

CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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

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THERE WAS PLENTY of work to do during the 17th annual Bluewater Thumb YFC Summer Benefit Auction, held Saturday at Cass City Recreation Park, but the volunteers on hand appeared to be having a good time. Above, Marty (with microphone) and Dave (wearing tan hat) Osentoski auction off a pair of Amish-made toys with the help of YFC youth volunteers.

Local YFC sale raises \$27,000, in spite of rain

by Tom Montgomery
 Editor

Dozens of Thumb area residents poured into Cass City Recreation Park Saturday for the 17th annual Bluewater Thumb Youth for Christ (YFC) Summer Benefit Auction, and many came ready to spend money for a great cause.

Heather Jensen, who serves as YFC ministry coordinator in Tuscola County, welcomed every dollar, but she also enjoyed what she considers to be an annual family reunion of sorts.

"The auction's fun for us in Tuscola County. It just feels like home and family," Jensen commented over the weekend after another successful sale that will cover a large share of the local YFC budget. "It really does feel like a family reunion."

And the "family" members on hand Saturday proved themselves to be generous and then some, in spite of what turned out to be a soggy day.

"Our bidder numbers were pretty close (to last year), but I think a lot of people had family there. I think we had more people, and it was definitely a crowd that was out there to support the ministry," said Jensen, who estimated this year's gross sales at \$27,000 — roughly \$3,000 more than a year ago.

"I was very pleased with how it turned out. People were extremely generous," she added. In fact, Jensen said, the bidders included some who donated a combined

\$2,000 in scholarship money to send five YFC youth on the organization's annual trip to Florida.

Faithful YFC supporters, including Osentoski Realty and Auctioneering along with a host of area individuals and other businesses that make the auction possible, also didn't disappoint.

"Marty and Dave (Osentoski) are huge, huge supporters of the ministry. They do a ton of volunteer auctioning. I think it's just something that they really treasure," Jensen said.

Proceeds from the auction will go to support YFC Campus Life programs in Cass City, Caro, Reese, Akron-Fairgrove and Kingston, according to Jensen, who is best known in the area for her work as Bluewater Thumb YFC Campus Life director for Tuscola County with the exception of the Cass City-Kingston region, where Josh Byer is now in his third year as Campus Life director.

The organization works with youth at the junior high and high school levels. YFC has established a consistent presence in six of Tuscola County's nine public school districts, and officials are working to launch programs in the Mayville, Vassar and Reese schools.

"We work in conjunction with all of the churches and the school districts. We organize programs, events and trips (designed to) help teenagers make good choices and live a balance. Please turn to page 8.

Revive set to "go orange" next month for the needy

Buy a balloon and help local ministry stretch its buck with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

by Tom Montgomery
 Editor

Revive Ministries of Cass City is once again "going orange" in September in an effort to boost the area ministry's food pantry program, and all area residents are invited to get involved.

September has been designated as Hunger Action Month, which prompted Revive officials to launch a project that would focus the spotlight on the needs of families in the region that are struggling financially.

"Last year we decided to bring awareness to this fact and did our first 'Going Orange' (campaign)," said Jaime Fritz of Revive Ministries. "We sold orange balloons, which were released at our September food pantry."

"Each balloon cost \$1, which allows us to purchase six meals at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan," Fritz explained. "We sold over 400 balloons which allowed us to purchase over 6,400 meals. It was such a success that we have decided to make this an annual event."

"Once again we will have balloons for sale at Revive as well as some other local businesses," she added. When a balloon is purchased, their (purchaser) name will be written on a paper balloon displayed at Revive, and we will then launch that number of balloons at our September food pantry on the 20th."

The balloon launch is slated to take place at about 11 a.m. and everyone is invited to attend and enjoy lunch and fun activities.



CASS CITY'S FRANK Stoup will continue to run Mulligan's Irish Links and the Knights of Columbus Hall while evaluating the best new use for the properties. Assisting Stoup (above) will be (from left) Helen Larson, Krystal Meyer and Joyce Sugden, all current employees of Flowers Galore and More.

Future undecided

New owner of Mulligan's Irish Links, K of C Hall in town looking at options

by Andie Peck
 Staff Writer

Frank Stoup, owner and founder of Flowers Galore and More, has purchased the properties previously used for Mulligan's Irish Links and the former Knights of Columbus Hall in Cass City.

He clarified that he did not buy the business name, or the business debts, but rather just the property of 30 acres and select assets.

"We looked at various properties, and when we found this one I saw that it was a spectacular piece of land," Stoup said. "And with the price, it just made sense."

He also noted that the land purchase includes the Knights of Columbus Hall.

"Once we secured that property, we saw that the one with the Knights of Columbus hall was also for sale. We bought that as well," he said.

Stoup explained that he felt the purchasing of the properties was the easy part.

"We now have to decide what we want to do with it," he said. "We don't want to make any promises about if it will remain a golf course or not, because we don't know."

Stoup has been doing research, looking at the demographics of Cass City and weighing the pros and cons of keeping the golf course that is now on the property as is.

"I think there are far too many golf courses now," he said. "Golf is a diffi-

Please turn to page 6.

Study rooms honor village's past librarians

by Tom Montgomery
 Editor

The new study rooms at Rawson Memorial District Library in Cass City have that "just finished" look and probably will for years to come, but they honor a past spanning several decades filled with the care and devotion of those whose dedication helped to create the modern facility patrons enjoy today.

The study rooms have been dedicated in honor of Reva Little and Barb Hutchinson.

During Little's 21-year tenure, from 1950 to 1971, the village's library was located in the back of the old fire hall (now Coach Light Pharmacy) and offered patrons 5,100 items packed into 450 square feet of space.

Back then overdue book fines were one cent per day, and residents living outside Elkland Township paid \$1 for library services.

In 1954, the village of Cass City and Elkland Township partnered in order to obtain state aid revenue. That source of income was based on 2,919 residents at four cents per person in 1964, adding up to a whopping \$117. By 1966, the Cass City and Elkland Public Library was also serving residents in Elmwood, Novesta, Evergreen and Greenleaf townships, and joined the Saginaw Public Library

Please turn to page 8.



