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CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2013

75 CENTS ~ 16 PAGES-2 SUPPLEMENTS

Uby Schools bags \$25,000 grant for FFA, agriscience

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Uby Community School students enrolled in the district's agriscience and FFA programs will be keeping up with the high-tech times in learning, thanks to the support of area farmers and the America's Grow Rural Education program.

That support recently came in the form of a \$25,000 check presented to school officials, who plan to utilize new tablet technology by purchasing a cart of 30 iPads. Students will be using the new iPads to complete virtual labs and learning applications, also purchased with the funds.

America's Farmers Grow Rural Education, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, offers farmers the chance to nominate a local public school district, which can then compete for a grant of up to \$25,000 to enhance math and/or science education.

More than 1,150 nominated school districts submitted applications this year. Among those, 181 rural school districts were chosen to receive grants.

In all, the Monsanto Fund is expected to invest \$2.3 million through America's Farmers Grow Rural Education grants in 2013.

"The grant will have a tremendous impact on our school district because it is going to provide teachers the opportunity to help all students have a better learning experience," said Melissa Kramer, Uby Community Schools science and agriculture teacher. "The students will be better prepared for future education experiences."

Nominated school districts across the country submitted grant applications in the spring. During the summer, a panel of educators from ineligible districts reviewed and evaluated the applications based on merit, need and community involvement. The strongest submissions were then sent to the America's Farmers Grow Rural Education Advisory Council — comprised of farmer-leaders with an interest in agriculture and education — which selected the winning grant applications.

"A record number of America's farmers stepped up this year to improve math and science education in farming communities across the country," said Deborah Patterson, Monsanto Fund president. "By nom-

Please turn to page 2.



SOME CASS CITY residents are really getting into the spirit of Halloween this year, with lights and decorations adorning front yards and porches throughout town, including this witch brewing up some scary fun in front of a Seeger Street residence just south of the light.

For work with S.T.O.P.P.E.D program

Sanilac Co. deputies honored

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Sanilac County Sheriff's Department's efforts to encourage teenagers to stop and think about their driving habits haven't gone unnoticed by the Michigan Sheriff's Association (MSA).

MSA officials Thursday presented the department with the 2013 S.T.O.P.P.E.D (Sheriff's Telling Our Parents and Promoting Educated Drivers) Program Award for counties

with a population of 25,000 to 49,999 people.

Sanilac County Sheriff's Department Lt. Charlene Washkevich accepted the award on behalf of the department. This is the third year in a row, with a total of 4 years that Sanilac County has received the honor, according to Sheriff Garry Biniecki.

"The S.T.O.P.P.E.D program is a statewide program designed to encourage teens to drive safely by offering the added deterrent of parent

notification when that teen is 'stopped' by police for any reason," Biniecki explained.

"Parents can register their teen's vehicle online at www.michigansheriff.com and a S.T.O.P.P.E.D sticker will be mailed to their home to be placed on the vehicle's windshield," he said. "The sticker serves as a visible reminder to the young driver that should he or she be pulled over for any reason, his or her parents will receive a letter from the sheriff's

Please turn to page 8.

County teen dies in crash, investigation continuing

By Tom Montgomery
Editor

Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies are continuing their investigation into a fatal traffic crash that claimed the life of a teenager Thursday night in Tuscola County's Arbel Township.

Investigators identified the victim as Laura Massey, 17, Millington, a senior at Millington High School.

Undersheriff Glen Skrent reported emergency responders, including the Millington and Frankenmuth fire departments, responded to the scene at Bray Road, near Swaffer Road, at about 8:22 p.m.

"Deputies found that a vehicle had been southbound on Bray Road and, for an unknown reason, left the roadway and struck a mailbox and then trees," Skrent said. "The 17-year-old female driver from Millington, who was alone in the vehicle, was killed in the crash."

There are no known witnesses to the crash, according to the undersheriff, who noted a passerby came upon the accident scene and called 911.

