

Meet the Cass City High School Class of '14!

Pages 5-10

Deford Dazzlers run into challenges at event

Page 15

Cass City boasts five national essay finalists

Page 20

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 9

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2014

75 CENTS ~ 20 PAGES - 2 SUPPLEMENT

School officials looking at \$460,000 in cuts

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

With the start of a new fiscal year looming once again, Cass City School officials started the task Monday of looking at revenues and expenditures with their fingers crossed.

Unfortunately, the preliminary figures indicate the local school board will have to slice costs by roughly

\$460,000 or dig deeply into its coveted fund balance.

The discussion was held in conjunction with a special budget session that followed an uneventful rescheduled monthly meeting Monday night.

School Supt. Jeff Hartel outlined Cass City's budget and enrollment trends over the past several years prior to presenting the board with a list of anticipated cost increases

totaling \$461,020 in the coming year.

Not surprisingly, enrollment losses topped the list, with a projected

reduction of another 20 kids next year, adding up to a little over \$140,000 in lost revenue based on a per-pupil state foundation grant of

\$7,076.

Considering the average decline in enrollment locally — about 3.7 per-
Please turn to page 20.

Council holding line on tax rate

by Andie Peck
Staff Writer

The Cass City Village Council agreed to hold the line on the village's tax rate for another year during its monthly meeting Monday night.

Cass City's millage rate, which will remain at 18.1387 mills in 2014, has been that amount since 2009.

According to members of the council, it is necessary to set tax rates now in order to start the tax bill process and have the tax bills printed and mailed by July 1.

Nanette Walsh, village clerk-treasurer, explained the millage rate is equal to \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed value, and will remain the same for 2014. "Whatever the tax-
Please turn to page 20.

Judge orders jail time in embezzlement case

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

A Cass City woman convicted of embezzling more than \$20,000 while working at Millennium Industries was ordered to serve jail time last week in Tuscola County Circuit Court.

Amber R. Hennessey, 26, previously pleaded no contest to one count of embezzlement by an agent - \$20,000 to \$50,000. A second count of embezzlement by an agent - \$1,000 to \$20,000, was dismissed.

The offense carries a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in prison and/or a \$15,000 fine, or three times the amount embezzled, whichever is greater. However, under a plea

agreement reached in the case, Hennessey was sentenced to 150 days in jail.

In addition, she was ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$698 plus full restitution of \$26,224.80.

Prosecutors alleged the crimes took place over the course of 16 months, from April 2011 through August 2012, at Millennium Industries' Cass City plant, located at 6285 Garfield Avenue.

The Cass City Police Department began its investigation into the allegations in October 2012, according to reports, which state plant officials claimed the thefts took place while Hennessey was employed as human resources manager at Millennium.
Please turn to page 20.



CASS CITY Elementary School students gathered at the football field to try some Zumba moves with Jody Barrigar from VIP Fitness during Relay Recess, a program emphasizing the importance of making healthy daily choices. At right, Beth Howard (left) and Vanessa Sutton (center) present a \$4,886.60 check generated during the community fundraising effort to Nolan Piotrowski, senior manager of Relay for Life.



RELAY RECESS

Local pupils raise \$4,886 for American Cancer Society

by Andie Peck
Staff Writer

Cass City Elementary School students participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay Recess program, which taught them about the importance of making healthy choices about nutrition and physical activity, as well as sun exposure safety and tobacco use prevention.

From Tuesday, April 29, through Friday, May 16, students also helped raise money for the American

Cancer Society by donating \$5 and decorating a luminary bag in honor or memory of someone in their lives affected by cancer.

Elementary school students gathered at the football field to try some Zumba dancing and run and play around the track, where officials announced that the fundraising efforts generated a whopping \$4,886.60 — more than double the goal of \$2,000.

Decorated luminary bags lined the track.

Vanessa Sutton, who organized the community involvement with Jamie Reinke, indicated it was wonderful to see the program achieve the original goal and then some.

"It is absolutely amazing to see everyone in the community come together," she said.

She noted the idea for the elementary school students to participate in the program was inspired by her son Wyatt, who was diagnosed with cancer and is now in remission.

Sutton worked with Reinke to make phone calls, secure sponsors in the community and recruit elementary school teachers to help out with planning.

Sponsors chipped in for bracelets and for a dunk tank. Winners of the raffle enjoyed the opportunity to dunk a principal.

Special events slated to honor Thumb veterans

by Andie Peck
Staff Writer

Memorial Day is a well-known national holiday meant to honor soldiers who have fallen while in service to this country. It is celebrated across the nation with parades and events.

Originally named Decoration Day, it was established after the Civil War ended as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers.

