

Memories make this home priceless

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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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75 CENTS ~ 14 PAGES



MARK HANSEN, who along with his wife, Patricia, serve as leaders of the Deford Dazzlers 4-H STEM Club, is pictured leading a "Biofuel Blast" 4-H program in this file photo. The Hansens are gearing up to complete some specialized training this week following the approval of Tuscola County MSU Extension/4-H to test Duke University's TechXcite Engineering program for youth in the coming months.

TechXcited

Tuscola 4-H youth selected to test Duke U science projects for kids

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Members of the Deford Dazzlers 4-H Club are pretty TechXcited about the latest slate of scientific experiments they have on tap for 2013.

And for good reason. The club, perhaps best known for its expertise in model rocketry, has been selected to participate in a university-developed engineering program that will expose its members to a variety of high-tech, hands-on projects starting this winter.

"Tuscola County MSU Extension/4-H has been approved as a testing site for the Duke University TechXcite Engineering program for youth," explained Mark Hansen, who along with his wife, Patricia, established and have served as leaders of the Deford Dazzlers, a 4-H STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) club.

"My wife and I will be taking our training in Grayling Wednesday, Jan. 9," Hansen added. "By agreeing to test the curriculum on our STEM club and evaluating the curriculum, make recommendations, etc., our kids will have the opportunity to

complete 10 awesome engineering/technological projects at no cost. The kits, with an average price of well over \$500 for up to 18 students, would be out of our funding range were it not for this opportunity.

"Our first project, The Bionic Arm, should be ready to debut this winter," he said.

Hansen lauded the efforts of Tuscola County MSU Extension officials Melissa Payk and Heather Middleton, who were successful in getting the club approved to test the Duke University curriculum.

TechXcite, an informal, project-based middle school engineering program, is the result of a partnership between Duke University's Pratt School of Engineering, the Department of 4-H Youth Development and Family & Consumer Sciences at North Carolina State University, National 4-H Council, and the National Science and Technology Education Partnership.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum is centered on 7

themes — wireless communication, biomedical technology, digital imaging, alternative energy, transportation, architecture and GIS/GPS. Each theme contains 2 modules with 4, 45-minute activities. The project-based activities introduce exciting technologies that children encounter in their everyday lives.

The Hansens are looking forward to being a part of the project along with their peers in other parts of the state.

"There are other counties in Michigan that were also approved (to test the TechXcite curriculum), so the exciting thing is that multiple youth from around the state will be getting involved in the project, and at a time when Michigan's funding for education is ebbing low, the costs are offset by Duke University, so we do not have a major expense in order to get involved," Hansen said.

"Once the curriculum is finalized and through its testing phase, Duke in conjunction with the National Science Foundation will make it available for purchase," he noted. "At that point, any 4-H club could do the projects."

Those projects include the first edu-
Please turn to page 6.

Flu activity widespread in Michigan

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The 2012-13 flu season is alive and kicking, according to Thumb area health department officials, who say the number of confirmed cases of influenza is climbing quickly in the region.

"There has been an increased number of Influenza A cases in Huron and Tuscola counties over the past 2 weeks," said Ann Hepfer, R.N., director of nursing at the Tuscola County Health Department.

"The estimated flu activity level in Michigan has been upgraded from 'regional' activity to the highest level of 'widespread' activity, reflecting continued increases statewide in laboratory-confirmed individual influenza cases and emergency department visits due to constitutional and respiratory complaints," Hepfer said, adding some individuals with Influenza A have required hospitalization.

"Common symptoms among these individuals have been fever/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue, and some people have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults," she continued.

Hepfer explained that flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by various influenza viruses that can cause mild to severe illness, complications, and even death. "The flu is much more serious than the common cold," she said.

Officials at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) again urged residents to get vaccinated Thursday after confirming the third flu-related death of a child this season in the state.

The latest victim was a 6-year-old child from southwest Michigan. The other flu-related deaths involved an infant, also in southwest Michigan, and a 13-year-old in mid-Michigan.

According to MDCH spokeswoman Angela Minicuci, the state had confirmed more than 250 cases of flu as of last week, up from just 4 cases in late December.

And, those are just the confirmed cases. Health officials say the numbers are likely much higher because some people don't seek medical help, and not all cases are reported.

Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that Michigan was one of 31 states experiencing widespread flu activity as early as late December.