Reva Little



Barb Hutchinson



LIBRARY Director Kate Van Auken is pictured at left with Lois Roberts (left), the daughter of Reva Little, a former longtime Cass City librarian whose name adorns one of two new study rooms at Rawson Memorial District Library.

Inside This Week

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Chronicle intern Andie Peck bids farewell to the community

by Andie Peck
Staff Writer

When I first found out that I would be coming to Cass City for the summer, I didn't know what to think.

We were at a restaurant celebrating my dad's birthday, and my family cheered so loudly for me that we got strange looks from everybody else there. But I was a little uncertain. Of course, up until that point I had been hoping I would get the internship, but now that I actually had it a whole new level of "Wow, I'm actually doing this," was added. It was suddenly very real.



Andie Peck

In my typical fashion, I immediately started mentally panicking, then told myself to calm down, then started panicking again. However, I would soon find out that all my inner freak-outs had been completely ungrounded. This has been one of the coolest summers of my life.

On my first day of work, I found myself back out the door again within the hour working on a story. The assignment, "Ask Your Neighbor," would become a weekly tradition for the summer, and something that would equally stress me out and give me a fortunate chance to meet practically the whole town. (Thank you Lena, for taking pity on me after I explained it was my first day, and agreeing to be my first "neighbor.")

Things took off as if in a whirlwind after that.

I'll always remember one of my first assignments. It was to photograph the senior awards night at the high school, and I was supposed to specifically get pictures of seniors accepting two sports awards. While at the event, I was taking tons of pictures of awards being handed out when the first of the two sports awards was announced. I raised the camera to snap the picture of the senior accepting the award, and my camera died.

Long story short, I ended up getting some pictures of the awards on my phone, but nevertheless, I learned a valuable lesson about always being prepared and making sure my camera has a full battery.

Nightmares about cameras with low battery will probably haunt me for the rest of my career.

I also really loved having the chance to cover the Freedom Festival this year. Never before have I been solely responsible for an entire section of the newspaper, and I would like to thank the members of this year's Freedom Festival committee who were always so willing to help me get all the information I needed. I saw so many unique events that weekend that I never would have had the chance to experience if not for coming to Cass City, and the sunburn I earned that weekend will always be a personal badge of honor to me.

So many great things and wonder-

ful adventures have happened this summer that I think Tom should have just given me a full issue of the paper to try and tell them all, but I can see where he might have a problem with that.

But I will say this. In between all the week-to-week bustle, meeting of deadlines and phone interviews, I think I was able to learn a few things outside of the host of resume builders I'll walk away with.

The biggest thing I'll take from this is that I need to have confidence in my abilities. I came into this internship not very confident at all in what I am able to accomplish as a journalist, and I'll be heading back to school with what some may describe as "too much confidence," but I would disagree. I have every right to be confident, and it's all thanks to the wonderful people of this town and the amazing people I worked with at the Chronicle who never hesitated to help me out with an article and make sure I got all the information I was looking for.

So, people of Cass City, I would just like to say thank you for trusting me and welcoming me into your community.

Tom, I have so much respect for you as a person and a journalist, and I think it's because of you that I'll

always remember to "put the sun at my back" when taking a picture. I learned so much from you this summer, and I hope I was a good intern.

Krysta, thanks for being such a good friend and making sure I feel comfortable here. You were always there to talk to, and this summer has been really fun.

Clarke, thank you for letting me constantly use your camera. The Chronicle is totally awesome and I loved working here. Thank you for the opportunity.

Deb, thanks for reading everything I've ever written and for catching all my mistakes. I always looked forward to talking to you Mondays and Fridays.

I got into journalism for far better reasons than the fact that I simply like the way that newsprint smells and genuinely enjoy having ink-stained fingers, even though that's true. I chose a career in journalism because I've always known that I am a writer, I believe people have a basic right to know the truth about the world they live in and there's nothing I like better than a good story.

And to put it simply, this summer has been filled with great stories and even better people. Cass City is fascinating. It may be a small town, but it's anything but boring.

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

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

Two-family Estate Sale & Moving Sale

Marilyn DeRousse & Robert Elliott & Gail Cain
1943 Main Street, Ubyly, Michigan

Thursday, August 21, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday, August 22, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, August 23, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (1/2 off)

Furniture including sofa; hutch; dry sink; dining table; six dining chairs; queen bed with mattress (Snover), boxspring, and metal headboard and frame; three-piece queen bedroom set with dresser, chest, and head and footboards (with Sealy mattress and boxspring); desks; silverware chest; entertainment center; Powell Quartz Westminster grandfather clock; and other miscellaneous furniture. **Household** including dehumidifier, Filter Queen vacuum, EdenPURE heater, Noritake China (Whitehall with service for 9+), microwave and cart, cot, Pfaltzgraff stoneware (service for 12), silverware, linens, kitchen and cooking items, convection oven, pictures, mirrors, lamps, and an extensive selection of miscellaneous items. **Vintage and Antiques** including Pacemaker Graphic camera and accessories, dresser, glassware, cupboard, Kenmore sewing machine and cabinet, toys, J.L. Hudson Company fur cape, Cream of Wheat box with leather straps, and other miscellaneous items. **Other Items of Interest** including lawn mower, exercise bike, flags, hand tools, glider, bench, and an Evenheat kiln (with multiple ceramic molds).

This two-family estate sale has something for everyone!

