to the Editor

Do your civic duty and vote Tuesday

To concerned voters of Tuscola County,

Over the past few weeks we all have been inundated with information about proposals and candidates in anticipation of the Nov. 6 election. We, the voters of Tuscola County, are in a very unique position with so many contested races to decide.

As Americans, we have a very important job to do on the first Tuesday in November, a job that requires us all to be EDUCATED on the issues and candidates. Please take this job seriously. Take the time to find out about those who are running for elected offices in your area and in our county. There have been numerous candidate forums in our county leading up to the election. There have been flyers we have received in the mail touting one candidate over the other. Supporters are also phoning.

I urge you to find out for yourself who you feel will do the best job for our county. Do not be influenced by political parties that always seem to be fighting against each

other, especially in the judges' races where the candidates should be non-partisan.

Perhaps a neighbor has called you urging you to vote Republican because they are going to, or a relative says a Democratic ticket is the way to go. Do not be swayed by this. Make your own choice! Try to weed the FACTS from the ALLEGATIONS. Still not sure? Contact the candidates running for county and local positions directly. Not sure how to do this? Most should have websites or Facebook pages. Those that are phoning you would certainly have the candidate's number. Residents with signs in their yards should also know how to reach the people they are supporting. If they are not willing to share this information, that should also help you decide.

Most of all, on Nov. 6, do your civic duty and VOTE. Every vote is important and this is your chance to make your voice heard.

Kate Van Auken
Cass City

Church bells raise spirits in Cass City

At a time when we hear so much negative news, we just wanted to say something positive.

We love the bells that ring every day from the Presbyterian church. They never fail to put a smile on our faces, and uplift our day.

We have also had many favorable comments from our customers, both from Cass City and from out of

town. So to the Presbyterian church, please continue to raise our spirits on a daily basis by ringing those wonderful bells!

The girls at Special Scents Flower Shoppe, Doris LeValley, Barb Vollmar, Linda Woodward, Deb Kosto and Joyce Turner Cass City

Rabbit Tracks
by Clarke Haire
(And anyone else he can get to help)

For those interested, Tyler Perry believes he found the answer to his question regarding Travis Leach.

Leach is the man responsible for designing the streets of Cass City, and Perry had asked Chronicle readers if they remembered the name of the town Jack Esau used to tell of, which Travis Leach also helped design.

After searching online, Perry was able to find a little burg called Lefors, Texas. Apparently, Leach was a co-founder of the town in 1888. His homestead was the first in the village and his cabin served as a local stagecoach stop.

"And now we know!" joked Perry.

Pinktober was a huge success, according to organizer Joey Kreeger, who reported downtown Cass City was in full swing last week as Rotary Park came alive with music, games, food, and a maze for youngsters to cap the event for breast cancer awareness.

Kreeger also added that Maria's Pizzeria won the business window decorating contest.

Looking for some early basketball action? There will be nearly 20 teams competing in 5th and 6th grade girls' basketball tournaments Saturday at both the elementary and junior/senior high school in Cass City. The games start at 9 a.m. and run all afternoon.

Hurricane Sandy is unbelievable. No, I am not talking about the weather, I am talking about the Haires' 100-plus pound golden retriever. Her antics reached a new high recently when she devoured 2 full Shabbona United Methodist Church apple pies that were left out of reach on our kitchen stove — so we thought.

Meet Dean Woods. He delivers the Chronicles every

Tuesday from our printers at the Midland Daily News. An avid fisherman, he took me fishing last Wednesday for steelhead on the Muskegon River. Together we netted about 5-of-10 hook-ups, including this nice hen.

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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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.

Rates & Policies

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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, October 31

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.

Thursday, November 1

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

Friends of the Library meeting, 1:30 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.

Friday, November 2

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

Saturday, November 3

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.

Sunday, November 4

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

Monday, November 5

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.

Women's AA meeting, 7 p.m., Faith Free Methodist Church, 2380 Deckerville Rd. For more information, call the Rev. Wayne at (810) 672-9242 or Bob at (810) 672-9084.

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

Tuesday, November 6

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

In Sanilac County

Car chase ends in arrests

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A brief car chase ended in the arrest of 3 suspects, including 2 men who were out of jail on bond at the time, last Wednesday afternoon in Sanilac County's Moore Township.

The incident began at about 1:30 p.m. when Deputy Kevin Nowiski observed a suspicious vehicle in the area of Sheldon and Downingtown roads, and when he attempted to investigate further, the vehicle took off at a high rate of speed.

A pursuit started and the suspect vehicle continued southbound for a

short time before stopping in a farm lane on Sheldon Road," said Lt. Robert Willis, who reported a passenger in the rear seat of the vehicle jumped out and fled on foot into some nearby woods. "Sheriff's deputies cordoned off the area and arrested the suspect a short time later without incident approximately a mile from the vehicle."

There were 4 subjects in all in the vehicle, Willis said. "The driver, a 19-year-old Palms man, was arrested for fleeing and eluding (a police officer) and possession of marijuana. The passenger who fled on foot, an 18-year-old Crosswell man who was

out of jail on bond from an earlier arrest, was arrested for violating the conditions of his bond agreement. A third passenger in the vehicle who was also out of jail on bond was also arrested for violating his bond agreement and for possession of marijuana."

The fourth individual was released at the scene, according to Willis, who said the other 3 men were transported to the Sanilac County Jail and booked on charges. Their names are being withheld pending their formal arraignments.

Michigan State Police troopers assisted deputies at the scene.

Thief hits Decker business

Sanilac County Sheriff's deputies are continuing their investigation into a recent break-in at a Lamotte Township business.

Sheriff Garry Biniacki said the burglary was reported Oct. 22 at Phillips Oil, Decker.

"The caller advised he noticed his office was ransacked, and (he) immediately called 911," Biniacki said. "Upon investigation, it is believed that the break-in occurred in the early morning hours and the suspect forced their way in through a

door on the north side of the building."

Anyone with information related to the crime is asked to contact the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department Detective Division at (810) 648-2000.

Foundation awards \$20,000 grant to Thumb crisis center

The Human Development Commission (HDC) and its local women's shelter, the Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center (ACC), which serves Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties, received a \$20,000 grant from The Mary Kay Foundation.

In observation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, The Mary Kay Foundation awards \$20,000 grants to more than 150 domestic violence shelters across the country for a total of \$3 million.

HDC officials will use the grant to provide critical support at the shelter. ACC will provide job preparation/job search services and connect domestic violence survivors with community resources essential for living violence free and becoming self-sufficient.

"We are very excited to be selected as a grant recipient," said HDC Executive Director Lori K. Offenbecher. "Just as President Johnson's 'War on Poverty' demonstrated the country's commitment to serve low-income residents, The Mary Kay Foundation demonstrates its commitment to break the cycle of domestic violence by funding shelters like ACC. Whether the challenge is ending poverty or ending domestic violence, the solution is the same -

helping people help themselves."