"The accident remains under investigation," he said. "If anyone has knowledge of the crash, please call Tuscola County Sheriff Sgt. Mike Mattlin at (989) 673-8161 (ext. 2230)."

Get rid of old scripts this month

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The Tuscola County Sheriff's Department is sponsoring another round of collecting old and/or unused prescription drugs in an effort to keep them out of the wrong hands.

The prescription medication "take-back" is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the sheriff's department, located at 420 Court St. in Caro.

"The Tuscola County Sheriff's Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its seventh opportunity in four years to prevent

Please turn to page 4.

LAST CALL Root closing the books on 41-year stint as fire fighter

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Chances are good that if you take your youngsters Trick-or-Treating in Cass City and the smell of freshly popped popcorn draws you to the Elkland Township Fire Hall, you'll see some familiar faces.

Don Root and his wife, Helen, and the couple's daughter, Joy, are among the volunteers who enjoy serving up popcorn to all the ghosts and goblins.

A veteran Cass City fire fighter, Root recently announced his plans to retire after 41 years as a volunteer with the local department. But he says he still plans to help out when he can, including popcorn duty on Halloween night.

Root's decision to hang up his turnout gear marks the end of an era of sorts for the Elkland Township Fire Department, whose roster of faithful volunteers has included not only Root, but also his brothers, Dick, and Jerome "Junior" Root. Together, the brothers dedicated a combined 100-plus years to the department.

Jerome passed away several years ago. "I want to say he was on the department for 30 years," Root said. He noted Dick, who passed away recently, put in 40 years as a volunteer fire fighter.

Both brothers' tenures included a number of years as fire chief. Don, too, held the title of chief, but only for a few weeks some years ago during a transition in leadership within the department. "They wanted me to take it, and I said, 'No, I don't want to be chief,'" he recalled.

"I wanted nothing to do with it," he added. "A volunteer fire fighter — that's all I wanted to be."

Root made the decision to follow in his brothers' footsteps as firemen back in 1973 at the urging of longtime friend and fellow fire fighter Jack Hartwick.

Please turn to page 2.



VETERAN ELKLAND Township fire fighter Don Root is retiring after 41 years of service with the Cass City fire department. Root is the last remaining Root brother to serve — he along with his brothers, Dick and Jerome "Junior" Root — both deceased now — devoted a combined 100-plus years of their lives to the department.



Meg's Peg



Why do they do it?

by
Melva E. Guinther

I don't know where my kids get it, certainly not from their mother. Son Mark spent the long Labor Day weekend fishing solo in some remote spot north of Yosemite. His idea of living it up is hiking, camping and fishing alone in some forsaken wilderness of Montana or another uninhabited place.

Our daughter and son-in-law, Sandy and Andy, recently took a week's vacation hiking, camping and kayaking on Vancouver Island, in spite of her broken toe.

My idea of roughing it is a hotel without room service.

I admire those hardy souls who enjoy camping, etc., but personally I don't even like to eat outdoors. While I appreciate nature, I like my food too much to have to fight insects and the elements for it.

Label me a cream puff if you will. I can't help it. If I see a person running during a heat wave when nobody's chasing him, I have to ask "why?"

Why did Diana Nyad feel compelled to swim 110 miles from Cuba to Florida at the age of 64?

Why do ice climbers fight to scale slippery precipices? Why do football players subject themselves to severe physical trauma? Why do people of any age ride roller coasters or jump out of planes? I just don't get it.

As for the whole camping experi-

ence, maybe I had my fill of trudging to the outhouse when I was a kid. I definitely don't choose to do so voluntarily and call it fun.

I must admit, though, that some of the skills learned while "roughing it" might come in handy in the event of a power failure.

In a series of books by Terri Blackstock, this became evident when the whole world lost all forms of power. Those who had lived without electricity and technology had to teach the younger ones how to cope the old-fashioned way.

In Blackstock's "Light" series (Last Light, Night Light, True Light and Dawn's Light), ingenuity and bartering became invaluable commodities.