While the actual place of origin of the holiday remains a mystery, it has come to be known as a powerful reminder of the price those in the Armed Forces pay for our freedom.

The residents of Cass City take special pride in this holiday and respecting the sacrifice soldiers made to this country, and plan to celebrate with an annual parade through town followed by a ceremony at Elkland Township Cemetery.

This year, there will be an added attraction to the normally planned Memorial Day activities.

A Marine Corps veteran will be involved in Memorial Day activities over the weekend by displaying his privately maintained "Marine Corps-Vette" that is decorated in a patriotic theme.

David Sommerdorf, the Marine veteran, leads the Ground Zero Mobile Memorial to 9/11 and the War on Terror, the Corvette. It seeks to serve as a reminder of the lives lost during the events of September 11, and all lives lost in service to the military.

"He travels the country with his wife and displays the car as part of his ministry," Joe Merchant, commander of VFW Post 3644, said.

The Marine Corps-Vette serves as part of a larger purpose for Sommerdorf and wife Debra, to meet and minister to families and speak about the importance of supporting our troops as they defend our freedom.

Sommerdorf will be a special guest at the First Baptist Church Sunday, May 25, during the services at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. that will honor veterans. After the services his car will be on display at the church.

Merchant said Memorial Day attendees can look forward to the annual sight known commonly as the "Avenue of Flags," the lining of roughly 200 American flags up and down the main drive of the Elkland Township

Please turn to page 15.

Peck interning at the Chronicle for the summer

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

The staff of the Cass City Chronicle recently welcomed the arrival of this year's summer news/editorial intern. Andrea "Andie" Peck, 21, of Ortonville, began her duties early last week.

"In the fall, I will be a senior at Central Michigan University, where I am studying journalism and history,"

Peck said. "I haven't had any internships before, but I have worked at Central Michigan Life, the student newspaper at CMU, for three years."

Peck's primary role this summer will be as a staff writer and photographer, helping to cover all areas of news and features in the community. She'll also be writing the Chronicle's revived "Ask you neighbor" man-on-the-street column.

In addition, Peck will be responsible for producing and assisting in compiling all of the copy and photos for the paper's annual Freedom Festival section.

Please turn to page 20.



MARINE VETERAN David Sommerdorf and his wife, Debra, travel the country displaying their Marine Corps-Vette and ministering to communities. They also speak about the importance of being thankful for the freedoms Americans enjoy, as well as honoring the victims of the events of 9/11. They will be special guests at the First Baptist Church in Cass City Sunday for 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. services.



Andie Peck



THE CASS CITY Junior-Senior High Academic Games Math and English teams recently finished first among 11 Thumb area schools in an annual competition at SVSU. Members of the Math team are (above, from left) Joe Kampo, Alex Tabar, Elisabeth Milligan, Lucas Koepf, Kayla Zmierski and Shaede Perzanowski. Not pictured is Coach Amy Tamlyn.



THE FIRST-PLACE English team is composed of (from left) Olivia Smerdon, Erin Schuette, Kristin Ewald, Anna Bagnall, Paige Bagnall, Savana Doerr, Morgan Anderson and Coach Jane Reif. The overall Academic Games results, with teams listed in first through third places, respectively, were: English — Cass City, USA and Caro; Math — Cass City, Sandusky and USA; Science — Kingston, Reese and USA; Social Studies — Caro, Brown City and Reese; and Technology — Caro, Mayville and Kingston.

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

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Answers to May 14, 2014

7	4	2	0	9	1	3	0	0
5	9	6	3	7	8	1		
1	3	8	5	2	0	4	7	
4	2	7	0	8	3	5	1	8
6	3	1	7	4	5	8	2	
9	5	8	1	2	6	4	3	
2	7	4	3	6	9	1	5	8
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Sattelburg graduates from CMU

Crystal Lynn Sattelburg recently graduated with a master's degree in education from Central Michigan University. Crystal was a 2002 graduate of Cass City High School. Her parents are Bill and Gloria Sattelburg of Midland.



Crystal Sattelburg

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*Class Flower: Lily ~ Class Colors: Black and Gold
Class Motto: "The past is my heritage, the present my responsibility,
the future my challenge" Unknown*

Class Song: "It's Time" - Imagine Dragons

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Alexander Tabar and Brennen Winter*

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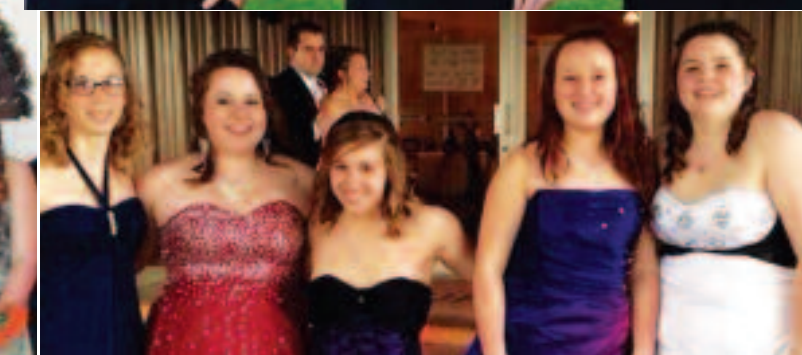
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Cass City High School Graduates of 2014



