

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

VOLUME 109, NUMBER 41

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2015

75 CENTS ~ 20 PAGES

School's daycare director updates officials Monday

by Tom Montgomery Editor

The Cass City Public Schools Daycare Program is continuing to operate smoothly under the direction of Wendy Guinther, who was appointed to her current position in late August.

Guinther offered members of the Cass City Board of Education an update during a brief monthly meeting Monday night, saying the program currently has four infants, 13 toddlers and 35 pre-school children enrolled, with Please turn to page 4.

Anonymous Huron County donations now top \$6,600

by Tom Montgomery Editor

As it did last year, the generosity of a few has prompted others to join in an effort to make the holidays a little brighter for some Huron County residents.

Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson recently announced that some anonymous donors had come forward with money and requested that the sheriff's department distribute the gifts in cash and gift certificates, at its discretion, to individuals or families that are having a hard time making ends Please turn to page 10.





CASS CITY Rotary Club members (from left) Emily Phillips, Mary Cunningham and Colleen Langenburg fill bags filled with toys and clothing at the Curtis Chrysler dealership in Cass City, where the club distributed the gifts to more than 90 area families Friday in conjunction with this year's Christmas for Kids project.

Gift campaign serves 184 kids

by Tom Montgomery Editor

reported 91 families - 184 kids in all District who are struggling financial-- were served during this year's ly. Most of the referrals are provideffort.

BETTE BERRY (from left) Georgia Hammett, Michigan Sugar: Shirley Strickland and Juliet Patterson are all part of the 48-member Hills and Dales General Hospital Auxiliary, whose members organize various fundraisers that contribute thousands of dollars worth of equipment to the hospital annually. The group operates the hospital gift shop and donates countless volunteer hours each year.

Small group, **BIG IMPACT**

Hospital auxiliary donates thousands of dollars, hours

by Tom Montgomery Editor

Ask Hills and Dales General Hospital officials about the hospital's auxiliary, and chances are good they'll describe it as a small group that has made a big impact

They'll tell you the auxiliary membership has been faithful and diligent over the years, contributing countless volunteer hours and running a host of fundraisers, which combined have enabled the organization to contribute thousands of dollars worth of equipment - ranging from blanket warmers to specialized medical furniture to automatic sliding doors - to the local hos-Please turn to page 6.



Members of the Cass City Rotary Club, bolstered by generous donations of toys and cash from the community and volunteers ready to lend a hand, completed the club's 17th annual Christmas for Kids project with the distribution of bags filled with clothing, toys, books and games to area families Friday.

Emily Phillips, in her second year as chairman of the toy collection campaign for the local Rotary Club,

The figures represent an increase from the 2014 Christmas for Kids project, which served 84 families, including 186 youngsters and teens. "I think things went really well this year," commented Phillips, who credited the Rotary Club's past Christmas for Kids leadership, in part, for that success. "We have quite a good system in place to meet the needs of 184 children," she added.

The annual effort targets families residing in the Cass City School

ed by the Tuscola County Family Independence Agency and local school officials.

Phillips pointed out the campaign owes its ability to meet all of the needs to a variety of sources, especially all of those individuals and businesses who contribute to the cause

"Donations were up this year. We still had toys contributed, but cash donations were up," she said, noting Rawson Memorial District Library is among the faithful contributors of Please turn to page 6.

DANIELLE LAMING'S art students at Cass City Junior-Senior High School are annual contributors to the Chronicle's Christmas edition, and this year's artwork submissions were outstanding. Above, Alexis Mazure, a tenth grade student, created a colored reindeer. Readers will find more student artwork on pages 11 through 16 and 20.

'15 record year for beets, yields

Michigan Sugar Company officials recently announced this year's harvest has wrapped up and a record crop was delivered by sugar beet farmers across the region.

Total production during the 2015 growing season topped five million tons of Michigan-made sugar beets, with yields also setting a new record at 31.6 tons per acre.

"A record harvest means a record processing campaign, and Michigan Sugar is on track this year to get the job done," said Mark Flegenheimer, CEO of Michigan Sugar. "We're laser focused on processing this year's harvest, and we're proud of the economic benefits the harvest creates every year in the communities in which we are located.'

Michigan's annual sugar beet harvest is processed at four Michigan Sugar facilities located across the Thumb. Processing begins in the fall and runs through the following spring. At every Michigan Sugar facility, hiring and activity ramp up during harvest and processing.

Annually, during the peak of harvest and processing, Michigan Sugar will employ more than 2,300 fulland part-time workers, with more than 1,100 employed at its flagship facility in Bay City alone.

"Every year, we ramp up hiring of local workers to receive the crop, process, package and ship sugar. said Ray Van Driessche, director of community and government relations for Michigan Sugar. "A stronger harvest means a stronger processing campaign, which allows our company to continue to invest,

Please turn to page 6.

PAGE TWO

CASS CITY CHRONICLE - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2015

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN

Owen-Gage announces "students of month"

Worker". A student who is a cooperative, collaborative worker communicates without bias, accepts and involves all members of a group, and is able to function as a leader and/or a follower. He or she also can move effectively from one group to another and demonstrate loyalty and trust in a group. The following students













fully departed this earth on December 5, 2015.

in death.

Fun By The Numbers 4 3 8



CASS CITY, MICHIGAN

PAGE THREE



Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's Sun, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps. We present it again to our readers for their enjoyment.

DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.

Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

VIRGINIA O'HANLON. 115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET."

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except [what] they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike



It's the season of celebration. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah or Festive Festivus – whatever your phrase of choice, it's a lovely time to celebrate and believe in miracles. People all around are joyous and giddy with cheer.

To further illustrate the magnificence of the holiday, ugly Christmas sweaters are back in style. Some of them even feature blinking lights.

What's not to love about an over-the-top time of year filled with electric sweaters, wrapped gifts, a tree in the living room, parties for hosting, candlelight, cookies, eggnog and fruitcake? It's exuberant celebration for the taking and making. There's only one problem. I wasn't feeling it this year.

I'll be honest; it comes from the pressure of trying to do it all. Have it all. Get it all done – from scratch – big-ger and better than ever before.

To bake 14 varieties of cookies without gaining any holiday weight. To carve out time so the kids get to make the annual gingerbread house. To have a family night solely dedicated to watching "Elf." To find the ideal and desired items so everyone is shocked and awed by their gifts. To get the perfect family photo for the perfect card that perfectly illustrates the perfection of your family – without overt bragging or coming across like you think you are well, perfect. To wrap and decorate and trim and carol while (it goes without saying) you remain calm and bright and your heart is filled with the true meaning of the season.

It's overwhelming and I guess I was letting it show this year more than others. I was lacking in decoration motivation, cookie baking ability and overall holiday spirit. But my ho-ho-hopeful husband wasn't going to let my bah humbug mentality get the best of him. He suggested we go get a tree.

"You can pick it out and I'll do the rest," he said. "I'll put it up and decorate it. You won't have to do a thing." Famous last words.

We did find a tree. It wasn't very tall or full but it had bark and branches. My husband propped it in its stand and tightened the bolts to stabilize the trunk. Our Charlie Brown sapling leaned to the left. We adjusted the bolts and straightened the sparse spruce. When my husband let go of the tree, it leaned to the right. We pulled and prodded and repeated the process. Still, our tree leans.

At least it hasn't toppled over – yet. (My husband's observation, not mine.)

"It wasn't meant to be straight," he said. "It looks good with a little lean in it. Gives it character."

Our youngest son contemplated the tree, cocking his head to the side presumably to make it appear straight. After about 30 seconds of scrutiny he said, "It's awfully small."