No valuables will be on the premises until the day of the sale.
For pictures, please visit www.estatesales.net.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Deadline for submitting items in the calendar is the Friday noon before publication. Please send calendar items to:
Cass City Chronicle P.O. Box 115, Cass City MI 48726
Phone: (989)872-2010 Fax: (989)872-3810 chronicle@ccchronicle.net

Wednesday, August 20

- Spaghetti Dinner at Cass City VFW Hall from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Take out available. For more information call (989) 872-4933.
- 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, August 21

- Sanilac County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, 3 p.m., HDC Adult Day Services Building, 227 N. Elk St., Sandusky. For more information, contact Kim at (989) 673-4121 or Amanda at (810) 648-4497.
- Grief Support meetings, "Healing Together." Heritage Hill, 1430 Cleaver Rd., Caro, 7-8:30 p.m. For questions or to register to attend please call the office at (989) 872-5852 or toll free (877) 872-5852. These sessions are open to anyone dealing with a grief or loss. Sponsored by Hospice Advantage, Cass City.
- Caregiver Support Group, 11:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Bullard-Sanford Memorial Library, 520 W. Huron Ave., Vassar. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121.
- AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 553-5932.
- Music in Atwood Park- 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Friday, August 22

- Music in Rotary Park, Cass City - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Monday, August 25

- Cass City Village Council meeting, 7 p.m., municipal building.
- Cass City School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary meeting, 11:30 a.m., Gilligans (no meetings July, August, December).
- 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.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Ubyly. 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.

Tuesday, August 26

- Al-anon meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis Parrish, Pigeon.
- AA Meeting, 7-8 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 4960 N. Argyle Rd. (Meeting will be held in the hall next to the little stone church.)

STANDING COMMUNITY CALENDAR ITEMS

- First Sunday:**
- Gagetown United Methodist Brunch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., All you can eat. \$6 donation.
- First Monday:**
- Novesta Township Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.
 - Grief Support meetings, "Healing Together." Meadow Lane, 150 Meadow Lane, Bad Axe, 1-3 p.m. For questions or to register to attend please call the office at (989) 872-5852 or toll free (877) 872-5852. These sessions are open to anyone dealing with a grief or loss. Sponsored by Hospice Advantage, Cass City.
- Second Monday:**
- Elkland Township Board meeting, 7 p.m.
 - VFW monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m., VFW Hall, Cass City.
- Second Tuesday:**
- Thumb Octagon Barn meeting, 7 p.m., fire hall in Gagetown.
 - Tuscola County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., HDC Intergenerational Building, 430 Montague Ave., Caro. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121.
 - Kedron OES #33 of Caro meeting, 7 p.m.
 - Huron County Family Caregiver Support Group, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Human Development Commission, 150 Nugent Rd., Bad Axe. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121.
- Second Wednesday:**
- Dorcas meal at Cass City United Methodist Church at noon. 1 1/4 mile north of Cass City. (989) 872-4604 for take outs.
- Second Thursday:**
- Caregiver Connection, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., Country Gardens, Scheurer Hospital, 203 N. Caseville Rd., Pigeon. For more information, call Merry at (989) 673-4121.
- Third Tuesday:**
- Living with Parkinson's Support Group, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Holiday Inn Express, 55 Rapson Lane West, Bad Axe. For more information, call Merry at (989) 673-4121.
 - Family Caregiver Support Group, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Harbor Beach Community Hospital Administration Building/Conference Center, 147 S. First St., Harbor Beach. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121
 - Ubyly Lions Club meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Ubyly Thumb Veterans Organization Hall, 2165 Bingham St., Ubyly MI 48475. A pot luck is served prior to the meeting. Everyone is welcomed.
- Third Wednesday**
- Spaghetti Dinner at Cass City VFW Hall from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Take out available. For more information call (989) 872-4933.
- Third Thursday:**
- Sanilac County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, 3 p.m., HDC Adult Day Services Building, 227 N. Elk St., Sandusky. For more information, contact Kim at (989) 673-4121 or Amanda at (810) 648-4497.
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 - Caregiver Support Group, 11:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Bullard-Sanford Memorial Library, 520 W. Huron Ave., Vassar. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121.
- Fourth Monday:**
- Cass City School Board meeting, 7 p.m.
 - Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary meeting, 11:30 a.m., Gilligans (no meetings July, August, December).
 - 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.
- Fourth Wednesday:**
- 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.
- Fourth Thursday:**
- Community Lunch, noon, Shabbona United Methodist Church.
 - Thumb TEA Party, 6:30 p.m., Evangelical Free Church, Cass City.
- Last Monday:**
- Cass City Village Council meeting, 7 p.m., municipal building.
- Every Monday:**
- Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Ubyly. For more information, call Angela R. at (989) 658-2319.
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- Every Thursday:**
- AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 553-5932.
 - Music in Atwood Park- 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Every Friday:**
- Music in Rotary Park, Cass City - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



BLUE CROSS BLUE Shield of Michigan recently designated Hills and Dales General Hospital's Primary Care Clinic in Cass City as a patient-centered medical home practice for 2014. The clinic is staffed by Dr. Surrendra Raythatha (Dr. Ray), pictured above, center, with his staff (from left) Brook Sheufelt, CMA; Rose Matthew, office assistant; Michele Singer, MA; and Kristine McGowan, RMA.

Local primary care clinic designated a patient-centered medical home practice

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has designated Hills and Dales General Hospital's Primary Care Clinic (Dr. Raythatha), Cass City, as a patient-centered medical home practice (PCMH) for 2014. The designation period runs from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. The designation means the local clinic is among a select group of primary care physicians in Michigan who are improving health care quality by adopting the PCMH model of care. A recent analysis of claims data shows that PCMH-designated doctors are succeeding in more effectively managing patients' care to keep them healthy and prevent complications.

"The patient-centered medical home is health care centered on the patient," said Jean Anthony, Hills and Dales president and CEO. "We take a holistic and comprehensive approach to patient care, helping our patients meet their health goals and keeping track of all their specialist visits, test results and prescriptions." The Blues have designated roughly 1,420 primary care practices — with more than 4,020 primary care doctors — as PCMH practices. The program is the largest of its kind in the country and has the potential to affect close to 2 million Michigan residents. "With the PCMH model, primary care physicians lead care teams that

work with patients to keep them healthy and monitor their care on an ongoing basis," said David Share, MD, MPH, senior vice president, Value Partnerships, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. PCMH teams coordinate patients' health care, track patients' conditions and ensure that they receive the care they need. They offer extended access to the care team, coordinate complementary care (such as nutrition counseling) and help patients learn to better manage conditions like asthma and diabetes. Cass City Primary Care is one of Hills and Dales General Hospital's 10 physician clinics. For more information, call (989) 872-2121.