ACC supports residential and non-residential survivors of domestic violence, plus their children and other family members, by offering a cornucopia of services. ACC employs a 3-tiered continuum of care model, beginning with crisis intervention services that respond to women's immediate (emergency) needs. These services include a 24-hour toll-free hotline, emergency shelter, transportation to shelter, medical advocacy, and on-site counseling.

The continuum transitions to meet women's intermediate (stabilizing) needs through on- and off-site individual/group counseling, children's services, legal advocacy, financial/entitlement benefits counseling, housing location assistance, and information and referral. The continuum's final tier responds to women's longer-term (self-sufficiency) needs. During the final tier, women emerge as courageous survivors and have opportunities to volunteer, help others, and speak out in their communities.

"The Mary Kay Foundation is committed to breaking the cycle of domestic violence," said Anne Crews, Mary Kay Inc. vice president of government relations and board member for The Mary Kay Foundation. "Through our grants, we honor and support shelters across the country that are having a profound impact for women and children in their communities. Since

2000, we have granted \$31 million to help domestic violence shelters meet their critical needs and support their ongoing community efforts."

The Mary Kay Foundation was created in 1996, and its mission is 2-fold: to fund research of cancers affecting women and to help prevent domestic violence while raising awareness of the issue. Since the Foundation's inception, it has awarded nearly \$31 million to shelters and programs addressing domestic violence prevention and more than \$18 million to cancer researchers and related causes throughout the United States.

HDC is a rural, nonprofit Community Action Agency dedicated to alleviating poverty in the Thumb area of east central Michigan. Incorporated in 1965, the agency is committed to helping people achieve self-sufficiency as conditions of abuse, homelessness, hunger, joblessness, and other life crises are ameliorated. The agency maintains its grassroots heritage by including low-income individuals and families as stakeholders in programming decisions and service choices.

The agency administers more than 70 diverse programs, and service delivery is designed to change the lives of individuals, families, and communities, especially low-income households and neighborhoods.

To learn more about the Human Development Commission, visit www.hdc-caro.org or call 1-800-843-6394.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Village of Cass City Zoning Board of Appeals will be holding a Special Meeting,

Thursday, November 15, 2012

at 7:00 P.M. at the Village Municipal Building to consider a Zoning Variance regarding setbacks at 4700 Hunt Street.

Nanette S. Walsh
Clerk/Treasurer

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Reporter's notebook

Small town living has its rewards

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A clerk at the local Fairway Store startled my wife a bit the other day.

Deb had walked up to the counter with her purchases and the gal told her, "I've been looking for you!" Deb wasn't sure what to think of that.

Turns out, she had inadvertently paid for her purchases along with that of another customer during a shopping trip about 3 weeks earlier, and the clerk recognized her and just wanted to return her change — all \$5 or so of it.

Such is life in a small town.

We're both from the Grand Rapids area originally, but this lady's kind and honest gesture didn't surprise either of us. So, after living here for about 26 years, I'm guessing we're as close as we're ever going to get to being Cass City "natives".

Over the years I heard the late John Haire, longtime publisher of the Chronicle, lament about the days gone by when "everybody knew everybody" and the sight of a stranger in town drew second-takes and idle conjecture regarding their presence in the community.

I still take notice when I see a "stranger" walking downtown. Of course, that's coming from someone who, for a few years, lived in a part of the city where not making eye contact with most people on the street was a survival skill.

Maybe that's why I take delight in watching the local grocery store owner carry an elderly lady's groceries to her car and load them in her trunk (as I did early one morning recently just shortly after the store had opened for the day).

And why I'm never surprised when I see a good Samaritan stop by the roadside to offer use of their cell phone to a stranded motorist.

Sure, there are folks who wouldn't even think of putting up with what they figure must be a fate worse than death — living in a boring small town where chances are good your friends and neighbors know a lot more about you than you would prefer at times.

But I like it when a local bank teller calls me at the office or on my cell phone to let me know that another customer just delivered the debit card I accidentally left in the ATM.

It's also comforting to know that even people you don't know all that well wouldn't think twice about dropping a few bucks into a canister when they find out someone in your family has been stricken with an illness and needs a helping hand with expenses.

It's almost certain they'll make an effort to ask you how things are going when you run into them at a high school basketball game or while picking up a prescription at the local pharmacy.

Yup, such is life in a small town. And I wouldn't change a thing.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2007)

The saying "Proud as a Peacock" came to mind talking to Coach Amy Cuthrell following Cass City's return from the cross country Division 3 state finals over the weekend held at the Michigan International Speedway. Saturday was both memorable and historic as Red Hawk junior Lukas Varney finished 26th overall with a time of 16:19 to earn all-state honors. Varney also posted the second fastest time in Cass City history, erasing a 30-year old mark. He will now sit at number 2, behind Greg Bliss, on the school's top Record Board, while Steve Richards (1979) falls to number 3.

Theda Seeger may not have been born to be wild, but she has an adventurous spirit that's a mile long. The Cass City woman, who will turn 90 in April, recently took friends Dick and Judy Wallace, also of Cass City, up on their offer to give Seeger a ride on Dick's Harley-Davidson motorcycle. "I always said, if you have the chance, I just want to go. I wanted to go fast. I like to go fast," Seeger said of Wallace's invitation while the trio visited during one of the monthly meals hosted by the Fraser Presbyterian Church. "We went 27 miles — I asked when we got back, and he's a wonderful driver," said Seeger, a Cass City native and 1936 graduate of Cass City High School.

10 YEARS AGO (2002)

Decker resident Mike Rozumny took a nice 8-point deer hunting east of Cass City. The big buck had a 17 1/4" spread.

The Cass City Red Hawks posted a satisfying win over a well-regarded Sandusky Redskin team Tuesday, 46-35, sprinting to the win with a rally in the final minutes of the first half and the early moments of the third quarter. Amy Howard's big game paced the Hawks. She collected 9 rebounds, 6 blocked shots and 10 points. Lindsey Hendrick collected 10 rebounds and 13 points and Deidre Deering scored 12 with 6 assists. Richelle Gerstenberger led Sandusky with 12 points.

The Ubly High School Marching Band took home first division honors at the MSBOA (Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association) marching festival. The 43-member Bearcat band performed its "Jackson 5" show for the panel of 3 judges and earned a 1 (superior) rating for their performance. They were scored in music, marching and overall showmanship. Ubly was the only band from the Huron County area to perform at the festival and was also the only Class D band to receive a 1 rating. The band is under the direction of Miss Jennifer Diebel and is led on the field by senior drum major, Traci Jackson and junior drum major, Lisa Romzek. Senior trumpeter, Jason Rutkowski.