"That's because it doesn't have its lights yet," my glass-half-full husband told him. "Lights make a tree look bigger. Besides, size doesn't matter. It still smells like a tree." My husband took a deep breath through his



nose. "Smell that?" We all smelled the tree and had to agree it had a fine pine scent.

My husband looped one string of lights around from top to bottom and even I had to admit our little tree was looking brighter. He got the box of ornaments from the basement and we put them on one by one.

There was a baby girl ornament from 1991 commemorating our daughter's first Christmas. Another of Mickey ears reminded us of a trip to Disney World. Snowmen with the message "I love the USA" were from Christmas 2001. We hung a tiny cable car from the year my husband and I traveled to San Francisco. We found a framed ornament of a Labrador retriever puppy and remembered our dear dog. This will be our first Christmas without her. There were countless ornaments handmade by the kids over the years – each one a true treasure.

As we adorned the branches, I was glad my husband talked me into getting the tangle of greenery that is our tree this year. We don't have time to do all the things we wish we could to get ready for the holiday. We don't have the money to buy huge and tremendous jaw-dropping gifts. We might not get the gingerbread house made or picture perfect cards sent.

And that's okay, because we do have the things we really need. Right here. Hanging on the branches of our tiny tree.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.



A holiday greeting from former Chronicle Editor Mike Eliasohn (1977-84) provided the following piece of trivia. In a email he wrote: In case Christmas day turns out to be shirt-sleeve weather, and it might (or be close), here's something you could mention in "Rabbit Tracks": Check the archives to be sure, but I recall that it hit 65 degrees on Christmas day in 1983, which was my last winter in Cass City.

I remember taking three photos that day that ran in the next issue of the Chronicle: Stan Guinther and his daughter playing tennis (and learning fuzzy tennis balls don't bounce good on a wet tennis court), some kids shooting baskets, and a Santa's sleigh lawn decoration sitting on grass, rather than snow.

Happy holidays, Mike, and thanks for cranking up our time machines.

faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood

The Cass City Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor.

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

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

There's a Great Start Imagination Library fundraiser planned for Monday, Dec. 28, reports long-time area educator Marilyn Peters. The former Tuscola County Intermediate School District administrator says the event will be held at Cass City Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is limited to 20 children in each grade, kindergarten through the fifth grade.

Children will enjoy supervised fun all day, including activities such as ceramic painting, cup stacking, carnival games – with prizes - reading time and much more. Cost is \$20 per child or \$30 for two children in the same family, and participants are ask to bring a snack lunch and drink.

To register, contact Peters at (989) 872-4409.

There's a winner in the Cass City's Lions Club 50/50 raffle held in conjunction with the local Christmas in the Village celebration, according to club member Earl Volmering.

It's Rich Witherspoon, who pocketed \$621 for the lucky ticket drawn after the Lighted Christmas Parade. Not a bad haul for being a civic-minded person.

It should be a merry Christmas for Michigan potato farmers. According to the USDA, their 2015 potato crop is forecast to be 17.550 million hundredweight (cwt), up 11.6 percent from 2014. Planted acres, at 46,000, increased by 3,000 acres from 2014. Harvested acres, at 45,000, were up 2,500 acres from a year ago. The average yield is forecast at 390 cwt per acre, up 20 cwt from last year. The yield is an all-time high yield.

Same holds true for sugar beet growers, who produced more than 5 million tons of Michigan-made sugar beets during the 2015 growing season, setting a new yield record at 31.6 tons per acre. Ho, ho, ho boys (and girls).



6550 Main Street P.O. Box 115 Cass City, MI 48726 Phone: (989) 872-2010 Fax: (989) 872-3810 Email: chronicle@ccchronicle.net Website: www.ccchronicle.net



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<u>News Staff</u>

Clarke Haire Publisher clarke@ccchronicle.net **Tom Montgomery** Editor tom@ccchronicle.net **Krysta Boyce** Sr. Sales Executive sales@ccchronicle.net chronicle@ccchronicle.net **Deb Severance** Composition Tina Pallas Columnist **Jill Pertler** Columnist

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

Subscription Rates

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Obituary Rates

Obituary notices cost \$20 per insertion. There is a \$5 additional charge for including a photo.

Advertising Rates

Transit (nonbusiness) rates, 10 words or less, \$5.00 each insertion; additional words 15 cents each. Three weeks for the price of 2--cash rate. Save money by enclosing cash with mail orders. Rates for display want ads on application.

<u>Social News</u>

The Cass City Chronicle will gladly publish social news free of charge. Social news includes: engagements, weddings, anniversaries, college graduations, birth announcements and similar items. There is a \$5 fee to include a photo.



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, December 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.

•Adult Exercise, 8:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, Cass City, open to the community. • After School Adventure, First Presbyterian Church, until 4:15 p.m. For more information call 989-872-5400.

• Bible Study, 7 p.m., Fraser Presbyterian Church. For more information call 989-872-5400

•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. •Sanilac County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, Sanilac County Medical Care Facility. Noon to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121

Thursday, December 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.

Friday, December 25

•Adult Exercise, 8:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, Cass City, open to the community.

Monday, December 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.

•Adult Exercise, 8:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, Cass City, open to the community. 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.

Tuesday, December 29

•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.)

· First Presbyterian Church Bible Study at 11 a.m. For more information call 989-872-5400.

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

Students in hot water over pot

By Tom Montgomery Editor

Four Thumb students are in hot water following an investigation into alleged marijuana sales.

Huron County Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson reported the probe began early last week after Laker School officials contacted his office regarding marijuana allegedly being sold on school property.

"A Deputy responded and worked with officials to determine what was taking place. This led to the deputy surveilling Geiger Road in Oliver Twp., where a duffle bag was supposedly hidden containing marijuana," Hanson said. "Shortly after 3 p.m. that day, the deputy observed four male students pull up, with one getting out of the vehicle and retrieving that bag.

'The deputy, who was now being

the vehicle in that area and found schools. three 18-year-old males and one 16year-old male occupying the vehicle. This led to confiscation of marijuana and the arrest of the bag retrieving 18-year-old. He was transported and taken to jail for misdemeanor possession of marijuana," Hanson However, they're crossing the line added.

The other three teens were released to their parents, according to the sheriff, who said additional possession of marijuana charges will be requested through the Huron County Prosecutor's Office for them.

"Unfortunately, three of the four were school athletes and they face permanent removal from their teams or even worse, possible expulsion from school," Hanson said.

He cited the incident as a reminder to students throughout the county working closely with school officials some harsh consequences that could assisted by another deputy, stopped to curb illegal drug use in their last a lifetime."

'We've brought drug dogs in and did sweeps in every high school this past year. More drug related operations will be forthcoming," Hanson noted. "It may be normal for a teen to experiment with right and wrong. and heading down a path to no good when they use drugs.

"Even though over the years we've received tips about marijuana use in the schools, there have also been incidents of prescription drug abuse and even harder drugs such as heroin," he continued. "In our case, the Huron County Board of Commissioners have provided extra funding and have made it well known that they're in support of our efforts.

"So with all that said, if you're a that law enforcement officials are teen using drugs, be prepared to face

Circuit court proceedings

Several appear recently on felony charges

Tuscola County Circuit Court last week on various criminal charges:

*Sidney J. Bachman, 20, Caro, pleaded no contest to two counts of criminal sexual conduct, third degree, involving personal injury to the victim and/or the use of force or coercion Aug. 7, 2014, in Vassar Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case, bond was continued at \$50,000 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*David C. Scott, 54, Fostoria, pleaded no contest to domestic violence, third degree, Aug. 18 in Watertown Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (three or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued at \$10,000 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

The following people appeared in pleaded no contest to two counts of ing assaulting, resisting or obstructing a delivery/manufacture of methampolice officer July 4 in Caro. She was also convicted of being an habit- methamphetamine/Ecstasy between ual offender (two prior felony con- Aug. 25 and Sept. 14 in Juniata victions).