Welfare check ends in drug sale charges

by Tom Montgomery
Editor

Huron County Sheriff's deputies sent to check on the wellbeing of a Kilmanagh Road resident in Sebawaing Township recently ended up arresting a man wanted on four arrest warrants out of Huron, Lapeer and Bay counties.

"The investigation led to the arrest of a 47-year-old Sebawaing man,"

Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson reported. "Shortly after the arrest, a search warrant was authorized by the Huron County Prosecutor's Office and the 73B District Court for the search of illegal drugs at that residence.

"Seized during the search were 16 marijuana plants in different stages of maturity, along with processed marijuana and scales," he said. "Warrant requests will be submitted

at a later date for felony marijuana delivery charges. "Our office encourages illegal drug tips by calling our office during regular business hours at (989) 269-6500 or Huron Central Dispatch's non-emergency number anytime at (989) 269-6421," Hanson added. "Confidential callers can use our TIPS Line of (989) 269-2861. We're also available on Facebook through our Huron County Sheriff's Office Drug Task Force Facebook page."

Circuit court news

Trio appear on felony charges last week

The following people appeared in Tuscola County Circuit Court last week on various criminal charges:
*Andrew T. Hartman, 21, Akron, was sentenced to 365 days in the county jail, with work release and worksite privileges, following his plea of no contest to a charge of arson, second degree, June 27, 2013, in Fairgrove Township.

He was also placed on 24 months probation and ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$1,198. A hearing is to be scheduled to determine restitution in the case.
*Carl J. Tucker, 53, Caro, pleaded no contest to one count of assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer June 4 in Caro. A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case and bond was continued at \$3,000. Sentencing is

to be scheduled.
*Jason A. Bond, 35, Millington, pleaded no contest to three counts of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor — causing incapacitating injuries May 24 in Vassar Township. The plea was taken under advisement by the court, which ordered a pre-sentence investigation and continued bond at \$35,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

Vernuccio TEA Party meeting guest speaker

F. Vincent Vernuccio, director of labor policy at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy in Midland, will be the speaker at the next area TEA Party meeting, scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the Evangelical Free Church, 6430 Chestnut Blvd., Cass City. Under President George W. Bush, Vernuccio served as special assistant to the assistant secretary for administration and management in the Department of Labor. He has published articles and opinions-editorials in such newspapers and magazines as The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Investor's Business Daily, The Washington Times, National Review, Forbes and The American Spectator. He has been cited in several books and is a frequent contributor on national television and radio shows, such as "Your World" with Neil Cavuto and Varney and Company. Vernuccio has advised senators and congressmen on a multitude of labor-related issues. He testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and Labor Policy.

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Letters to the Editor

President Obama destroying the United States

Continued from page 3.

reason President Obama supports them the least. He wanted Turkey and Egypt to be a mediator for a cease fire between Israel and Palestine, which would be like having a fox guarding the hen house, because both countries are Hezbollah and hate Israel. At least Israel was smart enough to tell President Obama to go jump in a lake on this one.

When President Obama pulled out of Iraq, if he would have left all the war equipment that they left behind with the Kurds (which are allies of ours), instead of the weasel, Mallowee, we wouldn't have to be giving aid to them today.

All these bleeding heart liberals are totally against having a legal document to vote. Well now, President Obama figured it out. Give a driver's license to every illegal in

America and they will have a legal document to go out and vote.

In California alone there are 1.5 million illegals that are going to get driver's licenses, and there are millions more in 12 other states. Guess who they are going to vote for? The bleeding heart democrats.

When I see President Obama take two fish and a loaf of bread and feed all the illegals, then I will believe in him. And the mess we have around the world and in the United States is his doing because he is a wimp and not a man that doesn't know how to take charge as a leader. He is either incompetent or he wants to destroy this country.

If the real true Americans don't wake up and see the light, the illegal immigrants are going to determine our destination. And, it's sure not going to look like the America we know and it should be.

Robert Peruski
Ubyly

New owner weighing options

Continued from page one.

cult sport to play and only certain people seem to play it."

Stoup approached the village council to seek suggestions about what to do with the land, and received some suggestions he will take into consideration. "We need to consider what the best use of the land is," he said. "We are also evaluating the appropriate use of the Knights of Columbus Hall."

However, for the time being, things will stay the same on the property. "For the time being, there will still be a golf course," Stoup said. "We have purchased six new carts, and we are taking care of the greens. We will also continue to rent to the Knights of Columbus and we have already started landscaping."

Whatever the property becomes, Stoup said, it will be held to the same quality and standards as Flowers Galore and More.

"Whatever the property becomes, it needs to be a destination. We need to draw from beyond the village limits," he said. "We can't depend on just the people from Cass City. That will be the challenge no matter what you put there."

State's participation in vehicle database targeting auto theft

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson recently announced that Michigan now participates fully in a national motor vehicle title database created to prevent car thefts and protect consumers from title fraud.

Michigan recently joined Illinois and Texas as the latest states participating in the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The database now includes all Great Lakes states and 96 percent of all vehicles nationwide. The six remaining nonparticipating states plus the District of Columbia are expected to join eventually.

"Too often in the past, Michigan residents bought used vehicles they thought were free of major damage only to discover later the vehicle had been wrecked out of state," Johnson said. "Michigan's participation in the national database protects car-buyers by giving them peace of mind that the used vehicle they're buying hasn't experienced significant damages."

Michigan now submits new vehicle title information to the national database and has contributed its entire title history database. The system

protects consumers by ensuring that out-of-state vehicles that are badly damaged in a crash or from flooding, even if they are rebuilt, still receive a specially branded Michigan title when they are brought here.

For example, a late-model vehicle from Illinois that was extensively rebuilt after a bad crash would not be able to receive a green-colored standard Michigan title and then be sold to an unsuspecting consumer who believed the vehicle was worth much more than it really is. The Secretary of State's Office would see the vehicle's Illinois title history and know to only issue that vehicle an orange-colored rebuilt-salvage title.