25 YEARS AGO (1987)

Cass City native Lois Binder has probably warmed more little hands, ears, feet, heads and hearts over the years than most. Known as "Mrs. B" locally, the 75-year-old silver-haired grandmother loves to knit and crochet. Just ask any one of hundreds of area youngsters wearing mittens made by her arthritic, yet more than able fingers. In truth, the veteran special education teacher, who taught in Cass City for 15 years before retiring a decade ago, simply loves children.

Cass City ended its 1987 grid campaign on a bright note as the Hawks rode the air arm of Paul Tuckey to a convincing win over the Reese Rockets Friday, 21-7. Coach Don Schelke said that he was pleased with the way the Hawks fought back after a dismal start, losing the first 4 games. Tuckey had the best night of his career with 174 yards passing and 2 touchdowns. Jeremy Capps was the leading receiver with 8 catches. It was a team defense Friday as one player, Al Rosenstangel, was credited with 8 tackles and 5 other Hawks had 7 tackles each. The players were: Mark Hirn, Dennis Dadacki, Jeff Dillon, Chuck Merchant and Mike Mikolon.

Hills and Dales employees honored for 10 or 15 years of service were:

Arnold Sticken (15), Douglas Thane (10), Linda Nieschulz (15), Sherri Collis (15), Janet Wright (15), Randa Adelberg (10) and Ken E. Jensen (10).

50 YEARS AGO (1962)

The Chronicle claims the prize for freak accidents in the Thumb this week. It all happened Monday afternoon. Stuart Merchant came sedately driving by the Chronicle at about 15 miles per hour in the "bus" owned by General Insulated Wire Works, Inc. A loose stone on the pavement evidently became pinched under the tire and rocketed some 25 feet to the large plate glass window in front of the Chronicle and smashed it. It's the first accident of this type we've ever heard of in Cass City...or anywhere else on a paved road.

With 21 envelopes still to be turned in, Community Chest contributions reached \$5,276.20 earlier in the week, according to Willis Campbell, general chairman.

A much smaller village project will be completed at once. Garfield from Seeger to Ale has two blocks left to be drained and, on the suggestion of Trustee Harold Guinther, they have decided to finish the drainage work this fall so that the road will be ready for resurfacing in the future. Garfield is now a heavily traveled road because of the factory traffic and the village has found it nearly impossible to keep it in good condition as a gravel road.

100 YEARS AGO (1912)

When the local football team left town for Bad Axe Friday by Agar's buzz wagons, the boys were not feeling specially confident of the game. Copland, who has played a steady game at guard, was unable to go being possessed of the extraordinary idea that the harvesting of \$2.50 beans was more important than football. Also reports had come in that Schmaus and Hoadley would be detained as a gentle reminder that football is not the only high school activity. However, Benkelman, Carson and Yakes filled their places in a creditable manner.

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Re-Elect Leland (Lee) Teschendorf

Re-elect your Republican Tuscola County Sheriff

I am a graduate of Vassar High School and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University. My 39 years of public service with the Tuscola County Sheriff's Office include experience as a patrol deputy, patrol sergeant, lieutenant/jail administrator and sheriff. With this, I have experienced and understand all aspects of the daily operations and issues that are part of our daily duties and responsibilities to the public.



My wife, Christine, and I have been married for 37 years and have one daughter, Kristen. We make our home in Caro and attend the Caro Church of the Nazarene.

I am a past president and current treasurer of the Greater Thumb Area Fraternal Order of Police Lodge # 148, charter member and First Vice-Commander of the Caro Squadron # 7 Sons of the American Legion, Vice-Chair of the Thumb Narcotics Unit, Chair for the Tuscola Technology Center Law Enforcement and Protective Services Advisory Board, Tuscola County Senior Citizens TRIAD Coordinator, Vice-Chair for the Thumb Regional Community Corrections Board and Honorary Chair for the 2011-2012 Tuscola County United Way Campaign.



Additionally, I am a member of the Tuscola County Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Council, Coalition for the Prevention of Underage Drinking, Tuscola County and Richville Conservation Clubs, Tuscola County Ducks Unlimited, Caro Whitetails Unlimited, Thumb Area Pheasants Forever, Caro Rotary Club, National Rifle Association life member, Central Michigan Chiefs of Police Association and Michigan Sheriff's Association.



When casting your ballot for sheriff, I ask that you consider my qualifications and experience. While managing our limited resources against rising costs, we have continued to provide 24-hour patrol and maintained other needed services for our citizens.

I promise to continue my best effort to do the job, keeping it will be determined by your vote.

PROUDLY ENDORSED BY:

Senator Mike Green

Tom Kern, Tuscola Co. Sheriff (retired) and County Commissioner

Jim Jashinski, Tuscola Co. Undersheriff (retired)

Fred Hecht, Denmark Twp. Chief of Police

Dave Lich, Kingston Village/Twp. Chief of Police

Mike Hadd, Reese Chief of Police



John Horwath, Vassar Chief of Police (retired)

Dave Manier, Vassar Chief of Police (retired)

Ben Page, Caro Chief of Police (retired)

Bob Mantey, Tuscola County Drain Commissioner

Garry Biniecki, Sanilac County Sheriff

Tim Donnellon, St. Clair County Sheriff

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The Charmont offers services including dining, bowling, bar, and reception/meeting hosting.

Located at 6138 E. Cass City Road, the Charmont is open: Sunday, noon to 9 PM; Monday through Thursday, 10:30 AM to 9 PM; Friday and Saturday, 10:30 AM to 10 PM.

Their daily special is a large two topping pizza, their world famous dough balls, and a 2-liter of pop for only \$18.50.

Upcoming event:

Moonlight bowling and laser light show on November 3rd

Featuring DJ Mike Wilson 7-10 p.m.

Only \$10 for unlimited bowling/Drink specials available

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

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GRACEY ESTATE AUCTION SALE

Osentoski Auction Service has been commissioned to sell at public auction the following real estate & personal property at the place located from Cass City, MI 8 miles East on Cass City Rd., 1 mile South on Germania Rd., East 3/4 miles to 4077 Robinson Rd.



Sat., November 3, 2012
Commencing at 10:30 a.m.

REAL ESTATE

Land to be offered at 1:00 p.m.

Sanilac County, Evergreen Township, Section 1, 35 acres +/-, 11 tillable, balance is woods and buildings. 2,674 sq. ft. Ranch home, 2-3 bedroom home, 1.5 bath, addition added in 2004 with 2nd story octagon family room. Partial basement, w/ carport. 48'x64' shed, 3-sided, 38'x64' addition shed with cement floor, 16'x64' front lean with cement, 24'x64' rear lean with dirt floor, 20'x26' 3-sided lean-to shed. 2 smaller out buildings. Evergreen Austin Creek runs through it. Very secluded, nicely landscaped. Great recreational property.