Hepfer said residents can help to stop the spread of influenza by following some simple precautions:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Limit or restrict visitation with family members/friends outside of your household if you or they are ill.
- Limit or restrict visitation with family or friends in congregate settings (hospitals, nursing homes, adult foster care homes, assisted living facilities, etc.).
- If you or your child gets sick with a respiratory illness such as flu, limit contact with others as much as possible to help prevent spreading the illness. Stay home (or keep your child home) for at least 24 hours after fever is gone except to seek medical care or for other necessities. Fever should be gone without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

"If you haven't received your flu vaccination, there is still time to be vaccinated," Hepfer said. "According to national data, the current vaccine is a good match to these viruses."

Flu clinics are held at the Tuscola County Health Department on a walk-in basis, Monday through Friday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and from one to 3 p.m., or by appointment on other days of the week. The walk-in clinics are for adults.

More information is available by calling the Tuscola County Health Department (989) 673-8116.

Bauer was "a real promoter" of town

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

the mid-1950s and, after learning of the availability of federal dol-

Editor's note: The following is the second installment in a series of stories the Chronicle will be running this month in honor of the Cass City Chamber of Commerce's annual Citizen of the Year Award.

The program will mark its 50th year next month, when the community again gathers for the annual chamber banquet, highlighted by the presentation of the top citizen honor along with recognition of the community's Junior Citizen(s) of the Year. The 2013 banquet is slated for Saturday, Feb. 2, at Northwood Meadows in Cass City.



Lucile Bauer

Longtime Cass City residents say the efforts of a handful of "movers and shakers" in the community from an era long ago deserve the praise for many of the things local citizens enjoy today.

Take Hills and Dales General Hospital, for example. It was a local banker, the late Meredith Auten, who decided the town needed a modern hospital back in

lars, spearheaded a drive to raise a half-million dollars in local matching funds to build the facility.

Another resident, the late E.B. "Chick" Schwaderer, a major road contractor, installed most of the village's early storm and sanitary sewers. It was Schwaderer who Please turn to page 10.

From the archives...

Cass City native's major league legacy helped to shape baseball

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

In spite of the white landscape outdoors, die hard baseball fans aren't discouraged by the wait for next season because they know spring training is just around the corner.

What many area residents may not know is that one of Cass City's own native sons deserves the credit for some of the practices today's Major League Baseball players and fans take for granted year in and year out.

His name was Larry MacPhail, described as one of the sport's most colorful and successful personalities.

It was MacPhail, born Feb. 3, 1890, in an upstairs apartment in what is today the Osentoski Realty building along Cass City's Main Street, who

is credited with innovations such as nighttime baseball, regular game televising and the flying of teams between games.

An attorney, department store executive, team president and owner in Major League Baseball and, in retirement, a racehorse owner and breeder, MacPhail was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1978, 3 years after he died in October 1975 in Miami, Fla.

MacPhail's son, Lee MacPhail, was elected to the hall in 1998, making them the only father and son inductees. His other son, Bill MacPhail, was president of CBS Sports and later was president of CNN Sports. Larry's grandson, Andy MacPhail, is the former general manager of the Detroit Tigers.
Please turn to page 10.



Larry MacPhail



Historic home

Meg's Peg by Melva E. Guinther

Our house has been designated "An Historic Home." That sounds a bit grander than saying we live in a really old house.

Thanks to Jim Ware's research, we know it was built in 1882 by John and Delphine Johnson Leonard. Leonard was one of the first businessmen in the community, operating a livery stable, a stagecoach and the Tennant House, a hotel on the southwest corner of Main and Seeger streets. His parents emigrated from Ireland.

There's a lot more history between the construction and the day we purchased the house from Tom Arnott in 1967.

As fascinating as all of it is, I couldn't help thinking that a lot of our "family history" has taken place in this house in the past 45 years.

Our children were 5 and 6 years old when we moved here. Since then our family has included a succession of Sandy's cats. Fluffy was the last and stayed on with us after Sandy flew the coop. Our dogs included our St. Bernard, Samson, and Mark's Cocker Spaniel, Snoopy, who had his own unique character. Now, of course, we have Shadow, the German Shorthair/Lab mix who is my constant companion.

The house, with its 2 stairways, has been transformed into a spook house on occasion, with friends and relatives playing pretty authentic monsters along the pitch black path. It must have been effective. One girl told me much later that she was so scared she wet her pants.

Then there was the time when, in anticipation of remodeling the upstairs bathroom, we let the kids and all their friends write on the walls. If you peek above the lowered ceiling, some of it is still visible. These are special memories.

Christmas was always interesting in our old house. The trees we've brought into it are stories in themselves - those we had to fasten to the wall or prop up with a cement block wrapped up to look like a present. It hasn't been quite the same since we opted for an artificial tree.

We hosted a McConnell family Thanksgiving dinner here until the clan became too large to contain - 42 at the last feast here.