> A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued at a counts of purchase/possession of combined \$8,000 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

> *Michael J. Gaval Jr., 26, Vassar, pleaded guilty to charges of first degree home invasion, interfering with electronic communications, and domestic violence Aug. 19 in iff's department. Sentencing is to be Millington Township, and to aggravated stalking and home invasion, third degree, between Aug. 19 and Nov. 10 in Millington Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued at a combined \$115,000 and the defenthe sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

*Frederick J. Hess Jr., 45, Caro, pleaded guilty to charges of operat-*Michelle A. Kirkey, 49, Caro, ing/maintaining a laboratory involv- totaling \$758.

methamphetamine, phetamine/Ecstasy and possession of Township.

He also pleaded guilty to two ephenedrine/pseudoephenedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine between July 6 and Aug. 13 in Caro.

A pre-sentenced investigation was ordered, bond was continued at \$80,000 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sherscheduled.

*Keith A. Pelton, 58, Caro, was sentenced to four to 15 years in prison following his plea of no contest to possession of a weapon in jail Aug. 6 in Caro. He was also convictdant was remanded to the custody of ed of being an habitual offender (three or more prior felony convictions).

> In addition to prison time, he was ordered to pay court costs and fines

Daycare director updates school board

the daycare program is open Monday

Continued from page one.

another 14 youngsters, ages three and four, in the district's preschool program.

through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The programs are funded through tuition/hourly fees and have consis- Frankenmuth Credit Union, which tently run in the black, according to has a branch in Cass City. The new school Supt. Jeff Hartel, who said district officials embraced sponsorship of both a preschool and daycare because they provide a service to the community, and because officials hope parents will continue to keep their youngsters enrolled in the Cass City Public Schools as they move on to the elementary grades.

minute session, the board approved a motion to switch the district's credit card account from JP Morgan to account will enable the school to take advantage of cash-back incentives.

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 Hos-

pital Administration Building/Conference Center, 147 S. First St., Harbor Beach. For more information, contact Merry at (989) 673-4121

•Ubly Lions Club meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Ubly Thumb Veterans OrganizationHall, 2165 Binghan St., Ubly 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.

•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. •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.

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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., 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.

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Every Friday:

•Adult Exercise, 8:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, Cass City, open to the community.

The daycare program has nearly 50 "after-school" children enrolled, with a daily average attendance of 25 to 30 kids, added Guinther, who oversees a staff of about 10 part-time caregivers.

Guinther noted the preschool program operates three days a week -Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - from 8 to 11 a.m., while

In other business during the 25-

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Also Monday, the board scheduled round table discussions with the teaching staff for Wednesday, Jan. 13; approved a routine motion continuing the Cass City Public Schools' status as a Michigan Schools of Choice, with enrollment openings in grades K-10; and approved a motion granting high school band students permission to participate in the Tri-County Honors Band at Carsonville-Port Sanilac

Schools Sunday, Feb. 7.



Reporter's notebook



I realize it's a bit late to be sharing my Christmas list, but I really don't expect to find any of these items wrapped up nice and neat and placed under my tree.

Still, it would be nice to at least consider how a few simple changes (and who doesn't like change?) might improve our outlook on life. not to mention how we see our family, friends, neighbors – even the strangers we've never met yet.

Okay, so I realize "peace on earth" is a pretty unrealistic goal in these times, but I wonder how many of our readers have any of the following on their Christmas lists this year, too:

*I wish we would all spend far less time on cell phones, iPads, tablets, etc., and more time talking to each other, face to face. Facebook and other social networking websites have many wonderful uses, but a serious debate about anything isn't one of them, in my opinion.

*I wish more folks would focus more on how grateful they should be for all they have, rather than wasting time concentrating on and pursuing what they don't have but think they really need to make them happy.

*I wish it were easy to prioritize our lives in such a way that spending more time keeping in touch with family members and friends always trumps stressing about work and other issues that really aren't going to amount to a hill of beans in the end.

*I wish everyone would take another look at the wrongs committed by others against them. I'm talking about the wrongs that remain unforgiven, keeping those who were once close far apart now. Time is precious, folks, and if you're really honest with yourself, you'll agree there's no way to justify wasting even one second.

*I wish more Americans would set at least as much time aside thinking about and praying for the men and women defending this nation in the armed services than they do bickering and debating politics and every little thing that comes out of the mouth of candidates who wouldn't recognize true representation of "the people" if it slapped them in the face.

*I wish we would all pray more. About everything. Period.

*I wish we would take the time to learn about the people we meet in life long before making all sorts of judgments about them. I wonder how many times I've done that and missed out on getting to know a really wonderful person.

*I wish we lived in a society where we could feel comfortable sticking to our own beliefs and personal opinions, but at the same time listen to those with differing views without resorting to name-calling and labeling those who disagree with us as haters. Unfortunately, more and more folks these days are determined to give various sins new names and then try to convince everyone else that it's okay to indulge, provided enough people openly and vocally support it.

*I wish we could all put more effort into walking away from petty arguments that keep us from focusing on what makes living in the Thumb great: a sense of community that is all about caring, compassion and working together for the good of everyone.

*Last, but certainly not least, I wish that all the University of Michigan and Michigan State University fans would get over themselves and come to grips with the fact that Central Michigan University is THE university in Michigan. Go Chips! Oh, and merry Christmas to you all.



by Tina Pallas

5 YEARS AGO (2010)

Also helping are Kathy Varney, Ben Varney and Bert Althaver. Volunteers gathered Saturday morning at the project's headquarters, Curtis Chrysler in Cass City, to finish packing the gifts.

Student Katie Bock, 13, helps Wyatt Sutton, 4, select the perfect gift for each of his family members during the Santa's Secret Workshop Thursday night at Cass City Middle by Kathy Bouverette. School. The 2-day event is a fundraiser that helps to pay. for the annual eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C.

The Owen-Gage High School Class of 1960 recently held its 50th class reunion at Sherwood on the Hill in Gagetown. Twelve members attended. They are Nancy (Lorencz) Prokopenko, Joyce Enderle, Norma (Seibel) Kretzschmer. Marilyn (Woods) Haag, Kathy (Toohey) Von (Adams) Linsowe, Lorraine Seurynck, Nick Mulrath, Gary O'Connell, Amasa Ondrajka, Charles Pistro, Donnell Holland and Charles Kretzschmer.

Tyler Forth, son of William Thompson and Tammy Thompson of Deford, has been accepted to the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima, Ohio, to begin classes in the June session, when he will be majoring in the Auto/Diesel Program. He attends Cass City High School.

This week's Schneeberger's Athlete of the Week award winner is Haley Wynn. The Red Hawk junior recorded 3 regional qualifying scores to highlight the action for Coach Kathy Bouverette's gymnasts Thursday in her team's opening meet against Vassar. Wynn, in her third varsity season, earned regional qualifying marks on the vault and floor events with scores of 8.4 and 8.0, respectively. She placed runner-up in the vault and third during her floor routine. Still, it was Wynn's work on the bars that resulted in the Red Hawks' lone victory against the Vulcans. Judges gave her a winning tally of 7.35.