Alexander Tabar
 Parents:
 Dale & Carrie Tabar
 College/Future Plans:
 Eastern Michigan University
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Brock Thane
 Parents:
 Bill & Marie Thane
 College/Future Plans:
 Central Michigan Univ.
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Cody Thompson
 Parents:
 William Thompson and Penny Horne
 College/Future Plans:
 Central Michigan Univ.
 Sponsor:
Thabet Funeral Home



Breanna Tietjens
 Parents:
 Melissa Miron and Dennis Tietjens
 College/Future Plans:
 Delta
 Sponsor:
Harris and Company



Audrey Van Auken
 Parents:
 Joe & Kate Van Auken
 College/Future Plans:
 Notre Dame
 Sponsor:
Chemical Bank



Miranda Williams
 Parents:
 Brian & Janice Williams
 College/Future Plans:
 Mid Michigan Community College
 Sponsor:
Harris and Company



Dakota Wilson
 Parents:
 Doug Wilson and Jami Wilson
 College/Future Plans:
 Douglas J. Aveda Institute
 Sponsor:
Reggie Ignash - MFB



Brennen Winter
 Parents:
 Kirk & Lisa Winter
 College/Future Plans:
 Ferris State University
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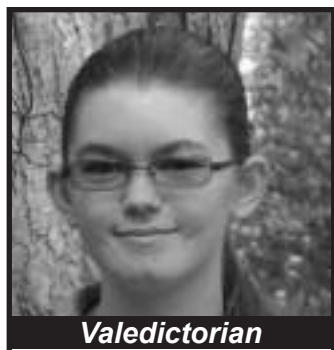
Katherine Woodruff
 Parents:
 Charles & Kelly Woodruff
 College/Future Plans:
 Spring Arbor University
 Sponsor:
Consultations Unlimited



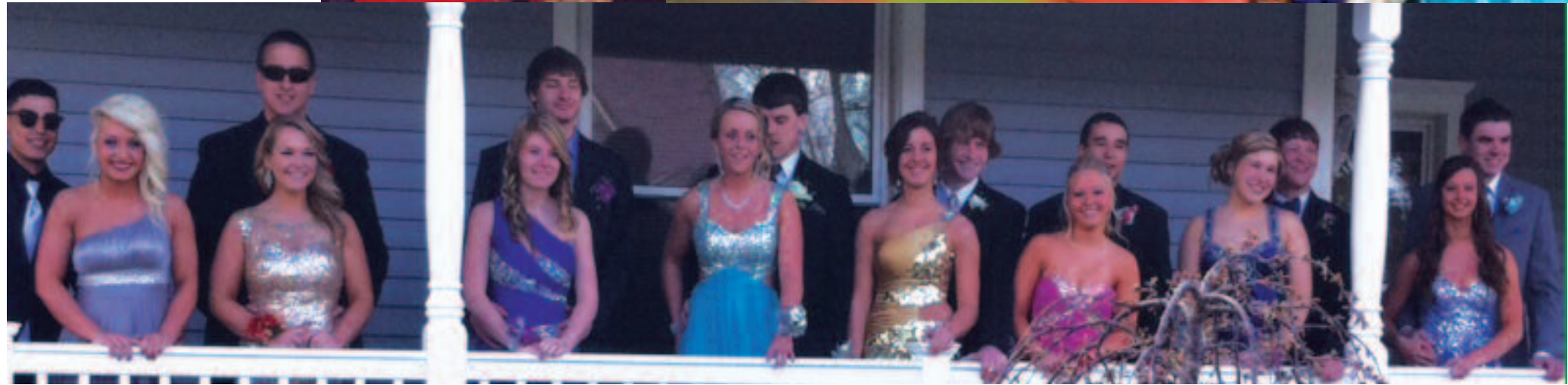
Kayla Wright
 Parents:
 Arlene Adkins and Dale Wright
 College/Future Plans:
 SVSU
 Sponsor:
Knights Insurance Agency



Justin Zaleski
 Parents:
 Steve & Alice Zaleski
 College/Future Plans:
 Alpena Community College
 Sponsor:
Thumb National Bank



Valedictorian Kayla Zmierski
 Parents:
 Mark & Becky Zmierski
 College/Future Plans:
 SVSU
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