Of course, human nature being what it is, and still would be in such a case, there were those who sought to take personal advantage of every situation as well as those with altruistic motives.

I'd like to think I would be the latter, but...I do like my comforts.

There has been some discussion about removing the wood-burning stove in the house we presently live in, but I'm thinking it might be useful in the event of a power outage.

Here's hoping we don't have to find out.

Talking of technology or the lack thereof, these days I'm not sure people could cope if suddenly all the cell

phones in the world stopped working.

We have an old-fashioned "dumb phone" that hasn't been used in 6 months. I carry it strictly for emergencies. But it seems like most people have a smart phone permanently attached to their ears. How can anybody have that much to say?

My computer, however, is a different story. I'd be lost without it. That's just one more reason not to spend time where you can't get connected.

Root retiring

Continued from page one.

"We worked together (at the elevator in town). We were real close. I miss him," Root noted, adding Hartwick, who died 5 years ago, served on the department for 41 years.

Root's brother, Dick, also encouraged him to get involved. "But Jack, he just kept talking to me, kept coaxing me," Root recalled. "They seemed to have a lot of fun, so I joined.

"I guess it's (all about) helping the community," he said. "I've just enjoyed it. It was work, yet it was fun."

Root has seen his share of changes in fire fighting.

He remembers a time when firemen were alerted to a fire or accident by a phone call to their homes, a system that worked better than today's pagers on some days, he said.

"We didn't have to have training when I started. We went to school. We didn't have to, but we did, up in Bad Axe, twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays," he recalled. Back then, he noted, volunteers were placed on "auxiliary status" while they learned the ropes. "Now it's (rules and regulations) a lot more strict than it used to be. A lot of things have changed. There's a lot more paperwork now."

Looking back, most longtime local firemen can recall a list of Cass City's most spectacular fires, including blazes that damaged/destroyed Fort's Store, Sommers Bakery and the Croft-Clara lumberyard. But all the veterans are quick to say they've never been able to shake the memories of a cold winter day years ago when they were called to a trailer fire.

"That was a bad one," said Root, referring to the blaze that claimed the lives of three Cass City youngsters. "It was right here in town, too. That's stuck in my mind."

These days, Root is considered a rare but valuable commodity among volunteer fire departments.

"You just can't replace a guy with that kind of experience," Elkland Township Fire Chief Glenn Guilds commented.

"He says he's getting old, but I've got 24 fire fighters, and he probably is in the top half for (making) fire runs," Guilds added. "He's dependable, he doesn't back down. He's a hard worker."

Just the same, Root, who retired 9 years ago from what he describes as a "jack of all trades" career with the local elevator spanning 40 years, says he knows it's time to step down.

"There's things I can't do now. I'm getting too old — sometimes I can hardly climb into the truck," the Cass City native joked.

"I just decided I had enough. I figure I'm too old — let the younger guys take over," added Root, who indicated he'll retire with fond memories from his many years as a volunteer.

I enjoyed being on the department, just being with the guys," he said.

Uby Schools receives grant

Continued from page one.

Inating their local school districts to compete for this grant opportunity, these farmers demonstrated their dedication to growing the next generation.

America's Farmers Grow Rural

Education was launched nationally in 2012 and has grown to include 1,271 eligible counties in 39 states. Since its inception, the program has invested more than \$4.8 million in rural school districts across the nation.

SUDOKU

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3	1	2	4	1	7	8	6	
8	4	3	3	8	7	5	1	2
8	1	8	5	3	4	9		
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In Our OPINION...

Clarke Haire
Publisher

Tom Montgomery
Editor

Village fortunate to have Hills & Dales

Hospitals in rural communities often get an unfair rap when it comes to quality, advanced care, simply because they're located in a small town and aren't the size of a college campus.

But where would Cass City area residents be without Hills and Dales General Hospital?

The answer, in part, may very well be "out of luck", especially when immediate care — literally minutes — can make all the difference between life and death.

