

Sheriff: beware of thin ice on the bay

Page 4

Cass City FFAers shine at districts

Page 6

Local dialysis staff gives to thrift shop

Page 14

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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VOLUME 106, NUMBER 48

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013

75 CENTS - 14 PAGES

Crash claims woman

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Troopers from the Michigan State Police post in Caro are continuing their investigation into a 2-vehicle traffic crash that claimed the life of a young Cass City area woman over the weekend.

The victim was identified as Aleigh Kappen, 22.

The accident was reported at about 7:30 p.m. Saturday on Dickerson Road near McGregory Road in Tuscola County's Elmwood Township.

The crash involved a 1999 Chevrolet pickup truck driven by a 42-year-old Unionville area man and a Jeep Grand Cherokee driven by the victim, according to preliminary reports, which indicate it appears one of the drivers may have lost control, crossed the road center line and struck the other vehicle. Troopers said the pickup was traveling westbound and the Grand Cherokee was eastbound on Dickerson Road when the collision occurred.

Troopers said it appears that the victim, a 2009 Cass City High School graduate, was not wearing a seatbelt. She was airlifted to St. Mary's Medical Center in Saginaw, where she died a short time later.

Fire fighters extracted the other driver from his pickup truck, according to reports, which state he suffered a leg injury and was transported by MMR Ambulance personnel to Covenant Hospital in Saginaw for treatment. His name was not released.

Troopers are asking anyone who may have witnessed or came upon Please turn to page 9.



Country roads, take me home...

MICHIGAN'S THUMB escaped the big winter blast that hit the East Coast, but snowfall amounts locally were in the 8-to-10-inch range Thursday and Friday, closing a host of schools and canceling activities throughout the region. The coating left Cass City area residents with a variety of picturesque winter scenes to enjoy.

Deputies say Michigan man is dangerous, on the loose

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Sanilac County Sheriff Garry Biniecki recently issued an alert asking Thumb area residents to be on the lookout for a man law enforcement officials consider to be dangerous.

Biniecki is asking citizens to contact police if they see a 2004 maroon Ford Taurus with a Michigan registration of OKUR05.

"The vehicle is possibly occupied by a white male, Daniel J. Myers, 47 years old, 6 feet 2 inches tall and 210 pounds. The subject was involved in a state police incident where Myers led them on a vehicle chase in a stolen car in the Argyle area. He then fled and is believed to be in the Taylor, Mich., area," Biniecki said.

"Myers is believed to be involved in several violent incidents spanning areas of southern Michigan, and may be headed back to the Sandusky or Argyle areas," the sheriff added. "He is to be considered dangerous."

Anyone with information on Myers' location or who observes the vehicle is asked to call 911, the Michigan State Police, sheriff's department or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAKUP for a possible reward.



Daniel Myers

No contest Snover woman pleads in midnight burglary spree

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A former Kingston woman charged in connection with a year-long midnight burglary spree in Kingston and Wells townships in Tuscola County has entered pleas to 6 felony counts.

Lorrie A. Bickel, 42, entered pleas of no contest to 4 counts of breaking and entering a building with intent to commit larceny, one count of second degree home invasion and one count of larceny in a building last week in Tuscola County Circuit Court.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case and Bickel's bond was continued at \$5,000. A sentencing date is to be scheduled.

Bickel and her co-defendant, Brian Bedell, were initially arraigned on dozens of charges stemming from crimes that took place between June 2011 and May 2012.

The Snover area pair were partners in crime, according to law enforcement officers from both Tuscola and

Sanilac counties, who put an abrupt end to the couple's crime 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 their home in the 1400 block of Center Street in Snover. There, police recovered 5 truckloads of stolen property worth several thousand dollars.

Then-Sanilac County Drug Task Force Director Bill Gray said

Tuscola County law enforcement agencies had been investigating the burglaries for several months.

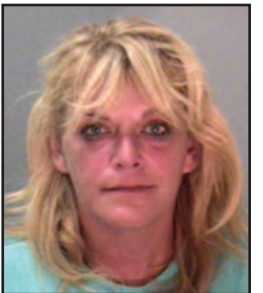
The suspects, he noted, had been living in the 4500 block of Phillips Road in the Kingston area, but had moved into a home in Snover.

"The burglaries were primarily taking place near midnight in Tuscola County at unoccupied vacation homes, hunting properties or recently foreclosed homes," Gray said. "Due to the suspects' move into Sanilac County in April, 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, they found a large stash of stolen property, including a .22 caliber rifle, 2 log splitters, a Suzuki 4-wheeler, a stove, refrigerator, 2 microwave ovens, television, 2 stereos, a wood stove, BBQ grill, bed, VCR and tapes, a large industrial air compressor, large amounts of hunting clothing and equipment, pop-up hunting blinds, lawn furniture, an air conditioning unit and an LP gas furnace.

"Both suspects admitted to numerous burglaries of unoccupied Please turn to page 6.



Lorrie Bickel

Plan doesn't affect packages, P.O. boxes

Saturday mail delivery ends in August

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The U.S. Postal Service's recent announcement that Saturday mail delivery will come to an end in August will affect Cass City customers, but no more than those in any other part of the country.

"Locally, it's pretty much going to be the same here. There's nothing locally that's going to be any different than anywhere else," said Cass City Postmaster Chuck Walkowiak. While the postal service will no longer be delivering door-to-door on city and rural routes on Saturdays, he added, Cass City customers will still be able to receive mail on Saturdays if they wish.

"Post office boxes will still be delivered on Saturdays," he said, noting the Cass City Post Office's business hours for Saturdays will remain unchanged at 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., with the post office box lobby open from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The postal service last week announced plans to transition to a new delivery schedule nationwide during the week of Aug. 5, 2013, that

includes package delivery Monday through Saturday, and mail delivery Monday through Friday.

Officials said they are projecting the reduction in hours will generate a cost savings of some \$2 billion annually once the plan is fully implemented.

"The postal service is advancing an important new approach to delivery that reflects the strong growth of our package business and responds to the financial realities resulting from America's changing mailing habits," Patrick R. Donahoe, postmaster general and CEO stated in a news release. "We developed this approach by working with our customers to understand their delivery needs and by identifying creative ways to generate significant cost savings."

Over the past several years, the postal service has advocated shifting to a 5-day delivery schedule for mail and packages. However, recent strong growth in package delivery — a 14-percent volume increase since 2010 — and projections of continued strong package growth throughout the coming decade led to the revised

approach to maintain package delivery 6 days per week.

"Our customers see strong value in the national delivery platform we provide and maintaining our 6-day delivery schedule for packages is an important part of that platform," Donahoe said. "As consumers increasingly use and rely on delivery services, especially due to the rise of e-commerce, we can play an increasingly vital role as a delivery provider of choice, and as a driver of growth opportunities for America's businesses."

Market research conducted by the postal service and independent research by major news organizations indicated that nearly 7 out of 10 Americans (70 percent) supported Please turn to page 9.

Trial set for suspect in "bath salts" sting

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A Bad Axe man accused of supplying Thumb residents with bath salts as well as manufacturing the popular but dangerous designer drugs will have his day in court this summer.

A jury trial has been scheduled to begin June 11 for the defendant, Robert D. Alent, 48, who last week stood mute to 8 felony counts during his arraignment in Huron County Circuit Court.

Alent is charged with 3 counts of delivery of illegal drugs, 3 counts of possession of a controlled substance, and 2 counts of maintaining a drug house at his residence and at his place of business — Maple Lane Discount, also in Bad Axe.

Alent remains free on a \$6,000 cash bond.

The charges stem from a lengthy investigation into Alent's alleged manufacturing and sale of bath salts. The probe came to a head in late September, when Huron County Sheriff's deputies, assisted by the Bad Axe Police Please turn to page 9.



Anniversary bash!

ABOUT 60 community members turned out Saturday for the 60th anniversary celebration at Erla's Foods in Cass City. Above, village President Carl Palmateer presents a certificate recognizing the anniversary to Erla's co-owner Madhavi Ganga (center) and store Manager Kathy Bock.

Aqil receives National Certification in Hospice and Palliative Care

Ashad Aqil, M.D., of Caro, has received National Certification in Hospice and Palliative Care through the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is the organization that formally recognizes specialties in medicine and confers specialty status, such as hospice and palliative care. Although certification is sought and earned by physicians on a voluntary basis, it is widely recognized by government, health care systems, insurers and patients themselves as an essential tool to judge that a physician has the knowledge, experience and skills for providing quality healthcare within a given specialty. It is considered the gold standard because of its unique physician-directed approach for assessing

qualifications.

ABMS approved the creation of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM) as a sub-specialty in 2006. Physicians who choose to become certified in HPM are formally showing their commitment to providing quality care in assessing and managing the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of patients and families facing life-limiting illness.