In addition to participating states, insurance carriers, and junk and salvage yards are required to report title information to the system, which contains more than 72 million salvage records.

Law enforcement agencies rely on the database to improve their ability to identify vehicle theft rings and help combat other criminal enterprises involving vehicles.

Michigan residents can review a vehicle's title history through the national database at www.vehicle-history.gov for a small fee.



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MENTAL HEALTH QUIZ #1

- 1. True or False**
There is no hope for people with a mental illness.
FALSE: There are more treatments, services and community support systems than ever before. People living with mental illnesses lead active, productive lives.
- 2. True or False**
I can't do anything for a person with a mental illness.
FALSE: You can do a lot, starting with how you act and speak. You can create an environmental that builds on people's strengths and promotes understanding. For example: Do not label people with words or their diagnosis.
- 3. True or False**
People with mental illness are violent and unpredictable.
FALSE: The vast majority of people with mental health conditions are not more violent than any one else. People with mental illnesses are much more likely to be victims of crime. News media typically only talks about mental health when a violent crime is committed.
- 4. True or False**
People who talk about suicide usually do not kill themselves.
FALSE: People who are thinking about suicide usually find some way of communicating their pain to others-often by speaking indirectly about their intentions. Most suicidal people will admit to their feeling if questioned directly. It is okay to ask directly. Source: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

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Pastor's corner**Attention clergymen!**

The Chronicle welcomes your submissions to be published along with our weekly church directory. Please submit your letter and a photo of yourself to chronicle@ccchronicle.net or Cass City Chronicle P.O. Box 115, Cass City, MI 48726 or stop by at the corner of Oak and Main at 6550 Main St., Cass City.

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Worship Service 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 10:50 a.m.

Sunday Evening Service & Youth Group 6:30 p.m.

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Pastor: Phil Burkett • Associate Pastor: Justin Kuhl

www.casscitymc.org**Cass City United Methodist Church**

5100 N. Cemetery Rd., P.O. Box 125, Cass City, MI 48726

872-3422

Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Summer 10:00 a.m.)

Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m.

Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon)

Pastor: Rev. Jackie Roe

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Evening Service 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday - Pray/Bible Study & Youth Group 6:00 p.m.

Deford Community Church

1392 N. Kingston Rd.

(1/4 mile south of Deford on Kingston Rd.)

872-4055



Sundays - 10 a.m.

Wednesdays - 7 p.m.

Pastor: David Cooper

DefordCommunityChurch.org**Evangelical Free Church of Cass City**

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Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

AWANA Clubs 6:45 p.m. During School Year

Thursday Teen Club 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Pastor: David G. Hill

Website: www.fbccc.us**First Presbyterian Church***Barrier Free • State & National Historical Registry*

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Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Linda Graham

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RAWSON MEMORIAL District Library officials recently transformed a VHS, DVD and audio book storage area into two small private study rooms utilized for tutoring sessions as well as being available for patron use.

New study rooms honor past librarians in village

Continued from page one.

District.

A year later land was purchased at the corner of Pine and Seeger streets for \$12,000, and in 1969 the Rawson Foundation donated \$50,000 for a new library building.

Little retired about five months after the new Rawson Memorial Library opened its doors Oct. 5, 1970.

Enter Hutchinson, whose tenure with the library continues today as a part-time staff member, a role she took on in 2002 after spending 31 years as library director and four years as a part-time staffer before that.

During Hutchinson's tenure, the library's collection grew, and programming and community outreach projects were expanded.

In 1977, officials built a \$33,000, 1,500-square-foot addition paid for through donations. A year later, with the addition of Com Cat (Computer Output-Microfilm Catalog), patrons were able to access more than 200,000 items.

The first library millage was passed by voters in 1982, providing a more stable source of income. The first computer was added in 1989. At that time, the library was open 60 hours per week and was staffed by four full-time and two part-time employees.

Due to the size of the library's collection, officials implemented an

automated circulation system in 1991, retiring the old card catalogue. Another addition — this one totaling 3,100 square feet — was added in 1987 along with a complete remodel of the existing building at a cost of more than \$600,000, funding that was secured through donations.

According to Kate Van Auken, who took over the director's reins after Hutchinson retired, the new study rooms are the result of varying circumstances.

"A few things converged, the first being that this area housed our VHS, DVD and audio book collections," Van Auken recalled. "VHS tapes have not been circulating for quite a while and they take up a lot of room."

"About this time Connie Iwankovitch was really ramping up the offerings of the literacy council," Van Auken added. "She was doing most if not all of her tutoring here rather than at her home like Jane Hittler used to do. And we do have the large Pinney Room which can be split into two (areas), but there wasn't always room if Connie needed a space to tutor. So, as I looked at the VHS, DVD and audio book space, it seemed to make sense, since it is recessed, that two small study rooms might work there."

Van Auken took her suggestion to the local library board.

"They were so on-board with it that we toured around the library to see if it might be feasible," she said. "Then the very next day, Lyle Clarke, board chairman, came to me

with a rendering of the area. The next day, (board member) Bob Hirn, not knowing that Lyle had done a drawing, came to me with his drawing! This is how excited we were...they wanted to help design the space."

Library officials advertised the project in search of bids, and the work was awarded to Danny Ulfig of Danco Construction.

"He did an absolutely wonderful job for us. It looks like the rooms have always been there," Van Auken said. And easy to work with? The best.

"All together it cost just over \$5,000," added Van Auken, who noted the project was paid for by the library. "We sold our VHS collection and that money paid for the study room furniture and two wing back chairs we have elsewhere in the library."

To use one of the rooms, a patron simply goes to the front desk to see if one is available. A staff member then checks it out for them for up to two hours, longer if the space is available.

"The literacy council has been the biggest user of the space, but we have had others come to do proctored testing, take online classes, do depositions and just plain use the space to study," Van Auken said. "It has been a great use of the space and I am so glad the library board also recognized the need in our community for this transformed area."