10 YEARS AGO (2005)

New officers were recently installed at the Masonic Tyler Lodge 317, Cass City. They are Kenneth Blue (senior warden), Carl Melkerson (marshal), Charles Hoffman (chaplain), Robert Wood (treasurer), James Wilson (junior Stanley Morell

deacon), Elmer Francis (junior war- ately adjacent to the east village limden) and Theodore Furness (secretary) and Roger Kling (tiler).

Members of the Cass City gymnastic team include Megan VanVliet, Jennica Richards, Cassie Simpson, Danielle Johnson, Brooke Mika, Ashley Weiss, Taryn Vatter, Kirsti Parrish, Nicole Heronemus, Allie Hillaker, Kelli Pettit, Tarrah Martin, Allie Richards, Caitlin Sorenson and Leah Whittaker. The team is coached

25 YEARS AGO (1990)

The tenants at Cass City Apartments enjoyed a catered dinner at festively decorated tables Thursday, Dec. 20. Stella Martus was chairman for the event and she made the birthday cake for a birthday, December Gladys Auslander. Two tenants were in the hospital recuperating, Corinne Creguer and Loretta Lamoureaux. Jerry Lamoureaux and his brotherin-law, Paul Leyva, played and sang for the group as they do every year. Santa Claus visited and handed out candy

Making their New Year's Eve Gospel Sing debut will be the Thumb-based Highlights Gospel Singers. Members Stella McLario, Jovce Hazzard, Rod Hazzard and Patti Branham.

Former area resident Michael A. Seibel has been named to Ferris State University's dean's list for the recently completed fall quarter. To be named to the dean's list, a student must earn a minimum grade point average of 3.50 while carrying at least 12 credit hours. Seibel is the received unusual Christmas gifts in son of Harold and Elaine Seibel of Gagetown and is enrolled in Plastics Engineering Technology at FSU.

35 YEARS AGO (1980)

James Bauer, Tom Proctor, Skip and Ellen Speirs and Norma Speirs and daughter Becky attended Dorothy Chaffee's Christmas party last Thursday afternoon in her apartment. Punch, tea and cookies were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Houghton will have as Christmas Day guests, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hodges and Mr. and Mrs. James Dennis and children of Caro, Mr. and Mrs. James Neal and attractive than the drifted roads the Palmateer (worshipful master), Lyle family of Toledo, Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. mail man had to combat with his Michael LeTourneau and Melissa of Timmons (senior deacon), Barney Indianapolis, Ind., Mr. and Mrs. Jack carrier's job is no bed of roses in the Laurie and family and Mr. and Mrs. ilv. Mike, Darlene and Michelle, and has a grand champion steer sold for a Eric Clark of Columbus, Ind., are spending a few days with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. James MacTavish of Cass City and Mr. and Mrs. Products Company paid \$1.65 a Ottomar Sting of Owendale. Pvt. Jeffery S. Hallock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard J. Hallock of evening, even a white fur coat. Sheer Owendale, has completed basic contrast-color yokes are new in dark training at Fort Sill, Okla. During the training, students receive instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

its, fronting on M-81, now owned by Ralph Young. Church authorities say that if the option is exercised, a new church will be erected somewhere on the site. Presently, Lutherans are meeting in a church basement at the corner of Maple and Garfield streets, Cliff Croft, Cass City businessman, visited Cass City Lanes bowling alley Sunday evening for what he termed "a little exercise" and ended up bowling what the current owners considered the alley's first near perfect game. Croft, bowling with alley owner, Ray Schweikart, rolled a surprising 290. His best game prior to that was about 200 or 225." The kegler rolled ten strikes for 270 and then picked up nine pins. He picked up the spare and went on to another strike for 290. His series for three games was 614. "He didn't do too good on the last game," reports ous." "This may cause some discus-sion," Schweikart we think this is the first near perfect game in the history of the alley." This is Schweikart's second season at the allev

Mrs. Ruth Finkbeiner and son Tim will have as Christmas Day guests, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Finkbeiner and children of Deford, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Finkbeiner and children, Mr. and Mrs. Theo Hendrick and Mrs. John Hayes. The Don Finkbeiners will join the group in the afternoon.

75 YEARS AGO (1940)

Mr. & Mrs. George Russell 1940 by the additions of a son, a daughter and a grandson to the family circle. The son and daughter became in-laws when two marriage ceremonies were performed Tuesday and the grandson, Frederick Watson Spaven, was born on December 25. How'd you like to be the mail man today? asked B. A. Elliott, rural letter carrier on Route No. 3, as he stopped in front of the Chronicle office Tuesday morning with his car crowded with Christmas mail. He had 73 packages and about 1,000 Christmas cards and letters for his rural patrons. It looked like a big day's work but still it was more auto two weeks ago. The rural letter winter season. Only once in the 11-year history of Mr. and Mrs. James Sting and fam- the Junior Livestock Show, 1932, higher price than Leslie Smith, Cass City, received this year for his white Shorthorn champion. Hygrade Food pounds for the steer. Style Notes: Wear all white in the daytime dresses. Braiding in self color on paschal wool is new trimming formula. Pastel dresses of thin wool are style important tinder for coats. Red in coats, dresses and accessories sets a new high in chic. New evening handbags are a riot of color and glittering beadwork. Quilted velvet is the newest thing for blouses, capes and jerkins. Tune your dress to occasion with detachable embroidered sleeves.

NOTICE OF HEARING OF THE PETITION OF THE VILLAGE OF CASS CITY TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE VILLAGE OF CASS CITY

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Village Council of the Village of Cass City, Tuscola County, Michigan has petitioned the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners to annex to the Village of Cass City, Tuscola County, Michigan, the following described lands located in the Township of Elkland, Tuscola County, Michigan, to-wit:

Parcel 1:

Township of Elkland, County of Tuscola, State of Michigan, Part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 28, Town 14 North, Range 11 East, being more particularly described as Beginning at the South 1/4 corner of said Section 28; thence South 89 degrees 52 minutes 43 seconds West along the South line of said Section 28, 328.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 17 minutes 49 seconds West, parallel with the North and South 1/4 line of Said Section 28, 330.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 52 minutes 43 seconds East, parallel with said South line, 328.00 feet to the North and South 1/4 line of said Section 28; thence South 00 degrees 17 minutes 49 seconds East along said 1/4 line, 330.00 feet to the South 1/4 corner of said Section and the point of beginning.

Enhancement Parcel (Parcel 3):

A parcel of land in the Southwest ¼ of Section 28, T.14 N.- R.11 E., Elkland Township, Tuscola County, Michigan, described as follows: Beginning at a point on the North and South 1/4 line of said Section which is 330.00 feet, N.00°-17'-49"W., of the South 1/4 corner of said Section; thence S.89°-52'-43"W., parallel with the South line of said Section, 528.00 feet to the centerline of a drain; thence N.00°-17'-49"W., parallel with said North and South 1/4 line and on said centerline, 15.82 feet; thence N.23°-01'-49"E., continuing on said centerline, 117.31 feet; thence S.88°-54'-25"E., 481.68 feet to said North and South 1/4 line; thence S.00°-17'-49"E., on said North and South 1/4 line, 113.47 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.39 acres of land and subject to any easements of record.

This notice shall be published in the Cass City Chronicle, a newspaper published in the Village of Cass City, one time each week for three weeks immediately preceding the hearing on the petition.

The hearing on the petition will be a public hearing and all persons for or against the proposed annexation may be heard. The hearing will be held in the Purdy Building Boardroom, 125 W. Lincoln Street, Caro, MI, on the 28th day of December, 2015, at 7:30 a.m., EST.