Dr. Aqil graduated from Dow Medical College in Pakistan in 1990 and completed his fellowship training in geriatric medicine at the University of Louisville, Ky. in 2005. He first started practicing medicine at Hills and Dales Hospital in Cass City in 1996. He worked there for 8 years before opening his own practice in Caro in 2005. He is board certified by the American

Board of Internal Medicine as well as in geriatric medicine.

In addition to his private practice in Caro, Dr. Aqil is the medical director for the Tuscola County Medical Care Facility in Caro.

Hrabec earns secondary ed. degree from Grand Valley



Allison Hrabec

Allison Hrabec, a 2008 graduate of Davison Schools, recently graduated from Grand Valley State University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in secondary education. She is certified to teach mathematics and chemistry.

Allison is currently employed by Mt. Morris Schools.

Allison is the daughter of Jim and Diane Hrabec.

Senior Citizen Movies on tap at Rawson Memorial

Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City will show the following Senior Citizen Movies Friday, Feb. 15, at 1:30 p.m.

The Lone Wolverine I: This DVD brings to vivid life Jeff Ford's search for a wild wolverine in its natural habitat, Michigan's Thumb. Recounting years of study, this film showcases Ford's 2005 video footage and commentary about his search for the lone wolverine of the Thumb. (45 minutes).

Christmas in Switzerland: Travel to Switzerland to bask in the glow of a Swiss-style Christmas at some of the country's best Christmas Markets. Visit a Christmas ornament artist, sample Swiss culinary specialties, journey to old St. Nick's village, have a close encounter with Father Christmas and his trusty companion the Schmutzli, who's been checking his list to find out who's been naughty or nice. A full slate of holiday fun for all! (25 minutes)

Refreshments will be served. This Older Adult Program is offered free of charge.

Historical society invites public to attend "A Night at the Cass"

The Cass City Area Historical & Genealogy Society invites the public to attend "A Night at the Cass", Monday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.

Theatre, 6464 Main St., and will highlight the history of Cass City's playhouses and theaters. The public is welcome to attend this free event.

For more information, contact Rawson Memorial District Library at (989) 872-2857.

The program, presented by Tyler Perry, will be held at the Cass

Engaged



Natalie Eggleton and Daniel Hrabec

Natalie Eggleton of Midland and Daniel Hrabec of Davison announce their engagement.

Natalie is the granddaughter of John and Diane Popp of Midland. Daniel is the son of Jim and Diane (Leslie) Hrabec of Davison.

A March wedding is currently being planned.

Hospice Advantage seeking volunteers

Hospice Advantage officials are seeking area residents interested in serving as hospice volunteers.

Volunteers help by offering care, comfort and compassion for the whole family, and they can make a difference by donating a few hours a month to support a hospice patient and their loved ones.

Hospice volunteers receive the training they need to connect their unique abilities to the needs of patients and their families.

More information is available by contacting the Hospice Advantage volunteer coordinator at (989) 414-7189 or (989) 872-5852.

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

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In Our OPINION..

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Gibson, FFAers deserve a hand

The revival of the Cass City Public Schools' agriscience curriculum in 2010 has served as a model of cooperation, support and success since day one.

It's a new legacy that a group of current Cass City Junior-Senior High School students left their mark on last week while representing their school at a district Future Farmers of America (FFA) competition at the Tuscola Technology Center in Caro.

The local students — 16 in all — showcased their combined talents, finishing first or second in the Job Interview category, trapping and draft horse harnessing demonstrations, and the Greenhand Conduct of Meeting event. The preparation and hard work that went into the competition earned the students a trip to regionals today (Wednesday) at Lakers High School.

Not bad, considering Cass City's return to FFA competition is still in its infancy.

We'd like to congratulate each of the students along with their mentor, Ashlee Gibson, who has served as Cass City's agriscience teacher and FFA advisor since the revival of both programs.

Gibson has proven herself to be not only an able educator but also a popular teacher who has seen the agriscience program grow by leaps and bounds over the past 3 years.

After drawing 60 kids to the program in the first year, Gibson found herself inundated with eager students the next fall, with some 155 youths — roughly one-third of the high school enrollment at the time — signing up to attend one of her classes. Gibson anticipated an enrollment of nearly 160 students as she prepared to embark on her third year in the district last fall.

Gibson will probably be the first to tell you the success of the local agriscience curriculum and Cass City's FFA chapter has everything to do with a school district that has fully supported her efforts, not to mention an entire community that rallied around plans to build and pay for a state-of-the-art ag learning lab.

Gibson would be right, of course, but the best facility around can't make a program successful; that takes a motivated teacher and students willing to put in all of the effort necessary and then some to succeed.

From where we're standing, the agriscience program couldn't be in better hands, and our students are taking advantage of every opportunity to get the most out of their agriscience education, whether they're in the classroom, working on a hands-on project in the learning lab, or participating in an FFA activity.

We're proud of the work ethic they've displayed and, advance or not during this week's regional FFA competition, we believe both students and instructor deserve praise.



Slices of Life

by Jill Pertler

The sexuality of prime time



By now the dust is settling, and the leather has been discarded for next week's costume change, but last Sunday's performance — without so much as a hint of a lip sync — is being touted as one of the best halftime shows in Super Bowl history. That Beyonce really knows how to learn a lesson, huh?

One of the best. Ever. In the history of the biggest football game of the year.

And me, in my infinite naivety — before the fireworks stopped sizzling on stage — logged onto Facebook and announced (publicly) that I was not a fan of the halftime act. In fact, I openly disapproved of the blatant and sexually implicit dancing and costumes. I also admitted to being a fuddy duddy.

By golly, I believe I hit a nerve.

A few minutes and Facebook comments later, I found myself amongst a divided group of television viewers. Many agreed with me; I received a number of Likes. Yippee!

In contrast, some thought the act was entertaining. Great, in fact. The dancers were described as athletic. Singing and dancing — at the same time — takes a bit of stamina and physical prowess, so I'm told.

Regarding the overall choreography, this second group didn't perceive the sexual nature as a problem for prime time TV. We see it all the time, why not during the Super Bowl?

Therein lies the sentence defining the problem: "We see it all the time."

Sex appeal sells. In advertisements. In movies. During halftime at the Super Bowl. You don't have to be Beyonce's manager to understand the concept. So we are bombarded. We are exposed so often the shock wears off and the experience becomes commonplace.

The stage can be filled with women dressed in dominatrix leather — dancing and rolling on the ground in what can only be described as an explicit manner — but we hardly pause from eating our chili cheese dip to notice because we've viewed similar acts before. Many times. As a society we've become desensitized, and I think that's unfortunate.

To make matters worse, the media touts this year's halftime as one of the best shows ever. If media professionals can't recognize artistic brilliance who can? I'm sure there was a huge amount of talent on the stage. I'm not disputing that. What I do take issue with is the manner in which it was displayed. Yes, the women showed athletic moves, but so do pole dancers. I'm not questioning the athleticism or worthiness of any type of dancer — just their appropriateness for prime time television.

Sexuality aside, at what point does this become exploitation of women (or men if you happened to watch some of the underwear commercials)? Or, is it okay because these female performers came across as aggressive, leather-wearing, take-charge gals who wouldn't take any guff from anyone? What if they'd been in the submissive role on stage; would any feathers be ruffled then?

What have we, as a society, become if we are comfortable sitting on our couches watching this with our children, grandchildren, parents and grandparents? A show like that was something you used to see in Vegas (now I'm dating myself), not during prime time during a football game millions of families are viewing together over plates of bacon-wrapped weenies and chicken wings. The image of Beyonce and her cohorts gyrating in their leather garb was not a memory my teenage boys and I

needed to share.

Sorry. What do you expect? I've already admitted to being a fuddy duddy.

I realize I can't fight city hall or the NFL. Super Bowl hype isn't going anywhere anytime soon. The commercials and halftime shows are going to grab our attention whenever and however they can. Sometimes the methods shock and even offend. Often that's part of the plan.

But not always.

One of the most talked about and well-liked commercials of the evening was a spin-off of a simple and simply beautiful piece recorded by radio personality Paul Harvey in 1978 titled, "So God Made a Farmer." The verbal prose highlighted the basic, core principals demonstrated by farmers: hard work, a love of the land and old-fashioned family values. Photos of farmers accompanied the voiceover. Their weather worn faces and hard working hands told their story like no tight leather ever could.

Sound boring and dated? It wasn't. Which goes to show, there may be hope for fuddy duddies like me after all.

Gosh, I hope so.

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



Rabbit Tracks
by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Linda (Freiburger) Bailey confesses "Yes, I'm proud as his cousin, but it's a real feather for Cass City."