The medical staff at Hills and Dales has proven itself more than capable time and time again in the life-saving department. However, hospital officials also pride themselves in providing consistent, quality care in all departments.

The staff, administration and board at Hills and Dales have reason to be proud because they've earned a reputation for doing just that. How do they know? Simple; their patients are telling them. And let's face it, it takes no time for negative comments to spread like wildfire in small towns.

Still not convinced? The Studer Group, a firm that works with more than 850 healthcare organizations across the United States and beyond — coaching them on ways to achieve, sustain and accelerate exceptional clinical, operational and financial results — was scheduled to honor Hills and Dales officials with an Excellence in Patient Care award during the 11th annual What's Right in Health Care Conference this week in Atlanta.

Hills and Dales was selected for its exemplary "Patients always received help as soon as they wanted" results on the HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) patient survey, according to the Studer Group, which noted the Cass City hospital's outstanding results ranked among the highest from a database of more than 850 of its partner organizations.

"This commitment to quality demonstrates the fact that values-driven organizations like Hills and Dales compel their leaders, physicians and care teams to simply do the right thing for all patients," Studer Group officials said.

The result has been a highly-engaged workforce that has earned many patient and family testimonials concerning the level of outstanding care provided locally.

In an age when talk is cheap, Hills and Dales General Hospital officials continue to "walk the walk" in delivering top-notch care 24/7.

As we said, the hospital staff has reason to be proud, and area residents have reason to be thankful for the peace of mind they can have, knowing that sort of care is available in their own backyard whenever they need it.

Slices of Life

by Jill Pertler

Coming clean




Last weekend I came out of the closet — with an armload that included an old Christmas sweater, two pairs of mom jeans and a maternity top from 1997.

I'd been aware of the need for an organize-the-closet day, but had been avoiding the task. Now I was (finally) coming clean, much to my own surprise.

I hadn't planned to spend the day sorting through my impressive collection of leg warmers and shoulder-pad-laden blouses, but I woke in the morning with an inexplicable desire to reinvent the bedroom closet. The task beckoned like an itch and I dove in with the confidence of a woman in possession of a back-scratcher.

There is a certain amount of satisfaction that comes with restoring order to a closet. The action of downsizing creates an innate sense of peace and well-being — in a revitalizing sort of way. Organizing is energizing — and I was as pumped up as any drum-beating bunny.

While I didn't find any skeletons in my closet, there was a Spiderman costume from Halloween of 2004. Oh what a tangled web we weave, when our closets are stuffed and clothes won't leave. Spidey was just the beginning.

Long underwear worn long ago on a winter outing. Belts no longer capable of the full trip around my waist. Swimsuit cover-ups — covered with the dust of abandonment. Exercise clothes left over from a 2002 fitness phase. Purses for fancy occasions, purses for casual occasions, purses from before my kids were born because who ever tosses a purse? (You never know when it will come back in style.)

How many black sweaters can one woman own? Believe me, you don't want to know. I don't even want to know and I am that woman.

In a flurry of faded denim and otherwise forgotten Zubaz pants, I purged and it felt good. I saw my life unfolding like a wrinkled T-shirt or maybe a bad cliché — as less became more — and I caught a glimpse of the closet wall, where old college sweatshirts had been piled, en masse, blocking the view.

As I pared away at the task, I came to a disheartening conclusion; my closet was literally stuffed with stuff. My entire house is stuffed with stuff. As I further destuffed, I realized the same could probably be said about life in general. So much stuff.

We accumulate without realizing what we are doing. We live in the midst of a blizzard, but aren't even aware it's snowing. If we do become cognizant of the flurries around us, we may find it is hard to breathe.

It hasn't always been this way.

Bedroom closets have not always been the norm, and the universality of walk-in closets is a recent development brought on by a culture enamored with stuff.


People haven't always enjoyed the luxury of molded plastic hangers. The first shoulder shaped wire clothes hanger was invented in 1869

— nearly 100 years after our forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence. In colonial times women likely hung their clothes on hooks. There wasn't a need for hangers because even well-to-do people like George and Martha Washington only had a few changes of clothing, and probably just one pair of shoes (maybe two). Imagine that.