Dates: December 1, 2015

Michael Hoagland

County Administrator for the Tuscola Board of Commissioners

Jodi Fetting

Clerk County of Tuscola

Nanette Walsh

Village Clerk Village of Cass City, MI

40 YEARS AGO (1975)

Mrs. Mary Kirton and Miss Suzanne Lowe from Cass City and Mark Posluszny of Deford were among 23 persons who attended a Christmas party at Pigeon Saturday evening given by Mrs. Eleanor Eicher. The group included Mrs. Eicher's family and employees of Eicher's Cleaners. Pre-party activities were at Mrs. Eicher's home followed by dinner at the Lamplighter. There was an exchange of gifts and "long and faithful service" to Mrs. Vera Bowman of Pigeon, an employthan 18 years.

Lions game Sunday, Dec. 21. Later they went to the home of Mr. and Hills where they were met by their children and Mrs. Batts' brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Elmore Jr. They celebrated Mrs. Batts' birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harley Dorman and Sawdon and family of Deford, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Dorman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd McIntosh and Dorman were pre-Christmas guests and girls.

50 YEARS AGO (1965)

Lutheran Church has signed an officers and the presentation of life option for 40 acres of land immedi- membership certificates.

100 YEARS AGO (1915)

Perhaps no town has more reason to be proud of its commercial, educational and religious privileges than Cass City. The business men are always ready and perfectly willing to accommodate their patrons regardless of the fact that occasionally Mrs. Eicher presented plaques for ready cash finds its way into the pockets of outside concerns, while the home business man is politely ee for 20 years and to Mrs. Kirton, asked to wait and live on hope. Our who has been with the firm for more schools are highly favored with 12 well trained competent teachers. We regret, however, that we lack the Mr. and Mrs. James Batts attend- modern conveniences enjoyed by ed the St. Louis Cardinals-Detroit other schools in towns of the same size. Our church buildings are modern in most every detail, and we are Mrs. A.G. Elmore Sr. of Farmington informed that Cass City is to be congratulated in having men who love to preach the story of the cross of Jesus Christ. Notwithstanding these and many other good features of our town, we have reason to regret that family of Caro, Mr. and Mrs. Robert we have no provision whatever for the comfort of our patrons.

At the regular meeting of Tyler family and Mr. and Mrs. Voyle Lodge held Saturday evening the following officers were elected for the Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Smith ensuing year: W. M., Richard Bayley; S. W., Arthur Flynn; J. W., Meredith B. Auten; Treas., E.H. Pinney; Sec.; I. A. Fritz; S. D., Elias McKim; J.D., George W. West; The Cass City Good Shepherd Stewards there will be installation of PAGE SIX



HELD OVER 2ND WEEK **NOW THRU NEW YEAR'S EVE**

CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE EVENINGS 7:30 - OPEN MON. & TUES. CHILDREN \$4.00 - TEEN/ADULTS \$6.00 **DISNEY-PIXAR** ANIMATED ADVENTURE

"THE GOOD DINOSAUR" (PG)

SOON: "STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS

Medilodge Cass City Celebrates "Resident of The Month"

Our Celebrated Resident for December is Bobbie Churchill

Bobbie was born on March 1, 1948, in Howell, Michigan to Evelyn Moran. She was the second oldest of seventeen children. Her family moved to the Thumb area after she graduated from high school. She was married to Skip Churchill

for 44 years. They raised their 3 children, Melanie, Angle and John, in the Cass City area.

Bobbie was employed at the Caro Regional Center as a Resident Care Aide for over 20 years.

She loves to garden, read and spend time with her 5 grandchildren. Her favorite activity is spending time hanging out with the staff at Medilodge of Cass City. Bobbie was chosen by the staff, residents and family because of her ability to make us all smile.

Congratulation's Bobbie from your Medilodge Family on being chosen the Resident of the Month!

MEDILODGE OF CASS CITY

4782 Hospital Drive, Cass City, MI 48726 Phone: 989.872.2174 www.medilodgeofcasscity.com

Sherwood on the Hill invites you to ring in

the New Year with dinner and music



SPECIAL DINNERS - 4 - 8 p.m.

Make Reservations and choose from the following

Auxiliary small group with big impact

Continued from page one.

pital.

Take the Hills and Dales General Hospital Auxiliary's annual bake sale and raffle drawing held Dec. 4, for example. The event saw a record attendance and the baked goods were sold out before 10 a.m., raising more auxiliary for the past 10 years and than \$550.

The holiday raffle offered 10 prizes won by Julia Robbins (a hand-crafted quilt made by Sheri McArthur), Geraldine Prieskorn (a hand-crafted afghan made by Beth Lefler), Julane Fritz (jewelry donated by the Hills and Dales General Hospital Auxiliary), Mike Gonzales (two oil changes donated by Curtis Chrysler), Archie Allen (\$50 cash donated by Joann Smithson and Dot Knight), Connie Schulte (\$20 Gilligan's gift certificate), Mike Sines (hand-knitted baby blanked made by Marilyn Peters), Andrew Robbins (variety gift basket donated by Chemical Bank), Caren Clara (U-M lap robe donated by Sherryl Seeley), and Russell Lalko (a pair of Pucci porcelain clowns donated by Pat Greenwood).

"The bake sale is just one of the numerous fundraisers held by the auxiliary throughout the year," said Danielle Blaine, who serves as both public relations director for Hills and Dales General Hospital and as director of the hospital's foundation.

"Other events such as book sales, jewelry sales, scrub sales, popcorn sales and the gift shop sales are also fundraisers they host," Blaine added. "In 2015, the auxiliary group purchased over \$20,000 worth of new equipment for the hospital, including furniture for the Swing Bed Program activity room, stretchers for the operating room, a wide reclining blood draw chair for the laboratory department, an overhead heating and cooling system for the lobby area, and whiteboards to be used in patient rooms."

"We are so blessed by this incredible group of volunteers," commented Jean Anthony, Hills and Dales president and CEO. "They have been with us since before Hills and Dales opened back in 1960, and each year they continue to amaze me with the generosity of their time and talents.

"The items they purchase for the hospital help tremendously with seen at work in the hospital gift shop keeping costs down for our depart- and during events such as the ments," Anthony said. "I could American Red Cross blood drives it never give them enough praise; they are truly a valued treasure for Hills and Dales.'

currently the group's president, acknowledged medical equipment is expensive. She said the auxiliary's 2015 purchases included \$3,540 for two lounge chairs and a sofa for the Hills and Dales Swing Bed Program, \$2,657 for an extra wide reclining chair for the phlebotomy department, and \$3,951 for a couple operating room stretchers. "Last year we spent \$25,200," she added.

The auxiliary has roughly 48 active members, and most of them assist in happy to have them," she added. areas of the hospital beyond Like many of her peers, Hammett fundraising, such as volunteering in the areas of medical records, shipping and receiving, messenger/mail services, department projects and anywhere else they are needed.

"Not all of them (members) are still active, but they've all worked really hard, and we need their support," Greenwood said.

Auxiliary members typically work four-hour shifts, with two members staffing the auxiliary's gift shop.

It's a labor of love that members utilize to fill extra time in their lives and contribute to the community in a meaningful way, typically after retiring from careers.

"It's a positive (impact). After I retired, I just wanted to be able to get out once in a while besides church," said Greenwood, who retired from Marshall Distributing following 15 years of service in the former Cass City company's accounts receivable department.