The Cass City educator is talking about Mark Freiburger. He's the son of Bob Freiburger, a graduate of Cass City High School. Bob's mother taught at Owen-Gage for many years. His father Alger was blind and was often seen about town for years with his seeing-eye dog. Bob was one of 6 children and his son Mark was one of the finalists for the Dorito commercial played at the Super Bowl.

Linda says to Google WINK News out of Fort Myers for more information and a televised interview by Bob and Virginia Freiburger. Mark's ad came in 4th out of 54 commercials for the USA Today ad meter. He will be working with director Michael Bay this summer on a Transformers movie.

Speaking of cousins, did you know that Jim Brown, Cass City's 2012 Citizen of the Year, and Dave Milligan, this year's Citizen of the Year winner, are related? Their grandfathers were brothers.

Looks like showbiz runs in this family's blood line. Ale Street resident Carl Palmateer reports that one of the members of the Grammy winning group "fun" - Andrew Dost, was born in Cass City. His mother, Cheryl Dost, graduated from Cass City High School in 1973 and his grandfather and grandmother, Andrew and Lulu Kozan were long time Santa and Mrs. Claus in Cass City.

Andrew Dost is a Central Michigan University grad and helped write "We Are Young," which won the Grammy for Song of the Year.

Letter to the Editor

Mulligan deserves community's praise

Recently the Cass City Chamber of Commerce recognized its 50th Citizen of the Year at a sold out dinner held at Northwood Meadows. The Junior Citizen of the year was also recognized.

Many people work on this event, but it would not be as successful were it not for the superb leadership and dedication of Dee Mulligan, administrator of the Chamber of Commerce. From arranging for the program to hiring the caterer to planning the seating to making sure that the past citizens were recognized, her attention

to detail was always in evidence.

She also made sure that the silent auction had lots of interesting items, that the legislators were invited and welcomed, that the new citizen's family was taken care of, and that the junior citizen candidates and their families were welcomed.

I know that there are many other tasks that I have not mentioned, but suffice it to say that the dinner would not be the highlight that it is if not for Dee Mulligan.

Bert Althaver
Cass City



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Rates & Policies

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

Letters to the Editor

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

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

Social News

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

Subscription Rates

Tuscola, Huron & Sanilac counties - \$23.10 per year.
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Payable in advance. Discounts available for multi-year subscription.

Advertising Rates

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

Obituary Rates

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Wednesday, February 13

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, February 14

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, February 15

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

Senior Citizen Movies, 1:30 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library.

Fish Dinner, 4-7 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, Cass City. Adults \$8; children \$4; under 10 FREE.

Saturday, February 16

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.

Monday, February 18

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

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

Cass City Area Historical Society meeting, 7 p.m., Cass Theatre. Deadline for Cass City Athletic Boosters Auction. Please contact Paula Potter at (989) 545-0182 or email p_potter88@hotmail.com for more information. Auction will be held Friday, Feb. 22.

Tuesday, February 19

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

Free Cooking & Nutrition Classes, 4-6 p.m., Cass City United Methodist Church. Taught by Shari Bock, chef, and Donna Barnes, MSUE Nutrition Instructor. Space is limited on a first-come, first-serve basis. Eligibility requirements. For more information, contact Barnes at (989) 672-3825.



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.

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THIN ICE

Huron County sheriff warning fishermen to beware on the bay

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Old Man Winter has been generous with numbing cold outdoors in recent weeks, thrilling snowmobilers and ice fishermen alike.

But those who venture out on Saginaw Bay are well advised to remember that the bay is a large body of water where ice conditions can change drastically and in a hurry.

That's the message Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson is emphasizing these days following some near tragic accidents.

"We are asking that the media provide coordinates to an area of suspected unsafe ice that occurs annually on Wild Fowl Bay, and warn fishermen that sporadic depths of ice have been reported all over Saginaw Bay, from 9 inches to 3 inches," Hanson said.

"Just (recently), our office was contacted when an ATV and equipment were found floating in broken ice several miles offshore of the Sebawaing area. For a period of time, it was not known if the operator or riders had made it to shore or were safe," Hanson said.

"Caution can't be stressed enough, because many areas of the ice on Wild Fowl Bay and certainly Saginaw Bay have not frozen equally," he added. "Once again, fishermen need to always be cautious and take nothing for granted while on the ice. We also ask fishermen to report

to Huron Central Dispatch or the county of jurisdiction's dispatch, if they break through thin ice and leave their equipment unattended for any period of time. This will assist so rescuers aren't dispatched needlessly."

The coordinates of the annual sus-

pected area of bad ice on Wild Fowl Bay are: N 43 53 188, W 083 22 233. These coordinates are roughly 1.91 miles west of the Mud Creek Public Access parking lot located off of Filion Road, or 2.21 miles north of the Bay Port Public Access parking lot in Bay Port.



AN ATV RIDER recently broke through the ice in a dangerous area on Wild Fowl Bay. Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson is warning fishermen to be extremely cautious on the ice and to report any incidents in order to avoid the dispatch of rescuers if they aren't needed.

Circuit court news

Several charged with felonies

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

- Steven C. Edgin, 34, Caro, pleaded guilty to charges of possession of a firearm by a felon and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony Sept. 7 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case and bond was continued at \$10,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

- Jessy J. Johnson, 24, Caro, pleaded guilty to 3 counts of third degree criminal sexual conduct involving a victim at least 13 years of age but under 16 years, and involving injury and/or force or coercion last July in

Indianfields Township. Johnson was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

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

- Dale R. Lasiewicki, 60, Caro, pleaded no contest to charges of fleeing and eluding a police officer and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, and to 3 counts of assault with a dangerous weapon Nov. 26 in Wells Township.

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

- Josiah S. Neilson, 29, Millington, received a one-year delayed sentence following his pleas of guilty to charges of interfering with electronic communications and assault or assault and battery Oct. 13 in Vassar Township.

He was also ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$1,428.

- Howard G. Trinklein, 48, Vassar, pleaded no contest to charges of fourth degree criminal sexual conduct involving force or coercion, and assault or assault and battery Oct. 22 in Vassar.

A pre-sentence investigation was

ordered and bond was continued at \$4,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

- Joseph B. Baca, 20, Bridgeport, stood mute to charges of carrying a concealed weapon, malicious destruction of a building totaling \$200 to \$1,000 in damage, possession of alcohol by a minor in a motor vehicle, and purchase, consumption or possession of alcohol by a minor May 13, 2010, in Arbela Township.

Bond in the case was set at \$5,000 cash. A pretrial hearing is to be scheduled.

- Michael C. Smith, 58, Vassar, was sentenced to 160 days in the county jail and 24 months probation for his pleas of no contest to charges of interfering with electronic communications and domestic violence Aug. 8, 2011, in Akron. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,648.

- Michael D. Tuttle, 24, Vassar, was sentenced to 36 months probation for his plea of guilty to carrying a concealed weapon Feb. 17 in Juniata Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

In addition to probation, he was ordered to undergo substance abuse therapy/counseling and pay costs and fines totaling \$398.

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Reporter's notebook

Thank-you, Melva, for all the "saves"

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

I couldn't help but feel a tinge of sadness when I heard that former long-time Chronicle employee and columnist Melva Guinther is leaving the community.

I understand her and husband Stan's desire to be closer to family down in Ohio, of course, but the departure also represents the physical absence of another Chronicle staffer I first met when I rolled into town more than 26 years ago.

And there have been many. The names include John and Dorothy Haire, Joann Asher, Linda Leeson, Betty Ball, Mary and Dale Damm, and Dwight Loeding. There have been many other Chronicle employees since — Lois Moslander and Janet Severance immediately come to mind — and that's not even counting a host of advertising sales reps and summer news/editorial interns we've had over the years.

And while I enjoyed getting to know them all, few have had the impact on me that Melva did during her decades of working at the corner of Oak and Main. She retired some years ago, but has continued to contribute her popular "Meg's Peg" column, and has made herself available to us on occasion as a "pinch" proofer.

A good proofreader can make just about any reporter, no matter how thorough, look pretty darn good — or at least save him or her some real embarrassment. I can tell you that Melva pulled my journalistic bacon out of the fire on countless occasions. And that's not taking into account the number of corrections she made to my copy that she never mentioned.

Thanks to Melva (and in more recent years, Chronicle proofreader Deb Severance), the fire fighters in a handful of my stories valiantly extinguished, rather than distinguished, roaring flames.

And, thank goodness, one particular suspect I recall ended up being charged with fleeing — not feeling — a police officer.

Fortunately, many of my goofs never made it into print, thanks to Melva. Well, actually that isn't true; I've frequently seen my handiwork in her columns over the years in which she featured collections of typos that didn't get past her, along with little editorial comments of her own.