Times have changed. Our need for footwear has multiplied. At least we live like it has.

Last weekend, I walked into my closet laden with the weight of stuff. I came out a little lighter, and a bit less burdened by the chaotic excess that has become the bane of everyday life. I've still got a long way to go, but the bedroom closet is a start. Next weekend I think I'll tackle the kitchen junk drawer. Wish me luck.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, playwright and author of "The Do-It-Yourselfer's Guide to Self-Syndication" You can read more columns at the Slices of Life page on Facebook.



Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

Due to the Postal Service's dire financial situation, Marking Manager Greater MI District, Terri Hagen, writes: we are realigning our operational networks to gain operational efficiencies and help return the organization to financial stability.

For the local business community, that means effective October 29, 2013 the new critical acceptance time is Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

In order to meet the new dispatch times and make certain your mail will begin processing the day you enter it with the Postal Service warranted the critical acceptance time change, according to Hagen. Any mail brought in prior to critical acceptance time will be processed the day of entry. Any presorted mail entered after the critical acceptance time will be sent to processing on the following day.

For the Chronicle, I think that means get each week's issues to the post office dock before 3. That won't be a problem, here.

The Michigan Tobacco Quitline, a program of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), recently announced the celebration of 10 years of helping Michigan residents achieve a tobacco-free life. In addition, as of August, the Quitline surpassed 50,000 enrollees since its inception.

While Michigan has made great strides in reducing tobacco use, there is still work to be done. In 2012, an estimated 23.3 percent of Michigan adults reported that they currently smoke cigarettes on a regular basis, a figure that is higher than the U.S. median prevalence of 19.6 percent.

The Michigan Tobacco Quitline is available 7 days a week and can be reached at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669) or <https://michigan.quitlogix.org/>. For more information about tobacco use in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov/tobacco.

Never quit quitting.

The Michigan State Police, Caro post, invites citizens to sign-up for a free notification service at www.nixle.com.

Michigan State Police Sgt. Brian McComb reports the service — which will provide important text, email, or web messages specific to your area — was utilized after a recent walk away from the Caro Center. Agencies can also post traffic issues, crime trends and many other items of public interest.

Here's more from the Michigan State Police. Lt. Mitch Krugielki is looking for your help.

Earlier this month, reports the Caro Post Commander, troopers were dispatched to the vicinity of Pinnebog Road near Berne Road to retrieve a found headstone. The homeowners were unaware of where the headstone came from or how it got onto their property. The marble headstone is gray in color with the name "EDITH" engraved on the front. Anyone with further information should contact the Michigan State Police Caro Post at 989-673-2156.

Letters to the Editor

"Cemetery Walk" ticket response overwhelming

Dear editor,

Due to the extremely positive response to the Cemetery Walk at Elkland Township Cemetery on Oct. 27, we have sold out of tickets.

We never anticipated this overwhelming support, but we feel we had to limit the tickets to 100. We appreciate everyone's support in helping us raise \$700 for the American

Cancer Society, as 100 percent of ticket sales are going to this worthy cause!



We are hoping to have the event videotaped so we may keep it for local history purposes as well as provide another option for those who were not able to attend.

Tyler Perry and Kate Van Auken
Event organizers



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Wednesday, October 23

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.

Owen-Gage School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
Huron County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, Huron Behavioral Health, Bad Axe. For more information, contact Rhonda Quinn at (989) 269-9293.

Thursday, October 24

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

Community Lunch, noon, Shabbona United Methodist Church.
Thumb TEA Party, 6:30 p.m., Evangelical Free Church, Cass City.
The AAUW Halloween Carnival and Middle School Spook House for ages 3-12 is being held in the Cass City Middle School from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Games, face painting, food, prizes! Game tickets 5 for \$1.00, spook house 3 tickets.