So many memories! The Itza ball games in the back yard Sunday afternoons. Even after all these years, when I hear the 5 o'clock whistle on Sunday, I still think "last play of the game." That's when the guys had to stop and get cleaned up for their church youth meeting.

More recently, our big old maple tree, which I think was a boundary in those games, was blown onto the house. The removal of that tree changed the landscape considerably, but at least we don't have as many leaves to rake in the fall.

This old house is certainly not as grand as it must have seemed in 1882, but if memories are worth anything, it's priceless.

J. Mulrath graduates from basic training



Jeffery Mulrath

Jeffery Mulrath recently graduated from basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Calif.

A 2010 Cass City High School graduate, he is the son of Jeffery and Alisa Mulrath of Cass City and Chuck and Julie Rowloff of Warren. He is the grandson of Pete and Sue Mulrath and Richard and Dawn Rick of Cass City.

In September, he completed a 13-week intense basic training program and is now in school for mechanized transportation in Missouri.



FOUR GENERATIONS of the Cleland family recently gathered for the holidays in Ubly. Pictured above are: (back row, from left) Judy Cleland of Ubly (grandmother), Jeff Doerr of Cass City (father), Savana Doerr of Cass City (daughter), (front row, from left) Velma Cleland of Ubly (great-grandmother), and Joshua Doerr of Cass City (son).



FOUR GENERATIONS of the Richards family are pictured above: (back row, from left) Russell Richards, a former Cass City High School principal; Steven Richards, a 1980 Cass City grad holding Harper Emily Thomas; (front row, from left) Harriet Richards; and Rachael Richards Thomas. Rachael is the mother of Harper Thomas and daughter of Steven Richards. Steven is the son of Harriet and Russell Richards. Harriet and Russell have 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Arbor Day Foundation offering 10 free trees

Residents of Michigan can ring in the New Year with 10 free flowering trees by joining the Arbor Day Foundation any time during January 2013.

By becoming a part of the non-profit Arbor Day Foundation, new members will receive 2 white flowering dogwoods, 2 flowering crabapples, 2 Washington hawthorns, 2 American redbuds and 2 goldenrain trees.

"These beautiful trees will give your home in Michigan lovely flowers with pink, yellow and white colors," said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "These trees are perfect for large and small spaces, and they will provide food and habitat for songbirds."

The free trees are part of the foundation's "Trees for America" campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between Feb. 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch tall trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members will also receive a subscription to the foundation's bi-monthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Flowering Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, Neb. 68410, by Jan. 31. Michigan residents can also join online at arborday.org/january.



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5	7	4	1	0	6	2	3	8
0	3	6	9	5	4	1	7	8
9	8	7	5	8	2	1	3	4
4	2	3	8	1	9	8	7	6
4	5	1	4	3	7	9	6	2
7	6	8	7	5	1	3	4	9
1	4	5	6	9	8	7	2	1
2	1	9	7	4	3	8	6	5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Wednesday, January 9

Spoonfuls of Plenty FREE Community Meal, 4-6 p.m., LeeRoy Clark Building, 435 Green St., Caro. Open to anyone wanting a hot, home-style meal.

Thursday, January 10

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.

Friday, January 11

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

Saturday, January 12

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

Thumb Dance Club, 7-11 p.m., Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., Sandusky. Everyone is welcome to attend. Admission: \$5 (members); \$6 (non-members). For more information, call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Monday, January 14

Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Uby. For more information, call Angela R. at (989) 658-2319.

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

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.

Elkland township Board meeting, 7 p.m.

VFW monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m., VFW Hall, Cass City.

Tuesday, January 15

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

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

Man faces sexual assault charges

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A Tuscola County man charged with sexually assaulting a child in Vassar Township faces a preliminary examination on 17 felony counts Monday morning in Tuscola County District Court.

Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies arrested Todd Allen Geisenhaver, 37, of Millington, early last week, and

the Tuscola County Prosecutor's Office authorized 5 counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct, which carries a maximum penalty of up to life in prison, and 12 counts of second degree criminal sexual conduct, also a felony punishable by a maximum of 15 years in prison.

"The conduct at issue occurred between November 2009 and December 2012 in the city of Vassar

and Vassar Township. The victim of the offenses was between 12 and 15 years of age when the crimes occurred," said Tuscola County Prosecutor Mark E. Reese, who noted Tuscola County Sheriff's Department is the lead investigator in the case.

Geisenhaver was arraigned last Wednesday by Magistrate Joseph A. Van Auken, who set the defendant's bond at \$80,000 (cash/surety).