A few examples: "He breads and raises whitetail deer" (seems like they should be raised before being breaded [breeds]); "He had a duel major in marketing and management" (a little fencing on the side is good, right?) [dual]; and "ABATE members beet monthly" (other times they just turnip) [meet].

Yup, I owe a debt of gratitude to Melva for all of the grammar, punctuation and wording "saves" she recorded on my behalf over the years. More importantly, her presence at the Chronicle — even since giving up the weekly office grind — has been an important part of what this newspaper is all about.

Thanks, Melva, for sharing your gentle, down-to-earth humor with our faithful readers in Meg's Peg, and thank-you for a friendship that has helped to make me a better reporter and a better person.

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2008)

Cass City Wastewater Treatment Supt. Rick Mohr reported a record snowfall of about 11.5 inches last Wednesday - at least it's a record since Mohr started his job back in 1981. He noted the area did receive 11 inches of snow Dec 11, 2000 and on 1.1, 1985. Cass City recorded a total snowfall of 12.7 inches in January this year and another 15.4 inches so far in February.

For the past few weeks, Coach Aaron Fernald has liked the way his Cass City boys' basketball team has performed. It was no different Friday as the Red Hawks beat up on host Bay City All Saints, cruising to a 63-41 victory in Greater Thumb West play. Chris Childs led Cass City with 15 tallies on the night, 13 coming in the final half. The Red Hawks also had Austin Babich with 13 points and Chris Summerset with 10 in double figures.

Brandon Dubs and Brittany Parks highlighted Friday's Snowcoming celebration in Owendale when the pair were announced the 2008 King and Queen during halftime of the boys' varsity basketball game with Memphis.

10 YEARS AGO (2003)

The Cass City Red Hawks will have one wrestler competing in the regionals Saturday at Alma. Travis Jensen, 189-pound senior, placed 4th in his weight class in the individual districts at Caro. Caro, the number one ranked team in division 3, won the team districts Thursday, defeating Vassar 75-3. Vassar went into the finals by defeating Cass City 60-24 in the first round.

In his distinguished Unionville-Sebewaing high school career Steve Cramer, the Greater Thumb Conference premier guard, has won many games for the Patriots. Friday he missed an opportunity to add to his victory skein and the Cass City Red Hawks came away with an upset victory over the GTW league leaders, 62-61. There were 9 seconds left and Cramer took the ball to the hoop and was fouled with 3 seconds show-

ing on the clock. Both of his shots bounced off the rim and the Hawks scored one of the biggest upsets of the season. Matt Stoutenburg and Jake Brinkman shared scoring honors with 22 each. Cramer and Bradley Gruehn each scored 16 and Adam Gainforth, 14, for the Patriots. Cass City scored most of its points from the perimeter, hitting 14 3-pointers against the USA zone defense.

25 YEARS AGO (1988)

The Cass City Red Hawks got back on the winning trail Friday with a relatively easy victory over the Caro Tigers, 80-60, but can't afford to let their guard down in games ahead in the topsy-turvy Thumb B Association. Paul Tuckey had the best scoring night of his career with 27 points, despite sitting out much of the final period. The junior forward was 9 of 14 from 2-point range to go with his 2 3-pointers and 3 of 4 from the charity lane for 27 points. Mike Randall scored 14 and grabbed 10 rebounds. Dale Sharp scored 18 for the Tigers.

Highlighting the Caro-Cass City basketball game Friday was the crowning of the Winter Carnival king and queen. Last year's queen, Denise Cooper passed the crown to Tammy Hurd and Al Rosenstangel.

Geraldine Prieskorn, who has served on the board of the Chemical Bank Cass City for several years, has been elected to the board of the Chemical Bank Bay Area. Chemical Bank Cass City was recently merged into the Bay Area Bank and is now a branch bank. Mrs. Prieskorn has been involved in civic and business groups in Cass City since coming to the community in the late 1950s. She is active in the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber Retail Committee and works in partnership with her husband, Gerald, in 4 retail stores in Michigan — Mill End Stores in Bad Axe and East Tawas, and Ben Franklin and The Paint Store in Cass City.

50 YEARS AGO (1963)

Cobra Patrol, Troop 122, of Uby

mushed to victory Saturday in the second annual Klondike Derby at Cass City Recreational Park. Troop 122 scoutmaster is Mike Babiszewski of Uby. Tied for second place were Skunk and Wolf Patrols, both of Millington Troop 150. Clayton Howell is scoutmaster. Third and fourth places went to two Caro troop 160 patrols, Apache and Flying Eagles, respectively. Cobra Patrol will receive a patrol first aid kit.

Lynn Atwell, 10-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Atwell, Cass City, won the first place trophy in the 10-year-old and under category at the Michigan Ski Meet at Holly, Saturday. Lynn, who has been skiing since she was three years old, is also the holder of a number of other trophies won at previous meets.

Marty Yedinak, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Yedinak, has been named co-captain of the football team at Alpena High School. Yedinak, former coach at Cass City, is now head grid mentor at Alpena.

100 YEARS AGO (1913)

The New Chronicle Home is two blocks east of the former Chronicle location. One block east of J.B. Cootes' Hardware. One door east of A.C. Hayes' store. One door west of J.A. Caldwell's store. One block west of B.F. Benkelman's store. "Kitty-corner" from N. Bigelow & Sons' Hardware.

Elmwood - Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Rockyfellow, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Rockyfellow, Mr. and Mrs. Andus Rockyfellow and Mrs. James Hutchinson were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jud Morse Sunday.

School Notes - The pupils received a cool reception in class rooms and Lab. Wednesday. The temperature was somewhere near 50 degrees (below). - Last Friday evening the "Soph's" had a surprise party on their former classmate, Anna Pettit, who will leave for Canada in a short time. Several members of the class were hypnotized but not the girls! (?) However all reported a good time.

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Cass City Area Church Directory

Anchor Cove Outreach Church
201 E. Sanilac Rd.
Caro, MI 48723
989-872-2262
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
www.anchorcoveoutreachchurch.com

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
6820 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726
872-2770
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Steve Bagnall
www.goodshepherdlutherancasscity.webs.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 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cass City 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

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

Mizzpah 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.
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Website: www.lwccog.net

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Regionals today at Lakers

Cass City FFA chapter flexes muscle at districts

by Ryan Walker
Freelance Writer

Cass City High School's Future Farmers of America Chapter proved it's a force to be reckoned with during FFA district level competition last week in Caro.

Members of the Cass City chapter, accompanied by their agriscience teacher and FFA advisor, Ashlee Gibson, traveled to the Tuscola Technology Center Wednesday to compete in the FFA event. Students, representing FFA chapters through the Tuscola Technology Center, Sanilac Career Center, Bay/Arenac Career Center, Ubyly High School and Cass City High School, competed in a number of categories in hopes of finishing at or near the top in each scheduled event. Only the top 2 teams or contestants in each category qualified to move on to FFA regional competition.

The Cass City chapter enjoyed great success, sending a number of students on to regionals in 3 contest areas.

Alan Leslie punched his ticket to the next level by taking first place overall in the Job Interview category. Leslie also brought home District Gold for his efforts. Students competing in this category create a resume and cover letter prior to the day of the contest. The students then fill out a job application and conduct a 10 minute interview for an agriculture related job of their choice.

Another successful category for the Cass City FFA members was Demonstration. In this contest, a group of 2 to 4 students create a 10-to-15-minute presentation demonstrating how to complete an agriculture or natural resource related task. Once the presentation is finished, a panel of judges has 5 minutes to ask related questions.

Two demonstration teams from Cass City advanced at Wednesday's district competition. Taking second place overall and earning District Gold was the team of Lauren Bukoski, Jesse Nye and Rachel Miller. The trio's demonstration took the judges through the process of harnessing a draft horse, specifically a Clydesdale. The first-place demonstration team, also from Cass City, consisted of Zach Priestly, Bruce Bracken, Chaz Auten and Jacob Hacker. They impressed the judges while demonstrating how to trap, skin and market furs with a focus on raccoons. Not only did the trapping demonstration earn first place, it also landed District Gold.

A third group of local students moving on to regionals earned District Silver in the Greenhand Conduct of Meeting category. In this event, a group of students present the FFA officer opening ceremonies and then use parliamentary procedure to con-

duct a meeting. They make motions to organize a theoretical event. The advancing Cass City team consisted of Rachel Tanner, Courtney Szczepanski, Aubrey Witherspoon, Tara Nicholas, Brendan Karwowski, Becca Mulrath, Janey Ballard and Rachel Collins.

The regional competition is slated to kick off today (Wednesday) at 4 p.m. at Lakers High School.

FFA's roots date back centuries. Agriculture has been a staple of the American economy even before the United States became a nation. Farming defined communities in the American Colonies in terms of their social, economic and moral foundations. Agriculture education took place on the farm through knowledge passed down from generation to generation.