Saturday, October 26

AA meeting, 10-11 a.m., St. Joseph Church, 4960 N. Ubly Rd., Argyle. (Meeting will be held in the hall next to the little stone church).

Thumb Dance Club featuring "Dick Hedrich", Halloween/Pumpkin Pies Sandusky Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., Sandusky. Dancing from 7-11 p.m. Everyone welcome- bring finger foods (for 9 p.m.) and friends! Questions call Leola (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy (810) 404-4250. Admission: \$5 (members) & \$6 (non-members).

Monday, October 28

Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Ubly. 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 School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary meeting, 11:30 a.m., Gilligans.

Tuscola County Right to Life meeting, 6:30-8 p.m., Caro Area District Library, 840 W. Frank St., Caro. For more information, call (989) 872-3259.

Cass City Village Council meeting, 7 p.m., municipal building.

Tuesday, October 29

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

Caro Center resident in custody after walking away from facility

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A Caro Center resident enjoyed a few hours of freedom before the long arm of the law caught up with him last week.

Tuscola County Sheriff's deputies reported the 28-year-old man, identified as Michael Sanchez, walked away from the state-run psychiatric center in Caro at about 3:30 p.m. last Wednesday.

The sheriff's department reported in a news release that Sanchez was court-ordered to be at the facility after he was charged with armed robbery and found to be incompetent to stand trial.

Troopers from the Michigan State Police post in Caro also issued a news release, stating Sanchez "has not been violent toward staff, however, he is considered dangerous."

The suspect, who is reportedly from the Genesee County area, was taken

into custody without incident Wednesday at about 10:57 p.m. at the Admiral Gas Station in Caro, according to troopers.

The Caro Police Department, sheriff's department, Reese Police Department, Michigan State Police Flint K-9 Unit, troopers from the Flint and Tri-City posts, and officers from the Thumb Narcotics Unit (TNU) all assisted in the investigation.

Circuit court news

Several charged with felonies

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

*Noilen R. Ford, 19, Saginaw, pleaded guilty to two counts of uttering and publishing involving checks for \$471.27 and \$489.20, both drawn on Bank of America Aug. 21 in Vassar.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case and bond was continued at \$8,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Morley A. Griffen, 52, Marlette, pleaded guilty to one count of violating the Sex Offenders Registration Act by failing to notify local law enforcement of a change in address between Sept. 12, 2012, and June 21, 2013, in Novesta Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$8,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Neil T. Gammon, 54, Mount Morris, pleaded guilty to a charge of altering or forging a registration plate issued by the Michigan Department of State, or knowingly possessing a false or counterfeit registration plate June 29 in Juniata Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$4,000. Sentencing was scheduled for Oct. 28 at a 1 p.m.

*Joshua L. Peters, 30, Saginaw, pleaded guilty to two counts of

domestic violence, third offense, Aug. 18-20 in Reese.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$6,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Melianne A. Napper, 22, Vassar, pleaded no contest to one count of abandoning/cruelty to an animal, resulting in the animal's death Sept. 1-9, 2012, in Ellington Township, and to one count of abandoning/cruelty to an animal, resulting in the animal's death, and two counts of owning a dog not properly licensed Aug. 6 in Vassar.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at a combined \$8,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Justin Napper, 24, Vassar, pleaded no contest to one count of abandoning/cruelty to an animal, resulting in the animal's death Sept. 1-9, 2012, in Ellington Township, and to one count of abandoning/cruelty to an animal, resulting in the animal's death, and two counts of owning a dog not properly licensed Aug. 6 in Vassar.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at a combined \$8,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Ralph E. Bills II, 27, Richville, pleaded no contest to assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and domestic violence, second offense, Aug. 3 in Tuscola County.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at

\$15,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Timothy A. Wilson, 54, Swartz Creek, pleaded guilty to one count each of possession of cocaine, heroin or another narcotic (less than 25 grams) and operating a motor vehicle while impaired Aug. 1 in Mayville.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$100. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Michael J. Depola, 39, Caro, was sentenced to 18 months to 15 years in prison following his pleas of guilty to uttering and publishing involving a \$1,000 check drawn on Citizens Bank Feb. 2 in Caro, and to violating the Sex Offenders Registration Act by failing to notify local law enforcement of a change in address May 26 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to prison time, he was ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$396 plus restitution of \$1,007 and attorneys fees of \$500.