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Preapproval letter at time of sale. 3% Buyer's Premium will be added to purchase price. 10% Non-refundable deposit - day of sale. Deposit check made out to Valley Title Agency. Close within 30 days at location TBD. Real Estate sold "As-Is" with no warranties. To preview call for appointment. For more details and to preview property prior to day of the auction, contact Martin Osentoski, (989) 550-3400.

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windows, various sizes, new and used, half circles • Quantity of entrance doors, asst. interior doors • Sheets of glass • Various sizes of trusses • Homelite 2000 Watt generator • Reddy Heater • Hyd power station sensor for helicopter • Large Commercial HD air compressor • Dolly air compressor • Quantity of air tools, power tools • Logging chains • Hand tools • Pipe bender • Bolt bins • Extension cords • Battery charger • Older & Used car parts • Large clevises • Chain binders • Cherry picker • Copper tubing • Gas & Air lines • Storage and filing cabinets • Sears radial arm saw • Large quantity of scrap iron, angle, sq. tubing, channel, round stock • Large quantity of Car & Pick up rims • Electric wire • Large air conditioner • Ladders, Step and ext • Barrels of oil • Aluminum roofing brackets • Chevy hub caps • Heating stoves • Wood air tight stove • Milk cans • NEW tools in boxes • NEW sump pump • Canvases • Work benches, Shelving • Metal cabinets • Nuts & Bolts • Quantity of lumber

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Harvest Fest draws crowd

by Ryan Walker
Freelance Writer

What month, other than October, can you attend an event in the Thumb that has National Football League stars such as Drew Brees and Calvin Johnson as well as Major League Baseball ace Justin Verlander rubbing elbows with zombies, vampires, angels, animals and the occasional princess?

The sight of children of all ages dressed up as their favorite person or thing is common this time of year, and kids, teenagers and adults all enjoyed wearing their Halloween finest during the annual Harvest Fest celebration at the Novesta Church of Christ Saturday afternoon. The Harvest Fest was established back in 1996. Traditionally, the celebration has been held on Halloween

night and has been known in the past as the Harvest Party. Novesta began the Halloween night extravaganza as a safe alternative to trick-or-treating, according to Minister Brad Speirs.

"Our target was a fun, friendly event," Speirs said, adding over the years, the family-oriented event has served as an outreach event that typically draws 300 to 400 area residents, including children, parents/guardians and volunteers.

This year marks the first time the celebration has taken place on the Saturday prior to Halloween. Speirs indicated that during the planning stage, the coordinators and volunteers weren't sure how many participants would show up to take part in the fun. When the day came, however, the hallways, classrooms and gym at Novesta were all teeming with eager guests, with some 170 kids

registered to enjoy the games, activities, free food and prizes. Church members served as the game masters, food preparers, clean-up crew and a variety of other positions. There were 50 to 60 volunteers in all.

The festivities began with the masked and costumed kids registering as they entered the east entrance of the church near the gym, where 15 to 20 games and activities awaited to entertain and, in some cases, reward.

Contestants fortunate enough to win received tickets on which they could write their registration number and be entered in prize drawings at the end of the day. Everyone was encouraged to take a break and enjoy a free lunch.

The turnout pleased event coordinators Brad and Kristy Speirs. "I think it went like we wanted it to go," Brad commented.

Council tables ordinance

Continued from page one.

that I was the one that wanted this ordinance, Guilds told the crowd, adding that his department would be satisfied with some type of inspection that would emphasize 5 points; mainly, making sure all apartments have smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, separate entrances and exits to the structures, and finally capacity of residents living at each location.

"It's all about the tenants' and fire fighters' safety," said Guilds.

However, some landlords present expressed different views on the subject.

"I don't think I need the village

telling me how to run my rentals," said Derek Romain, who noted the proposed penalties in the ordinance should be reduced.

Others - including Al Wright - questioned why rental property owners would be held to higher standards than other home owners.

"If we're worried about loss of life, if that's the case, then we need to do (inspections) to every house in the entire village," said Wright.

Marty Osentoski and Dan Haag weighted in on the matter and stated the ordinance as written is excessive.

"You can't put a price on human life," noted Osentoski, who pointed out there's a need for affordable housing in this town. Without it, the long-time local realtor feels renters will move to Caro or other neighboring communities that have no rental ordinances and cheaper rents.

"We're trying to keep our rents reasonable," chirped Haag.

Clarence "Bud" Schneberger, a Main Street businessman for 51 years, also chimed in on the discussion and said what the fire chief wants is unreasonable and that "we have enough ordinances already."

After 30 minutes of debate the council closed the public hearing voted to table the ordinance for 90 days.

Village Manager Peter Cristiano said tabling the ordinance will allow village officials to meet with a landlord committee to review what needs to be done.

"There is a huge difference in the ordinance and what the chief wants," commented Jim Heiser, a former village council trustee. "If you haven't had talks between the 2 groups, you probably should."

Armed robbery

Continued from page one.

male, 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 8 inches tall with a medium to husky build. He was wearing a black ski mask, black hoodie, black jeans and shoes, and dark colored gloves. Deputies noted the suspect's jeans had embroidery on the back pockets.

"The suspect entered the store and brandished a black handgun. He then fled the scene on foot," Siemen said. "It is believed that a second person involved used a grey in color SUV or crossover-type vehicle to help the suspect flee. The second person is believed to be a female. She was described by witnesses as a heavy set white female with sandy colored hair, approximately in her 30s."

Anyone with information related to the crime is asked to call the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department at (810) 648-2000.

Michigan State Police troopers and officers from the Sandusky and Peck police departments assisted deputies at the scene.



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November 8th
12 p.m. - 7 p.m.

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Cass City Area Church Directory

Anchor Cove Outreach Church
201 E. Sanilac Rd.
Caro, MI 48723
989-672-2262
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: Rev. Steve Bagnall
www.goodshepherdlutherancasscity.webs.com

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

**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. 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

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 Karowski
Website: www.lwccog.net

Visitors always welcomed... Please join us today!



LAUREN HUDSON (center) dressed as The Hobbit, while Page Hudson (right) came to the local AAUW Halloween Carnival as Abbey Bominable. (See story, page 9)

Races set for Nov. 6 ballot in county

Continued from page one.

named staff attorney and deputy friend of the court. She currently serves as the Tuscola County Friend of the Court and staff attorney.

Sheriff

Incumbent Republican Sheriff Lee Teschendorf will square off against Democratic challenger C h r i s R o g n e r, currently a T u s c o l a C o u n t y Sheriff's deputy.



Lee Teschendorf

Teschendorf has served with the department for 39 years in various roles, including road patrol deputy, shift sergeant and lieutenant/jail administrator. He has a degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University.