Auction sale grosses \$27,000

Continued from page one.

anced life," Jensen said of the Campus Life mission, which focuses on encouraging young people to find and maintain balance not only mentally, but also physically, spiritually and socially.

"We're youth pastors to kids who maybe don't go to church or maybe don't have a youth pastor," explained Jensen, who noted YFC staffers support youth through their roles as substitute teachers, coaches, youth board members and mentors, interacting with kids in the school setting by attending dozens of athletic events, concert recitals and other extracurricular events. "We don't expect them to come to us. We're going to go and be where they are and 'do life' with them."

The Cass City-Kingston YFC region receives the largest share of proceeds from the Cass City auction, according to Jensen.

"For the Cass City-Kingston region, it will make up almost half of their budget," she explained, noting the remaining money adds up to one-quarter to one-third of the other county Campus Life program budgets. "So, it's pretty huge for us," she said. "It also lets us start the school year without having to fund raise."

Which means Campus Life staffers can get right down to business, doing what they do best; developing friendships and trust with young people.

"Our goal is to walk alongside them and show them we're supporting them and care about them as people," said Jensen, who explained Campus Life staff members strive to share the Gospel message once they have established a relationship with the kids.

"Our goal is to add value to the schools, add value to the communities and share love," she said.



THE BLUEWATER Thumb YFC auction drew a nice crowd and plenty of volunteers whose efforts and generosity generated an estimated \$27,000 in gross sales during Saturday's auction in Cass City.



THERE WAS something for everyone at the auction, including furniture, electronics, tools, entertainment packages and even a pair of jet skis.

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Sheriff offers safety tips for area bicyclists

This summer has been an active summer for bicycle enthusiasts in the Thumb, according to Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson.

"Fortunately most bicyclists do follow the rules of the road, ride safely and are courteous to motorists. However, unfortunately many disregard the rules of the road, along with the rights of motorists and quite often put themselves in harm's way," Hanson said.

"Our office and the Michigan Sheriffs' Association would like to offer the following safety tips:

*Protect your head — Wear a helmet.

*Stay visible — If drivers can see you, they are less likely to hit you. Use lights when biking at night or in low-light conditions.

*Go with the flow — Bike in the direction of traffic.

*Always ride as practically close to the right hand curb or edge of the road unless turning or over taking.

*Look, signal and look again — Use hand signals to let drivers know where you're going. Look and make eye contact. Don't assume drivers will stop.

*Stay alert — Keep a lookout for obstacles in your path.

*Act like a car — Divers are used to the patterns of other drivers. Don't weave in and out of traffic. The more predictably you ride, the safer you are. Be aware of traffic around you.

*Don't get distracted — Don't listen to music or talk on the phone while riding.

*Obey all traffic laws and lights.

*Assure bicycle readiness — Is your bicycle properly adjusted? Is your saddle in a comfortable position.

Do a quick bicycle test — Check your brakes and wheels. Make sure that "quick release" wheels are properly secured.

CHRONICLE SPORTS

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COACH Bill Potter and his Cass City volleyball team have been busy preparing for the Lady Red Hawks' season opening action Saturday in Bad Axe.

Lady Red Hawk spikers swing into action Saturday with high hopes

If you just can't wait, volleyball fans can catch an early glimpse of the Cass City Red Hawk spikers in action tonight (Wednesday) at the Deckerville High School gym, where first serves are slated to fly at 5 p.m. The pre-season scrimmage will include both schools' varsity and junior varsity squads.

Coach Bill Potter will have plenty of experience on this year's squad that has hopes of winning just the third league championship in Cass City school history.

Potter can turn to 4 key juniors on his 2014 roster with 2 years of varsity play already under their belts. Also back are proven performers in seniors Alliah Riddle and Erika Martin, while freshman Sayge Cuthrell has shown promise in early

season workouts.

For this year's Cass City volleyball team to join the schools' list of conference championship teams - Thumb B Conference champs in 1977 and Greater Thumb Conference champs in 2003 - they will have to figure out a way to get by rival USA, led by senior Erika Treiber who has committed her services to the University of Tennessee in 2015.

If Cass City can find a way to derail the Patriots, they would love nothing better than to follow the path of the 1977 Lady Red Hawks who added district and regional banners before in the state semi-final to Grand Rapids Forest Hills by scores of 14-10 and 16-14.

Led by the likes of Mel Kelley,

Chris Krueger, Beth Erla, Diana Smith, Lisa Zimba, Anita Brown, Deb McFarland and others, Coach Brenda Breidinger's team finished with a lofty record of 22-5, highlighted by capturing their own regional against visiting Atherton. The Red Hawks edged Frankenmuth by one game for the 1977 Thumb B banner.

In 2003, Cass City was paced by all-conference performers Amy Howard, Becky Hartel, Krystee Dorland and Mallory Powell on their way to league honors and an overall record of 47-9-9. However, Coach Beth Howard's team couldn't secure district honors and bowed to defeating state champion New Lothrop in the title game.

MHSAA provides heat management training, resources as fall approaches

Despite unseasonably cool temperatures this summer in Michigan, high school athletes should prepare for the heat that usually accompanies August and the beginning of Michigan High School Athletic Association fall practices as they kick off next week.

Each year, the MHSAA provides information to its member schools to help them prepare for hot weather practice and game conditions in the late summer and early fall. Football practice can begin at MHSAA schools August 11, followed by first practices for all other fall sports August 13.

The topic of heat-related injuries receives a lot of attention at this time of year, especially when deaths at the professional, collegiate and interscholastic levels of sport occur, and especially since they are preventable in most cases with the proper precautions. In football, data from the National Federation of State High School Associations shows that nationally 41 high school players died from heat stroke between 1995 and 2013.

Many MHSAA schools this fall are expected to again follow the MHSAA's Model Policy for Managing Heat & Humidity that directs schools to monitor heat index prior to and during activity and recommends actions based on those readings.