*Gregory C. Leahy Jr., 25, Bay City, was sentenced to 14 months to 10 years in prison following his pleas of no contest to breaking and entering a building with intent to commit larceny, and larceny in a building April 19 in Gilford Township.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$667 plus restitution of \$1,014 and attorneys fees of \$500.

Drug "take-back" scheduled

Continued from page one.

pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs," Sheriff Lee Teschendorf said, adding the collection is free and anonymous — no questions asked.

"We will be accepting pills, capsules and powders. We cannot accept liquids, ointments or salves," Teschendorf explained. "Pill must be removed from blister packs if they are in them prior to being brought in."

Residents can also drop off old, unused prescriptions at the Michigan State Police post, located at 1485 Cleaver Rd. (M-24), also in Caro.

Last April, Americans turned in 371 tons of prescription drugs at more than 5,800 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. During its 5 previous take-back events, DEA and its partners took in more than 2.8 million pounds (1,409 tons) of prescription medications.

According to Teschendorf, the initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue.

Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse, he said, noting rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses.

Studies have shown that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family members and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods of disposing of unused medicines — flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash — both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Four days after the first drug take-back collection, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow an "ultimate user" of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the attorney general to accept them. The act also allows the attorney general to authorize long-term care facilities to dispose of their residents' controlled substances in certain instances.

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- *Mental health conditions do not discriminate.*
- *People going through depression or anxiety are more likely to seek help if someone close to them suggests it.*
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from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The Cass City Chamber of Commerce & the Downtown Development Authority Proudly Present
Cass City's Spotlight Business of the Week
Cass City's 2013 Pinktober Committee
 Margaret Mead is quoted as saying "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." No where is that statement more evident than in Cass City during the month of October.
 This is the third year that Cass City has been involved in Pinktober, and each year it gets bigger and better. Due to the tireless efforts of the Pinktober committee and the generous, community minded nature of Cass City's businesses, Pinktober is one event that offers something for everyone. From the Talent Show to the 5 K Run/Walk, from the Pumpkin Launch to the capstone "Pink or Treat in the Street" town wide trick or treating, there is no limit to the ways you can get involved. Cancer has affected us all in one way or another. Every one of us has a family member, friend, or lover who's world has been turned upside down by this hateful disease. Mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, friend or loved one - Cancer has no friends and gives no passes. Help us help those who fight this battle for us all. Pick up a flyer, visit us on the Cass City Chamber of Commerce website, or check out the Pinktober Facebook page to help us make a stand. Together, we are strong.
 Be sure to check next week's paper for the next Cass City Spotlight Business of the Week.
 Remember to Shop Local & Support Those Who Support Cass City!



Home & Hospice
 Community Quilt at
 Cherished Treasures
at 4:00 p.m.

5K "Glow" Run/Walk in
 Downtown Cass City at
6:30 p.m.

Pinktober Pizza Eating
 Contest at Maria's
at 5:00 p.m.

Pinktober Talent Show
 in Rotary Park
at 7:00 p.m.

I would like to personally thank my Pinktober committee, all of the sponsors, and our community who helped paint Cass City pink. It is so wonderful to watch our community come together in efforts not only to raise money but also to raise awareness in hopes to find a cure and end this disease.

Thank You!

Thank you,
 Joey Kreeger,
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Raise awareness

Early detection is the key to survival

It is estimated that 8,140 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 1,360 women will die from the disease in Michigan during 2013. The good news is that it can be detected early. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is encouraging women to follow screening recommendations to detect breast cancer early.