Rogner has served as a sheriff's deputy for the past 14 years. He also served for more than 2 years with the Wayne County and Detroit



Chris Rogner

Metro police departments. He is a graduate of the Oakland Police Academy.

Register of Deeds

Voters in August narrowed a field of 4 candidates down to 2 individuals seeking to be the county's next register of deeds.

Vying for the seat in the general election are Republican John Bishop and Democrat J. Warren Taylor. Incumbent Republican Dan Grimshaw stepped down to seek election to the 84th District seat in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Unopposed seats

Several county officials are running unopposed in the general election, including Prosecutor Mark E. Reene, who fended off a challenge from fellow Republican Pamela Stefan in the August primary election.

Chief Deputy Tuscola County Clerk Jodi Fetting, meanwhile, is poised to serve as the county's next clerk. Barring a successful write-in campaign, Fetting, a Republican, will fill a vacancy left by the retirement of Clerk Margie White after 20 years of service.

Fetting has served in the clerk's office for nearly 4 years and was promoted to deputy clerk nearly 2 years ago.

Also running unopposed for 4-year terms next week are county Treasurer Pat Donovan-Gray and Drain Commissioner Robert Mantey.

Commissioners

The following candidates are seek-

ing seats on the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners:

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

•District 2 Commissioner Thom Bardwell, also running on the Republican ticket, ran unopposed in primary but faces Democrat Ricky A. Jonas in the general election. The district is comprised of the city of Caro and the townships of Almer, Ellington, Novesta and Kingston.

•District 3 Commissioner Tom Kern, Democrat, opted not to seek reelection. Vying for his seat are newcomers Lynne L. Staples, a Democrat, and Republican Christine Trisch. The district is composed of Indianfields, Wells, Fremont, Dayton and Koylton townships.

•District 4 Commissioner-elect Craig W. Kirkpatrick, a Republican, defeated challenger Douglas DuRussel in the primary election. Incumbent Roy Petzold did not seek reelection.

The district is comprised of Tuscola, Arbela, Millington and Watertown townships.

•District 5 Commissioner candidates Matthew Bierlein and Democrat John L. Schlict will square off next week. Bierlein defeated challenger Judy Adams in the primary election. Incumbent Commissioner Jerry Peterson opted not to seek reelection.

The district is composed of the city of Vassar along with Denmark, Juniata and Vassar townships.

Brown, Canfield and Grimshaw set for battle in the 84th District

Continued from page one.

of false allegations against several Huron County officials and residents. The state police closed the case after finding no wrongdoing on the part of the accused individuals, including Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson, who unsuccessfully tried to have criminal charges authorized against the freshman lawmaker for making false accusations. Huron County Republican Party officials subsequently cut off ties to Damrow.

Brown, a Pigeon native, previously

served 2 terms as 84th District state representative, from 2006 through 2010, before Damrow narrowly defeated him 2 years ago. The husband and father of 3 is a business owner and ordained minister who has been active in a host of organizations, including the Huron County Council for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect, and the Homeless Coalition in Huron County.

Grimshaw, a graduate of the University of Michigan-Flint has served as Tuscola County Register of Deeds since 2008. He established Mid State Title Services in 1996 and

has been involved with several agencies and boards, including Tuscola County Behavioral Health Systems, Vassar Public Schools, Vassar Rotary Club, Tuscola Holiness Association, and the Michigan Association of Register of Deeds.

Canfield has lived and worked in Sebawaing for nearly 20 years with his wife and 4 children. He served in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman for 5 years and has been active in the Sebawaing Rotary Club and Michigan Osteopathic Association, and is a director on the board for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Races on tap

Novesta voters to decide millage

By Tom Montgomery
Editor

Voters in Novesta Township will decide races for supervisor, treasurer and clerk during the Tuesday, Nov. 6, general election.

Residents will also decide a millage request for road improvements.

Vying for the office of township supervisor are Ralph Zinnecker, Wade Kappen and David Field, none of whom are affiliated with any party. Likewise, Valerie Peters and Danielle Dickson are both seeking the treasurer's seat with no party affiliation. There are 3 candidates for a pair of trustee seats — Incumbent Democrat Marlene Sieradzki and challengers Robert Dickson and David Little. Neither Dickson nor Little specified a party affiliation.

Voters are being asked to approve a one-mill tax for 3 years, from 2012 through 2014, to pay for various road upgrades, including ditching, graveling and paving projects.

If approved, the levy would cost the owner of a \$60,000 home about \$30 more in taxes annually.

According to township Supervisor Dale Churchill, the additional millage is necessary if officials are going to make any headway in keeping up with road repairs.

The township has 69.79 mills of public roadway, with Tuscola County responsible for 14 miles of "primary" roads and the township responsible for the remainder.

"Of the 55.77 miles (remaining),

there are 15.77 miles of pavement and 40 miles of gravel," Churchill noted.

He said the average cost for one mile of pavement adds up to \$61,167. "Per the Tuscola County Road Commission's 2012...data, Novesta Township has 6 miles of local asphalted roadway that is rated poor and needs recovering," he added. "In 2012, Novesta Township will spend \$59,580 to resurface one mile of Kelly Road. The one-mill road millage in effect now will raise approximately \$34,379 this fiscal year. That (leaves) \$25,201 that needs to come from the general fund to pay off the one mile of resurfacing."

Churchill said all other funds the township spends on roads has to come out of the general fund with the exception of a credit of \$27,500 from the road commission for approved road projects.

"In our current fiscal year, Novesta Township budgeted \$89,438 for local roads," he said. With the (road commission) credit, the township and county will spend approximately \$110,938, with \$6,000 left for emergency repairs for a total of \$116,938 designated to local roads. These funds are also used for dust control, roadside mowing, gravel, culvert replacement and minor ditching.

"The extra one mill being asked for will raise approximately \$31,757 in the first year. Combining the 2 mills together will cover the cost of resurfacing just one mile of asphalt."

Township hopes to shift zoning work

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Officials in Huron County's Brookfield Township area asking voters to support a local amendment that would allow Huron County officials to handle the township zoning issues.

The request, which would repeal the Brookfield Township Zoning Ordinance, will be on the Tuesday, Nov. 6, general election ballot.

"Earlier this year, the Brookfield Township Board voted to relinquish the township's zoning authority to Huron County," said township board member Ervin Haley, Sebawaing. "This decision wasn't taken lightly, and a lot of thought and discussion went into this decision."

"There were 2 issues driving the decision," Haley explained. "Brookfield Township is in violation of the Michigan Zoning and Enabling Act, leaving the township open to lawsuits, (and) Huron County has more expertise in complex zoning issues, which in turn will protect Brookfield Township residents."