As technology advancements increased, so did the push for agricultural education programs. In 1928, a group of vocational agriculture students were in Kansas City, Mo., for the third annual National Congress of Vocational Agricultural Students. On Nov. 20, 1928, 33 of these students from 18 states met at the Baltimore Hotel in Kansas City. The outcome of their meeting was the formation of FFA.

Currently, FFA has 557,318 members between the ages of 12-21 in 7,498 chapters in all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Michigan's Thumb, an area rich in farming tradition, has seen an increase in FFA Chapters in recent years, with the Cass City Public Schools reviving its program in 2010 with the support of the community, including area farmers and agribusiness representatives.

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Obituary

Russell Hillaker

Russell Dean Hillaker, 86, of Cass City, died Friday, Feb. 8, 2013 in Tendercare Nursing Facility with his family by his side.

He was born April 2, 1926 at home in Argyle Township, the son of William Albert and Elizabeth (Willerton) Hillaker.

He married Elaine Shirley Lowe March 25, 1950 in Cass City.

Russell served in the U.S. Army. He worked for Sanilac County Road Commission for 13 years. His last job of 28 years was with Croft Clara Lumber Yard, retiring in 1992. Russell enjoyed raising Corriedale and Suffolk sheep. He was a woodworker and craftsman as well and enjoyed making things for his family. Russ loved collecting toy tractors and baseball hats and was always pleased to share his collection with family and friends. Russell enjoyed working in his flower gardens and watching the many birds around his home. Russell was a member of Cass City First Baptist Church.

Russell is survived by his wife, Elaine; children: Jack (Rona) Hillaker of Cass City, Kathy (Lee) Taylor of Whitmore Lake, Karen (Ronald) Ouvry of Cass City, James (Susie) Hillaker of Cass City, and Sherry (Gregory) Williams of Rockford; grandchildren: Jandi (Ryan) Baker, Jodi (Lance) Roark, Nathanael (Christy) Taylor, Jeremy (Kathleen) Taylor, Joshua (Bethany) Taylor, Brooke (Lane) Walker, Ashley (Kyle) Greenwood, Kevin Ouvry, Carrie Hillaker, Allison Hillaker, Emily Williams, and Derek Williams; great grandchildren: Alexandra, Avery, Nathanael, Madelyn, Aiden, Cassie, Haley, Madison, Annabel, Devin, Gracy, Abby, Molly and Deacon; a brother, Lorn (June) Hillaker of Cass City; many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Edward Hillaker; and a sister, Muriel Parrott.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Feb. 12, at Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, with the Rev. David Hill of Cass City First Baptist Church officiating.

Interment was in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Active pallbearers for Mr. Hillaker were Derek Williams, Kevin Ouvry, Jeremy Taylor, Jerry Hillaker, Gary Lowe and Craig Helwig. Honorary pallbearers were Richard Hillaker and Al Lowe.

Memorials may be made to Home and Hospice Advantage or Family Discretionary Fund.

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

Arrangements were made by Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City.

Snover woman faces sentencing

Continued from page one.

homes...and told investigators where most of the items had been stolen from," Gray said. "The suspect 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."

Treat Your Sweetheart

• Take your sweetheart out for Valentine's Day!
Thursday, February 14, 2013 ~ 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
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• Seafood Platter (Shrimp, Cod, Perch & Walleye) \$16⁹⁵

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RED HAWK Elisabeth Milligan makes a pass before added defensive pressure by Bay City All Saints' Morgan Christensen arrives in Thursday's contest.

Cass City falls short in district wrestling final

Five double winners Thursday wasn't enough to lift host Cass City to team district honors.

That fete went to the Bad Axe Hatchets, who claimed the school's first district wrestling crown since 1991.

Both schools had easy times in their Division 4 semifinal bouts. Bad Axe opened the action on the night with a 48-24 victory over Greater Thumb Conference foe Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port, followed by Cass City's 60-0 win over neighbor Akron-Fairgrove, who had just one athlete in the competition.

In the all Greater Thumb Conference finals, Bad Axe advanced into tonight's (Wednesday) team regionals play at New Lothrop with a 44-27 victory, closer than the final margin suggests. The hosts closed to within 32-27, but came up short in the final 2 matches on the night.

Garret Ferguson, Justin Ferguson,

At Cass City

Snowcoming contest moved to Friday night

The Cass City boys' basketball team will have to wait until later this week to make up their Greater Thumb West contest against visiting Bay City All Saints.

Originally scheduled last Friday as the Red Hawks' Snowcoming contest, the game was first moved to Tuesday night when inclement weather postponed action in the Greater Thumb West heading into the weekend.

However, Cass City Athletic Director Don Markel reported Monday the GTW affair with Bay City will now be played this Thursday at the Cass City Elementary School gym.

"We couldn't get any referees for Tuesday," Markel said, noting this Friday's game against visiting Brown City will include the school's Snowcoming activities, highlighted by the announcement of the Red Hawk king and queen winter choices.

The schedule change also may force Coach Aaron Fernald to go deep into his bench as the Red Hawks now play on consecutive nights. Ready for the call will be Jake Hacker, Eric Churchill and Tristan Kuntz, all who have made solid contributions for the league leaders in limited action. If Cass City is to maintain its momentum as the regular season winds down, look for Fernald's reserves to log extra minutes in the upcoming games, especially in the team's non-conference outing with Brown City.

In Cass City's latest victory, a 60-42

Bobby Beyette, Josh Daniels and Austin Baker led Cass City with perfect 2-0 showings.

Cass City ended their dual meet season with a 17-27 record, the Red Hawks' first losing season in a decade and only the second under veteran Coach Don Markel.

INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS

On Saturday, 5 Cass City grapplers advanced from individual district competition held at New Lothrop.

Moving on to the regional round for Cass City is: Beyette (4th in the 145-weight class), Ethan Monte (3rd in the 215-weight class), Garret Ferguson (2nd in the 125-weight class), Justin Ferguson (2nd in the 135-weight class) and Baker (1st in the 285-weight class).

"You had to finish in the top 4 of your weight class to advance to the individual regionals to be held at Blanchard-Montabella on Saturday," Coach Markel said.

decision last Wednesday over guest Bad Axe, it was Red Hawk starters Cody Orban, Collin Hartwick and Cole Israelson that led the way for the winners.

The Hatchets led 14-9 after one quarter, but trailed 27-25 at the break. The Hawks increased their advantage to 43-35 entering the final stanza, where they used a 17-7 run to dispose of their visitors.

Israelson recorded a game-high 22 points, including a perfect 8-of-8 effort at the foul line. Hartwick chipped in with 14 points, with a dozen coming in the opening half, before Orban got on track in the final half where he scored all 10 of his points. The Red Hawk guards - Orban and Hartwick - each connected on a pair of shots from behind the 3-point arc and combined to make 6-of-6 free throws.

James Knarian led Bad Axe with 11 points.

CASS CITY - Orban 1-2 (2-4) 10; Hartwick 2-2 (4-4) 14; Schenk 0-0 (0-1) 0; Perry 1-0 (2-4) 4; Ross 1-0 (1-2) 3; Hacker 0-0 (0-1) 0; Dickinson 1-0 (1-2) 3; Kuntz 1-0 (0-1) 2; Churchill 1-0 (0-0) 2; Israelson 7-0 (8-8) 22.
TOTALS - 15-4 (18-27) 30.

BAD AXE - Turmell 0-2 (0-0) 6; Cramer 1-1 (0-0) 5; Flannery 1-0 (0-0) 2; Kanrian 1-3 (0-0) 11; Labor 2-1 (0-0) 7; Sutton 1-0 (0-2) 2; Krug 4-0 (1-2) 9.
TOTALS - 10-7 (1-4) 42.

BCAS records first victory at Lady Red Hawks' expense

In a match-up between cellar dwellers in the Greater Thumb West girls' basketball standings Thursday, guest Bay City All Saints conquered Cass City.

The Cougars used a commanding 18-9 run in the final quarter to secure the 44-31 decision and collected their first win on the season. Meanwhile the Red Hawks slip to 1-9 in conference play and 1-15 overall. The 2 teams split their regular season meetings.

The Cougars jumped out to a 14-5 advantage behind Morgan Christenson's 4 first quarter field goals, but were limited to baskets from Katie Klapish and Danelle Leppek in period 2, resulting in an 18-12 margin at the half way point.

The Red Hawks' comeback bid was orchestrated by ringleader Shania Chambers' 5 markers in the opening half before the junior guard was forced to the bench late in the second period with 3 fouls. There she joined her backcourt partner Jocelynn Venema, who was also sidelined with 3 fouls before the break.

"Our foul troubles didn't come at a very opportune time," Coach Clarke Haire said. "We were short handed from the opening tip. Erika Kolacz, our senior center, was sick last week and didn't dress."