"Early detection is the key to survival. With regular screening, breast cancer is more likely to be detected at an earlier stage, when it is most treatable," said Dr. Matthew Davis, Chief Medical Executive with the MDCH. "The five-year survival rate among women whose breast cancer has not spread beyond the breast at the time of diagnosis is 98 percent."

It is recommended that women ages 20-39 receive a clinical breast exam every three years, and women 40 years and older receive a clinical breast exam and mammogram yearly for as long as a woman is in good health. Additionally, if a woman notices a lump or other change in her breast, she should have it checked by a doctor right away. Although the incidence of breast cancer is highest among white women, breast cancer mortality rates are highest among racial minorities. African-Americans are more likely than Caucasians to die from breast cancer, partly due to a later stage at diagnosis. However, even at the same stage of diagnosis, African-American women show lower survival rates.

Nationally in 2008, women with a disability ages 50-74 reported a lower rate of mammography use than women without a disability of the same ages. Studies also show higher rates of death related to breast cancer among women with a disability, even when diagnosed at the same stage as women without a disability. Having regular mammograms can lower the risk of dying from breast cancer.

Some things can increase the chance or risk of breast cancer such as increasing age, personal history of breast cancer, family history of breast cancer and, in a few cases, breast cancer is inherited due to genetic factors. There are things women can do to lower their risk of getting breast cancer including limiting alcohol intake, being physically active and maintaining a healthy body weight.

The MDCH Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) provides breast and cervical screening and select diagnostic services to eligible women who otherwise would not have access to these services. Any Michigan woman, ages 40 through 64, can call 1-877-588-6224 to obtain a local phone number to talk to the BCCCP coordinating agency closest to her home. Each woman will be assessed for program eligibility based on age and income, and provided an appointment to a health care provider or clinic near her home.

For more information about BCCCP and cancer in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov/cancer.

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SPOOK HOUSE



A NUMBER OF Cass City residents are going all out with their Halloween decorations this year. The creative decorations range from life-size figures of menacing ghosts and goblins to inflatable displays.



THE SANILAC County Sheriff's Department was honored last week with its fourth S.T.O.P.P.E.D Award for counties with a population of 25,000 to 49,999 people. Pictured above are (from left) Sanilac County Under-sheriff Brad Roff, Lt. Charlene Washkevich, Van Buren County Sheriff Dale Gribler (chairman of the S . T . O . P . P . E . D Committee) and Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson.



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Sanilac deputies recognized in teen driver safety program

Continued from page one.

office regarding the incident."

The program is saving lives, according to Michigan Sheriff's Association officials, who say the effort is helpful to parents because they can provide consequences that are more apt to have a greater effect on their teen's driving habits. For example, instead of — or in addition to — paying an \$85 ticket, parents can further restrict driving privileges.

"With parent involvement, the teen may lose the ability to drive with friends/passengers in the vehicle, lose their cell phone or possibly even lose the privilege of driving at all for a set period of time," officials say. "The restriction can be tailored to better help break the bad habit."

Currently, there are more than

30,000 vehicles registered in the program, which was launched 8 years ago. Since then, just over 100 letters have been sent home to parents.

"The fact that so few of these teens have been pulled over is the measure of (the program's) success because it means teens are practicing safe driving," MSA officials say. "In the history of the program, we have never had a report that a registered vehicle has been involved in a crash. We have also never had to report a fatality to a parent whose vehicle was registered in the program."

"Teens drive more cautiously when they have their parents in the vehicle with them. Having the S.T.O.P.P.E.D decal on the windshield is a constant reminder to teens that they should always drive as cautiously as they do when their parents are in the car."

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STATE SENATOR Mike Green (R-Mayville) recently welcomed the Rev. Dr. Jason Garwood (right) to the Michigan Senate. Garwood, who delivered the invocation before a Senate session, is the lead pastor at Colwood Church in Caro.

Make Halloween FUN For Everyone!

Please plan your **TRICK OR TREATING**
Thursday, October 31
Hours: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

  
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