Haley said the board considered a number of factors before proposing the change.

"Since last year the township has been unable to fill vacancies on the township planning commission. It is required by the Michigan Zoning and Enabling Act that the planning commission be in place and active, (but) those positions are still vacant," he noted.

In addition, the township's planning commission is out of compliance

with state law because it has no current by-laws, has no chairperson or secretary, is short by one member, is short by one ex-officio township board member, and has no zoning board of appeals, which requires 3 more members.

The bottom line, Haley said, is "The current planning commission was unable to make decisions and the township board voted to move the zoning authority of Brookfield Township to Huron County."

The township board subsequently held a public hearing on the issue and then went to the county planning commission, which also held a public hearing and approved the township's request. The Huron County Board of Commissioners also approved the measure, which will now be decided by voters next week.

"The township board's vote turning zoning over to Huron County eliminates the risk of lawsuits due to the townships non-compliance with the Michigan Zoning and Enabling Act and also seriously reduces the risks associated with complex zoning issues, like wind energy," Haley said.

Brookfield Township isn't alone in looking to the county, according to Haley, who said Sebawaing Township officials have taken the same steps even though that township was in compliance with state zoning laws.

"We will not lose anything," Haley said. "In fact, we have much to gain. We currently pay taxes to support Huron County, which includes planning and zoning. Huron County has the expertise to deal with complex zoning issues."

Races scheduled in O-G and Kingston

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Cass City voters will not only help to decide a host of local, state and national races in next week's general election, they'll also fill several board of education seats in area districts.

The election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 6. Polls will open at 7 a.m. and remain open until 8 p.m.

In the Cass City School District, 2 newcomers — Janie Meeker and Jeff Loomis — are seeking a pair of available 4-year terms on the school board.

Incumbent Kathy Leslie opted not to seek reelection, and former board member Jim Veneziano left the district last month, just shy of completing his first 4-year term. The board recently appointed Chad Kreeger to complete Veneziano's term.

In other area school systems:

•Newcomer L. Phillips is challenging a pair of incumbents for one of 2 expiring 4-year terms on the Kingston Board of Education. The incumbents are Eugene "Tip" MacGuire and Anthony Goss.

•In the Owen-Gage School District, there are 2, 4-year terms and 4, 2-year terms expiring on the school board.

Seeking the 4-year terms are incumbents Dan Warack and Julie Good, and challenger Adam Harp. Good was previously appointed to the board to fill a vacancy. Running for the 2-year terms are Matthew Roemer, Tom Jeffrey and Sarah Ondrajka — all appointed to the board to fill vacancies — and newcomer Terry Fahrner.

Incumbent board member Deb Quick is not seeking re-election.

Absentee ballots now available

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

For area residents unable to make it to their polling places next week, there's still time to obtain an absentee ballot to participate in the Tuesday, Nov. 6, general election.

Pre-printed absentee ballot application forms are available from city or township clerks upon request. Application forms are also available on the Michigan Secretary of State Bureau of Elections website at www.Michigan-gov/elections.

If you want an absentee ballot mailed, your application must be received by 2 p.m. the Saturday before the election (Nov. 3). A voter eligible to vote by absentee ballot may also vote in person at the clerk's office anytime up to 4 p.m. the day before the election.

Absentee ballots are available to those citizens who:

- Are unable to attend the polls without assistance.
- Are age 60 or older.
- Expect to be absent from their city or township for the entire time the polls are open (7 a.m. to 8 p.m.) on election day.
- Are in jail, awaiting arraignment or trial.
- Have been assigned to work as a precinct inspector in a precinct other than where they are registered, or
- Are unable to attend the polls because of religious beliefs.

More information regarding absentee ballots and locations of local polling places is available by contacting your township clerk.

Clerks in the Cass City area include: Elkland Township — Ed LaBelle, (989) 872-3786; Ellington Township — Fred Bardwell, (989) 673-3253; Elmwood Township — Amy Lowman, (989) 872-1142; Kingston Township — Carrie Gilley, (989) 683-2113; Koylton Township — James Borek, (989) 761-7498; Novesta Township — Joanne Tauber, (989) 670-2943; and Wells Township — Karen Varney, (989) 673-4481.

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Thumb residents net federal energy grants

Several Thumb area residents will share in more than \$16 million worth of federal grants for projects designed to boost renewable energy production and reduce energy consumption.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced funding for 244 projects nationwide that are focused on helping agricultural producers

and rural small businesses reduce energy consumption and costs, and use renewable energy technologies in their operations.

The funding was made available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

The Michigan recipients, their grant

amounts and their projects include: John Gillig of Decker in Sanilac County, \$9,862 for installation of a geothermal system; Mark Fischer of Unionville in Tuscola County, \$26,400 for installation of a solar array system; Franklin Farms, Inc. of Marlette in Sanilac County, \$19,900 for installation of a solar array system; Dwight Bartle of Brown City in

Sanilac County, \$19,900 for installation of a solar array system; Loren Iseler of Peck in Sanilac County, \$31,625 for installation of a solar array system; Duane Nitz of Sebawaing in Huron County, \$11,272 for installation of a geothermal system; Sheridan Farms, Ltd. of Fairgrove in Tuscola County, \$20,000 for installation of a solar array system; Paul Hawken of Vassar in Tuscola County, \$11,916 for installation of a geothermal system; Kenneth Landsburg of Sandusky in Sanilac County, \$47,563 for installa-

tion of a solar array system; and Helm Electric, Inc. of Reese/Saginaw County, \$13,222 for installation of a solar array system.

"As part of President Obama's 'all of the above' strategy, USDA has partnered with thousands of America's farmers, ranchers and rural businesses to help them save energy and improve their bottom line," Vilsack said. "This effort is helping to provide stable energy costs that create an environment for sustainable job growth in rural America."

SHERIFF LEE TESCHENDORF RESPONDS...

Dear Tuscola County Citizens,

I would like to address some of the recent issues raised by my opponent in the upcoming sheriff's election.

#1. MY OPPONENT HAS STATED I AM RECEIVING A FULL RETIREMENT AND PAY AT THE EXPENSE OF COUNTY TAXPAYERS.

I am drawing a retirement under the county plan. After 35 years of service I had reached the limit for benefits and retired with a fixed year benefit plan. Whether I started drawing four years ago, or four years from now it will last for the allowed number of years. There is no expense to the county taxpayer since it is paid by an independent retirement fund. This plan was selected since it will allow my earned benefit to transfer to my daughter's trust fund for her care after her mother and I are gone.

Additionally I am no longer eligible to build any additional retirement benefit which will save taxpayer dollars since the county no longer has to contribute to the retirement fund on my behalf.

#2. MY OPPONENT HAS STATED I HAVE "TURNED A BLIND EYE" TO ALLEGATIONS OF EMPLOYEE MISCONDUCT.