"I don't want to take anything away from Bay City. They were missing a couple of players, too. I thought they picked up some confidence with their quick start, and to their credit, were able to hold on."

It wasn't without a fight from the home team.

Cass City's full court diamond press helped to create some good looks for the Red Hawks in the closing half and senior forward Gracy Hollis took full advantage. She and junior Elisabeth Milligan each rattled home 4 points shortly after the break and entering the final 8 minutes the hosts were able to narrow the gap to 26-20.

But the Lady Red Hawks would get no closer. Brooke Jasman made certain of it with 7 points in the deciding period, including a 3-of-4 showing at the foul line. On the night, the visitors made 10-of-19 attempts at the stripe, while Cass City connected on 5-of-12 freebees.

The winners put 3 girls in double figures, led by Klapish's game-high 14 points, while Christenson had 13 points and Jasmin, 11.

For Cass City, Hollis and Chambers scored 8 and 7 points, respectively. Hollis also gathered 8 rebounds and 5 steals.

BAD AXE

Bad Axe outscored host Cass City 14-5 in period one and 15-5 in period three en route to a 47-30 victory last Tuesday.

Hatchet Rachel Breault was the game's only double digit scorer and posted 14 points in the GTW victory.

As usual, Hollis with 8 points and Chambers with 7 topped the Red Hawk scorers.

"It was a frustrating week," Coach Haire said Monday. "I felt Lizzy

(Milligan) stepped her play up in Erika's (Kolacz) absence. She did a nice job on the boards, especially against Bay City."

CASS CITY - Bukoski 0-0 (2-2) 2; Chambers 1-1 (2-4) 7; Reif 2-0 (0-0) 4; Martin 0-0 (0-1) 0; Boland 1-0 (0-0) 2; Venema 1-0 (0-0) 2; Hollis 2-1 (1-3) 8; Milligan 2-0 (1-2) 5.
TOTALS - 9-2 (6-12) 30.

BAD AXE - Kociba 4-0 (1-1) 9; Shemka 1-0 (2-4) 4; MacAlpine 1-0 (2-2) 4; Butch 1-0 (1-3) 3; Holz 2-0 (1-1) 5; Breault 7-0 (0-0) 14; Wiley 2-0 (0-2) 4; Bechtel 2-0 (0-0) 4.
TOTALS - 20-0 (7-13) 47.

CASS CITY - Bukoski 1-0 (0-0) 2; Chambers 2-1 (0-0) 7; Martin 2-0 (0-0) 4; Boland 1-0 (0-0) 2; Venema 1-0 (2-3) 4; Hollis 2-1 (1-7) 8; Milligan 1-0 (2-2) 4.
TOTALS - 10-2 (5-12) 31.

BCAS - Gillard 2-0 (0-0) 4; M. Christenson 5-0 (3-6) 13; Jasman 3-0 (5-8) 11; Casper 0-0 (0-1) 0; Klapish 6-0 (2-3) 14; Leppek 1-0 (0-3) 2.
TOTALS - 17-0 (10-21) 44.



CASS CITY'S Nicole Boland checks Bay City's Chelsea Casper during Greater Thumb West play.

Fabulous Four's Fearless Forecast

Varsity Basketball



Tom Montgomery



Tina Pallas



Geoff Morgan



Doug Hyatt

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Monday, Feb. 11, 2013

Caro at Vassar	Vassar	Caro	Caro	Vassar
USA at Mich. Lutheran Seminary	USA	USA	USA	MLS
Kingston at Deckerville	Kingston	Kingston	Deckerville	Kingston

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013

Cass City at Imlay City	Imlay City	Imlay City	Imlay City	Imlay City
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Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013

Cass City at Brown City	Brown City	Brown City	Brown City	Brown City
BCAS at Bad Axe	Bad Axe	Bad Axe	BCAS	Bad Axe
Vassar at EPBP	EPBP	EPBP	Vassar	EPBP
Reese at USA	Reese	Reese	Reese	Reese
Bridgeport at Caro	Caro	Caro	Caro	Bridgeport
Ubly at Memphis	Ubly	Ubly	Memphis	Ubly
Kingston at Mayville	Kingston	Kingston	Kingston	Kingston

Friday, Feb. 15, 2013

O-G at Akron-Fairgrove	Owen-Gage	Akron-Fairgrove	Akron-Fairgrove	Akron-Fairgrove
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BOYS' BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013

Vassar at Caro	Vassar	Vassar	Vassar	Vassar
Bad Axe at Sacred Heart Academy	Sacred Heart Academy	Sacred Heart Academy	Sacred Heart Academy	Sacred Heart Academy
EPBP at North Huron	North Huron	EPBP	EPBP	EPBP
Mich. Lutheran Seminary at USA	USA	USA	USA	USA
Kingston at CPS	CPS	CPS	CPS	CPS
Ubly at Marlette	Marlette	Marlette	Marlette	Marlette

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013

O-G at Int.Academy of Flint	Owen-Gage	Owen-Gage	Owen-Gage	Int. Aca. of Flint
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Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013

BCAS at Cass City	Cass City	Cass City	Cass City	Cass City
Bridgeport at Caro	Bridgeport	Bridgeport	Bridgeport	Bridgeport
Ubly at Memphis	Ubly	Ubly	Ubly	Ubly

Friday, Feb. 15, 2013

Brown City at Cass City	Cass City	Cass City	Cass City	Cass City
BCAS at Bad Axe	BCAS	BCAS	BCAS	Bad Axe
Vassar at EPBP	Vassar	EPBP	Vassar	Vassar
Reese at USA	Reese	Reese	Reese	Reese
Akron-Fairgrove at O-G	Owen-Gage	Akron-Fairgrove	Akron-Fairgrove	Akron-Fairgrove
Kingston at Deckerville	Kingston	Kingston	Deckerville	Deckerville

Last Week's Results

18-4	18-4	17-5	18-4
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Season's Results

129-60 (68%)	136-53 (72%)	123-66 (65%)	137-52 (72%)
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DNR reports safe hunting season

The 2012 hunting season saw only one fatality in the 15 incidents reported to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, making it the safest season in the last 5 years. While there were 3 fewer incidents reported in 2011, there were 5 fatalities in that year.

"We continue to emphasize the importance of the hunter orange law, knowing your target and safe firearm handling, and how they all are key factors in having a safe season," said

DNR Law Enforcement Division Chief Gary Hagler. "We also continue to encourage mentors to work closely with youth hunters to teach them safe firearm handling skills. One incident this year involved a hunter under the age of 10."

The incident involving a fatality in 2012 occurred in St. Clair County on September 20 when a coyote hunter reportedly shot and killed another hunter in an apparent accident. There were no hunting incidents reported

in the Upper Peninsula in 2012, compared to 3 in 2011, including one fatality.

A total of 3 hunting incidents involved minors as the shooter, with the youngest being 6 years old. The 6-year-old was unloading his firearm when it discharged and unintentionally struck his father causing a leg wound.

Michigan hunting incident statistics for the last 6 years are:

- 2012: 15 incidents with one fatality
- 2011: 12 incidents with 5 fatalities
- 2010: 14 incidents with 3 fatalities
- 2009: 18 incidents with 2 fatalities
- 2008: 22 incidents with 2 fatalities
- 2007: 32 incidents with 2 fatalities

Hagler credits Michigan's hunter education program with Michigan's low rates of incidents over the last few years.

"There is no question that hunter education saves lives and reduces injuries," Hagler said. "It is incumbent that anyone considering hunting as a recreational pursuit completes a hunter education course with one of our highly dedicated volunteer instructors."

For more information on Michigan's hunter education, visit www.michigan.gov/huntereducation. Summaries of Michigan's hunting incident reports can be found at www.michigan.gov/conservationofficers.



Photo courtesy of Northstar Photography

MORE THAN 900 people gathered Saturday at the Lucky Thumb race track to watch round 2 of the Bevans Road facility's winter racing series. Pictured are #19 Mark Vincent, Croswell, and #83 Philip Kuhl, Sebewaing, competing in the Pre 1984, 0-503 open fan class.

HOME RUNS!

Little League Softball & Baseball Sign Up
Tuesday, Feb. 12th & Wednesday, Feb. 13th
Cass City Elementary Cafeteria
3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Sign up is open to girls and boys 5-15

Registration forms will be available or you can go online to www.littleleague.org, print one off, fill it out and bring it with you. *If you have any questions, you may contact Troy Perry at 989-670-6810.*

Cass City Athletic Boosters

The Cass City Athletic Boosters' Auction is coming once again. The auction will be held **Friday, February 22, 2013**, during the boys' basketball game.

We would greatly appreciate any donation to support our fundraising efforts. Auction proceeds will be used to benefit Cass City Jr. and Sr. High School's athletic programs.