When I retired, I wanted to find some useful volunteer things to do. I just think the hospital is a worthwhile project," commented Sherryl Seeley, another auxiliary member who has been volunteering at Hills and Dales since she closed out a 48year career with Chemical Bank, where she served as a branch manager and assistant vice president.

"The auxiliary puts in a lot of hours and we put a lot of dollars back into the hospital every year," she said. "It's amazing."

While the auxiliary can be easily co-sponsors with the VFW Post 3644, Cass City, every few months, what many residents don't see are Pat Greenwood, a member of the the organizations' contributions behind the scenes.

"We have the messenger unit that delivers to all the offices and employees (within the hospital)," Seeley said. "Every day we have two messenger runs, delivering interoffice mail as well as incoming mail."

Georgia Hammett, who heads up the auxiliary's messenger volunteers, says she enjoys the work and would welcome more help. "If anybody wants to join the auxiliary, we'd be

joined the auxiliary after saying goodbye to her day job. "I was working at Walbro and took the early retirement back in 2003. My girlfriend, who was a member, said, 'Now you can take my place because I'm moving'," she recalled. "So, it's been 12 years.

"It's fun. I enjoy it because, as a one or two days a week, putting in messenger, I get to pick up and drop off the mail at all the offices, and I get to meet a lot of people and get to know them," Hammett said. "You have a lot of people contact, and I like that.

> Auxiliary member Marilyn Peters joined after she retired from her job as general education director for the Tuscola Intermediate School District in 2003. "I was used to working every day, and I just didn't like sitting home," she recalled of her deci-sion to volunteer at the hospital.

> "It's a place to meet people and greet people," she added. "I work in the gift shop, and then I also work on the blood drives.

> "(I enjoy) meeting people," Peters said. "It's just filling a void in your life, and it's like doing something for the community."

> "It's not hard work and it's enjoyable, and the hospital is good to us," Hammett added. "I love it."

More information about the auxiliary, including how to join the organization, is available by contacting Kerry at (989) 912-6319 or Danielle at (989) 912-6401.

Beet season one for the records

Continued from page one.

create jobs and support our communities. Michigan Sugar annually generates

third largest beet sugar processor in the United States, producing an wholesale and retail quantities under annual average of more than one bil- the Pioneer Sugar and Big Chief

The company sells its products in Sugar Brands.

menu items by Mon. December 28th



- Steak & Lobster (\$35 per person) Prime Rib
 - Jumbo Shrimp

 Sampler Seafood Platter Includes: Soup, Tossed Salad, Shrimp Cocktail, Potato, Bread & Glass of Wine *DJ Cover Charge included with dinner

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economic benefits totaling more than \$1.5 billion among its locations statewide.

Flegenheimer attributes the increase in production to ongoing advances in technology and sugar beet farmers' ability to overcome challenges, including extreme weather patterns that hit the Thumb and Saginaw Valley throughout the growing season. He said Michigan Sugar continues to invest in facility upgrades and improvements in an effort to be an industry leader in the sugar industry.

Headquartered in Bay City, Michigan Sugar Company is a grower-owned sugar cooperative and the

Gift campaign serves 184 kids

Continued from page one.

gifts in the form of books – well over 1.000 of them over the past few years — which are included in every gift bag.

"I think we have been providing patron-purchased books for Rotary's Christmas for Kids for eight years," said library Director Kate Van Auken. "The first few years we col-lected 125 or so. In the past few years, we have collected over 300 books, which is great because there

are so many kids who are part of Christmas for Kids.

Also playing a role are Curtis Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, 6617 Main St., Cass City, which serves as the Christmas for Kids headquarters each year, and a number of local businesses that collect donations, including the Chemical Bank, Independent Bank and Thumb National Bank branches along with Hills and Dales General Hospital and Dollar General.

Phillips said local Boy Scouts have volunteered their time, as have members of the Cass City High School Honor Society, which collects toys dropped off at area businesses. The students also lend a hand when it's time to sort and organize the gifts, she added.

SOS announced holiday hours

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson reminds residents that all branch offices and the Office of the Great Seal will be closed in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

The closures are Thursday, Dec. 24 Friday, Dec. and (SUPER!Centers will be closed Saturday, Dec. 26) for Christmas; and Thursday, Dec. 31 and Friday, Jan. 1 (SUPER!Centers will be closed Saturday, Jan. 2) for New Year's.

The Department of State mails notices to motorists 45 days before their driver's license or license plates expire to give them ample time to renew. Licenses and plates that expire on a day when state offices are closed, such as a holiday or weekend, can be renewed the following day without penalty.

PLUS offices and SUPER!Centers are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. SUPER!Centers also provide Saturday hours from 9 a.m. to noon

Customers may call the Department of State Information Center to speak to a customer-service representative at 888-SOS-MICH (767-6424).



673.6191 or 1.800.462.6814 www.tbhsonline.com

PAGE SEVEN

Pastor's Corner

Special poem among the Lord's many gifts

In speaking about God's Son, (Romans 10:13). Jesus Christ, coming to earth the Apostle Paul wrote, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15 NKJV). Certainly this is the greatest gift of all time. The Son of God became man, lived a perfect life, took upon himself the sins of the world, and suffered under the wrath of God against our sin.

His resurrection from the dead was the Father's sign of acceptance of the penalty He paid on the cross. Now the invitation what inspired him to write the goes out to every person that "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"

Along with the gift of salvation the Lord has many other gifts, which come our way!

As a Pastor I received one such gift recently. One of our young boys, a 7th grader, wrote a poem around Thanksgiving time. It was not a school assignment. And his parents didn't know he was doing it. It was an expression of his thankfulness to God for the blessings of salvation. But there is more to the story.

When his mother asked him at our Thanksgiving Service. In this hymn each of the three vers- with his poem.

es is addressed to a different person of the Godhead. So he followed that pattern in writing his poem, he thanks each person of the Godhead.

I was thrilled to read the poem; but thrilled even more for what the poem says about the author. It shows he is a young man who knows God personally, is appreciative of God's blessings in his life, that he understands some pretty deep theology and is able to express it in poetic form.

With his permission I want to poem he mentioned a hymn sung share his poem with you. Cody McArthur's picture also appears Thank you, Holy Ghost,

For Thy conviction from within And for Thy guidance to the Savior, Who cleansed me from my sin.

Thank you, Lord God in Heaven, For sending your Son, Christ, And for Thy generous Provision, All through my life.

Thank you, O Lord Jesus For Thy coming to Earth to save us, And for salvation as a gift, To every one of us. ~Cody McArthur



Pastor David G. Hill, First Baptist Church, Cass City, MI



Cody McArthur



Sunday Services: 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. www.anchorcoveoutreachchurch.com

Cass City Missionary Church 4449 Koepfgen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 989-872-2729 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. Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Phil Burkett
Associate Pastor: Justin Kuhl www.casscitymc.org \$ Ŵ

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

Community Baptist Church (Independent Fundamental) 4446 Ale St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 989-872-4088 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday - Pray/Bible Study & Youth Group 6:00 p.m

Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m. Midweek Bible Studies • Biblical Counseling Pastor: Rev. Todd R. Gould EFCA Like us on Facebook!

First Baptist Church (Independent, Fundamental) Barrier Free 6420 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 989-872-3155 Sunday School All Ages 9:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AWANA Clubs 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Wednesday - Teen Club 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Pastor: David G. Hill Website: www.fbccc.us

First Presbyterian Church Barrier Free • State & National Historical Registry 6505 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5400 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Rev. Linda Graham Exercise Program: Mon., Wed. & Fri. 8:30 a.m. After School Adventure: Wed. following school - 4:15 Bible Study: Wed. 7 p.m.