Every report or complaint of illegal, improper or inappropriate behavior has been investigated by our supervisory staff. When necessary some have been referred to the county personnel director, county attorney or county prosecutor. In every case that warranted disciplinary or legal action it has been done. These actions, other than criminal prosecution are not public information and the matters are resolved between my office, the county personnel office or prosecutor and the employee.

#3. MY OPPONENT HAS MADE AN ISSUE OF MY DRIVING A COUNTY VEHICLE.

The sheriff has been issued a county vehicle as benefit of the position for over 50 years. I am very aware of the cost to the taxpayer regarding this benefit and do not take advantage of this vehicle. Even though I have never been required to I often put fuel in it at my own expense to offset the very small amount of personal driving I use it for. In addition this vehicle has been used for patrol, picking up lost/stolen property, special events and is available for any purpose at any time.

If you have any questions on these or any other issues contact me at my home 989-673-4739, my office 989-673-8161 Ext 2224, or email lctesch@centurytel.net.

Sincerely,
Sheriff Leland Teschendorf

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Leland Teschendorf, Tuscola County Sheriff - 1061 W. Northwood Drive, Caro, MI 48723

No treats for those who drink and drive

Dressing like a zombie, ghost or pirate won't help drunk drivers disguise themselves from law enforcement officers this Halloween as more than 60 agencies in 15 counties will be conducting extra patrols through Oct. 31.

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) is coordinating the effort supported by federal traffic safety funds. Last year, officers arrested 261 drunk drivers the weekend prior to Halloween, Oct. 28-30, and 99 of those motorists had a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .17 or higher.

"Unfortunately, spooky costumes aren't the scariest things about the holiday anymore," said OHSP Director Michael L. Prince. "It's the fact that too many drivers don't plan ahead before they start drinking and make the roads dangerous for others."

Eleven people died in traffic crashes Oct. 28-30, 2011, and 2 of those deaths involved alcohol. Five

motorists who died were unbuckled, while 2 were pedestrians.

A motorist convicted of drunk driving can expect to face serious consequences including:

- Up to 93 days in jail
- Up to a \$500 fine
- Up to 360 hours of community service
- 180 days driving suspension
- Six points on a driver's license

In addition, they will be subject to a \$1,000 fee for 2 consecutive years, for a total of \$2,000 in additional costs. Anyone who refuses a breath test the first time is given an automatic one-year driver's license suspension.

Motorists face enhanced penalties if arrested for a first-time drunk driving offense with a .17 BAC or higher, including increased fines, longer jail time, a one-year license suspension and the possibility of a restricted driver's license with the use of a breath alcohol ignition interlock device.

Novesta Township Trustee Elect Bob Dickson

Bob Dickson has taken two land division courses and also has taken a course in Township planning. Bob Dickson attended numerous seminars dealing with Constitutional issues. Bob Dickson has studied the laws dealing with township issues and continues to study. Bob Dickson believes in and supports private property rights and the constitution. Bob Dickson believes in smaller less intrusive government



- Chris has been employed 14+ years as a Deputy Sheriff in Tuscola County and 2+ years with Wayne County and Detroit Metro Police. He is a graduate of Oakland Police Academy with a degree in Criminal Justice from Oakland Community College. F.O.P. and POAM member and has been an officer in both organizations. Has over 10 years management experience in the retail, wholesale and manufacturing sectors.
- He and his wife Candy have been together more than 13 years. They live with their children on the family farm (Chris is fifth generation Rogner in the Reese area).
- Chris is a life-long and pro-life Christian with a strong moral compass, involved in his church and in his community on a day-to-day basis.
- He strongly supports the Constitution, including the second amendment, and is a life NRA member.
- Chris is also life OATH Keeper member.
- He believes in supporting local businesses and the farming community.
- He believes that cops are subject to all the same laws as everyone, in fact should hold to a higher standard.



Chris believes that:
Some Progressive Departments in the state are utilizing many contemporary tools to improve effectiveness without adding taxes. Tuscola County needs to study, consider and utilize some of these methods.



Endorsed by:

Tuscola County Road
Patrol Deputies
Bargaining Unit

&

Tuscola County
Corrections
Deputies

Current Sheriff is currently receiving a full retirement income in addition to full salary at the expense of Tuscola County taxpayers.

Paid for by the committee to Elect Chris Rogner Sheriff

Klenky Planning Consulting is currently developing Elkland Township's 20-year Master Plan.

We would like to remind everyone to use their democratic voice and vote on November 6, 2012.

After you cast your vote, please join us in the lot across from the VFW on the corner of Veterans and Church to fill out a community survey and pick up some light refreshments.



ELLA STEADMAN awaits her turn at the putt putt golf station during the annual Cass City/Thumb Area Branch of the American Association of University Women's (AAUW) Halloween Carnival, held Thursday at Cass City Elementary School. Organizers say this year's event drew a record crowd of more than 300 people.

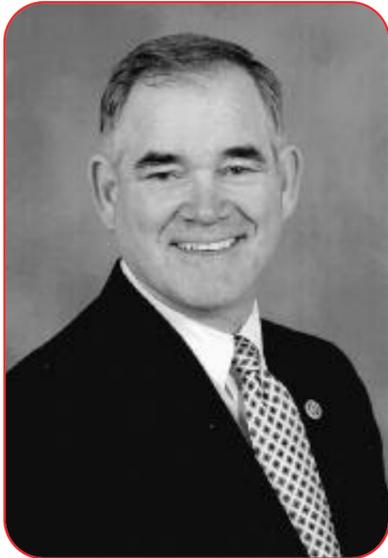
Vote for

www.edwardcanfield.com

★★★★★
Edward J. Canfield
★★★★★

Independent Candidate

Michigan House of Representatives



*Don't vote straight ticket!
Vote for a person not a party.*

**Husband and Father
Veteran US Navy
Business Owner
Physician**

"I will work hard to improve our economy by developing innovative ideas to bring new jobs to our area through use of the rich resources we have in the Thumb. I will continue to help reform healthcare and remove governmental restrictions. I have experience, knowledge, and am ready to work hard to tackle these issues."

An Independent Voice for the Thumb!



- Supports:**
-Pro life
-2nd Amendment
-Education
-Small Business
-Healthcare

"Let's put a DOCTOR in the HOUSE!"

Paid for by the committee to elect Edward J. Canfield 933 E. Main St. Sebawaing, MI 48759.

Crowds flock to AAUW's annual Halloween event

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Area residents may not know what AAUW stands for, but if you have a child in school or have been to Cass City's Fourth of July celebration, chances are good you're familiar with some of the group's contributions to the community.

You might also have enjoyed the organization's popular annual Halloween Carnival, which this year drew a record crowd.