It would be greatly appreciated if items were **donated by Monday, February 18th**, or at least a description submitted. Items may be **dropped off at Blondie's Haircare** or contact me for pick-up.

Any questions can be directed to Paula Potter at 989-545-0182 or e-mail p_potter88@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,
The Cass City Athletic Boosters*

Schneeberger's

ATHLETE of the WEEK

Cass City boys' basketball star Cole Israelson has been named Schneeberger's Athlete of the Week award winner.

The Red Hawk senior center came up large during the team's latest victory over Bad Axe and tallied a game-high 22 points. He poured in 12 points during the initial half and finished the night with a perfect 8-of-8 showing at the foul line. He was the only player from either team to score in each quarter.

In addition, Israelson was his usual dominant force defensively according to Coach Aaron Fernald.

Cole, a 3-year varsity player, is the son of Rob and Susie Hartwick.



Cole Israelson

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Two Great Product Lines To Choose From, One Name You Can Trust!

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

Studio 81

If the winter blues are getting to you, the brand new Studio 81 in downtown Cass City has just the solution! Owner, Melissa Beyette, is a licensed nail technician, hairdresser, and massage therapist, as well as being trained in Business Management. Studio 81, located on Main Street directly across from Fairway, is staffed with 5 hair dressers, one nail technician, and one massage therapist.

Studio 81 is a full service salon that offers all types of spa services and packages, with services ranging from massage to hot stone facials. They also are very proud of being known for having the best tanners around. You can even bring your child in for a one of a kind hair cut in their unique race car kids' chair!

A special source of pride for the salon is their Studio 81 Bundle. For only \$81, you can pick any three of the following items: 1 month tanning, 1 hour massage, pedicure, wash/cut/style combo, hot stone facial, full set of nails, or shellac manicure!

Please join them for their OPEN HOUSE this Saturday, February 16th, 2013 from 1 pm to 4 pm. There will be refreshments and door prizes, as well as a free television giveaway! At the OPEN HOUSE, you will also be treated to free hand massages, free eyebrow waxing, free paraffin hand dips, and one time only specials that you can only book this one day for some incredible prices!

Give them a call at (989) 872-8181 to ask about services or to set up an appointment. Remember the number 81. It is their name, their telephone number, and the amazing price of their bundle. With all of this, Studio 81 will be easy to remember, but hard to forget!

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

And Remember to Shop Local and Support Those Who Support Cass City!

Trial slated for "bath salts" suspect

Continued from page one.

Department, simultaneously served search warrants at Maple Lane Discount, 950 N. VanDyke Rd., and at Alent's residence at 1030 Beech St.

Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson reported Alent's residence appeared to have been a drug-manufacturing facility. In fact, he said, the presence of hazardous materials inside the home began to sicken deputies, forcing them to back out of the house.

The operation quickly expanded, with officers requesting assistance from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which sent an 11-member crew to the area from the federal agency's Detroit and Saginaw divisions, including several hazardous material response team members.

"Discovered inside the residence were different types of hazardous materials. Our officers experienced respiratory irritation after only being

in the residence for a short period of time," said Hanson.

Over the next 5 hours, DEA officers removed large quantities of various chemicals, including acetone (a colorless, mobile, flammable liquid), butane (a highly flammable colorless, easily liquefied gas), and caffeine anhydrous (a supplement form of caffeine that is absorbed by the body faster than caffeinated drinks). A large quantity of packaging materials, equipment and empty pill capsules were also removed.

While serving the search warrant at Maple Lane Discount, officers seized evidence in the form of records, documents, packaging and manufacturing materials, computers, recording equipment, cash and other related materials.

Bath salts have been an issue in the Thumb — in Huron County in particular — for several months. Thieves targeted what was then legal bath salts at Maple Lane Discount during multiple burglaries in early

2011.

Bath salt products are highly addictive and composed of a number of synthetic chemicals that contain strong stimulants.

The drug can be snorted, swallowed, and mixed with water and injected or inserted rectally or vaginally, according to Michigan Department of Community Health officials, who say ingestion of bath salts can result in severe symptoms, including severe paranoia, violent behavior, hallucinations, chest pains and seizures. Even a one-time use can cause long-term health effects such as kidney and liver failure, increased risk of suicide and mental illness.

Bath salts are sold as crystalline powder in small bags that carry a variety of names, including White Rush, Ivory White, Vanilla Sky, Zeus, White Lightning and Scarface. Legislation making specific synthetic cathinones in bath salts illegal in Michigan went into effect in August 2011.

Saturday mail delivery ends in August

Continued from page one.

the switch to 5-day delivery as a way for the postal service to reduce costs in its effort to return the organization to financial stability.

In its last fiscal year, the postal service recorded a \$15.9 billion loss, defaulted on its \$11.1 billion retiree health benefit prefunding payments, and at one point exhausted its borrowing authority with the U.S. Treasury.

Given the ongoing financial challenges, the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors last month directed postal management to accelerate the

restructuring of postal service operations in order to strengthen postal service finances.

"The American public understands the financial challenges of the postal service and supports these steps as a responsible and reasonable approach to improving our financial situation," Donahoe said. "The postal service has a responsibility to take the steps necessary to return to long-term financial stability and ensure the continued affordability of the U.S. Mail.

The operational plan for the new delivery schedule anticipates a combination of employee reassignment

and attrition, adding up to the roughly \$2 billion a year in projected savings.

The postal service, which receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations, is currently implementing major restructuring throughout its retail, delivery and mail processing operations. Since 2006, the service has reduced its annual cost base by about \$15 billion, reduced the size of its career workforce by 193,000 (28 percent), and has consolidated more than 200 mail processing locations.

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Renee J. Wood, Elder Law and Accredited V.A. Attorney
Joseph N. Vitale, Veterans Support and American Retirement Solutions

\$20,000 Capital Improvement Grant is awarded to Huron Co. fair association

Sen. Mike Green recently announced that the Huron Community Fair Association has been awarded a Capital Improvement Grant.

The grant program, offered by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, is designed to assist in the promotion of building improvements or other capital improvements on county fairgrounds within the state.

"The Huron County Fair is entering its 145th year as the center of agriculture competition and family-friendly entertainment," said Green (R-Mayville). "These improvements will help continue that tradition for many years to come.

"As chair of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee, I will work to ensure that this valuable grant program continues to remain available to county fairs throughout the district and the state."

Capital improvements are costs related to making changes to improve capital assets, increase their useful life, or add to the value of these assets.

The Huron Community Fair Association, Bad Axe, will receive

\$20,000, which is equal to the largest grant received in the program this year. The grant will be used to install recreational vehicle pedestals and related electrical work. Fairs will be required to provide a dollar-for-dollar cash match.

In November, the association wrote

and presented a compelling grant proposal to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development explaining why these improvements were essential and was chosen among dozens of applicants to receive this prestigious grant.

Huron Co. Master Gardeners to host Szerlag Saturday, March 23

The Master Gardeners of Huron County have invited Nancy Szerlag to speak Saturday, March 23, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Bad Axe. Szerlag is a freelance garden writer for the Detroit News and author of a gardening column in the Homestyle Section. She has also co-authored 2 books: "Annuals for Michigan" and "Perennials for Michigan", and is the content editor for the popular website, Yardener.com. She also is a Master Gardener and Master Composter.

Class participants will learn tips and techniques along with new technology to help them garden in an ever-changing climate. Whether it is heat and drought or rain and cold plaguing our gardening efforts, Szerlag will show how to grow luscious tomatoes and gorgeous flowers. Sign up early, as seating is limited.

Szerlag is part of the eleventh annual Spring Into Gardening! Conference and Yard & Garden Expo, which runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus

Hall, Bad Axe, March 23. These events are open to all.

Advance registration for the conference is \$50 per person which includes all 5 classes, catered lunch, refreshments, door prizes, goodie bag and many and varied exhibitors. Registrations received after March 1 are \$60.

The expo portion of the day brings vendors from across Michigan with their gardening products and services. Admission to the expo is open to the general public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an entry fee of \$1 for those over 12 years of age. Vendors are currently being sought. Those wishing to promote their products or services are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible.

Brochures for the conference and applications for the expo are currently available. To register, for a copy, or for more information, call Marie at (989) 859-1294 or email mpba43@yahoo.com. For those with internet access, the website with detailed information is www.msue.msu.edu/Huron.

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Fatal crash

Continued from page one.

the accident scene prior to emergency response units arriving to contact the Caro post at (989) 673-2156.

The Tuscola County Sheriff's Department along with fire fighters from the Elkland Township and Elmwood Township-Gagetown fire departments assisted troopers at the scene.