Fraser Presbyterian Church 3006 Huron Line Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5400 Sunday School - Sept.-May 10:30 a.m. • Worship Service 9:30 a.m. • Social/Mission Coffee hour 10:15 a.m. Pastor: Rev. Linda Graham â

(including youth and children's services) Pastor: Rev. Mark Karwowski Website: www.lwwccog.net

Mizpah Missionary Church 4631 N. Van Dyke, Cass City, MI 48726 Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday Service: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Group 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday Kids' Club 6:30-8 p.m. Pastor Dale Bullock 989-872-2828



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Corner of 6th and Leach, Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-5186 Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. Pastor: F. Robert Tucker



Our Lady Consolata Parish

4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726 • 872-3336 Mass: Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00 a.m. Weekday Mass: Wednesday - 9:00 a.m. Parochial Administrator: Fr. Christian Tabares C M Y K

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CASS CITY CHRONICLE - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2015

CASS CITY, MICHIGAN

CHRONICLE SPORTS

To Report Your Sports News & Scores contact Publisher Clarke Haire at (989) 872-2010; fax: (989) 872-3810 clarke@ccchronicle.net



RED HAWK Lauren Dickinson denies Bad Axe's Morgan Etzel from receiving a pass during Greater Thumb West play Thursday in Cass City. The Hatchets won the league opener for both schools, 45-26.

Bad Axe defense comes up big in win over Lady Hawks



ANDREW STORM finds a lane to the basket Friday in nonconference action with Cass City. The Marlette senior posted a game-high 16 points in the visitors' 48-34 win. In on the action are Red Hawks Parker Haire (14), Logan Schenk (23) and Sawyer Cuthrell.

Marlette handles Cass City in GTC crossover game

A quick start led to an easy victory for visiting Bad Axe Thursday in their Greater Thumb West opener at Cass City.

After Kelsey Bouverette hit the game's first field goal to give the Red Hawks an early 2-1 edge, a 15-0 run by the Hatchets would put the visitors in command at the break where they enjoyed a 21-4 advantage.

Breyton Meeks and LaKeisha Ridner sparked the Hatchet spurt with six points apiece, before Lauren Dickinson ended Cass City's scoring draught with a 10' jump shot from the wing with 2:40 remaining in the half.

Meeks did most of her damage from the foul line, while Ridner was effective leading the visitors' fast break opportunities.

Cass City's offensive woes were hampered by early foul troubles to the team's leading scorers Bouverette and Sayge Cuthrell. Both post players collected their second fouls early in the second quarter helping to put the Hatchets in a double bonus situation with 5:29 remaining on the clock.

"We had problems getting into any kind of offensive rhythm in the first half. We came back strong in the second half, but couldn't overcome early mistakes," said Cass City Coach Steve Hollocker.

Cass City was able to slice 3-points from the deficit entering the final eight minutes, but was outscored 17-12 to the final whistle.

"I thought our defense, especially in the first half, was very solid," said Bad Axe Coach Brent Wehner. "Our trap caused them some issues, and I thought our post defense against Bouverette and Cuthrell was outstanding. When they did catch the ball down low, they weren't in a position where they could do much with it, so I was impressed how we handled that."

Cuthrell sparked the Cass City offense with 12 points, 22 rebounds, two steals and two blocks, while Kelcie Autry chipped in six points on two baskets from behind the 3-point arc.

"(We took) a bit of a step back, but we just have to keep improving each time we step on the court and continue to work hard in practice. We're looking forward to getting another shot at them later in the season," Hollocker said.

For Bad Axe, Meeks was the top scorer with nine points, while Ridner and Hannah Young split 16 tallies.

"Cass City is a very young team," Wehner said. "With that much youth, there are going to be moments where you struggle, but long-term it should make for a very solid program."

MEMPHIS

Earlier in the week, Cass City defeated Memphis 36-27 Tuesday in a non-conference affair.

The hosts led 9-7 after one Ak quarter and 19-12 after two. Ow

Bouverette and Cuthrell paced the winners with 10 and nine points, respectively. Bouverette also added 10 rebounds and three steals, while Cuthrell had 13 rebounds, three steals and two blocks.

"Tuesday was a good win for us - we're still not playing close to our full potential, but we played well enough to get the win," Hollocker said.

Girls' Basketball Standings

Greater Thumh West

Greater Thumb West					
	W	L	W	L	
Bad Axe	1	0	3	2	
EPBP	1	0	3	3	
Reese	1	0	3	2	
JSA	0	1	4	2	
Cass City	0	1	2	3	
Vassar	0	1	1	4	
Greater	Thu	mb E	ast		
	W	L	W	L	
Brown City	1	0	4	0	
Marlette	1	0	5	1	
Harbor Beach	1	0	4	1	
Sandusky	0	1	4	1	
Jbly	0	1	3	2	
Memphis	0	1	2	5	
NCTL					
	W	L	W	L	
Kingston	2	0	3	1	
Deckerville	2	0	3	2	
Peck	2	0	2	2	
Dryden	0	1	0	3	
Mayville	0	1	1	2 3 3 5	
North Huron	0	2	0	5	
Caseville	0	2	1	3	
Summit League					

in Leagu

	W	L	W	L	
BCAS	0	0	4	1	
Flint Int.	0	0	3	1	
SASA	0	0	2	1	
Akron-Fair.	0	0	2	4	
Owen-Gage	0	0	1	3	

by Clarke Haire Publisher

An injury-riddled Cass City boys' basketball team faded in the final half Friday against visiting Marlette to wrap up play in 2015. In addition to a limited roster, the contest marked the third game in a five-day span for the Red Hawks.

With the 48-34 victory, Marlette improved to 2-1, while Cass City slipped to 3-2.

After losing last year's leading scorer and rebounder. Mason Erla, to an ACL injury prior to the start of the season – the senior center underwent surgery earlier in the month, ending his high school athletic career and now faces nine months of rehab before heading to Michigan State University in the fall on a baseball scholarship - first year coach Tyler Erla was delivered another huge blow before the Greater Thumb Conference crossover contest with the Red Raiders when senior forward Keith Lounsbury broke his hand after punching a wall in practice leading into the non-conference outing.

Marlette, meanwhile, entered the contest after suffering a heartfelt double overtime loss to Vassar and was determined to right the ship. A 12-4 first quarter advantage had the visitors headed in the correct direction.

Cass City, to its credit, climbed back to within five points on a pair of corner

treys from Sawyer Cuthrell in the second quarter. The Red Hawk guard then connected on a jump shot near the top of the key to end the scoring for the hosts in the half, but Cass City allowed Marlette to race up the court in the final seconds, with Andrew Storm's driving layin beating the buzzer and stretching the margin to 22-15 at the break.

Marlette opened the final half similar to the way the visitors started the game. This time a 12-6 third quarter spurt had the Red Raiders enjoying a double-digit edge entering the final eight minutes.

Red Hawk Parker Haire heated up in the fourth quarter and tossed in seven of his team-high 13 tallies. The senior guard's contribution he now spends time in the post on offense due to the multiple team injuries would prove to be too little, too late for the home team.

Storm recorded 16 points and six assists to pace the winners, while Hunter Kelly chipped in 10 points and seven rebounds.

Joining Haire in double figures for Cass City was Cuthrell with 11 points, while Cole Chippi added four.

Memphis

Memphis was able to keep things tight for a half against hosts Cass City Wednesday, but eventually surrendered 56-48 in the non-conference affair.

guests 18-9 in the third quarter to break open a 24-24 tie at the intermission.