Also this school year, for the first time, the MHSAA is requiring all assistant and subvarsity coaches at the high school level to complete the same rules and risk minimization meeting requirement as high school varsity head coaches, or, in the alternative, one of several online courses designated for this purpose on

MHSAA.com.

"It's not an accident that causes severe heat illness and death. It's a lack of attention to what should've been taking place, a lack of preparation," said John E. "Jack" Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. "We're trying to communicate to our constituents that if we make the precautions that we should, plan as we should, we will have none of these tragedies in school sports."

The MHSAA Representative Council adopted in 2013 the Model Policy for Managing Heat & Humidity that, while not mandated for member schools, has been adopted by many at the local level. The plan directs schools to begin monitoring the heat index at the activity site once the air temperature reaches 80 degrees and provides recommendations when the heat index reaches certain points, including ceasing activities when it rises above 104 degrees.

The model policy is outlined in a number of places, including the publication Heat Ways, which is available for download from the MHSAA Website. Heat Ways not only provides the model policy, but addresses the need for proper acclimatization in hot weather.

Heat, hydration and acclimatization also are again focuses of the MHSAA's required preseason rules meetings for coaches and officials. The online presentation discusses the need for good hydration in sports, regardless of the activity or time of year.

The Health & Safety Resources page of the MHSAA Website has a number of links to different publications and information and a free online presentation from the

National Federation of State High School Associations. Visit MHSAA.com, click on "Schools" and then on "Health & Safety Resources" to find the information.

Roberts said the first days of formal practices in hot weather should be more for heat acclimatization than the conditioning of athletes, and that practices in such conditions need planning to become longer and more strenuous over a gradual progression of time.

He added schools also must consider moving practices to different times of day, different locations, or change practice plans to include different activities depending on the conditions.

"I think all schools need to prepare themselves in these ways," Roberts said. "They need to educate participants, parents and coaches about proper hydration and the dangers of practicing and competing when the heat and humidity are too high."

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by more than 1,500 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments, which attract more than 1.4 million spectators each year.

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at Cass City Rolling Hills Golf Course

Ulfig brothers and Fox, Herron teams come out on top in league play

Wednesday Night 2-Man Golf League as of Aug. 13 (Final standings)		Sommerville/Sommerville	
		Prieskorn/Repshinska	83
		Bitzer/Curtis	83
		Krol/LeValley	82
		Lowman/Tamlyn	79
		Langenburg,Langenburg	78
		Doerr/Haire	77
		Osentoski/Wallace	74
		Ahleman/Halasz	73
		deBeaubien/Brinkman	67
Division 1 - Early		Medalists	
Fox/Herron	115	Individual: Tony Nika	35
Berwick/Young	114	Team: Anthes/Tamlyn	82
Craig/Knight	112		
Jones/Marshall	107	Thursday Night 2-Man Golf League as of Aug. 14	
Smithson/Iwankovitsch	103	Division 1 - Early	
Mastie/Robinson	101	Balzer/Houthoofd	85
Alexander/Spencer	88	Roemer/Sy	83
Hendrick/Veggian	87	Dorsch/Parrish	76
Hobbs/Meck	87	Steely/Davis	63
MacAlpine/Mosher	84	Gaeth/Roemer K.	62
Davis/Tate	80	Guinther/Peters	62
Jones/Orban	76	Hoagg/Sy	58
Biefer/Hoard	73	Kohl/Zimmerman	56
Burns/Caister	69	Chippi/Herron	51
Wallace/Warner	61	Kohl/Zimmerman	56
Dillon/Irrer	51	Chippi/Herron	55
Medalists		Hahn/Lamke	38
Individual: Rich Tate	38	Medalists	
Team:D. Jones/Kritzman	81	Individual: Kevin Roemer	43
		Team: Roemer/Gaeth	
Division 2 - Late		Peters/Loomis	87
Ulfig/Ulfig	110		
Cotton/Israelson	107		
Weaver/Hartzell	102		
Hartel/Brown	102		
Martin/Stern	97		
Hacker/Nika	97		
Loomis/Loomis	94		
Hillaker/Murphy	93		
Wallace/Wallace	90		
Richards/Bitzer	87		

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MHSAA participation dips slightly

Participation in high school sports in which postseason tournaments are sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association decreased slightly for the third straight school year in 2013-14, following a continuing trend of declining member school enrollments. However, nine MHSAA sports saw increases in participation from 2012-13, and four sports set records for the second straight school year.

A total of 288,230 participants took part in the 28 tournament sports offered by the MHSAA during the past year – a 1.9-percent decrease from the 2012-13 figure of 293,810. However, enrollments at member schools also decreased 0.7 percent from 2012-13 and have fallen 10 percent since the 2006-07 school

year – while MHSAA participation has fallen only 7.9 percent during that time. This year's dip was slightly larger than the 1.2-percent decrease from 2011-12 to 2012-13.

Overall boys participation fell 1.7 percent from 2012-13 to 2013-14, while girls participation fell 2.2 percent. The overall MHSAA totals count students once for each sport in which they participate, meaning students who are multiple-sport athletes are counted more than once. For the second straight school year, both boys' and girls' lacrosse (5,089 and 2,540, respectively) and boys' and girls' cross country (8,882 and 8,703) set participation records. Both lacrosse totals have increased annually during their 10 years as MHSAA tournament sports; the

girls saw an increase of 1.6 percent from 2012-13. Participation in both boys' and girls' cross country increased for the fifth straight seasons – the girls this time by 3.9 percent.

Three girls' sports rebounded from recent declines. Girls' swimming and diving (6,604) broke a two-year downturn in participation with its highest total since 2010-11, while girls' golf (3,427) increased by 2.8 percent and girls' soccer (13,619) increased one percent after also falling from 2011-12 to 2012-13. Girls' track and field (17,259) posted its second straight increase and highest participation total since 2009-10.

However, troubling trends continued in two of the most popular girls'

sports. Girls' basketball participation fell for the eighth straight season to 16,329 participants, the sport's fewest since records first were kept in 1991-92. The girls' basketball total has decreased 14.7 percent since a U.S. District Court decision led to the switching of girls' basketball season from fall to winter beginning in 2007-08. Comparatively, girls' enrollment at MHSAA schools during that time has fallen 10.4 percent.