More than 300 people attended Thursday's carnival, held at Cass City Elementary School, according to Judy Brown, who has chaired the event the past few years for the Cass City/Thumb Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

"The family event, designed for students 12 and under, found many students coming dressed in costume while being accompanied by parents, grandparents and other family members," Brown said. "Excitement filled the air as students participated in Creepy Creek, Stomp, Plinko, putt putt golf and a variety of other games. The fish pond and 'sucker pumpkins' were popular as students walked away with sweet treats and other treasures. The face painting station was also kept busy."

In its second year of partnering with the AAUW, the local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts operated the carnival spook house, probably the event's most popular attraction. "This gave scouts and their parents an opportu-

nity to provide a service activity while generating a little revenue to cover their costs," Brown noted.

"The activity is yet another example of the volunteerism that is very much alive in Cass City," Brown said. "Volunteers from AAUW operated the carnival, while several junior and senior high school students assisted in setup and running games. Without their assistance and the support of the Cass City Public Schools, this event would not be possible."

The preliminary numbers showed AAUW netted about \$500 from this year's carnival.

"Proceeds from the event will be used to fund the AAUW's annual RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) book distribution — all first and second grade students receive new books 3 times a year," Brown said. "In addition, the organization used the money to help fund educational programs for Cass City Public Schools as well as the annual AAUW Paint-In held in conjunction with Cass City's annual Freedom Festival."

The local AAUW branch was founded nearly 48 years ago on Dec. 9, 1964. Formerly known as the Cass City AAUW, branch officials changed the name a few years ago to recognize the regional nature of the group's membership, with women joining from towns throughout the Thumb area.

The AAUW's mission is to "Advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."

Judge Amanda
Roggenbuck
our Probate Judge

**On November 6,
vote to keep
Judge Amanda
Roggenbuck**



Judge Amanda
Roggenbuck
our Probate Judge

Paid for by Friends of Judge Amanda Roggenbuck, PO Box 103, Fairgrove, MI 48733

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**Novesta Township Treasurer
Elect Danielle Dickson**

Danielle Dickson is a graduate of Baker College and earned her degree in business administration, majoring in business management.

Her training includes fundamentals in accounting and electronic spreadsheets. Danielle Dickson earned the "Best Government Student Award" in her senior year at Cass City High School. Danielle was raised in Novesta Township on her parents' farm. Danielle believes in smaller less regulating and controlling government.

Danielle believes in and supports private property rights. Danielle also believes in and supports the Constitution.

Vote for Danielle Dickson Novesta Township Treasurer on Nov. 6.

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LOUNSBURY IS pictured above at a checkpoint with some members of the Afghanistan border police, and as he prepared to head out on patrol (photo top right).



Lounsbury serves in Afghanistan

Continued from page one.

regions. "For us, it was kind of mild," he recalled, adding he witnessed some poor attempts to injure U.S. soldiers by way of partially buried IEDs. "They tried to blow us up, but they were really bad at it," Lounsbury said.

As a result of his service, Lounsbury received several military decorations, including the Army Commendation Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with campaign star, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon and the NATO Medal for service and actions performed during his deployment, which began Jan. 3 and concluded Sept. 22.

Lounsbury has another 2 1/2 years of service left in his Michigan Army National Guard contract, but he indicated it's unusual for someone with a 6-year contract to serve more than one tour of duty overseas unless they request the duty.

For now, he's enjoying the process of settling in back home and getting back to work for Gohm Insurance Restoration in Saginaw, a company that specializes in cleaning up structures that have sustained fire, smoke, water and/or wind damage. Before joining Gohm about 3 years ago, Lounsbury spent 3 1/2 years teaching in the Saginaw Public Schools after earning his bachelor's degree in elementary education at Western Michigan University.

Lounsbury's plans for a career in education took a detour when he decided that teaching in an urban setting just wasn't for him.

"I got out (of college) about the time I thought I could get a teaching job anywhere, and that's when everybody was laying off," he recalled.

Lounsbury decided to explore other career options utilizing his interest in

journalism and his experience in writing and marketing during a 2-year stint working for the Saginaw Township Times and as a freelance author for some outdoor publications.

"I'm kind of a jack-of-all-trades (at Gohm). I do marketing — that's been my main focus, (but) I'm training for some new opportunities in the company," he said.



Making friends...

A GIFT FROM home — Lounsbury delivered some fun supplies to some of his Afghani neighbors, courtesy of a care package sent for local school children by his 11-year-old daughter, Madison.

Bedell nets 68 felony charges

Continued from page one.

least 3 prior felony convictions.

Bedell and Bickel were allegedly partners in crime, according to law enforcement officers from both Tuscola and Sanilac counties, who put an abrupt halt to the couple's crimes in late May. Investigators from the Sanilac County Drug Task Force, Tuscola and Sanilac County sheriff's departments, and the Kingston Police Department conducted a search of the pair's home in the 1400 block of Center Street in Snover. There, police recovered 5 truckloads of stolen property worth several thousand dollars.

Sanilac County Drug Task Force Director Bill Gray said Tuscola County law enforcement agencies had been investigating the burglaries for several months. The suspects, he noted, had been living in the 4500 block of Phillips Road in the Kingston area, but had moved to into a home in Snover.

"The burglaries were primarily tak-

ing place near midnight in Tuscola County at unoccupied vacation homes, hunting properties or recently foreclosed homes," he said. "Due to the suspects' move into Sanilac County in April of this year, the Tuscola County detectives...sought the assistance of the Sanilac County Drug Task Force for surveillance of the suspects."

During the 3-week surveillance, investigators confirmed the couple was going to multiple unoccupied homes that were later determined to have been burglarized.

When officers from both the Tuscola and Sanilac county agencies converged on the suspects' residence, Gray said, they found "a huge amount of stolen property, including a .22 caliber rifle, 2 log splitters, a Suzuki 4-wheeler, stove, refrigerator, 2 microwave ovens, television, 2 stereos, wood stove, BBQ grill, bed, VCR recorder and tapes, a large industrial air compressor, large amounts of hunting clothing and equipment, pop-up hunting blinds, law furniture, air conditioning unit, LP gas furnace and numerous other items.

"Both suspects admitted to numerous burglaries of unoccupied homes...and told investigators where most of the items had been stolen from. The suspects stated that they had restricted their burglary activity to Tuscola County even after moving into Sanilac County in hopes of avoiding the attention of the Sanilac County drug surveillance team," Gray said.

"They were certainly a 2-person crime wave. This went on for a long time," said Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark E. Reene, who noted the charges against both suspects cover break-ins that took place from June 2011 through May 2012 in Kingston and Wells townships.

"It was really good work by all the investigating agencies, and a good example of intra-agency cooperation," Reene added. "They did a very good job bringing this to an end."

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