Green's legislation is designed to strengthen rights of crime victims

The rights of crime victims in Michigan have been strengthened after legislation sponsored by state Sen. Mike Green was signed into law last week.

Senate Bill 1211, now Public Act 564 of 2012, expanded the rights of crime victims by allowing them to present exhibits and other evidence when testifying at parole or commutation hearings. In addition to current parole hearing notifications, victims will now also be notified when a prisoner has applied for reprieve, commutation or pardon or has died while in custody.

Perhaps the most significant change requires that notifications of escapes from custody take place within 24 hours, providing victims with the ability to ensure their personal safety and security.

Green said the legislation was inspired by the personal story of a resident in his district who was savagely attacked in public by her estranged husband. Although the attacker was convicted and imprisoned, the victim and her family struggled to get information from state agencies on the status of his incarceration and his attempts to be released through commutation.

"Innocent victims of crime are now empowered with stronger rights and more information related to their attacker's incarceration," said Green. "This measure builds upon Michigan's legacy as a leader in crime victims' rights. Most importantly, it benefits the personal safety and peace of mind of those whose lives have been forever impacted by violent crime."

Attorney General Bill Schuette recommended enhancements to crime victims' rights as part of the comprehensive public safety plan he unveiled last year.

"Crime victims deserve the highest standards of fairness, respect, and dignity," said Schuette. "This new law will add more comfort for those who have already endured too much. I appreciate Lieutenant Governor Calley's support and the hard work

of Senator Mike Green in the fight to promote and defend the rights of crime victims across the state of Michigan."

In 1985, Michigan led the nation by enacting the William Van Regenmorter Crime Victims' Rights Act for victims of crime and juvenile

offenses. The law was named after its sponsor, a longtime legislator and champion of crime victims' rights. In 1988, Michigan voters also approved adding crime victims' rights language to the state constitution.

SB 1211 was signed into law by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley.

Dairy farmers approve statewide referendum

A statewide referendum of Michigan's grade "A" milk producers has resulted in the continuation of the Michigan Dairy Market Program.

Eligible milk producers recently voted on whether or not to prolong the program, which since 1983 has sought to promote the sale of Michigan milk and milk products, and to increase consumer knowledge and acceptance of milk products.

The state's dairy farmers passed the referendum overwhelmingly, with a 91 percent "yes" vote out of a total of 603 ballots cast. The 549 "yes" votes represent 2,775,896,230.55 pounds of annual milk production, or 89 percent of the production volume represented. The 54 producers who voted

'no' represent 349,501,836.83 pounds of milk, or 11 percent of the production volume represented.

Producers contribute an assessment of 10 cents per hundred pounds of milk to fund the program.

The program will continue for an additional 5 years beginning Jan. 1, 2013. Every 5 years it must be reaffirmed by grower approval. More than 50 percent of the producer votes cast (representing more than 50 percent of the total unit of measure represented on the cast ballots) must approve for the program to be renewed.


Michigan ranks ninth nationwide in milk production. Dairy is the largest component of the state's agriculture industry.

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Thank you

The family of Raymond Burleson would like to thank everyone who helped us through our loss of Ray.

Special thanks to Blaine, Shelley and Mike de-Beaubien, who were there for me from the first phone call and every step after.

Blaine, thank you also for your wonderful depiction of Ray's life. Taylor, Kelly Ouvry-Burleson and Aime who gave me great strength and support. My children and family for being there for me. Employees at MI Tech tooling for all they did.

Thanks to Officer Steve Repkie.

Thanks to Kranz Funeral Home for their helpfulness and direction.

Thank you Brad Speirs for your beautiful officiating and the touching comments about Ray, the ladies of Novesta Church of Christ for their luncheon. All who sent flowers, memorials, cards, prayers and words of encouragement.

Ray will be greatly missed. He was loved by so many.

*Thank you,
Kelly Woods Burleson
Taylor Burleson
Ray's family and friends*

Cass City Jr./Sr. High School 2012-13 Winter Sports Schedules

Support your favorite teams all season long with this guide to Cass City High School's big games!

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- Wrestling: Jan. 9 ~ Bad Axe/Marlette ~ 6 p.m., Jan. 16 ~ Sandusky ~ 6 p.m.
Girls' Basketball: Jan. 15 ~ USA ~ 6 p.m., Jan. 17 ~ Brown City ~ 6 p.m.
Gymnastics: Jan. 22 ~ Freeland ~ 6 p.m.
Boys' Basketball: Jan. 30 ~ Reese ~ 6 p.m.
Junior High Boys' Basketball: Jan. 14 ~ Memphis ~ 5:30 p.m., Jan. 16 ~ Vassar ~ 5:30 p.m.

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