The sport that swapped seasons with girls' basketball and moved to fall, volleyball, saw a 6.5-percent drop in participation this school year to 18,607 athletes, its fewest since 1993-94 and a decrease of 13.6 percent since its final season as a winter sport.

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Monday Night Golf League as of Aug. 11

Division 1	
Tony Nika	161
Ray Fox	151
David Allen	148
Don Ouvry	144
Virgil Peters	143
Ryan Lowman	128
Ken Cotton	125
Mike Lowe	118
Brad Langenburg	105
Ray Begin	97

Event Statistics

Low Gross:(39) Nika, Fox
 Low Net:(34) Fox
 High Points:(16) Fox, Begin
 Most Bogeys:(6) Peters
 Most Pars:(5) Nika
 Most Birdies:(1) Fox, Ouvry, Langenburg, Cotton

Division 2

Harold MacAlpine	154
Paul Regnerus	148
Dave Block	141
Daryl Iwankovitch	138
Larry Robinson	136
David House	124
Dan Mosher	122
Dan Caister	120
Jon Zdrojewski	119
Jim Smithson	118

Event Statistics

Low Gross:(42) Iwankovitsch
 Low Net:(34) Mosher, Regnerus
 High Points:(16) Iwankovitsch, Mosher
 Most Bogeys:(7) Zdrojewski
 Most Pars:(4) Iwankovitsch, Smithson

Smokey Bear still on the job preventing fires

After 70 years, Smokey Bear still plays a vital role in fire prevention.

When the typical American thinks of wildfire prevention, the first image that comes to mind is surely that of the iconic bear. Since the days of Smokey's first words in 1944 – "Smokey says - care will prevent nine out of 10 forest fires." – his likeness and slogans have been invaluable to federal, state and local agencies responsible for wildfire prevention and management.

For the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Smokey was not only instrumental in establishing the importance of fire prevention education throughout the state, but also became one of the pillars upon which the DNR's highly regarded fire program was built.

In recognition, the DNR joined the rest of the nation Saturday, Aug. 9, in celebrating Smokey Bear's 70th birthday and all that this character has done to bring fire prevention to the forefront in Michigan.

The DNR's fire program first began using Smokey Bear as a de facto spokesman for the cause in the 1960s, and today credits widespread public awareness about wildfire prevention to Smokey's broad appeal.

Through the years, Smokey has appeared at countless community events and educational programs on behalf of the DNR, and the bear's image and famous sayings have graced many DNR fire prevention promotional and educational materials.

"Every DNR Forest Resources Division (FRD) field office uses Smokey Bear at parades, fairs, school programs – anywhere we are trying to spread the fire prevention message," said Paul Kollmeyer, manager of FRD's Resources Protection and Cooperatives Programs section.

"Smokey is the catalyst that gets people's interest, especially the young people," Kollmeyer said. "When you're delivering an educational program to second graders, you couldn't ask for a more engaging teacher than Smokey. He really leaves an impression."

Created by an art critic as part of an advertising campaign to educate the public about each individual's role in preventing wildfires, Smokey made his official debut on a poster on Aug. 9, 1944. Wearing a pair of dungarees and a ranger hat, he is depicted pouring a bucket of water on a campfire.

Three years later, his slogan was modified to the long-lasting and well-known version, "Remember, Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires," which stuck for another five decades before it was slightly updated to today's version: "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires."

Although Smokey was originally a fictional product of the World War II-era campaign, geared at shifting the public's focus to fire prevention rather than suppression (since many citizens who would normally help fight fires were deployed overseas), his real-life counterpart was found

six years later, clinging to a tree at the scene of a wildfire in New Mexico.

The bear cub had suffered burns to his paws and hind legs and was flown to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., where he lived for 26 years, becoming an integral part of the Smokey campaign.

In 1952, Smokey became the subject of a song, "Smokey the Bear," and that same year, his image was legally protected under the federal Smokey Bear Act, which established three administrators of the image: the U.S. Forest Service, National Association of State Foresters, and Ad Council.

Now 70 years old, the Smokey Bear wildfire prevention campaign is a bit of an anomaly in how popular it remains, still striking a chord with audiences of all ages after seven decades of heavy rotation.

According to the national non-profit Ad Council, Smokey and his message are recognized today by 95 percent of adults and 77 percent of children.

"What's so unique about Smokey is the multi-generational appeal. People and kids of all ages can relate to each other over Smokey Bear," said Gwinn Unit Fire Supervisor Pete Glover. "One of my favorite parts about our Smokey Bear appearances is seeing a grandparent who is just as excited about having their picture taken with Smokey as their grandchild is."

With the busy and complicated

lives parents lead today, Glover said he recognizes that Smokey's presence is vital to the positive reception of the many educational programs fire officers give each year.

"It would be difficult to get parents to come to an evening or weekend program if their kids weren't interested in attending as well," he said. "Smokey holds the attention of the younger audience members, giving us time to really drive the wildfire prevention message home to the parents and other adults in the audience."

With the help of DNR fire officers and volunteers around the state, Smokey Bear makes more than 100 public appearances annually, including National Night Out public safety events, where he is typically swarmed with visitors hoping to get a hug, high-five and photo with Smokey.

And when they leave an event, Smokey's fans don't only have smiles on their faces – they also leave with their hands full of educational "Smokey swag" promoting the fire prevention message.

"Smokey is the linchpin that made fire prevention popular nationwide and in Michigan," Kollmeyer said. "Without our use of his image, slogans, voice and presence, I am not sure we would have such an educated public when it comes to wildfire awareness and prevention."

"I hope in 70 years, fire programs around the country will be celebrating Smokey Bear's 140th birthday."



SMOKEY BEAR'S slogans have changed slightly throughout the years, but have always focused on each individual's responsibility for preventing wildfires. This is the very first Smokey Bear poster to appear in 1944.

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