Although funeral details were still being completed at press time, the Chronicle was able to confirm that Kranz Funeral Home in Cass City is handling the arrangements. Additional details were scheduled to be available on the funeral home's website at kranzfuneralhome.com.

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Adults \$8.00 Students \$4.00
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Roast Beef & Pork Dinner

Sat., Feb. 16
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Sweet-Heart Dinner

Saturday, Feb. 23
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Gourmet dinner to follow
Cass City United Methodist Church
For reservations, call Connie at (989) 872-2315. 5-2-6-3

DEFORD DISCOUNT Foods is selling out and will be relocating and opening under new ownership. We still have lots of stock & have on-going in-store sales. The new store will be at 5580 Robinson Rd., Cass City. 5-2-6-2

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SOLD!!



Very reasonably priced 3 bedroom home. Appliances stay, including washer and dryer. The roof is only 2 years old and the furnace is less than 10 years old. Great first or investment home. You should be able to move right in. Call for your showing. OW-188

NEW!!



Nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath family home setting on 1.38 acres. Along with that is a 2-car detached garage and a grand old barn. The home has had several interior and exterior updates, including roof and furnace in 2005 plus much more. Very tasteful interior decor. Harbor Beach schools. HB-122

NEW!!



Grand country home. This home was remodeled in 2011. It's either been remodeled, replaced or refurbished. Even most of the wiring and insulation has been redone. New steel roof, new furnace, the list goes on and on. There are 4 bedrooms, 1 3/4 baths for a total of 2,117 sq. ft. of living space for your family plus a basement. Everything has been tastefully done. There is also a 2-car detached garage and a fenced in corral. Located between Cass City and Caro, Call for your personal showing. CC-684

NEW!



Looking for room to breathe? Look no further. 2-story home on 10 beautiful acres. Home has many, many updates. From exterior siding, steel roof, new windows through out to an addition which includes a large bath and laundry room. Bathrooms are done tastefully with tile, existing bath all redone as well. Kitchen is open to living room with all appliances included. 32'x40' pole building with cement and electric. Has some other out buildings as well to keep all your extras. Call today for a personal showing. CC-683

NEW!!




5 ACRES!!!! 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 1-story home. Needs some flooring and some paint, but for the price you can't go wrong. You're paying for the lot and we're throwing in the house. Call us today to check out this deal. Seller is offering up to \$500 towards home warranty of buyer's choice for owner occupants only. MR-162

NEW!!



Large story home, Offers 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Needs some TLC. Backyard is private and has a large deck. Large detached 2-car garage. MR-161

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CUTE 2 BEDROOM, 2 bath Ranch home in town with lots & lots of updates done. Double lot. TCC1643



RANCH HOME ON 1 acre. Close to Cass City on paved road. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, over 1,800 square feet plus a full basement. Bank owned. CY2653



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DAVITA CASS CITY Dialysis recently donated \$1,000 to the Mayville Area Share Shop. On hand for the check presentation were (from left) Sherry Burns and Amy Peruski, both of DaVita, Lee and Lynda Brooks, who run the non-profit thrift store, John Wyskeil of DaVita, and Bob Tallman of the share shop.

Thrift gift

Local dialysis unit donates \$1,000 to help "share shop" help others

DaVita Cass City Dialysis officials have a "good neighbor" policy they back up with more than lip service.

They also lend a helping financial hand when they can.

DaVita, the kidney care division of DaVita HealthCare Partners Inc. and a leading provider of kidney care services, recently announced a \$1,000 contribution to the Mayville Area Share Shop.

In January, DaVita Cass City Dialysis presented the Mayville non-profit organization and thrift store with a \$1,000 check as part of the "DaVita Way of Giving", the company's local charitable giving initiative, which is distributing more than \$1 million to help non-profit groups throughout the United States grow

and thrive.

The Mayville Area Share Shop will use the money to help those in need. Proceeds from the thrift store go toward a food pantry and utility assistance for families residing in the Mayville School District. At Easter and Thanksgiving, and in cooperation with the Mayville American Legion, the share shop also provides food baskets for 15 to 20 families.

Amy Peruski, facility administrator at DaVita Cass City Dialysis, said the local dialysis unit staff chose to donate to the Mayville Area Share Shop because of its commitment to helping those struggling in the community. "Like DaVita, it cares about improving the quality of life for everyone who uses its services — and that's something worth support-

ing," she said.

Lynda Brooks of the Mayville Area Share Shop said the DaVita contribution will go a long way to support their mission.

"We strive to provide the best help we can to those in our community, and DaVita's donation will help us do that," Brooks said. "Helping out our neighbors is an important task — one that we truly enjoy."

DaVita, the leading provider of kidney care services committed to improving the quality of life for those diagnosed with chronic kidney disease, is dedicated to spreading ripples of citizen leadership through its Trilogy of Care — caring for its patients, caring for each other and caring for the world.

Sen. Green's bill targets traffic stops

"License and registration, please." That phrase is familiar to any driver who's been pulled over by law enforcement for a traffic violation. But legislation introduced recently by Sen. Mike Green could make that experience go a little smoother for some drivers.

Green introduced Senate Bill 91 to require law enforcement to accept digital versions of a proof of insurance as meeting the state's requirement for drivers to show evidence that their vehicle is insured. The bill would allow a driver to display the digital version to an officer on an electronic device, such as a smart-

phone, laptop or tablet device.

"We live in an electronic age," said Green, R-Mayville. "This measure is just one small step to bring government up to speed with the times and technology we live in for the convenience of Michigan drivers."

Current law does not specify that the certificate has to be printed, but that is the only accepted format in practice. By modernizing the law to reflect advances in technology, SB 91 would ensure that drivers who do not have a printed certificate but do have access to a digital version are not unnecessarily ticketed and fined for a violation, when their vehicle is properly insured.

"It seems like such a minor issue, but when multiplied by the number of drivers who travel in our state, the time and cost savings could be substantial and the environmental impact of printed documents could be greatly reduced," Green said.

"Digital proofs of insurance are right in line with paperless billing and e-filing of taxes that are in common use today. It's a streamlining step that could be applied in many areas of government to the benefit of taxpayers."

SB 91 has been referred to the Senate Transportation Committee for consideration.

State focusing on birth defect prevention

Every 4 and a half minutes a baby is born with a birth defect, the leading cause of infant mortality in the United States. The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is joining the National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN) to increase awareness of birth defects in order to prevent them and protect Michigan babies.

There are many different kinds of birth defects, including congenital heart defects, cleft lip or palate, defects of brain and spine, and a variety of genetic syndromes such as Down syndrome. Some have only a minor and brief effect on a baby's health, but others can have life-threatening or life-long effects. Additionally, more than 120,000 babies are born with a birth defect (approximately one in 33 live births) each year in the United States leading to \$2.6 billion per year in hospital costs.

"Most people are unaware of how common, costly and critical birth

defects are, or the simple steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of birth defects," said James K. Haveman, director of the MDCH. "With healthy lifestyle choices before and during pregnancy, as well as increased awareness, we hope to reduce the prevalence of birth defects in Michigan babies."

Birth defects are the most common cause of death in infants and the second most common cause of death in children between one and 4 years of age. Public awareness, expert medical care, accurate and early diagnosis, and social support systems are all essential for optimal prevention and treatment of these all-too-common and often deadly conditions.

"The health of both parents prior to pregnancy can affect the risk of having a child with a birth defect. Diet, lifestyle choices, factors in the environment, health conditions and medications before and during pregnancy all can play a role in preventing or increasing the risk of birth defects,"

said Joan Ehrhardt, Birth Defects Prevention Program coordinator at MDCH.

Studies have demonstrated several important steps women can take to help prevent birth defects. Women who are pregnant or may become pregnant are advised to:

- Take 400mcg of folic acid daily.
- Eat a healthy diet and aim for a healthy weight.
- Get a medical checkup before pregnancy and address specific health issues including family medical history, weight control, control of diabetes, and use of medications.
- Stop smoking and avoid second-hand smoke.
- Stop drinking alcohol prior to pregnancy or as early into pregnancy as possible.

To raise awareness, MDCH is also encouraging Michigan families to watch NPDBN's new campaign, "Birth Defects: Common, Costly, Critical" to gain a better understanding of the effects and reality of birth defects

at www.youtube.com/NBDPN <<http://www.youtube.com/NBDPN>>.

HONDA MITSUBISHI ACURA SATURN

A Night at the Cass:
Cass City's Playhouses and Theaters
by Tyler Perry
Monday, February 18, 7 p.m.

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This is a quick message to clear up any rumors that may be floating around out there in regards to Howard's Heating. **We are not closing**, nor are we in any kind of trouble. As a matter of fact, we are doing quite well with the business.

We had some **FOR RENT** signs a few weeks back in the windows of the store located at **6475 Main St.**, and this is because we are in the process of relocating the business.

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