Logan Schenk led a trio of double digit performers for the winners with 16 points, while Cuthrell and Brad Hacker had 14 and 11 points, respectively.

Boys' Basketball Standings

Greater Thumb West

	W	L	W	L
Bad Axe	0	0	4	0
USA	0	0	3	0
EPBP	0	0	3	1
Vassar	0	0	3	1
Reese	0	0	3	1
Cass City	0	0	3	2

Greater Thumb East

	W	L	W	L
Sandusky	0	0	4	0
Marlette	0	0	2	1
Harbor Beach	0	0	2	1
Brown City	0	0	1	3
Ubly	0	0	1	2
Memphis	0	0	1	4

NCTL Stars

	W	L	W	I
Kingston	2	0	2	1
Dryden	1	0	3	1
Deckerville	1	1	1	3
Mayville	1	1	1	3

NCTL Stripes

Peck	2	0	2	2
CPS	0	1	1	1
Caseville	0	2	0	3
North Huron	0	3	0	4

Summit League				
W	L	W	L	
0	0	3	0	
0	0	1	0	
0	0	1	2	
0	0	0	1	
0	0	0	3	
	W 0 0 0 0	W L 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	W L W 0 0 3 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0	

The hosts outscored their

Newcomers fall to defending Greater Thumb Conference wrestling champions

Conference Mayville and Ubly wrestlers.

The league's first year members gathered in Mayville last week, where they met up with defending Greater Thumb Conference (GTC) champion Cass City for a doubledual match in conference play.

Welcome to the Greater Thumb Wildcats 46-30, before clobbering class). the Bearcats, 57-18.

Double winners for Cass City included Tylor Cowdry (103 weight class), Alex Jeffrey (112 weight class), Hayden Larkin (119 weight class), Race Woloshen (125 weight class), Wyatt Dickson (140 weight class), Seth Osentoski (135 weight

On Saturday, Coach Don Markel's grapplers traveled to take part in the Cros-Lex Team Tournament. There, Cass City posted a 3-2 mark to finish third in the 8-team field.

In pool play the Red Hawks whipped Frankenmuth 60-24 and an was in the previous week, but "All-Star" team (composed of sever-The Red Hawks improved to 3-1 in class), Dustin Horne (171 weight al wrestlers from other teams in ting key moves at the right time shall the GTC by defeating the host class) and T. J. Moore (189 weight attendance) 72-9, while bowing to

Croswell-Lexington, 56-21.

In the Championship rounds, Cass City defeated Capac 48-36 before Flint Kearsley ended action for the Red Hawks with a solid 66-12 decision.

"Our performance was better than it aggressiveness on the mat and hitremain areas of focus in the upcom-

ing weeks. It was nice to beat two quality programs in Mayville and Capac," said Markel.

Osentoski was the lone individual champ for Cass City with a perfect 5-0 showing, while Jeffrey, Cowdry and Moore were individual runnersup, all with 4-1 efforts.

Cass City's dual meet record now stands at 10-4 for the season.

СМҮК

CASS CITY CHRONICLE - WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23, 2015

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Wright nets 40 points in Owen-Gage victory

The Owen-Gage boys' basketball he said team will hit Mackinac Island with a perfect 3-0 record.

After defeating Flint Michigan School for the Deaf in Owendale last Wednesday, Coach Brian Wright and his undefeated Bulldogs were to have played Monday on the Lake Huron Island, before traveling to Kalkaska on Tuesday to face Northport.

Against the visiting Tartars, Owen-Gage senior Jacob Wright put on a show for the home team fans. Wright led the hosts to a 63-39 victory with an array of shots en route to recording 40 points.

Wright poured in 20 points in the opening half to help Owen-Gage to a slim 31-27 edge at the intermission. Wright would match his first half point total after the break that proved fatal for the visitors, but his impressive outburst isn't what caught the eye of Coach Wright.

"We had a nice defensive game,"

Wright also chipped in 16 rebounds, while Dan Good finished with seven points and 13 rebounds. Kaleb Jones led Flint MSD with 20 markers.

Also last week, Owen-Gage clipped Burton Faith High School on Monday.

The Bulldogs started quickly and led 17-2 after the opening 8 minutes and increased the margin to 24-6 at the halfway point.

Owen-Gage outscored Burton 35-28 in the final half to produce the 59-34 decision.

David Binder, Dan Good and Wright all recorded double-doubles for the winners. Binder and Wright had identical numbers that included 17 points and 10 rebounds. Good finished with 10 tallies and a dozen rebounds.

"Everyone had a chance for some good minutes," said Wright.



BIG BODY BUCK. Dustin Spencer, Cass City 14year-old, shot this nice 7-point buck on Dec. 18 in Tuscola County. The trophy was Spencer's second 7-pointer of the 2015 season and fourth of his short hunting career.





THE CASS CITY 2015-16 girls' junior varsity basketball team members are: (front, l-r) Dakota Cook, Kacey Haire, Layna Mathewson, Jalene Krol (back) Brianna Mester, Kelly Ziegler, Katie Autry and DeeDee Haley. The Lady Hawks are coached by Dave Weiler.



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Find the second seco

Schneeberger's choice for this week's "Athlete of the Week" award goes to Seth Osentoski.

The Cass City grappler has started his junior season without missing a beat after collecting Greater Thumb Conference all-conference first team honors in 2015.

Osentoski went undefeated over the weekend at the Cros-Lex Team Tourney to lead the Red Hawks to a



third place finish with a 5-0 mark in the 135pound weight class. Also last week,

Osentoski was a double winner in conference play against Greater Thumb Conference newcomers Mayville and Ubly. Seth is the son of Daniell and Chris Osentoski.



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CASS CITY, MICHIGAN



THREE MORE anonymous donors have come forward with \$2,200 in cash gifts to be distributed to individuals and families in Huron County who are having a difficult time making ends meet, according to Sheriff Kelly J. Hanson, who said the gifts todate exceed last year's total by \$1,600 so far.

Anonymous donors give \$6,600 in Huron County

Continued from page one.

meet or have been set back due to some type of circumstance this past year. The same sort of anonymous gift-giving took place last year and, as was true in 2014, residents are still approaching the sheriff's department with additional money to distribute to those in need.

"Last year's effort was very much appreciated and was displayed in the numerous thank-you cards and messages that I received from the many who we reached out to. Some...may recall there were five families last year that dropped off a total of fifty \$100 bills (\$5,000)," said Hanson, who earlier this month announced that seven families had dropped off a combined total of \$4,400.

"Since the original (announcement) last Friday (Dec. 11), three more families have come in with another \$2,200, making the grand total \$6,600," the sheriff reported last week. "This exceeds last year's contribution total." Members of the county's law enforcement community along with local

Members of the county's law enforcement community along with local clergy, school officials and community leaders are lending a hand by helping the sheriff's department select recipients for the gifts based on need, according to the sheriff, who noted deputies have already started delivering Christmas cards containing a \$100 bill or a gift certificate equivalent to the recipients.

"As I said before, we're very proud of those who are coming forward, and we are doing our best to make sure their gifts will be properly utilized by deserving families," Hanson said. "These acts of kindness certainly say a lot about the county we live in."





OWEN-GAGE SCHOOL students and staff continued a holiday tradition this year by hosting its Santa's Workshop for elementary students to buy gifts for their families. "Every item is donated to the school and all the proceeds are used towards field trips for the students," said Mary Ann Minkler, Owen-Gage administrative assistant. "The children are all excited and happy to buy the perfect item for their loved ones," she added. "High school students and parents volunteered to help them pick things out and wrap them." The district also recently hosted its annual Christmas concert.



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